



Patti LuPone

page 13



New York Arrests

page 4



D'Emilio's Research

page 7

Activists protest church, cardinal



A demonstrator (right) talks with a Holy Name Cathedral congregant as gay-rights activists protested the Catholic Church and Cardinal Francis George. Photo by John Fenoglio

BY JOHN FENOGLIO

The LGBT advocacy group Gay Liberation Network (GLN) held a protest in front of Holy Name Cathedral on Valentine's Day.

Picketers were demanding more equitable treatment from the Catholic Church and, specifically, from Cardinal Francis George of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Earlier this month George denounced a Maryland-based, pro-gay ministry that seeks to bridge the divide between lesbian and gay Catholics and the Church at large.

"Like other groups that claim to be Catholic but deny central aspects of church teaching, New Ways Ministry has no approval or recognition from the Catholic Church," George said in a Feb. 5 statement. The organization, George said, does not offer "an authentic interpretation of Catholic teaching."

For its part, New Ways Ministry is not backing down. In an "action alert" posted on its Web site, the group is urging supporters to write letters and e-mail George. And Francis DeBernardo, the executive director of New Ways, posted a statement saying the cardinal "will not impede or slow us in our efforts to work for justice for lesbian/gay people in the church and society."

At the protest, Andy Thayer, co-founder of GLN, insisted that George and his predecessors have a much more "subversive" agenda when it

Turn to page 6

SAGE receives \$475K in fed funding

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders (SAGE), located at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, is receiving \$475,000, thanks to a request from U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley, D-Ill., according to Serena Worthington, the center's senior director of public programs.

According to the Center on Halsted Web site, SAGE "in collaboration with Chicagoland's older adult population, offers comprehensive programming based on the holistic wellness model. Specific program offerings are informed by participant input, research in LGBT aging, planning

meetings and the guidance of the 16-member SAGE Advisory Council."

Worthington told Windy City Times that the process to receive the grant took two years, applying to Rahm Emanuel when he was congressman of the district. (She led SAGE up until September, and helped write the original proposal.) Quigley requested the amount against last year, shortly after being sworn in April 21.

Regarding the utilization of the grant, Worthington said the money would be used toward "special programs, [including] research on cognitive loss in adults with HIV; adaptive computer equipment for seniors; a constituent advocacy initiative that could include work in

Springfield, work in Chicago; cultural-competency training for senior service providers; and an HIV-prevention film for individuals over 50." She added that the last item "is motivated by a statistic about newly infected people that says 15 percent of them are over 50—so, clearly, prevention messages need to be looked at again. I think it would be really powerful for seniors to write a film about prevention that's really candid. ... People are having sex a lot later than people think and, certainly, transmission is happening through sex or drug use."

Worthington said that receiving the grant "is

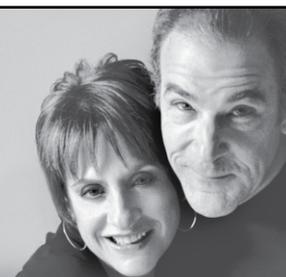
Turn to page 8

"THE PAIR RADIATES THEIR WARMTH ALL THE WAY TO THE THEATER'S BACK ROWS!"

— Wendy Rosenfield, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

TWO LEGENDARY BROADWAY STARS. A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME THEATRICAL EVENT.

AN EVENING WITH **PATTI LUPONE** AND **MANDY PATINKIN**



MARCH 2 – 7, 2010

Cadillac Palace

To purchase tickets go to

www.BROADWAYINCHICAGO.com

Or call 800.775.2000 • Groups (15+) 312.977.1710

0% APR Available^{AA}
REBATES FROM \$500-\$5000

NISSAN NOW SALES EVENT



TRADE IN YOUR TOYOTA & GET AN ADDITIONAL \$1000 REBATE!^A

New 2010 Nissan Sentra SR

Lease For: **\$139** per mo/39 mos.*
 \$2999 due at lease signing. Includes 1st mos. payment. No security deposit required.

OR \$500 REBATE^A
PLUS 0% APR For 60 mos.**



New 2010 Nissan Altima Sedan

Lease For: **\$209** per mo/39 mos.*
 \$2999 due at lease signing. Includes 1st mos. payment. No security deposit required.

OR \$1000 REBATE^A



New 2010 Nissan Rogue

Lease For: **\$209** per mo/39 mos.*
 \$2999 due at lease signing. Includes 1st mos. payment. No security deposit required.

OR \$500 REBATE^A



NISSAN CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

3.99% APR for 60 mos.***

THE ALL NEW Evanston NISSAN

1012 Chicago Avenue • Evanston 847-475-8200 **Autobarn** Dealership

www.autobarnnissan.com #1 Fastest Growing Nissan Store in IL for 2006, 2007 & 2008



*Closed end lease w/approved credit. Security deposit waived w/approved credit. Lessee responsible for excess wear, tear and/or mileage. **0% APR for 60 mos. = \$16.67 per \$1000 financed w/approved credit. ^{AA}0% APR on select models w/qual. credit. ^ATo qualified buyers w/approved credit. ***3.9 for 60 mos. = \$18.37 per \$1000 financed on 2007 and newer Nissan's w/approved credit. All rebates & incentive applied. Add tax, title, license and doc fee.

PunchDubDays  Das Auto.

With great deals on all 13 models, our pain is your gain.
 Text PUNCH to VWCARS (892277)* to learn about the PunchDub game.
*Standard message and data rates may apply.

0% APR from 60-72 mos.[^] 0% APR on 2010 Volkswagen Passat Sedan for 72 mos. Routan for 66 mos. Tiguan and GTI for 60 mos. thru VCI w/qual. credit. Offer ends 3/31/10.



2008 Volkswagen New Beetle Coupe ONLY 50 Miles, Stk#P13772 **\$16,997***

2006 Volkswagen Passat 3.6L Sport 31K Miles, Stk#P13482 **\$16,997***

2009 Volkswagen Routan Silver, 2K Mi, Stk#P13627 **\$18,997***

2009 Volkswagen CC Sport Iron Grey, Stk#P13664 **\$23,997***

2004 Volkswagen Phaeton w/2 Black, Stk#EV649A **\$28,997***

2008 Volkswagen R32 AWD, 19K Mi, Stk#P13776 **\$28,997***

PLUS \$500 AUTO SHOW COUPON
 On 2010 GTI. Expires 3/31/10.

the Autobarn Volkswagen **1033 Chicago Avenue Evanston 847-866-7600**
 www.vwofevanston.com

Over 200 Volkswagens In Stock!



[^]0% APR for 60 mos. = \$16.67 per \$1000 financed w/qual. credit on Tiguan and GTI. 0% APR for 66 mos. = \$18.37 per \$1000 financed w/qual. credit on 2010 Volkswagen Routan and 0% APR for 72 mos. = \$16.67 per \$1000 financed w/qual. credit on 2010 Volkswagen Passat. ^A2% APR for 48 mos. = \$22.09 per \$1000 financed w/qual. credit. *Pre-Certified pricing. **3.9% APR for 60 mos. = \$18.37 per \$1000 financed w/qual. credit. Add tax, title, license and doc fee. Dealer not responsible for pricing errors. Offer expires 03/01/10.

mazda

0% APR Financing^{AA} **90 Days until 1st Payment**

3 FOR ALL MAZDA 3 SALES EVENT

WE WANT YOUR TRADE IN!!

0% APR for 60 mos.^A on ALL 2010 MAZDA3's

PLUS \$500 Customer Cash^{AA}

PLUS \$500 Auto Show Bonus Cash on all in stock MAZDA3's

\$500 to \$1000 Owner Loyalty^{AAA}



2009 MAZDA5 Sport
 Auto Trans, Stk #PM13581, Vin#JM1CR293390341935

Buy For \$13,988



the Autobarn Mazda **1015 Chicago Avenue Evanston 847-866-9666**
 www.mazdaofchicagoland.com

#1 Volume Mazda Store in IL for 2006, 2007 & 2008 according to MNAO

Test Drive a Mazda Today!



*0% APR financing on select models with approved credit in lieu of rebates. **With approved credit. ^A0% APR for 60 mos. = \$16.67 per \$1000 w/approved credit. ^{AA}\$500-\$1000 rebate on 2010 MAZDA3 with approved credit. ^{AAA}Owner loyalty from \$500-\$1000 on select models with approved credit on current Mazda owners in the household. All rebates and incentives applied. Dealer not responsible for pricing errors in advertisement. Offer expires 3 days from date of publication.

WINDY CITY TIMES **index**

NEWS

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| N.Y. activists arrested | 4 |
| Possible gay judge | 4 |
| Liberation 2010 | 4 |
| Iowa's Lobby Day | 5 |
| Passages: Pierce | 5 |
| Man adds hate-crimes charge | 6 |
| Protest at Holy Name | 6 |
| Historian unveils research | 7 |
| Sweet Miss Giving's bakery | 8 |
| Noriega's aldermanic push | 9 |
| Quotelines | 9 |
| Views: Gomez, Mishleau | 10 |

ENTERTAINMENT

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Scottish Play Scott | 11 |
| Theater reviews | 12 |
| Patti LuPone interview | 13 |
| Mitchell Lichtenstein interview | 15 |
| Knight: Tears, Shutter | 16 |
| Books: Ties, Veritas | 17 |
| Business: Honoring Frida | 19 |
| Gay deaf firm's classes | 19 |
| Billy Masters | 21 |

OUTLINES

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Real estate; classifieds; Pets | 18 |
| Calendar Q | 20 |
| Sports: Gay wrestler | 22 |
| Sports: Hockey death | 22 |



The books *Ties That Bind*, written by Sarah Schulman (above), and Anne Laughlin's *Veritas* are reviewed this week. See page 17.



Rosalind Boyd (above) is one of the employees at Sweet Miss Giving's. See what makes this bakery so special on page 8.

Photo by Samuel Worley

Photos on left side of cover (from top): Photo of Patti LuPone by Brigitte LaCombe; Photo of confrontation between NYPD and activists by Jamie McGonnigal; photo of John D'Emilio by Hal Baim

DOWNLOAD THIS!
 Go to www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com to download complete issues of *Windy City Times* and *Nightspots*.
 Then click on any ad and be taken directly to the advertiser's Web site!

nightspots
EDGE ALLIANCE'S FAT BALL

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
ONLINE INDEX
SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

EdgeAlliance (formerly AIDSCare) held its annual Fat Saturday Ball this past weekend. See photos of the event online.



Photo by Steve Starr

GUITARIST SHARON ISBIN
SHOW #351
WindyQueercast
 queer and now
www.WindyCityQueercast.com

CITY OF HOD



Itay Hod (left) had quite a run as a reporter for LOGO. WCT talked with him as he ponders what's next.

Photo courtesy of Itay Hod

GETTING SIDETRACKED

Sandra Bernhard stopped by Boystown nightspot Sidetrack last week after performing at Lakeshore Theater.



Photo by Jerry Nunn

QueerTV Network
www.QueerTVNetwork.com
CHECK OUT OUR VIDEO CHANNEL FOR NEW VIDEOS WEEKLY
www.QueerTVNetwork.com

FALL IN LOVE ALL OGRE AGAIN

“A TRIUMPH OF COMIC IMAGINATION. ALTOGETHER IRRESISTIBLE!”

— USA TODAY



SHREK THE MUSICAL

Live On Stage

“TRUE HAPPINESS!”

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

ON SALE NOW
Limited Engagement
Begins July 13

800.775.2000 • BROADWAYINCHICAGO.com

Cadillac Palace

Tickets available at all Broadway In Chicago Box Offices or any Ticketmaster Outlet • Groups 15+: 312-977-1710



Four members of a new ACT UP-like group known as Queer Rising were arrested in Manhattan on Feb. 12 after chaining themselves to the entrance of the New York City Marriage Bureau. Photo by Jamie McGonnigal, www.TalkAboutEquality.org

Gays arrested at NYC marriage-license bureau

BY REX WOCKNER

Four members of a new ACT UP-like group known as Queer Rising were arrested in Manhattan on Feb. 12 after chaining themselves to the entrance of the New York City Marriage Bureau.

Alan Bounville, Jake Goodman, Justin Elzie and Gabriel Yuri Bollag sought equal marriage rights for same-sex couples.

Dozens of gay marriage supporters cheered them on.

Twenty same-sex couples went inside and tried to obtain marriage licenses. They were rebuffed.

A gay man and a lesbian then presented themselves as a faux couple, asked for a license and were given one.

"New York City is home to the Stonewall Riots and in that tradition we are here to say that equality doesn't arrive through the ballot box," said Queer Rising spokesperson Spring Super.

"The bankrupt strategy of putting all efforts into electing so-called friendly officials has failed," Super said. "We must shift to building a grassroots, national movement that demands full equality by any means necessary."

New York state recognizes same-sex marriages from other jurisdictions but does not allow them itself.

Same-sex marriage is legal in Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. It also is legal in Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain and Sweden—and in Argentina's Tierra del Fuego province. It will become legal in Washington, D.C., in March and in Portugal later this year.

Gay nominee to judgeship possible

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Of the 678 federal district court judges, guess how many have voluntarily identified themselves as being gay? Answer: One.

It is for that reason that there is cause for excitement that President Barack Obama may be on the verge of nominating another.

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., announced this month that he is recommending the president nominate openly gay attorney Daniel Alter to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York—which includes Manhattan and its environs.

That just happens to be the same district bench on which the nation's first, and thus far only, openly gay federal judge sits. Judge Deborah Batts became the first openly gay person appointed to a federal judgeship when, in 1994, she was appointed by then-President Bill Clinton.

The San Francisco Chronicle famously reported earlier this month that Vaughn Walker, the chief judge for the U.S. District Court for Northern California, "is himself gay." But Walker has not made any public disclosures, in the Chronicle or elsewhere, to confirm the paper's assertion.

Thus, Alter—if nominated and confirmed—would become the first openly gay man on any federal bench in the country.

Alter is national director of the civil-rights division of the Anti-Defamation League, where he has worked on issues such as hate crimes. He is a graduate of Yale Law School and clerked for two other Yale Law alumni, both appeals-court judges—one was appointed by Republican President George H.W. Bush, the other by Clinton.

Alter is no stranger to the district court. For six years, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, special-

izing in terrorism issues as well as First Amendment law.

Alter sought his appointment through the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund's Presidential Appointments Project, which has recorded more than 100 openly gay appointees to various administration positions thus far.

Schumer made his announcement in a statement to the Human Rights Campaign gala in New York Feb. 6 and through a press release Feb. 8, calling Alter a "brilliant attorney" with "extensive experience."

"I'm proud to nominate Daniel Alter, period," said Schumer. "But I am equally proud to nominate him because he is a history-maker who will be the first openly gay male judge in American history."

The Human Rights Campaign issued a press release putting its support behind Alter, calling him "eminently qualified."

U.S. senators often make recommendations to the president for judiciary appointments, but a president is under no obligation to accept those recommendations. But political observers have noted that President Obama has appeared to take such recommendations to heart.

White House LGBT spokesperson Shin Inouye said the White House had no comment on the possibility of the appointment at this point.

Last month, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California appointed transgender law professor Donna M. Ryu as a full-time magistrate judge for Oakland, California. Ryu is on the faculty of the University of California's Hastings College of the Law and was a founding member of the Berkeley Women's Law Journal.

The Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California is Vaughn Walker.

©2010 Keen News Service

LGBTQ spiritual confab in L.A.

A Chicago man is using his LGBTQ spiritual self to create a large spiritual conference in Los Angeles this spring.

"There's a cry for liberation coming from our souls," said Rev. Mark Anthony Lord, founder of the Bodhi Spiritual Center in Chicago. "It is no longer OK for us as LGBTQ people to hide, shrink or be ashamed of who we are. The truth is being gay is not a curse. It is a calling, a unique spiritual calling."

Lord founded the Bodhi Spiritual Center (www.bodhispiritualcenter.org) in Chicago, formerly the Chicago Center for Spiritual Living. Bodhi's upcoming conference is Liberation 2010, www.liberation2010.com, a trans-denominational LGBTQ spiritual event April 8-11 in Los Angeles. Speakers include Malidoma Some, Byron Katie, Gay Hendricks and August Gold, plus celebrity entertainers including Jason & deMarco, and some surprise performers.

"Liberation 2010 was created to empower LGBTQ people, families and friends to establish a greater sense of acceptance and affirmation and reveal the spiritual truths of love, joy and freedom that are the true nature of every person on this planet. And as a trans-denominational conference, it is open to and compatible with all belief systems," said Lord.

"Our society has, for generations, separated sexuality and spirituality—placing them at opposite ends of the spectrum. And because of rampant homophobic ideology, this separation can be even more pronounced in the LGBTQ community. Spirituality does not ask you to choose between your faith and your sexuality; it wants you to have both. People are searching for this kind of liberation," he added.

During his own childhood, Lord felt alone and persecuted for simply being himself. With no support but only ignorance and judgment from the Catholic community he grew up in, like many LGBTQ people he made a decision to "throw God out," since the only one he knew was external, fickle and severely homophobic. He packed up his feelings of isolation and brokenness and

ONLINE AT
WINDYCITYMEDIAGROUP.COM
NATIONAL NEWS



like many, left his small hometown for a bigger city where other gay people lived. The path was bumpy in the beginning filled with addiction, false pride and empty anonymous sex, he said. He eventually landed in a 12-step program, which is where Lord said the healing really began.

"And as much as the program helped me, I knew in order to save my life I had to find a God that worked for me: a God that loved me unconditionally and loved me as a gay man," Lord said. "Now I know that my [g]ayness and my Godness are one and the same. When I finally understood that, my life not only began to work, but flourished. I am a living example that anyone and everyone who wants an amazing spiritual life, integrated into every area of life can have it."

Lord explained the experience of Liberation 2010: "All of the speakers, authors, spiritual leaders and coaches at Liberation 2010 will offer unique perspectives for revealing and living in your greatness." Workshops with LGBTQ focused content will allow attendees to design their own weekend according to personal interests. Workshop topics include: Relationships, Parenting, 12 steps & Spirituality, Transgender Wholeness, Health & Wellness, Gay Men's issues, Bisexuality, Aging, Self-Acceptance and more.

Liberation 2010 is offering a unique program for LGBTQ youth ages 16-22. "The youth are vital to creating a powerful shift in the blending of LGBTQ sexuality with spirituality early in life. Understanding this, we have allocated funds to allow youth to attend the conference for free," Lord said.

Liberation 2010 LGBTQ Spiritual Conference is designed to be a "movement in magnificence" and is a springboard for "Liberation World," a global online network and a virtual community.

Lord continued, "The greatest story ever told isn't someone else's story that happened 2,000 years ago. It's your story."

Join Mark Anthony Lord and the Liberation 2010 team for a meet-and-greet at Center on Halsted, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 6-9:30 p.m. Hear why Liberation is "not simply a conference, but a movement in consciousness," according to the organizers.

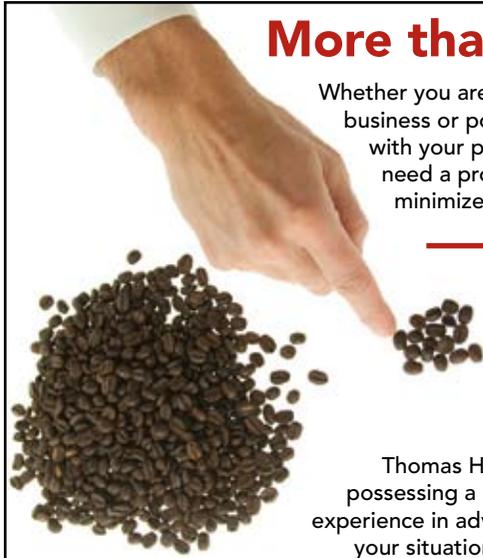
See www.liberation2010.com.

Designer McQueen found dead

British fashion designer Alexander McQueen apparently hanged himself in his London home, according to the Daily Mail. He was found Feb. 11, on the eve of his mother's funeral. McQueen, 40, had a reputation as an *enfant terrible*, but changed fashion in various ways, including using a double amputee as a runway model, according to the BBC. McQueen said that he realized his sexual orientation at an early age, telling British Vogue in 2002, "I came out really young. I was never in [the closet]. I was sure of myself and my sexuality and I've got nothing to hide."

More than a bean counter...

