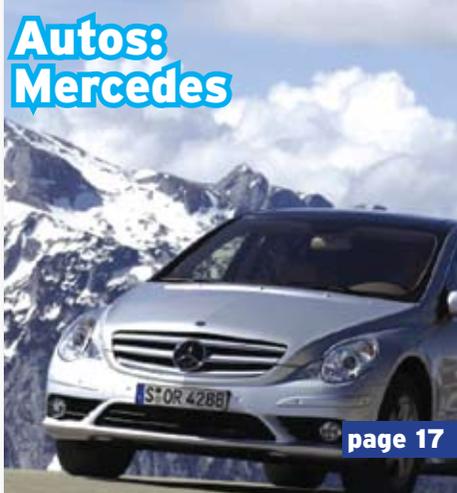


Preparing for Clinton

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Autos: Mercedes

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Lily Tomlin

page 15



nightspots pick it up take it home

Senate Passes Hate-Crimes Bill

Hate crimes bill heads to the president Passage tops week of new LGBT gains

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Suddenly, with little fanfare or notice, the signs of "change" for the LGBT community are beginning to appear in Washington. The Obama administration this week unveiled several new initiatives aimed at eliminating discrimination against LGBT people. The Ryan White AIDS Assistance Program was reauthorized for another four years. And, on Oct. 22, Congress gave final approval to a long-sought measure to help fight hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Senate voted 68-29 Oct. 22 to approve the National Defense Authorization Act for 2010, a defense-funding bill to which the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act had been attached in July. The House had given its final approval earlier this month.

There was some hostility expressed, even at this late point, for including the hate-crimes provision in the funding bill. U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said during floor debate Thursday that he "strongly disagrees" with the measure in the bill because it is "non-germane, non-relevant."

"What we are doing here is an abuse of the Senate process," said McCain. The statement, of course, ignored years of non-germane amendments offered by Republican senators seeking anti-gay measures. But, McCain insisted those past non-germane amendments were "nothing of

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page 14



Action Jackson

Broadway/TV/film actor Cheyenne Jackson talks about *The Power of Two*, his CD collaboration with Michael Feinstein. See page 14. Photo courtesy of Monte Lapka

Maine: Down to the wire

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Less than two weeks away from the vote on Maine's marriage equality law, things are looking up for marriage equality supporters, but they're not letting down their guards.

"Nobody's being cocky, I can tell you that," said Pat Peard, who has been a leader in many of the LGBT community's ballot battles in Maine over the past decade.

"Personally, I'm extremely cautiously optimistic," said Peard. "We have done very well raising money, and we have these endorsements, but

the poll numbers mean nothing to me."

The latest poll, released Oct. 20, shows voters evenly split—48 percent to 48 percent, with 4 percent undecided and a margin of error of +/- 2.9 percent. The firm of Public Policy Polling surveyed 1,130 "likely voters" between Oct. 16 and 19. Prior to that, a poll conducted Sept. 30-Oct. 7 showed 51.8 percent of "likely" voters in November would vote "No" on Measure 1, 42.9 percent would vote "Yes" and less than 6 percent were undecided.

Measure 1 seeks to repeal the state's newly approved law allowing same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses the same as straight couples.

The conventional wisdom among pollsters on ballot measures is that, when the "No" votes—against a ballot measure—fall below 50 percent, the proposal loses—at least seven times out of 10.

Del Ali, a pollster with Research 2000 who has surveyed in Maine and other states with anti-gay marriage measures, says the numbers look good for gay-rights supporters in Maine right now. But he, too, was cautious about relying on the so-called "50 percent rule."

"On any other ballot measure, there is no

Turn to page 5



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Judicial candidate Linda Pael (right) was among those holding receptions last week. See page 8.

Photo of Michael Strahm and Linda Pael by Byron Flitsch



Megan Carney (above) talks with WCT about the About Face Theatre production Let Them Eat Cake, which focuses on marriage equality. See page 14.

Photo courtesy of Megan Carney

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SEEING WED

John D'Emilio (right) looks at the history of same-sex marriage in Chicago.



Photo by Hal Baim

A BOO-TIFUL NIGHT



With Halloween quickly approaching, WCT provides a few tips about where to go, who to see, what to drink, etc.

Photo from Fear Haunted House

BREWS' CLUES

Read about Milwaukee's Brew City Bike Tours, where people can exercise and enjoy a cold one.



Photo from Brew City

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NATIONAL ROUNDUP

BY ANDREW DAVIS

New York Times business writers Tara Siegel Bernard and Ron Lieber have determined that the lifetime cost of being gay could run as much as \$467,562, according to an Advocate.com item. Putting a hypothetical same-sex couple in various situations, Bernard and Lieber looked at health benefits, income taxes and other areas where gay couples pay costs that heterosexual married couples do not. The final extra amount turned out to be almost half a million dollars in a worst-case scenario.

Lynn Vincent—a woman who gay blogger/activist Andrew Sullivan has labeled a “fanatical homophobe”—has written most of former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin’s upcoming memoir, according to Advocate.com. On his blog at TheAtlantic.com, Sullivan cites quotes that Vincent has written for Christian publications. Among other things, Vincent’s statements say that gay individuals have run roughshod over constitutional rights by insisting upon equal-marriage rights.

In California, Marcus Hernandez, a longtime leather columnist for the Bay Area Reporter, died Oct. 8 at Pacifica Nursing and Rehab Center in Pacifica at the age of 77, according to the newspaper; the cause of death involved complications from diabetes and arteriosclerosis. Hernandez—who, among other things, served in the military and was the appointment secretary for then-Mayor Joseph Alioto—wrote under the pen name “Mister Marcus.”

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BILL from cover

the magnitude” of the hate-crimes measure.

McCain said he was also opposed to the hate-crimes measure itself because “I do not believe an expansion of the federal criminal code is necessary to cover a certain class of citizens from ‘perceived injustices,’” he said, using air quotes around “perceived injustices.”

McCain and Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., suggested the attachment of hate crimes to the Department of Defense (DoD) funding bill was an effort to avoid debate on the controversial measure. Sessions said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. “insisted” the hate-crimes measure be attached to the DoD authorization bill.

Senator Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, refuted the arguments, noting that the Senate has adopted hate-crimes legislation on a DoD funding bill three times before and that it voted specifically on the current hate-crimes measure during consideration of the proposal to attach it to the DoD funding bill.

The Senate first voted 64-35 Oct. 22 on a procedural motion allowing the Senate to proceed to consideration of the bill. Republicans voting for “cloture” included senators Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe (Maine); Richard Lugar (Indiana); George Voinovich (Ohio); and Lisa Murkowski (Alaska). The lone Democrat voting against cloture was Senator Russ Feingold of Wisconsin. Senator Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, did not vote.

The hate-crimes provision accounts for about \$5 million worth of funding inside the \$681 billion defense bill.

The bill now goes to the president’s desk, where President Barack Obama is expected to sign it next week. Efforts to pass the measure in the past had been hampered by promises that then-President George W. Bush would veto it.

Both Illinois senators—Harold Burris and

Richard Durbin—voted for cloture and for the overall bill.

Change in attitude

But the door that was closed to LGBT people under the Bush administration has clearly been opened under Obama. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced Oct. 21 that the department is establishing an annual grant of \$250,000 to create “the nation’s first national resource center to assist communities across the country in their efforts to provide services and supports for older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals.”

A press release from HHS says that the office will provide “information, assistance, and resources” to both LGBT and “mainstream” groups working with people 60 and older “to assist them in the development and provision of culturally sensitive supports and services” to LGBT people.

“The LGBT Center will also be available to educate the LGBT community about the importance of planning ahead for future long term care needs,” said the HHS press statement.

HHS estimates that between 1.5 million and 4 million LGBT people are at least 60 years old. The grant to establish an LGBT resource center will be awarded under the HHS’s Administration on Aging.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced Oct. 21 that it will “propose new regulations will clarify family status to ensure its subsidized housing programs are available to all families, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

The proposed new regulations, which must go through a period of public comment, seek also to require that HUD grant recipients comply with local and state laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity; and that applicants for federally insured mortgage loans are not discriminated against based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

And HUD announced that it will launch a “first-ever national study of discrimination against members of the LGBT community in the rental and sale of housing.”

The new regulations and the study will both be “fast-tracked,” according to a statement issued by HUD Oct. 21. HUD noted that some local studies of housing discrimination against LGBT people have been undertaken. It cited a study by the Michigan Fair Housing Centers that found that nearly 30 percent of same-sex couples “were treated differently when attempting to buy or rent a home.”

“The evidence is clear that some are denied the opportunity to make housing choices in our nation based on who they are,” said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, in the statement, “and that must end. President Obama and I are determined that a qualified individual and family will not be denied housing choice based on sexual orientation or gender identity.”

The White House had no comment on the developments, but a number of organizations took some credit for the HUD and HHS proposals, having lobbied the administration for them from the start of the Obama administration. A “New Beginning Initiative,” by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and SAFE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders), coordinated advocacy on LGBT aging issues within federal agencies. And the Human Rights Campaign included HUD proposals as part of its “Blueprint for Positive Change” document to the administration.

Jennifer Chrisler, executive director of Family Equality Council, a national LGBT group, said in a statement that she believes the HUD initiatives were in response to President Obama’s directive in June that all federal agencies identify opportunities for ensuring equality for LGBT people.

“We applaud Secretary Donovan for his leadership and President Obama for following through on his promise,” said Chrisler.

Ryan White reauthorized

Also this week, the House and Senate agreed upon and approved a final version of the HIV/



Mara Keisling. Photo by Tully Satre

AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009, enabling the program to be extended for another four years. The program provides medical care and medication to more than half a million people with low incomes to have HIV infection. The bill passed the Senate Oct. 19 on the chamber’s unanimous consent agenda; it passed the House Oct. 21 by a vote of 408-9.

But, as The AIDS Institute was quick to note, reauthorizing the Ryan White program is step one; funding it is step two.

“We now must work with the Administration and the Congress to properly fund the program,” said AIDS Institute Executive Director Michael Ruppel. “With state and local budget cuts, people losing their health insurance due to the economic downturn, and expanded testing programs, additional federal resources will be a necessity.”

Ruppel said the House has proposed a \$54 million increase in Ryan White’s current \$2.2 billion budget; the Senate is proposing a \$35 million increase. The full Senate has yet to vote on its appropriations. Ruppel characterized either proposed increase as “minimal.”

Scrutiny continues

Many organizations and activists jumped to applaud the pro-LGBT developments this week.

Legal activist Nan Hunter, at hunterforjustice.com, said the HUD initiatives are “exactly the kind of progressive regulatory step that the Administration should be taking” and said she hopes to see other agencies soon follow suit.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, said, “We are so pleased that the Obama administration continues to express through both action and words that it is committed to making sure that all federal government programs are accessible to all people.”

Sharon J. Lettman, executive director of the National Black Justice Coalition, called the HUD initiative a “very positive development,” and expressed confidence “the LGBT community can look forward to from this President.”

Many continued to push for more.

Paul Sousa, head of a Massachusetts LGBT group called Join the Impact, said plans for a protest Oct. 23, outside a speech by Obama in Boston would go forward. The developments this week, he said, “are definitely movement in the right direction” but do not qualify Obama as a “fierce advocate” of LGBT equal rights. Obama described himself as a “fierce advocate for gay and lesbian Americans” in December in defending criticism of his invitation to evangelical Rick Warren to deliver his inaugural invocation.

Richard Socarides, a longtime gay Democratic activist who served in the Clinton White House, said he thinks this week’s developments are “terrific” and that the administration “deserves a lot of credit.” But, he added, “they need to focus now on ENDA, ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,’ and DOMA.”

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Walter Cronkite. Photo courtesy of Mark Segal

GAY HISTORY MONTH

The unpublished Walter Cronkite interview

BY MARK SEGAL
EDITED BY JASON VILLEMEZ

In an interview that has never been published, Philadelphia Gay News Publisher Mark Segal talked with the late newsman Walter Cronkite about a variety of LGBT-related issues. The talk took place March 6, 1996.

Mark Segal: What are your thoughts on gay marriage?

Walter Cronkite: I don't see why states should have any interest in gay marriage. That's not an issue that the state government or any government should be involved in. This is a personal question and should be solved on a personal basis, and I just don't believe the government has any role in it.

If there is an attempt to legislate against it, like the attempt to legislate against abortion, this is an interference of personal and civil rights that should be protested and contested. Short of that, the attitude ought to be, "Well, that's the way they feel. This doesn't have to be the way I feel, but, let's live and live together and accept these things."

So I think that I'm getting on very dangerous ground here, but I think there is a danger in trying to force an acceptance of your lifestyle. This ought to come through the more gradual educational process. But I don't want to sound like [Republican presidential candidate Steve] Forbes and abortion

It really isn't your business to sell this to the public. Educate the public. But don't try to sell it. And, and I think that there, sometimes the line is crossed there—that you're trying to propagandize the people to, to accept what, what you believe to be right. There is a fine line there between defense and aggression, and that line has to be very clearly defined and closely observed.

MS: Acceptance has been a long time coming, and we still have areas like the military where public support has risen but those in the leadership have not bought into the notion.

WC: In the military, I believe fully that, there

again, it's a question of, of one's civil rights and one certainly should have the right to live as one chooses. The suggestion that homosexuality is somehow going to be forced upon the other members of the barracks seems to me to be a non-issue. It's just a ridiculous red herring.

I know that some of my friends in the military think it's a ridiculous issue to make, to make an issue of what could be, could be handled quite as easily, as well—open rights.

MS: The right wing has used us as an election ploy for years, but there have been and still are legitimate conservative extremists who wish violence upon the gay community. How should we deal with people like that?

WC: I think we all should be fearful of any issue regarding extremists—whether they're left or right. And certainly, I'd be very concerned, particularly if I were one of the minority group about this attempt to enforce a moral code through some misinterpretation of some religious beliefs. I'd be very worried about that. Yeah, I'd be concerned. I'm concerned about that kind of attitude from both left and right in the country—militants who are fanatic in their beliefs are dangerous wherever they lie.

I don't like the word "attack." I wouldn't "attack" anybody. That's certainly not necessarily, and probably counterproductive. But defense mechanism against the know-nothings in our world, certainly are required. There you have a duty to answer those arguments that are, to your mind, completely out of line. I think that that's fundamental—a fundamental right and a fundamental duty, a fundamental responsibility to what you believe in.

MS: What about demonstrations?

WC: There's no question that militant demonstrations offend a proportion of the population no matter what the subject matter is. There are people that would rather not be awakened to issues, rather not be bothered by issues, they do not like seeing the city streets used as theater for issues, and they are the people who do not understand the Constitution and the right to demonstrate. Those are the very ones, who, if you ask them if people have a right to demonstrate, if they said to you, "Do you believe in the Constitution? It says people have the right to express their opinion," they'd all say, "Oh, yes, absolutely." "Well, do they have the right to demonstrate in front of the White House?" "Oh, no! They shouldn't be doing that!"

People have a kind of, I guess, a cleavage between theory and what they really want to see happening on the streets. So, there's always going to be that resentment towards demonstrators, no matter if its gay-rights demonstrators or political, other issues. I don't think that you could make a judgment on the success of such a thing. You have to make a judgment on the basis of the entire approach, the public perceptions from the situation, as opposed to before such activity began, and I don't think there's any question that there's a very positive, educational effect.

Whatever can be done to educate the public to the nature of homosexuality, to the, to the rights, civil rights to those who have a different lifestyle than the majority, this sort of thing, this is what is required.

MS: What do you think of the gay movement now compared to its beginnings?

WC: It seems to me that the gay movement has been highly successful. I think there's much more awareness, obviously, of the issue in the country. It seems to me that the approval rating among the polls is good, and if that's the result, then the movement has been successful.

About this interview: Mark Segal met Cronkite when he disrupted the live broadcast of the CBS Evening News in December 1973 by holding a sign in front of Cronkite which read "Gays Protest CBS Prejudice." They later became friends and this interview was recorded during one of their lunches. Walter Cronkite's candor surprised Segal who thought they were ahead of their time. Upon Cronkite's death it was pulled out of the drawer where it has resided for 13 years unpublished.

MAINE from cover

question that the 'No's' would win," said Ali. "But on this issue, it's hard to say for sure. I think it's close."

Opponents of California's Proposition 8 could toss in a large measure of caution, too. In October 2008, two weeks out from voting, only 47 percent of all voters said they'd support Proposition 8. But then, on Nov. 4, 52 percent did and the measure passed.

That's the thing about polls: They tell only what the temperature is in the voting pot at that moment; not whether there's about to be a fire ignited or put out and, thus, change the political temperature dramatically and quickly.

One fire that the "Yes on 1" campaign is now stoking is a television ad—similar to one used for Proposition 8 in California—that warns parents that allowing same-sex marriage will mean that gay marriage and "gay sex" will be forced into the curricula of public schools.

The "Yes on 1" ad most recently hitting the airwaves uses a broadcast from the well-respected National Public Radio to make its point. In the 30-second spot, an NPR reporter says that, four months after gay couples could marry in Massachusetts: "Already, some gay activists are working on a gay friendly curriculum for kindergarten and up." She talks to a Brookline, Mass., teacher, Deb Allen, who tells her the debate around gay marriage has prompted kids to ask a lot more questions, "like what is gay sex." The reporter then says Allen answers the students' questions "thoroughly and explicitly."

The television ad shows a Maine teacher listening to the NPR segment then turns to the camera and says, "Vote yes on Measure 1 to prevent this from happening in Maine."

(The Stand for Marriage Web site no longer carries the television ad, indicating, "This video is no longer available due to a copyright claim by National Public Radio." However, it can be viewed on youtube. In the search win-

dow, type in "Yes on 1 tv ad" + "give me a break").

It's a powerful tactic for the anti-gay marriage side, one that has gotten considerable traction in California and elsewhere. A poll in Maine this month of 401 "likely voters" found it was gaining some traction there, too. The poll showed that 75.6 percent of those prepared to vote "Yes" to repeal the state's new marriage equality law said they believe the law would require gay marriage to be taught in the public schools. (Of those prepared to vote "No," only 23.9 percent believed gay marriage would be taught in schools.)

"We knew this was coming," said Peard, "and we prepared for it."

The "Yes on 1" campaign in Maine is being run by the same public relations firm, Shubert Flint, as was the pro-Proposition 8 campaign in California. "So, we knew a lot of the California ads were being recut and used again," said Peard.

When the "Yes on 1" "gay sex" ads started airing, "No on 1" quickly prepared and rolled out their counter-ads. Those ads, showing a wide variety of family configurations (straight and gay) and urges voters to use their "common sense"—that "Maine schools wouldn't allow something inappropriate to be taught."