Whether you are an independent contractor, own your own business or possess investment and real estate assets with your partner, your finances are complicated. You need a professional knowledgeable to legally minimize your taxes at an affordable price.



THF
THOMAS H FRANKLIN
& ASSOCIATES LLC
Located in Lakeview



Thomas H. Franklin is just such a professional. Not only possessing a CPA and Masters in Tax, he has over 19 years experience in advising and preparing tax returns for people in your situation. For a free consultation, call 312-310-3171.

www.thomashfranklin.com



Gay-marriage advocates head toward the Iowa State Capitol for Lobby Day. Photo from Matthew Skuya

Fight over gay marriage continues in Iowa

BY WHITLEY KEMBLE

DES MOINES—The national debate over gay marriage continues to mount, and Iowa is among the main battlegrounds. Last week, there was a victory for same-sex-marriage advocates.

As the 13th annual national Freedom to Marry Week was underway last week, the right came under fire in Iowa when a proposal concerning last April's ruling in favor of same-sex marriage was up for vote in a "call of the House" Feb. 9.

The proposal in question, House Joint Resolution 6, requested that a debate over amending the Iowa Constitution's definition of marriage be put before the next general assembly. The amendment would strictly define marriage as a union between one man and one woman. The Iowa House rejected the proposal under a narrow 45-54 vote.

One Iowa, a gay-rights advocacy group, gathered at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines at 8 a.m. Feb. 10 to share their thoughts about why equal marriage rights were important.

"The day went really well," said One Iowa's field director, Matt Skuya. "We had over 100 people come in. We were able to talk to over 50 legislators (and) deliver over 300 stories from Iowans across the state."

Skuya has been with One Iowa for more than two years, and said that this was the most successful turnout yet. "We've had volunteers and field staff working five to seven days [a] week building support," he said. "It was a culmination of over eight months of hard work and dedication from people who really believe in this issue."

Iowa is one of just five states to recognize same-sex marriage. Gay marriage was legalized in the state less than a year ago, in a decision made by the Iowa Supreme Court in April 2009. While many were ecstatic about the decision, some Iowans expressed anger over not being given an opportunity to personally vote on the issue.

"Iowans have made it clear that they want a vote on the basic definition of marriage," Sen. Paul McKinley, R. Chariton, said in an interview with the Des Moines Register.

Current goals for Iowa's legislation are directed toward less "divisive social issues." Coincidentally, a small poll by the Des Moines Register showed that Iowans had bigger concerns for what should take up legislators' time. Equal marriage rights were ranked last, after texting while driving and legislation regarding puppy mills.

Whether other propositions will surface, only

time will tell. In the meantime, members of One Iowa encourage people to continue speaking out in the community, as oppositional pressure is likely to be high in the days to come.

"When you have this discussion," Skuya said, "it really comes down to the fact that we're a very progressive state in terms of civil rights. As time goes on, most people will realize how much of a victory it is for all Iowans. As long as we continue to hold on and make it more accepted in Iowa, we will see a change in the nation's dialogue as a whole."

"Our hope is that as we continue to have this conversation in Iowa going into the future, that public opinion will move forward. As more states come to this side of the issue, we're going to see changes in the nation's discussion about it," Skuya said.

For the time being, supporters of the movement can celebrate victory as Freedom to Marry Week draws to a close on Valentine's Day.

Hansberry, Brooks houses are landmarks

Chicago's city council voted Feb. 10 to designate the Lorraine Hansberry House, 6140 S. Rhodes, and the Gwendolyn Brooks House, 7428 S. Evans, official landmarks, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

Hansberry was a playwright who penned *A Raisin in the Sun*. The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame's Web site states that Hansberry—who died in 1965 at age 35—"was an early supporter of equal rights regardless of sexual orientation." According to the book *Out and Proud* in Chicago, Hansberry joined the lesbian-rights group Daughters of Bilitis in 1957 and later lived with other closeted lesbians in New York City's Greenwich Village. Feminist poet Brooks, who passed away in 2000 at age 83, was named the Library of Congress's poetry consultant in 1985, according to Poets.org.

The Hansberry House was nominated three years ago by a teacher, parents and students from the South Side's Amelia Earhart Elementary School, according to the Chicago Tribune.

The Sun-Times reported that the council also approved two other sites that are related to Chicago's Black Renaissance Literary Movement: the Richard Wright House, 4831 S. Vincennes, and the George Cleveland Hall Branch Library, 4801 S. Michigan.

Women's foundation honors 25 with Impact Awards

The Chicago Foundation for Women is honoring 25 Chicagoans with Impact Awards to mark the agency's 25th anniversary of providing funding for projects impacting women and girls.

"Join Chicago Foundation for Women as we celebrate 25 years of making a difference in the lives of women and girls and recognize 25 vi-

sionary women and men whose leadership and achievements are improving their Chicago-area neighborhood, community or workplace," the group stated.

Among the honorees are Windy City Times co-founder and Publisher Tracy Baim and other prominent LGBT activists including Jane Saks and Terry Cosgrove.

The complete list is: Gaylon Alcaraz; Veronica I. Arreola; Tracy Baim; Marca Bristo; Salome Chasnoff; Fay Clayton; Joyce Coffee; Terry Cosgrove; Patricia Crowley, OSB; Dr. Melissa Gilliam, MD, MPH; Samir Goswami; Joan M. Hall; Anne Ladky; Sharmili Majmudar; Soo Ji Min; Brenda Myers-Powell; Maria S. Pesqueira; Wendy Pollack; Diane Primo; Hedy M. Ratner; Daphnee Rene; Janice Rodgers; Sheli Z. Rosenberg; Ruth M. Rothstein; and Jane M. Saks.

The 2010 Impact Awards will be Wed., March 24 at the Chicago Cultural Center, 70 E. Washington. Tickets are \$25 for students, \$50 general admission and \$100 for patrons.

For more information and complete biographies of the winners, visit www.cfw.org/impact.



Jane Saks.



Rosemary Pierce.

PASSAGES

Rosemary Pierce

Rosemary Pierce, *nee* Soos, born July 24, 1933, died peacefully at home Feb. 8. She was preceded in death by her mother, father and brother.

Pierce was a beloved mother of five children: Donald Pierce, Ronald Pierce, Jo Preette, Sandy McMullen and Kim Pierce; grandmother of 10 and great grandmother of 11. Kim Pierce, a Chicagoan, was the owner of Out Spoken Bikes n' Stuff, a popular community bike shop for many years, and former business manager of Windy City Media Group.

Pierce worshiped at St. Andrews Catholic Church. She was a longtime, treasured Seatoncorp employee, and proudly served as election judge for the 44th Ward as an outspoken Democrat. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Cubs Care.

A lifelong Lakeview resident, she was the family's number-one Cub fan.



10,000 dogs. 161 breeds.

The International Kennel Club

DOG SHOW

February 26-28
McCormick Place Lakeside Center

Tickets are just \$17.
Children under twelve get in FREE.

Experience one of the largest dog shows in the country, where more than 10,000 purebred dogs breeds will demonstrate their skills in a variety of competitions.

Meet the dogs and their handlers, visit dog-related vendors, and experience special events like Earth Dog and the Canine Drill Team!

"Meet the Breeds" schedule now online!
www.ikcdogshow.com



sponsored by



Hate-crimes charge added to HIV+ man's suit

BY ANDREW DAVIS

In a case in which an HIV-positive Blue Island man has filed a complaint against the city of Blue Island and two of its police officers, a judge has allowed the plaintiffs to file a hate-crimes count.

Demetrius Anderson—in a suit filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern District—said that on April 20, 2009, he attempted to stab himself in the chest with knife. (Anderson claimed he suffered from clinical depression and anxiety.) After his sister summoned an ambulance, Anderson informed the emergency medical technicians of his HIV status.

Anderson, according to the complaint, started to panic as they neared the ambulance, and he started running. Two policemen, identified as Officers Benton and Podbielniak, gave chase and eventually apprehended him. Anderson claimed that the officers handled him so roughly as they handcuffed him that, among other things, he suffered numbness in his right hand.

Anderson also alleged that the officers verbally assaulted him, saying, among other things, that the plaintiff would have nightmares for the remainder of his life because of his HIV status.

Federal Judge Charles P. Kocoras has granted the plaintiffs' motion to file a hate-crimes charge in addition to the other allegations. The amended complaint contains a charge that the defendants violated the Illinois Hate Crimes Act.

In an e-mail to Windy City Times, civil-rights attorney Jon Erickson said, "Hate crime disguised as police work is still a hate crime. This situation called for first-aid and crisis intervention, but what [Demetrius] got was unimaginable hate, bigotry and emotional and physical

violence. The extreme and outrageous conduct of these officers makes clear that Blue Island is wholly ignorant to the issues of race, suicide, HIV and gay youth."

Erickson added that research has shown that this is the first time a hate-crimes statute based on sexual orientation, mental disability, religion or HIV status has been used in a federal civil-rights suit.

Meister, war vet challenge Kirk's DADT stance

In a Feb. 12 conference call, former Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Jacob Meister and Iraq War veteran Trevor Montgomery questioned Republican U.S. Senate candidate Mark Kirk regarding why he does not think "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) should be repealed, according to a press release.

Montgomery said, "As someone who has served my country on the front lines in Iraq, I can honestly say it's clear that Mark Kirk is out of touch with what's in the best interest of our national security. No soldier should have to lie about who they are in order to serve our country. At a time when we need all of the talent and resources we can get to defend our country, shame on Mark Kirk for choosing politics over the right thing to do."

Meister, who is openly gay, added, "This policy weakens our national security and Mark Kirk and John McCain are clearly not listening to the military leaders who all agree that Don't Ask, Don't Tell is not working."

Current Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Alexi Giannoulias, Meister and Montgomery agreed with recent statements from former Secretary of State Colin Powell and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen, who said that DADT should be repealed.

Common Threads event March 1

In a joint event, Common Threads founder Art Smith will share his 50th birthday celebration with Common Threads' World Festival 2010 Monday, March 1, at Soldier Field, 1410 S. Museum Campus, 6-9 p.m.

Dozens of chefs are slated to participate in this year's event, including Top Chef's Carla Hall, Gale Gand of TRU, Stephanie Izard of Girl & The Goat, Graham Elliot Bowles of Graham Elliot, Mark Mendez of Carnivale and Sarah Grueneberg of Spiaggia.

VIP access includes a pre-event cocktail reception at 5 p.m. and an after-party at The James Hotel at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$250-\$500 each; see www.CommonThreads.org.

For more information, contact Linda Vavra at 312-996-6354.

Correction

Blair Mishleau should have credited with the byline regarding the article on the "What is justice for the Black gay man?" forum that took place Jan. 28. Windy City Times regrets the error.

PROTEST from cover

comes to opposing equal rights for gays within the Church.

"Our goal here today is to pull Cardinal George and the Catholic leadership out of the closet for their anti-gay bigotry. You don't see the Catholic leadership out on the frontlines opposing our equal rights. What is happening, though, is that they're quietly and effectively lobbying legislators against equal rights for gay people. We want to make everyone aware of that because it's not right," Thayer said.

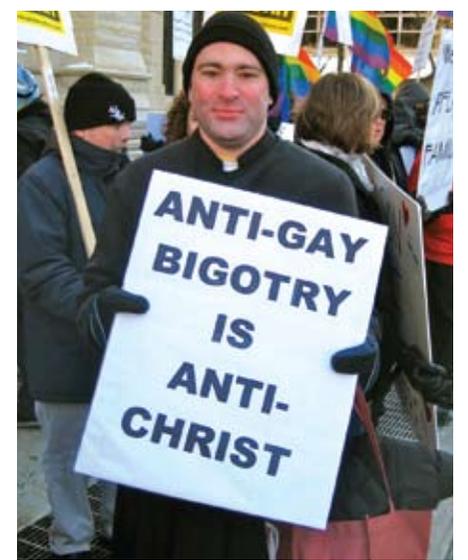
As reported by Windy City Times, George has been proactive against gay rights in the past, including attempts to remove the LGBT community as a protected class in the Illinois Human Rights Act. And, last November, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, which George leads, issued a 60-page pastoral letter on the subject of marriage. On the issue of same-sex marriage it stated the following:

"The legal recognition of same-sex unions poses a multifaceted threat to the very fabric of society, striking at the source from which society and culture come and which they are meant to serve. Such recognition affects all people, married and non-married: not only at the fundamental levels of the good of the spouses, the good of children, the intrinsic dignity of every human person, and the common good, but also at the levels of education, cultural imagination and influence, and religious freedom."

A GLN press release issued Feb. 15 highlighted what it perceives as George's attempts to "block our path to full legal equality." The release cited a Huffington Post report showing George criticizing a Washington, D.C.-area ministry that bills itself as gay-inclusive. GLN also stated that George is opposed to providing the LGBT community with "equal access to jobs, housing and access to public accommodations."

As parishioners came and went and protesters waved their flags, the mood was, for the most part, peaceful. Some protesters held signs that read "Catholic and Gay—I was born this way." Others read, "I'm a proud PFLAG Mom!" Only a few people stopped to voice their annoyance with the demonstrators.

Toni Weaver, a mother who is a member of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), told Windy City Times that there were two types of approaches used during the



Michael Oboza at the protest. Photo by John Fenoglio

demonstration: "The first is the obvious: the in-your-face yelling and screaming, confrontational approach. The other group stood quietly in a line, facing the street, backs to the cathedral doors, holding signs that called the church out on its bigotry using the church's own language."

Weaver also described her PFLAG contingent and the reason it came out to protest: "Our group of 11 contained three women who hold masters degrees in either theology or pastoral studies (I'm the one with the theology degree) for whom this protest was a vital way of expressing our anger at the church in which we've labored the better part of our lives, the church that has betrayed us."

Also attending the picket line was Brother Michael Oboza, an orthodox Catholic monk and founder of Straight and Gay Alliance Ministry, which provides outreach to homeless youth. He offered this perspective on the day's events:

"If we want to be equal and be treated with respect, if we're yelling at people without any real dialogue, then we're not really respecting them. I think if we can find a way to all educate each other, without saying to one another 'you're a sinner for being in this church' or 'you're a sinner for being gay', I think we'll be a lot better off. At the very least, we could all learn a lot more if we closed our mouths a little and opened our ears and our hearts."



Protester at the Holy Name Cathedral demonstration. Photo by John Fenoglio

2010 Census Workers!!!

Recruiting Part-Time, Temporary

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Crew Leaders | Census Takers | Office Clerks |
| Assistant Crew Leaders | | Recruiting Assistants |

Apply Now! Take the Census Test

For Testing Locations

Call **866-861-2010**

Or visit our website:

<http://2010censusjobs.gov>

Applicants must pass a **Written Test** and **Background Check** and bring **2 forms of identification** to the testing session.

Acceptable forms of identification and our practice test can be found on our website.

United States[®]
Census
2010

The US Census Bureau does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, age, membership in an employee organization, or other non-merit factors.

Gay historian unveils research

BY YASMIN NAIR



John D'Emilio.
Photo by Hal Baim

John D'Emilio, professor of gay history and women's studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), presented his latest research on Chicago's gay history Feb. 9 at the university's Institute for the Humanities, where he currently holds a yearlong fellowship. Speaking to a packed room, D'Emilio gave a speech provocatively titled "Rethinking Queer History. Or, Richard Nixon, Gay Liberationist."

D'Emilio has written a wide range of books covering a wide range of various aspects of gay history in this country. In 1983, he published *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority in the United States, 1940-1970*. Among other things, that book established a particular view of how gay history was made: Over and over, gays and lesbians confronted head-on the conditions of invisibility and adversity that confronted them and set about dismantling heteronormative and patriarchal power structures until they achieved visibility and greater access to power.

But did gay history always work this way? Was change in the material conditions of gays and lesbians always due to their overt acts of resistance and organizing or were there, perhaps, sometimes political and institutional forces beyond their control that inadvertently determined changes in their political and cultural lives?

According to D'Emilio, his project began as an attempt to construct an accessible but informative guide to gay history of the 1960s and '70s for his undergraduate students. He decided to research Chicago history because "Chicago is often the representative city," as its issues are so often symptomatic of issues across the United

States. The more he dug around, the more he found that his "findings were not fitting into the interpretative patterns" established by gay histories of the past, including his own.

D'Emilio discussed Stonewall as an example of a classic moment of gay history that reaffirms a popular idea about the days-long event: That it sparked a "collective rebellion against established authority." Stonewall became a potent symbol in this cosmology of gay history, and has been read as paving the way for the more "rowdy and disruptive" actions of the Gay Liberation-inflected politics of the 1970s.

Also in the 1970s, the recording of gay history became a potent political project for numbers of gays and lesbians, who were determined to "help break the silence by uncovering a hidden history of same sex love and gender transgression not written before." Work like *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community* by Elizabeth Kennedy and Madeline Davis, helped further the notion of gay and lesbian history as a series of self-conscious acts of resistance that would pave the way for the greater visibility of the future.

In their book, Kennedy and Davis looked at the working-class lesbian community of Buffalo, N.Y., and the way that lesbians there aggressively sought to assert their identity and community, going so far as to physically defend their bars and social spaces from heterosexual male intruders. Such work established a long-stand-

ing paradigm of community self-affirmation and resistance that would endure in gay history. D'Emilio's work and that of Alan Berube, among others, also echoed this particular narrative of gay history.

But looking at the period of the 1970s in Chicago, D'Emilio found historical material that contradicted such ideas of gays and lesbians deliberately and successfully effecting change in their world. He recounted the history of gay and lesbian bars in Chicago which, from the 1930s on, flourished in both the predominantly African-American spaces of the South Side as well as the largely white areas of the North Side.

But gays and lesbians in these spaces were also routinely harassed and subject to arbitrary laws that policed supposed gender transgression in clothing: Lesbians could be arrested for wearing trousers with flies in the front. Through the years, the infamous level of corruption in Chicago, especially in the administration of Richard J. Daley, combined with newspapers that continually exposed—and effectively ruined—the lives of gay men and women arrested in gay bars.

Then, in the 1970s, "police harassment in Chicago plummets." This allowed for the development of Lakeview, including the establishment of a gay business corridor, resulting in the eventual creation of "Boystown."

All of this seems in line with classic gay histories. Given the rise of the Gay Liberation Front in Chicago, along with the sweeping changes in social and sexual mores of the era, it seems logical to think that the subsiding of police harassment of gay bars in the 1970s came about because of the radical militancy and demands of a louder and stronger gay community.

And yet, said D'Emilio, the "lesbians and gay men had practically nothing to do" with the end of police harassment. Instead, there was "a much larger story of corruption, bribery, organized crime and the political machinery of Mayor Daley." Police officers in the districts with entertainment centers and gay bars could easily expect payoffs. In light of the force of rampant

corruption, "a few hundred ragtag hippie gay liberationists had no capacity to modify police practices."

So what did bring about a near-cessation of police harassment? According to D'Emilio, the election of Nixon in 1968, the first Republican president in decades, brought about the change. Nixon came to office determined to strike a forceful blow against Daley, then described as the second most powerful Democrat in the country.

The U.S. Attorney General (AG), emboldened by the Nixon administration, "opened an investigation into the killings of Black Panthers in 1969" and issued a "scathing report on Daley's birthday" that resulted in the indictment of 13 police officers. As D'Emilio pointed out, the AG was hardly likely to have done this out of sympathy for the Panthers; the motivation for the investigation was clearly to embarrass Daley. The entire case was extensively covered in the local and national press.

Considering the implications for gay history in this research, D'Emilio asked, "Does this mean that the earlier work with lesbians and gays at the center of history is no longer true?" Not really. D'Emilio went on to state that seeing "queer stories in a larger political economy makes these stories less ghettoized" and more understandable "in the larger context of U.S. history." Returning to Stonewall, he pointed out that the incident did not happen in a vacuum inhabited only by gay and trans people of color. In fact, in the months preceding the event, Black and Puerto Rican students (the ethnic minorities who were among the majority of the transgressors in Stonewall) had been agitating for changing admission rules in the City University of New York: "In that story, on that island, this group of people is already fighting the city."

A videorecording of the talk can be found on the Web site of the Institute for the Humanities (www.uic.edu/depts/huminst/media/videoaudiolist.shtml).

YOU CAN DO THIS.

NO MATTER HOW BUSY YOU ARE.

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR UNDERGRAD DEGREE WAS IN.

NO MATTER HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE YOU CRACKED A TEXTBOOK.

AND WE WILL BE HERE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY TO HELP YOU TRANSFORM YOURSELF AND YOUR WORLD.

Through The Chicago School's Online Campus, you can launch a more inspiring career than you ever imagined. You'll complete your coursework when it's convenient for you. You'll receive a personal advisor supporting you every step of the way. Begin your incredible transformation today at the nation's leading accredited graduate university of psychology.

Visit thechicagoschool.edu to request a prospectus booklet and read the inspiring stories of people like you who are already changing their lives and their world.

 **TheChicagoSchool**[®]
of Professional Psychology
Chicago • Southern California • Online

thechicagoschool.edu 800.721.8072

ON THE RED CARPET

CENTER ON HALSTED
OSCAR PARTY 2010

SUNDAY, MARCH 7
INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM, 6PM
FAIRMONT CHICAGO MILLENNIUM PARK HOTEL

Featuring Complimentary Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres
VIP Tickets: \$150 includes reserved table seating and cocktail service.
General Admission: \$75
Attire: Absolutely Fabulous of Course!

For more information or to reserve tickets visit www.centeronhalsted.org
or call 773.661.0787



From left: Rosalind Boyd, an employee of Sweet Miss Giving's, and company founder the Rev. Stan Sloan. Left photo by Samuel Worley, right photo courtesy of Sloan

Bakery is sweet relief for its workers

BY SAMUEL WORLEY

Sweet Miss Giving's, a project of Chicago House, recently celebrated one year as an operational bakery that trains and employs formerly homeless people and people with HIV/AIDS. Particularly within the context of a major economic recession, Sweet Miss Giving's growth has been remarkable: It has enrolled 49 interns in its baking program and established business relationships with such institutions as Boeing; Microsoft; Whole Foods; and Northwestern and Loyola universities.

After having done mostly catering and private accounts, Sweet Miss Giving's recently opened its first retail space in the Chicago French Market, the new venture located downtown in the Ogilvie Transportation Center, 500 W. Madison.

"We created a new model," said Chicago House CEO and Sweet Miss Giving's founder Rev. Stan Sloan. Sloan said that the concept of social enterprise—blending business with social concern—is "usually unsuccessful ... [Most social enterprises] tend to treat interns like social service clients, not employees."

The initiation of the project was grant-funded with the help of U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, who, according to the bakery's Web site, sought to identify and alleviate the most "desperate needs" of Chicago House's clientele—which turned out to be the lack of employment opportunities. Sloan said that once the decision was

made to create a baking enterprise, the project received private funding from a number of investors interested in its mission—who Sloan characterized as "a group of men who believed in us."

Despite the faltering economy, Sloan said, the food sector was still anticipated to be in "growth mode" for the next decade. As to the decision to focus specifically on baked goods, he said, "There is something so very healing, or therapeutic, about baking."

Those who intern at Sweet Miss Giving's—some of whom go on to full employment with the bakery or elsewhere—are filtered through Chicago House, which provides housing and services for people affected by HIV/AIDS. Sloan said that interns undergo a six-week training program, followed by a six-month paid internship at the bakery, which operates out of a kitchen on Goose Island.

Chicago House provides counseling along the way, along with help in finding stable jobs for its interns. In addition to providing employment opportunities, more than half of the revenue brought in by the sale of Sweet Miss Giving's pastries goes back to help fund programming and services at Chicago House.

Sweet Miss Giving's opened Oct. 13, 2008. Sloan said that in January 2009, the bakery's revenues were about \$6,000. By December, Sweet Miss Giving's was earning over \$70,000. The bakery employs a full-time staff of eight, including Kristi Gorsuch, a pastry chef who serves as its production manager.

"We want to keep growing," said Sloan. As Sweet Miss Giving's establishes more accounts and increases its output—the freezers and refrigerators are regularly near capacity, though

the ovens are not—Sloan said, "We're still optimistic that we're very much in growth mode."

And the bakery has recently gained at least one high-profile fan: in town in November to inaugurate Chicago House's Annual Speaker Series, Bill Clinton was asked his thoughts on Sweet Miss Giving's. "This is the best example anywhere in the country of all the AIDS outreach efforts that I am aware of," said the former president.

See www.sweetmissgivings.com.

Freedom to Marry at museum Feb. 18

Pro-LGBT organization Lambda Legal, along with partner and sponsor groups, are hosting the 9th Annual Freedom to Marry Reception Thursday, Feb. 18, 6-9 p.m., at The National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th.

There will be cake-cutting, an open bar, music by DJ Harry T and a special performance of "Let Them Eat Cake," created by Holly Hughes and Megan Carney with Maureen Angelos and an ensemble of local artists and activists.

RSVP at www.lambdalegal.org/events.



The 2009 Freedom to Marry reception. Photo by Emmanuel Garcia

YPS/DCFS retreat Feb. 20

Youth Pride Services (YPS)—which focuses on minority LGBT youth—is teaming with state and city youth-protection agencies for a unprecedented daylong retreat Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Hyde Park Art Center, 5020 S. Cornell, and YPS, 5480 S. Kenwood.

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has been invited to conduct the morning session for youth at 11 a.m. Youth 13-17 and young adults 18-20 will participate in

the formation of a new "Speak Up, Speak Out" Campaign that will focus on LGBT youth of color. After a light lunch, those who work with youth from other organizations, peer educators, as well as YPS staff and volunteers (who have been mandated to attend by YPS) will attend a similar session designed for them.

E-mail youthpridecenter@gmail.com for more information.

ECC names new executive director

The Edgewater Community Council's (ECC's) board of directors has voted unanimously to hire Jason Liechty as its permanent executive director.

Liechty, a longtime resident of Edgewater, was previously the director of policy for former Cook County Commissioner Mike Quigley, whose office he joined in 2002. Liechty, a Wisconsin native, joined the ECC board of directors in 2004 and had been serving as its chair since January 2008.

SAGE from cover

a tremendous affirmation of the great work that SAGE has accomplished in its 12 years of serving LGBT older adults. ... We really are very excited. In my opinion, receiving [the grant] is indicative of a growing awareness of the unique needs and strengths of LGBT seniors."

In a statement to Windy City Times, Quigley said, "I firmly believe that federal dollars should not be used to curry political favor with private companies but rather have a direct impact on local families by funding worthwhile public or non-profit projects. That's why I'm proud to be able to provide support for critical community programs like Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders at the Center on Halsted. SAGE directly addresses the unique challenges of LGBT seniors by seeking to assist and improve their quality of life, which has often been marked by discrimination and inequity. I will never stop fighting for equality and treasure the opportunity of representing SAGE in my district."

Federal funds to support LGBT elders are rare. In 2009, the U.S. Administration on Aging funded a \$1.2-million, three-year grant for the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center. On Feb. 10, 2010, HHS awarded a \$900,000 three-year grant to New York City's SAGE in order to create the first and only national resource center on LGBT aging.

According to a 2008 Newsweek article, persons in the United States who are 65 and older are expected to grow from about 12 to 20 percent of the total population, and LGBT individuals will make up 7 to 10 percent of that senior population.



Serena Worthington. Photo by Hal Baim



Have your premiums increased recently?

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

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

Friday, Feb. 19
7:30 p.m.
Robyn Okrant
Living Oprah: My
One-Year Experiment to
Walk the Walk of
the Queen of Talk

Saturday, Feb. 20
Sappho's Salon: A
Provocative Night of
Lesbian Diversions
Featuring Ifa Bumi,
Barrie Cole and
DJ SpinNikki



5233 N. Clark
(773) 769-9299

WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST
FEMINIST BOOKS • CHICAGO

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

Select Italy Travel
Rome
Florence
Venice
You're definitely not in Kansas anymore!
IGITA
Your Italian travel experts since 1997
303 W. Erie Suite 410
Chicago, IL 60654
www.selectitaly.com/wct
800-877-1755



Mona Noriega.

Noriega continues push for alderman

Longtime Chicago Latina lesbian activist Mona Noriega is continuing her push to be appointed by Mayor Richard Daley to fill the post vacated by incumbent Manny Flores. Whoever is appointed—and there are rumored to be 14 people seeking the post—would have to run for re-election in 2011 along with the 49 other city alderpersons.

If she is not appointed, Noriega will decide at that point if she will run for the seat anyway. For now, Noriega is urging letters of support be sent to Daley's office.

"I submitted a letter of intent and a resume two weeks ago and [Feb. 9] I was interviewed in the city's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs," Noriega wrote in a letter to supporters. "I discussed my experience, issues facing the ward, why I feel I would be the best representative, and the intense public scrutiny that public officials must live with. Mayor Daley has 60 days in which to make the appointment, but it will be weeks before I will hear anything."

Noriega said she will "continue to meet with residents and organized interests in the 1st Ward as well as politicians in the neighboring wards and overlapping jurisdictions."

She said that an important indicator of local support are letters to Mayor Daley stating why he should select her above other possible candidates. "If you believe I can add value to the City of Chicago and the 1st Ward, especially if you are a resident of the 1st Ward, and you believe I would be a good choice for the Mayor, please let

him know," she said.

Letters of support can be sent to: Mayor Richard Daley, City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle, room 507, Chicago, Ill., 60602.

Equality confab March 12-14

The Equality Across America Midwest Regional Conference will take place March 12-14 at Columbia College. The theme is "Unite and Fight: Strategizing for LGBTQ Civil Rights and Equality."

Among the expected speakers are performance poet and activist Staceyann Chin; discharged U.S. Army officer Dan Choi; and Adam Bouska, a photographer who created the "NO H8" campaign.

See equalityacrossamerica.org/conference/. For more information, e-mail midwestea@gmail.com.

Chicago Takes Off back March 6

Co-chairs Adam Colangelo, Kyle Heath, Dan Paterno and Paul Trout will host the 4th annual Chicago Takes Off. A production of HIV/AIDS agency Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN), this year's event will again be expanded to two shows, 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m., at the Park West, 322 W. Armitage.

This year's theme is "TV LAND: Outside the Box," which will incorporate naughty twists to classic shows. Chicago Takes Off has raised more than \$300,000 for TPAN, making it the second-largest fundraiser for the organization.

Tickets are \$50-\$300 each. Visit www.ChicagoTakesOff.org or www.TPAN.com.

Sober lesbian/bi group forms

A group that focuses on lesbians/bisexuals and sobriety has formed in Chicago. The group, which already has 35 members, is ideal for women who are looking to meet people in an alcohol-free atmosphere.

Visit www.meetup.com/Sober-lesbians/photo/s/?photoId=10660262&photoAlbumId=710788.

QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

"PRESIDENT OBAMA TONIGHT VOWED THIS YEAR TO WORK WITH CONGRESS and the military to finally repeal the reprehensible ban on openly lesbian, gay and bisexual service members. While we know the State of the Union speech aims to present broad visions, the next time President Obama speaks to or about our community, he must provide a concrete blueprint for his leadership and action moving forward—this includes his willingness to stop the discharges happening on his watch until Congress can fulfill its responsibility to overturn the law. The time for broad statements is over. The time to get down to business is overdue. We wish we had heard him speak of concrete steps tonight." — *National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Rea Carey, Jan. 27.*

"THERE HAVE BEEN CLAIMS THAT TELEVISIONING THE COURTROOM PROCEEDING (in the federal Prop 8 trial) would somehow be unfair to defenders of Proposition 8, the California ballot initiative that banned same-sex marriage. They are hazy and unsubstantiated and vastly outweighed by the strong public interest in the airing of a major civil-rights issue. But the (U.S.) Supreme Court's majority bought the false argument." — *New York Times editorial, Jan. 14.*

"SPEAKING FOR MYSELF AND MYSELF ONLY, IT IS MY PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BELIEF THAT ALLOWING HOMOSEXUALS to serve openly would be the right thing to do. No matter how I look at the issue, I cannot escape being troubled by the fact that we have in place a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens. For me, it comes down to integrity—theirs as individuals and ours as an institution. I also believe the great young men and women of our military can and would accommodate such a change. I never underestimate their ability to adapt. That there will be some disruption in the force I cannot deny. That there will be legal, social and perhaps even infrastructure changes to be made certainly seems plausible. We would all like to have a better handle on these types of concerns. And that is what our review will offer." — *Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen to the Senate Armed Services Committee, Feb. 2.*

"WE MAY DISAGREE ABOUT GAY MARRIAGE BUT SURELY WE CAN AGREE THAT it is unconscionable to target gays and lesbians for who they are—whether it's here in the United States or, as Hillary mentioned, more extreme-

ly in odious laws that are being proposed, most recently in Uganda." — *President Barack Obama at the National Prayer Breakfast, Feb. 4.* Uganda's pending "Anti-Homosexuality Bill 2009" would imprison for life anyone convicted of "the offense of homosexuality," punish "aggravated homosexuality"—including repeat offenders and anyone who is HIV-positive and has gay sex—with the death penalty, forbid "promotion of homosexuality" and incarcerate gay-rights defenders, and jail individuals for up to three years if they fail to report within 24 hours the existence of all LGBT people and LGBT sympathizers they know of.

"I WENT IN WITH THE BEGINNER'S MIND. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW. I never



Allowing homosexuals to serve openly would be the right thing to do.

—Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen



imagined 4,036 (same-sex) couples getting married over a month. (Y)ou just couldn't escape from the perception 'he's just a single-issue person.' I remember standing there at the window, and I swear to you, I resigned myself to not even being re-elected mayor. This is a much more conservative town than people give it credit for." — *San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom to The New York Times, Jan. 19.*

"BEFORE PROP 8 PASSED, WE WERE PLANNING TO GO TO EUROPE IN 2010. The shock of losing our marriage rights caused us to rethink our priorities as an organization. Upon reflection, we have decided to eat our vegetables before having dessert. ... We believe to accept us, you have to know us." — *San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus Executive Director Teddy Witherington on the chorus's recent performances in the California cities of Chico and Redding, and upcoming concerts in Bakersfield, Fresno and Tracy.*

"I'M NOT A POSTER CHILD FOR GAY RIGHTS BY ANY MEANS, but I have so many gay and lesbian friends and they're just so pure and so true. That's not politics to me. That's human rights." — *Dolly Parton to London's Times, Jan. 22.*

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

Protest for diversity



Students demonstrated outside of the University of Illinois at Chicago's University Hall in support of the Centers for Diversity (Latino Cultural Center, African-American Cultural Center, Asian American Resource and Cultural Center, Gender & Sexuality Center, and Women's Leadership and Resource Center) Feb. 10. Due to the state's budget crises, the centers face severe permanent budget cuts, which would significantly affect student academic success and safety, faculty instruction and staff productivity. Many diverse student communities came together for the demonstration. Some of the student organizers identify as LGBTQ and straight allies. Community organizations such as Join the Impact and Gay Liberation Network also supported the students. Photos by Liz Thomson

Brothas Saving Brothas

Be Part of a Bonding Experience Where You Will

- ♂ Receive great incentives for time spent!
- ♂ Experience a free, everlasting retreat with other men of color.



For information, contact BEHIV at 773.293.4740 ext. 29

Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV) www.behiv.org




GABRIEL GOMEZ

Remembering Danny

The following talk, "Remembering Danny," was given at a Feb. 5 tribute to Danny Sotomayor, a Chicago AIDS activist who died 18 years ago. Sotomayor's editorial cartoons and photos are on display at the Institute of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture through early March. The talk and *Short Fuse*, a film about Sotomayor, were also at the institute.

How do we commemorate or remember someone?

It can be hard.

First there's the sadness that comes from remembering, the grief and the loss, but you can't stop there because Danny is not just someone we lost.

We can't lose the value of his work, what it meant and what it inspired. Work that was integral to a life lived fighting for change, dignity, and justice.

We can't forget any of that.

Grief can't overshadow what he did and who he was because Danny provoked us then and now to think, to get angry, to act up.

Remembering the good about him is easy. His good friends, including Lori Cannon and Victor Salvo, can tell you about his charm, humor, and not the least his good looks and—I have to say it—his sexiness.

There was his joy in life so evident in his love for Scott McPherson, author of *Marvin's Room*. I'm sure you've heard of that movie from the play with Meryl Streep, Leonardo DiCaprio, Diane Keaton and Robert De Niro. Yes, I know the Oscar girls are already thinking, "Oh, that's the role Diane won an Oscar for."

Well, remembering Danny, commemorating him, saying these few things, doesn't just make me sad.

I get angry.

He had it all.

The first nationally syndicated gay cartoonist, a Latino, Puerto Rican and Mexican, real Chicago, from Humboldt Park—so that's why he's going home now, after all this time, to the place that gave him a rich background, and his strength.

Remembering more, I get angrier.

His cartoons debuted in January 1989, then syndication in 1991—and gone Feb. 5, 1992.

And you can see his work, now, in Humboldt Park, at The Institute for Puerto Rican Arts & Culture, where a community is ready to claim him as a hero.

Things have changed.

It can be hard to believe just how much things have changed. Back then there was talk of tattooing and quarantining people with AIDS. So-called religious people openly blamed entire communities for getting sick and led a charge to harm them even further, to destroy them. Our own president [Ronald Reagan] couldn't bring himself to address what we all now accept as a public health crisis, and not the judgment of a vengeful God.

Now, Danny's humor and politics, his passion to change things fast—that all can come home.

He couldn't wait for this time. He had to get things done fast and all that was cut short by hate.

But that just made him angry and determined.

That brings me to something I know I can't forget.

We should be commemorating someone alive in this room, right now.

Danny not only had it all, the richness of who he was, the love of family like Scott and his friends, the talent, the career in a trail he blazed all himself, despite all this, he was up against it, big things, things he met with activism.


Danny Sotomayor.

ing on a specific topic. The institute I chose was focused on new media, and it felt like a three-credit class crammed into one day. I loved it.

After this cultural immersion of sorts, the rest of the days at the conference were filled with dozens of different workshops, leadership development sessions and several film screenings.

There were so many cute boys and so little time. Dallas—also known as the "big D"—had certainly delivered on that front. My roommates and I shared a table at the food court each day for lunch and talked about who had checked us out, chatted us up or asked for phone digits.

As you walked through the hotel lobby, the pink lanyard everyone wore for the conference acted as an instant gaydar, and you could literally feel the massive amount of "checking out" being done through the area.

The best session I attended was an excellent workshop called "Would Jesus Discriminate?" Led by a local Metropolitan Community Church in Dallas, it gave so much insight into how to approach the conservative wing of Christianity. It focused on having loving, meaningful discussions with everyone, no matter how different your beliefs may be.

This was a breath of fresh air, as the LGBT community sometimes chooses to hold an angry protest instead of sitting down individually with the opposition to change hearts and mind one at a time. I'm a fan of the latter, as I feel personalizing an issue helps create cultural change.

Those things he fought—well, I won't lecture on politics—let's just say Danny fought indifference and hate.

Danny, the totality of his life and work was engaged in a fight to get what came for him too late: treatments for HIV, justice and the right to be here for those who didn't count, gay men like him.

Remembering this is everything because as I get older, in good health, feeling comfortable, even like I belong here—it's something Danny fought for, and we're still fighting for...

When I wonder how come I can't marry my German boyfriend and bring him here...

And I feel like I'm just surviving.

Then I look at Danny's life, that despite everything, the hard, work, the struggle, the talent—Danny's gone.

People can be harmed and even destroyed because of who they are.

Just this week our Congress is debating "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"—you know, the law from our dear friend Bill Clinton, a law that destroys people because of who they are.

More than 13,000 lost their jobs. There's a jobs program Congress. Are you listening?

Well, remembering Danny and who he was, that's everything.

Because when he was up against it, laws that enshrine hate because so many are indifferent, Danny took all that he had, and did all that he could.

He got angry, he fought back, he acted up and fought AIDS.

And no one can take that from us. And that's what we commemorate—his life, a life of struggle against it all, the life of a hero.

In the early 1990s, Gabriel Gomez was a member of ACT-UP Chicago, though he became more widely known for his collaborative video work with Queer Nation Chicago and the Joan Jett Blakk campaigns for mayor of Chicago and president of the United States. Joan, a Black drag queen, was a spokesmodel that Queer Nation used to lampoon the exclusion of LGBT candidates and issues from electoral politics. After Gomez finished his Ph.D. program at Northwestern in 1996 he went into teaching and, today, he is a full professor in the Library, Information and Media Studies Dept. at Chicago State University.