The ad also highlights an Oct. 17 endorsement for the "No on 1" campaign from the well-respected Bangor Daily News, which called the fears about school curricula "baseless." And it noted that, on Oct. 15, the attorney general issued a report saying the marriage equality law has "no impact" on school curricula. The counterpunch was also helped by a YouTube message posted Oct. 11 by Belinda Carlisle, former lead singer for the Go-Gos, who asked voters—"as a mom" of a gay son—to reject Measure 1 and donate to "No on 1."

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GAY HISTORY MONTH

Walt Whitman

BY JACK VEASEY

Walt Whitman, best known as the father of modern poetry and American poetry, was also the longtime lover of Peter Doyle, son of a blacksmith, a former Rebel soldier who worked as a streetcar conductor. They were often affectionate in public; both their families, and all Whitman's friends, knew about their relationship. Doyle was a conspicuous influence on many of Whitman's works.

The couple first met on a Washington, D.C., streetcar in 1865, on a stormy winter night toward the close of the Civil War. Whitman was 45; Doyle, 21. Doyle thought his bearded only passenger, a blanket over his shoulders, looked "like an old sea captain." "I thought I would go and talk to him," Doyle said in an interview. "Something in me made me do it. He used to say there was something in me had the same effect on him... We were familiar at once. I put my hand on his knee ... from that time on we were the biggest sort of friends."

Whitman was a burly six feet tall; Doyle, a slender five foot eight. Their differences extended beyond the physical. Whitman was a government clerk, journalist, and a published poet; Doyle, a workingman supporting his widowed mother and younger siblings. Whitman prided himself on patriotism; his brother George was a Union soldier, and he'd spent the last two years nursing the wounded in Washington's army hospitals. Doyle had been a Confederate artilleryman, who'd obtained release from federal prison by claiming to be a British subject (born in Limerick, Ireland, he and his family emigrated here when he was a child). Pete and Walt were living proof that opposites attract.

They were a familiar sight on Washington streetcars and at the bar in Georgetown's Union Hotel. A favorite pastime was to hike along the Potomac River in Maryland, take the ferry to Virginia, and then hike back along the river on the Virginia side.

They were unable to live together due to Pete's obligations to his dependent family, though Walt wanted to settle down with Pete and brought it up repeatedly.

But each man was warmly embraced by the other's family. Pete would fondly recall dinners at the Whitmans: "After we had our dinner she (Walt's mother) would always say, 'Now take a long walk to aid digestion.' Mrs. Whitman was a lovely woman." After Whitman's first stroke in 1873, his mother wrote to Walt to express her confidence in Pete: "I knew if it was in his power he would cheerfully do everything he could for you." Pete lived up to her expectations, nursing Walt for months. The Doyles also counted on Walt for whatever help he could offer, including recommending Pete's brother Edward for a job with the Treasury Department, and lobbying newspapers to protect Pete's older brother, policeman Francis, from sensationalized accounts of brutality. Walt considered Pete's mother Catherine, brothers James, Francis --- and younger brother Edward, and sister Margaret, who lived with Pete—dear friends.

Doyle would have a lasting impact on Whitman's work. For one thing, Doyle—who was present at Lincoln's assassination—would shape Whitman's writings about that tragic event. Doyle had gone to the performance of "My American Cousin" in Ford's Theater on April 14, 1865, because he'd heard the Lincolns would be there. He heard the shot and saw John Wilkes Booth leap from Lincoln's box to the stage, but didn't know Lincoln was dead until he heard Mary Todd Lincoln cry out, "the President has been shot!" He was so stunned that he was one of the last to leave the theater, ordered out by a policeman.

Lincoln had been one of Walt's heroes, though they had never met. Walt, a friend of the President's former secretary John Hay, had seen Lincoln in person numerous times. He'd written, "I never see the man without feeling that he is one



Walt Whitman (left) and Peter Doyle.

to become personally attached to." Walt would use Pete's account in *Specimen Days*, *Memoranda During The War*, and lectures.

Pete also affected Whitman's most popular Lincoln poem "O Captain! My Captain!" Doyle came to America with his mother and three brothers on the *William Patten* in 1852; the ship nearly wrecked in a storm on Good Friday, also the day of Lincoln's assassination. Whitman knew this. The poem memorializes Lincoln as a ship's captain, who died while guiding his vessel safely to port through a storm. The poem, unlike most of Whitman's, is metered and rhymed. During their walks, Doyle would often quote Limericks to Whitman; the poem's extant first draft is in free verse, so he likely revised it to impress Doyle. Another poem written around the same time, "Come Up From The Fields Father," is the only time Whitman ever identified a protagonist with a personal name—Pete.

Pete could not have inspired "Calamus," the notorious series of homoerotic poems published in 1860. (The controversial poems had gotten Whitman fired from his Department of the Interior job, but well-connected Walt quickly got a similar job in the Attorney General's office.) Doyle did, however, affect Whitman's decision to excise three of these poems from the 1867 edition of "Leaves Of Grass." The three expressed despair over Whitman's earlier failed relationship with another Irishman, Fred Vaughan, who married after splitting from him.

Pete also figured prominently in Walt's private notebooks, particularly passages cited by some scholars as the most convincing proof of Whitman's gay sexuality. In the summer of 1870 Whitman began to suspect that Pete did not return his love. He wrote feverishly, vowing "TO GIVE UP ABSOLUTELY ...this ...USELESS UNDIGNIFIED PURSUIT OF 16.4." 16 and four are the numeric locations of the initials P.D. in the alphabet. Walt also obviously later erased the "im" in "him" and replaced it with "er" in these entries.

But before Walt left to visit his family later that summer, Pete confessed his love, ending Walt's ambivalence. In a July 30 letter, Walt enthused, "I never dreamed that you made so much of having me with you, nor that you should feel so downcast at losing me." Soon afterward, when Pete griped about his job, Walt wrote promising "a good smacking kiss, many of them—taking in return many, many from my dear son—good loving ones too."

Their relationship remained intense during Walt's years in Washington. But Walt suffered a stroke in 1873, which impaired his left arm and leg. He went to live with his brother George in Camden, N.J., considering the arrangement temporary. Walt's beloved mother died that same year, taking an emotional toll on him as well. Pete was by now working a dangerous, stressful job—brakeman—for the Pennsylvania Railroad, but would still visit Walt daily before his evening shift, nursing him while there. Walt took the precaution of making out a will, in which

Pete was the only non-family member included. In 1874, Walt forfeited his Washington job, and broke the news to Pete that his move to Camden would be permanent. In 1875 another stroke affected Walt's right side.

For the next two decades, Pete and Walt continued to correspond, and Pete continued to visit regularly, but they began to see less of each other. In 1876, Walt met another working class youth, Harry Stafford, a Camden New Republic office clerk in his 20s. Harry became Walt's new "darling boy." Stafford's parents considered Walt a "good influence." Whitman began to spend time at the family's farm near Timber Creek, about ten miles from Camden. Walt's letters told Pete about the farm, but not about Harry. Like Fred Vaughan before him, Harry would marry in 1884, but he and Walt would remain friends.

After Pete's mother Catherine passed away in 1885, Pete relocated to Philadelphia. Though Pete and Walt remained in touch till 1889, no correspondence exists from between 1881 and 1886, as they saw each other frequently.

In 1888, Walt suffered another stroke and became severely ill. He would live four more years, during which he would publish "November Boughs," "Goodbye My Fancy," and the so-called "Deathbed Edition" of *Leaves of Grass*. Pete would be mysteriously absent for most of this time. Whitman speculated to friend Horace Traubel that Pete "must have got another lay." On New Year's Day, 1892, Walt revised his will to exclude Pete, who he presumed was dead. But before Walt passed, Pete did visit him again, and explained the reasons for his absence.

LOCAL NEWS

Center welcomes trans liaison

Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, has welcomed Christina Kahl as its new transgender program volunteer liaison.

Kahl assumes the role previously held by June Latrobe, who recently went on a temporary leave of absence to join Jim Madigan's campaign for the 7th district state Senate race as chief of staff.

Among the trans-related programs at the Center are "T Talk," held the second Monday of each month at 5:30-7:30 p.m.; and "3656 Trans Avenue," a seminar series for those 18 and older. E-mail transgender@centeronhalsted.org or call 773-472-6469, ext. 495.

Damski event Nov. 1

Firetrap Press, an independent Chicago publishing cooperative, has announced the release of four new collections of work by noted Chicago writer and activist Jon-Henri Damski, whose essays over a 20-year career chronicled life in Chicago's LGBTQ community. To herald the long-awaited publication of these books, there will be a "Damski X 4" Release Party on Sunday, Nov. 1, at 4 p.m. at Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W. Granville.

Call 773-381-8030 or visit www.gerberhart.org.

Cancer group works with more than 100 businesses

Chicago's In Good Taste campaign is running throughout the month of October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The foundation will bring together more than 100 Chicago restaurants, bars and businesses to raise funds for the research done at Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University.

When people dine at participating locations, donations (\$1 per check, or more if the patrons desire) will benefit The Lynn Sage Scholars Program at Northwestern University. Among the businesses taking part are La Tache, 1475 W. Balmoral; Cafe Matou, 1846 N. Milwaukee; and

In an interview, Pete recalled "In the old days I had always open doors to Walt—going, coming, staying as I chose. Now, I had to run the gauntlet of Mrs. Davis (Walt's housekeeper at his own new Mickle Street home) and a nurse and whatnot....Then I had a mad impulse to go over and nurse him. I was his proper nurse—he understood me—I understood him. We loved each other deeply....I should have gone to see him, at least, in spite of everything, I know it now... but it's all right. Walt realized I never swerved from him—he knows it now. That is enough."

Walt, 73, died of tuberculosis on March 26, 1892. Pete viewed the body, and attended the funeral. He remained part of Walt's surviving circle of friends until his own passing at 63 in 1907 from uremia (kidney disease.)

The most substantial documentation of their relationship is a collection of letters Walt sent to Pete from 1868-1880, published in 1897 by their mutual friend, psychiatrist/author Richard Maurice Bucke, as "The Calamus Letters." "Calamus" poems are interspersed between letters in the book. The book included Bucke's revealing interview with Doyle, which Henry James would call "the most charming passage in the volume" in his 1898 review.

From Doyle's interview with Bucke, conducted after Whitman's death:

"I have Walt's raglan here. Now and then I put it on, lay down... Then he is with me again... I do not ever for a minute lose the old man. He is always nearby...in a crisis, I ask myself, 'What would Walt do?' —and whatever I decide Walt would do, that I do."

all 12 locations of Leona's restaurants. Find out much more at www.lynnagefoundation.org/InGoodTaste.aspx.

Vital Bridges to serve 10 millionth meal

On Thursday, Oct. 29, Vital Bridges will mark the delivery of its 10 millionth meal from the Vital Bridges Northside program center, where almost 500 low-income people living with HIV/AIDS come to pick up nutritious groceries every week, according to a press release.

A bad economy is mostly to blame for a huge spike in the number of new clients on low incomes and living with HIV/AIDS seeking help with food in Chicago, according to Deborah Hinde, president and CEO of Vital Bridges. "This economy has been extremely tough on our clients as well as on the organization. We're seeing more and more new clients, yet we have limited funds to meet the need," said Hinde. "We know that nutritious food is central to our clients' ability to improve their health, so we're doing everything possible to make sure they can rely on us."

HRC Chicago to 'Shine' Nov. 7

The Chicago chapter of the Human Rights Campaign will hold its gala, "Time to Shine," Saturday, Nov. 7, at 6 p.m. in the Hyatt Regency, 151 E. Wacker.

Tony Taylor will receive the HRC LGBT College Student Award and the Rush University Medical Center will receive the HRC Corporate Equality Award. The program also includes remarks by Queer As Folk's Robert Gant and a special performance by Michelle Williams of *Destiny's Child*.

Tickets are \$75-\$350 each; see chicago.hrc.org.

BEHIV show Nov. 4

Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV) will hold its art-therapy show Wed., Nov. 4, through Friday, Dec. 4 at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. The event will kick off with a reception Nov. 4.

See www.behiv.org.

Chicago House prepares for Clinton's visit

BY ROSS FORMAN

Chicago House & Social Service Agency has been throwing its World Tour Gala for 20 years. It's been a fun event and always attracted a nice, responsive, interactive crowd. Still, organizers wanted to offer something different.

So Chicago House's CEO, the Rev. Stan Sloan, suggested to the board of trustees that there are very few intellectual offerings on the topics of HIV/AIDS and homelessness in Chicago, and that a luncheon series featuring those topics would be a nice alternative to the tour.

"We discussed it for two years before we finally decided to go for it," Sloan said.

Enter Todd Hamilton, a member of Chicago House's board of trustees who also is a member of the Clinton Global Initiative, named for former President Bill Clinton.

"In that role, he works with various dignitaries, and so we assembled a list of speakers [for the luncheons], with Bill Clinton being at the top of the list," Sloan said. "Todd took the ball and ran, discovering that Clinton was going to be in [Chicago] on Nov. 11 for another speaking engagement. From there it just all fell in place."

Clinton will be the official luncheon speaker for the Chicago House Speaker Series 2009, a fundraiser on Nov. 11 at the Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe, 12-2 p.m.

"HIV/AIDS and homelessness are two of the top priorities for the Clinton Global Initiative, and they are at the core of Chicago House's mission and programs," Sloan said. "President Clinton is known for his enlightened views on the sum of social issues facing our nation and our world. We can't wait to hear his thoughts, and our hope is that it will further the dialogue on these issues in greater Chicago."

The two-hour event is expected to raise more than \$300,000.

Sloan added, "Our goal [for the Clinton speech] is about so much more than just making money for our programs. Too often it feels like the only people who are concerned about homelessness and HIV in Chicago are the people directly affected by the issues. Our hope is that the broader community will become more concerned and involved as a result of the luncheon speaker series."

And Sloan confirmed that Chicago House is planning to host the Speakers Series annually with a high-profile guest.

"Our board meets for retreat at the end of October. Nobody gets in without bringing a list of people who they may be able to get to for our next speaker," Sloan said. "The fact that we were able to get President Clinton for the first speaker should make it more attractive for other potential speakers."

Windy City Times: Dealing with an ex-president, how has it been, logistically?

Stan Sloan: Clinton's staff has been fantastic, but we have to be very careful with our language and marketing. We also have to cut ticket sales off a full week before the event so that every person can be checked for security purposes. Supposedly, had Secretary of State Hillary Clinton not been in her post the security and vetting process for every sponsor, etc. would have been less intense but, again, Clinton's staff has been fantastic and has made it easy for us.

WCT: Were you truly shocked that Clinton agreed to speak?

SS: Honestly, I think we have the best board of trustees in the city, and I am never shocked at what they are able to accomplish on behalf of our residents and clients.

WCT: What is Clinton's speaking fee, and how much will Chicago House need to raise to make it worthwhile?

SS: We aren't allowed to disclose the fee, but I can convey that it was a fraction of his normal fee. I think the discount was a result of President Clinton's own commitment to the issues as



The Rev. Stan Sloan.

well as to Todd Hamilton's connections.

WCT: How many people from Chicago House, including any freelance contractors you've hired, will be working on logistics for the event?

SS: Our special events manager, Jeremy Hilborn, is a seasoned professional. (Hilborn is spearheading the program.) We also have a large volunteer force. We have not currently spent any funding on freelance contractors, and if we have to for a few logistics, we will keep it to a minimum.

WCT: Was Clinton and/or his representatives curious about Chicago House before it was agreed he would speak?

SS: Yes, they fully vetted the organization, our history, our success, our reputation and our ability to pull off such a lunch. I'm happy to say we passed on all counts.

WCT: What do you see this speech doing for the LGBT community? And for AIDS awareness as a whole?

SS: We see it creating discussion and dialogue about the issues of HIV/AIDS and homelessness in communities where those issues are often overlooked. Of course the LGBT concerns are huge in both issues, with LGBT members having higher percentages for both homelessness and for HIV infections among GBT men.

WCT: Who do you see attending, meaning, meaning, what kind of people do you foresee in the crowd?

SS: We hope this event brings in a broad cross-section of Chicago. Our hope is that it will involve those who are not likely to attend a black-tie or evening event as well as those who typically do.

WCT: Any negative feedback so far to his appearance?

SS: None.

WCT: If you can ask President Clinton one question, what will it be?

SS: I am anxious to hear his talk, and I am open to his perspectives. I don't have a question as much as a need to thank him for caring about the issues that most people would prefer to overlook in our society and world. I guess the follow-up question would be, "How can we, as regular citizens, help you further the agenda of the Clinton Global Initiative?"

WCT: How much are sponsors, including title sponsor Harris Bank, paying for those rights?

SS: Harris has come in extremely generously, at \$50,000. We have dozens of other corporate sponsors coming in at \$25,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000 levels. We are thrilled at the response.

WCT: Do you foresee Hillary attending, too?

SS: I don't think it would be likely. She has a huge job, and [I] can't imagine she has time to travel with Bill for these events.

WCT: Anything else Clinton-related you'd like to add?

SS: We promise that you will leave inspired and hopeful rather than just tipsy from yet another black-tie [event].

To order tickets for the President Clinton luncheon on Nov. 11, visit www.chicagohouse.org.



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SLDN at Sidetrack



Jose Zuniga spoke last week at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted, on the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network's (SLDN's) ongoing work with the president and Congress to build support for repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Zuniga was 1993 6th Army Soldier of the Year when he was discharged under the ban on gays serving in the military and is an SLDN board member. Todd Connor, a veteran and an out candidate for the office of Metropolitan Water Reclamation Commissioner, also spoke to the group. Photo of (from left) gay veterans Zuniga, Jean Albright and Jim Darby by Mel Ferrand

Educators, others learn about HIV

BY BYRON FLITSCH

United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, 560 W. Lake, invited educators, program facilitators and other interested parties to the "HIV: Hey, It's Viral!" forum on Oct. 22. The event included a preview of the twenty-minute Beyondmedia documentary production that addresses serious HIV facts geared towards educating at-risk youth ranging from ages 12-18.

The event also included a panel with film collaborators Salome Chasnoff (Beyondmedia educator), Joe Hollendoner (director of the Broadway Youth Center for Howard Brown Health Center) and Sara Kerastas (education program director for About Face Theatre). The discussion centered around the need to implement a more modernized sex education curriculum (including the documentary) into Chicago Public Schools. More information about the film and where to purchase a copy can be found at www.beyondmedia.org

Pauel's party

BY BYRON FLITSCH

Supporters of Linda J. Pauel, a lesbian candidate for Cook County Circuit Court judge, gathered at Halsted's Bar and Grill, 3441 N. Halsted, Oct. 22 to attend a fundraiser benefiting her

campaign. Attendees were treated to cocktails and appetizers while Pauel mingled with supporters expressing her gratitude for donations. Later, Pauel spoke to the crowd discussing her personal and political life.