Photo of Gomez by Tracy Baim

A personal highlight outside of the conference itself was exploring the Dallas gayborhood. While Chicago has Boystown, Dallas has more of a "Boysblock." As a local friend drove me to it, the 'hood was over before I saw it. The bars, however, were totally decent. One, Roundup, offered a deliciously Texan gay experience, complete with country music and cowboys.

The others were in a more traditional gay style, but still had a bit of a Texas charm. I watched an excellent drag show at S4, and was delighted to find out that Lady Gaga performed at the venue before she hit mega-stardom.

This year was the first time Twitter was heavily used, and many conferencegoers tweeted about how good or bad their workshops were, as well as which bars were popular on any particular night.

I took away so much from the experience, but the biggest thing I took away was the strength of the LGBT community. There were so many ethnicities, ages, styles and gender expressions present. While there wasn't unison on every issue, all of these people were present to fight for equality as one.

Blair Mishleau is a sophomore journalism student at Columbia College, focusing on merging the gap between print and online journalism. He is also an occasional contributor to Windy City Times.


BLAIR MISHLEAU

Creating Change in Dallas

For one weekend, a community of almost exclusively LGBT people congregated to Dallas for the Creating Change Conference, hosted by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Over 2,000 people attended the 22nd annual conference, which brings together queer people from every corner of the nation to build leadership and fight for equality.

It was, for me, an overloading, overstimulating, exciting experience packed into a long weekend. My school, Columbia College, took myself, four other students and a faculty advisor. We enjoyed the many workshops ranging from "Butch vs. Femme in the lesbian community" to "Intergenerational storytelling in the LGBT community."

The conference was a lot like a queer boot camp, starting with a variety of daylong institutes to choose from that offered in-depth train-

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky
MANAGING EDITOR Andrew Davis
BUSINESS MANAGER Meghan Streit
DIRECTOR OF NEW MEDIA Jean Albright
ART DIRECTOR Kirk Williamson
ACCOUNT MANAGERS: Terri Klinsky, Amy Matheny, Kirk Williamson
PROMOTIONAL SUPPORT Cynthia Holmes
NIGHTSPOTS MANAGING EDITOR Kirk Williamson
NATIONAL SALES Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863
SENIOR WRITERS Bob Roehr, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, David Byrne, Tony Peregrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair, Emmanuel Garcia
THEATER EDITOR Scott C. Morgan
CINEMA WRITER Richard Knight, Jr.
BOOKS WRITER Yasmin Nair
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS Mary Shen Barnidge, Jim Edminster, Steve Warren, Lawrence Ferber, Mel Ferrand, Catey Sullivan, Zachary Whittenburg, Jonathan Abarbanel
COLUMNISTS/WRITERS: Yvonne Zipter, Susie Day, Jorjet Harper, Lee Lynch, Steve Starr, Lisa Keen, Charlsie Dewey, Michael Knipp, Mark Corece, Sabine Neidhardt, Sam Worley, Billy Masters, John Fenoglio, Chuck Colbert, Micki Leventhal, Sarah Toce, Rachel Pepper
PHOTOGRAPHERS Kat Fitzgerald, Mel Ferrand, Hal Baim, Steve Starr, Emmanuel Garcia
CIRCULATION
CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Jean Albright
DISTRIBUTION: Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Renee, Sue and Victor



Copyright 2010 Lambda Publications Inc./Windy City Media Group; All rights reserved. Reprint by permission only. Back issues (if available) for \$5 per issue (postage included). Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings, and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility may be assumed for unsolicited materials. All rights to letters, art and photographs sent to *Windy City Times* will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication purposes and as such, subject to editing and comment. The opinions expressed by the columnists, cartoonists, letter writers, and commentators are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of *Windy City Times*. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of a person or organization in articles or advertising in *Windy City Times* is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. While we encourage readers to support the advertisers who make this newspaper possible, *Windy City Times* cannot accept responsibility for advertising claims.
(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609
e-mail: editor@windycitymediagroup.com

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

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

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

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



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

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Michael Brosilow

SEEMS LIKE 'OLD' TIMES

Cheryl Lynn Bruce (left) and Wandachristine are in the Writers' Theatre's *The Old Settler*. See page 12.

SPORTS

Full Nelson.
Page 22.

Photo courtesy of Charlie Star



MOVIES

Mitchell's 'Happy.'
Page 15.



BUSINESS

Nothing but the tooth.
Page 19.

Photo courtesy of Peter Harnois



Scottish Play Scott

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Voting in the recent Illinois primary elections produced plenty of drama. And now Bailiwick Chicago is hoping its audiences will help them do the same.

The Bailiwick musical revue **Show Us Your Love** is playing Sundays at 7:30 p.m. through Feb. 28 at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark. It consists of songs from musicals the company is auditioning for a future season.

On the ballot are shows like *Barnum*, *Floyd Collins*, *Brooklyn*, *Songs from an Unmade Bed* and more. Audiences then get to have a say in Bailiwick's programming by voting on which shows they would like to see in full-fledged form.

This is a promising reboot to the former Bailiwick Repertory Theatre, which was recently re-branded under new executive director Kevin Mayes (who is currently starring in a revival of Joel Drake Johnson's gay drama *The End of the Tour* through March 6 at 16th Street Theater in Berwyn). Many were worried that Bailiwick would disappear after it moved out of its Belmont Avenue home (and especially when its former artistic director David Zak stepped down).

But as evidenced by *Show Us Your Love*, the Bailiwick shows how it can still attract plenty of top-notch talent. Even more encouraging is the news that plans are already in place for Bailiwick to team up with the modern dance troupe Deeply Rooted Productions for a production of Tim Rice and Elton John's *Aida* in July at the American Theater Company. Let's hope that this frequently gay-friendly theater continues to stick around. For more information, visit www.bailiwickchicago.com.

Courting controversy

The freelance theater critics of the Windy City



Show Us Your Love. Photo courtesy of Bailiwick Chicago

Times aren't always able to review every show that we'd like to due to space, time and budgetary constraints. But there are always intriguing-sounding shows that still demand some attention thanks to the controversial issues they bring up. Here are a few plays this month that run the gamut:

The conflict between Israel and Palestine gets an intensely personal examination in the world premiere of **Return to Haifa** at Next Theatre in Evanston, running through March 7.

Next's artistic director, Jason Southerland, approached Evanston playwright M.E.H. Lewis to adapt Ghassan Kanafani's 1968 novella, which is about a young Jewish couple newly arrived in Israel in 1948 after their recent liberation from Auschwitz concentration camp and a Palestinian couple with a newborn child.

Twenty years later the two couples meet following the Six Day War, and the recriminations fly. For more information, visit www.nexttheatre.org or call 847-475-1875.

Playwright Lewis is on a roll with another one of her plays having a world premiere this month. *Here Where It's Safe* is set to be the final pro-

duction by Stage Left Theatre in its Wrigleyville space before it moves into the renovated Theater Wit space on Belmont Ave.

Here *Where It's Safe* focuses on an American couple who are desperate to have a child. Thanks to financial pressures, the couple essentially "outsources" their problem by hiring a struggling woman in a bad marriage in India to be their surrogate.

For more information on this production which runs through April 3, visit www.stagelefttheatre.com.

Quest Theatre Ensemble wades into the whole science versus creation debate with its world premiere of Andrew Park's *Evolution/Creation*, which runs from Feb. 19 through March 28. Using puppetry, music, dance and spoken word, the show aims to present both perspectives on creationism and evolution fairly (we wish them plenty of luck). For more information on this free run of performances, call 312-458-0895 or visit questensemble.org.

With a title like *I Killed My Mother*, Theatre Y immediately lets you know that it's out to shock with the world premiere drama by Eastern Eu-

ropean playwright Andras Visky. Yet the killing turns out to be more metaphorical than literal in this fictional drama based upon the lives of thousands of Romanian orphans who grew up in appalling orphanages during the Communist era under the Ceausescu dictatorship when abortion and contraception were outlawed.

Theatre Y presents *I Killed My Mother* under the direction of Chicago director Karin Coonrod at the Greenhouse Theater Center from Feb. 19 through March 14. Call 773-404-7336 or visit Theatre-Y.com for more information.

Being Joan Allen

Of all the famed ensemble members of Steppenwolf Theatre, one of the most elusive to the company's home stage is Joan Allen. Though the frequent Academy Award nominee returned to Broadway recently in the critically drubbed drama *Impressionism*, she hasn't appeared in Chicago for a long sustained theatrical run.

But Allen appears locally as the inaugural honoree of the new Steppenwolf Salutes Women in the Arts: an annual luncheon forum at noon on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington.

Steppenwolf artistic director and ensemble member Martha Lavey is set to interview Allen in a format similar to *Inside the Actors Studio*. Proceeds go to benefit Steppenwolf's Professional Leadership Program, which is a training program for young professionals pursuing a career in arts administration.

Since the ticket prices weren't announced in the press release for the luncheon, it's probably safe to assume that it's going to be one of those situations where if you have to ask how much it costs, then you probably can't afford it. But if you want to try anyway, call Steppenwolf's Special Events Department at 312-654-5632 or e-mail specialevents@steppenwolf.org.

Please pass along theater news and other related tidbits to scottishplayscott@yahoo.com and Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com.

THEATER REVIEW

The Old Settler

Playwright: John Henry Redwood
At: Writers' Theatre, 325 Tudor, Glencoe
Phone: 847-242-6000; \$40-\$65
Runs through: March 28

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

As quaint as the notion may seem today, there was a time once when an American woman's worth was calculated almost exclusively in terms of marriage to a community-approved consort and subsequent production of several likewise exemplary children. And in wartime, amid tensions engendered by the shortage of suitable men, Mothers' Day, that annual celebration of procreative prowess, enjoyed an elevated importance in recognition of families with missing sons. These factors do not rest easy with the Borny sisters, spinster Elizabeth and divorcée Quilly, whose duties at their Harlem church only serve to highlight their single status, particularly after Elizabeth agrees to take in a temporary boarder—the fresh-off-the-farm Mr. Witherspoon, come searching for his home-town sweetheart, Miss Lou Bessie Preston.

John Henry Redwood's play may be viewed as a documentary on social changes precipitated by World War II—Elizabeth and Quilly's acceptance of their humble position among their peers contrasting with Lou Bessie's unswerving, often ruthless, ambitions. There are also nostalgic aspects in the author's invocation of party-line telephones, transitory fashions (zoot suits, seamed stockings), and hours measured by radio broadcasts. As domestic drama, however, Redwood's plot sometimes reveals its construction a bit too tidily (beginning with a prince charming whose own mother saw fit to christen him "Husband"), but this doesn't mean that the story's conflicts resonate any the less in 2010, when scandal still besets women of—ahem!—certain age who choose to ally themselves with younger companions.

It's to the credit of Ron OJ Parson's direction for this Writers' Theatre production, and the acting skills of Cheryl Lynn Bruce and Wandachristine, that we remain almost totally oblivious to these detachments for the 2 hours-plus duration of its performance. Our attention is instead riveted on our universe (accurate right down to the shifting of the light outside the window) and the fates of its denizens, our empathy extending not only to the "old settler" siblings whose opportunities will remain forever restricted, but to the fickle Husband caught between old and new lifestyles, and even to the defiant Lou Bessie, who has her reasons for seeking revenge on her elders.

There's no denying the long and chilly trek to the north suburbs, but the quality evidenced at this artistic oasis rivals—frequently surpasses—those of many venues more logistically accessible to deliver an evening with characters that, having made their acquaintance in these intimate quarters, you will never forget.



The Old Settler. Photo by Michael Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW

What Once We Felt

Playwright: Ann Marie Healy
At: About Face Theatre at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted
Phone: 866-811-4111; \$25-\$15 students.
Runs through: March 6

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Within the Future Shock-meets-Handmaid's Tale world of What Once We Felt, playwright Ann Marie Healy creates a grim (and grimly humorous) satire of dystopia leanings. In this version of a fairly near-future, optimism has been replaced by a bleak sense of inevitability, misguided idealism by the infinitely worse phenomenon of good intentions. This is to say: Euthanasia via the business end of a knitting needle is infinitely preferable to the torturous dehumanization of wrinkles, gray hair and chronic illness.

As she examines post-post-post modern reproductive rights, crushing classism, wage slavery, inequitably distributed healthcare and a Final Solution-like plot to rid society of those deemed undesirable, Healy puts a juicy, issue-laden plot into motion. Then she throws still another hunk of red meat into her snappy, problematic script: Whither the plight of art and artists in a universe where mediocrity is the unassailable, uncompromising and unquestioned king of the cosmos? The hero here is a novelist, with the catch that comes with her publishing deal a Faustian doozy. The deal (hilariously negotiated at one of those uber-pretentious restaurants where the entrees are taller than they are wide) leaves the young idealistic writer not wavering but drown-

ing, in over her head and flailing amid sharks of dubious literary intent.

There's a satisfying amount that works here, much of it due to director Krissy Vanderwarker's keen ear for honest emotion, be it noisily overt or roiling deep beneath the dialogue. The cast gets all of it—including the lurking, omnipresent specter of the RSS (a clear allusion to the OSS, the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency), a Big Brotheresque entity responsible for such things as "GPS love lockets" (presumably so you can pinpoint your lover's precise locale at any given moment) and a caste system that makes India's divisions look as quaint and humane as a Norman Rockwell print.

Vanderwarker's all-female cast (men aren't in this vision of the future) is one of those wondrously rich Chicago ensembles (Patricia Kane, Ana Sferruzza, Elizabeth Laidlaw, Laura Fisher, Rebecca Sohn and Charin Alvarez) that captivates the audience with mighty storytelling skills and a fathoms-deep depth of talent. What Once We Felt is no country for weak links. Especially memorable: Sohn as every clueless bureaucrat boss you've ever hated and Kane as a well-meaning disaster of an agent. For an example of artists working together as a seamless whole while also creating their own, indelible portraits, you won't find better.

It's a shame the script isn't as good as the cast delivering it. Artists are in peril here, but plot holes and inconsistencies survive. We've got no problem with ambiguities and gray space, but those in Healy's story feel sloppy rather than intentionally provocative.

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge,
Morgan and Sullivan

CRITICS' PICKS

Abigail's Party, A Red Orchid Theatre, through March 28. Shade Murray directs a Mike Leigh drama with a cast that includes Red Orchid ensemble members Kirsten Fitzgerald, Mierka Gärten, Larry Grimm and Danny McCarthy. 'Nuff said. Get tickets while you still can. CS

The Cabinet, Redmoon Theatre, through March 14. It's a remount of the 2005 hit, itself based on the 1919 expressionist silent film *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*. Mesmerism, eroticism, somnambulism all are there in Redmoon's triumph of mixed puppetry, miniature theater and grotesque angles. JA

Distracted, American Theater Company, through Feb. 28. Director PJ Paparelli makes Lisa Loomer's comic drama about whether or not to medicate a 9-year-old into more of an indicting romp of the United States' media-saturated landscape. SCM

Harper Regan, Steep Theatre, through March 28. This U.S. premiere production of Simon Stephen's housewife-on-the-lam micro-saga sold out its entire run a mere four days after it opened. Take advantage of this extension to see why. MSB

Charles Busch plays at Attic

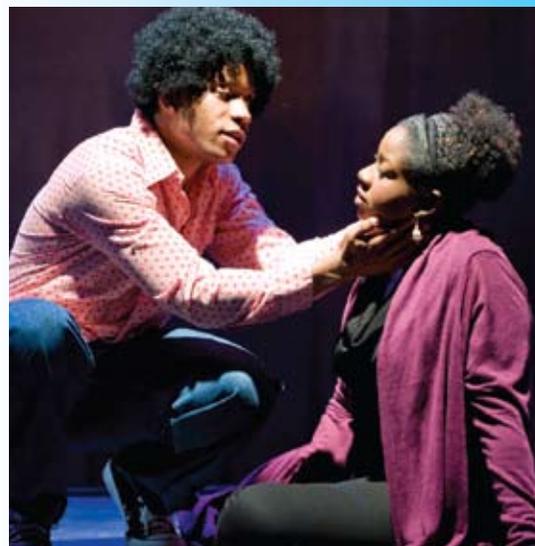
Four early plays by drag theater legend Charles Busch will run in repertory on two bills (courtesy of creative think tank The Idea Place), rotating Friday and Saturday nights, at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark. Bill A will include **Vampire Lesbians of Sodom** and **Sleeping Beauty of Coma**. Bill B will include **Theodora She-Bitch of Byzantium** and **Pardon My Inquisition or Kiss The Blood Off My Castanets**.

The bills will run through Feb. 20. Tickets are \$12; call 800-838-3006 or visit www.buschfest.com.



What Once We Felt. Photo courtesy of About Face Theatre

SPOTLIGHT



Can the arts truly help those who want to get out of poverty? Find out in the Midwest premiere of Dael Orlandersmith's drama **The Gimmick**, which follows two friends trying to cope with life in the slums of Harlem in the late 1960s and early '70s. The Gimmick plays 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays through March 28 at Truman College, 1145 W. Wilson. Tickets are \$17-\$25; call 773-878-9761 or visit www.pegasusplayers.org. Photo by Michael Brosilow



Patti LuPone. Photo by Brigitte LaCombe

NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

Patti LuPone talks TV and 'dolls'

BY JERRY NUNN

Patti LuPone has played such classic roles as Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* to Rose in *Gypsy*. On her way back to the Windy City it was time to talk to the "doll" herself.

Windy City Times: Hi, Patti. What an honor to speak with a Broadway legend such as yourself.

Patti LuPone: [Laughs] Oh my pleasure.

WCT: Tell our readers about what you are singing in your show with Mandy Patinkin.

PL: There is a lot of Sondheim, Hammerstein and there are two scenes that bookend the show. The first one is from *South Pacific* and the last one is *Carousel*. Mandy and I tell a story between the two scenes. I love being on stage with him. I looove it!

WCT: You have been doing a show with him on and off for about four years, correct?

PL: Yes. Somebody was very smart, a booker in Texas called my agent and said, "I have Mandy. How about Patti?" They put it together. It has been a long time.

WCT: You have a great chemistry together.

PL: Exactly.

WCT: You originally played in *Evita* with him playing Che back in the day.

PL: Yes, a very long relationship—30 years, oh my God.

WCT: I have heard you actually have done more plays than musicals.

PL: Yes, that is true.

WCT: My gay neighbor has playbills of you all over his house!

PL: Oh, God bless him.

WCT: Did you always want to be an actress and singer?

PL: I was "born to the boards," as they put it.

WCT: Is there a part you have always wanted to play but haven't?

PL: There's a ton of them. I wanted to play Adele in *Guys and Dolls*, Ado Annie in *Oklahoma*, Desiree in a *Little Night Music*, which I did play in Chicago. It was at the Ravinia Festival but that was only two performances. I wanted to play it longer. What else? Ruth in a *Wonderful Town*, there are a lot of roles that kind of went their way but what can you do?

WCT: You have done an incredible amount. You have even done opera now.

PL: Yes, what about that? How shocking is that? It was a big challenge. It was with the Baroque Philharmonia Orchestra of San Francisco.

That was interesting because they all played Baroque instruments. I don't know how different it sounds but the instruments looked pretty wild. That sort of led to *Mahagonny* for the L.A. opera. I am a two-fisted Grammy winner and the irony does not escape me. I won for opera and classical music. I was nominated for *Gypsy* and lost! I won the same year for classical opera.

WCT: How did that happen?

PL: Like I said, the irony is not lost on me.

WCT: Well, you tried something different and it paid off.

PL: Who knows?

WCT: Where does your expression, "dolls," come from?

PL: That is a New York thing. I have been saying it all my life. I have had neighbors that said it a lot. My next-door neighbors were actually from Canada and were imitating New Yorkers and say "doll face."

WCT: You are going to publish a book this year.

PL: I am. It is about my life in the theater.

WCT: I just watched your *Will & Grace* episode again and you were on *Life Goes On*. Would you want to be on television again?

PL: Oh yes, absolutely. I will never ever give up the stage but I would do television again, if it was a good show.

WCT: We are looking forward to seeing your live show here in the Windy City.

PL: Thank you very much. I am very looking forward to being in Chicago, even in the dead of winter. I can't wait. I love being in Chicago!

"An Evening with Patti LuPone and Mandy Patinkin" will be at the Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph, for six performances March 2-7. Visit BroadwayInChicago.com for more information.



Patti LuPone. Photo by Ethan Hill

Joan Allen to be honored Feb. 23

Steppenwolf ensemble member and acclaimed actress Joan Allen will be the inaugural honoree at Steppenwolf Salutes Women in the Arts: an annual luncheon forum on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 12 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington.

Steppenwolf Artistic Director and ensemble member Martha Lavey will interview Allen in a format similar to *Inside the Actors Studio*. For ticket prices and sponsorship opportunities, contact Steppenwolf's Special Events Department at 312-654-5632 or specialevents@steppenwolf.org.

“★★★★★!

Impeccable and gorgeous — A landmark event!” —*Time Out Chicago*

“Highly Recommended!

A reason for celebration — Glorious on all counts!” —*Chicago Sun-Times*

“Marvelous! Stylized and raw, mythic and immediate — Incredibly ambitious and accomplished!” —*Chicago Reader*

“Poetic, arresting, startling (and) blisteringly acted!” —*Chicago Tribune*

“A music-infused, hilarious, tragic, complex multi-generational telling of the African-American experience!” —*New City*

“Surely the greatest piece of writing by an American playwright under 30 in a generation of more.” —*Chicago Tribune*



the brother/sister plays

written by **Tarell Alvin McCraney**
directed by ensemble member **Tina Landau**

A breakthrough theatrical event: three interconnected plays in two programs by a brilliant new American voice. Grand in scope, yet intimate and heartfelt, Tarell McCraney's plays are daring, funny and genuine.

Now Playing!

In the Steppenwolf Upstairs Theatre

steppenwolf

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

Corporate
Production Sponsor

SaraLee
FOUNDATION

Foundation
Production Sponsor

THE
CHICAGO
COMMUNITY
TRUST
AND AFFILIATES

Hotel Partner

THE
TALBOTT
HOTEL

SEASON GRAND BENEFACTORS

Fidelity *Opilvy* **UNITED**

SEASON BENEFACTORS

CHASE | JPMorgan | ComEd | HARRIS | Kraft foods | Microsoft | National City
Now a part of PNC | SaraLee FOUNDATION | TARGET | VINCI



The Skin of Our Teeth. Photo by Tim Knight

THEATER REVIEW

The Skin of Our Teeth

Playwright: Thornton Wilder

At: The Artistic Home, 3914 N. Clark

Tickets: 866-811-4111;

www.theartistichome.org; \$25-\$27

Runs through: March 21

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

The Skin of Our Teeth is part farce, part social satire and part epic; dramatic genres demanding completely different approaches to staging and interpretation. Additionally it's all-fantasy, a comic book retelling of the purported progress of Mankind from Ice Age to Biblical Flood to a world-threatening war. The play's also symbolic play with characters as human archetypes. It has 20 speaking roles, too, and can use all the extras a theater can muster. For all these reasons, Thornton Wilder's follow-up to *Our Town* is one of the least-produced Great American Plays. The last time I saw it professionally staged, nearly a decade ago, an accomplished director was buried by it.

Fortunately, director Jeff Christian is *not* buried by the play. He and the Artistic Home succeed admirably where many others have failed. First, Christian uses simple staging devices and the audience's imagination to create the play's shifting landscapes, climates and disasters so the need for special effects doesn't overwhelm the production. Next, Christian and cohorts strike just the right balance between farcical and satiric elements in acts I and II and the solemnity of Act III. Christian lets his actors be big where needed for comic effect, then pulls them back precisely on schedule. Finally, the production avoids any whiff of cynicism over Wilder's cautionary but optimistic elegy to the resilience and innate goodness of Mankind, based on the fundamental tenets of Judeo-Christian philosophy.

The story follows a typical suburban family who are the Every Family of human history. George and Maggie Antrobus have been married 5,000 years, always have two children and always manage to save the human race in crisis "by the skin of our teeth." In his office job, George is an inventor credited with the alphabet, the wheel and gun powder. The maid, Sabina (Tallulah Bankhead in the original 1942 production), is the perpetual femme fatale and pleasure-seeker who provides much of the play's tension, as does the Antrobus' son, Henry, the bringer of violent self-aggrandizement to the world going back to the Biblical Cain.

Real-life husband and wife Kathy Scambiattera and John Mossman are age-perfect and easily convincing as the Antrobuses. Scambiattera invests Mrs. A. with the proper protective spirit while still deferring to Mr. A., played by Mossman with charming self-absorption. As Sabina, Maria Stephens easily avoids Bankhead cloning and plays comic moments with deft style. As the adolescent Antrobus kids, Katherine Swan and Nick Horst convey the promise, conflicts and terror of approaching adulthood which bear fruit in the last act. The capable supporting players, most in multiple roles, are colorfully clothed in Aly Renee Greaves clever yet budget-conscious costumes. Kudo also go to the scenic, lighting and sound designers, whose less-is-more approach fits the playhouse and play.

THEATER REVIEW

11:11

Playwright: Tara Sissom and Evan Linder

At: The New Colony at Victory Gardens

Biograph Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln

Phone: 773-871-3000; \$15-\$25

Runs through: March 13

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Oh my gosh! How are four young adult Christian camp counselors going to respond when they accidentally take the illegal drug Ecstasy when they think it's over-the-counter Aleve?

That's the Act I cliffhanger in The New Colony's world premiere of 11:11 by actor/playwrights Tara Sissom and Evan Linder. Seeing just what secrets these cheerleaders for Christ reveal on a chemical high certainly has its promise.

But in 11:11 (yes, the title is drawn from a Biblical quote for comic effect), the drug trip feels more like a well-trodden detour. Using games of Truth or Dare or a "magic drug" is an overused plot device that allows characters to reveal hidden or shocking truths.

If Sissom and Linder had found a more naturalistic route for all of the pent-up emotions and conflicts to spill out, 11:11 might have been more dramatically effective and far less silly. Aside from the ecstasy, Sissom and Linder's attention to detail of Christian camp clichés in 11:11 is certainly worthy of merit.

11:11 brings up thoughtful issues of belief and adherence to faith as it follows a group of 20-something counselors gearing up for a Bible-filled summer at Camp Methuselah. There are counselors who are secretly hooking up, resisting temptation, questioning faith, coping with sexuality and nostalgically longing for an increasingly distant childhood belief in God.

I won't reveal which character is dealing with what, since that would ruin the surprises in store in director Meg Johns' entertaining and mostly well-acted production. Johns and her cast are to be commended for making you believe that the majority of them have been life-long Christian summer camp friends. Kevin Stangler as Nate, Sissom as Dana and Tim Cunningham as Kip are particularly good for not pushing into caricature as their fervent believers.

On the side of the doubters, Whit Nelson (as the Harvard student Chance) and Sarah Gitenstein (as the assigned leader Anna) do wonderful jobs of depicting down-to-earth characters questioning their life's choices and belief system.

I would have liked more signs of struggle and turmoil from the rest of the cast. Right now it feels like they are only skimming the surface of trying to reconcile their faith with their actions and circumstances.

Although the script doesn't fully coalesce, most everything else about 11:11 does, production-wise. Nick Sieben's camp-lodge set design is handsome and well-lit by lighting designer Nicholas J. Carroll. (Thea Lux's original Christian songs are also fun.)

Since its debut, The New Colony has championed new works. 11:11 may not be perfect, but it's certainly a worthy addition to the company's growing stable of adventurous world premieres.



Wilson Wants It All. Photo by John Taflan

THEATER REVIEW

Wilson Wants It All

Playwright: Michael Rohd and

Phillip C. Klapperich

At: The House Theatre of Chicago

at the Chopin, 1543 W. Division

Phone: 773-251-2195; \$25-\$29

Runs through: March 27

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The 2007 season's production of *The Sparrow* could be viewed as The House's break with its playful, kids-in-the-basement aesthetic, but this world-premiere collaboration between Michael Rohd and Philip C. Klapperich also manages to avoid the whiny-adolescent tone that infects so much New Age science fiction to address topics more complex than "It's the end of the world and I still can't get laid" while still providing a pretext for the spectacle that is this company's stock-in-trade.

Our setting is America in 2040—a land of Malthusian crisis, with environmental shortages initiating proposals for government-mandated birth control, but any attempt at actual progress stymied by the fragmented vote engendered by seven distinct political parties refusing to compromise. Thirty years earlier, in 2010, a charismatic leader who could have prevented this discord fell to an assassin's bullet, along with his pregnant wife. Their child survived, we are told, to be raised by a loyal campaign manager

(the "Wilson" of the title) resolved to restore the legacy embodied by the name given the potential heiress to the dynasty—"Hope."

Oregon, Rohd's home turf, is not far from Vancouver, headquarters of William Gibson's cyberpunk movement, with its high-tech romanticism. The influence of this literary genre becomes apparent with introduction of a prince-and-pauper plot device predicated on the pampered, rebellious orphan's discovery that she has a twin (of humble birth, naturally), making a swap of identities inevitable. Complications ensue, secrets involving heads of state are brought to light, the country teeters on the brink of civil war, and it's once again up to the Machiavellian Wilson to save the day—but at a terrible sacrifice.

The gigantic video and aural F/X rendered possible by House's new home on the Chopin mainstage (airplanes and helicopters, among them) may supply the scope, but the story is rooted firmly in personal motives—never has the familiar analogy of the nation as family been invoked to greater purpose. An ensemble led by Rebekah Ward-Hays and Leslie Frame as the estranged siblings, flanked by John Henry Roberts and Carolyn Defrin as their likewise conflicted adult mentors, commit themselves to their dramatic universe with never a trace of giggly self-indulgence. All this makes for a speculative tale so riveting and suspenseful that playgoers taking advantage of House's beer-during-the-show policy will find themselves left after curtain call with brew grown warm from neglect.

Trock on



Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, a company of professional male dancers, presented an entertaining view of classical ballet in parody form and *en travesti* (character portrayals in a play, ballet or opera by a performer of the opposite sex) recently at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); more online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

MOVIES

Mitchell Lichtenstein's 'Happy' days

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.



Mitchell Lichtenstein.

Out writer-director-producer Mitchell Lichtenstein created a bit of a sensation with his debut film *Teeth*, the graphic horror-comedy in which the leading lady's vagina included a pair of murderous incisors. Now he returns with the family drama *Happy Tears* (opening exclusively Friday, Feb. 19, at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State) in which mismatched sisters Parker Posey and Demi Moore argue about what to do with their dad (played by wild man Rip Torn), who is slipping into dementia. Mitchell is the son of the late pop art icon Roy Lichtenstein—a relationship that he draws on for the character of Posey's husband in the film. The one-time performer—noted for his work in Altman's *Streamers* (recently released on DVD) and Ang Lee's *The Wedding Banquet*—was also one of Hollywood's first out-of-the-closet actors. Lichtenstein discussed all this and more in a wide-ranging interview with *Windy City Times*.

Windy City Times: Where did the idea for *Happy Tears* come from?

Mitchell Lichtenstein: Kind of two things emerged. One was wanting to do a story about this woman who has trouble facing uncomfortable truths or reality and that combined with some biographical—[but] not so much autobiographical—things in my extended family.

WCT: Right. I wondered immediately, knowing of your famous father, if Jackson, Parker Posey's husband in the film, was written to express what you had gone through dealing with your father's legacy and maybe similarities in the troubled relationship they obvi-

ously had.

ML: Well, not like Jackson and his father in the movie. This serves the plot of the movie. My father and I had a great relationship and it was nothing like that but I know that world somewhat and I thought this was a subplot that needed to be drawn in broad strokes.

WCT: It's good to hear you clarify that. I thought, "Perhaps he's working out that maybe his dad wasn't always so comfortable with his being gay."

ML: No, not at all. The only bad thing about having him as a father was that you want something to rebel against growing up and it was hard to rebel against someone who was so cool.

WCT: How did you decide on those two actresses? You wouldn't necessarily think of Parker Posey and Demi Moore as sisters. Those were interesting choices.

ML: I wasn't really thinking of anyone in particular when I was writing it but when I came around to thinking about casting Parker seemed like the best choice and, luckily, she really liked the script. Once she committed to it, it was about finding someone who was a good match and contrast to Parker and I'd always loved Demi's work and thought if she was into doing this kind of movie that it would be great to see her in, say, a less high-concept movie, which is what she had tended to do in most of the movies we think of her in. I remembered loving her early movies that showed more range.

WCT: Like *Mortal Thoughts*, perhaps—where you see that she can do a lot more.

ML: Demi's energy is very sensible and grounded and Parker's, of course, is very flighty and, not to say neurotic [*laughs*], but whatever you want.

WCT: You could say neurotic. [*Laughs*]

ML: Well, certainly the character. I just thought they would be a great match.

WCT: How about Ellen Barkin, who is absolutely fearless playing the father's "girl-friend" who's actually a drug addict?

ML: I just got a kick out of thinking of the idea of her in this part and it took a little convincing—I don't think she was afraid of looking bad—but I got on the phone with her and Parker got on the phone with her, convincing her to do it. I think she just wasn't sure that she wanted to work at all but once she committed I knew that she would have to look pretty bad in the movie. But I never would have asked her to go as far as she voluntarily went. She really leapt in.

WCT: When I talked with Lee Daniels, the director of *Precious*, we discussed the idea of gay men having this great ability to get close to women. He acknowledged that and told me it was very helpful on the set. Did you have any sense of that when you worked with these talented women?

ML: I certainly think the relationship is different in the similar way that it's probably different in life. Usually, you're talking about beautiful women—if they're actresses—and the way they relate to men is different when the men are not on some level coming on to them [*laughs*] or there's not the suspicion that there's a kind of sexual power trip going on. There's not the same kind of power trip. That's a big generalization but as long as we're generalizing. [*Laughs*] It's a different dynamic and maybe more intensified on a film set.

WCT: Obviously now with "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," you must be thinking a little bit about the period when you worked in the movie of *Streamers* with Altman—back in the early

'80s. As a real rarity in those days—an openly gay actor—it must have been interesting to play an obviously gay soldier in the piece.

ML: Yes it was. I can see more in retrospect. Then, I was just thrilled at the part. What I think about most often now about being out is that when the movie premiered at the Venice Film Festival and we got word that the actors were going to win the acting prize it turned out that I was the only one who was able to go to Venice to accept the award. My publicist at the time said, "They may ask about your sexuality and what are you going to say?" and I said, "Well, I'll just say that I'm gay and whatever." "No, no, you can't do that you'd be the first openly gay actor, blah blah blah" and it turned out that no one was really so direct. But the final twist was that the publicist—who was married for years—later came out himself. So, it's not just the straight people keeping us in line. It's all internalized.

WCT: It's still going on. Many gay directors have gone on the record saying, "If you're a young leading man type you might want to stay in the closet because that's the reality." How do you feel about that?

ML: I think that everyone should come out and I also think that actors won't work as much if they do. So I think both. I think it's the reality because it's what I did.

WCT: Did that have anything to do with your leaving acting, Mitchell?

ML: Only in the sense that I don't necessarily blame it on that but it was always a struggle to work. You know, every 10 years I'd get a great part but I had other interests luckily and when I started writing and directing that was fulfilling enough and I lost any desire to act.

WCT: I hope it means a lot to you that you made your mark as a gay actor in both *Streamers* and *The Wedding Banquet*, and are now doing that as a writer-director.

ML: Thank you.



JOFFREY BALLET CHICAGO

"A wonderland for adults and a sure-fire delight for children"
— *Chicago Tribune*

Cinderella

LIVE THE FAIRYTALE

FEBRUARY 17 - 28, 2010

800.982.2787
TICKETS START AT \$25 | JOFFREY.ORG/CINDERELLA



danceOUT Affinity Night

FREE event on February 18
Get an inside look at Joffrey's *Cinderella*
Visit Joffrey.org/danceOUT for more info!

AUDITORIUM THEATRE
of ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

2009 - 2010 SEASON SPONSORS

Abbott Fund

N·I·B
FOUNDATION

LIVE MUSIC SPONSOR

UBS

OFFICIAL & EXCLUSIVE AIRLINE
UNITED

OFFICIAL PROVIDER OF REHABILITATION,
FITNESS AND PERFORMANCE
ATHLETICO

CINDERELLA PROGRAM SPONSOR

Bank of America

CINDERELLA PRODUCTION SPONSOR

Margot and Josef Lakonishok

CINDERELLA MEDIA SPONSOR

F·O·W

CINDERELLA HOTEL SPONSOR

PARK HYATT

CINDERELLA COSMETIC SPONSOR

MAC

Joffrey Dancers: David Gombert, Megan Quiroz, Michael Smith | Photo: Herbert Migdoll



TEST POSITIVE AWARE NETWORK
PRESENTS

**Chicago
Takes Off**
Charity at its sexiest!

**TV
Land** **OUTSIDE
THE BOX!**

RESERVE YOUR SEATS NOW AT
CHICAGOTAKESOFF.ORG

**Bar-lesque
COMPETITION**

Check out **BAR-LESQUE**,
an online “strip-a-thon”
showcasing your favorite
Chicago bartenders!



Saturday, March 6, 2010
7:30 and 10:00pm
Park West 322 W. Armitage

Chicago Takes Off event sponsors

BROADWAY
COSTUMES



PaternoGroup
PRINT & MEDIA DESIGN



MAC

FROST

PARK WEST

ORBITZ

Media Sponsors

CHICAGO'S
DOI
MAGAZINE

CHICAGO
PRIDE.COM

WINDY CITY
MEDIA
GROUP

GRAB
MAGAZINE

CHICAGO
READER



GayChicago
MAGAZINE

comcast

nightspots



**KNIGHT
AT
THE
MOVIES**



Happy Tears; Shutter Island

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Nobody plays neurotic like Parker Posey and—in out writer-producer-director Mitchell Lichtenstein's sophomore directorial effort, **Happy Tears**—she has what might just be her most neurotic yet. The movie is an all-too-familiar dramedy of family dysfunction in which two sisters (Parker and Demi Moore) must deal with their father who is slipping into dementia (played by Rip Torn, no less). It's filled with moments as maddening yet endearing as Parker's character. Lichtenstein's over-the-top movie is about a million miles away from the hyperrealism of mumblecore (and about 10 million miles from his debut film, the graphic horror comedy *Teeth*).

But this is a plus rather than a liability and Lichtenstein's situations and dialogue, proverbial though lyrical, give the actors a lot to work with, and the lively performances he elicits from his cast elevates the film and gives it some extra oomph. Unlike *The Savages*, another recent movie in which siblings deal with an aging parent and *Sunshine Cleaning*, a film that focused on the fractious relationship between two warring sisters, you don't necessarily believe these are real folks but, boy, they sure are entertaining.

At the outset, we meet Laura (Moore), who has flown back from her home in San Francisco to Pittsburgh to deal with her widowed father (Torn), who is quickly slipping into senility. She's anxiously awaiting the arrival of Jayne (Posey), also a San Franciscan, who is supposed to relieve her. Within seconds during the initial phone conversation between the two we get that Laura is the no-nonsense realist who has paid a lot of dues in life (including a decision to stay with her husband, who is likely gay) while Jayne is the wacky, petulant one who's subject to mood swings. Jayne has married into money and can indulge her whims. Her husband is the son of a deceased, well-known artist who is slowly having a breakdown of his own, and he doesn't pay her much attention.

When Jayne arrives, naturally, all hell breaks loose. There's the cantankerous, beer-swilling, diaper-wearing father who insists that his new “girlfriend” (Ellen Barkin, in a fearless performance), who pretends to be a nurse and is closer to a meth addict, be treated with respect. But the sisters, especially Jayne, can't abide her. As Jayne and Laura figure out what to do with dad; old wounds are opened; memories, hurts and joys are experienced; a search for a long-buried treasure in the backyard commences; Jayne spends a hot afternoon with a hunky blonde teenager (played by soap-opera hunk Billy Magnussen); and, though Laura says to Jayne at one point in exasperation, “Gee, it must be a happy place inside that brain of yours,” we learn, naturally, that the familial bonds are strong and unyielding. When all is said and done, the sisters will always be as close as the pages in a book.

Posey is one of those actors who fascinates because you never quite know what she's going to do next. She doesn't hesitate to go off the

deep end emotionally, and the part of Jayne offers her repeated opportunities to do so. Moore holds her own, pulling in her natural tendency to go big and Torn, also fearless, matches the two.