Her resume includes 18 successful years as a litigator, multiple *pro bono* cases and various commitments to public service. The evening closed with personal thanks from Pauel and her main reasoning for becoming a candidate: "the need to have fair-minded judges."

Mell holds fundraiser

BY CHASSE REHWINKEL

State Rep. Deborah Mell, D-40th District, held her largest fundraising event of the year at Chief O'Neill's Pub & Restaurant, 3471 N. Elston, on Oct. 22.

The event was designed to not only raise money for Mell's re-election attempt, but also to fund events and programs she plans to hold in her district for the upcoming year.

One of very few openly gay politicians in Illinois, Mell discussed how being an open lesbian in the state House was not as challenging as she initially feared.

"I don't feel a lot of discrimination down in the house," Mell said. "There are a couple of representatives that are definitely, fully anti-gay,

so I stay away from them as much as I can. But, I've been treated great down there; it's been a little surprising. I welcome everyone to start running."

Although the event had no stated attendance or monetary goal, it did attract a number of high-ranking community leaders, including openly gay State Rep. Greg Harris, 13th D.

"Deb has been a great colleague to work with in Springfield," said Harris. "She's been a passionate supporter for marriage equality legislation and it's great to have another openly gay person in the house to put a human face on the day-to-day struggles that gays and lesbians face."

At the event, Mell did not officially address the attendees; instead, the state rep opted to discuss issues important to her—such as marriage equality, education funding and reducing prison recidivisms—in a more personal style by mingling with patrons throughout the night.

Protesting LaBarbera

Protesters from a local gay-straight alliance, the local Congregational church, the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches and the Gay Liberation Network (GLN) picketed the annual banquet of Peter LaBarbera's "Americans for Truth About Homosexuality" at The Christian Liberty Academy, 502 W. Euclid, Arlington Heights, on Oct. 24, according to a press release from the GLN. Matt Barber, director of cultural affairs for Liberty Counsel and Liberty Alliance Action, was the special guest at the event.



Protesters at LaBarbera's event. Photo courtesy of Andy Thayer

PASSAGES

Richard Weisenseel

Richard F. Weisenseel—a New York native, former adman and lifelong patron of the arts—passed away Oct. 5. after a brief illness. He was 75.

After graduating from The High School of Performing Arts in Manhattan, Weisenseel received B.A. and M.A. degrees from New York University and did postgraduate work at Columbia and the University of Chicago.

He will be remembered for his erudition, distinctive Eastern accent, and enthusiastic love of life that included friends, travels, food, music, literature, theatre and all other arts, as well as fond memories of an accomplished career at the Leo Burnett, BBDO, Tatham-Laird-Kudner, Post-Keyes Gardner, Albert Jay Rosenthal and Grey-North advertising agencies.

He was particularly supportive of the Museum of Contemporary Art, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, About Face Theatre, Hell in a Handbag Productions and St. Labre Indian School.

Weisenseel was the beloved life partner of 52 years to Richard "Dick" Pope. He was the devoted uncle of Suzanne (Gregory) Huslin and Mark Pearson and brother-in-law of Kenneth Pearson, all of Newington, Conn.

Moreover, Weisenseel was the dear friend and mentor to Dick's son Alan and granddaughter Ashley; and honorary uncle of the Laurel, Ray and Stephen Pope families, all of the Intermountain West.

Interment will be at The Woodlawn Cemetery, The Bronx, N.Y. A memorial celebration of his life is being planned in Chicago.

PASSAGES

Martin Cetlinski

Martin Cetlinski, a businessman who owned the Equinox gift shops on the North Side of Chicago, passed away.

Cetlinski opened his first store, Plaza Gifts, in Dearborn, Mich., in the 1970s. In 1989, Cetlinski moved to Chicago and immediately knew the Boystown area was the up-and-coming place to be, opening his first Equinox store at 3401 N. Broadway. A second store, at 5621 N. Clark, opened later. Both continue to service the vibrant and eclectic Boystown and Andersonville communities.

Cetlinski was a member of the chambers of commerce in Lakeview and Andersonville. He was always sought after for his opinions on trends and marketing in these communities.

Cetlinski is survived by his brothers: Tom, Chris, Jim and John. A service has been held. Contributions in Cetlinski's memory may be made to Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N. Sheridan, Chicago, Ill., 60613 or online at www.HowardBrown.org.

PASSAGES

Louis A. Muzik

Louis A. Muzik—who was born and raised in Berwyn, and was a longtime resident of Chicago, Oak Park and, most recently, Guadalajara and Lake Chapala, Mexico—passed away Oct. 6. He was 64.

Muzik was retired from Children's Memorial Hospital and the University of Illinois Hospital.

Muzik was the beloved son of the late Louis and Helen (nee Cink); dear brother of Helen (the late Donald) Voelk; loving nephew of Robert and Irene Brunclik of Pennsylvania; fond uncle of Steven (Susan) and Jeffrey (Jill) Voelk; and great-uncle to many. A memorial service celebrating Muzik's life will be held on Oct. 31 at 2 p.m., followed by a luncheon. For information, please call Joe Rochetto at 708-749-1673.

Donations may be made to Harmony House for Cats, P.O. Box 18098, Chicago, Ill., 60618.

Thursday, Nov. 5
7:30 p.m.
Terese Svoboda
Maureen Seaton
and Gina Frangello

Friday, Nov. 6
7:30 p.m.
Margaret Atwood
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Presented by DePaul University
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WORLD ROUNDUP

BY REX WOCKNER

Uganda considers tough anti-gay bill

Legislators in Uganda, where gay sex is banned under penalty of life in prison, are considering a bill that would criminalize touching anyone in a gay way; funding or sponsoring gay organizations; broadcasting, publishing or marketing gay material; homosexual advocacy; and the failure by any person to report to police his or her awareness of the existence of a gay person within Uganda's borders within 24 hours of learning that the homosexual exists. Penalties for the various crimes that would be created by the "Anti-Homosexuality Bill of 2009" range from three years to life in prison.

"This new draft bill includes a provision that could lead to the imprisonment for up to three years of anyone, including heterosexual people, who fails to report within 24 hours the identities of everyone they know who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, or who supports human rights for people who are," said Human Rights Watch.

The bill also creates something called "aggravated homosexuality" and punishes it with the death penalty in the case of "repeat offenders" and people who are HIV-positive. It further targets gay Ugandans who get married abroad. They would be imprisoned for life upon return to Uganda.

The bill's first sentence says: "The object of this Bill is to establish a comprehensive consolidated legislation to protect the traditional family by prohibiting (i) any form of sexual relations between persons of the same sex; and (ii) the promotion or recognition of such sexual relations in public institutions and other places through or with the support of any Government entity in Uganda or any non governmental organization inside or outside the country."

For the full text of the bizarre legislation, see tinyurl.com/hatebill. For information on how to help fight the bill, see tinyurl.com/iglhrc-ug. For Human Rights Watch's analysis of the bill, see tinyurl.com/hrw-ug.

Church of Sweden to marry same-sex couples

The Church of Sweden will marry same-sex couples, the general synod decided Oct. 22 in a 176-62 vote.

Individual pastors will be permitted to opt out of performing gay weddings.

The Lutheran church counts 74 percent of Swedes as members, though only 2 percent go to church regularly.

Same-sex marriage became legal in Sweden on May 1. Gay couples also can marry in Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, South Africa, and four U.S. states.

IGLHRC targets Chinese bureau

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission has set its sights on the Guangzhou Public Security Bureau in China over its harassment of gay men.

IGLHRC expressed "dismay at the repeated acts of arbitrary detention and harassment of the police towards HIV prevention outreach workers and men suspected of being gay."

In one incident, in August, the police tried to eject around 100 gay men from Renmin Gongyuan People's Park, claiming they were harassing straight people and committing petty crimes. In an unusual move, the gays resisted and the police eventually left.

"The raids and patterns of harassment in

Guangzhou discriminate against individuals by targeting them on the basis of their perceived sexual orientation," IGLHRC said. "They also threaten access to the limited space that the gay and bisexual men of Guangzhou can access. Social spaces, such as public parks, are sites in which ... LGBT people build community and promote HIV education and prevention. These venues are particularly important since private space is less accessible to many Chinese gay men and lesbians, many of whom live with family."

ILGHRC launched a letter-writing campaign to police chief Wu Sha. For details, see tinyurl.com/gayguang.

Irish hurler comes out

Irish hurling star goalkeeper Donal Óg Cusack, 32, has come out as gay in a new autobiography, becoming the first Gaelic Athletic Association player to do so.

"I get more out of men," he wrote. "I just do. Always have. I know I am different but just in this way. Whatever you may feel about me or who I am, I've always been at peace with it."

Hurling is an ancient team sport played with sticks and a ball on a field with goals. It is thought to be the world's fastest-moving field team sport. For a detailed explanation, see en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurling.

Russian lesbian activists marry in Toronto

Two Moscow lesbian activists who were turned down for a marriage license in Russia got married in Toronto Oct. 23.

Irina Fedotova-Fet and Irina Shipitko honeymooned in Niagara Falls, then returned home with their lawyer, gay activist Nikolai Alekseev, to demand that Russia recognize the Canadian marriage.

According to Alekseev, Russian law requires recognition of all foreign marriages except in cases of bigamy or incest. Homosexual unions are not among those prohibited, he said.

"It's sort of a loophole in the law," Alekseev said.

Should Russia refuse to recognize the marriage, Alekseev and the couple will file a case with the European Court of Human Rights, he said.

"Even though it is not my marriage, this is a day I will hardly forget," Alekseev said in Toronto. "Many in Russia, including in the LGBT community, think that same-sex marriage is impossible but the fight for marriage equality in Russia today is an investment in a democratic and free future of the country. We know that we will get it one day and this is the reason why we have to start now. I salute the courage of Irina and Irina who are showing today that there are no barriers to love. They give a great message of hope."

ILGA-Europe to meet in Malta

The European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (aka ILGA-Europe) is holding its 13th annual conference in Malta from Oct. 29 to Nov. 1 with the theme "Overcoming Religious and Cultural Barriers to LGBT Equality."

Thirty workshops will tackle such matters as European policy, hate crimes, asylum and transgender rights.

Participants will include officials from the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Scottish and Dutch governments. For more information, see ilga-europe.org.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

"PRESIDENT OBAMA TOLD LGBT AMERICANS THAT his commitment to ending discrimination in the military, in the workplace and for loving couples and their families is 'unwavering.' He made it crystal clear that he is our strongest ally in this fight, that he understands and, in fact, encourages our activism and our voice even when we're impatient with the pace of change. But these remarks weren't just for us, they were directed to all Americans who share his dream and ours of a country where 'no one is denied their basic rights, in which all of us are free to live and love as we see fit.' ... This was a historic night when we felt the full embrace and commitment of the president of the United States. It's simply unprecedented." — *Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese on President Obama's Oct. 10 speech to HRC's national dinner in Washington, D.C.*



We're not characterized by being survivors.

—U.S. Rep. Jared Polis



Official head shot



"(W)HEN THEY GET OUT THERE ON SUNDAY, GAY NATION ... NEEDS to do everything in their power to scare the hell out of right-wing homophobes. I want to see you guys rollerblading down the Mall in nothing but a speedo and a nun's habit, holding a sparker in one hand and a penis popsicle in the other." — *HBO's Bill Maher writing at The Huffington Post, Oct. 9.*

"I THINK FOR ME (THE NATIONAL EQUALITY MARCH) WAS A CAUSE that I truly believe in. By and large in this country the issue of gay rights and equality should be past the point of debate. Really, there should be no debate anymore. For me, in my small platform as a professional football player, I understand that my time in the spotlight is probably limited. The more times you have to lend your name to a cause you believe in, you should do that." — *New Orleans Saints linebacker Scott Fujita to the Huffington Post, Oct. 7.*

"PEOPLE DO CALL IT HOMOPHOBIA, and even that term alone is interesting to me. Because I don't even know how they call it homophobia, because that's a fear of the same. It's more heterophobia. It's a fear of something different from yourself. Is there still some of that in the locker room? Absolutely. People tell me, hey, that's pretty courageous. You come out in favor of gay rights. I don't think it's that courageous. I think I have an opinion, that I wish was shared by everybody." — *New Orleans Saints linebacker Scott Fujita to the Huffington Post, Oct. 7.*

"I DON'T LIKE WHEN PEOPLE USE GOD OR JESUS CHRIST in this whole (gay) debate, if

you could even call it a debate. Jesus Christ, to me, is probably the most compassionate and revolutionary thinker of all time. Look at his teachings. Look at what he preached. He would not endorse any type of inequality, this type of inhumanity. He would not be on board with that. So please, spare me that argument and saying that hey, the Bible says that it ain't right, or hey, Jesus Christ wouldn't buy into this kind of thing. Don't give me that. That's not even an argument." — *New Orleans Saints linebacker Scott Fujita to the Huffington Post, Oct. 7.*

"WE MUST REMEMBER THAT WE DO NOT HAVE THE FREEDOM TO MARRY, to inherit, to adopt, to share our health insurance, to learn about our history in our schools. To learn that our two greatest presidents, Washington and Lincoln, were gay. We do not have the freedom to live as straight people have the freedom to live. We do not have the freedom to have our bars not raided by police and officers beating us up with such fury that we land in hospitals." — *Veteran activist Larry Kramer speaking at Dallas gay pride, Sept. 20.*

"SOME OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF LGBT OPINION LEADERS THINK more boldly than the preceding generation. We grew up in a different environment than people who grew up in the 1960s or the 1970s. The new generation grew up in a post-AIDS-crisis world. I don't know anybody who died of AIDS, and for a gay man 20 years ago, that would have been a shocking statement. But most of my peers don't either. We're not characterized by being survivors." — *Gay U.S. Rep. Jared Polis, D-Colo., to The Washington Post, Oct. 9. He is 34 years old.*

"I'VE ALWAYS SAID I CAN'T COOK to save my life. Now home sick, learning how literally true that is. Yuck." — *MSNBC lesbian host Rachel Maddow in an Oct. 14 tweet.*

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

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ALISHA
BRENNON

Coming to terms

As a "boi" in the lesbian world, I'd always been scared to get a pap smear and breast exam. How horrid did it sound to have someone see all the parts under my clothes that I have tried so hard to hide from others—ever since I could remember picking my own clothes?

I had a very rough childhood, not only because

of my authoritative parents, but because of the abuse I endured as well. The main reason I did not want anyone underneath my clothes, what I hid behind every day, was the result of 16 years of sexual abuse. My stepfather put fear and discomfort in the thought of anyone ever touching me because of his actions towards me every night when my mother and sister were sleeping. It was hard for me to let anyone close to me after that. The thought that kept running through my head with every girl that I met or parent I was introduced to was, "If my own stepfather—someone who was at my mom's bedside when I was born—could do that to me, how am I ever going to let someone I barely even know intimately into my life, and how will I ever trust them or their father?"

Then, six years after taking him to court, I met my current girlfriend and finally embraced my

self-proclaimed "tomboy" identity and all of my body that goes along with it. Owning my body allowed me to finally understand the reasons for having these exams. I was able to realize that to live without worry of cervical or breast cancer or any other such diseases/viruses, (something I've worried about off and on for years), I needed to have these exams. So I did it—I went to Howard Brown Health Center and can say that I came out alive and happy knowing I can live now without worry! Is there fear for the next appointment? Yes. But, I know that just like the first appointment, it is only benefiting me in the long run! Even the manliest of all lesbians should feel the excitement of knowing about their health!

Alisha Brennon is a student at Robert Morris University and a member of the Chicago Force women's football team.

REV.
IRENE
MONROE

Morehouse's intolerance for gays

Morehouse College has a problem with its dress-code offenders.

These dress-code offenders wear baggy pants and do-rags; flash their "bling bling" like gold chains; and don "decorative orthodontic appliances" like gold teeth and tattoos, bringing too much of Black urban ghetto life to an elite college that fashions itself as the paragon of Black manhood.

In Morehouse's effort to "get back to [its] legacy" Dr. William Bynum, vice president of the office of student services discussed with Safe Space, the school's gay, bisexual transgender, and queer (GBTQ) organization, the school's new "Appropriate Attire Policy" banning dress-wearing.

"And if anyone sees this policy as something that is restrictive then maybe Morehouse is not the place for you," Cameron Thomas-Shah, student government co-chief of staff told the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

Since its inception in 1867 Morehouse College is noted as the bastion of Black male leadership and masculinity. Embodying W. E.B. DuBois's theory of The Talented Tenth, where "exceptional Black men" would be the ones to lead the race, Morehouse College has produced unquestionably a pantheon of noted Black men; its most famous alumnus, Martin Luther King, Jr., graduated from Morehouse in 1948.

And its alums maintain the "Morehouse mystique" the college is renowned for "images of strong Black men."

However, nowhere in its development of strong Black men were LGBTQ men included in its elite vision of brotherhood. And now, more than a century later, LGBTQ Morehouse men are still struggling to be accepted.

The new dress-code policy is discriminatory because it's aimed at keeping its LGBTQ population in the closet.

However, non-tolerance of LGBTQ men at Morehouse is not new, but rather it exposes the school's milieu of institutionalized homophobia, ranging from the president's office to the student body.

For example, last month Morehouse fired one of its employees for circulating via the school's work e-mail account her disapproving views of wedding photos of a Black gay couple. The employee worked as an administrative assistant in the president's office.

She wrote, "I can't believe this wedding. It's 2 men ... Black women can't get a break, either our men want another man, a white woman (or other nationality that's light with straight hair), they are locked up in jail or have a 'use to be' fatal disease. I'm beginning to believe Eve was a Black woman and we Black women are paying for all the world's sins through her actions (eating the apple)."

Since becoming president in 2007, Robert Franklin has expressed his views on tolerance and discrimination. He said, "As an all-male institution with the explicit mission of educating men with disciplined minds, the great challenge of this moment in history is our diversity of sexual orientation."

And with more and more students arriving on campus openly LGBTQ, Morehouse's administration continues to lack the cultural competence and sensitivity to address the issue, fostering students to think there is only one way to be a Morehouse man.

For example, Devrin Lindsay, a junior, stated in the May 2008 Los Angeles Times article "Morehouse College faces its own bias—against gays." that an effeminate man who "swishes down the campus like he's on a runway" damages Morehouse's image for both parents with students looking to attend the college.

But it is Morehouse's highly publicized 2002 gay-bashing incident that has no doubt taught the administration very little.

On Nov. 4, 2002, a Morehouse College student sustained a fractured skull from his classmate, sophomore Aaron Price, not surprisingly, the son of an ultraconservative minister. Price uncontrollably beat his victim on the head with a baseball bat for allegedly looking at him in the shower.