Happy Tears is a movie we're likely to see variations on many times in the ensuing years—this theme of caring for our parents now that we Baby Boomers are moving into our emeritus years—and Lichtenstein, with his sure sense for black comedy and with the fun, deft performances of his cast, has written and directed one that will stack up nicely against the overflow of these other movies as they arrive.

Could there be any creepier setting for a movie than a madhouse for the criminally insane located on a remote island during a raging storm circa the late '40s-early '50s—the era of electroshock, lobotomies and other gruesome therapies for the mentally ill? That's the setting for **Shutter Island**, the fourth teaming of director Martin Scorsese and actor Leonardo DiCaprio.

Leo plays Teddy Daniels, a federal marshal trying to locate a missing patient at the mysterious Ashcliffe Hospital for the Criminally Insane. Teddy and his partner, Chuck (Mark Ruffalo), try to break through the wall of secrets that the staff (headed by Ben Kingsley and Max von Sydow) seems to be hiding. Due to the bad weather, the duo is forced to stay on the island. Asleep at night Teddy has spectacularly vivid nightmares of a wife (a hauntingly effective Michelle Williams) who burned up in a fire while he was away in WWII helping to free the Jewish concentration-camp victims at Dachau (causing more bad dreams).

The story, with its slew of insane inmate characters, surly guards, nasty nurses, cultured mad doctors, etc., offers a lot of opportunities for actors to get their crazy faces on, and Scorsese has the budget to hire some of the best—including Kingsley, Von Sydow, Patricia Clarkson, Emily Mortimer, Ted Levine, Jackie Earle Haley, Elias Koteas, etc.—ratcheting up the over-the-top scenario and the ominous *mise-en-scène* nearly into Mel Brooks/High Anxiety territory. At times, the atmosphere is so thick one almost expects Cloris Leachman, as Nurse Diesel, to come stomping out of the dark in her Nazi uniform.

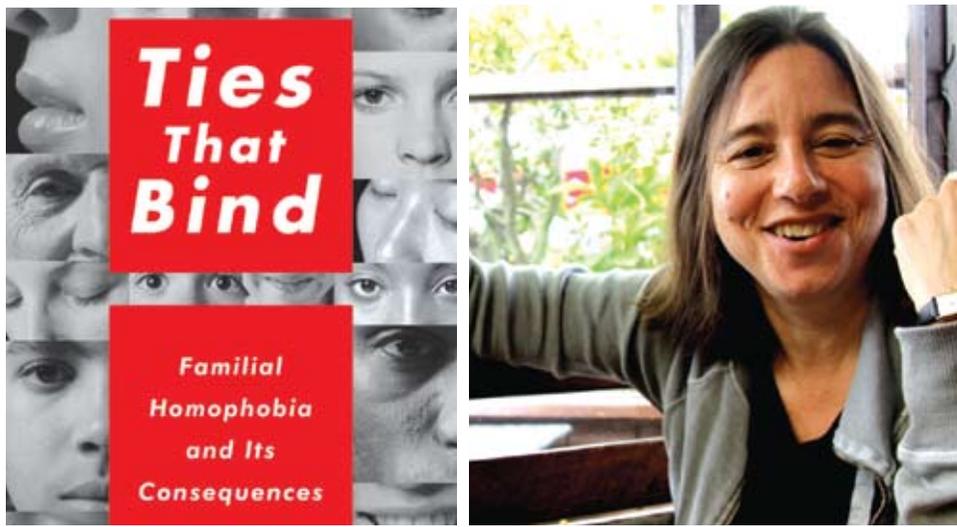
But though the movie threatens, it never descends to camp for more than a second or two. Like the Scorsese of *Cape Fear*, this Grand Guignol approach is a risk that pays off. Based on the novel by Dennis Lehane, this paranoid thriller/ghost story is weighty with metaphor and Scorsese piles more on top of them and the results are thrilling to watch. But even though there's not a hint of realism here the acting is very affecting and the performance of DiCaprio is quite moving.

“You're a rat in a maze,” Haley tells DiCaprio's Teddy at one point but the real rats, of course, are the audience, locked in the Kafkaesque universe that Scorsese and his collaborators have exactly created down to the last detail. *Shutter Island* is an enthralling, big-budget mélange of classic Hitchcock and film noir packaged with Scorsese's gift for large-scale visuals and DiCaprio's gifted performance.

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



Leonardo
DiCaprio
in
Shutter
Island.



Ties That Bind; Sarah Schulman.

BOOK REVIEW

Ties that Bind: Familial Homophobia and Its Consequences

Written by Sarah Schulman
\$23.95; The New Press;
192 pages

REVIEW BY TRACY BAIM

Author and playwright Sarah Schulman is among our community's most prolific writers. She is that rare combination of thinker and activist, so both her fiction and non-fiction work is informed by a wealth of real-world experiences, especially her tremendous role in the ACT UP/ New York movement.

Schulman's newest nonfiction book, *The Ties that Bind*, is a slim volume that packs a powerful punch. It tackles the very notion of the personal being political—where it is we often first experience homophobia, within our families.

While there has been great progress on gay issues at the political level, and likely far more parents today have an open mind about homosexuality, when it "hits home" some of even the most progressive families have "issues" with their own children being gay, lesbian, or even transgendered. That is the core of *The Ties that Bind*: the long-term consequences of "familial homophobia."

Schulman herself has experienced this problem first-hand, and she details this in the book, using her own life as an example of how the homophobia we experience at home oppresses us throughout our lives. Schulman believes that the homophobia our families deal out also has major implications within the greater society,

not just on the individual target.

One of the main ways the gay movement is different from other movements for civil rights is that for the most part, gay people are raised by people who are not "like" them, whereas when it comes to race or religion or gender, most people are usually raised by people who are "like them", so that when society comes crashing into their lives, they have some strength at home to help them cope. These are generalizations of course, but based on the reality of most gays and lesbians.

Even those of us who grew up in very progressive families have experienced some forms of familial homophobia. My own experience is an example; I had adult gay and lesbian role models in my childhood, because my parents had a wide mix of friends. But when it came to my coming out my mom did have slight issues, mainly what I call the "Cher" response (when Chastity came out to her): she worried about the hard life I might have. But she rather quickly changed course and my mom was the one who found out about a job opening at *GayLife* newspaper for a part-time reporter, thus starting me on a gay media path just one month out of college.

So my own experience with familial homophobia is minor, but I did witness huge differences for my peers—many took decades to come out to their families, and some never did before their parents died. This book does an excellent job of showing how these family-based strains and problems exponentially increase in impact as we grow up and try to manage our way through society.

A fascinating chapter in the book is about how gays use the court system against one another, a "heterosexual" privilege argument, where a lesbian birth parent fights against a partner for custody using the courts to deny her former partner any parental rights. There are many ex-

amples of this ugly side of the community, and Schulman shows how we sometimes re-brand the homophobia we grow up with to tear each other down.

Schulman also addresses the same-sex marriage movement, criticizing the approach on several grounds. One, she says it is a "desperate desire for relationship recognition" but that: "Gay marriage does not so much protect the couple from the state as it protects the couple from each other. ... It is a third-party acknowledgment and recognition that people who have shared love have basic responsibilities toward each other." A second motive, she says, is to "force the state to legitimate the emotional life of the gay person as a balance to the deprivation of recognition created by the family."

The shunning from family is part of the reason the gay subculture was created to begin with—people created new families of choice. Schulman writes that some people chose this subculture "in order to minimize contact with the official culture and its people. ... Others of us have tried to transform [the mainstream] and failed. We've gone head-to-head with the glass ceilings ... we are then forced back into the subculture simply because they won't let us into the big world." If you sense a very personal connection to this for Schulman, you are correct, as the book includes a lot about Schulman's own feelings of shunning of her professional work because she is a lesbian.

Schulman takes a closer look at how lesbians are often excluded from mainstream culture, and how lesbian works also often shunned by gay men in positions of power within the entertainment world. "What are the stakes in this?" she asks. "Why is having authentic lesbian content excluded from mainstream representation reinforcing the shunning and oppression in gay people's daily lives? The key answer is POWER. Truthful lesbian representations teach straight people, through some trickle down theory, to be kinder to gay people. But it's not just that. With lesbian representations, lesbians can see truthful depictions of themselves and thereby realize that they are human."

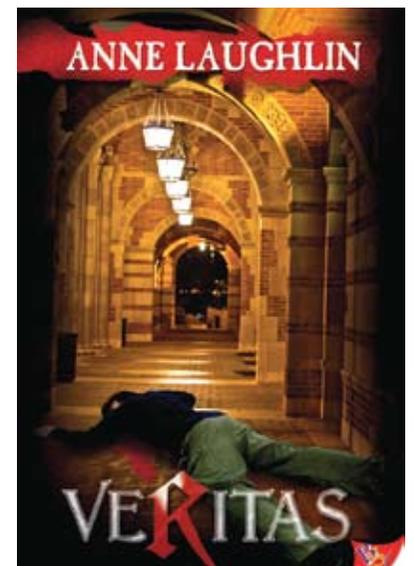
This more personal take on this topic is an important contribution to our understanding of homophobia and its costs. I would recommend this not just for activists, but also for therapists and those dealing with family dynamics—families of all kinds. What we need is a paradigm shift, one that does not set up heterosexuality as the "norm" and everything else as "other." Once the status quo shifts within families, and all diversity is welcome, only then can all LGBTs grow up to feel fully part of society. It is a change that will take decades to have an impact, but it needs to start with the current generation, and it needs to start at home.

BOOK REVIEW

Veritas

Written by Anne Laughlin
\$16.95; Bold Stroke Books; 235 pages

REVIEW BY TRACY BAIM



Chicago-based lesbian mystery author Anne Laughlin has written a new book, *Veritas*, involving intrigue and murder at a small Midwestern college campus.

In the tradition of classic Naiad lesbian novels, this Bold Strokes Books paperback is a quick read showing insight and mystery surrounding a lesbian protagonist, Dean Beth Ellis, and her students and colleagues at Grafton College.

Laughlin gets the action moving quickly, but she allows characters to reveal their complications and motivations only as necessary for the reader.

Meanwhile, we see how Ellis copes with small-town lesbian life. We're introduced to the area's lesbian Don Juan, an auto mechanic, and other lesbians in Ellis' very small circle of friends. A former Chicago homicide cop, Sally Sullivan, is the town's police chief; she is a native of the area who has somehow escaped Ellis' attention so far. They come together to help solve the murders. Can love be far behind?

Writer Laughlin juggles the plot while Ellis juggles between her desire for love and the need to solve the campus murders: "Beth made her way through the crowd and headed out into the sunny spring day, the sort of day that made her want to dance and play and laugh and have sex, except that she was the dean of Grafton College and there was a murderer running loose, and why would she be thinking of such things?"

While summer isn't here yet, this is one of those books that you can read lounging on the beach in an afternoon, or perhaps curled up in winter in front of a space heater in Chicago. Either way, you'll get a fun mix of mystery, passion and insight.

Laughlin's stories have been published in anthologies produced by Alyson Books, Cleis Press, and Bold Strokes Books. Her first novel, *Sometimes Quickly*, was published by P.D. Publishing.

Laughlin was named an Emerging Writer by the Lambda Literary Foundation in 2008. In 2009 she was awarded a writing residency at Ragdale.



Anne Laughlin.

CULTURE CLUB

Directed by Krissy Vanderwarker

ABOUT FACE THEATRE PRESENTS

WHAT ONCE WE FELT

By Ann Marie Healy

February 3 – March 6, 2010
Center on Halsted 3656 N. Halsted

Exclusive Corporate Sponsor
SunLee FOUNDATION

VISIT ABOUTFACETHEATRE.COM OR CALL 866-811-4111

\$25/\$15 Students

Show your program at Minitbar this week for a free appetizer or 25% off your meal - and ask about the AFTini! (3341 N. Halsted)

lifeline THEATRE
Big Stories, Up Close

Discover the nature of desire

MRS. CALIBAN

A world premiere adaptation of the novel by Rachel Ingalls
Thursday-Sunday through March 28, 2010
Call 773-761-4477 or visit www.lifelinetheatre.com

CLASSIFIEDS

ADVERTISE HERE

ADVERTISE HERE: Want to advertise your product, service, etc. to thousands of readers? Place an ad in the Windy City Times! We offer affordable rates, convenient service, and as a bonus, your ad runs in our online section for free. **To place an ad, contact Terri at 773-871-7610 ex 101, terri@windycitymediagroup.com, or go to our website www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.**

CLEANING SERVICES

CHESTNUT CLEANING SERVICES: We're a house cleaning service for homes, small businesses and small buildings. We also have fabulous organizational skills (a separate function at a separate cost that utilizes your assistance) for what hasn't been cleaned in many months or years due to long-term illness, depression, physical/mental challenges, for the elderly, if you have downsized and more. Depressed about going home to chaos? We can organize your chaos, straighten out your chaos, help you make sense of your chaos and finally clean what is no longer chaos. **Can we help you? Bonded and insured. Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575. www.ChestnutCleaning.com (4/30/10-tk)**

CONTRACTORS

Shannon Contractors: We specialize in all your residential and commercial building requirements. From new construction, remodeling, all carpentry, porches, patios, electrical, masonry, drywall, plumbing, tiling and painting. Licensed, insured and bonded. **Call Brendan Coyle 312-307-6515, coyli@yaho.com (2/24/10 -13)**

COUNSELING

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

FIREWOOD

WISCONSIN'S FINEST: Seasoned dry oak, fruitwood, white birch, etc. Guaranteed to burn. Fast delivery or pick-up. 1/4, 1/2 or full facecord. 2175 S. Canalport. **www.GoodWoodFirewood.com; 773-975-0251. (2/24/10-6)**

HEALTHCARE

NEW YOU COSTA RICA. We offer USA quality Medical & Dental in Costa Rica for a lot less (lipo anyone?). Please request a free quote today: **www.NewYouCostaRica.com 1-888-660-8060 or info@NewYouCostaRica.com (2/11/11-52)**

HELP WANTED

TRICARE FABRICS ARE IN NEED OF EMPLOYEES IN THESE CATEGORIES: BOOKKEEPER, PAYROLL/PAY RECEIVER. Our salary is attractive plus benefits and takes only little of your time. Requirements -Should be a computer literate, NO age discrimination, must be efficient and dedicated. For more info, **Contact or Recruit Dept at ttricarefabrics@gmail.com (3/24/10-6)**

INTERPRETER

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

MASSAGE THERAPY

HEALING DANCE OF TOUCH!: A very relaxing, therapeutic, full-body massage. 10 minutes SW of the Loop. Take care of yourself. \$55/hr. Longer sessions available. **Call Tim 773-368-9798 for appointment. (2/17/10-8)**

TRAVEL

THE BEAUTY OF DOOR COUNTY: beckons for your romantic stay in the warmth of Birchwood Lodge. Elegant suites include a king size bed, in room whirlpool and fireplace. Some suites are equipped with walk in showers. **Visit us at www.birchwoodlodge.com. (8/22/10-52)**

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

STUDIOS

EDGEWATER STUDIO W/ PARKING-New hdw floors, ample closets, bright, clean, close to bryn mawr red line/147 Express/Hollywood Beach/Starbucks/Jewel. Laundry in building, heat/cook gas incl. **\$650. call Michael 312-399-8464 or Dan 773-559-2350. (2/24/10-2)**

1332 W. HOOD AVE. - EDGEWATER STUDIOS. Spacious studios with ALL utilities included. Laundry in building. **\$595/mo w/no dep. SPECIAL: One Month Free!** Credit check required. Close to trans. & shopping. One avail. NOW another in Apr. **Call 773-392-4550. www.lands-tarrealty.com (2/17/10-1)**

ONE BEDROOMS

EDGEWATER BEACH, NEW REMODELED 1 BD FEATURES: Hardwood floors, Stainless Steel Appliances, Dishwasher, Microwave, Living room, Dining room, Sundeck & Rooftop. Pet friendly. Please ask about our specials. **Call Z at 773-561-4429. (2/10/10-4)**

1525 W. ESTES AVE. - ROGERS PARK 1BR & STUDIOS. Sunny 1BR & Studios with heat included. Laundry in building. \$575-695/mo w/no dep. **SPECIAL: 1 Month Free!** Credit & background check required. Close to lake & transportation. Avail. NOW & one in Mar. **773-392-4550. www.landstarrealty.com (2/17/10-1)**

TWO BEDROOMS

EDGEWATER: 6100 N. SHERIDAN LARGE TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT. Heat, basic cable, and gas included. Great location near public transportation, beach, shopping. Pet friendly up to 20lbs. **Rent \$1050 call 773-279-9338 (2/24/10-2)**

THREE+ BEDROOMS

HEART OF ANDERSONVILLE. Sunny upper level unit located in the heart of Andersonville: 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry. Pets OK. Garage parking available. \$1475.00 per month includes gas (heat). **Call 773-841-9093 (2/24/10-2)**

ROGERS PARK, FREE PARKING: 3BR 2Bath. Easy commute. Own laundry & indiv. lg bsmt. Fenced yard. Hardwood floors. Avail. now. **\$1,100+ HEAT & UTIL. JACK: 312-305-5473 or 773-338-5473. (3/10/10-4)**

420 W. MELROSE

A few steps from the Lakefront, this six story brick constructed elevator building features great apartments at a good price. Waveland Park and the Broadway shopping district are just some of the many neighborhood amenities. The downtown local and express busses are just a few steps away.



Contact Admir at (773) 617-6451

Realty & Mortgage Co.
928 W. Diversey Pkwy.
(773) 549-8300
www.realtymortgageco.com

440 W. BARRY

This centrally located mid-rise building features bright & spacious apartments. Arched doorways, built in shelving units, and ceramic tile baths give these units the charm and character you desire. Some of the studios and all of the one and two bedroom apartments feature separate dining areas. The Sheridan and Broadway bus stops are only one block away. A/C offered.



Contact Mrs. Papa at
(773) 619-0288

Realty & Mortgage Co.
928 W. Diversey Pkwy.
(773) 549-8300
www.realtymortgageco.com

549 W. ALDINE

This charming vintage walkup features completely remodeled apartments with exceptionally large closet, kitchen, and bath areas. Located within walking distance of the Lakefront, shopping, and nightlife, this is a prime residential area. This address provides access to the Broadway and Sheridan express busses, as well as the Belmont "L", which is only a few blocks away.



Contact Ziggy at (773) 617-6527

Realty & Mortgage Co.
928 W. Diversey Pkwy.
(773) 549-8300
www.realtymortgageco.com

451 W. MELROSE

This handsome six story elevator building is a Lakeview landmark. The apartments are very large and include the Lakefront, Waveland Park, and Broadway shopping in its long list of amenities. The downtown local and express busses are just a few steps away.



Contact Admir at (773) 617-6451

Realty & Mortgage Co.
928 W. Diversey Pkwy.
(773) 549-8300
www.realtymortgageco.com

Please join us for **A TASTE OF ROPA**

Ropa

A NEW MENU FOR A NEW YEAR

APPETIZERS: Sautéed Calamari garlic, shallot, white wine, lemon \$7.95
Su Borek homemade dough layered with feta cheese \$4.95

SOUP & SALADS: Aegean Salad tomatoes, cucumber, onion, parsley, feta, olive oil lemon \$4.95
Lentil Soup mint oil \$3.95

ENTREES: Chicken Adana seasoned ground chicken grilled on skewer, bulgur pilaf \$13.95
Sirloin Steak topped with blue cheese, roasted vegetables \$18.95
Pan-Seared Salmon sautéed garlic spinach \$16.95

1146 W. Pratt Blvd.
773-508-0002
RopaRestaurant.com

\$4 Martinis on Wednesday nights!

PIZZERIA - VINO - FRIENDS

GRUPPO CA DI AMICI

Tuesday Goes To The Dogs

Dine with us on Tuesdays and we will donate 5% of your dinner tab to the featured animal shelter dog.

1508 W JARVIS ST, CHICAGO, IL 60626
TEL 773 508 5565

SPECIALTY WINE & BEER LIST - FULL BAR - DRINK SPECIALS
WINE & BEER TASTINGS - CARRY OUT

HOURS TUES-SAT 5 PM-12 AM, SUN 5 PM-10 PM, CLOSED MONDAYS
WEB www.gruppodiamic.com

BUSINESS

Lesbian's eateries honor Frida Kahlo

BY ROSS FORMAN

Marlene Benitez was at a fork in her life, so she decided to, um, use it.

It was late 2006 when she learned her job at Glenbrook South was being eliminated at the end of the school year. She also then was going through a divorce and her kids were nearing their last days in high school.

"I thought I was at a cliff, and I was going to jump. But I was going to jump to happiness, not to hiding myself anymore," Benitez said.

Less than a month later, Benitez opened her first restaurant, the Andersonville spot *La Cocina de Frida*, 5403 N. Clark, and shortly thereafter she came out of the closet.

"I was done pretending to be a straight [woman]," she said. "Shortly after [the restaurant] opened I was at Star Gaze and someone asked [about my sexual orientation.] It was easy to say I was gay, and I was proud to say it."

She also then told her family, fearing the worst. But ultimately there were no issues. "They are still very proud of me," she said. "I want to be a good role-model for younger Latino lesbians, especially those who are afraid to come out, afraid to achieve their dreams, or just afraid tell their families," that they are gay.

Benitez, 44, of Glenview, has two daughters (Kris, 19; Alex, 18) and two highly successful restaurants: the Andersonville location and Frida's, 3755 N. Southport.

"My love for food and cooking came from cooking with my grandmother in Mexico, learning all of the traditional ways of cooking where you purchase that day what you are going to cook and eat that day," said Benitez, whose restaurants always offer made-from-scratch, traditional Mexican food.

Her grandmother, Aldegunda Garcia, is no doubt smiling down from heaven, knowing Benitez is successful and happy.

So who's Frida?

That's Frida Kahlo, a Mexican painter who used vibrant colors in a style influenced by indigenous cultures of Mexico and European influences. Many of her works are self-portraits that articulate her own pain, and Kahlo was bi-sexual.

"I've always had a fondness for that strong woman, someone who is very proud of her cul-

ture. My grandmother was very fond of her culture, very proud of our traditions and our family values. As was Frida Kahlo," Benitez said. "I used to always admire the fact that Frida was bi-sexual and was so open about it."

Benitez, at 21, moved from California to Mexico to open a gym in the state of Huitzuco. That is where she met her then-future husband, and she also then collected relics associated with Kahlo, who she was introduced to by her grandmother. Many of those relics are now on display at the Andersonville location.

"I came from a strict Mexican upbringing, so I didn't know [what] the reaction would be if I came out. So I instead led the married life, with a nine-to-five job," Benitez said. "But then everything came to a halt and I just decided, 'No more; I have to be myself.'"

Opening a restaurant, Benitez said she had, "nothing to lose." But added the venture was, at first, "very, very scary."

Today she's a success.

More about Marlene Benitez:

—Was married for 10 years

—Has volunteered for Howard Brown Health Center, for the International Film Festival, and more

—Is now dating local business consultant Shirley Riz, who also is her business partner at the Southport location, as well as her "best friend in the whole wide world," Benitez said.

—Is an admitted workaholic

—Buys food locally, mostly from an Edgewater market.

—The clientele at the Andersonville location includes a large percent of gay customers, along with visitors from Pilsen and the suburbs, particularly Evanston.

—The clientele at the Southport location is mostly young families.

—The number-one food item is the *bomba Frida*, a one-plate wonder filled with heapings of pork, cubed ham, chorizo, peppers, pineapple, cheese and more.

—The signature drink is La Cazuela, served in a clay bowl, with fresh, hand-squeezed grapefruit, orange, lemon and lime juices, along with two shots of tequila, with a dash of brandy and more. "It's just divine and we sell them like crazy, especially during the summer," she said.

—The quote: "Both [locations] are doing extremely well. I am living my dream come true. I wake up daily with a smile on my face."

—Is planning to open a Mexican steak house in 2011

—Offers fire-roasted salsas; their meat products are never frozen.

—She was originally going to name her first restaurant *La Cocina de Mi Abuela* (The Kitchen of My Grandmother).

Gay deaf company offers classes

BY ROSS FORMAN

American Sign Language (ASL) classes started as a pilot program from Deaf Communication by Innovation (DCI), but quickly became so popular that DCI expanded its offering to include one-on-one instruction, tutor and video remote instruction/tutor, and more.

"All of our registrants are either taking the [ASL] class for pleasure or with a goal to be more involved in the deaf community," said DCI's Matt Dans. "So far, the students' ages range from 18 to 70; the average age is mid-30s, and we have a few more female than male students. Most are college students or have jobs related to social service. We are very pleased that most of the students from our beginning classes return for intermediate training."

Dans said the popularity of ASL has grown steadily since the 1970s, when several scientific studies found that ASL's value is not limited to the deaf community. "With increasing interest in ASL, there are simply not enough resources available to teach it on a widespread basis," he said. "We at DCI see this as another opportunity to expand ASL use and deaf awareness in the Chicago area, and even throughout the state."

"To seize the whole opportunity is to provide services that would fulfill the demands and as of what we've learned, providing ASL instruction classes, tutoring and video instruction/tutoring. Currently, we have two ASL instructors teaching classes and tutoring individuals, Matt Lieberman and myself."

Dans and Lieberman are both deaf and gay.

Each ASL class from DCI is a six-week course, with once-a-week sessions that are two hours each. DCI offers beginner, intermediate and advanced ASL courses.

"After taking the first six-week class, [students] will be able to have basic conversations with deaf people," Dans said. "With the basic ability, one can meet a deaf person in a public place and anything could happen from there ... new friend, or [even] a new lover. One with a basic knowledge in ASL could become immersed in the deaf world and pick up ASL and deaf culture on his/her own. However, we do strongly encourage people to take all three levels before going out on their own. Like any language, the more you know, the better chance for you to be able to communicate more effectively."

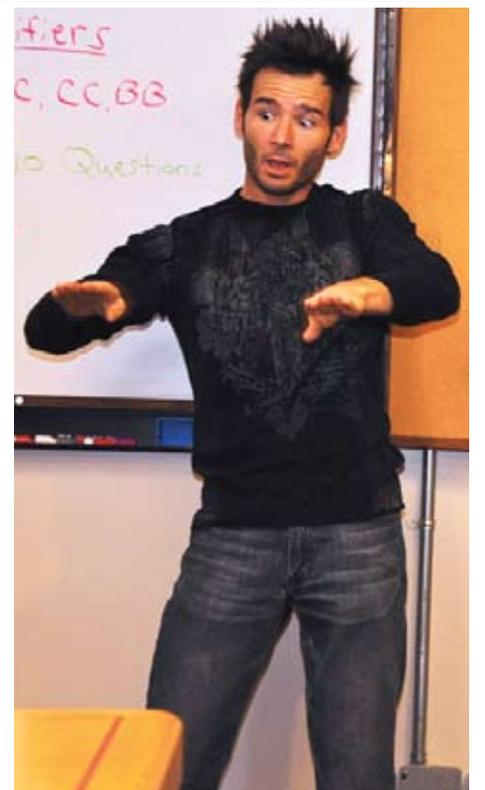
Raymond Rogers, the CEO and president of DCI, said the local LGBT deaf community—DCI, in particular—has been "pretty quiet" of late in comparison to a year ago, when DCI was preparing to host the Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf's (annual conference).

"Apparently, many are taking a long break, trying to recover after all the hard work planning the conference," Rogers said. "Now, they are focused again on daily matters. However, there are still some LGBT deaf social events."

Rogers said business at DCI for the first four years of its five years was "very good." In fact, the company doubled in size annually. But, in 2009, "we grew at a slower pace, mainly because of the economy," Rogers said. "[The year] 2009 was a turning point for DCI during which we closely examined our service products to determine where to redistribute our resources to best serve the deaf community while maintaining a healthy company."

DCI now has five full-time and three part-time employees. Five of the eight are openly gay. In addition, DCI has more than 400 freelance sign language interpreters on contract, and many of them are also LGBT, he said.

"We've recently added video remote interpreting (VRI) to our current interpreting services," Rogers said. "VRI is another interpreting service for the public to use, mostly for those who deal with deaf individuals. VRI uses current technology, computer and webcam, to interpret for deaf



Matt Lieberman teaches a class at DCI. Photo courtesy of Raymond Rodgers

and hearing people located in the same room. Using the Internet, a customer can simply contact our VRI call center to request an interpreter who instantly appears on the computer screen. This kind of accessibility works well for walk-in services, such as HIV/STD clinics, hospital emergencies and impromptu meetings between deaf and hearing people, etc. "

So what's ahead for the LGBT deaf community in 2010?

"There is much more work to be done to create accessibility for deaf LGBT people," Rogers said. "Some organizations, such as the Human Rights Campaign, Illinois Equality, Test Positive Aware Network and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, to name a few, have gone the extra mile to make their events accessible. Unfortunately, the live stages at Chicago PrideFest and Market Days, for instance, are still not interpreted and therefore not accessible to deaf LGBT attendees. Also, most live LGBT shows are not interpreted for the Deaf LGBT audience and most LGBT films are not captioned."

"Clearly, there is a lot more to do before the Chicago LGBT community is accessible to its deaf members. Many other cities—such as San Francisco, New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Milwaukee—are way ahead of Chicago in terms of accessibility as almost all of their LGBT events are interpreted. Hopefully, this will change in Chicago as the hearing members of Chicago's LGBT community become more aware of their deaf brothers and sisters."

The next Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf's biennial conference will be in 2011 in Denver, and the World Federation of the Deaf's International Deaf LGBT Conference will be in South Africa.

Don't expect the RAD to return to Chicago right away.

"Considering the amount of work involved, I doubt Windy City Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf would be prepared to host another major conference for a while," Rogers said. "We have plenty to keep us busy just planning events for Chicago's deaf and LGBT community."

Rogers said the worldwide economic crisis has definitely impacted the LGBT deaf community, perhaps more than most others.

"Many organizations/companies are struggling to survive and do not have funding to provide accessibility to deaf people for events, shows, etc. Because of the double minority, things are even worse for the deaf LGBT community," Rogers said. "Many organizations simply won't be able to provide the same level of financial support to which we have become accustomed."

Anyone interested in ASL classes should call DCI at 773-859-7709 or visit www.deafcomm.net.



Marlene Benitez. Photos by Ross Forman

calendar

Brought to you by the combined efforts of

WINDY CITY TIMES



Wed., Feb. 17

The Joffrey Ballet presents The Joffrey Ballet's 2009-2010 "Season of Legends" continues with Sir Frederick Ashton's Cinderella, back by popular demand. Widely considered one of the greatest ballet interpretations of this timeless fairytale, Ashton's Cinderella is an enchanting fantasy full of splendor, humor and magic. 7:30pm, 800-982-2787, Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E Congress Pkwy, <http://joffrey.org>

RENT at Minibar Join members of the cast of Rent the Broadway tour for a live performance at Minibar Ultra Lounge and Cafe; 9pm, Minibar Ultra Lounge and Cafe, 3341 N Halsted, <http://www.minibarchicago.com>

Gospel Recovery Jubilee A Benefit Event for GLBT in Recovery from Substance Abuse; 6:30pm, 773.576.5930, www.insightartsliberation.org

Verbatim Verboten Ever-changing revue of staged transcripts created 10 years ago in Chicago by Michael Martin. Word-for-word transcripts of noted people saying things they never meant for the public to hear: surveillance tapes, secretly recorded conversations, forgotten open mics, on-camera diatribes, released emails, private correspondence ... Doors 7 pm, show 7:30; 7pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark

Thursday, Feb. 18

The Center's danceOUT series The Center on Halsted presents an evening of dance-performance and conversation with The Joffrey Ballet's "Cinderella"; 6pm

9th Annual Freedom to Marry Reception Educate. Advocate. Celebrate. With more

MAUL'S WELL... Saturday, Feb. 27

The Ms. Ruck and Maul Pageant will take place at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted.

Photo from 2009 event
by Kirk Williamson



than 60 community partner organizations and over 400 attendees, Freedom to Marry is one of the state's favorite events that celebrates and advocates for the fight for marriage equality. For more info, contact Lauren Hernandez at 312-663-4413, ext 327. 6pm, 312-663-4413, <http://support.lambdalegal.org/site/calendar?view=detail&id=101041>

Jump Rhythm Jazz Project Performances Jump Rhythm Jazz Project will mark its 20th anniversary with a program at The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago. Join us for three evenings of rhythm-driven story dances performed to the sounds of jazz, blues, funk, rock, and world music. 8pm, (312) 369-8330, <http://www.colum.edu/dancecenter>

Cyon Flare with DJ Phil DaBeatz at Hydrate Nightspots presents Thursdays at Hydrate hosted by Cyon Flare with ChicagoPride.com's own, DJ Phil DaBeatz and hot strippers. Win cash and other prizes from 10:30pm to 1:30am; 10pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

cago.com

Kimi Hayes live at Briejo in Oak Park!

Kimi Hayes and her band have opened for Sugarland, Willie Nelson, Gavin DeGraw, The Neville Brothers, The BoDeans, Sarah Evans, Lucinda Williams, The Ides of March, Blues Traveler, Steppenwolf, and many more. 8:30pm, <http://www.kimi-hayes.com>

Friday, Feb. 19

Heartland Alliance for The Art of Human Rights, Annual silent and live art auction, featuring unique works of art, gourmet fare, cocktails, and music. 5:30pm Special Gallery Hour, admission for Sponsors and Patron and Benefactor tickets. Includes interactive artist workshop, live painting, and specialty cocktails. 6:30pm, 312-660-1339, <http://www.artofhumanrights.com>

Chicago League of Lady Arm Wrestlers Ladylike ass-kicking, Chicago style. At 9:30 pm, the lady wrestlers enter, and the battle begins. Final match and championship-crowning is at 11:30 pm, after which the regulation arm-wrestling table is open to all. Open bar and audience participation. \$25 includes open bar or \$5 and cash bar. 9:30pm, <http://www.sideshowtheatre.org>

Saturday, Feb. 20

Winter Photography Adventure Dramatic weather makes dramatic pictures. Sapphic Adventure member Krystal is a professional fine art photographer. She offered to guide us through the beautiful winter landscape of the Matthiessen State Park and share some photography tips. 11am, <http://www.sapphicadventures.org>

The Second City 50th Anniversary Tour The Second City, legendary across North America for fusing culture and politics with fast-paced humor, kicked off its celebration of 50 years of sketch comedy this past December. This February, they bring the show up to the North Shore as part of The Second City 50th Anniversary Tour. The evening will include snippets of scenes written by a plethora of comedy greats - Alan Arkin, Gilda Radner, Bill Murray, Stephen Colbert, Tina Fey and more - all who graced the stages of The Second City. This fast-paced and funny history lesson hilariously skewers every scandal, war, and dalliance from the past 50 years. 8pm, 847-673-6300, <http://www.north-shorecenter.org>

Sappho's Salon, A Provocative Night of Lesbian Diversions This month's installment of our popular salon night for lesbians and their friends features the performance work of two outstanding queer

artists, Ifa Bumi (Atlanta-based lesbian erotic writer, performance poet and musician), Barrie Cole ("Chicago's Champion of Lyrical Oddness") and DJ SpinNikki \$7-\$10 sliding admission includes food and wine. Proceeds to the artists and the Woman's Voices Fund. 7:30pm, Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark St.

Wiggin' Out! with Miss Foozie at Rehab New Bar! New Show! New Drag! No COVER! MISS FOOZIE! To sign up for the contest, come between 8-8:30pm. Bring two song numbers, 5 minute song limit each. 7 contestant limit, first come basis. 9pm, Circuit Night Club, 3641 N Halsted, www.missfoozie.com

Singing Out with Glee Don't miss this Song and Dance Cabaret Show to raise fund for arts education in the Chicagoland area. \$5 Suggested Donation Party begins at 9pm, Show at 10pm. 9pm, 773-604-1892, Velvet Rope, 728 West Lake Street, <http://www.artreachspotlite.com>

Sunday, Feb. 21

Chicago Curve: An Event for Women Mixer We have Calo's all to ourselves. An afternoon of Italian cuisine, drinks & live music! \$40 Italian dishes, drink tickets and a special performance by Jess Yoakum. 12pm, Calo Ristorante, 5343 N Clark, <http://www.chicagocurve.com>

The Windy City Rollers Chicago's nationally ranked women's roller derby league will unleash its brazen derby skaters to a sea of roaring fans. \$20 in advance and \$21 at the door. Doors 5 pm. Bout 6 pm. 1pm, <http://www.windycityrollers.com>

Holocaust Museum event to feature Piven's "Number of People" Piven Theatre Workshop Educator and Ensemble Member Bernard Beck will perform excerpts from the World Premiere production of Number of People, written by his daughter Emilie Beck, during a discussion on memory, identity and loss among Holocaust survivors at the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center. Free with Museum admission. 1:30pm, 847-967-4889, www.ilholocaustmuseum.org

Patti Smith Patti Smith, the world renowned writer, musician and visual artist, discusses and signs her new book, Just Kids, a memoir of her time in New York with Robert Mapplethorpe. It was the summer Coltrane died, the summer of love and riots, and the summer when a chance encounter in Brooklyn led two young people on a path of art, devotion and initiation. 2pm, <http://www.chipublib.org>

Bailiwick Chicago's Show Us Your Love Bailiwick Chicago's Show Us Your Love, a musical revue, celebrates love and relationships, featuring both comic and dramatic selections from some of Broadway and Off-Broadway's very best. 7:30pm, 773-969-6201, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark, <http://www.bailiwickchicago.com>

Monday, Feb. 22

LGBT Faith Conversation This group will use a variety of resources—articles, guest speakers, personal sharing, short documentaries and more from a variety of disciplines (psychology, religion, theology, science, sociology, etc)—to help LGBTQ people reflect on their spiritual journeys. This group is a joint collaboration of The Center on Halsted and Urban Village Church Chicago and will meet every Monday evening 7-8:30 pm thru March 1. 773-263-9554, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.meetup.com/gay-and-christian/calendar/12303293>

Bisexual Women's Support Group In the safe and confidential setting of Howard Brown Health Center, women are invited speak with other bisexual or questioning women about issue of sexuality. The group will explore bisexual identity and stigma, while building support around issues that are unique to bisexual women. Eight weeks. Register at lbtigroups@howardbrown.org; 7pm, 773-388-1600,



ON THE MARK Tuesday, Feb. 23

Mark Anthony Lord (above) is the featured speaker at Liberation 2010 at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted.

PR photo

x3319, Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N Sheridan Rd, <http://www.howardbrown.org>

Tuesday, Feb. 23

Liberation 2010 Team Meet n' Greet with Mark Anthony Lord Hear why Liberation is not simply a conference, but a movement in consciousness and why now is the time for each of us to come to a place of peace and understanding within ourselves to affect change in the world at large. Presentation at 7pm, light refreshments. 6:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

WAC (Women's Action Committee) "WAC" is composed of women dedicated to providing quality programming and community to LGBTQ women and their allies in the Chicago-land area. If you identify as a woman, then be the change you want to see in LGBTQ programming at Center on Halsted! Free. women@centeronhalsted.org; 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.com>

Wed., Feb. 24

Hawaiian/Hula and Tahitian Dance Class Join us every Wednesday night at 8:20pm and learn the basics of pacific island dancing. Learn how to dance Hula including Hula Auana (modern Hula) and Hula Kahiko (ancient Hula), Tahitian dances such as the Otea and Aparima, and dances from other pacific islands like Guam and many more. 4057 N. Damen Ave. 8:30pm, <http://www.islapacific.com>

Thursday, Feb. 25

'Gays Got Talent' searches for top Chicago performers The company behind the popular Windy City Gay Idol, now in its 8th year, has provided a stage for Chicago's best singers. Now WCMG expands the search for the most diverse and talented acts in Chicago's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community with Gays Got Talent. The 2nd annual event will challenge America's Got Talent to include more GLBT talent on their show. WCMGpromotions@gmail.com 734-834-0491; 1:30pm, 34-834-0491, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave, <http://http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/gaysgottalent2010.html>

Saturday, Feb. 27

Miss Ruck and Maul Pageant 2010 Fund-raiser for the Chicago Dragons rugby team. Back by popular demand: Ms. Iona Traylor. \$20 advance, \$25. 5pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St, <http://www.chicagodragons.org>

BEHIV Fundraiser with Cleveland Leather Awareness Chicago-area members of CLAW (Cleveland Leather Awareness Weekend) and KAOS Kontrol fundraiser for BEHIV's life-saving programs. Raffle and auction items will be available throughout the evening. 9pm, 773-293-4740, Touche,



'TALENT' SHOW

Thursday, Feb. 25

Windy City Media Group's newest "Gays Got Talent" kicks off at Spin, 800 W. Belmont.