In the 1980s and 1990s it was more dangerous to be openly LGBTQ on Morehouse's campus than it was on the streets in gang-ridden Black neighborhoods. And throughout the 1990's Morehouse was listed on the Princeton Review's top 20 homophobic campuses.

But these homophobic incidents at Morehouse speak to a larger issue plaguing men of African descent not only at Black colleges but also in their communities—safely acknowledging their sexuality.

With homophobia running as rampant in historically Black colleges and universities as it is in Black churches and communities, there are no safe places for them to openly engage the subject of Black LGBTQ sexualities. Black LGBTQ sexualities within African-American culture are perceived to further threaten not only Black male heterosexuality, but also the ontology of Blackness itself.

Morehouse is lauded as the jewel of Black academia. Founded two years after the end of the Civil War by William Jefferson White in the basement of Springfield Baptist Church in Augusta, GA, Morehouse continues to confer degrees on more men of African descent than any institution of higher education in this country.

However, if Morehouse is to continue to be the

jewel of Black academia nurturing the talents and gifts of its exceptional Black men, then it must ask itself to what degree does its tradition hinder its goal?

Letter:

Transition in Idaho?

Dear Media,

As we know, there are many people in Idaho that haven't really given the idea of a transgender candidate for public office any thought, because it hasn't happened before. Since the general milieu in Idaho is an uninformed one, we need to start a debate yesterday, not tomorrow, on what a transgender candidate would represent in Idaho if placed in public office.

I argue that Idaho would suddenly become a state of love and acceptance where no citizen would fear living. Transgender people are not trying to get your children to become transgender that is impossible to do. They are however trying to get your children to accept diversity. Do you want your child to only see within Idaho's borders? I think not. This is a very diverse world and your children more than ever before need to know how to operate in it. Given that idea it is time to debate this and transgender people need you to start that debate right away. Did you ever wonder why the African American population is small in Idaho? Let's shake the good old boy image by debating diversity. What do you say? Are you on board? Please reply.

With warm regards,
Melissa Sue Robinson
(Mayor candidate
in Nampa, Idaho)

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GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Peter Coombs

PLAYING 'HOUSE'

Sandra Cisneros' *House on Mango Street* gets the Steppenwolf treatment. Read WCT's take on the production on page 12.

CELEBRITIES

Tower of 'Power.'
Page 14.

Photo courtesy of
Monte Lapka



MOVIES

Grounded.
Page 16.



AUTOS

Mercedes, boy.
Page 17.



Scottish Play Scott: Chicago to L.A.

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Much has been made recently about Chicago theatrical talent triumphantly transferring to New York. But Chicago theater veterans are also active on the other coast, in Los Angeles.

Broadway first: Chicago playwrights Tracy Letts and Keith Huff are respectively represented on Broadway now with *Superior Donuts* (with the original 2008 Steppenwolf cast) and the two-character Chicago cop drama *A Steady Rain* (famously featuring Hollywood hunks Daniel Craig and Hugh Jackman).

Chicago-based director David Cromer is also busy in Gotham. Cromer's acclaimed *Hypocrites* transfer of *Our Town* continues off-Broadway while he stages Broadway repertory productions of Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and Broadway Bound. Both star Emmy Award-winning Steppenwolf ensemble member Laurie Metcalf.

News also recently broke that Cromer is slated to direct a revival of *Picnic* next season on Broadway. (His 2008 Writers' Theatre production of the William Inge drama in Glencoe garnered national media praise.)

But I was pleased to find numerous Chicago theater connections last month when I saw two works by out playwrights on a weekend trip to Los Angeles. Odyssey Theatre Ensemble and Evidence Room Theatre Company's West Coast premiere of Adam Bock's *The Receptionist* (now through Nov. 21) and the West Hollywood, Calif.-based Celebration Theatre's American premiere of Joe DiPietro's *Fucking Men* (now through Nov. 1) both featured former Windy City talent.

Can I transfer you to voicemail?

No doubt the main reason audiences are flock-



Megan Mullally (left) in *The Receptionist*. Photo by Enci for Odyssey Theatre Ensemble

ing to *The Receptionist* is the actress in the title role: Megan Mullally. Before she skyrocketed to fame as the campy and glamorous rich-bitch secretary Karen Walker on the NBC-TV sitcom *Will and Grace*, Mullally famously cut her theatrical teeth as a Chicago actor.

But to my surprise, I found another prominent Chicago theater alum appearing in *The Receptionist*: Steppenwolf co-founder Jeff Perry playing the boss Edward Raymond.

I must say that I was most impressed by their performances, particularly Mullally as she played against her sitcom persona to realistically portray Beverly Wilkins, a homespun receptionist found in any office block. Mullally's every small vocal tic of disapproval or squeak of a chair was timed perfectly for best comic effect.

Mullally's banter with her co-stars Jennifer Finnigan (as man-crazy co-worker Lorraine Taylor) and Chris L. McKenna (as the initially friendly visitor Martin Dart) was also spot on.

It's too bad that Bock's 70-minute play was so slight and ham-fisted with its message. The *Receptionist* was clearly created as a criticism of the torture policies under the administration of

former President George W. Bush. (By the way, About Face Theatre is locally presenting the world premiere of Bock's *Flowers* in Chicago.)

By showing the mundane details of office life in *The Receptionist*, Bock shows how many Americans became desensitized to news about government-sanctioned torture. But you really wish that Bock found another way of artistically approaching the topic without so blatantly spelling it out.

La Ronde-Gay

With a title like *Fucking Men*, the subject matter of Joe DiPietro's drama is explicitly spelled out. And as expected with most plays catering to gay audiences, the prerequisite for male nudity is most definitely met (and then some).

One of those guys revealing all for the first time on stage is former Chicagoan Jeffrey Patrick Olson. Before he left Chicago last May to try and make it as an L.A. actor/model/anesthesiologist (honestly, that's what's on his business card!), Olson's Windy City credits included MidTangent Productions' initial run of *Snow White* and the *Seven Drag Queens* and *Hell in a Handbag Pro-*

ductions' *Die! Mommy! Die!* (Full disclosure: I've also performed with Olson in the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus' *Sidetrack V* in 2007.)

But as Olson pointed out, the show had other Chicago connections with cast members like Gregory Franklin (a former Chicago actor most recently seen in *Bailiwick's The Hunchback of Notre Dame*) to former Chicagoan Michael A. Shepperd who is now Celebration Theatre's artistic director and producer.

Fucking Men is clearly a show that would have thrived at the former *Bailiwick* space. Not only was there the massive amount of male nudity, but DiPietro's modern gay updating of Arthur Schitzler's *La Ronde* would have jibed with *Bailiwick's* gay-friendly producing.

Just like Schitzler's heterosexual original, *Fucking Men* follows 10 men in 10 circular scenes of sexual encounters to comment on American gay sexual mores today. True, the characterizations are mostly one-dimensional and the adaptation itself isn't as creatively developed as Michael John LaChuisa's *Hello Again*, a 1994 musical take on *La Ronde*. But *Fucking Men* serves its purpose of providing gay men simultaneous titillation and some gay relationship and political issues for thought.

Celebration Theatre's production under director/producer Calvin Rensberg was strongly cast with not only skilled actors, but jaw-droppingly handsome ones as well. Particularly of note was AJ Tannen as the neurotic Jewish playwright Sammy, David Pevsner as the deceptive Wall Street executive Jack and Sean Galuszka as his emotionally conflicted husband, Leo, navigating the boundaries of an "open relationship."

So while Chicago theater talent making good in New York gets lots of attention, I'm glad to shine a quick spotlight on a few former Chicagoans working in Los Angeles. They may all be away from the Windy City for now, but Chicagoans can always boast about we helped to nurture their artistic talents first.

Please send theater-related news and other tidbits to scottishplayscott@yahoo.com and Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com.

THEATER REVIEW

The House on Mango Street

Playwright: Tanya Saracho adapted from the book by Sandra Cisneros
At: Steppenwolf (upstairs)
Phone: 312.335.1650; \$15—\$20
Runs through: Nov. 8

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

A demographic survey of the audience attending *The House on Mango Street* upstairs at the Steppenwolf Theatre is proof enough why the first ever stage adaptation of Sandra Cisneros' award-winning novel belongs in Chicago. Sure, the book takes place in a Chicago Latino neighborhood in the 1960s, but it's Chicagoans diversity that reflects the book's spirit of cultural identity. Most Chicagoans grow up, like the protagonist Esperanza, in a cultural, ethnic or religious context fostered by a physical neighborhood, one that effects how they see the world and their place in it. *The House on Mango Street* captures that essence and that's why Steppenwolf's Young Adults production will draw audiences of all ages, genders and cultures.

Tanya Saracho's adaptation is not without its flaws as it tries to give narrative shape to the book's multiple-vignette structure, but it manages to communicate the story's core message: growing up and learning to embrace the life we're given as opposed to accusing it of holding us back from what we want to become. Some scenes, namely the ones that translate seamlessly from page to stage, illustrate this better than others.

Saracho manages to recreate the book's most memorable vignettes—the nostalgic moments of youthful discovery—with relative ease. Director Hallie Gordon cues in on those scenes and constructs them ideally, creating that little place in the neighborhood where imagination and innocent belief are the only things that count for truth.

Esperanza (Sandra Delgado) and her new friends, Rachel (Christina Nieves) and Lucy (Belinda Cervantes), are adults in real life, which is at times challenging, but when they play double-dutch to express the discovery of their hips or grow bug-eyed as they check out the way their legs look in a neighborhood woman's

CRITICS' PICKS

C'est la Vie, Light Opera Works, through Nov. 15. Greg Opelka's fizzy and stereotypically French cabaret revue is a delight from start to finish, especially for those who proudly proclaim to be Francophiles. SCM

Lucinda's Bed, Chicago Dramatists, through Nov. 8. Mia McCullough's pithy world premiere follows Lucinda—and her psychosexual Id Monster Under the Bed—from girlhood to death. A top three-person cast harvests the rich subtext. Fascinating! JA

Treasure Island, Lifeline Theatre, extended through Nov. 15. It's not the jolly jack-tar version of the famous pirate yarn, beloved of adolescent boys, but every last review of this adaptation has praised Geoff Coates' thrilling action scenes. Yo-ho-ho, mates! MSB

Two by Pinter, Piven Theatre, through Nov. 17. A shape-shifting Lawrence Grimm anchors a cast of four in *The Lover* and *The Collection*, two tightly wound, ultra-compelling tales of dangerous sexual liaisons. Since this is Pinter, the spaces between the words are delicious with dread and the words themselves are as sharp as switchblades. CS

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge,
Morgan and Sullivan

old high heels, suddenly we're all kids again, whether you're Latina or another ethnicity.

Each scene produces discussion points and adds value to creating the world of the story, but the dramatic cohesiveness of the play on the whole leaves something to be desired, undoubtedly the challenge of adapting such a loosely structured novel. We do feel what life is like on *Mango Street*—there's even music and musical numbers to enhance the flavor of the setting and give the play more vibrancy—and we also understand the value of each scene as it relates to *Esperanza* and ourselves, but together it all ends up feeling a lot longer than 90 minutes.

As a young adult production, *The House on Mango Street* serves as an ideal choice for facilitating an introduction into more advanced, conceptual theater. Kids as young as 13 could begin to tackle the play's challenges of understanding the social issues at hand, the imagery in both the staging and the narration and tolerating the non-traditional story structure.

On the other hand, Saracho, Gordon and the other creative minds behind the Steppenwolf for Young Adults program have made sure the production is equally as stimulating for the full-fledged adults—even the most frequent of theatergoers.

In fact, there really isn't a demographic, so to speak, that won't find something admirable in this adaptation of an all-important Chicago novel. The production breathes a style of life that's inherently Chicago, something its audiences will surely recognize as they travel from the city's many neighborhoods and suburbs to watch and connect with *Esperanza's* story.

THEATER REVIEW

The Last Unicorn

Playwright: adapted by Ed Rutherford from the novel by Peter S. Beagle
At: Promethean Theatre Ensemble at Edgewater Presbyterian Church, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr
Phone: 773-305-2897; \$20
Runs through: Nov. 14

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Where you find Peter S. Beagle when you look for him in the bookstores—travel journalism, art reference or fantasy/science fiction—depends on the scope of the proprietor's own reading. Since 1960, this enigmatic writer has defied taxonomic labels with a canon rooted in a deeply personal whimsy blending a playfully childlike candor with verbal sophistication to equal any 10 stuffy linguists. Indeed, the intellectual density of his prose—revealing its store of hidden treasures gradually, according to the age of the reader—is arguably the factor contributing to his enduring popularity with a readership transcending generational boundaries.

It also renders his intricately wrought yarns exceedingly difficult to re-shape for less leisurely consumption. A questing tale of magical creatures (calling for elaborate makeup) suggests grandeur (in other words, dazzling special effects) while the florid imagery invoked by our omniscient narrator—e.g., a voice like “a boat bottom gritting on pebbles” or a captive bound with ropes “tied in knots the size of skulls”—cries out for voice-overs. Add in the myriad auxiliary personnel encountered by our questing heroes—to wit, the practical Mistress



The Last Unicorn. Photo courtesy of Ed Rutherford

SPOTLIGHT



The world-renowned Irish theater troupe Druid arrives in Chicago for one week only to perform Edna Walsh's *The Walworth Farce*. See what happens when a transplanted Irishman in London and his two grown sons set out to pig out on food one day in this dark comedy filled with biting social commentary. *The Walworth Farce* plays 7:30 p.m. Oct. 28-30, and 2 p.m. Nov. 1 at the upstairs space of Chicago Shakespeare Theater, 800 E. Grand. Tickets are \$46-\$56; call 312-595-5600 or visit www.chicagoshakes.com. Photo of (from left) Raymond Scannell, Michael Glenn Murphy and Tadhg Murphy by Robert Day

Molly Grue, the clumsy wizard Schmendrick, and the beautiful (but rather spoiled) title animal—and you've got almost more myth than a second-floor church hall can hold.

The Promethean Theatre Ensemble's production has the tone right enough. Likewise, the imagination and the commitment. What it doesn't have is the money, making for a decidedly skimpy display of fairy dust and flower petals. But Ed Rutherford's adaptation faithfully chronicles its source's external action with an efficiency that brings the show home in a tidy two and a half hours. And, ironically, the stark barnlike scenic design, leotards-and-yardage costumes, and acting-class choreography facilitate, more than hinder, the plot's swift transitions over a wide range of locales (the author, himself in the house on opening night, declared himself well-pleased with the absence of Walmart literalism).

There's no disgrace in a theater company barely three years old not yet boasting the resources of a Steppenwolf or a Victory Gardens, and only the future will decide the fortunes of this palpably earnest band of thespians armed only with planks and passion. But as one member of the audience observed, “They [the Prometheans] accomplished this with a budget of 80 cents. Think what they could do with two dollars!”

THEATER REVIEW

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Playwright: Tyler Beattie
At: Filament Ensemble at The Viaduct, 3111 N. Western
Tickets: 773-296-6024;
www.filamenttheatre.org; \$16.50
Runs through: Nov. 9

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

This show joins a long line of stage adaptations—many of them musicals—of Washington Irving's 1820 short story. Irving—remember high school lit class—was the Federalist-era U.S. writer who created Rip Van Winkle and Ichabod

Crane, the central figure of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. Many stage versions are for kids, but this one—boasting technically sophisticated music—will hold adult interest. Director Scott Ferguson's admirable production and charming cast make for a perfectly pleasant 90 minutes, but also reveal some unfulfilled possibilities in this relatively new work.

Sleepy Hollow is set in Upstate New York about 1790, just after American independence. A gawky geeky schoolmaster falls in love with a pretty, rich girl only to encounter a testosterone-fueled rival who plays on the schoolmaster's superstitious streak. Appropriately for Halloween, Irving wove various ghost stories into his narrative and this production does, too.

This adaptation's greatest strength definitely is the score. Tyler Beattie's words and music are varied in style, mood and tempi although deciphering lyrics is challenging in the Viaduct space. Folkloric in style, the music frequently uses waltz and cut-time rhythms (with an anachronistic tango thrown in) played by the cast on blessedly unamplified instruments including mandolin, fiddle, washtub bass, harmonica, tinplate percussion, piano, guitar and accordion. The vocal score makes heavy use of ensemble singing with interesting counterpoint parts and dissonant harmonies. It boasts two drop-dead gorgeous ballads, “Katrina” and especially “A Woman's Heart.” Still as a work of dramatic literature there is room for this adaptation to be both funnier in places and spookier. The hints of the supernatural should feel dangerous or at least genuinely creepy.

Ferguson has cast the show from strength. As the birdlike Crane, Don Denton excels with a strong tenor singing range and excellent, graceful mime abilities. Crane is a physical and emotional oddball, whom Denton keeps sympathetic by emphasizing Ichabod's sweet and upright nature ... not that either quality does Crane any good. Mary Spearen is picture-pretty as love interest Katrina, and Nick Freed is manly but not overly threatening as the rival. Other roles are secondary in the smoothly functioning eight-person ensemble.

Ferguson's staging is clever as ever as the ensemble assembles Early American-looking barrels and boxes into a variety of props and (even) animals. The big missing element is dance (no choreographer is credited). “Looks Good,” a catchy tune for Ichabod, musically is a song-and-dance and cries out for some steps as do several other numbers.

Mieka van der Ploeg's costumes suggest old times—although not 1790—through coarse textures, britches, high boots, tail coats and blousy sleeves. Omen Sade's rough-hewn set/props look like a rural tavern. Both elements add appeal to a sprightly show (and a bargain at \$16.50) that needs only some dance and a touch more darkness.



The Flowers. Photo courtesy of About Face Theatre

THEATER REVIEW

The Flowers

Playwright: Adam Bock

At: About Face Theatre at

Stage Left Theatre, 3408 N. Sheffield

Phone: 866-811-4111; \$20

Runs through: Nov. 7

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

The Flowers is deceptive. It initially seems almost trifling as it meanders through the everyday tribulations of the titular Chicago-based theater company, an unremarkable troupe held together in the grand off-Loop tradition of sealing wax, spit and artistic passion.

Bock's plot moves with the messy arc of day-to-day life: Heartbreak and death don't arrive with orchestral swells at structurally appropriate climactic moments; they simply show up. And then life goes relentlessly on.

Yet within Bock's seemingly specific story lies a moving portrait of everyman and woman struggling with universal matters. The cruelties of aging, the search for community, the oh-so-human tendency to deal with pain by denying its very existence—all are matters plumbed with engrossing humanity and effortless ease by a seamless ensemble. And for all its fraught issues, The Flowers is no onerous slog. The piece is cuttingly funny.

Initially, The Flowers plays like a poor man's Tom Stoppard, evoking The Real Thing as actors playing actors perform a show within a show. But Bock's drama isn't about clever tricks. It is about revelations layered like the tiers of an onion. Directed by Trip Cullman, the cast peels things down to their essence with a truly wonderful collective chemistry. The group perfectly captures the rhythms of spontaneous conversation and familiarity among people who have been friends for so long they've become family. Like all families, this one is troubled, more so than the group's *de facto* artistic director (Bruch Reed) is willing to admit.

Even when his partner of 10 years (a mercurial Benjamin Sprunger) bolts with the ingénue (Kieran Kredell, as fecklessly self-absorbed as you'd expect a twentysomething actor to be), even as the company's patriarch (Brian-Mark Conover, alternately irascible and poignant) tumbles into senility and becomes a tragic stranger in his own life, Flowers' leader implacably insists that all is shiny and happy. As the hairpin cracks in that implacability widen into fissures, the remains of the company implodes with wrenching emotional honesty. A hilariously, abrasively enthusiastic leading lady (Caron Buinis, pitch-perfect depicting the neediness of someone who seeks audience approval for a living) and a drolly matter-of-fact stage manager (Merrina Millsapp, a wryly no-nonsense sparrow in a room full of peacocks) are left to pick up the pieces and help their artistic director mend.

The hurt and the humor unfolds on Marianna Csaszar's ingenious set, a place that literally deepens and unfolds in tandem with the drama.

Trust The Flowers to lesser actor, and the final moment could be an inconclusive cop-out. It's wordless and abrupt: After a violent heartbreak, the world goes still. Here, in that stillness is Reed, his face a perfect reflection of endlessly multifaceted pain, fear and something else, too: the sustaining fortitude that comes from dealing with devastation. It's Reed's moment—quiet and indelible and wondrously moving.

THEATER REVIEW

Heroes

Playwright: Gérald Sibleyras,

translated by Tom Stoppard

At: Remy Bumppo Theatre Company

at the Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln

Phone: 773-404-7336; \$35-\$50

Runs through: Nov. 29

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Three eccentric comrades plan an adventure. Within this simple premise lurks innumerable possibilities. Speed it up, and you have a Marx Brothers comedy. Slow it down, and you have a Samuel Beckett tragedy. Set the action on the river Thames, and you have Jerome K. Jerome's Three Men In A Boat. Put a painting in the background, and you have Yasmina Reza's Art.

Gérald Sibleyras locates his trio of WWI veterans on the terrace of a retirement home for soldiers in 1959. His platoon is comprised of Henri, a cheerful codger with a crippled leg. Gustave, who conceals his agoraphobia beneath a veneer of pessimism. And Philippe, given to sudden attacks of vertigo rendering him temporarily unconscious. Standing guard is a life-sized statue of a dog who gradually becomes an indispensable part of the proposed mission. The objective: to reconnoiter the territory lying beyond an adjacent cemetery, identified only by the poplar grove whose wind-swept treetops hint at relief from their rigidly circumscribed universe.

Of course, it all comes to nothing—but not for want of trying. As we watch these graybeards equip themselves for their journey in accordance with military training from a half-century earlier, we come to appreciate the stakes in this seemingly frivolous scheme. Oh, its success might not be a *literal* matter of life or death, but who can measure the importance of retaining control over one's time, of engaging with a world ready to shrug off one's mortal coil, of refusing—like the unseen fellow resident who continues his athletic regimen with no sign of abatement—to go gentle into one's good night.

Remy Bumppo director James Bohnen has wisely cast actors of an age approximating those of the characters they play, ranging from elder statesman Mike Nussbaum as the serene Henri, through David Darlow in the role of the iras-

cible Gustave, to baby-of-the-bunch (but decidedly post-AARP) Roderick Peebles as the fretful Philippe. It's easy to imagine younger, more robust, players sprinting through Tom Stoppard's witty translation with gleeful abandon. But these troupers, whose personal and professional progress has presumably taught them the value of more leisurely gaits, balance contemplative silences with lightning repartee in just the right proportions to secure our hearty endorsement of geezers determined to—by gum!—live every last minute of their lives.

THEATER REVIEW

Votes for Women!

Playwright: Elizabeth Robins

At: ShawChicago at Ruth Page Theater,

1016 N. Dearborn

Phone: 312-587-7390; \$22

Runs through Nov. 9

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

There are many fascinating things surrounding Elizabeth Robins' 1907 drama Votes for Women!, now receiving a professional staged reading courtesy of ShawChicago. Unfortunately, the play's characters and plotting aren't nearly as interesting as the historical context behind the play.

American by birth, Robins (1862-1952) would go on to fame in Great Britain as a leading actress, author and a dedicated activist in the Women's Social and Political Union (a women's rights organization founded by the suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst).

Other historical footnotes about Robins include premiering the title role of Hedda Gabler in Britain (along with helping to adapt Ibsen's drama into English) and also penning progressive feminist plays and novels.

Just by looking at the title and premiere date of Votes for Women!, you can tell how politically

incendiary it was as a suffragette movement protest play (British women didn't officially get the vote until after World War I ended). The entirety of the play's second act (a suffragette rally in Trafalgar Square) sounds just like a transcript of real-life protest speeches and spectator interjections, while the issue of abortion is also hinted at.

But the problem with Votes for Women! is that it comes off more as a museum artifact than a drama that can emotionally connect with audiences of today (something that can't be said of plays like Ibsen's A Doll's House or Strindberg's Miss Julie). The characters in Votes for Women! also come off more as ideological mouthpieces instead of real people.

Casual theatergoers might find Votes for Women! to be a far too creaky. But for fans of women's history (or anyone who wants to be more active in political activism) ShawChicago's production is highly recommended.

Since the play calls for a large cast and some scenic grandeur, it's unlikely that Votes for Women! will receive a full-scale production anytime soon. So be glad that ShawChicago's largely Equity cast under director/adaptor Robert Scogin is mostly effective at illustrating characters (especially through good dialects) while reading the script on music stands.

Matt Penn shows off a very actorly voice as the Tory politician Geoffrey Stoner, while Melinda Moonahan is great as a spitfire working woman speaker at a protest rally. Christian Gray's misogynist male heckling is also amusing.

Votes for Women! is a protest play of its day, plain and simple. (Just imagine how audiences a century from now would react to the copious protest plays attacking the presidential administration of George W. Bush.)

So if the dramatic plotting is belabored and characterizations are lacking, Votes for Women! remains compelling as a historical snapshot of women's emancipation since it was taken by an artist who was there herself in the political trenches.

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About Face production no 'Cake' walk

Production deals with the emotional issue of marriage equality

BY MICKI LEVENTHAL

On Halloween weekend, About Face Theater's (AFT's) XYZ Festival will present Let Them Eat Cake, a workshop performance on the hot topic of LGBT marriage equality. Moe Angelos of The Five Lesbian Brothers and The Builders Association; AFT artistic associate and Chicago director Megan Carney; and performance artist and University of Michigan Associate Professor Holly Hughes all helped to create the piece, in collaboration with a diverse Chicago-based cast that includes John Brooks, Deb Durham, Spencer Gartner, Sage Morgan-Hubbard, Co-man Poon, Cat Crowder, Misty DiBerry, Feresteh Toosi, IK Bradford and Lane Fenrich.

Let Them Eat Cake was born during the November 2008 Proposition 8 protests. While some of Hughes' queer-identified friends thought marriage equality an issue not worth pursuing, she didn't agree and wanted to make a work that would "push against the boundaries of everyone's understanding."

The work employs text, improvisation, movement, music and humor, asking questions such as: "Is marriage good for the gays?" "Are gays good for marriage?" and "Is it a step forward, backward, sideways or all of the above, set to a disco beat?"

Before a recent rehearsal in the raw storefront XYZ Festival space in Uptown, the trio tabled some of the humor and expressed serious hopes for "gay marriage" and marriage in general.

"Marriage equality is a basic benchmark of citizenship, as is serving in the military," stated Angelos. "Two things that I would probably never do in my life, but there are many things I fought for as a feminist, struggled with, that are not things I am going to take advantage of. However, I feel that it would be better for everyone concerned if women, gays and lesbians, queers, gender queers, the whole beautiful spectrum, all of those people have access to these things. It is part of being a citizen."

"In fact," said Hughes, whose edgy performance work helped spark the "culture wars" of the 1990s, "I agree with some of the arguments that the conservatives are making—that gay marriage will change marriage. Just troubling the notion of who you are to each other and changing the language from the default of husband and wife starts to put attention on gender roles in marriage. I think it's a misguided strategy on the part of marriage equality advocates to say that it's not going to change the institution." Within her generation, she reminded the group, men could legally rape their wives—and that change can be a very good thing.

"There is a lot of fear around this issue," added Carney. "How will marriage be changed and how will marriage equality change the queer community? We've taken so much pride in defining ourselves as 'other'. But, maybe getting a progressive voice in the room, we can shape marriage into something cooler than we can even imagine right now."

"Let Them Eat Cake probably won't answer the questions," said Carney, "but we will certainly entertain them—and the audience. And, there will be cake."

Performances will take place at XYZ Festival Headquarters, 4707 N. Broadway, at 7:30 p.m., Friday-Sunday, Oct. 30-Nov. 1. Tickets are \$10-\$15 each; visit www.ovationtix.com or call 866-811-4111.

MUSIC

Cheyenne Jackson: 'Two' for the road

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The very out (and striking) Cheyenne Jackson—who has made a splash in everything from Broadway's Xanadu to the TV show Ugly Betty to the film United 93 (in which he played gay rugby player Mark Bingham)—has teamed with musical legend Michael Feinstein to record The Power of Two. Based on the sold-out shows at Feinstein's New York nightclub, the album (which will be available Tuesday, Nov. 3) features the twosome singing together and separately on such tunes as "Old Friend," "We Kiss in a Shadow," "Someone to Watch Over Me" and the title track, originally recorded by lesbian folk-rock duo Indigo Girls.

In a recent phone interview, Jackson discussed the musical collaboration, Feinstein's Paul Lynde impressions and being on the set of Ugly Betty.

Windy City Times: I have a confession to make, Cheyenne. I'm not a "musicals" person; I follow sports, love horror movies and listen to rock/rap/dance music. That being said, this CD actually won me over.

Cheyenne Jackson: Awww, thank you. Oh, that's great.

WCT: So how did this collaboration [between you and Michael Feinstein] come about?

CJ: Michael and I met about a year ago. I'd been a fan of his for a long time; I've seen his Sinatra project and his shows but we hadn't met until he and I did this television special—a CBS Christmas tree-lighting ceremony. It was really cold, and we were hanging out in the warming tent before we went out to sing. We started chatting and realized we had a lot in common.

He and his partner, Terrence [Flannery], invited me to a dinner party at his house a little while after that. I was telling a story and I leaned back in my chair—and I ended up breaking the chair, [which was] a French 18th-century chair; I'm sure it cost more than my education. It was a very funny moment, and we bonded over me being a huge bull in a china shop. That evening, he played the piano and I started singing—and we thought, "Wow! We need to do something together." We started doing an act; we wrote and produced it together, and it ended up being this great critical and box-office success. I [then] thought, "We put so much work, time and effort into this show—why don't we record it?" And he was down with it; we recorded it about two months ago.

WCT: How'd you decide which songs to sing?

CJ: When we put this together, there wasn't really a template. We thought that the best way to have this organically come about is to have us both bring songs to the table that we thought were appropriate. So we each brought a list of [possible] solos and duets—and, surprisingly, we picked many of the same songs.

Also, part of the challenge and fun of this was that I really wanted to stretch myself musically, and he wanted too, as well. I wanted to show him a different style of music and I wanted him to step outside of his comfort zone, and that's when the title song came about. He'd heard of [Indigo Girls], but Michael Feinstein singing lesbian folk-rock is not what he's known for. [Interviewer laughs.] He was scared by the idea—but he was also intrigued by it. I give him so much credit; he just jumped in and it ended up being our title song and the name of our show. I'm really, really happy with it.

WCT: Was the CD meant as a political statement [with two gay men collaborating]?

CJ: It's funny, because we didn't set out for the show and subsequent CD to be political statements, but they certainly have. Both of us are really proud of who we are; both of us live our lives openly, and both of us have had partners



Cheyenne Jackson. Photo courtesy of Monte Lapka

for 10 years. (He's actually married to Terrence; I'm going to wait until it's legal in New York.) But being ourselves and living our lives is political in itself. Both of us are very active and very strong, politically. We didn't set out to make the show political; it just kinda happened. In the reviews I've read, the song "We Kiss in a Shadow" from The King and I was thought of as a covert gay anthem; we decided that we wouldn't put a spin on it at all, we won't try to wink at it or anything—we'd just sing the words to each other and people can [interpret] it any way they want.

After the first run-through, Michael said, "Oh my God! Our show is so political." But I said, "The best thing is that we're not pounding [people] over the head with it."

WCT: Can you tell me about Michael's Paul Lynde impressions?

CJ: [Laughs] Michael is actually an incredible mimic. What I love about him—and I wrote about [that impersonation] in the liner notes—is that Michael is not fussy, and I think that was my own preconceived notion of what he might be about. He's far from that.

I was at a dinner party the other night, and he is totally comfortable in his skin. But, with the impression, it'd be a tense day in the studio and he'd say [imitating Lynde], "How we ever beat the Russians?" [Interviewer laughs.]

WCT: In light of the collaboration with Michael, is there anyone you'd love to collaborate with in the future?

CJ: Hmmm ... that's a good question. I have many peers in New York I'd love to [work with], and I have a couple ideas I'm working on. However, I'd love to work with [singer/Broadway legend] Barbara Cook. She's so inspiring to so many people.

WCT: For some reason, Kristin Chenoweth's name popped into my head.

CJ: Yeah; I know Kristin. We recently collaborated on a workshop. I think she's incredibly smart—and she can get three legitimate laughs out of a regular punchline. I'd always do something with her. However, I'd also like to do something outside the box—something people wouldn't expect, like this Michael Feinstein [collaboration]. I'm not looking to top myself, but if something comes along that I can produce and do, I'll definitely do it.

WCT: I have to ask what it was like to be on Ugly Betty.

CJ: It was great! They're definitely a well-run machine over there. Michael Urie [who plays Marc] is a friend of mine, so it was fun. Becki Newton [who plays Amanda] is really hilarious and Vanessa Williams [Wilhelmina] is just delish. I would've liked to have done more, but I was happy with what I got.

Becki and Michael have such great chemistry. The best thing about the show is that it's set in New York and employs a lot of theater actors.

Read much more about Cheyenne Jackson—including his thoughts on the recent National Equality March and the toll playing Mark Bingham in the movie United 93 took on him—online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

GAY HISTORY MONTH

Pictures of Lily

Comedic legend Lily Tomlin brings back some old friends

BY LARRY NICHOLS
GAY HISTORY PROJECT

In her long and fruitful career, there isn't much that Lily Tomlin hasn't done. Over the last 50-plus years, the out entertainer has used her unique charm to make her mark in comedy, television, film, Broadway and, starting next month, Las Vegas.

Those attending either of her shows Oct. 23 and 24, Newark and Atlantic City, N.J., respectively, were going to see what amounts to a greatest-hits performance featuring some of the most memorable and lovable characters she's created.

But we're getting ahead of ourselves.

Tomlin, 70, grew up in a working-class neighborhood on the outskirts of Detroit and said that she was inspired to be a performer by (and admits to lifting routines from) some of the great women in entertainment of the day such as Lucille Ball, Bea Lillie, Imogene Coca, Joan Davis and Jean Carroll, one of the first female stand-ups on The Ed Sullivan Show.

"Imogene Coca, I liked her at the time because she did accents and she would do mock ballet dances," Tomlin said. "She even did a strip tease once that I took right off the TV and did on my back porch. She'd have on an overcoat and then she'd go behind a curtain and throw the overcoat out. And then she'd jump out and have on another overcoat. I thought that was hilarious. Of course, Lucy and Joan Davis."

After high school, Tomlin studied medicine at Wayne State University but her elective theater arts courses compelled her to leave college and become a performer. Relocating to New York City in 1965, she soon built a following on the club circuit at venues like The Improvisation, Cafe Au Go Go and the Upstairs at the Downstairs.

Success soon followed. Tomlin made her television debut in 1966 on The Garry Moore Show and then made several appearances on The Merv Griffin Show. Then sunny, glitzy California beckoned. In 1969, Tomlin joined the cast of the classic sketch comedy show Laugh-In, and immediately gained national attention, creating characters like Ernestine, the snarky telephone operator, and Edith Ann, the precocious 6-year-old who was always perched in an oversized rocking chair.

Tomlin performed a number of her classic characters Oct. 23 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Oct. 24 at the Borgata Hotel and Spa. Tomlin said that it's hard to pinpoint which of her characters draws the biggest reaction from the audience.

"At the outset, as soon as you become those characters from television or from 'Laugh In' like Ernestine and Edith, [they] are quite recognizable and ready to be received," she said. "I would say they certainly get a big response. There's no question. But there are lots of other pieces and characters where the content causes people to respond just as vocally and raucously. I do Madame Lupe—the oldest living beauty expert. Just doing her is really fun, embodying her is as much fun as anything I do on stage because she's in very advanced years."

After Laugh-In, Tomlin went on to star in six comedy television specials, which she co-wrote with her partner, Jane Wagner. Those shows won her three Emmy Awards and a Writers Guild of America Award.

Variety shows are a rare sight on television these days and audiences are lucky if they see a comedian do anything other than attempt to act or, worse, snag a reality show. Tomlin said she's always envied performers who the Bette Midler who could do it all.



Lily Tomlin. Photo by Brett Patterson

"I always envied people who sang as well because they get airplay," she said. Comedians don't get airplay. They don't offer [variety shows] very much anymore. It's not an era of television specials. My first focus on versatility was to do as many culture types. That's what interested me was to create characters that represented a certain segment of the culture. Over the years, I've done many, many, many characters. And within those I would sing and dance. Not particularly well, but I would do it. I always acted. I've had fewer dramatic roles than I would like to have because people tend to drift toward what the culture identifies you as. I'm fairly versatile too except I'm not really a good singer or dancer. I think I could be trained to sing but I never did it."

Tomlin would go on to further success the 1970s and '80s, starring in films like Nashville, 9 to 5, The Incredible Shrinking Woman and All of Me. In recent years Tomlin has guest starred on a number of television shows, including Homicide, The X-Files, Murphy Brown, Desperate Housewives and Will & Grace, often as characters that are more out there and mischievous than any she has played before.

"I guess when you stop being the lead," Tomlin answered when asked how she gets so many interesting roles on television. "I wasn't on any TV series until I stopped being the lead. 'Murphy' was in the mid-1990s. I wasn't on a series before then. I had broken into the movies in the early 1970s. I wasn't that big of a movie star. I had some nice films I did with co-stars. I did Murphy, then I did West Wing. I'm doing six [episodes of] Damages this year."

The 1990s also saw Tomlin lend her talents to LGBT-themed films. She appeared in the 1993's adaptation of And the Band Played On and narrated the 1995 documentary The Celluloid Closet.

Tomlin said she believes the depictions of gay characters have gotten somewhat better over the years.

"I don't know about movies, but television has certainly improved. There are many lead characters and they're lovable. I don't watch a lot of television. I heard there's a gay couple on Modern [Family]. Even major stars, it's not beyond them to make a kind of offhanded homophobic remark whether they get it or not. Maybe it's a good sign that it's accepted for the moment in a good way. There's still a threshold of, however high it might be now. It was much lower before. There's still going to be a little separation to exert the manhood factor, even from the hippest people. I'm not saying everyone, but there are people that I like and watch that, every now and then, I see some little crappy thing leak out of their mouths."

She added that despite those occasional and unfortunate backlashes, things are still far better for gays and lesbians inside and outside of the entertainment industry.

"I think there's been tremendous strides made, with women too," she said. "Before I would identify as a lesbian, I identified as a female. It seemed like the greater, more important fight. There's much more consciousness in the culture.

People become entertainers because they develop an antenna or sensitivity to the culture. Maybe not enough that would please me or you, but they do. They have to be an entertainer from someplace of their own empathy. Some people empathize more pervasively, deeply and widely. But still, to get ahead in the culture you have to at least keep up with the culture. So they're putting more of that out. And the fight ... I've marveled at what the gay community has done in the last 40 years since Stonewall. I was just talking to Bruce Vilanch the other night and comparing Martin Luther King, Jr., to Obama in roughly the same 40 years. Even though it riles up more of the opposition, Obama's election has caused all these more radically prejudiced groups to rear their heads. I suppose it does the same thing to progress. When people are frightened and narrow-minded, when they see what looks like hordes of people they fear marching toward them, they're going to make their last gasp. I've marveled at the gay movement coming up myself from the 1950s. I wasn't even particularly fearful but I was a product of my culture."

Tomlin has been with Jane Wagner since the early 1970s but she explained that, while she never made an effort to hide her relationship or sexual orientation, it was something the press at the time wasn't overly eager to put in the spotlight.

"People wouldn't write about it, even into the 1970s," she said. "When I was on the cover of Time in 1977, particularly in the business and journalists, my relationship with Jane was no secret. Very often we'd be doing interviews together. She's been sitting in the room. When I was interviewed with Time, we were always together because they'd come to your house and you'd go all kinds of places together. I almost got the Newsweek cover at the same time, which used to be a PR coup. I think Liza [Minnelli] did it once. At the last minute they found out that I was on Time and they quickly replaced the cover with Andrew Young or someone. But they still had a big story on me. The Time cover said I lived or

shared a house with writer Jane Wagner. They said no more. Newsweek said I lived alone. No one had put any parameters on them. That's how it was done in those days, especially if you were a legitimate performer or actor. Nobody was out to out you. They were much more discreet. Maybe in the '80s, they started outing politicians. They became unbridled in reporting as much as they could."

In the current era of overexposed celebrities, it's nice to know that talent trumps orientation.

Larry Nichols can be reached at larry@epgn.com.



Tomlin as Ernestine.

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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Amelia

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

The endless fascination with aviatrix Amelia Earhart—the woman responsible for a lot of firsts in the air (and on the ground) who tragically disappeared somewhere in the Pacific in 1937—is ongoing. She's been the subject of countless books and television specials, and at least nine movies have been based on her story. Known as "Lady Lindy," in part because of her physical resemblance to Charles Lindbergh, Earhart has always held a particular place in the hearts of the queer community. It's not just for her feminist spirit and tireless support for women's causes but also because rumors have swirled—as with other figures of her day—of a hidden lesbian sexuality or, perhaps, a bisexual one. Her close friendships with many other prominent lesbians; her open marriage to publisher/entrepreneur George Putnam; and her refusal to conform to other rigid conventions of her day certainly point in that direction.

This all makes director Mira Nair's new biopic, simply titled *Amelia*, all the more dispiriting. Working from a by-the-numbers script by Ronald Bass and Anna Hamilton Phelan, Nair's movie (executive-produced by star Hilary Swank) reduces the story of this feminine icon into a typical Hollywood romantic triangle, albeit one with some beautifully staged aerial set pieces. (As always, Nair's striking color palette includes a lot of vivid shades of red.) Instead of character depth, however, we get a series of Earhart triumphs—each cued by a title card and some vintage footage—a sort of postcards from the air highlighting Earhart's greatest hits.

In between these sequences, Swank—a dead ringer for Earhart with the same toothy smile—looks snazzy in her '30s pants and aviator jackets, and speaks in a flat, no-nonsense twang



Hilary Swank in *Amelia*.

slightly reminiscent of Katharine Hepburn. Swank enters into an uneasy relationship with Richard Gere, as Putnam. Gere, who looks great, plays another cynical star-maker (very much like Billy Flynn in *Chicago*) who pulls the strings behind the scenes, manipulating the press and public into turning Earhart into a national celebrity. We see that Earhart is uneasy with this and the constant pleas from Putnam to make a commitment but what we don't see is any real attraction between Swank and Gere—or Swank and Ewan McGregor (as the competitor for her affections), either.

McGregor plays Gene Vidal (father of gay icon and author Gore, who is played in the film as a child by William Cuddy), who worked with Earhart on a number of projects and headed the government's aeronautics division. As the affair with Gene takes off, everyone acts very grown-up, and even little Gore asks Amelia matter-of-factly, "Why can't you marry both?" But for reasons that aren't entirely clear, Earhart ends up back with Putnam for the duration and McGregor pretty much drops out of the movie.

In the final long sequence, when Earhart and her alcoholic navigator are attempting to fly around the world (which also acts as a larger framing device for the picture), Putnam is shown for about the third time in the film edgily sitting at a radio transmitter tracking cool-as-a-cucumber Earhart's progress. The repetition dulls the impact of this final tragic flight in which Earhart's plane disappeared amidst controversy that continues to this day.

As for Earhart's lesbian proclivities, there are a few "daring" hints. In the midst of the affair with the McGregor character he spies her

admiring a lady's legs and says, "You're the only woman I know who points out other women" but this isn't elaborated on. And a sequence in which Amelia takes Eleanor Roosevelt (played by lesbian actor Cherry Jones) flying at night—and calls to mind the romantic night-flying sequence between Kate Blanchett and Leonardo DiCaprio in *The Aviator*—cries out for elaboration, but doesn't get any.

Sadly, we have not gotten much exhilaration or much of a real feeling for Earhart's character beyond a series of platitudes spoken—often in voiceover—like, "I want to be a vagabond of the air." Swank, who registers best with audiences when she is victimized emotionally or physically, doesn't offer much beyond her uncanny resemblance to Earhart and that dazzling smile. To be fair, a "feel good" biopic isn't nearly as interesting or compelling as one that portrays a life filled with slings, arrows, drug addiction, character oddness and lots of self-deprecation. The forthright, optimistic Earhart, as a subject, has little in common with Edith Piaf, Ray Charles, Howard Hughes and Johnny Cash—all subjects of recent successful biopics that audiences have loved.

Nair may have reckoned with this and opted instead for lensing what is a patently old-fashioned Hollywood biopic (and Gabriel Yared's sweeping music—as such a presence in the film as the stars are—certainly suggests this). This approach is not dissimilar to 1943's *Flight for Freedom*, a Rosalind Russell movie based on Earhart's life or Kate Hepburn's 1933 film *Christopher Strong*. Taken in those well-worn but somewhat satisfying terms, *Amelia* will not disappoint too badly. Just don't expect it to soar too high.

MUSIC REVIEW

No 'Love' for Barbra's CD

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Did Barbra Streisand have a secret, unrealized desire to record in the style of the late jazz chanteuse Julie London? London with her infamously slow as molasses tempos and minimal musical accompaniment (often just jazz guitar) was riding high when Streisand was just getting ready to start out (and Babs recorded London's big hit "Cry Me A River" on her debut, albeit in her own inimitable style) so the idea isn't that far afield. And listening to *Love Is the Answer*, Streisand's new CD—a collaboration with jazz vocalist/pianist Diana Krall, who produced and played piano (and otherwise seems to have stayed in the background)—gives the notion further credence. How else to explain the somnolent approach of this hermetically sealed recording?

Using Krall's jazz trio as a basis, the recording then sweetens each of the 13 standards chosen for the project ("The Wee Small Hours in the Morning," "Make Someone Happy," "Here's to Life," etc.)—all ballads—with unvarying string arrangements by Johnny Mandel that offer not a dash of musical piquancy (my kingdom for Nelson Riddle!) and quickly wash away any distinction between the songs. It's all a creamy piece—and a very long, unwavering piece it is. Streisand, at 67, has lost much of her signature belting range and what remains has none of the lived-in, authoritative distinction of the great jazz vocalists (like, say Shirley Horn, late-period Rosemary Clooney or Julie London, for that matter).

Streisand instead concentrates on emoting each syllable so intently, slowly and evenly that as the CD proceeds it sounds as if she's practicing her enunciation rather than singing. The occasional dramatic flourish (a laugh of regret during "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," heavy sighs, etc.) temporarily relieves the soothing torpor but not for long. Even the bossa nova flavored "Gentle Rain" is taken at a grandpa tempo, stripping this exquisite piece of any liveliness. I am a lifelong Streisand fan and eagerly sought the recording—hoping that here, at last, was the follow-up to 1967's still thrilling *Simply Streisand*. But by the time *Love Is the Answer* got to the great Bernstein-Comden-Green classic "Some Other Time," I am sad to report, I was eager to herd this self-reverential CD out the door.

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DVD REVIEW

Chef's Special

BY STEVE WARREN

Spain must be crawling with Pedro Almodóvar wannabes. One of them, Nacho G. Velilla, strikes out with *Chef's Special* (*Fuera de carta*). Trying for an Almodóvar vibe and featuring several veterans of his films, it mixes (too little) over-the-top comedy with (too much) over-the-top melodrama.

Maxi (Javier Cámara) runs a small restaurant that's more posh than popular. He dreams of a good Michelin rating and drives his staff crazy when he thinks they have an inspector in the house.

Two things happen to rearrange—or at least confuse—Maxi's priorities. He begins an affair with Horacio (Benjamín Vicuña), a closeted former soccer star from Argentina, who retired because of an injury.

At the same time Maxi inherits two kids—his own—when their mother, Maxi's ex-wife, dies.

Alba (Alejandra Lorenzo) is six and innocent but Edu (Junio Valverde) is 15 and homophobic.

He knows why his parents split up and hates his father for it. Having a futbol hero in the family helps soften him to start the bonding process, but of course various crises—some Michelin-related—get in the way.

Maxi lives with Alex (Lola Dueñas), his maitre d' and the requisite spitfire for the genre. Before Horacio declares himself she thinks she has a better chance than Maxi of scoring with him.

The biggest problem with *Chef's Special* is that Alex should have a better chance, especially in a country where bisexuality is common. Maxi is not only physically unattractive but has an unpleasant personality and a temperament that makes him difficult to live or work with.

Even if the course of love doesn't always run smoother than the course of fatherhood, there's no question that things will work themselves out and there will be one big happy family when *Chef's Special* ends.

For the metaphor-challenged, the movie includes three scenes of people hiding in literal closets.

Chef's Special may leave you feeling good but that's not the same as being satisfied.



BY DAVID BYRNE WITH TONY PEREGRIN

She has had 40 chart-topping club hits, over 20 more than runner-ups Janet Jackson, Mariah Carey and Donna Summer. She also has had 37 Top 10 pop hits. Her latest single, "Celebration," debuted in the top spot in the U.K., tying Elvis Presley for the second most number ones in Great Britain behind the Beatles. She is the U.K.'s most successful female entertainer with the most number-one albums and songs by a woman. Who's that girl? She's **Madonna**.

Her remastered double-disc retrospective, *Celebration*, spans her career, going back to her salad days with "Everybody." Also included are epic moments that made the Material Girl appear in the news like "Justify My Love" and "Like a Prayer."

This fourth hits package from the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame inductee also contains favorites that were overlooked on 1990's *Immaculate Collection*, 1995's *Something to Remember* and 2001's *GHV2*, such as "Dress You Up" and "Burning Up." The new addition, "Celebration," reminds listeners of what Madonna is best at—making sure all types of people "get into the groove" for the past 25 years. Wanna know where's the party? Look no further than *Celebration*. A companion double-disc DVD is also available.

Sure, **Barbra Streisand** is known as a control-freak perfectionist, but she is also a savvy businessperson—and that voice is loved by many. On her latest, *Love Is the Answer*, the multi-talented diva welcomes Grammy darling Diana Krall as co-producer. Krall does a fantastic job arranging the orchestra to match these covers.

On "Make Someone Happy" and "Here's That Rainy Day," I can imagine seeing Streisand



Rufus Wainwright.

through a Vaseline-smear lens, with candles burning in the background, showing off her flawless manicure while belting out the songs.

Fear not, you won't have to dip into your dwindling 401(k) savings, as Streisand is not planning to tour. To promote *Love Is the Answer*, she did an intimate show at The Village Vanguard in New York City.

A deluxe version of *Love Is the Answer* is available, featuring Streisand singing alongside Krall's quartet on the bonus disc.

But will Mrs. James Brolin reprise her role as Mrs. Focker in the third installment of the *Meet the Parents* series? Filming has begun in Chicago.

On the cover of **Rufus Wainwright's** live album *Milwaukee At Last!*, the font and color scheme recall the carefree days of the TV show *Laugh-In*. The introductory song, "Release the Stars," is fabulously over the top. But the camp takes a break with "Going to a Town," where the out crooner criticizes his homeland by singing, "I'm so tired of America." He brings up the country's holier-than-thou outlook and lack of separation between church and state. Somebody alert Toby Keith. On the medley "Not Ready to Love/Slide Show," Wainwright gives his all and sells it to the back row. "Gay Messiah" serves as a big finish. An accompanying live DVD with additional material is also available. The set was recorded live in August 2007 at the Pabst Theater. *Milwaukee At Last!* is out now on Decca.

Alan Cumming is a Broadway veteran, film star, author and solo recording artist. His debut bow, *I Bought a Blue Car Today*, is out now on The Yellow Sound Label. Here, the Tony Award winner opens with a radiant cover of Cyndi Lauper's feel-good anthem "Shine." His theatrical delivery beams on the Hedwig and the Angry Inch medley "Wig in a Box / Wicked Town" and Sally Bowles' "Mein Herr" from *Cabaret*. The material here is featured in Cumming's touring stage show of the same name.

When it comes to albums, I am a conventionalist. I favor the physical CD with liner notes over a download. Cumming reflects on each of the chosen songs in the CD's booklet. That makes *I Bought a Blue Car Today* that much better. Also, check out his book *Tommy Tale: A Novel*, a lively story of a twentysomething bisexual party boy.

This spring **The Sounds** opened for No Doubt. Now the bi-fronted Swedish act is headlining its own tour to promote its latest *Crossing the Rubicon*. Here, there is an undeniable influence from Blondie and the well-known Scandinavian knack for crafting classic pop. "Nobody Sleeps While I'm Awake" is a party anthem in the making, while the synthesizer-heavy "Beatbox" is due to ignite the clubs this fall. *The Sounds* will be at The Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield, on Saturday, Nov. 7.

In 2007, I quickly became enamored with "Almost Lover" by **A Fine Frenzy**. This Starbucks-ready goodie is from the debut *One Cell in the Sea*. Fronted by Alison Sudol, *A Fine Frenzy* follows up with *Bomb in a Birdcage*. Here, the sound matures from intimate folk pop to upbeat numbers ("Electric Twist," "Happier," "World Without") and even some electronica leanings ("Blow Away," "Stood Up"). Kudos for taking risks, especially ones that pay off. Don't worry, the sweet, shy poet who won the world over with "Almost Lover" returns on "Swan Song" and "Beacon." *A Fine Frenzy* is due to return to Chicago with a date at Park West, 322 W. Armitage, on Wed., Nov. 4.



VEHICLE REVIEW



2009 Mercedes-Benz R320 Blue Tec.

2009 Mercedes-Benz R320 BlueTEC

The Mercedes for size queens

BY DONNY NORDLICHT, GAYWHEELS.COM

The R320 is wearing a mask. Beneath its gold-sized wrapper, lies one of the most proficient and versatile vehicles on the market today. Unlike other hard-to-define luxury crossovers out there today which look like Chelsea gym boys puffing out their chests—I'm looking at you, BMW X6—the R is less flash and more brain than it would seem at first glance.

I mean, how sexy can a car that, when dressed in black, closely resembles a funeral hearse? Although, maybe that's OK, since no gay man under thirty besides myself would be caught dead driving the longest Mercedes sold in America. But for the crowd running upstate to Rhinebeck to go antiquing, the car is perfect. Its plush and hushed accommodations have room for five, seven in a pinch, and turn two-hour jaunts up the Taconic State Parkway into something akin to being shuttled up there in an S-Class by your personal driver. However, I don't recommend giving your husband a chauffeur's cap, unless you expect to ride home in the way back with a chest of drawers.

Speaking of the rear quarters, the third row is great for the few times you need it, but don't expect to shuttle six of your closest pals cross-country. Not only is there about zero cargo space when those two extra chairs are up, leg-room becomes severely limited if those in the second row slide their seats back. A nice touch, though, is that Mercedes trimmed the way-back in the same material as the front five places; too bad the only seat surface available on the BlueTEC is MB-Tex, Mercedes' code-name for leatherette. Another plus/minus with the R was the "Ash" (light grey) interior palette in the tester I spent time with. Paired with the panorama roof option, which turns almost the entire roof into a window (over a grand extra, but well worth it), it made the already large cabin seem especially roomy and airy. Downside to the grey? It got dirty, and fast. Every footprint, every dust mite, every thought of a stain showed up. Got kids or a messy boyfriend? Get the black interior; looks just as posh, and doesn't show any questionable stains.

But as big as the car is on the inside, it's what's under the hood that counts. What the little BlueTEC badge on the flanks tells you, is

that this car is equipped with Mercedes' 3.2-liter turbocharged V6 clean diesel. Yea, it's a diesel. And I'm almost sorry I didn't have anything to tow, as my tester came with the towing package, because I so wanted to take advantage of the prodigious amount of torque: almost 400 pound-foot. Keep in mind, the V10-powered BMW M5 sedan only makes 383 pounds-feet. However, as is the case with diesels, with all that twisting power comes a low horsepower rating: the R is rated at 210 horsepower, peaking a little more than half-way through the rev range at 3400 rpm. It's too bad it weighs over 5,000 pounds keeping it from feeling a little more sprightly. But then again, most of the time you feel like you're driving a very smooth—thanks to Merc's 7-speed 7G-Tronic automatic—and athletic tank. And I can deal with driving a trendy tank for 25 miles per gallon. Yes, you heard me correctly; with my lead foot, I got equal to or better mileage than I get in my Mazdaspeed3 compact hatch. It's just too bad that you know the R320 is a diesel...when you hear it coming. There may not be black smoke pouring out the back, but boy is there diesel clatter. I find this strange, since I tested a GL320 with the exact same engine a year ago, and there was no audible difference between it and the gas version.

Maybe I'm just a nut, but I like the look of the R. Well, except from behind; the best way to explain it is to say that it has plump rump. The almond-shaped headlights allude to the new L-shaped lights on the CLS and SL, and is distinctly Mercedes-Benz. Seen in your rear-view, you know it's a Merc, giant star on the grille or not. But for that three-pointed star you pay the price. My tester had a suggested retail price of just under \$64,000. That's real money we're talking about, and fake leather we're sitting on. Ouch. But then again, that 64 grand checks off pretty much every option box: seating for seven, dual DVD screens for the second row, adaptive air suspension, leave-the-key-in-your-man-purse Keyless-Go system, backup camera, and that wonderful roof. The only problem is that for around the same price, and two less seats, you can get the ML320 BlueTEC, which does everything the R does, but better, and with real leather too. But then again, the ML won't give you bragging rights to having the biggest on the block..

See www.gaywheels.com.

Auto news

—**Fork it over:** Drivers' license fees in Illinois have tripled from \$10 to \$30. It's the first increase in fees since 1983. However, that's not the only cost that's going up: According to the Chicago Sun-Times, the cost of the annual registration sticker that goes on license plates will jump from \$79 now to \$99; duplicate or corrected vehicle-title fees will jump from \$65 now to \$95; and a registration transfer will increase from \$15 to \$25. All of the latter changes will take place Jan. 1, 2010.

—**Stranger danger:** A University of Illinois at Chicago survey has revealed that 20 percent of Chicago taxi drivers have been physically attacked while working, the Chicago Sun-Times reported. Moreover, 44 percent of the victims said the assault was accompanied by hostile remarks about their race, ethnicity, religion and/or apparent country of origin. Faye Khosindar, chairman of the United Taxidivers Community Council, said, "Cab drivers are targets for ethnic prejudices."

calendar

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WINDY CITY TIMES



CHICAGO PRIDE.COM

Wed., Oct. 28

Power Groups Looking for African American MSM's who are HIV+ and have a history of substance abuse to participate in a 6-week intervention to reduce the risk of further transmission or re-infection, and to reduce the use of substances. This group meets twice a week on Monday and Wednesdays from 1-3 at 5537 N Broadway. POWER is Positive Outcomes Wellness Education and Recovery. Call the POWER line at 773-944-9400 and ask for the POWER department. 773 989-9400 <http://www.tpan.com>

Thoroughly Modern Millie Drury Lane Oakbrook, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, IL, presents the winner of 2002's "Best Musical" Tony Award THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE, directed by Artistic Director William Osetek. THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE runs through December 20. Call 630-530-0111

Rainbow Group at the Center on Halsted Rainbow Group: this support group is for LGBTQ individuals with chronic mental illness. The purpose of the group is to foster a new sense of pride, share this experience with <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

17th Annual Night of 100 Drag Queens Equality Illinois' wild and wacky fundraiser featuring the talents of amateur and seasoned performers in a hilarious revue filled with outrageous routines! <http://www.eqil.org>.

Chicago AIDS Vigil planning meeting This is the first meeting to discuss & plan the annual Chicago AIDS vigil scheduled for Dec 1, 2009 <http://www.chicagoaidsvigil.org>

Carpenters Halloween. Through Nov. 7,

TROUPE DREAMS Thursday, Oct. 29

Joel Hall (right) and his dance troupe are holding a Halloween party.

Photo by Hal Baim



Tue-sat @ 8 p.m.; Tickets \$15-\$20. (800)838-3006 <http://www.scootyjojo.com>

Amy & Freddy at Pops For Champagne Join Diva Amy Armstrong and Piano Man, Freddy Allen for their performance at POPS for Champagne. <http://www.amyfreddy.com>

Scary-oke Costume Party Pre-Halloween party with Star Finder Craig's Scary-oke costume party. <http://www.clubkrave.com>

Thursday, Oct. 29

Project VIDA's Masquerade Ball: The Resurrection of a Legend Project VIDA's Masquerade Ball: The Resurrection of a Legend. \$40 individual, \$75 per couple, \$25 students with valid ID or at door for an additional \$5. 6 - 10 p.m. National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th. (Parking at Orozco School, 1940 W. 18th.) 733-522-4570 <http://www.projectvida.org>

Arts Alliance Illinois to Hold 2009 Awards

Arts Alliance Illinois, formerly the Illinois Arts Alliance, will celebrate dance in Illinois at its 2009 Awards Gala. 312) 855-3105 <http://www.artsalliance.org>

Project Runway at CREW New network, new night and time, same drama! www.worldsgreatestbar.com

Joel Hall Dancers Halloween Party Joel Hall Dancers Halloween Party to launch the 2nd annual Walk-A-Thon fundraiser 773-293-0900; www.joelhall.org

Friday, Oct. 30

Stayin' Alive Disco Party Fundraiser Costume Disco PartyFundraiser to benefit Jo-Ray House. 773-224-8500 <http://www.jorayhouse.com>

Stewed Tomatoes: Varitease Cabaret, Burlesque, Comedy Over 20 Burlesque Acts, Comedy, and Live Music by the Stewed Tomatoes at The Lakeshore Theater. Tickets are \$15.00 and the show starts at 10:30 p.m.

Heroes, Horrors & Whores Comedy Show So funny it's scary! Heroes, Horrors & Whores comedy show starring The Sarcastic Squad. Followed by Cosmix with DJ Greg Haus spinning electronica and alternative dance. <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

Saturday, Oct. 31

Northalsted Halloween Parade — Theme: "Mad Hatter's Ball"; parade starts at 6 p.m.; see www.lakeviewcitizens.org/halloween.asp

Pugaween Costume contest for the best dressed dog! It's a fundraiser for PAWS. Buy a ballot and pick your favorite. 773-784-4811 <http://www.worldsgreatestbar.com>

Kama Sutra The Musical: Vegas Bound and Gagged TURBAN RENEWAL" - GENDER-BENDING ACTOR TAKES OVER ROLE IN LONG-RUNNING CHICAGO HIT <http://www.kamasutratheatrical.com>

It's a Bitch to Quit Howard Brown Health Center is offering Chicago's only LGBT smoking cessation program to support community member's in kicking the habit! The eight-week session will be lead by a trained smoking cessation counselor. Space is limited, so call today to reserve your place! 773-388-8682 773-388-8682 <http://www.howardbrown.org/bitchoquit>

Center on Halsted Family Halloween Party Center on Halsted Family Halloween Party for LGBT Families, haunting movies, not-too scary storytime for tots, halloween cookies <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/>

Sunday, Nov. 1

36th Annual Pro/Am Contest It's the Olympics of wine tasting—an intense battle of the palates—and the oldest event of its kind in the country. It's Geja's Café's 36th Annual Professional/Amateur Wine tasting Contest. At Geja's Café, 340 W. Armitage. See www.gejascafe.com.

Male Call with Miss Fozzie at Roscoe's Roscoe's and ChicagoPride.com present Male Call with Miss Fozzie. Here's your chance to meet the unexpected and end the weekend right. <http://www.roscoes.com>

Monday, Nov. 2

Art Haus at Scarlet Art Haus is a weekly Chicago art happening every Monday at Scarlet with a still art exhibition and live showcase followed by a live DJ. <http://www.scarletbarchicago.com>

\$1 Drink Night with DJ Laura B at Hydrate Monday at HYDRATE is \$1 DRINK NIGHT! All well cocktails are only One Dollar all night long! <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

Tuesday, Nov. 3

The Open Mic with Amy Armstrong & Lloyd Young Tuesday nights in Chicago will never be the same! <http://www.holidayclubchicago.com>

Wed., Nov. 4

Power Groups Looking for African American MSM's who are HIV+ and have a history of substance abuse to participate in a 6-week intervention to reduce the risk of further transmission or reinfection, and to reduce the use of substances. This group meets twice a week on Monday and Wednesdays from 1-3 at 5537 N Broadway. POWER is Positive Outcomes Wellness Education and Recovery. Call the POWER line at 773-944-9400 and ask for the POWER department. 773 989-9400 <http://www.tpan.com>

BEHIV Art Therapy Reception & Exhibition Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV) Art Therapy program does amazing work for people struggling with the emotional stress of an HIV+ diagnosis. <http://www.behiv.org>

Thursday, Nov. 5

SOFA CHICAGO 2009 Opening Night Preview Gala celebrating its 16th year, SOFA CHICAGO 2009, the critically acclaimed Sculpture Objects & Functional Art Fair, returns to Navy Pier's Festival Hall (600 E. Grand Avenue) to present masterworks from top international galleries and dealers. (773) 506-8860 <http://www.sofaexpo.com>

Reeling 2009: Opening Night Gala Reeling rolls out the pink carpet for their 28th edition with The Big Gay Musical! After the movie screening (7:30 p.m., Music Box), celebrate at the Reeling 2009 Opening Night Gala featuring a live performance by the Joan Crawford-inspired band The Joans. The night includes hors d'oeuvres as well as an open bar, courtesy of Blue Moon and SKYY Vodka. (Attendees must be 21+) Admission: Film Only: \$12 (\$10 members); Film & Gala: \$35 (\$32 members). Tickets available at: reelingfilmfestival.tix.com and www.reelingfilmfestival.org. Reeling runs through Nov. 15.

CoH's Laughing Out Loud Series w/Jessica Halem Center on Halsted's monthly comedy series, laughOUTloud, presents Jessica Halem and friends for a night of stand-up comedy with Jessica Halem, Cameron Esposito and Bill Cruz. Tickets: \$20 V.I.P. (includes prime seats and 1 drink ticket); \$15 general admission; \$10 student/senior discount (with valid photo ID). Advance purchase recommended, tickets available at [centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org). (773) 661-0763



CHASING AMY Wed., Oct. 28

Amy Armstrong (above) and Freddy Allen will perform at Pops for Champagne, 601 N. State.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald
(MysticImagesPhotography.com)

<http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Friday, Nov. 6

Equality Illinois First Friday at Sidetrack Equality Illinois First Friday Networking Event <http://www.eqil.org>

Mr. International Rubber 2010 Contest, Part 1 Mr. International Rubber, the pre-eminent annual men's rubber fetish event, held each November in Chicago, is at 6 p.m. at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. www.mirubber.com

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus "Lipstick Lyrics: Bring It On" Live Drag Review Chicago Gay Men's Chorus will BRING IT ON and haul out their highest drag to take to the stage at Hydrate for CGMC's 6th Annual "Lipstick Lyrics: Bring It On" Live Singing Drag Revue. Hosted by Chicago drag star Madame X, regular cast member of the Kit Kat Lounge and Supper Club. Tickets are \$15 in advance via online at www.cgmc.org; or \$20 at the door the night of the event. 9:30 p.m. Hydrate Chicago, 3458 N Halsted St. www.cgmc.org or 773-296-0541. 773-296-0541

Saturday, Nov. 7

Human Rights Campaign Gala "Time To Shine" "Time to Shine" is the theme of this year's HRC Chicago Gala with: Joe Solmonese, President of the Human Rights Campaign; Tony Taylor, recipient of the HRC LGBT College Student Award; Rush University Medical Center, recipient of the HRC Corporate Equality Award; Robert Gant of Queer As Folk; and Michelle Williams of Destiny's Child <http://www.hrc-chicago09.com>

Design Industries Fighting AIDS "Believe" Dining by Design Design Industries Fighting AIDS "Believe" Dining by Design. Dynamic and innovative dining environments will showcase stars of the Chicago design community, paired with generous Table Sponsors to create three-dimensional dining installations that are works of art. Table Hop and Taste, \$40, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., and Gala Dinner, Individual tickets \$500, 6:30 - 11 p.m. Merchandise Mart, 8th Floor. 312-644-6412 or [DIFFACHICAGO.ORG](http://www.dif-fachicago.org) 312-644-6412 <http://www.dif-fachicago.org>

The Jen and Joe Show Local musicians Jen Thompson and Joe Rosenmayer will perform a lively, witty mix of contemporary songs at 8 p.m. at Wild Pug. 773-459-6775, www.schoolstreetarts.org

Reeling 2009: Make the Yuletide Gay After-Party Reeling wants to help you stuff your stockings at the Stuff My Stocking party, a Christmas-themed DVD release party with director Rob Williams, after the screening of Make the Yuletide Gay. <http://www.reelingfilmfestival.org>



I LOVE A PARADE Saturday, Oct. 31

The Northalsted Halloween Parade kicks off at 6 p.m. at Belmont and Halsted.

Photo from the 2008 parade by Mel Ferrand

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE

OUT OF TOWN

SAUGATUCK GET-AWAY Purchase your own Saugatuck getaway. Double wide manufactured home with 3 bedrooms, two baths, vaulted ceilings, skylight and garden tub. Appliances included! Just off Blue Star Highway only two miles from Downtown. **Just \$558/month for the first year including lot rent.** Call Maggie at 269-857-1191. (10/21/09-4)

HOUSES

Unique Home: Original Speakeasy History comes alive in Prohibition era Mediterranean Tudor. Art deco bar. Home office. 2843 Fitch in West Ridge. **www.JoanKatz.net RE/MAX Signature, 773-404-3826** (10/28/09-2)

FOR RENT

HOUSE

\$2000 3BD/2BA GORGEOUS. COMPLETELY RENOVATED IN 2007 PRIVATE HOME IN LAKEVIEW. 2200 sq feet -Walk to trader joes/cb2/wholefoods/ Southport coordinator Addison Brownline stop -viking range, miele dishwasher, Bosch W/D, hardwood floors, HVAC, security system. **CALL CAROL AT 773-472-1785** (10/28/09-1)

DUPLEX

LUXURIOUS, TOTALLY REHABBED 4-BED, 3-BA DUPLEX! Marquette Park - this 2nd & 3rd floor, completely rehabbed, condo quality four-bedroom, three-bathroom duplex feels like a home! The newer kitchen with maple cabinetry, stainless steel appliances including a dishwasher and microwave & double stainless steel sinks, is spacious. Other features include an office, classic 5" crown moldings, all new lighting, decora dimmer switches, in-unit full size side-by-side washer and dryer, white one inch mini-blinds & central heat and air conditioning. Enjoy multiple skylights on the top floor! Entertain in the spacious back yard. If you have a car, you can park in a garage for just \$45/month. **Close to public transportation. \$1,485/month. Please call or email Noel at (312) 543 7766 & noel@mickelsonbrothers.com.** Gay owned and operated company. (11/4/09-2)

STUDIO

CHEAP STUDIOS, STARTING AT \$595.00. Beautiful Studio Located in East Lakeview. 641 W. Aldine. **LARGE Studio With Eat in Kitchen, Great Sunlight, All The Bells and Whistles. On-Site Laundry, 24 Hour Emergency Maintenance. Close to Stores, Restaurants, and Exciting Lakeview Nightlife. To Schedule A Showing Call 773-248-9936. Visit our Website at www.wtrm.com http://s924.photobucket.com/albums/ad86/wtrm/641?albumview=slideshow** (10/28/09-3)

LIMITED TIME - 1ST MONTH FREE. Studios starting at \$599 including heat and water. Call 847-520-4201. **OPEN HOUSE 10/29 & 10/30, 4pm-7pm. 6633 N. Sheridan Road. www.pabcormmanagement.com** (11/16/09-4)

SPACIOUS 3 ROOM STUDIO APARTMENT IN WELL-MAINTAINED OWNER OCCUPIED 3 FLAT. This garden apartment is cool in the summer, warm in the winter. It

has a beautiful new kitchen and bathroom. The apartment includes heat, cooking gas, laundry, storage, and a lovely backyard. Garage space available. Located at Bell and Touhy, steps from the Touhy bus, walking distance to Western bus, Lunt bus, and the Howard L station. **\$700 plus 1 month security deposit. Willing to negotiate rent. Cats OK. Available immediately. Call or Text 773.771.7334** (11/16/09-4-TB)

ONE BEDROOM

RAVENSWOOD ONE BEDROOM: ONE MONTH FREE, pet friendly, great kitchen, oak floors, walk-in closets, laundry, walk to Brown Line. **\$795/heated 773-743-4141 www.urbanequities.com** (11/16/09-4)

CASA MORELOS

1 BR newly constructed energy efficient mid-rise apt. bldg. Heat & hot water incl., laundry. Near downtown, public trans & major highways

**The Resurrection Project
Pilsen Area**


312-666-1323


Income restrictions apply

LIMITED TIME - 1ST MONTH FREE. 1 bedrooms at \$700 including heat and water. Call 847-520-4201. **OPEN HOUSE 10/29 & 10/30, 4pm-7pm. 6633 N. Sheridan Road. www.pabcormmanagement.com** (11/16/09-4)

TWO BEDROOM

NORTH SOUTHPORT/WRIGLEY 2 BEDROOM, ONE MONTH FREE: Dogs welcome, new kitchen with deck, FDR, gleaming oak floors, huge windows, spacious closets, parking available. **\$1200 plus utilities 773-743-4141 www.urbanequities.com** (11/16/09-4)

FIVE LARGE ROOMS, 2BDRM: East Rogers Park, newly decorated, HWF, CA, intercom, laundry room. **Pets OK with approval. Call Ron 773-973-5883** (11/4/09-4)

DOWNTOWN OAK PARK LIMITED TIME - 1st MONTH FREE. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1150 including heat, water and parking. Call 847-520-4201. **www.pabcormmanagement.com** (11/16/09-4)

ANDERSONVILLE - BEAUTIFUL, COMPLETELY REHABBED 2 BDRM. APT ON RIDGE & ARDMORE. Central air/ heat, great sun light, security alarm, new white cabinetry, granite countertop, stainless steel appliances hardwood flooring, spacious living & dining rooms, brick fireplace, laundry in building. **Near Lakeshore Dr. Available now. \$1000/mo. Please call 312.907.6539 or lakesidec@gmail.com** (11/16/09-4)

BRONZEVILLE - THE DISCRIMINATING EYE WILL LOVE THIS TWO BEDROOM, MINT, CHARMING CONDO QUALITY BEAUTY! You will appreciate the gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances including a dishwasher, microwave built into the range hood, double stainless steel sinks with faucet and sprayer, granite counter tops and 42" cherry stained maple

cabinets! Other features include an in-unit laundry center with front-loading, side-by-side full-sized washer and dryer, granite counter above them and topped with cabinetry. The living room has beautifully restored oak floors and gorgeous 6" crown moldings. The bedrooms have berber style carpeting with a walk-in closet and closet organizers in the master bedroom. There is track lighting with dimmers, all decora switches and white horizontal miniblinds. This is an end unit, with windows facing east, west & south. The common area lobby, hall & stairs are filled with art! Immaculately maintained. Excellent security. Located near the elevated train and bus lines, great location. **\$1,285 per month, heat and hot water included!!!! Available 12/1/09. Please call Noel at 312-543-7766 or via email at noel@mickelsonbrothers.com.** Gay owned and operated company. (11/4/09-2)

\$750 LINCOLN SQUARE 2 BEDROOM GARDEN APARTMENT. CLEAN, QUIET OWNER OCCUPIED. New appliances w/dishwasher. Laundry facilities. Great garden, screened deck w/gas grill. **2 blocks to Square, shops, restaurants, Brown Line. 1/2 month deposit, credit check. 773-989-7910** (10/28/09-1)

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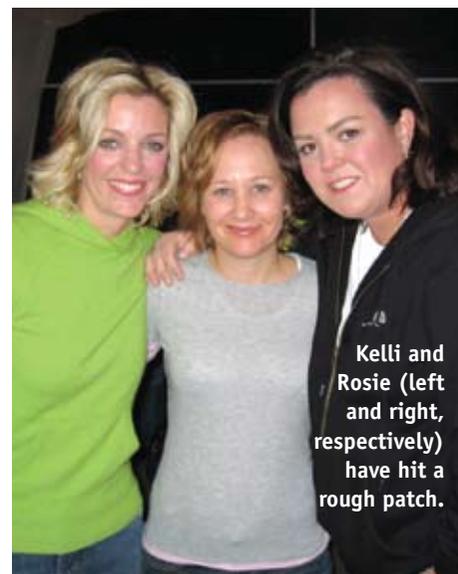


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BILLY MASTERS

"We thought Tom [Cruise] was the biggest bore on the face of the Earth. He was tense and made constant, constant unrelated homophobic comments, like, 'You want some ice cream, in case there are no gay people there?' There was no basis for it. It was like, 'It's a nice day. I'm glad there are no gay people standing here.' Very, very strange. If someone's 20 years old and every third line out of their mouth is anti-something specific, then draw your own conclusion."—Bronson Pinchot recalls working with La Cruise on Risky Business. Eh, we all knew Rebecca De Mornay was the top in that flick!

Joan Collins just treated the folks in Long Beach to a one night only "Evening with Joan Collins." This is the same one-woman show she toured England with last year. Inexplicably, the only U.S. date prior to last week was a September performance at the Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut. Neither locale would be described as her core audience, as was evidenced by the less-than-half capacity "crowd" in Long Beach. That said, Collins has an engaging stage presence and gobs of stories to share. And she looks great. She may have never had a break-out film



Kelli and Rosie (left and right, respectively) have hit a rough patch.

("Empire of the Ants" does not count), but she worked with some of the biggest names in Hollywood—Paul Newman, Bob Hope, Kirk Douglas, Debbie Reynolds, Gene Kelly, Joanne Woodward, Richard Burton, Shirley Maclaine, the list goes on and on. Admittedly, the projects with these luminaries are likely films they'd rather forget, but it gives Collins lots of people to dish about. And dish she does. She shares great stories about Joan Crawford (who she claims to be named after), Sir Laurence Olivier, Bette Davis, and many more. We've come into possession of a video from the show featuring some of the choice bits, which we'll post on BillyMasters.com.

While I was with Joan Collins, Elizabeth Taylor was with Michael Jackson's kids at Universal Studios. Now, you tell me which is more surreal ... Collins discussing her luminous film career, or Liz riding "Jurassic Park—The Ride?" I know—it's a draw! But since Liz is in that wheelchair, you get to go to the front of the line. And, if the ride breaks down, the kids could sit on Taylor's lap ... there's the real "Jurassic Park—The Ride!"

Didya enjoy Jesse Metcalfe's return to Desperate Housewives? If not, you missed it—he's gone, but is still giving interviews like he's one of the housewives! In the most recent, he reveals that when he used to do love scenes with Eva Longoria, he'd get so excited, he'd "pop a wheelie." Unless Eva's got a penis, I doubt the veracity of this story. He went on to claim that his "situation" was so obvious, he had to wait a minute under the sheets until it subsided. To quote Julie Newmar, "Such a fuss over so little."

Last week, we reported about the break-up

of two lesbian couples—Martina Navratilova and Toni Layton, and Cherry Jones and Sarah Paulson. You can add Rosie O'Donnell and Kelli Carpenter to that list. Rumors of a schism have been running rampant ever since Kelli was a no-show on this summer's R Family cruise. Now it's being reported that Kelli moved out of their Nyack home. O'Donnell gave an interview to USA Today: "Kelli and I love each other very much and we are working on our issues. Those are the only words I am ever going to say. Ever. And that is something that has been agreed upon by all parties." Sounds awfully lawyer-y to me. How will this affect the kids? "Everything's fine and everybody's good and we're still both raising them together. We will both continue to parent them and we're friendly and everything's all right." Except we hear that Kelli took biological daughter Vivienne with her and left the three adopted kids with Ro. Uh, oh.

Another same-sex couple appears to have bitten the dust. Rumor has it that TR Knight is a single man after Mark Cornelson was seen moving out of their shared abode (around the same time Kelli was packing up). In this case, I'm told it was completely amicable. TR is planning to appear on stage in New York in 2010 for an extended period of time, and I'm told Cornelson was never planning to relocate. As one source says, "It just came to a natural end, no hard feelings." Good luck to all of them.

I attended the L.A. premiere of the new film, "Oy Vey! My Son Is Gay!" starring Lainie Kazan, John Lloyd Young, Jai Rodriguez, Vincent Pastore, Bruce Vilanch and Carmen Electra. I LOVED IT! Sure, it has some cliché moments, but more than anything else, the film has loads of laughs and heart. And it looks great. But above all, this is a Kazan *tour de force*—she's spectacular. Really the whole cast is wonderful—even Carmen, who is really naturally funny. While you're waiting for it to come to a theatre near you, I'll post some pics from the premiere.

This week's "Ask Billy" question is about two men—John vs. Jay. Calvin in Miami writes: "You've mentioned a few new shows. Have you seen 'Accidentally On Purpose'? It's almost unwatchable, but the lead guy Jon Foster is so frickin' hot. What do you know about him? And, when did Jay Mohr get so fat?"

I must confess, I had no intention of watching "Accidentally On Purpose", until one episode opened with Jon Foster wearing only a towel. Yowza! Tall, lean, muscular...loved him. What I've noticed is that in episodes where he's not going to appear shirtless, his gym time apparently diminishes and he sports all the cleavage of Ann Jillian...no offense. As to his personal life, he is 6-foot, enjoys boxing and snowboarding, and is the younger brother of actor Ben Foster. I suppose you could just suffer through the show for the occasional shirtless bits. Or just check out BillyMasters.com, where we show just a bit more!

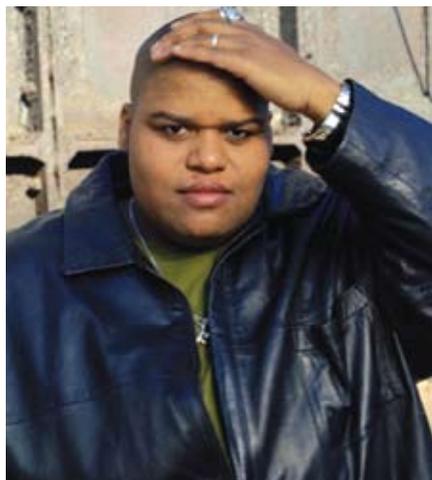
As to Jay Mohr, I assume you are talking about his extreme weight gain. I don't know when that happened because, like most Americans, I change the channel directly after watching "The New Adventures of Old Christine." Hmm, maybe when the country wasn't looking, Jay sent out for pizza...three times a day, from the look of it. Chunky pics to follow on BillyMasters.com.

When I can come up with even one reason to watch *Accidentally On Purpose*, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Need I remind you that the best dish around can be found on www.BillyMasters.com? Well, I guess I needed to. I should also say that I'm always here for your gossip needs (and personal needs if you're cute). Just write me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Carmen gets her own sitcom! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

School daze



Generosity was in fashion Oct. 21 as The Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, hosted the Hetrick-Martin Institute (HMI) and the Harvey Milk High School Event sponsored by Levis, The Advocate and Absolut Vodka with celebrity Jenny Shimizu (from Bravo's Make Me a Supermodel). Attendees enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while hosts stressed the importance of donating to HMI, an organization that provides at-risk LGBTQ youth free education and programming in New York City. A live auction featuring prize packages ranging from a year of free Levi jeans to a shopping trip with Shimizu gathered more than \$3,000 in donations. The left photo shows Shimizu and Center on Halsted Executive Director Modesto "Tico" Valle. Text by Byron Flitsch; photos courtesy of Luis Lopez



Toshi Reagon. Photo by JOMOTO-Molly Rubin and Tony DiPietro

Toshi Reagon in Chicago Nov. 12

Lesbian singer Toshi Reagon will be in Chicago Thursday, Nov. 12. She will perform at Martyr's Restaurant and Pub, 3855 N. Lincoln, at 9 p.m. Additionally, she will be performing 6-7 p.m. in Northwestern University's McCormick Tribune Center Auditorium, 1870 Campus, Evanston.

See www.ToshiReagon.com.

Lady Gaga in Chicago Jan. 8-9

Just a year and a half after performing at the Windy City Gay Idol finals at Circuit nightclub, Lady Gaga is headlining her own national show ("The Monster Ball Tour")—and will sing at the Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State, Jan. 8-9.

Kid Cudi and Jason Derulo will be the special guests.

Tickets go on sale Friday, Oct. 30, at 10 a.m.; they are \$37.50-\$75. Tickets are available at www.livenation.com, www.thechicagotheatre.com or www.ticketmaster.com; the venue box office; or by phone at 800-745-3000.

Lady Gaga performed at the Windy City Gay Idol finals June 13, 2008, at Circuit. See www.windycitymediagroup.com/photos/IdolFinals2008-06-13.

Book on Queen out Nov. 15

QUEEN: The Ultimate Illustrated History of the Crown Kings of Rock, a comprehensive look at one of rock's most unique bands, will be available Nov. 15.

In bringing the book to the public, Voyager Press has joined forces with renowned British rock journalist Phil Sutcliffe (Mojo, Los Angeles Times).

Containing more than 400 photographs and pieces of memorabilia—including concert programs, posters, domestic and foreign 45 singles, LPs, backstage passes, ticket stubs and more—QUEEN: The Ultimate Illustrated History of the Crown Kings of Rock also includes a discography as well as commentary from dozens of admiring musicians and performers.

The book will retail for \$40.

Entertainment news

Gay movie director/choreographer Adam Shankman has been named a co-producer of next year's 82nd Academy Awards program, according to Advocate.com. Shankman—who has directed Bringing Down the House and Hairspray—is co-producing the March 7 telecast with former Twentieth Century Fox CEO Bill Mechanic. Shankman currently is a judge on TV's So You Think You Can Dance.

Singer Morrissey, 50, collapsed during an Oct. 24 concert in Swindon, England, according to People.com. The incident occurred when the former Smiths frontman was finishing his first song; an eyewitness said that "[h]e kept putting his hand up to his mouth as if he felt sick." Emergency personnel were initially told that Morrissey was unconscious; he was later discharged from the Great Western Hospital after being "admitted as a precautionary measure," according to a facility spokeswoman.

The Screen Actors Guild has declared October "Diversity Awareness Month," according to a press release. Among the month's highlights, according to the organization, are the National Equality March in Washington, D.C., and a seminar, "Out in Hollywood III: The Rise of the LGBT Actor."

Read more entertainment news online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

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Having a bowl at Waveland

BY ROSS FORMAN

Gary Handler still recalls the wide range of emotions that ran through Waveland Bowling when the 40-lane facility he runs was the bowling home for the 2006 Gay Games.

There were joy, sorrow, thrills, chills and plenty of sweat at 3700 N. Western.

"It was very hot [outside] and we lost a transformer, so half of our electricity went out," said Handler, now 51. "It was a difficult, difficult set of circumstances, and the heat created a lot of humidity on the lanes, which led to sticking, etc. But with everyone playing under the same circumstances, it was not a competitive advantage or disadvantage for anyone; everyone was playing in/on the same conditions.

"It was a tough week, but a fun week for sure."

Waveland Bowl has developed into the premiere bowling center in Chicago for the LGBT community, if only because Lakeview's Marigold Bowl closed its doors about six years ago. Waveland now plays host to a Tuesday night league for competitors from the Windy City Athletic Association (WCAA) and a Friday night league for the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA).

In 1983, Waveland Bowl was the host for the third-annual International Gay Bowling Organization Tournament.

"It's not like I am aggressively [seeking players] from the [gay] community, but, to be honest with you, it's just a wise business decision," said Handler, who is married with three children ranging in age from 24-28. "These [gay] leagues are a huge part of our business; they are very important to us. And to have the entire gay community to think of us in a positive manner is something we value."

Waveland has 10 full-time employees and 25



Two images of Waveland Bowl. Photos courtesy of Waveland

part-timers, and at least 11 of the 35 are openly gay, Handler said. Waveland's manager, Bill Frye, 58, is gay and has been working at the facility for about 35 years.

"I would do anything I can to help the [gay] community, and do so whenever asked," Handler said. "We are the home house for the gay bowling community in Chicago, which is great.

"The [gay] leagues definitely have fun, more than other leagues.

"I think the Tuesday league is more competitive and the Friday league is more social. On Friday, for instance, we play music [over the loud-speaker] throughout the night. Both have a great time; both drink a lot, often high-end liquor. My staff loves them; they are great tipplers. They've become part of the fabric of Waveland Bowl.

"We've had very few problems over the years with the gay leagues. Overall, I think it's been a win-win situation for everyone."

Handler said the gay leagues have some "great" bowlers and some have even recorded a perfect 300 game.

"Everything clicks with the gay league on Friday; they're there to have a great time, and they do. We do, too," Handler said.

Ironically, the Friday night CMSA league has split Waveland with an eight-team church league for the past four or five years. Handler convinced the church league to move to Thursday nights this fall, so CMSA has now expanded to use all lanes.

"The church league had no problem bowling alongside the gay league; none whatsoever," Handler said. "We only moved the church league [to a different night] so the gay league could expand."

So what about adding a third night of gay bowling?

That is possible, Handler said—or more.

"I'd be happy with gay bowlers five nights per week. But actually, I just look at them as bowlers; they just happen to be gay. To me, they're a league, whether they're gay, [from a] church or a bunch of mechanics. They're a bowling league," Handler said. "I probably would prefer the gay leagues to any other leagues because [the participants] are not trouble-makers at all. For the most part, they are educated and employed. Plus, as a group, they respect the bowling center; they don't get belligerent, rowdy and out-of-hand. There are not any negatives from the gay leagues."

And Handler also has not had any problems, although he was prepared for some, after the CMSA league ends and before open bowling starts on Friday nights.

"I have absolutely no negative thoughts, comments, statements, stories or whatever about the gay leagues. They treat me with respect and everyone on my staff as well," Handler said.

SPORTS SHORTS

Red Stars' Rapinoe named to roster

Chicago Red Stars midfielder Megan Rapinoe has been named to the U.S. Women's National Team's 18-player roster. She joins a U.S. team that faces defending FIFA Women's World Cup champion Germany Thursday, Oct. 29, at Impuls Arena in Augsburg, Germany.

Rapinoe has played in all seven of the U.S.'s international matches in 2009, leading the national team with five points (two goals, one assist). She currently has 11 career international caps and four career international goals.

Second City Badminton has open gym dates

Second City Badminton's open gym dates will span from October through January. As always, this information is posted on the CMSA Web site, www.chicagomsa.org.

The cost is \$7 at the Broadway Armory, 5917 N. Broadway, 6:30-9 p.m. every Monday except for holidays. The dates are as follows: Oct. 26; Nov. 2, 9, 16 and 30 (skip Nov. 23 for Thanksgiving week); Dec. 7, 14 (skip for Christmas and New Year's); and Jan. 4 and 11 (skip Jan. 18 for the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday).

Also, winter doubles will start Jan. 25, 2010. Sign-ups will begin Jan. 4 at open gym.

Chicago Lakefront 50/50 on Oct. 31

Ultramarathoners, pay attention: The Chicago Lakefront 50/50 (50 kilometers/50 miles) will take place Saturday, Oct. 31. Both races start and finish on Chicago's lakefront, at the 63rd Street Beach House.

The 50-mile race will start at 6:30 a.m. (with an 11-hour time limit), while the 50-kilometer (30-mile) race will begin at 8:30 a.m. All finishers will receive medals.

Registration ends Wed., Oct. 28. See www.chicagoultra.org.

SkiBudz trip to Wis. Jan. 8-10

SkiBudz, a local LGBT skiing/snowboarding club, is travelling to Wauwau, Wis., for its 4th Annual Granite Peak Trip Jan. 8-10, 2010.

The Jefferson Street Inn is even offering SkiBudz discounts for its rooms, which now cost \$109-\$259 per night. Reservations must be booked by Dec. 5.

See www.skigranitepeak.com. For more about SkiBudz, visit www.skibudz.org.

Women's Indoor Volleyball

Teams are forming now for CMSA.

Playing at Kilbourn Park on Sundays starting Dec. 13 and running through March.

Team fee: \$400

Player fee: \$25

Three divisions available: Competitive, Intermediate and the Peg Grey Division (recreational). All players must be current CMSA members in order to participate. This can be paid online as well.

Register online at www.chicagomsa.org or contact womensvolleyball@chicagomsa.org for more information.



CLASSIFIEDS cont.

MASSAGE THERAPY

CHICAGO MALE MASSAGE REVIEWS: Find over 50 male massage therapists in Chicago on MessageM4M.com - Hundreds of reviews of each gay friendly male massage therapists. www.massagem4m.com/chicago (11/11/09-8)

MY MATCH

SEEKING JAY FROM VENEZUELA. Looking for Jay, 27, who came from Venezuela 7 years ago. We met in Boystown 10-01-09. I am from Iowa. I think he lives in Oak Lawn. I want to visit and see him again. Redheadjj@yahoo.com (10/21/09-2)

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Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC

A widely published author and speaker, Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas.

He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations. Clark Hill is a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities. Count on Us. Count on More.

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