Photo from the 2009 event by Kirk Williamson

BILLY MASTERS

Does anyone not like Anne Hathaway? She's always been a gay fave and has often gone out of her way to support our community. At the 2008 Trevor Project "Cracked Xmas" benefit, she spontaneously auctioned herself off for a lunch date which raised \$12,000 for the nationwide LGBT suicide hotline. But that's neither here nor there. In the current issue of British GQ magazine, she reveals that her entire family left the Catholic Church to support her gay brother: "The whole family converted to Episcopalianism after my elder brother came out. Why should I support an organization that has a limited view of my beloved brother?" Why, indeed.

Maybe it's me, but I'm getting mixed messages from Ellen. On one hand, she's a Cover Girl spokesperson. But last week, she told CBS News that women should stop obsessing about their looks and weight and just be happy with who they are: "It's not important. We put the wrong emphasis on what beauty is and what health is." P.S. She's currently in the midst of a sugar fast that she's doing, aside from health reasons, to lose weight. Huh?

Sexy Nick Adams is returning to Broadway—as a chorus girl. Yes, I said chorus GIRL. The boy with the rock-hard abs (to say nothing of the rest of him) has joined the cast of the upcoming revival of "La Cage aux Folles" as one of the glamorous "Cagelles". While I certainly look forward to his appearance in drag, I have to say it's a surprising career move. Obviously the boy needs to pay the bills. But for someone who has been building a resume with featured parts on Broadway (and on the road), it's a curious step. I know "Cagelles" on both sides of the Atlantic who say their time in the show was amongst their happiest professional experiences. But I dare say none of those people became household names.

The rumors are true—The Go-Go's concerts taking place this summer will be part of their farewell tour. Although it's not the first farewell, the gals swear it will be the last. This tour promises to be more extensive than in recent years, and will likely include a DVD—probably from the last show, which is expected to take place in L.A. Sad.

Someone else hitting the road this summer is Barbra Streisand. Although she's already turned down \$100 million to play The Colosseum at Caesars Palace in Vegas, the success of her latest CD has prompted a return to the stage (after two farewells—take a note, Go-Go's). We hear that Babs has recaptured the joy of singing in public and just wants to have a good time. Although the tour will likely play arenas, she'd rather play more intimate venues if she had her druthers. This brings up two questions. Why not? And who, pray tell, has taken Streisand's druthers?

Remember when Heather Mills was an alleged "star" who was dancing? Now, the one-legged

wonder is trying to rehabilitate her reputation by appearing on the UK show Dancing on Ice. Well, if there's anything funnier than the thought of Heather's lower appendage flying off during a high kick, it's anticipating a mishap in the middle of a triple salchow—ironically, I believe "sow cow" was her nickname in college! I'm picturing her leg becoming airborne with a blade attached and possibly take out a judge—turning a nice family show into "Kill Bill On Ice." Alas, Heather has taken precautions: "I had to adjust my leg because it keeps slipping out but my physiotherapist has been brilliant and glued it in." If that glue works, I smell an endorsement deal. I certainly smell something!



Anne Hathaway is a lapsed Catholic.

Since we're talking about British reality shows, we'll answer an "Ask Billy" question from Christian in London: "I'm sure you're familiar with Katie Price, who models as Jordan. Her now-husband was on 'Celebrity Big Brother' and friends of mine said you could see his willy during the live feeds. He's stunning and I'd love to see. Pretty please?"

First, some background for my U.S. readers. Katie Price is an infamous British Page 3 Girl who has enormous implants and is quite a personality. She was previously married to the gorgeous pop singer Peter Andre and they divorced last year under mysterious circumstances. Now she's with Alex Reid, a cage fighter who likes to dress up in drag under his alter-ego "Roxanne" and be dominated! He refers to himself as "trisexual", meaning he's tried it all. And, oh yes, he's gorgeous with a rockin' body. As to his appearance on Celebrity Big Brother (which he ultimately won), his penis did make two appearances on the telly. Once, the housemates surprised a naked Alex in the loo and dumped a bucket of cold water on him. Far more interesting was when he was sleeping and the night-vision cameras were filming him. When the sheet got pulled away in a spontaneous moment (that looked intentional to me), his naughty bits were exposed for all to see. And it was certainly worth seeing—so much so that I'll run photos and even the video on BillyMasters.com.

When I'd rather watch Heather skate than any Olympian, it's definitely time to end yet another column. I've got a big announcement regarding Jeffrey Sanker's White Party Weekend (Palm Springs, Calif., April 9-12) ... and, yet, I'm gonna wait and make you beg for it. But let's put it this way: it includes me! Does that sweeten the pot? Tune in next week for more details. Or go to www.JeffreySanker.com to order your tickets to this event. Not only are the tickets significantly cheaper this far in advance, but people who click through from our site of www.BillyMasters.com will be getting some special perks. If you have any questions, just drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before someone gets their hands on my druthers! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



Barbra just wants to have fun.



SHOW TUNE MONDAYS!

"We'll always be bosom buddies..."

Monday, Feb 22

we celebrate
About Face Theatre's

WHAT ONCE WE FELT

Join us as we welcome
cast, crew & friends.
No cover.




SidetrackChicago.com • 3349 N. Halsted • Valet Parking Available

THE HOTTEST TICKET ON THE WEB



FREE
30 MIN.
CODE:
04149

KYLE KING
COURTESY OF
HOTOHOUSE.COM

GayMovies.com

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



Charlie Star. Photo courtesy of Aaron Nelson

Gay pro wrestler releases memoirs

BY ROSS FORMAN

Aaron Nelson broke into the pro wrestling business in June 2001, about a month after his 18th birthday. He was trained by legendary past pros and eventually landed in a small regional territory near his home in Vancouver, Wash.

"I always was interested in wrestling, more on a local level," said Nelson, now 26 and living in Las Vegas.

He was part of Portland Championship Wrestling (PCW) in 2004, a long way from the high-profile glitz and glamour of World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) or Total Nonstop Action (TNA) Wrestling, which now—and also back in 2004—shares the prime-time spotlight of U.S.-based pro wrestling companies.

Nelson was Cameron Star in the ring, a Hawaiian-themed wrestler, in tribute to his mother's heritage. He was just an average wrestler for a small-time promotion, maybe performing in front of a few hundred fans.

But then in 2006 Star came out, incorporating a gay aspect with the Hawaiian flavor.

It was art imitating life, truly.

"That's when I really came into my own as a wrestler," he said. "Sure, it was scary coming out [as a wrestler,] even though I personally had been out since my 16th birthday, on May 20, 1999.

"But being out as a pro wrestler was a whole different thing.

"I tried to do it subtly at first [because], yeah, I was really nervous about the role and the fact that there were a lot of people—from promoters to other wrestlers—telling me that there wasn't going to be room for a gay [good-guy] wrestler. But the crowd was really receptive to my character."

Nelson's alter ego was not a flamboyant character, but rather, "just part of me."

Nelson admitted that several other wrestlers did not want to face him once he came out, "for whatever personal reasons [they had,] he said.

But after a while, the other wrestlers saw how popular Cameron Star had become—and they knew facing him could do nothing but help them, too.

"Their attitudes changed; they were more receptive to get into the ring with me," Nelson said.

In 2007, Star turned into a bad guy, which was a first in his career. "I was more nervous about being the heel than playing the gay gimmick," Nelson said.

Star retired from the ring last April, and has spent the past year writing his memoirs. He just released *No Forwarding Address: The Cameron Star Project*, which offers Nelson's take on

a business—and his personal life—filled with drugs, sexuality, diabetes and the struggle to gain notoriety. The book is available at Lulu, Inc. (www.lulu.com).

Nelson, who is single, is donating a portion of all book sales to children with diabetes.

"I had so much fun writing this book," he said. "The real reason I wrote it is, I want to inspire others, especially gay athletes. I know it was a rough road for me, so hopefully I'll help inspire others."

Here's more about Aaron Nelson, aka, Cameron Star:

—He spent a week training at the Funking Conservatory Wrestling School in Florida, run by Dory Funk, Jr. He also was trained by "Playboy" Buddy Rose and Col. DeBeers. "They taught me so much about the psychology of the business," Star said.

—The highlight of his wrestling career was in 2008-09, running California Grand Prix Wrestling in the Santa Cruz, Calif., area. "That's when I really came into my own as far as booking, promoting, and more. I loved that," he said.

—Star does not plan to return to the ring for a few years, and then as a commentator, booker, trainer or referee.

—Regrets? "No; not really," he said. "I stuck to all of my goals ... maybe that I spent the first few years in wrestling trying to cover up the fact that I'm gay. That's it in retrospect."

—Being gay: "No one knew I was gay when I broke into the business. I made a conscious decision to cover up [my sexuality]. Not because I was ashamed of who I was, but I just wanted to be treated the same; I didn't want to be treated better or worse because of [my sexuality]. I wanted to have success, or fail, based on my effort and ability, not on my sexuality."

—Do it again? Yes, but, "I would have come out a little earlier once I got into the business."

—Final quote: "I had so much fun with the gimmick; I just wish I had started it sooner. I grew as a person along with the character. When I started wrestling, I was just a shy kid, and I think that came across in the ring. But then when I started to incorporate [being gay] into the Cameron Star persona, I grew as a person. That showed in and out of the ring."

Death shocks hockey world

BY ROSS FORMAN

The shocking, untimely Feb. 5 death of Brendan Burke, the son of Toronto Maple Leafs and U.S. Olympic Team General Manager Brian Burke, echoed across the United States and Canada.

Brendan Burke, 21, was killed in a car crash on a snow-covered highway near the Indiana-Ohio border, not far from Richmond. Burke came into the national spotlight from a feature story about him late last year on ESPN.com, detailing the love and acceptance Burke got from his dad after coming out as gay.

Brendan Burke (of Canton, Mass.) and Mark A. Reedy, 18, (Bloomfield Hills, Mich.) died at the scene of an accident involving two vehicles, according to TheStar.com. Investigators said Burke was driving eastbound on U.S. 35 in a 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee when, according to witnesses, the vehicle slid sideways into an oncoming 1997 Ford Truck, driven by Michael Moreland, 24. Moreland was not hurt.

Burke was a student manager on the Universi-

ty of Miami (Ohio) hockey team and dreamed of being involved in National Hockey League (NHL) management. Burke was set to graduate in May and planned to attend law school. His hockey duties at Miami included video breakdown and compilation of goalie statistics.

Miami defeated Lake Superior State 10-4 the day after his death. Miami coach Enrico Blasi learned of Burke's death during the game.

"There's really no words to describe the emotions," Miami coach Enrico Blasi told the Dayton Daily News. "All the boys just really wanted to do this for Brendan. I think it shows the kind of person he was, what he meant to us.

"It was a difficult 24 hours for everybody. I think we all know in the locker room that he was with us tonight."

On Feb. 6, the Toronto Maple Leafs observed a moment of silence in Burke's honor, and dedicated their 5-0 win over the Ottawa Senators to Brendan.

"We really wanted to win for Brendan, Brian and the whole Burke family," Leafs coach Ron Wilson said after the game.

Members of the Chicago Gay Hockey Association (CGHA) were shocked at the news of Burke's death and, on Feb. 10, sent a letter to Brian Burke, expressing their deepest condolences.

"Many of the members of our organization have heard of and been inspired by Brendan's story of coming out to his family, friends, and teammates," the CGHA letter stated. "It was one of courage and acceptance—a moving story of love and support from Brendan's family and friends.

"We will remember his encouraging message of compassion and strength. Many of us know all too well the difficulties that Brendan faced in coming out to his family and teammates, especially in a medium as difficult as the hockey community. Likewise, we recognize and commend him for overcoming the unique challenges he faced.

"Brendan's inner strength and fortitude have been an inspiration to our members. Each of us can only hope that we have a fraction of the dramatic and lasting impact on people that Brendan had. Brendan's tireless efforts to raise awareness of the difficulties faced by gay teenagers and athletes have affected countless people. He touched and helped many people throughout his life.

"No matter what team he played with, he would have been an inspiration both on and off the ice. Even though none of us had the opportunity to play alongside Brendan, we each feel as if we have lost a teammate."

Rob Vendetti, of the CGHA's Chicago Blackwolves team, said, "It is sad whenever we lose somebody so young, but a tragedy when it is somebody who is trying to break down the sexual orientation barriers in the sports world."

The Blackwolves' Stephen Leonard added, "Unlike Brendan, I let my sexuality be a determining factor in high school and stopped playing hockey for fear of harassment from other teammates. The weight of balancing sexuality and social identity at a young age is extremely heavy. Brendan's story is an inspiration as it is living proof that an individual is truly measured by their heart and determination. I commend him for the life he lived and the confidence his story lends to young athletes struggling with identity and truth."

Austin Baidas, who also plays for the Blackwolves, said: "When you talk about the overall fight for equality, it's very encouraging when you see a young man able to step up, be out and have a positive response from everyone. We

are very appreciative and very respectful for everything he did. We're deeply saddened by his death."

Brendan Burke's funeral was in Canton, Mass., and the Miami team attended. Chicago Blackhawks head coach Joel Quenneville, general manager Stan Bowman and others within the organization attended the services. Brendan's sister, Molly, and brother, Patrick, delivered the eulogy.

Also at the funeral were scores of people from the NHL, including referees (past and present), retired players, fellow general managers, player agents and broadcasters. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman attended, as did former NHL greats Cam Neely and Mark Messier.

Father James McCune spoke to the overflow crowd of mourners at St. John the Evangelist Church. "Brendan's public admission of his sexual orientation is widely credited with nudging hockey forward in overcoming its sometimes homophobic culture," McCune said.

Aussie Olympian diver appearing at Gay Games

Openly gay Australian Olympic gold medalist Matthew Mitcham has announced he will travel to Cologne, Germany to be part of this year's Gay Games, according to a Federation of Gay Games press release.

"I'm excited to be part of something so important for our communities around the globe. This event brings lesbian and gay life out on the court, onto the track, and into the pool," Mitcham said. "Being 'out' means for me being just as I am with nothing to be ashamed about and no reasons to hide. Participating at the Gay Games is a great chance for all gays and lesbians to show that we as a community are not like the stereotypes the straight media loves to portray."

Mitcham will be making appearances at several events but will not compete. In addition, he will detail his trip to Germany and participation in the Gay Games on his Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pages/Matthew-Mitcham-Olympian/23129711303).



Matthew Mitcham.

Female arm wrestlers Feb. 19

The Chicago League of Lady Arm Wrestlers is holding "CLLAW V" Friday, Feb. 19, at The Mystic Celt, 3443 N. Southport, 9 p.m.-12 a.m.

Tickets are \$25 and include access to a three-hour open bar. Proceeds from the benefit, brought by Sideshow Theatre Company, will benefit Rock for Kids. See www.cllaw.wordpress.com or www.SideshowTheatre.org.

2010 WCAA Men's Basketball

| Competitive | W | L | Intermediate | W | L | Recreational | W | L |
|------------------|---|---|-----------------------|---|---|--------------------------|---|---|
| Jackhammer | 4 | 0 | T's | 4 | 1 | Big Chicks | 5 | 0 |
| 3160 | 3 | 1 | Crew | 4 | 2 | T's | 4 | 1 |
| Sidetrack | 3 | 2 | Sidetrack | 4 | 2 | Spin | 2 | 3 |
| Roscoe's | 2 | 3 | Sofo | 3 | 2 | Taste of Heaven | 2 | 3 |
| Hamburger Mary's | 2 | 3 | Gotcha Covered Blinds | 3 | 2 | Triad Entertainment | 1 | 4 |
| Solfire Realty | 0 | 5 | Apocalypse | 1 | 4 | The Green Team | 1 | 4 |
| | | | Hamburger Mary's | 0 | 6 | —Teams listed by sponsor | | |



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

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

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



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

The Law Offices of
Alexander Weaver
312-588-5005
email: violaw@rcn.com

A Full Service Law Firm for the Community since 1988

410 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 628, Chicago

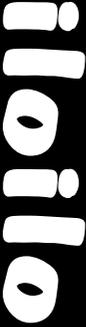


High Point Auto Service

Making every point matter! 

Complete Auto Repair Domestic or Foreign

4922 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60640
773-561-0366
HPASonline.com
reachus@HPASonline.com


CUSTOM FRAMING

25% off all custom framing!

1478 W. Berwyn - 773.784.3962



PHYSICAL THERAPY • MASSAGE
ACUPUNCTURE • HOMEOPATHY



Dr. Richard Ezgur Dr. Robert DiDomenico

2835 N. Sheffield (@Diversey) - 773-525-9355
711 W. North (@Halsted) - 312-664-9060

www.progressivechiropractic.com

SERVING THE NEEDS OF HIV+ INDIVIDUALS
• LOWEST PRICES
• FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
• COUNSELING
• CONFIDENTIALITY

WE ARE A DISTRIBUTOR OF



THORNDALE PHARMACY

1104 W THORNDALE, CHICAGO

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

FULL SERVICE

WE SHIP ANYWHERE




DR. JAY L. HAMMERMAN, R.P.H.



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.

312.985.5900 | clarkhill.com
rkoenig@clarkhill.com



CLARK HILL

ARIZONA ILLINOIS MICHIGAN WASHINGTON DC

© 2009 Clark Hill PLC



Susan O'Dell, PhD
Down to earth, change oriented therapy

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

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

773.262.7010

1422 W. THOME AVENUE, CHICAGO IL 60660

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP

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

| | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 115 Bourbon Street | Man's Country | Creaoke | Shannon Contactors |
| About Face Theatre | Chicago School Of Professional Psychology | LifeLube.org | Sidetrack |
| Alexander Weaver & Associates | Clark Hill PLC | MillerCoors | Spin |
| Allied Advertising | Court Theatre | National A-1 Advertising, Inc. | Starla Sholl, LCSW |
| Bacardi USA | Enfuse Medical Spas | Northlight Theatre | Steppenwolf Theatre Company |
| BE-HIV | Friends Of Dan Hynes | Of Sound Mind, Inc. | Susan O'Dell, PhD |
| Berlin | George's Ice Cream & Sweets | Parker LePla | Thomas H. Franklin & Assoc. |
| Birchwood Lodge | Good Wood Firewood | Personal PAC | U.S. Bureau of the Census |
| Center On Halsted | Hamburger Mary's | River North Chicago Dance Company | Union for Reform Judaism |
| North Shore Center For The Performing Arts | Harris Theatre for Music and Dance | Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss & Associates | Writers Theatre |
| Charles Rhodes, State Farm Insurance | Hydrate | Scarlet | Zurko Promotions |
| Charlie's | Iloilo Custom Framing | Scot's | |
| | Citizens to Elect Joanne Fein | Select Italy Travel | |

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP PRESENTS



FAYS GOT TALENT

Showcasing the BEST Professional & Amateur Talent in Chicago's GLBT community!

Music, Dance, Impersonation, Poetry, Drag, Comedy, and more

ONLY TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO QUALIFY FOR THE BIG TALENT SHOW!

\$100 cash prize to audience favorite. 5 acts each night advance to Sidetrack!
\$10 to compete, \$5 at door

SPIN THURS FEB 25
8pm sign up/9pm start

ROSCOE'S WED MAR 3
8pm sign up/9pm start



SIDETRACK

SAT MAR 20 1pm door/3pm start

\$10 cover includes drink ticket and entry to win American Airlines tickets and more

GRAND PRIZE

to ACT with most Audience VOTES!
\$1000 cash, American Airline tickets, Steppenwolf theatre tix, Miller Lite and Skyy Vodka grand prizes and more

ALL ACTS AT FINALS WILL BE SUBMITTED ON DVD DIRECTLY TO THE CASTING DEPT. OF AMERICA'S GOT TALENT. WE WANT MORE GLBT EXPOSURE ON THE SHOW!

For more, visit windycitymediagroup.com

GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER!

SPONSORED BY:

