



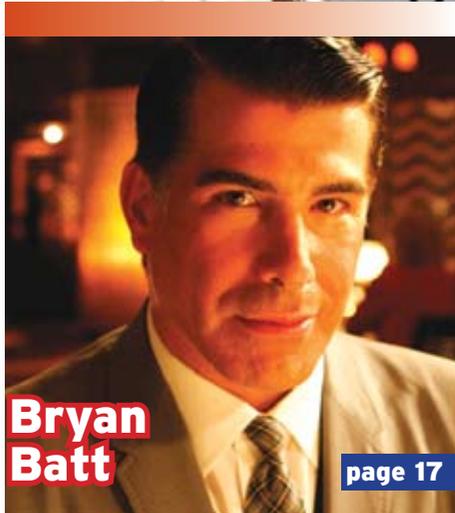
Elton John's Life

page 19



Dinah Parties

page 15



Bryan Batt

page 17

nightspots
pick it up
take it home

Supreme Court's Stevens to retire

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Some court observers credit U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens with having forged a majority of the court to overturn laws banning private sexual relations between persons of the same sex—the most beneficial gay-related decision ever rendered by the Supreme Court.

Stevens, who turns 90 April 20, announced April 9 that he will retire from the high court at the end of June.

In a one-paragraph letter to President Barack Obama, Stevens said he had concluded that “it would be in the best interests of the Court to have my successor appointed and confirmed well in advance of the commencement of the Court’s next term.”

The announcement triggered a storm of media attention that is not likely to subside anytime soon—as Obama prepares to nominate his second candidate for the nation’s highest court. The nomination will almost certainly trigger another storm—this one on Capitol Hill, where Republicans have dug in to oppose nearly everything the Obama administration and Democratic majority in Congress is trying to pass.

But the news also inspired an outpouring of praise for Stevens as the one of the Supreme Court’s oldest and longest-serving justices.

The Human Rights Campaign called Stevens

Turn to page 5



A Show of Force

page 22

Chicago Force teammates Martha Dantuma (left) and Catherine Converse smile after routing the Wisconsin Wolves 62-0 April 10. However, these two had even more reason to smile after receiving awards. Read more on page 22; photo by Ross Forman.

Jeff Crowley on the National HIV/AIDS Policy

BY ROSS FORMAN

Sitting in the front row at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) annual meeting late last year was one of the biggest ties to the national fight against AIDS: Jeff Crowley, the director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, a post appointed by President Obama.

Earlier that day, Crowley also spoke to an AFC focus group on The National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS).

“I enjoyed visiting,” Crowley recently told Windy City Times. “During the focus group, I heard the concerns and recommendations from the HIV/AIDS community in Chicago and other parts of the state. It has been exciting to have the high level of public engagement from people living with HIV contributing their ideas to help

in the development of the national strategy.”

AFC President Mark Ishaug added: “We are very lucky to have Jeff Crowley as the director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy. His broad and deep experience in HIV, healthcare policy and disability rights will help the administration and all of us implement healthcare reform, which we hope will happen soon. AFC works very closely with Mr. Crowley and everyone in his office and the President’s Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS to ensure that we get the resources, programs and policies we need to stem HIV transmission and serve those living with the disease.”

Crowley, 44, a Grand Rapids, Mich., native, has had a partner (Ricky) for 17 years.

“AIDS Foundation of Chicago is one of our many partners,” Crowley said. “They have been a

leading voice in working for the development of a national HIV/AIDS strategy.”

Windy City Times: As the director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, what exactly does that job entail?

Jeff Crowley: As the director of the Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP), I am the president’s lead advisor on HIV/AIDS policy. ONAP is part of the Domestic Policy Council, and our Office is tasked with developing and implementing a National HIV/AIDS Strategy [NHAS] to achieve the president’s goals of reducing the number of HIV infections, increasing access to care, and reducing HIV-related health disparities. My job entails working with the various departments of the federal government that have

Turn to page 4

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP presents



JACKHAMMER
TUESDAY, APRIL 20



We Build Them BETTER



2010 NISSAN VERSA



2010 NISSAN SENTRA



2010 NISSAN ROGUE



2010 NISSAN ALTIMA



2010 NISSAN MAXIMA



2010 NISSAN PATHFINDER



2010 NISSAN XTERA



2010 NISSAN FRONTIER



2010 NISSAN ARMADA



2010 NISSAN TITAN

✓ **0% APR** ✓ **\$0 Down**
 ✓ **0 Payments for 90 days!***

REBATES FROM \$500 - \$5000[^]

NISSAN CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED **3.99%** APR for **60** mos. **

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|--|----------------|
| 2009 Nissan X-Terra S 4x4 19K Mi, P/W, P/DL, Cruise, Tilt, Stk#NP1363 | \$21,995 | 2002 Dodge Neon Stk#N2975A, P/W, PL | \$4,995 |
| 2009 Nissan Pathfinder SE 4x4 19K Mi, P/W P/DL, 3rd Row, Stk#NP1365 | \$24,995 | 2003 Pontiac Grand AM SE2 101K Mi, Lthr, Moon Roof, P/W, P/L, Loaded, Stk#NP1377A | \$4,995 |
| 2009 Nissan Murano LE AWD 25K Mi, Lthr, Heated Seats, Loaded, Stk#NP1362 | \$30,995 | 2000 Jeep Cherokee Sport 4WD 114K Mi, Great Running SUV, Stk#NP1311A | \$4,995 |
| 2009 Nissan 370Z Touring 17K Mi, Lthr, 6-Spd, Loaded, Stk#NP1353 | \$32,995 | 1997 Ford Expedition XLT 163K Mi, P/W, P/Locks, 7 Psgr, Stk#NP1277A | \$6,995 |
| 2010 Nissan Armada SE 4x4 14K Mi, P/W, P/DL, 3rd Row, Stk#NP1380 | \$33,995 | 2001 Toyota Sequoia SR5 4WD 113K Mi, Super Clean, 1 Owner, Stk#NP1367A | \$9,995 |

the Autobarn Nissan 1012 Chicago Avenue Evanston **847-475-8200**
 www.autobarnnissan.com



#1 Fastest Growing Nissan Store in IL for 2006, 2007 & 2008
 *0% APR, \$0 down and \$0 payments for 90 days all with approved credit through NMAC. 0% available from 36 - 60 mos. on select models. 0% for 36 mos = \$27.78 per \$1,000 financed; 0% for 60 mos = \$16.67 per \$1,000 financed. **3.99 for 60 mos. = \$18.41 per \$1,000 financed on 2007 and newer Nissans with approved credit. All rebates and incentives applied. Add tax, title, license and doc fee.

0% APR for 66 mos.[^] **1.9% APR** for 66 mos.[^]

Das Auto.

0% APR avail. on 2010 Passat Sdn. and Routan for 66 mos. w/approved credit thru VCI. Offer expires 4/30/10.

1.9% APR available on 2010 Jetta, Tiguan & GTI with approved credit thru VCI. Offer expires 4/30/10.



| | | | | |
|---|--|------------------|--|------------------|
| Volkswagen Certified Pre-Owned | 2006 Volkswagen New Beetle Stk#P13542 | \$11,997* | 2008 Volkswagen Jetta SEL Loaded, Stk#P13704 | \$16,777* |
| 2.49% for 48 mos. On select certified pre-owned models w/approved credit thru VCI. Offer ends 4/30/10. See dealer for details. ^{^ ^} | 2005 Volkswagen New Beetle Conv. Stk#P13474A | \$12,997* | 2008 Volkswagen EOS Komfort Stk#P13700A | \$21,977* |
| | 2006 Volkswagen Passat Pkg #1, Stk#P13528 | \$13,777* | 2008 Volkswagen EOS V5 Komfort Stk#P13773 | \$26,777* |

the Autobarn Volkswagen Over 200 Volkswagens In Stock! 1033 Chicago Avenue Evanston **847-866-7600**
 www.vwofevanston.com



[^]0% APR for 60 mos. = \$16.67 per \$1000 financed w/qual. credit on Tiguan and GTI. 0% APR for 66 mos. \$15.15 financed per \$1000 w/qual credit on 2010 Volkswagen Routan and 0% APR for 72 mos. = \$13.89 per \$1000 financed w/qual. credit on 2010 Volkswagen Passat. ^{^ ^}2.49% APR for 48 mos. = \$21.93 financed per \$1000 w/qual credit. *Pre-Certified pricing. Offers expire 03/31/10.

GET THE A to the B PRICING!



2010 Mazda CX-9 **0% APR** for 60 mos.[^] **90 Days** until 1st Payment
2010 MAZDA6 **3.9% APR** for 36 mos.^{**}

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
[^]0% APR for 60 mos. = \$16.67 per \$1000 financed w/approved credit. ^{**}3.9% APR for 36 mos. = 29.48 per \$1000 financed w/approved credit. ^{^^^}Owner Loyalty from \$500 - \$1000 on select models w/approved credit on current Mazda owners in the household. All rebates and incentives applied. To qualified buyers. Dealer not responsible for pricing errors in advertisement. Offers expire 3 days from date of publication.

WINDY CITY TIMES **index**

NEWS

- Change for Hildebrand? 4
- Crowley talks HIV/AIDS policy 4
- Justice Stevens to retire 5
- Effects of marriage inequality 5
- Howard Brown: Speculation 6
- Passages: Paul Bowles 7
- Gay runs for school council 7
- Garneau, Schiefelbein 8
- Prayer breakfast; Nowotny 9
- Quotelines 9
- View by Besen; letters 10

ENTERTAINMENT

- Scottish Play Scott 11
- Theater reviews 12
- Elton goes downtown 14
- Dinah parties 15
- Knight: Latino Film Fest 16
- Handler at WC&F 16
- Bryan Batt; Carolyn Hennesy 17
- Gay Idol pics 18
- Elton John's life 19
- Billy Masters 21

OUTLINES

- Real estate; classifieds 18
- Calendar Q 20
- Sports: Force wins 22
- Sports: Richard Cordova 22



PFLAG mom Bonnie Garneau is moving on with her life. See page 8.

Photo by Bill Healy



A lot of speculating has been going on since Mike Cook (above) and Mark Joslyn left their posts at Howard Brown Health Center. See page 6.

Photos on left side of cover (from top): Elton John PR pic; image of Meredith Baxter at the Club Skirts the Dinah's White Diamonds Party by Sarah Toce/Stephanie Brusig; Bryan Batt PR photo

Char Crews, Inc.

Spring Sale

Save up to 50%

April 19th-25th

36% Off Spode Baking Days China & Bakeware

| | Retail | Char's |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| 4 Piece Place Setting | \$66.00 | \$42.24 |
| Oven to Table Serveware | | |
| Ramekins (Set of 2) | \$22.00 | \$14.08 |
| 11" Oval Dish | \$29.00 | \$18.56 |
| 12.5" Oval Rim Dish | \$58.00 | \$37.12 |
| 10" Square Dish | \$58.00 | \$37.12 |
| 15.5" x 11" Rect. Dish | \$72.00 | \$46.08 |
| Round Covered | | |
| Deep Dish - 8 cups | \$72.00 | \$46.08 |

Remember at Char Crews you save everyday on your favorite name brands

Versace
Kate Spade
Vera Wang
Bernardaud
Lalique
Rosenthal
Riedel
Reed & Barton
and 100's More!

50% Off Select Villeroy & Boch China

Audun, Cottage, Country Heritage, Dune Lines, Flow, French Garden, My Garden, New Wave, Toscana & Twist Alea

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!

SIGUR ROS' JONSI COMES TO TOWN

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

ONLINE INDEX

HAVING A BEEF

This week's Amuse Bouche column looks at Italian beef sandwiches (right) while Sugar & Spice reviews the downtown restaurant Sable.



Photo by Ames Hawkins

DAYS OF SUMNER



Windy City Times talks with musician Bernard Sumner, who has gone from founding New Order to starting Bad Lieutenant.

Photo by Joel Chester Fildes

WORLD VIEW

Common Threads, co-founded by Art Smith and Jesus Salguiero, recently held its World Festival. See photos online.



Photo courtesy of Common Threads

COMEDIAN JUDY GOLD

SHOW #360

WINDY CITY QUEERCAS
queer and now

www.WindyCityQueercast.com

CHECK OUT OUR VIDEO CHANNEL FOR NEW VIDEOS WEEKLY

www.QueerTVNetwork.com

20% Off Waterford Silverplate Picture Frames

| Frames | Retail | Char's |
|-----------------|----------|---------|
| Classic 4 x 6" | \$70.00 | \$56.00 |
| Classic 5 x 7" | \$80.00 | \$64.00 |
| Classic 8 x 10" | \$115.00 | \$92.00 |

30% Off Wilton New Gourmet Grillware

| | Retail | Char's |
|----------------------|---------|---------|
| 15" Sizzle Platter | \$35.75 | \$25.03 |
| 13" Oval Au Gratin | \$42.75 | \$29.93 |
| Veg. Griller (shown) | \$50.00 | \$35.00 |
| 18" Griddle | \$57.25 | \$40.08 |
| Pizza Tray | \$71.50 | \$50.05 |

Char Crews, Inc.

China • Crystal • Sterling • Bridal Registry

Hinsdale • 8 Grant Square • 630-920-0190 • 800-323-1972

Wilmette • 1515 Sheridan Road • 847-256-5910 • 877-438-2536

www.CharCrews.com



Steve Hildebrand.
Photo by Rex Wockner

Is Hildebrand on the outside looking in?

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Just two years ago, Steve Hildebrand was Barack Obama's openly gay deputy campaign manager, a brain behind one of the most remarkable presidential campaigns in history. And just two weeks ago, he was toying with the idea of a run for Congress. But an article in the April 1 Washington Post suggests his influence is now all but gone.

The Post article—a somewhat rambling and thinly sourced profile of South Dakota native—characterizes Hildebrand as a “volatile element,” a man who has suffered “unshakeable” depression, and a political “rogue” who authored “caustic emails.” It quotes one anonymous “White House official” as saying that, when Hildebrand is not well, “Things get pretty crazy” and there that there is no place for him in the Obama White House.

Hildebrand apparently struggled with both depression and a volatile temper during the 2008 campaign, and had to take a break from the campaign in the middle of the primary season. He told the Post he relied on several antidepressants and had to overcome his fear of flying during a campaign that was in constant motion, from one coast to another, again and again.

ONLINE AT
WINDYCITYMEDIAGROUP.COM
NATIONAL NEWS

—Oregon mayor's ex-lover turns on him

—Gay bareback actor dies at 25

—John McCain's (left) gay-porn connection

Critics, most of who were not named in the article, said he sometimes went too far—sending hostile e-mails to the campaign staff of Obama's chief rival, Hillary Clinton. He also reportedly left his campaign post in South Florida on election day and flew to Chicago, without notifying the campaign.

Hildebrand was also an early critic of President Obama's slowness to act on gay-related issues in office and he told the Post he was “disappointed by the president's failure to defend gay marriage during the referendum in Maine” last year. But he also seems comfortable with taking on a more personal campaign for better government. He's now running his campaign consulting business, Hildebrand Strategies, in Sioux Falls and has targeted for defeat a Democrat who voted against the Democratic health care reform legislation.

©2010 Keen News Service

POLICY from cover

responsibilities related to HIV/AIDS, as well as working with a broad range of external partners and stakeholders. To develop the NHAS, I have convened a federal HIV/AIDS interagency working group—[composed] of policy and program experts across 13 departments and agencies of the federal government—that is responsible for helping to develop the NHAS and ensure coordination, accountability, and improved outcomes across the federal government. In addition to developing the NHAS, my office is responsible for a broader range of HIV-related policy and programmatic issues. Additionally, I serve as the senior advisor on disability policy, and in this capacity I coordinate health and disability policy issues for the Domestic Policy Council.

WCT: Where do you think we're at in the fight against AIDS?

JC: We do many things right in the U.S., in responding to HIV/AIDS. We invest more than \$16 billion per year on domestic HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and research. We have developed effective treatments for HIV. And, we have lowered the number of [new] HIV infections each year from more than 130,000 to just more than 56,000. At the same time, major challenges remain. Fifty-six thousand infections per year are too many. There are enormous disparities in who is becoming infected with HIV and who has access to the best care and services. CDC recently announced that rates of new HIV diagnoses among gay and bisexual men are between 44 and 86 times that of all other men and between 40 and 77 times that of women. Racial and ethnic minorities are also disproportionately affected by HIV, and both racial and ethnic minorities and women are less likely than other groups to have access to HIV care. For these reasons, President Obama committed to developing an NHAS to assess what we are doing and come up with a plan for sharpening our national response to HIV/AIDS.

WCT: The travel policy for people living with



Jeff Crowley. Photo by Bob Gatty

HIV changed in 2009. Your thoughts about that?

JC: The president understands that the HIV-entry ban that previously barred people living with HIV from visiting or immigrating to the United States was a relic of the past that was rooted in fear and perpetuated stigma and discrimination. He made a commitment to eliminating this ban and that is what we did. The process was started under the Bush administration, and we took the required steps to finally end this discriminatory practice in January of this year.

We are extremely pleased that the International AIDS Society has decided to hold its conference in Washington, D.C. in July 2012. Hosting the International AIDS Conference is an important opportunity for the United States and our nation's capital.

Find out much more about Jeff Crowley—including his thoughts on finding a cure for HIV/AIDS—online at www.WindyCityMedia-Group.com.

Start here



When you take **10 Minutes** to answer **10 Questions** you help our community get what it needs for the next **10 years**



Fill out and mail back your Census form and help our community get its fair share of funding for the things it needs—like better schools, hospitals and roads. It's ten questions and takes about ten minutes.

WE CAN'T MOVE FORWARD UNTIL YOU MAIL IT BACK.

United States
Census 2010
IT'S IN OUR HANDS

2010census.gov

STEVENS from cover

"fair-minded" and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund hailed him as a "true visionary" to whom the LGBT community "owes much."

"He has been a strong, clear, and consistent voice for the rights of gay people and other minorities, the disabled, reproductive freedom, and free speech," said Jon Davidson, legal director at Lambda Legal.

It was 2003 when the greatest chunk of that debt was sealed.

Then-Chief Justice William Rehnquist and two other justices wanted to uphold the Texas sodomy law in *Lawrence v. Texas*, according to court historian Jeffrey Toobin. But Stevens, the ranking justice on the other side of the issue, was against it.

"Stevens wisely assigned [Justice Anthony] Kennedy to write the opinion" for overturning the law, wrote Toobin, in his 2007 book *The Nine*. In fact, Toobin suggests, Stevens studiously chose Kennedy for the assignment as a way of shoring up Kennedy's vote for those who wanted to overturn the law. And in writing the historic *Lawrence* opinion, Kennedy "drew heavily on Steven's seventeen-year-old opinion" in *Bowers v. Hardwick*.

More specifically, Stevens joined the primary dissent, written by then Justice Harry Blackmun in *Hardwick*, and then penned his own dissent, joined by Justices William Brennan and Thurgood Marshall.

In his fiery dissent, Stevens harshly criticized the majority for ignoring the plain language of the Georgia law prohibiting sodomy—that it prohibited oral or anal sex for any couple, gay or straight.

The sodomy law, said Stevens, was "an unconstitutional intrusion into [Michael Hardwick's] privacy and his right of intimate association does not depend in any way on his sexual orientation."

If the right to privacy means anything, wrote Stevens, "it means that, before Georgia can prosecute its citizens for making choices about the most intimate aspects of their lives, it must do more than assert that the choice they have made is an 'abominable crime not fit to be named among Christians.'"

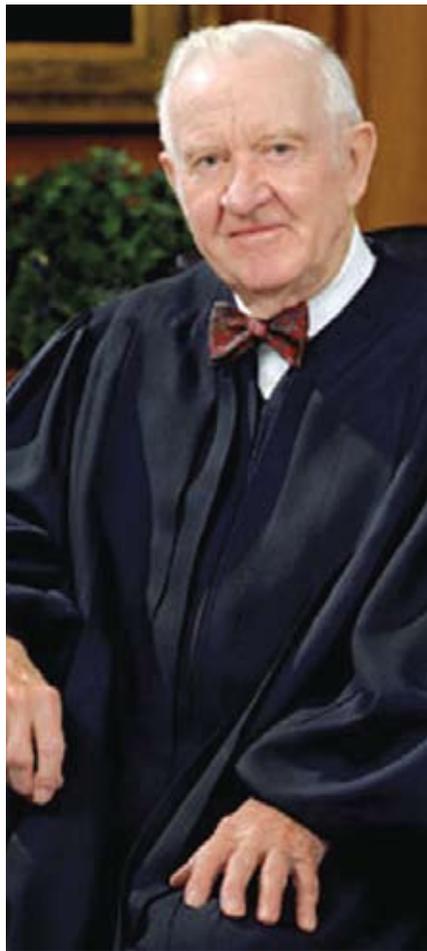
The *Hardwick* decision had not only upheld laws prohibiting private sexual relations between people of the same gender, it had been used in a wide variety of arenas to justify further discrimination based on sexual orientation—in employment, in the military, in child custody cases, even in barring the use of the word "Olympics" for a gay athletic event.

Stevens' position in *Hardwick* was not a big surprise: In 1976, one year after he was appointed to the court by Republican President Gerald Ford, he, Brennan and Marshall said they thought the court should hear an appeal challenging Virginia's law against same-sex sodomy; however, a majority affirmed the law without hearing arguments.

In June 1987, Stevens was with the majority in *Houston v. Ray Hill*, which overturned a city ordinance in Houston that was used to stifle protests by a gay activist, Ray Hill, against police harassment of gays.

But 10 days later, Stevens joined the majority in ruling that the U.S. Olympic Committee's (USOC's) prohibition of Gay Games organizers from calling their event the "Gay Olympics" did not violate the First Amendment rights of the gay sporting group. In 1988, he voted with a majority that said the Central Intelligence Agency's firing of an employee because he was gay was subject to judicial review, and he voted with a unanimous court ruling that upheld the procedure used to fire an employee of the National Security Agency who acknowledged having homosexual relations with citizens of other countries.

For most of his tenure on the court, Stevens was a relative moderate who leaned liberal. With more consistently liberal justices—Brennan, Marshall and Blackmun—on the court,



John Paul Stevens.

Stevens seemed centrist.

By 1991, after Brennan and Marshall retired, Stevens inevitably began to appear more liberal, relative to the increasingly conservative court. But his vote also became more consistently liberal, and he began to take a leadership role. He voted with the majority in *Romer v. Evans* in 1996, agreeing that Colorado's initiative banning any legal protection based on sexual orientation was unconstitutional.

And though, a year earlier, he had agreed with a unanimous court, in *Hurley v. Irish-American Gay Group*, that the organizers of a St. Patrick's Day parade in Boston had a First Amendment right to ban a contingent of gays, he wrote the dissent in 2000, in *Boy Scouts v. Dale*, opposing the majority's decision that said the Boy Scouts of America had a First Amendment right to discriminate against gay scout leaders.

Hurley had only a "superficial similarity" to Boy Scouts, said Stevens. Whereas a gay contingent could be said to convey a message when participating in a parade, the same could not be said of a single gay scout leader joining the Boy Scouts.

"Being openly gay," said Stevens, "communicates a message—for example, that openness about one's sexual orientation is more virtuous than concealment; that a homosexual person can be a capable and virtuous person who should be judged like anyone else; and that homosexuality is not immoral—but it certainly does not follow that they necessarily send a message on behalf of the organizations that sponsor the activities in which they excel. The fact that such persons participate in these organizations is not usually construed to convey a message on behalf of those organizations any more than does the inclusion of women, African-Americans, religious minorities, or any other discrete group."

Prejudices against gays, he said, "have caused serious and tangible harms to countless" gay people.

"That harm," he said, "can only be aggravated by the creation of a constitutional shield for a policy that is itself the product of a habitual way of thinking about strangers."

The potential impact of the retirement will be measured once Obama nominates a replacement who is confirmed by the Senate.

©2010 Keen News Service

Marriage inequality can affect mental health

BY DANA RUDOLPH
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Same-sex marriage bans may be harmful to the mental health of gay people in those states. That is the conclusion of a new study published in the March issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Deborah Hasin, professor of clinical epidemiology at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, and colleagues conducted their research by analyzing data from the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC), a project of the National Institutes of Health.

NESARC is a nationally representative study that interviewed the same group of non-institutionalized U.S. adults in both 2001–2002 and 2004–2005. Hasin and her team used the NESARC data to determine whether lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals living in the 14 states that instituted same-sex marriage bans in or just after the 2004–2005 elections had increased rates of psychiatric disorders as a result of the discriminatory policies. The researchers controlled for age, gender, race, ethnicity, income, educational attainment, marital status and region.

Few previous studies had looked at the mental-health effect of laws that deprive LGB people of rights. One prior study on the subject came to similar conclusions, but the current study stands out for using a large, nationally representative sample and for looking at the participants over a period of time.

Hasin said their study could be useful in legal cases that seek to overturn anti-gay laws.

"It is probably among the best types of evidence that you're going to get," she asserted,



Jennifer Pizer.

"because it is national and it does allow you to look closely at this."

Jennifer Pizer, senior counsel and marriage project director for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, agreed that studies like this "are exceedingly useful and often critical for the work we do and for public health purposes."

"It is immensely helpful to have top academic researchers quantifying and confirming these serious deleterious effects," she said. Lawyers, she said, "don't have the skills to be describing and measuring these effects as experts." She and her colleagues, however, often give policy recommendations to legislatures and, in doing so, "We have to establish the need. We have to show the nature of the harm we have to stop."

As for Hasin's study, Pizer said, "Their finding is not a new scientific conclusion, but they have employed a methodology that will give it greater weight and context.... The focus on the harmful health effect of anti-gay ballot measures is timely and will have a positive impact."

Read more about the specifics of the study as well as some of Hasin's recommendations to rectify the problem online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

ONE

I WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

TWO

I NEED TO EARN A LIVING.

THREE

OF THE TOP TEN FASTEST-GROWING PROFESSIONS ARE IN PSYCHOLOGY.

It's a simple equation that adds up to living the life you want. You'll enjoy a rewarding career that allows you to earn a living *and* make a difference. According to projections by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for psychologists and counselors will grow by 15 to 34% in the next seven years. And as the nation's leading graduate psychology institution, The Chicago School will prepare you to make a powerful impact in this ever-expanding field.

Visit thechicagoschool.edu to request information and read the inspiring stories of people like you who are already changing the world.

thechicagoschool.edu 800.721.8072

 **TheChicagoSchool**
of Professional Psychology

Howard Brown Health Center: Speculation rises

ANALYSIS BY YASMIN NAIR

Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) recently placed two of its key personnel, CEO/President Michael Cook and CFO Mark Joslyn, on paid administrative leave. Since then, some hints about the reasons for their ouster have emerged. The Windy City Times report prompted an open letter from David Ostrow, soon followed by a press release from Michael Cook announcing his resignation; both documents have brought more questions and speculations into the open. Meanwhile, HBHC's press releases have also prompted more unanswered questions.

Ostrow is a co-founder of HBHC, a founding physician investigator (PI) of the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) and the chair of the Behavioral Working Group of the MACS. His open letter, sent to WCT following an article run in its April 7 issue, was published online that same day. In it he wrote, "As the founding PI of the MACS, I first became aware of major problems at Howard Brown when I was told approximately 10 days ago that the MACS grant to Howard Brown was being transferred on an emergency basis to Northwestern University." He went on, "Only days after Mr. Cook supposedly requested the transfer of the MACS grant to Northwestern, the Board placed both him and their Chief Financial Officer on Administrative Leave, and have since stonewalled anyone asking for more information about what is going on."

On April 8, Cook sent out a press release announcing that he had "terminated his Employment Agreement and his employment with Howard Brown, pursuant to his contractual right to do so under the terms of his Agreement [citing] internal disagreements about ongoing responsibilities and duties as the basis for his decision to exercise his right to sever his employment relationship with the agency..."

WCT has repeatedly asked Cook for an interview, but he had not responded as of the press deadline. WCT also continued to ask HBHC for interviews with its personnel but were only sent, on April 9, a press release stating, "Howard Brown Health Center confirmed today that Michael Cook resigned on Thursday as CEO of the organization, and that the former CFO, Mark Joslyn, is no longer employed. ... At this time, Howard Brown is working closely with its lawyers to address the situation." It also said, "As soon as more information can be shared without disrupting the work of the organization, a statement will be



David Ostrow.

made and questions will be answered." The release also acknowledged "there are questions in the community and rumors surfacing about what happened at Howard Brown. Our team is working closely with our Board to ensure that the successful work of Howard Brown continues despite the distraction of these personnel changes." It added that an interim CEO announcement would be made this week.

The center's silence, combined with Ostrow's letter and the proliferation of questions and rumors, will probably fuel more speculation in the community, given that the ouster included the chief financial officer and that the MACS involves a significant sum of federal money. According to Ostrow, who spoke to WCT, the budget for the total MACS grant (which includes other institutions in addition to HBHC) is 10 percent of the total National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget for AIDS research; the Web site for the NIH Office of AIDS Research states that its budget for AIDS research for the fiscal year 2010 is \$3,055,494,000. In light of this, any hint of mismanagement of funds or could prove highly detrimental to the prestige and standing of Howard Brown. WCT contacted Northwestern University for confirmation and clarification about Ostrow's points regarding the MACS, but has not yet been able to speak to anyone as the paper went to press.

The sheer magnitude and importance of the MACS in the history of Howard Brown and the history of AIDS cannot be overemphasized. MACS marked its 25-year anniversary last year. It is the longest-running longitudinal study on HIV and has generated more than 1,000 publications. The study takes place in four sites in Chicago, Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Los Angeles. It derives "behavioral and biological data and specimens from men who have sex with men, before and after they became infected with HIV,

before and after they were diagnosed with AIDS, and before and after they began highly active antiretroviral therapy—along with data from a control group of same-aged, HIV-free men who have sex with men. Comparing these before-and-after specimens and data from HIV-infected and uninfected individuals has yielded numerous seminal discoveries," according to the NIH Web site.

The scientific results of such research have proven to be immense and include studies that have shown how to diagnose HIV infection and how to best care for those with HIV/AIDS. In Chicago, MACS is located at HBHC, and its research partner is Northwestern University.

Ostrow said he only received his first hint that something was awry when he began to file papers for the fiscal year and was sent an e-mail from Northwestern University informing him that the grant was to be transferred to that institution. Until that point, he said, HBHC carried the entire grant. "Several million and overhead went to [HBHC], which was then distributed to other sites like [Northwestern], the CORE Center and Cook County," Ostrow said. "They get overhead on all of it. Because of that overhead, [HBHC] has been able to grow. Now, with the transfer, all the money goes to [Northwestern] and they will be distributing it."

In an effort to find out more, Ostrow sent e-mails to the project officers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which administers the grant. They responded that the change in the grant had come as a result of a request from HBHC. He said it was unclear what had happened, ["whether Howard Brown and Northwestern tried to save the grant by transferring it rapidly or someone moved it without discussing with the board. From an administrative or a research perspective, it's not a big deal whether Howard Brown or Northwestern has the grant, but financially it's a big deal. The MACS has been a source of pride since Howard Brown is a community-based organization; it put it on the map as an independent research institution."]

Frustrated at the lack of details from HBHC, Ostrow pointed out that the WCT report was the first he heard of Cook's departure and that there needed to be more transparency in the matter: "The facts need to get out before the speculation runs wild and before Howard Brown loses financial support. It's a community organization; it owes to the community a full and fair account of what goes on. The loss of millions of dollars must not be kept behind closed doors."

The MACS is not only well-funded and prestigious but a source of tremendous pride for its participants who have, over the years, formed

tight-knit communities in the four cities. According to the HBHC Web site, there are currently 285 participants in the study in Chicago; their sense of engagement and participation might be affected by any hint of financial misappropriation. Also at stake is the working relationship between HBHC and its community partners like Children's Memorial Hospital, Teen Living and the Night Ministry with which it opened Broadway Youth Center in 2004. Funders and donors are also likely to keep their distance until HBHC comes forward with all the facts.

What remains clear is that the story is potentially large enough that HBHC feels the urgent need to clamp down on communications beyond press releases. Regardless of what the facts turn out to be, there may be a lack of confidence in HBHC from which it will be hard to recover. The Web site chronicles its rise from a small volunteer-run collective in 1974 to an organization with a budget of over \$15 million. Howard Brown still uses volunteers and goodwill in a community long beleaguered by health crises like hepatitis and AIDS made worse by a ravaged health care system. It remains to be seen how much longer it can test that goodwill without more transparency in the coming weeks.

Windy City Times will continue to follow this story.

Crossfunds Fund benefit April 16

Crossroads Fund will hold its annual benefit, "Seeds of Change," Friday, April 16, at the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph. The private host reception is at 5:30 p.m., the general reception is 6:30 p.m. and the awards presentation is 7:30 p.m.

Deborah Harrington, outgoing executive director of Wood Fund of Chicago, and the Long Term Prisoner Policy Project will receive the Ron Sable Award for Activism, while the WE-ACTx Youth Exchange will receive the Donald F. Erickson Synapses Award. Contact Sheila O'Donnell at 773-227-7676 or sheila@crossroadsfund.org.

'Night of Noise' April 16

The Illinois Safe Schools Alliance will hold its Day of Silence/Night of Noise Friday, April 16. Students from all over the state will use this day to raise awareness about the silencing of LGBTQ voices, as well as those of their allies.

The Night of Noise rally that evening will be in front of the State of Illinois Building, 100 W. Randolph, 5:30-8:30 p.m. See www.illinois-safe-schools.org.



Gay man running for school council

BY BLAIR MISHLEAU

As local school council (LSC) elections come near (taking place April 21), the LGBT community will have representation in the form of a candidate running in the Boystown area.

David Neubecker, an out gay man, is running for the LSC in the Nettelhorst District, which encompasses Boystown and some neighboring areas.

The district is aptly named as it includes Louis Nettelhorst Elementary School, which has gotten much publicity as a gay-friendly school, with much volunteer work done by the LGBT community.

Neubecker himself has had an active role in the area the Nettelhorst district covers, doing much work within the LGBT community at large. He has worked with multiple organizations such as Triangle Neighbors, the Lakeview Citizens Council and Night Ministry, among others.

Specifically at Nettelhorst Elementary, Neubecker has two children attending the school. He—along with his husband, Lee—has been a very active parent, founding the Diversity Committee.

"This committee allows the parents an opportunity to address issues of inclusion, equality, and diversity across many different communities within the school," Neubecker said.

He has additional experience in the classroom as well, being a former elementary school teacher.

"Nettelhorst is a wonderful school with very dedicated teachers, administration, staff and parents," Neubecker said. "By serving on the LSC, I can bring a unique perspective to the table and continue to build bridges with the



David Neubecker (second from left), husband Lee and their children. Photo courtesy of David Neubecker

surrounding community."

Of the things Neubecker feels he brings to the table are unique answers to financial strains that all state-funded institutions are presently feeling.

"With looming budget cuts, schools will have to think outside of the box on how to address the financial needs of the school," Neubecker said. "This includes lobbying our elected officials, building connections with local and corporate businesses, and engaging the surrounding community."

As an out gay man, Neubecker is expecting a push from right-wing groups outside of Nettelhorst, playing up the fact that he's gay.

"My being gay is only one part of who I am," Neubecker said. "First and foremost, I am a dad. Our school has the opportunity to become a leader on how to address issues [like] becoming a welcoming school to all families and students regardless of their sexual orientation."

He is confident that common sense will win, in all people want good schools.

"At the end of the day, all parents want the same thing—a safe, welcoming school that will challenge their children academically and teach

them how to relate to an increasingly diverse society."

Another LGBT candidate running for a LSC is Karen Barbour, running at Inter-American School. Attempts to contact her for an interview were not returned as of the press deadline.

In addition, Tommy Sampson (also known as Father Tommy Avant Garde) is running for the LSC at the South Side's Englewood High School.

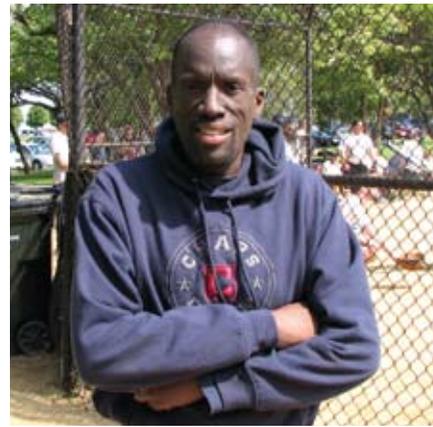
Bon Foster April 22

Lambda Legal will present "And the Pursuit of Happiness: The 2010 Bon Foster Civil Rights Cel-

ebration" Thursday, April 22, 5:30-10 p.m., at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark.

The event honors the legacy of Chicago attorney and activist Robert Bonvouloir "Bon" Foster. It was Foster's bequest that funded the opening of Lambda Legal's Midwest Regional Office in Chicago in 1993. Christina "Tina" Tchen, President Barack Obama's director of public liaison, will be the featured speaker, according to Lambda Legal's Jim Bennett.

Tickets start at \$150 each. For more information, contact Jeff Souva at jsouva@lambdalegal.org or at 312-663-4413, ext. 335.



Paul W. Bowles.

PASSAGES Paul W. Bowles

Paul W. Bowles, 52, passed away April 2, 2010, at Rush University Medical Center Palliative Care Unit, surrounded by his family.

A 1978 graduate of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, he earned his M.S. in computer science from Purdue University, and en-

joyed a solid career at Lucent Technologies.

Bowles was the devoted life partner of 10 years to Rick O. Curneal. He is the son of the late George R. Bowles, Jr., and is survived by his mother Wilma R. Bowles and brother George R. Bowles, III of Lafayette, La. He has one sister, Karen E. Bowles of Houston, Texas. In addition, he was the uncle of Asheley and Dana, also of Houston, and Brandon Bowles of Baton Rouge, La.

He leaves behind many dear friends, including his caregiver Zollie Pete, godson Crispin Thomas and faithful companion Harley the Shiba Inu.

Bowles was a longtime member of the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association, where he played volleyball and softball. His teams won several league championships and tournaments.

A celebration of his life is being planned for May 1.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his name to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (www.aidschicago.org) or to the United Negro College Fund (www.uncf.org).

For information contact the Cremation Society of Illinois at 773-281-5058.

The 2nd Annual Chicago LGBTQ Wedding Expo

brought to you by The Same Love, Same Rights[®] Campaign and RainbowWeddingNetwork.com

FREE TO ATTEND!



Sunday April 18, 2010

1:00 - 4:00pm

The Holiday Inn Mart Plaza

350 West Mart Center Drive

Chicago, IL 60654

RainbowWeddingNetwork
SameLoveSameRights[®]
OutLife.com

Holiday Inn
CHICAGO MART PLAZA
GFP

WINDY CITY
MEDIA
GROUP

- Gay-Friendly Vendors
- Wedding, Travel, Home & Family Resources
- Ceremony Tips, Music & Samples
- & much more!

For more information and to RSVP please visit www.SameLoveSameRights.com

PROFILE

PFLAG mom Bonnie Garneau moves on

BY BILL HEALY

For a long time, Bonnie Garneau struggled with her daughter's sexuality.

She was shocked when Nicole, the oldest of her three children, told her she was a lesbian. It was Nicole's last year at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and she had come home for the weekend. On Sunday night as she was getting ready to go, she had one hand on the doorknob and she told her mom. "I was one of those parents that had not a clue," Garneau said. "It never entered my mind that she was gay."

Nicole and Bonnie didn't talk about it for almost two years. Bonnie was afraid of how her sister's family would react. She questioned herself as a parent and "that meant I needed to look inside," Bonnie said.

Then she found out about PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), a support, education and advocacy group which was started in the 1970s and has more than 500 chapters nationwide.

Garneau worked up the nerve to attend a PFLAG meeting and, like a lot of first-time parents, burst into tears within minutes of her first meeting.

"It was hard in the beginning because I was so

emotional," she remembers. "To meet somebody and talk to them was a big help to me in understanding my daughter's journey and the journey I was going through." Bonnie realized that all the dreams she had for her daughter were gone. She said she spent time grieving for her dreams, then she got over it and got to know the daughter in front of her and learned to "glory in her dreams because she's wonderful."

She picked up brochures, books and videos. She sent a letter to her sister and other family members and included literature for PFLAG. "Everything I needed I got at PFLAG," Bonnie said.

Nicole said it wasn't long before her mom had moved past the grieving and decided that she needed to take on a more active role. "She was going to PFLAG at first to get emotional support. Then she got over that and was like, 'Let's get down to work.'"

Today, Garneau is a gentle 67-year-old woman with short gray hair and soft eyes. She laughed when she talked about her first job with PFLAG. She volunteered to create mailing labels for the group's newsletter and after a while became treasurer of her chapter in Hinsdale. Eventually, she became president of the chapter and then president of the northern Illinois council of PFLAG for a time.

"Every few years she'll be like, 'I'm in this organization because I have a lesbian kid. Can you just show up to this dinner?' to legitimate her as a parent but it's totally fun because she's like a celebrity. And I get to shine off of her star," Nicole said.

For Nicole, who works at Columbia College as a teacher and performance artist, having her mother take on such an active role in PFLAG has been rewarding and sometimes unsettling. "I had always marched in the pride parade but one year I marched with PFLAG," she said. "Oh my God! It's like five miles of solid adoration. People prostrate themselves before PFLAG. They run out of the parade to hug and kiss and cry. I found it to be unbelievably moving. Marching with them in the pride parade helped me to understand the pain that people in our community have with their families." Bonnie remembered people whispering, "I wish my mom was here" in Nicole's ear and her crying the entire parade route.

Last summer Bonnie retired from her job at an insurance company and, for the first time in her life, has nothing to do. "It's great. I love it," she said, laughing.

Now Bonnie is moving away—to the Illinois area of Bloomington-Normal, where her son and grandkids are.

She's starting a whole new chapter in her life. "I'm going to be lost, very lost, without all my PFLAG people," she said, noting that there's not a chapter in Bloomington-Normal...yet.

Peter Ji, the current president of PFLAG's Northern Illinois Council, wrote about Bonnie in a recent newsletter, saying she "never shied away from her story and she was open about her struggles and the long journey it took to where she is today. Her openness made her an effective and inspiring speaker and her story was relat-



Bonnie Garneau. Photo by Bill Healy

able."

Bonnie said one of the first things she'll do when she gets to her new home is to check out how her new state representative and senator feel about civil unions.

Pretty soon, she said, she'll start looking for a new church and some new friends. And if there's no pride parade in Bloomington, she said, "I'll have to start my own."

"Many people get support and education from PFLAG and say, 'I don't need you anymore.' If everyone had that attitude there would never be anyone there to help the others along, to provide the education."

PROFILE

Jim Schiefelbein: A fresh approach to a new day

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

Within minutes of speaking with Jim Schiefelbein—Baird & Warner's vice president, chief marketing officer—one thing quickly becomes clear: He is a passionate guy who loves tackling new experiences and taking on challenges.

One of his newest challenges is his appointment as the chairman of the board of directors for the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust (FLWPT). Schiefelbein has served on the FLWPT board since 2005, coming to the organization's attention through his work with Baird & Warner in the mid-2000s marketing the Heurtley House. "Frank Lloyd Wright has long been a design hero of mine and an iconoclastic hero of mine," he said.

Schiefelbein was born in Wisconsin, but is quick to point out that Chicago provided the backdrop for much of his growing up since his aunt and uncle lived in the city and his family visited often. "I summered a lot in Chicago with my aunt and uncle. They're kind of like my parents, if you will," he said.

Even after his family relocated to Florida, Schiefelbein still made trips back to Chicago and considered the city his home.

The road from journalism to real estate marketing began with an invitation from his aunt and uncle to join them in Chicago: "I was offered a number of internships where you could either eat or have a roof over your head, but not both." Instead, he took a position at a temp agency "because I am a writer and I like to explore new things I walked in and said I don't care send me anywhere," he said. One Friday, just as he was making plans to enjoy himself on a day off, the temp agency called with an assignment to fill in for a receptionist at Merrill Lynch Realty.

Schiefelbein has had a long and successful career in real estate marketing, pushing him-

self each day to come up with something fresh. Some of his accomplishments include, being recognized as one of the Nations Top 12 Real Estate Marketers, creating Chicago's first real estate website, and, most recently, he and his Baird & Warner team were awarded, "Best Overall Website," "Best Property Search" and "Best Property Advertising" at the 2010 Leading Real Estate Companies of the World.

He has also made significant contributions to the LGBT community over the years, both at Baird & Warner and through his involvement with The NAMES Project. He began volunteering with The Names Project in the mid-'90s.

"AIDS has affected our community and in the early days of the plague it was, you know, all the funerals that we were going to, it was absolutely overwhelming," he said. "I think that the quilt—[activist] Cleve Jones' brilliant idea of the quilt—was a way that enabled people to grieve and memorialize all these lives that were being lost."

"I have so many friends and people who were more than friends that passed away. My late



Jim Schiefelbein. Photo courtesy of Schiefelbein

partner passed away in 2002 and we were together for 14 years, and he was taken from me. It was something that was personal and political at the same time and it was a way I think for us to do something, positive, creative, to take a stand against this enemy. We didn't have anything else. That's how I got involved, in memory of a lot of my friends and to keep their memories alive."

His involvement increased, first through public-relations work with the Chicago chapter, which led to crafting a media plan for them. Then, in 1996, he was asked to join the board of directors. In 2004, he became a regional representative. "I had oversight responsibility for NAMES Chapters throughout the Midwest and Northeast," he said. "I held that role until 2006, stepping down after successfully gathering together Quilt chapters from around the U.S. for a major conference in Atlanta, the current home of the Quilt," he explained.

With each endeavor, Schiefelbein is committed to taking a fresh approach: "One of the reasons that I've been doing this as long as I've been doing it is that it's always been fresh to me, and I've always approached it as something that was, every single day, brand new."

Find out more about Jim Schiefelbein—including the pivotal day that launched his real estate career—online at www.WindyCity-MediaGroup.com.



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

Wed., April 21
7:30 p.m.
Katy Shonk
Happy Now?

Friday, April 23
7:30 p.m.
Lisa Shannon
A Thousand Sisters:
My Journey Into the
Worst Place on
Earth to Be a Woman



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

Custom Trip Planning
Honeymoons
Vacation Packages
Privately Guided Tours
Museum, Opera & Theater Tickets
Hotels, Villas & Apartments

IGTA

Your Italian travel experts since 1997

303 W. Erie Suite 410
Chicago, IL 60654
www.selectitaly.com/wct
800-877-1755

Prayer for LGBT rights



Equality Illinois, LGBT Change and Allied for Equality hosted an interfaith prayer breakfast in support of equal rights for LGBT individuals April 8 in downtown Chicago.

The breakfast was the first of its kind for the region, and included clergy from a wide array of major religious denominations. (Speakers included the Rev. Deborah Lake, Rabbi Michael Siegel of Anshe Amet Synagogue and the Very Rev. Joy E. Rogers of Saint James Cathedral.) The assembled religious leaders stood in support of basic civil rights for LGBT people and of relationship recognition for same-sex couples.

At the end of the Equality Prayer Breakfast, attendees signed a petition in support of relationship recognition for same-sex couples.

"People of faith are among the strongest supporters of LGBT equality because they believe in natural equality of all human beings," said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois. Matthew Zaradich, co-director of LGBT Change, said, "We hope their courage will inspire other people of faith to support equality for the LGBT community." Photo of the ministers at the event courtesy of Cherkasov

Nowotny running for alderman

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Don Nowotny, who is the 46th Ward superintendent for Chicago Streets and Sanitation, is running for the aldermanic seat currently held by Helen Shiller—giving the ward at least three openly gay candidates.

Nowotny told Windy City Times April 12 that he has filed a statement of organization, adding that he has organized the political-action committee Neighbors for Nowotny. When asked why he thinks the ward should have a new alderman, Nowotny responded, "I believe in a new direction, a new vision, for the 46th Ward. And I believe that, having worked as a ward superintendent for 16 years, I have worked with all the people in the ward, no matter who they supported or who they were. I've tried to make the ward a cleaner place. I've worked with block clubs and nonprofit organizations and even homeless people—and I feel that we can do more by bringing everybody together to discuss the issues of the ward and come up with some goals that we can all live with."

Nowotny is holding a kickoff event Tuesday, May 4, at European & U.S. Car Service, 4080 N. Broadway, at 6 p.m. He acknowledged that the venue is "unusual" but added that "one of my issues is that the 46th Ward is a desert for retail and businesses along the main streets. It's creeping up from Lake View and down from Andersonville but there isn't a whole lot in between. And European and U.S. Auto Service is

a very successful business in the 46th Ward; I felt that having the kickoff there would be a good opportunity to show that I am supportive of economic development and safety.

Someone else who has thrown his hat into the ring is James Cappelman. In an e-mail to Windy City Times, Cappelman stated, "I'm running because I am the frontrunner and have the best chances of winning against Ald. Shiller should she decide to run for a sixth term. No other candidate has my campaign experience, my name recognition, and my record of service throughout the ward."

Others who are running include Gerald Farinas (www.Chicago46.com), who is running on a "weed and seed" program that would "weed out" criminals and "seed" human-services programs, and police officer Michael Carroll (www.Carroll46.com), who is completing his master's degree thesis in public policy and administration at Northwestern University. According to Lake-EffectNews.com, Farinas is openly gay—which, including Nowotny and Cappelman, puts at least three out aldermanic candidates in this particular political race.

When asked how intense he expects this political race to be considering the number of people who have already declared their candidacies (and that does not include Shiller, who has not yet expressed her intent to run), Nowotny said, "I think the 46th Ward has always been a closely watched and very intense election for alderman, and I think this one is going to live up to the history of the 46th Ward. I look forward to a good, clean, fair fight."

The aldermanic elections take place next year.

QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

"I AM GAY. AND, UH, SO, I, UH, I, UM, THOSE ARE THE WORDS that have been so difficult for me for so long. But I am gay. It is something that is personal, and I don't believe—I felt with my heart that it—you know, being gay—did not affect, wouldn't affect how I do my job. ... What happened, through my own actions the other night, changed all that." — *California state Sen. Roy Ashburn, R-Bakersfield, on March 8, five days after he was arrested and charged with drunk driving after leaving a Sacramento gay bar, to KERN radio. Ashburn has a 98 percent anti-gay voting record.*



She's certainly a lot gayer than I am.

—Andrew Sullivan (right), on Kathy Griffin



Photo by Andrew Davis



"I'M NOT SO INTERESTED IN THE DETESTABLE ROY ASHBURN and his pathetic defense of 'I was voting the way my constituents wanted.' Because to my mind, the biggest story here isn't Ashburn's closeted homosexuality and anti-gay voting record. As we all know, that is a story we have seen a hundred times. And will see a hundred times more. The REAL story here is the media's collusion and the conspiracy of silence on the part of our own people. Folks, when you know somebody is actively working day and night to thwart the rights of your FAMILY, of your PEOPLE, you fucking say something." — *Blogger Joe Jervis (Joe. My. God.), March 5. California state Sen. Roy Ashburn, who has a horrible anti-gay voting record, was arrested and charged with DUI March 3 after leaving a Sacramento gay bar. It later emerged that news reporters and Sacramento gay bargoers knew Ashburn was gay and had kept his secret for him. On March 8, Ashburn came out of the closet but said he will continue to vote against gays.*

"I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT I AM A FORTUNATE HOMOSEXUAL MAN. I am very blessed to be who I am." — *Singer Ricky Martin in a post on his Web site, March 29.*

"MANY PEOPLE TOLD ME: 'RICKY IT'S NOT IMPORTANT; IT'S NOT WORTH IT; ALL THE YEARS YOU'VE WORKED and everything you've built will collapse,' 'many people in the world are not ready to accept your truth, your reality, your nature.' Because all this advice came from people who I love dearly, I decided to move on with my life not sharing with the world my entire truth. Allowing myself to be seduced by fear and insecurity became a self-fulfilling prophecy of sabotage. Today I take full responsibility for my decisions and my actions." — *Singer Ricky Martin in a coming-out post on his Web site, March 29.*

"WHEN SOMEONE LIKE RICKY MARTIN COMES OUT, hundreds of millions of people now have a cultural connection with an artist, a celebrity and, perhaps most importantly, a father who happens to be gay. His decision to

model this kind of openness and honesty can lead to greater acceptance for countless gay people in the U.S., in Latin America and worldwide." — *Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation President Jarrett Barrios, March 29.*

"PEOPLE WHO EXPRESS INDIFFERENCE OR HOSTILITY TO RICKY MARTIN coming out need to step out of their jaded, cynical gay world for a second and realize what a huge impact this has for Latin America." — *Gay news blogger Andy Towle (Towleroad.com) on his Facebook page, March 30.*

"CONGRATULATIONS (TO) RICKY MARTIN FOR TELLING EVERYONE THE OBVIOUS—now here's an important question—do you regret performing at George W. Bush's inauguration in 2004 after he used gay people as a political punching bag in the election and demeaned us with the Federal Marriage Amendment?" — *New York City activist Corey Johnson on his Facebook page, March 30.*

"I NEVER HAVE HAD A PROBLEM SAYING WHO I AM. I am who I am. I was never in, as they say. Never." — *Actor Sean Hayes, who played Jack on Will & Grace, to the Advocate, April issue.*

"DOING A SITCOM, IT'S A MACHINE, IT'S A FACTORY. There's nothing creative about it for an actor. There's nothing new I'm going to discover for a character in episode 185. It's just a pure punch-in, punch-out factory day job—and it's a wonderful factory day job—but creatively it's stifling." — *Actor Sean Hayes, who played Jack on Will & Grace, in a coming-out interview in the April issue of the Advocate.*

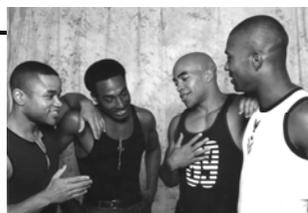
"SHE'S CERTAINLY A LOT gayer than I am." — *Andrew Sullivan on comedian and gay activist Kathy Griffin, on his blog, March 17.*

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

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



HOPE TAKES ACTION



Call 312-413-5897
www.HopeTakesAction.org

Join us in the effort to stop HIV.

Men who are between 18-45 years old and HIV negative can take action by volunteering in an HIV vaccine study. Volunteers receive reimbursement for time and travel. You can't get HIV from the vaccine.

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.



WAYNE
 BESEN

Will the Catholic Church survive?

The sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church is similar, in some respects, to last year's financial meltdown. In both cases, powerful, arrogant abusers were shielded from the consequences of their predatory behavior, while the victims were offered pain, platitudes and empty promises.

Like the gargantuan firms in lower Manhattan, the Vatican believes it is too big to fail and demands a bailout from the faithful. However, the overpaid bankers and the clergy banking on infinite forgiveness from their flock are in grave denial. Major religions come and go—whether it is worshipping the unbridled corporate casino or a church that does not protect its most vulnerable members.

Alarming, new rules and systematic restructuring to prevent future catastrophes from occurring have still not come to fruition. It is breathtaking to watch these behemoths act so contemptuous of the law and reckless in their responsibility to those that they were created to help.

The United States is wealthy enough, for the time being, to withstand the fiscal fiasco. However, the same tax code and lax regulations are still in place that encourage irrational marketplace speculation. Unless substantive changes are made, history is almost certain to repeat itself. And, if it does, the public will be in no mood to play Santa Claus to these very naughty children.

Likewise, the Catholic Church and its surrogates believe that spin and slander can distract the masses from impious priests defiling children. I suspect the Church may be correct and barely weather the scandal—at least temporarily. They will blame gays, play the victim card and pretend that significant changes have been made to stop future child abuse.

It doesn't take a genius, however, to figure out that the grotesque scandals will continue. As soon as the current crisis subsides, a new crop of equally shocking sins will emerge. The tragic fact remains that the rules for priesthood encourage sexually dysfunctional and emotionally stunted human beings to apply at disproportionate rates.

There are certainly many wonderful priests who feel called to serve the church. These individuals should be commended for their heroic work, such as feeding the hungry, helping the poor and providing guidance for young people. But one can't deny that the institution is uniquely set up as a magnet for unhealthy men who view the priesthood as an escape hatch. The collar provides an effective way for sexual reprobates to command respect from society.

What better cover than celibacy for a child molester or tormented homosexual than joining the Catholic clergy? It ensures the adulation of friends and relatives who no longer ask pesky questions about sexuality or relationships. By ending the celibacy stricture, the church would no longer serve as an oasis from those hiding from their inner-demons. Quite simply, the question, "who are you dating" would once again be asked, thus ending a sanctuary for sick minds.

Exacerbating matters is the "good ole boys" club that is the priesthood. This insular world would immediately end if the Vatican allowed female priests and heterosexual priests to marry. It would also behoove Rome to allow openly gay priests, who would end the incentive of using the vocation as a desperate, last ditch measure to suppress homosexuality. Until these concrete steps are taken, no one should expect different results.



LETTERS

Call for justice

An open letter to LGBT Catholic organizations:

Our pope and Catholic bishops have been leading an international war on the LGBT Community, the Rainbow Sash Movement once again invites Catholics to move beyond their liturgical comfort, and confront clerical homophobia through visible witness, and in the arena of liturgical celebration. Regrettably, the liturgy has become a tool in the arsenal of not only the pope, but also in the hands of Cardinal George. It is being used to promote their authority through homophobia.

For too long we have allowed the liturgy to be off limits to the cries for justice. Liturgical comfort has replaced justice. We can no longer bury our heads in the sand, praying outside of the church while homophobia is promoted inside. Nor do we have time to be slapping ourselves on the back for the supposedly wonderful work we are doing. To many in our community experience just the opposite at the hands of our Church.

I endorse the suggestion of Father Tom Doyle, a Dominican priest who has done more than any other ordained church leader to advocate on behalf of abuse survivors, when he writes: "we must challenge the continuing validity of continued monetary support of an institution that has squandered the donations of believers to hide and then defend its criminal actions."

A second means of advocating structural change in the Catholic Church is to keep this effort in the public eye. To this end, members of the Rainbow Sash Movement will be enter-

ing Catholic Cathedrals around the country on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, to not only call for justice for the LGBT community, but also to call for justice for the victims of clerical sexual abuse. Such calls for justice do not threaten the sacredness of the liturgy, what threatens that sacredness is our closets.

Unfortunately, the church I grew up in has become a fossilized relic. It mimics the Gospel and names Jesus as its lord even while it aids and abets child abuse, denies women full equality and teaches that its gay members are disordered at the very center of their being. It is time to challenge Catholics who say the Liturgy should be off limits to the cry of justice. Promoting personal piety above the needs of community justice only further denigrates the sacredness of the gospels.

Join us on Pentecost May 23 at Holy Name Cathedral, at the 11 a.m. liturgy. It is time for us to begin the work of reforming the church, for us to stand shoulder to shoulder with our community and replace spiritual apathy with gospel justice. For more information go to www.rainbowsashmovement.com.

Joe Murray
 Rainbow Sash Movement

Banning the ban

Editor:

Illinois Sens. Richard Durbin and Roland Burris deserve kudos for being signatories to the letter sent March 4 by Senator John Kerry to Food

Still, the pit bulls and the bullheaded living in their bubble continue to defend the Vatican's bumbling response. For example, a New York Times ad by the Catholic League criticized that newspaper claiming, "The Times continues to editorialize about the "pedophilia crisis", when all along it has been a homosexual crisis."

But most people aren't buying this smear campaign because the fondling and fiddling is occurring in church confessional booths—not predominantly gay neighborhoods, community centers or churches.

What amazes me the most is the incompetent efforts by the Vatican to mitigate the fallout. They have an exorcist blaming the devil, a priest comparing the church's predicament to the historic plight of Jews and another holy man confusing "gossip" with playing "grab ass" with minors.

Another excuse is that these cases are old news from another era. But just this week we learned of a priest in India who is still working after allegedly sexually assaulting a 14-year old girl a few years ago in Minnesota.

A friend of mine e-mailed this week saying his traditionalist father was heartbroken after a neighborhood Catholic school had shut down. He said parents were afraid to send their children for matriculation because they feared priestly ejaculation. What kind of future does such a church hold?

The Vatican pretends to be serious about ending the crisis. But, how can this be if there are 400,000 priests and only 10 people working on the avalanche of abuse cases?

Whether it's groping by priests or greed on Wall Street—institutions that don't change in the face of crisis and public indignation will eventually become irrelevant. If history has shown one truism, it is that nothing is too big to fail.

Copyright 2010 WayneBesen.com; see www.WayneBesen.com. Wayne Besen is the founder of Truth Wins Out, which was started to counter the ex-gay movement.

and Drug Administration Commissioner Margaret Hamburg urging the abolition of the current discriminatory law that bans gay men in America from donating blood.

The letter emphasized that the current law banning men who have had any homosexual sex since 1977 from donating blood for life needs to be reviewed and modified and urged the FDA to undertake a review of the donor screening questionnaire to ensure the safety of the blood supply. It further stated that not a single piece of scientific evidence supports the ban and that a law that was once considered medically justified is simply outdated and needs to end.

Our Illinois senators can be thanked at durbin.senate.gov and burris.senate.gov.

Sincerely,
 Scott G. Burgh

Send letters and viewpoints to
 Andrew@
 WindyCityMediaGroup.
 com.
 Items may be edited for length or clarity.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Photo by
Brandon
Dahlquist

YOU HAD ME AT 'HELLO'

Windy City Times reviews the sexually frank production Hello Again. See page 12.

THEATER

Elton in Chicago
Page 14.

Photo by Jerry Nunn



TV

Going to 'Town.'
Page 17.

EVENTS

Skirts, so good.
Page 15.Photo by Sarah Toce/
Stephanie BrusigSCOTTISH
PLAY SCOTTL.A. culture
confidential

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

The Los Angeles classical music scene is one of the most dynamic in the United States. A recent weekend jaunt to see performances by the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Los Angeles Opera confirmed just why.

The L.A. Philharmonic has become one of the most envied symphony orchestras in the country, and that's in large part to its sparkling new digs at Walt Disney Concert Hall. Opened in 2003, this Frank Gehry-designed concert hall is an architectural and acoustical marvel that sonically makes the music fresh and alive.

The L.A. Philharmonic is generating lots of publicity with its famed music director, the 29-year-old Venezuelan-born Gustavo Dudamel. PBS made a point of broadcasting Dudamel's inaugural 2009 concert as music director, and it's available on DVD through Deutsche Grammophon.

But for my own inaugural visit at Disney Concert Hall, I was able to catch openly gay British composer and conductor Thomas Adès leading the L.A. Philharmonic in polished performances of three of his own works (Violin Concerto, Dances from Powder Her Face and the pieces These Premises Are Alarmed) and Respighi's Feste Romane—a joyous and frenetic work with organ that sonically showed off most of the building's acoustical bells and whistles.

Still in his 30s, Adès is famous for his 2004 opera adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and especially for his 1995 chamber opera *Powder Her Face*, which is all about the sex scandals and humiliating court trials of the real-life Margaret, Duchess of Argyll (it notoriously has a fellatio aria). Adès' full-symphonic expansion of the opera's Overture, Waltz and Finale was particularly impressive and bouncy.

L.A. Philharmonic audiences can consider themselves lucky to have such a gem in Disney Concert Hall, and for its young conducting talent. Adès returns to conduct a series of concerts in L.A. next season. (Visit www.laphil.com for more information.)

Over at L.A. Opera, more classical superstar talent can be found with world-famous tenor Plácido Domingo as general director and music director James Conlon (who is also music director of our own Ravinia Festival).

But what truly impresses me about L.A. Opera is its *Recovered Voices* series that seeks to perform works by European composers who were suppressed or murdered by the Nazi regime (Conlon has also championed such composers as music director of the Ravinia Festival).

What prompted me to journey out west was L.A. Opera's American premiere of Franz Schreker's large-scale 1918 work *The Stigmatized* (*Die Gezeichneten*). Schreker (1879-1934) was feted as one of the greatest operatic composers in Vienna and Berlin, and it's easily to hear why in his lushly scored late Romantic music for *The Stigmatized* (Much of Schreker's style would directly influence the sound of classic Hollywood movie music).

Director Ian Judge's production skillfully updates the opera's setting from Renaissance Genoa, Italy, to early 20th century Vienna, and is constantly visually arresting thanks to projection designer Wendall K. Herrington's sophisticated work that draws on neo-classical references and illustrations reminiscent of conceptual art for Disney animated films from the 1940s and '50s. Considering that Judge and his production team had to work within the limitations of a steep-angled stage already in place with Achim Freyer's concurrent production of *Götterdämmerung*, *The Stigmatized* is truly a technological example of how working with less can be more.

Conlon conducts a blazing performance that is sonically enchanting from start to finish. The singing ensemble is solid, particularly soprano Anja Kampe as the physically weak painter Carlotta Nardi and tenor Robert Brubaker who gives



Thomas Adès. Photo courtesy of the L.A. Philharmonic

an agonized turn as hunchback artist Alviano Salvago.

What really undermines *The Stigmatized* is Schreker's own long-winded and confusingly Freudian libretto about a hunchback artist who creates a fantastical island that is exploited by six noblemen to kidnap and rape the city's upper-class daughters and wives.

Many of the main character's motivations are muddled logically and aggravatingly contradictory. Schreker's minor characters are also vastly underdeveloped and don't seem to contribute much at all to the plot.

It's unfortunate that such glorious orchestral music is wedded to such an unfulfilling and jumbled libretto. It's this aspect that will probably prevent *The Stigmatized* from finding a place in the standard operatic repertory. But at the very least we can be grateful that L.A. Opera gives modern audiences a chance to judge for themselves the merits of Schreker's long-suppressed work.

L.A. Opera's *The Stigmatized* continues 2 p.m. April 18 and 7:30 p.m. April 22 and 24 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand, Los Angeles (just across the street from Walt Disney Concert Hall). Tickets are \$15-\$125; call 213-972-8001 or visit www.laopera.com.

Back in Chicago

From one opera company performing adjacent to a Gehry-designed structure to another: Chicago Opera Theater (COT) opens its adventurous 2010 season this week with the first local performances of Rossini's *Moses in Egypt* (*Mosè in Egitto*) since 1863 at Millennium Park's Harris Theater for Music and Dance.

"Right now we're most concerned with how successfully we part the Red Sea at the end," said COT General Director Brian Dickie during a telephone interview. "Because when the opera was first done nearly 200 years ago, they screwed up the effect completely and it turned out to be a comedy because they made such a mess of it. I hope we do better."

Moses in Egypt is already a money-maker for COT, since it was the winner of the company's first "People's Opera" fundraising campaign in 2008 where patrons donated money to vote for an opera that they wanted COT to stage. More than \$400,000 was raised.

The other two COT operas are both Chicago premieres: Cavalli's 1648 romantic comedy *Giason* (or *Jason*, of the *Argonauts* fame) and Jake Heggie's 2004 drama *Three Decembers* (check back to this column for an interview with Heggie slated to run on May 5). According to Dickie, *Jason* is the first professionally produced production of a Cavalli opera ever in Chicago, while *Three Decembers* is slated to be famed mezzo-soprano Fredericka Von Stade's final opera performances in Chicago before she retires.

COT's 2010 spring season consists of four performances each of Rossini's *Moses in Egypt* (April 17-25), Cavalli's *Jason* (April 24-May 2) and Jake Heggie's *Three Decembers* (May 8-16), all performed at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph. (There is also a gala concert called *An Evening with Fredericka Von Stade and Jake Heggie* at 7:30 p.m. May 10.) Individual tickets to each opera are \$30-\$120. Weekend packages are available. Call 312-334-7777 or visit www.chicagooperatheater.org.

THEATER REVIEW

The Body Snatchers

Playwright: Adapted from Jack Finney's novel by Paul Edwards
At: City Lit Theater,
1030 W. Bryn Mawr
(The Edgewater Presbyterian Church)
Phone: 773-293-3682; \$25
Runs through: May 9

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Never mind the threat of those commie conforming pod-people. Death by exposition is the real killer in City Lit's adaptation of *The Body Snatchers*. Jack Finney's 1955 novel of the same name and the 1956 film based on it were terrifying and metaphorically groundbreaking as an allegory of monsters in the smiling guise of the good people next door. In 1956, the titular spores stood for the creeping evil of the Soviet menace. But the story itself is timeless, transcending the Red Scare. Today, it could be a commentary on Orwellian conformity and the scary annihilation of individuality in a society where everyone goes along to get along.

Unfortunately, there's nothing sinister in director/adaptor Paul Edwards' staging. There are two primary problems. First, there's the adaptation's tongue-in-cheek self-awareness. That tone would be fine in smaller doses, but it's so overdone that it leaches the story of its necessary edge by bloating it with campiness. Second—and far more troublesome—is all that exposition; monologue upon monologue of explanation, description, philosophizing; and (worst of all) narration of what should be the story's most horrifying events. If you were to make a pie chart, the production would be about 85 percent telling and 10 percent showing. That's a deadly ratio for a story founded on terror and tension.

Perhaps the prime example of exposition gone wrong comes in the first act, as the town psychiatrist explains the concept of mass hysteria in an interminable monologue about the Mad Gasser of Mattoon. The story of that gasser is one of the creepiest bits of American lore around, the kind of tale that should leave the hair on the back of your neck standing straight up and your skin prickling with unease. Here, it flatlines about the midway point, disintegrating into a monotone recitation of pop psychology. When a phenomenon like the Mad Gasser gets boring, you know you've got a problem.

Edwards seems to be trying to make up for the lack of actual action with audio visual design. The projections, in and of themselves, are marvelous. Edwards and Daniel Carlyon artfully use still photography and film in color and black and white to evoke "I Like Ike" Americana in all its pre-fab, atomic-age glory. Vintage ads for bomb shelters and cigarettes ("Your Doctor Recommends Viceroy's!"), film clips of alien invasions, eerie images of identical subdivisions repetitively sprawling as far as the eye can see—these are the real stars of *The Body Snatchers*.

But as vivid and impactful as it is, videography alone cannot sustain a live stage play. Here, it soon becomes a distraction rather than an enhancement. Moreover, it cannot make up for countless scenes where would-be suspenseful chases/crowd convergences are depicted by small groups of actors meandering in circles on a largely bare stage.

Finally, in the sole scene when action trumps narration, the fight choreography is dreadful. When the besieged Dr. Miles and his would-be lady love Becky stop running (in circles) long enough to finally attack the pod people with syringes and fists, the violence simply doesn't appear even remotely, well, violent. Choreography replaces spontaneity and instead of being fraught with peril, the scene is merely silly.

THEATER REVIEW

A Life

Playwright: Hugh Leonard
At: Northlight Theatre,
9501 Skokie, Skokie
Phone: 847-673-6300;
www.northlight.org; \$35-\$50
Runs through: May 2

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Desmond Drumm—as in “humdrum”—has worked “12,000 days at a job I detest.” After 40 years he soon will retire as the strictest boss in Dublin's civil service. Desmond Drumm—think “tight as a drum”—has spent a joyless life taking malicious pleasure in denying joy to others. Self-righteous and waspish, Drumm is a virtuous model of discipline and severity others lack, yet he's half-puzzled that his self-denial has brought him neither admiration nor true respect. Rejecting any Dionysian impulse, Drumm has embraced Apollonian intellectual principles without understanding their higher spirituality. Soon to retire and soon to die of cancer as well, this is Drumm's story—or pieces of it—told from the “now” of 1977 and the “then” of 1937 in a working class Dublin suburb.

Dublin suburb. Why see a play about such an unpleasant, unfulfilled man? Well, for starters you'll feel a lot better about yourself by comparison! Then, as written by skillful Irish author Hugh Leonard, there are just enough hints of the better man trapped within Drumm to gain our grudging sympathy. It's easy to detest his casual cruelties; it takes a bit more time to recognize his yearnings and accept them as our own.



A Life. Photo by Michael Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW

Hello Again

Playwright: Michael John LaChiusa,
after Schnitzler
At: BoHo Theatre, 7016 N. Glenwood
Tickets: 866-811-4111;
bohotheatre.com; \$19-\$22
Runs through: May 1

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Arthur Schnitzler's 1897 play *Reigen*—usually translated as *La Ronde*—was a landmark of sexual frankness. It wasn't about acts or facts of sex, but about libido and ego bringing people together for brief physical couplings devoid of real love, although not necessarily devoid of emotional longing. The nerves struck by Schnitzler were universal enough for the play to be widely translated, inspiring at least four films and numerous musical and non-musical stage adaptations. Directors find the work's structure appealing, too: intimate two-character scenes in which one person carries forward from the

previous scene, so the prostitute has sex with a soldier, the soldier with a nurse, the nurse with a young patient, the patient with a married woman, and so on back to the prostitute. Thus, *Hello Again* for the title of Michael John LaChiusa's chamber-opera adaptation.

LaChiusa is true to Schnitzler's form although he varies the couplings and uses the 10-person ensemble as a chorus. He also places each scene in a different 20th-century decade, which allows him to draw inspiration from period musical styles; thus, there's a waltz for 1900 but be-bop and close-harmony vocals for the 1940s. In Schnitzler's ironic original, the emotions of the moment never survive sexual climax, and LaChiusa's pithy lyrics retain this hallmark. The theme reaches its musical and verbal peak in two late scenes. Scene 7, a gay pick-up in the 1970s, features soaring music in one of the show's few duets (in most scenes only one person sings) as a lonely boy sings “All I want is somewhere safe” while his older love-of-the-night wants an angel. Then, in the closing Scene 10, a senator begs the sleeping prostitute next to him, “Sweet

lover, don't wake up or I wake up alone,” uncertain whether he is the dreamer or the dream of an idyllic tenderness.

LaChiusa's music ranges from operatic to soft rock and the excellent BoHo (sic) cast is fully up to the mark under co-directors Michael Ryzczek and Stephen Rader, and musical director Nick Sula. The attractive cast offers a sufficient skin-and-basked quotient (although there's no full nudity) but audiences really should note the musical quality on display. Each cast member—from the twinkish Adam Fane and kittenish Adrianna Parson to mature Robert Wharton and alluring Heather Townsend—is a fine singing actor with great pipes and unerringly correct for character type as well.

Schnitzler couldn't portray sex in his era, so his scenes are pre- or post-coital. BoHo has no such reservations, and the simulated sex of some scenes is in-your-face in BoHo's postage stamp-sized storefront. Some may enjoy this; I found it, uh, distracting and unnecessary, but that's my only caveat about this fine rendering of *Hello Again*.

CRITICS' PICKS

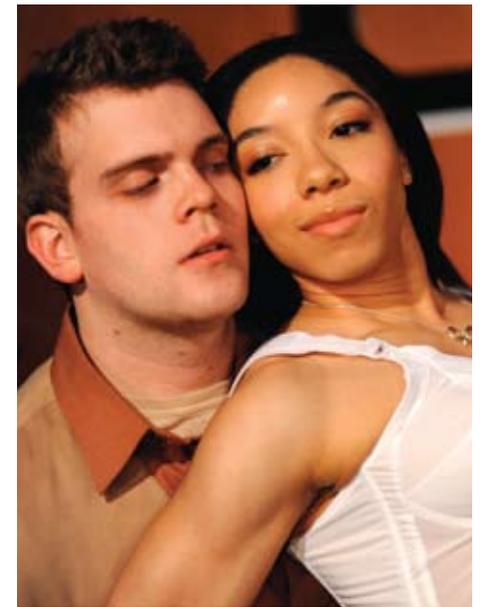
The Brother/Sister Plays, Steppenwolf, through May 23. A fresh, original voice—Tarell Alvin McCraney, who is Black and gay—has created a tale both modern and mythological told in a dazzling display of primal theater: music, movement and community story-telling. Don't miss! JA

Chess, Theo Ubique at the No Exit Café, through April 25. Table-game duels take on a heightened intimacy in this already intimate cabaret space. But closer is better when it's Maggie Portman, Jeremy Trager and Courtney Crouse belting mid-1980s pop opera. MSB

The Lost Boys of Sudan, Victory Gardens Theater through April 25. Lonnie Carter's drama may have been originally pitched at teenagers, but grown-ups of all ages should be moved by this fluidly staged story of three Sudanese teenagers fleeing the bloodshed of war and readjusting to live in the United States. SCM

Trust, Lookingglass Theatre, through May 9. Call it a movie of the week if you must. Allison Torem and Philip R. Smith absolutely kill it as, respectively, the 14-year-old target of a pedophile and her vengeance-obsessed father. The drama should be a must-see for any teen (or tween) with Internet privileges. CS

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge,
Morgan and Sullivan



Hello Again. Photo by Brandon Dahlquist

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP

presents



BACARDI®



CHICAGO'S BIGGEST GLBT CONTEST!

JACKHAMMER

6406 N. Clark St.

\$100 TO WINNER WITH MOST VOTES**TUESDAY, APRIL 20****10:00 PM**

\$5 cover, Singers sign up at 9pm/\$10 fee

Plus, at Jackhammer you can win
Blue Note Records presents**Interpreting the Masters Volume 1:**
A Tribute to Daryl Hall and John Oates
from acclaimed band**THE BIRD AND THE BEE**A love letter to famed duo Hall & Oates
featuring eight classic covers and the new
original song "Heard It On The Radio."

Available now!

www.thebirdandthebee.com**GRAND PRIZE AT FINALS:**

Over \$5000 in cash and prizes!

\$1000 in cash, American Airlines tickets,
Ravinia tickets, and moreFor more, visit windycitymediagroup.com or email cynthia@windycitymediagroup.com

SPONSORED BY:

AA.com/rainbow™

CREAKY

RAVINIA

the
Autobarn
limitedWINDY CITY
MEDIA
GROUP

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



Cougars! The Musical. Photo courtesy of Steve Hickson

THEATER REVIEW

Cougars! The Musical

Playwright: book and lyrics
by Gillian Bellinger, music by Chuck Malone
At: Fireworx Productions at the
Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln
Phone: 773-404-7336; \$15
Runs through: May 22

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

No, it's not a cautionary science-fiction tale of DNA experiments leading to a band of marauding mountain felines, nor is it a toothpasty fable featuring teenagers cheering their school team to victory. A "cougar," in the parlance of 2010, is a woman of mature years who chases after men considerably younger than she—the female equivalent to "old goats" or the World War Two-era "wolves" (though nobody has, as yet, invented a "cougar whistle").

Our title characters are Southern belle Bette, Latina Lana and steely Kate, three horny single over-50 chicks on the prowl for partners willing to overlook their gray hair, sun-belt attire and familiarity with senior-citizen discounts. This presents no problem for Kate, who shamelessly addresses an unwary bartender as "meat." But Bette's fancies are inclined toward a handsome stranger of mysterious means, to the dismay of her grown daughter and the resentment of her ex-husband (in spite of the comfort offered the latter by the oracular Lana). Their antipathy is well founded, for Bette's swain harbors sinister motives and it's up to her comrades to rescue her from his predatory advances.

Folded into this 90-minute romp are a score of irreverent ditties reflecting the take-no-prison-

ers universe conceived by Gillian Bellinger and Chuck Malone. For every hymn to misogyny like the gold-digging Michael's "One More Score," we get such empowering hand-jive anthems as the jubilant "Ain't Fucking Grand" ("The G-spot stands for 'granny'"); bittersweet ballads like "Replaceable" and "I Came Home to You;" and a dripping-with-testosterone geezer-stripling duet entitled "Dick To Dick."

"I can't wait to be offended!" caroled a cougar-bait playgoer before the show. Despite gynocentric humor to make wincy-mincers squirm, *Cougars!* is, at heart, a romantic comedy finishing with Jacks and Jills paired on surprisingly conventional lines and blissfully affirming "When you have friends, you don't need Life Alert!" The actors are uniformly young, their "age" makeup evoking memories of high school drama clubs, and—sorry, all you Harold and Maude fans—the only AARP card-carriers in the house on opening night were the press. But considered as a late-night stop on a pub crawl through the DePaul district, *Cougars!* constitutes good, clean, bawdy fun for all (upper-end) ages.

THEATER REVIEW

A Gulag Mouse

Playwright: Arthur M. Jolly
At: The Babes With Blades at
Trap Door Theatre, 1655 W. Cortland
Phone: 773-904-0391; \$20
Runs through: May 1

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

For an atmosphere of undiluted despair, you can't beat a Soviet prison. Jails in enlightened democracies are constrained by humanitarian regulations. Even dungeons under, say, the Spanish Inquisition are privy to restrictions on mistreatment of inmates. And the practices in Third World internment facilities are sufficiently well documented as to render them unpleasant, but not terrifying, to contemplate. Being marooned in the subarctic wastelands of Siberia, however, enveloped in endless expanses of frozen landscape—the very prospect is enough to strike a note of uneasy dread in our hearts.

Arthur M. Jolly's interpretation of the visual image—two shadowy figures, one armed with a dagger—inspiring his entry in the 2009 Joining Sword and Pen playwriting competition provides his story's premise as we witness wife and mother Anastasia (called "mouse" by her abusive husband) resist and kill her tormentor. She is sentenced to 12 years' incarceration, her cellmates comprising a generic assortment of personalities—bossy Masha, meek Prushka, phlegmatic Svetlana and pliable Lubov (and let's not forget the never-seen Paulina, rumored to have escaped). They quickly acquaint the newcomer with the division of labor that ensures their survival—the maintenance of Lubov's pret-

SPOTLIGHT



Teenagers caught up in the Balkan War of the 1990s sing out in rage in the rock opera **You Took Away My Flag: A Musical about Kosovo** by Henry H. Perritt, Jr. See how extreme nationalism tears apart a country and severely tests these teenagers in love. *You Took Away My Flag: A Musical about Kosovo* plays in the Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont. Performances continue through May 23 at 8:15 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays with 3 p.m. matinees Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are \$38-\$58; call 773-327-5252 or visit www.theatrebuildingchicago.org.

ty face and soft hands, for instance, the better to bribe the guards for special favors. Will self-preservation at any cost eclipse the compassionate young convict's attempts to retain her humanity? Only at the very last do we learn the truth of the means by which she endures her penance to re-emerge damaged, but alive.

Prisons—and their pharmaceutical counterpart, asylums—are the playwright's friend, literary environments conveniently preventing characters within from taking premature leave of their company when the going gets stressful. And when our knowledge of their workings are

shrouded in mystery, the writer's imagination is free to impose plausibility on the most unlikely of occurrences. But director Brian Plocharczyk refuses to allow the dramatic ambience to descend into hankie-wringing bathos (or, worse, B-movie camp), while fight choreographer David Woolley reins in the copious, but never gratuitous, violence to keep it well within the realm of gritty realism. These factors, coupled with uniformly restrained performances by the six-member cast, serve to reaffirm the Babes With Blades troupe's departure from rough-and-tumble romps toward serious artistry.



A Gulag Mouse. Photo by Johnny Knight

Elton in Chicago



Billy Elliot danced onto the stage at its grand opening April 11 at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theatre. *Windy City Times* was on the red carpet to catch the celebrities as they entered the building such as Oprah Winfrey, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and celebrity chef Rick Bayless. The event had a huge turnout that included Sir Elton John, who wrote the music.

When asked about the development of the show John explained, "There was a learning curve, but I really enjoyed writing for the theater." He added, "This is a great story. It is about a little boy in a mining town that is completely different from everyone else. Follow your dream and you can be who you want to be." For more information about tickets visit www.BillyElliotChicago.com. (See more on John on page 19.) Photos and text by Jerry Nunn

CULTURE CLUB

REMY BUMPPPO
think theatre

Les Liaisons Dangereuses

BY CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON DIRECTED BY DAVID DARLOW

"Delivers multiple orgasmic moments."

-Chicago Theater Blog

"You will surely enjoy its juicy naughtiness."

-Chicago Tribune

Theater Thursday Soiree April 8 at 6:30pm - tickets \$30 (limited qty.)

Now thru May 2 at the Greenhouse Theater Center

773.404.7336 | www.remybumpo.org

Dinah: Party time!



Hollywood may have literally been over two hours away from the Palm Springs Convention Center April 3, but it was figuratively right there. Celebrities involved in the action at the 20th-anniversary celebration of Club Skirts The Dinah included comedienne Suzanne Westenhoefer, Billy Myers, God-Des & She, the Atlanta cast of Lovers and Friends, Salt-N-Pepa, Nikki Caster and other hot LGBTQ talent.

Walking into the Palm Springs Convention Center, one could not help but notice the outstanding effort taken to decorate the lobby in true Hollywood fashion. Large flat-screen televisions were mounted on the wall. The Hollywood sign was against one of the main walls as the perfect backdrop. The only thing missing was the walk of fame ... although the red carpet was a fantastic substitute.

Salt-N-Pepa were on the main stage at the Hollywood Party and did not disappoint after a nearly 10-year hiatus. Singing their old favorites, "Shoop," "Push It," "Let's Talk About Sex" and other hits, Salt-N-Pepa had the crowd on their feet with every rap and rhyme. Kicking off their comeback tour at Club Skirts The Dinah, Salt-N-Pepa even stuck around after the show for a special meet-and-greet appearance with select fans.

And then there was the White Diamonds party. As if the 20th anniversary of Club Skirts The Dinah wasn't fabulous enough with all of the hottest lesbians in entertainment under one roof, Ke\$ha took the stage just past 11 p.m. April 2. Held at the Palm Springs Convention Center, the White Diamonds Party was the steamiest ticket in town. Ke\$ha (known for her single "Tik Tok") served as Club Skirts The Dinah's headlining act. (Previous headlining talents included Katy "I Kissed a Girl" Perry and the Disco Stick Diva herself, Lady Gaga.) If the aforementioned ladies are any indication, Ke\$ha may have a very long and successful road ahead of her.

Walking the red carpet earlier in the evening were LGBTQ celebrities Meredith Baxter, Suzanne Westenhoefer, The L Word's Sarah Shahi, Paradiso Girls, Nikki Caster, Billie Myers and Club Skirts The Dinah ringleader Mariah Hanson, among others. The Palm Springs Convention Center was draped in white to celebrate the theme of the evening. Some guests pumped their arms to the music in the auditorium while others enjoyed the laid-back atmosphere in the lobby. Either way, everyone had a blast as the party went into the wee hours of Saturday morning. Text by Sarah Toce; photos by Stephanie Brusig and Sarah Toce

PrideFest welcomes to the Miller Lite Main Stage

Most Dynamic Pride Festival in the Nation

June 11, 12 & 13

on Milwaukee's Summerfest Grounds



TICKETS ON SALE NOW! www.pridefest.com

OVER 140 ACTS! FIREWORKS! DANCE PAVILION LASER SHOW!



KATHY GRIFFIN
Friday, June 11th 9pm
with Host Mimi ImFurst



PATTI LABELLE
Sat, June 12, 10pm
with Host Bruce Vilanch



Sunday, June 13th Dance Pavilion:
JEFFREE STAR, AMANDA LEPORE, and KACI BATTAGLIA



First Solo Appearance Ever!
LENA KATINA of t.A.T.u.
Sat, June 12



JOAN RIVERS
Sun, June 13th 9pm
with Host Robert Verdi

BOOK YOUR HOTEL NOW! Double Tree Hotel 414-273-2950

PCAGE FITECLUB, EARLY, QUEST, A.V. CLUB, GRAB, GO PRIDE .COM, MONTAGE LOUNGE, Miller Lite GREAT TASTE OF PRIDE FEST

MILWAUKEE'S 94.5 LAKE, CHICAGO PRIDE.COM, WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP, 92.1 THE MIC, 102.4, FreePress, 98.3, Wisconsin Gazette .com THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



Benjamin Bratt in La Mission.

26th Chicago Latino Film Festival; film notes

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Mainstream cinema is feeding filmgoers crumbs this week—at best—with the release of the crude, hyperviolent nerd comic-book hero fantasy **Kick-Ass** which offers fleeting moments of laughs and action, along with an 11-year-old girl (played by a 13-year-old) who spouts the “C-word” and lots of other profanity while killing a bevy of bad guys as creepy papa Nicolas Cage cheers her on—until she’s finally beaten to a pulp by an adult male—all to the delight of like-minded nerd teen audience members (and their ilk). It’s hard to imagine anyone else cottoning to this junk that sets the bar for movie violence at a new all-time low.

The other major opening is a remake of the feeble British comedy **Death at a Funeral**, which has been reshaped as a vehicle for Chris Rock,

although the film’s awfully unfunny, supposedly “hilarious” reveal—that the late patriarch of the family was having a gay affair with a midget, once again played by Peter Dinklage—is virtually unchanged from the original.

In other words, this is a great week to go beyond the multiplex and seek out something a little more satisfying. For both fans of foreign films and queer cinema, the opening week of the **Chicago Latino Film Festival** offers a terrific line-up and a great alternative to those two also-rans. The festival, now in its 26th year, runs from Friday, April 16–Thursday, April 29, and includes more than 120 films in virtually every genre with special segments dedicated to women; Latino films made in the United States; and the LGBT experience as seen through the Latino lens. Especially exciting is the Chicago premiere of the queer-themed *La Mission*, which stars Benjamin Bratt and was directed by his brother, Peter. Bratt stars as the macho ex-con father of a teenager whose world is shattered when he discovers the son is gay. The film will premiere Thursday, April 29, at the AMC River East, 322 E. Illinois, at 6 p.m., and both Bratt

brothers will attend.

The LGBT segment of the fest includes a nice assortment of titles from Mexico, South America, Portugal and Spain. The opening-night festivities, billed as a “Tribute to Mexico” commemorating Mexico’s bicentennial independence and centennial-revolution anniversary, will include an LGBT-themed selection, *Round Trip (Viaje Redondo)*. The movie is a winning variation on the standard issue road-trip drama in which a working-class single mother from Acapulco, Lucia (Teresa Ruiz) and Fernanda (Cassandra Ciangherotti), a neurotic and artistically inclined college student from a privileged background in Mexico City, improbably wind up together on the road. Lucia is curvaceous and pretty, and yet impatient and negative while the boyish Fernanda is a cheerful chatterbox given to philosophical musings. Slowly, a bond forms between the two that eventually, unexpectedly blossoms into something more. The film’s a lovely, gentle character study helped enormously by the delicately shaded performances of its two leads, and the movie offers the bonus of a travelogue through Mexico’s back country. The April 16 screening is at 6 p.m. at AMC River East, 322 E. Illinois, and will be followed by an 8:30 p.m. cocktail reception and live entertainment at the River East Art Center, 435 E. Illinois). Director Gerardo Tort will attend the screening and festivities.

Other LGBT-themed films in the festival’s first week include *Leo’s Room (El cuarto de Leo)* from Uruguay, a coming-out drama that focuses on a college student slowly finding peace with his gay sexuality, helped out by the aid of a com-

passionate therapist, an understanding potential boyfriend he meets online, a mixed-up girlfriend and others. The movie screens on April 17 and 20. *To Die Like a Man (Morir como um homem)*, from Portugal, is a hard-hitting portrait of an aging drag queen saddled with a lot of issues—a young schizophrenic male lover, health problems, competition at work, fading audiences and the return of a long-lost son who promises more trouble; it screens April 18 and 20. *Fallen Gods (Los dioses rotos)*, from Cuba-Mexico and which screens April 21, and the Peruvian feature *Translatina*, which screens April 20-21, are also part of the first week of LGBT-centered films. I’ll have more on the second week of LGBT-themed titles (including *La Mission*) featured in the fest in next week’s column.

Unless otherwise noted, all films screen at either Landmark Century Centre Cinema, 2828 N. Clark, or Instituto Cervantes, 31 W. Ohio. Complete information on the festival is available by calling 312-431-1330 or visiting www.latinoculturalcenter.org.

Film notes:

—**Fish Out of Water**, the entertaining and probing documentary from out Chicagoan filmmaker Ky Dickens that breaks down the Biblical passages used to condemn homosexuality and justify discrimination, is coming to DVD. To celebrate, producers of the film are hosting a DVD-release party Tuesday, April 20, at Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln, at 8 p.m. Comedienne Cameron Esposito will emcee an evening of entertainment that will include clips from the film, musical entertainment from soul-funk band JC Brooks and the Uptown Sound with special guest Rita J. Tajma Hall (Hydrag Revue), and DJs Butch Cassidy (Chances Dances) and Erik Roldan (Think Pink Radio). The DVD, from First Run Features, will be on sale during the festivities and will also be available at the film’s Web site. See www.fishoutofwaterfilm.com.

—No Love for Phillip: For the third time, the distributor of **I Love You Phillip Morris**, the mega-gay romantic comedy based on real-life events that stars Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor as lovers, has changed the movie’s opening date. The dark comedy’s release has been changed from April 30 to July 30, according to Variety.

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

Chicago’s most-trusted LGBT news source...
in the palm of your hands.



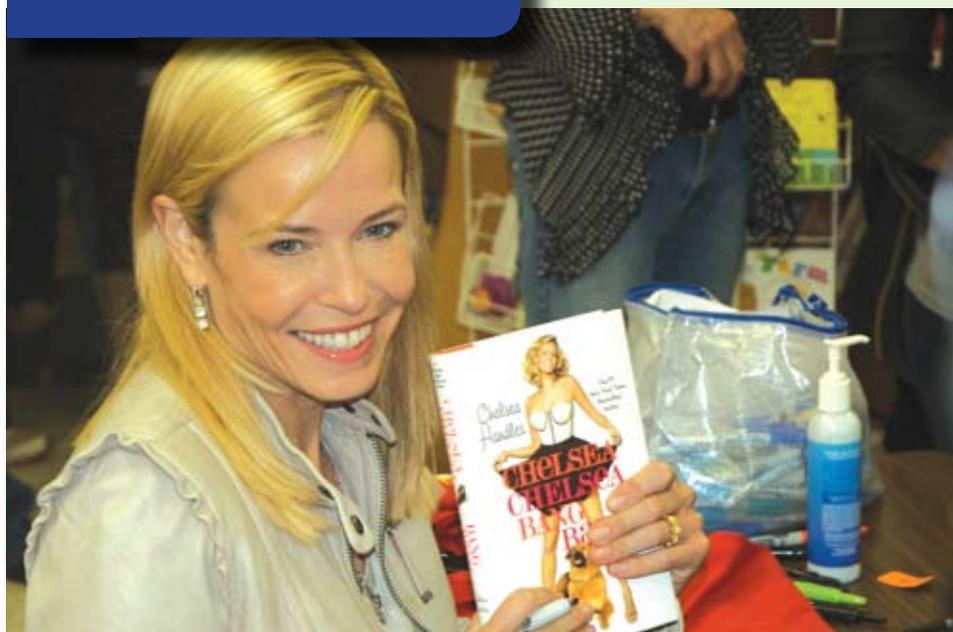
DOWNLOAD THE

WINDY
CITY
TIMES

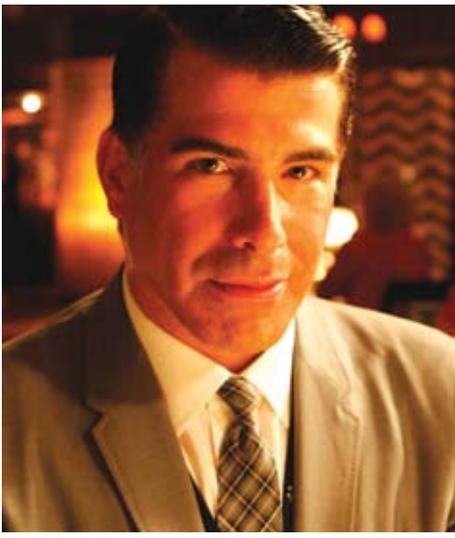
iPhone app

Find it at the iTunes store

Chelsea handles it



Chelsea Handler arrived with a “bang bang” at the Women & Children First bookstore in Andersonville April 11. The host of E!’s *Chelsea Lately* autographed copies of her book, *Chelsea Chelsea Bang Bang*, to more than a hundred fans. The author was made to feel at home with vodka martinis that were offered to the crowd as they waited in line, and she helped herself to a sip or two. Photo and text by Jerry Nunn



Bryan Batt.

NUNN ON ONE: TV

Bryan Batt on 'Mad Men'— and his mom

BY JERRY NUNN

The third season of the acclaimed TV show *Mad Men* was a turbulent one for openly gay actor Bryan Batt, as his closeted character, Salvatore Romano, was fired from the advertising firm for rejecting a male client's advances. Batt talked with Nunn on One about the show, New Orleans and his mother.

Windy City Times: Hi, Bryan. I caught you in the middle of moving.

Bryan Batt: We [Batt and partner Tom Cianfichi] just bought a home in New Orleans. We live here part-time. We are trying to get everything taken care of. It is a nightmare. We love the house. If I don't have one thing going on, it's another. What does not kill me makes me bitter.

WCT: You live in New Orleans, New York and L.A. How does that work?

BB: Yeah. We have a place in New York and here in New Orleans. When I go to L.A. and it is off-season then I stay with friends. If I am filming then I rent a place.

WCT: This was an emotional season on *Mad Men* with [Sal] being fired on the show.

BB: Yes. People were up in arms about it. Everyone is asking me if I am coming back and I do not know. They have said in interviews that they don't kill people, but when you think about what happened with Sal then it would make no sense to be hired back.

WCT: That's true.

BB: So we don't know what will happen. I am like everyone else. I am crossing my fingers in the meantime.

WCT: You are busy with other projects, such as *Ugly Betty*.

BB: I just filmed the last two episodes.

WCT: You also have a new book coming out

called *She Ain't Heavy, She's My Mother. Tell us about it.*

BB: It came out on May 4 [of last year]. They are calling it a memoir. I am calling it a "momoir." It really celebrates her. She is a wonderful lady. She is still with us, and battling cancer right now. She does it with a smile, in full make-up and painted nails. She is quite an incredible Steel Magnolia/Auntie Mame of a mother. So many books are people trashing or blaming their mother. I lucked out. I really did.

WCT: Was she always supportive of you being gay?

BB: Oh, she had little issues but when I did tell her she said, "No matter what I love you. You will always be my son and that will never change." My brother was the one I was afraid of. He is a big ol' New Orleans boy. He asked and I couldn't say no. He said, "Thank God. I thought you weren't getting any!"

WCT: [Laughing] I love that!

BB: Yeah. He is my Republican brother that supports same-sex marriage. Like life, there is a lot of laughter in my book. That is how I see things. There are some very difficult dark moments. My father battled alcoholism. He was never abusive but it was very difficult at times. The book is like a big rollercoaster ride. People that have read it really like it. I am hoping it does well. This tricoastal thing is expensive. This book needs to make some cash.

WCT: You should go on a book tour and come up to Chicago.

BB: I would love to come to Chicago! I am doing one in New York, New Orleans and L.A. so far, but we will see.

WCT: You own a gift and accessories store called *Hazelnut* with your partner.

BB: Yes. As of now spring has exploded here. It is gorgeous today. The store is crowded and it is another ball up in the air. Thank God for my partner because that is really his baby. He has done a great job with it. I helped design the store but he really keeps it rolling along. Everyone that comes in just thinks it's lovely and unique. It is not like going to a mall and seeing the same old stuff that some committee decided upon. What I love about Magazine Street and our store in particular is that it's our taste and things we like. Like all of the stores up and down the street, it is the individual owners aesthetic and something watered down for the average person. I don't gear myself towards average.

WCT: I am actually doing a story in Shreveport, La., next month.

BB: I have only been once. It was one of these one-night stops when I was touring with *Cats* when I was an infant.

WCT: Do you want to do more musicals?

BB: I would love to. Musicals are so hard—especially if you have a really good part or it's vocally demanding. You have to live like a nun the whole time you are doing it. They are fun. There is nothing like walking on a Broadway stage.

To read more on Bryan Batt, visit www.bryanbatt.com. Season three of *Mad Men* is out on DVD and Blu-ray; visit www.lionsgate.com for details.

NUNN ON ONE: TV

'Cougar' star Carolyn Hennesy on Courtney, gays

BY JERRY NUNN

Carolyn Hennesy is currently in two series, *General Hospital* and *Cougar Town*. *Windy City Times* wanted to find out how this actress clawed her way to the top.

Windy City Times: Hello, Carolyn. Let's cut right to the chase and talk about your life on *Cougar Town*.

Carolyn Hennesy: Well, my life is a big topic right now and part of that bigness is *Cougar Town*! What a gift that job is. I get to go in, drop comedy A-bombs in and scurry back into the darkness.

WCT: You play Barb Coman, one of Courtney Cox's real-estate workers.

CH: Yeah, they write for Barb on that show so brilliantly.

WCT: How did you get involved with the show?

CH: I auditioned only one audition. It is one of those stories that you almost never hear. For any sitcom, especially one that is that high profile with Courtney Cox and Bill Lawrence involved, you would expect call backs and jumping through hoops. Barb was set to be a recurrent character from the outset. I went in for an audition and got a phone call, that was it.

WCT: Wow! You must have been a perfect fit.

CH: Oh, yeah; believe me, you never hear stories like that. It is usually much more rigorous and grueling. I think I was meant to have this.

WCT: How's it working with Courtney?

CH: She's a dream. She is just as gorgeous on the inside and she is on the outside. Talk about a busy woman, she has a husband and kids and



Carolyn Hennesy.

then is the executive producer on the show. She still finds the time to be a jovial, generous person to work with.

WCT: The show definitely has a gay following.

CH: Let's face it. The men on the show ain't too shabby. That's number one...

WCT: What other projects do you have coming down the pike this year?

CH: I just finished my fourth book, *Pandora Gets Heart*. It came out in January and is doing very well. I just finished the first draft of book five. Looks like I am going to be doing a book for *General Hospital* about Spinelli.

WCT: Is there going to be a book tour?

CH: This year there will be a West Coast book tour: Seattle, Portland, San Diego. We will see about the Spinelli book. Hopefully they send me out on tour with that, too.

View full episodes of *Cougar Town* and *General Hospital* at abc.com. Follow Carolyn Hennesy and Jerry Nunn on Twitter.com.

Find out why Carolyn thinks gays love her *Cougar Town* character at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

Bryan Batt (left) in *Mad Men*. Image courtesy of Lionsgate



CHICAGO GAY MEN'S CHORUS

ARTISTIC & MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Patrick Sinozich

ACTING MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Matthew Ellenwood

STAGING DIRECTOR | Keith Elliott

CHOREOGRAPHERS
Keith Elliott & Janneke Fowers

FRIDAY
APRIL 16, 8PM

SATURDAY
APRIL 17, 3PM & 8PM

Athenaeum Theater
2936 N. Southport Ave
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
Athenaeum Box Office
or
Ticketmaster.com
(800) 745-3000

FOR MORE INFO
VISIT CGMC.org

extr ABBA ganza

Mamma Mia!
You're going
to love these
Dancing Queens!



CITY ARTS GRANTS



CFP



GRAB



WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP

CHICAGO'S MOST COLORFUL CHORUS

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.

ARTISTS

CALL FOR ARTISTS: SKOKIE ART GUILD'S 49TH ANNUAL ART FAIR. July 10 & 11, 2010. Fine art. Prizes and awards. Held on the Village Green, 5211 W. Oakton St., downtown Skokie, IL. **Apply now. For applications or information: skokieart@aol.com or 847-677-8163. www.skokieartguild.org (5/5/10-8)**

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, decks, patios, electrical, masonry, tuck pointing, concrete work, drywall, kitchen & bath remodeling and painting. Licensed, insured and bonded. **Call Brendan Coyle 312-307-6515, coylies@yahoo.com (6/9/10-13)**

OUTCONSTRUCTION IS A FULL SERVICE GENERAL CONTRACTOR SERVING THE GLTB COMMUNITY FOR 6+ YRS. No job too big or small, we do it all. We have the skill and experience to help design your home into your personal palace. We also practice green construction by recycling all recyclable used materials. Call or email for a free consultation and estimate. Call Mike at 224-828-2592 or email us at outconstruction@sbcglobal.net (4/7/10-4)

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. (8/25/10-26)**

DECKS

Deck Cleaning & Sealing



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

Chicagoland Deck Cleaning & Sealing

Since 1995...over 4500 satisfied customers

A-Rated Award Winning Company

(773) 348-4516

www.deck-sealing.com

FLOORING & WINDOW COVERING

FLOOR & WINDOW COVERINGS FOR ALL BUDGETS. Tile, Hardwood, Bamboo, Carpet, Laminate, Vinyl, and Window Coverings. Specializing in Helping with Material Selections for your Budget. Professionally Installed. Nationwide Floor & Window Coverings, We Bring the Showroom to You! Call or email for a free consultation and estimate. **Charles 773-935-8700, email cjones@nfwchicago.com www.nfwchicago.com (9/29/10-26)**

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

NEW UPSCALE SALON IN ROGERS PARK OPENING IN MAY! Now accepting resumes for chair rental and commissioned positions for stylists. Must have two years of experience to apply. **Please Call Cally 847-275-6773 and email resume to CallysCurls@gmail.com (4/14/10-4)**

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]**

MOVERS

WE ARE AN EXPERT, FULL-SERVICE MOVING COMPANY with over a decade of excellence serving our community. We pride ourselves in offering top-quality, efficient, low-cost, damage-free moves. Small to large trucks, fully equipped with modern tools, supplies of the trade. Rates for guaranteed professional staff: 2-man crew \$65/hr.; 3-man crew \$85/hr.; 4-man crew \$105/hr. (plus low, one-time travel charge.) **Call 773-777-1110 or www.chicagocrescentmovers.com. (9/15/10)**

SPIRITUALITY

If you are coming to Washington, DC to Marry, let me do the initial footwork for you.

As your officiant I can file your marriage application so that you don't have to travel to DC and wait for 3 days.

Spiritual and Civil Ceremonies offered. Member of the DC GLBT Community for over 25 years.

Rev. Bonnie J. Berger Interfaith Minister

**www.ringinlove.com
301/270-4089**



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 SALE

HOUSES

OAK PARK ROW HOUSE \$479,900. 115 N. Kenilworth. Stunning Historic Row House in heart of downtown Oak Park. Steps from Greenline, Metra, IGO Cars, shops and restaurants. Beautifully restored 4 bedroom 2 1/2 bath home features gorgeous woodwork, built-ins, pocket doors & new kitchen & baths. Basement could be rented as a business (zoned B3). **Kelly Fondow; Coldwell Banker; 708.902.1019; kfondow@gmail.com; <http://www.coldwellbankeronline.com/Property/PropertyDetails.aspx?PropertyID=1281981&IsBrand> ed=1&AgentID=6648 (4/7/10-4)**

CONDOS

EDGEWATER CONDO - ON THE LAKE East Point Condo - \$379,000. 6101 N. Sheridan #23B. 2 BR - 2 Baths. New carpet, paint, countertops, range/oven, microwave, dishwasher, disposal, kitchen sink/faucet, light fixture. Newer refrigerator and A/C units (4). Eat-in kitchen. Marble floor in foyer and hallway. Leather parquet floor and custom built cabinets in 2nd BR. Mirrored dining room. Glass door to balcony. City and Lake views from every room. 24-Hour Doorman. Indoor Parking. Laundry, storage, sauna, exercise room, showers and swimming pool. On-site management. 1/2 Block to Sheridan Road Bus. 2 Blocks to Red Line, Beach and Dominicks. **100% Owner Occupied. Serious, pre-qualified inquiries only. 312-550-8788. bobcanel@aol.com (4/28/10-4)**

MARGATE PARK BEAUTY!!! 939 W. AINSLIE. Very large beautiful 3 bedroom/2bath condo. Lovely vintage elegance and modern features. Top of the line deluxe kitchen with floor to ceiling cabinetry. Hardwood floors. Gas fireplace. Huge private deck. Great transportation to loop. Bike and walking paths. **Close to lake. \$345,000 Zoretich realty group. 773-704-8880 (4/14/10-2)**

ANDERSONVILLE 4-BED DUPLEX 4-bed/3-bath duplex down, 449K, 10-min walk to heart of Andersonville. HWFL, WBF, 2-CAR GAR. Open floor plan, wet bar, terrace, deck. **Email/call for pics & info. Deb, CPN 773-318-3248/rolldice@msn.com. (4/21/10-2)**

OUT OF TOWN

WHITING IN - 3 BED 2-1/2 BATH LARGE SFH - 3120 sf (MLS #258916) 1825 Cleveland Ave. List Price \$260,000. Pre Approval needed to view. Beautiful 1.5 Cape Cod ready to move into. Main Floor Master Suite. Finished basement. Extra wide doors & stairways. 2 car garage. Much More! Close to town, lakes, parks. 18 Miles to Downtown Chicago. **Call Nina Pierce, Coldwell Banker 219-934-3423. nina.pierce@cbexchange.com. (4/21/10-4)**

SAUGATUCK GET-AWAY. Buy a 3 bedroom, 2 bath manufactured home, in gay friendly Saugatuck Michigan. Perfect as a vacation or weekend get-a-way. Ready to move into, small mobile home community just two miles from downtown. **WE FINANCE - EASY APPROVAL. Several to choose from. Call Maggie at 269-857-1191 or e-mail qsp homes@comcast.net (9/22/10-26)**

THE GLENWOOD Tues., April 8



Talent abounded at the kickoff event for Windy City Gay Idol 2010 at The Glenwood, 6962 N. Glenwood Ave. on April 8. The audience was treated to seven stunning contestants, performances by two past Gay Idols Kerri Grant and Cori Calderon and prizes like Steppenwolf tickets and Goldfrapp's latest CD Headfirst. Miller Lite and Bacardi are presenting sponsors of the contest.

The two finalists, Matt and Brian, will advance to the semi finals at Sidetrack on Sat., June 5. Photos by Kirk Williamson



BENT NIGHTS

Looking at the life of Elton John

BY VERN HESTER

"I consider myself responsible for a whole new school of pretensions—they know who they are. Don't you, Elton? Just kidding. No I'm not."—David Bowie from an interview in 1976.

"I've never seen so much fine china in my life."—Mick Jagger commenting on one of Elton John's palatial estates in the 1990s.

"What an incredible worldwide treasure Elton John continues to be! ... He uses his fame and popularity to be one of the best gay activists gay people have ever had."—From an e-mail from the godfather of gay activism, Larry Kramer.

Larry Kramer's recent quote about Elton John struck me as odd until I thought about it for a single second. John has been with us without a break for more than 40 years and is about to descend on Chicago in full force. On March 18 his latest theatrical mega-success, *Billy Elliot*, opened here after sweeping the Tony Awards and is set for a long and entrenched run. And the man himself will play the Sears Center, without Billy Joel, April 15 for a "Greatest Hits" tour. By the time this article is in print the only seats likely to be left will probably be the ear-popping nose-bleed seats. [Editor's note: John was in Chicago April 12 for the official opening of *Billy Elliot*; see page 14.]

Then there's David Bowie's crack, which now seems snide. One of the attractions of John then as well as now is that he never presented himself as anything but a "pop star," and I do mean "pop" in Andy Warhol's vernacular as "disposable, plastic, art." When his breakout single "Your Song" crested at No. 8 on the Hot 100

back in 1970 nobody had a clue, least of all him, that he would be far more influential, popular, persuasive and relevant for the better part of half a century. That's not the half of it.

Far beyond being a familiar soothing voice from ages past, John has become a sphinx-like fairy godfather at home on Top 40 radio, theatrical stages, in the press or on talk shows speaking his mind and holding nothing back. As Kramer mentioned, he's also a huge humanitarian but also a role model for us all. It's not so much that he's a model of sobriety; or that he's in a successful high-profile, long-lasting gay marriage; or that his AIDS foundation has routinely given away tens of millions of dollars annually; or that he has no guilt about being rich or showing it. Bowie and Jagger may have snickered at John's vulgar wealth and lowly pop status, but in the long run they can't hold a candle to his influence. While Bowie stays holed up on some secluded island with his bride Iman (in 1983 when he was angling for a comeback with "Let's Dance" Bowie recanted his admission of bisexuality entirely, just when the AIDS crisis was moving into a protracted peak) and Jagger plots some new move to stay relevant and youthful, John will be calmly gliding into his next big project with typical calmness and dry palms. The man makes megastardom look so easy, but of course being Elton John couldn't be. The only way to look at him is in parts rather than as a whole. It's the only way he makes sense.

The music

Just how John got so big is hard to fathom even with 40 years of hindsight. The easy argument would be that the 1970s were an era of such uncompromising musical dullness that it was child's play for a raving peacock like John to take over the airwaves. At a time when blandness ruled (The Carpenters, Jackson Browne, John Denver, Olivia Newton-John and The Captain and Tennille) John's hyper hits were a reliable current of fresh air. For a short time (1972-76) he



Elton John.

could be counted on to deliver instant classics that rocked, shimmered, enticed and engulfed on first listen. Better still the man never got stale: "Bennie and the Jets," "Rocket Man," "The Bitch is Back," "Island Girl," "Pinball Wizard" and even the flop "Ego" all sound fresh and exciting, even now. But the hits don't defend the violently erratic quality of John's albums. Only the double-album set *Goodbye Yellow Brick Road* (1973) and *Rock of the Westies* (1975) are worth listening to from start to finish, and that's pushing it. (Goodbye's "Candle In the Wind," "Dirty Little Girl," and the ugly "All the Girls Love Alice," with its blatant homophobia, are some of the worst dreck put on vinyl by anyone.)

But to call him a mere singles artist isn't fair. The reality is that his contract with MCA stipulated two albums a year and that didn't include the multitude of singles that were released in-

dividually ("Lucy In the Sky With Diamonds," "Philadelphia Freedom," "Don't Go Breaking My Heart"). For five solid years John and his lyricist Bernie Taupin cranked the music out like ground beef and it's hard to say if they knew a good record from a bad one (the average spent on each album was no more than 10 days). Even if the albums didn't work as a whole there were still gems that made them worth owning: "Your Sister Can't Twist (but she can Rock and Roll)," "Tower of Babel," "Idol," "Texas Love Song," "Gray Seal," "(Gotta Get a) Meal Ticket," "Harmony" and "I Am Your Robot"—all of them gems of pure pop finesse.

By 1976 all the joy of John seemed to vanish. Fatigue (from him being the biggest star on the planet with all of its responsibilities and from us for getting John every day all the time for years) wrought the lumbering, hookless, ponderous *Blue Moves*. Hyped against Stevie Wonder's *Songs In the Key Of Life* as the year's big Christmas release, John didn't stand a chance. Discontent filtered into his interviews, he abruptly stopped touring, and he admitted his bisexuality in an interview. That last one put a chill on everything. It's not enough to say John got blasé because the quality of rock and roll suddenly got better in 1977 (the year Fleetwood Mac released *Rumours*, The Eagles released *Hotel California*, a nerd named Elvis Costello stormed *Saturday Night Live*, The Kinks returned to America, the punks invaded from England, and Donna Summer and Giorgio Moroder took disco to the airwaves), but that statement about his sex life took everyone where nobody wanted to go; for all of his cheekiness, flash, glam, glitter and in-your-face jolliness. John seemed pleasant enough but hardly an obvious sex symbol. He seemed too full of frolic, fun and brio to be taken as more than a 2-D cartoon which in a way is his own fault. Face it: He always dressed the part.

Read much more about Elton John, including analyses of his image and personal life, online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.



"We donate to your favorite LGBT charities. You travel to your favorite destinations..."

And save your favorite money."

Register at Orbitz.com/gaycharities and every time you book a qualifying hotel or package, we'll donate to two LGBT charities of your choice.*

ORBITZ
Visit GayOrbitz.com

*Book a qualifying hotel or vacation package for 2+ nights by 12/31/2010 and Orbitz will donate up to a \$20 value to participating charities. To register, select up to 2 charities, and for complete details, visit Orbitz.com/gaycharities.



calendar

Brought to you by the combined efforts of

WINDY CITY TIMES



Wed., April 14

Healing Our Religious Wounds with Bishop Spong Healing Our Religious Wounds: An Interfaith Approach with Bishop John Shelby Spong; 9 a.m., 630-668-1571 x 320, The Crown Plaza Hotel, Glen Ellyn, IL, www.healingourreligiouswounds.org

Beyond Choice: Women of Color and Reproductive Justice The University of Illinois at Chicago gender and women's studies program presents a lecture by Andrea Smith, a longtime anti-violence and Native American activist and scholar. Her publications include "Native Americans and the Christian Right: The Gendered Politics of Unlikely Alliances" and "Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide." She is co-founder of the national grassroots organization INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence; 3 p.m., (312) 996-3542, Student Center East, Rm 302, 750 S. Halsted, Chicago, www.uic.edu/depts/wsweb

SAGE Art as Advocacy The Center on Halsted's SAGE (Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders) Art as Advocacy group. 4 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted

Public Health Prostitution: Has AIDS Made Whores of Us All? London-based epidemiologist Elizabeth Pisani, author of *The Wisdom of Whores: Bureaucrats, Brothels and the Business of AIDS*, will give a lecture on how money and politics have undermined effective HIV prevention worldwide. The lecture is free and open to the public. 6:30 p.m., 773-325-2164, DePaul's Cortelyou Commons, 2324 N Fremont, www.depaul.edu/~ssrc

IDOL TIME

Tues. & Thurs., April 20 & 22

Windy City Gay Idol 2010 continues with stops at Jackhammer and Spin.

Photo from Idol by Kat Fitzgerald
(MysticImagesPhotography.com)



Thursday, April 15

Lavender Research Forum The UIC Chancellor's Committee on the Status of LGBT Issues, and Gender and Sexuality Center, are proud to host the Lavender Research Forum, an all-day forum for undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral, and professional students to present the results of their groundbreaking research focusing on issues involving LGBTQIA, gender, and sexuality communities. Free and open to public, but RSVP to lthomson@uic.edu. Lunch provided with a presentation by Dr. Jennifer Brier on her recent book "Infectious Ideas: U. S. Political Responses to the AIDS Crisis." 9 a.m. registration. 9 a.m., UIC, Cardinal Room, Rm 329, Student Center East, 750 S. Halsted, Chicago, <http://www.uic.edu/orgs/lrf>

Elton John 'Rocket Man -the Greatest Hits Live' concert 8 p.m., 800-745-3000, Sears Centre Arena, Hoffman Estates, www.ticketmaster.com

Friday, April 16

Day of Silence/Night of Noise Concerned students, from middle school to college, take some form of a vow of silence to bring attention to the name-calling, bullying and harassment—in effect, the silencing—experienced by LGBT students and their allies. 12 p.m. Any school, <http://www.dayofsilence.org>. There will also be a Night of Noise at Chicago's Thompson Center, 5:30-8:30 p.m. See www.Illinois-SafeSchools.org.

National Healthcare Decisions Day Presentation In observance of National Healthcare Decisions Day, Howard Brown Health Center's AGING AS WE ARE program for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults and its community partner, Midwest Palliative & Hospice CareCenter, will host a presentation on advance directives. 12 p.m., 773-388-8863, Howard Brown Health Center 4025 N. Sheridan Road, <http://www.howardbrown.org>

ExtrABBaganza If you liked MAMMA MIA!, you're going to love this! The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus pulls out all the stops—and the spandex and sequins—for the ultimate tribute show to ABBA, the top selling musical act of the '70s. (Through April 17) Tickets \$25 and \$35. 8 p.m., 773-296-0541, Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave, www.cgmc.org

Live Out LOUD More for Gay Men Spring Workshop co-sponsored by the Center on Halsted and Wright Leadership Institute. \$149 at the door, or \$129 if you pre-register. 6:30 p.m., 312-645-8300, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, <http://www.moreforgaymen.com>

Stud Puppy Tuesday at Temptations Every Tuesday, male dancers, hot drink specials and even hotter guys. Watch the action on one of seven flat screens throughout the bar or mingle in our new VIP lounge. Free unlimited parking; 7 p.m., Temptations Nightclub, 10235 W Grand Ave

Seeds of Change, Crossroads Fund annual benefit 5:30 p.m. private hosted reception, 6:30 p.m. general reception. Silent auction, buffet dinner and open bar. Ron Sable Award for activism, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$95 general admission; \$30 limited income ticket; \$175 sponsor level. 5:30 p.m., Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington, <http://www.crossroadsfund.org>

Saturday, April 17

Windy City Burlesque The Second City becomes the First City of Burlesque from April 15-17, 2010, performers from all over the world will be here to join in the celebration. 10am, 773-576-6275, Breadline Lab Space, 1801 W Byron, <http://www.windycityburlesque.com>

www.windycityburlesque.com

Sappho's Salon Featuring Alix Dobkin Sappho's Salon welcomes lesbian music legend, community activist, and original DIY artist Alix Dobkin to our stage! Dobkin shepherded in an era of lesbian-positive folk music with her landmark 1973 album, *Lavender Jane Loves Women*. Dobkin will be joined by Sappho's house DJ SpinNikki. \$7-10 sliding fee donation benefits the artists and the Women's Voices Fund. Food and wine are included. 7:30 p.m., Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark St., www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

An Evening With David Sedaris Spend the evening with best-selling author, humorist and regular contributor to *This American Life*, David Sedaris. This will be an all new show with new readings and stories! 8 p.m., Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E Congress, www.ticketmaster.com/event/070043836828953c?artistid=806078&majorcatid=10002&minorcatid=51

Crobar's Last Dance The Last Dance of Crobar Nightclub. Come party one final time at this legendary club, as we end one of the greatest eras in nightclub history! Featuring DJs Teri Bristol, Psycho B*tch, Mixin Marc, Tony Arzadon, the Crobar Dancers and many more. 9 p.m., (312) 919-3761, Crobar Chicago, 1543 N Kingsbury

Urbano Basketball Tournament After Party URBANO Latino Hip Hop Party After-Set for the hot basketball players competing in the Coady Roundball Classic Basketball Tournament. Featuring Guest Celebrity Jensen Atwood (Wade from Noah's Arc). Guest R&B Vocalist Yashi. DJs Anton & Kenae. Go Go Dancers Treshawn & Ashley. 11 p.m., 773-325-2233, Circuit Night Club, 3641 N Halsted St, www.urbanochicago.com

Sunday, April 18

aChurch4Me? MCC Worship Celebration A diverse community where all are welcome, grow spiritually and find meaning in hope and love! 11am, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.achurch4me.org/>

PFLAG Chicago Metro April Meeting Our guest this month will be Douglas Bruce to discuss the role of Internet in the sexual identity development of adolescents. 2 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted

Monday, April 19

Dating & Mating Seminar for Singles Dating & Mating...A New Roadmap for Lasting Love is a six-week interactive group for single men and women of any sexual orientation who want to create a long lasting, loving relationship. The group will meet Mondays 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. thru May 17. The cost is \$50 per session. Registration is required. 773-248-1675, 3342 N. Leavitt, www.alanirngng.com

Tuesday, April 20

Fish out of Water DVD Release Party with JC Brooks and the Uptown Sound! DVD Release Party hosted by "Homo Genius" Cameron Esposito and headlined by Chicago soul band JC Brooks and the Uptown Sound! \$5 cover, \$3 Syn Vodkas, \$3 Tall Boys. \$20 for a Fish Out of Water DVD; 8 p.m., Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln, Chicago, <http://www.fishoutofwaterfilm.com>

SAGE Take Charge of Your Health The Center on Halsted's Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders Take Charge of Your Health Group. If you have an ongoing health condition such as a heart or lung disease, diabetes, chronic fatigue, or arthritis, and want to take control of your health to live a happier and healthier life, the Take Charge of Your Health workshop can help you. Contact Dana Bright at Rush University Medical Center at 312-942-7900 or email Dana_M_Bright@rush.edu; 1 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>



PROTEST PATTERN Tuesday, April 20

There will be a DVD-release party for the documentary *Fish Out of Water* (above) at Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln.

Windy City Gay Idol 2010 Windy City Gay Idol, now in its 8th year, searches for the best amateur LGBT singers in the Chicago area. 9 p.m., Jackhammer, 6406 N Clark

Wed., April 21

Ride for AIDS Fundraiser - Richard's Riders \$30 unlimited Well Drinks & Beer 50/50 raffle, silent auction, and more; 6:30 p.m., 773-989-9400, Wild Pug, 4810 N. Broadway Ave, www.tinyurl.com/richardsriders

Nerds at Heart's Earth Date Show your love for the planet and each other during the third annual two-day bash for smart gay singles. Includes rounds of board games and themed trivia, a Rain Organic Vodka eco-tini, an organic chocolate tasting, a green fashion show, giveaways and more. 7 p.m., 312-265-6085, Holiday Club, 4000 N. Sheridan, <http://nerdsatheart.com>

Thursday, April 22

Civil Union Lobby Day in Springfield. Free, sponsored by Equality Illinois. All attendees must RSVP. www.eqfed.org/equality_illinois/events/lobbyday_april_22_2010_attendees/details.tcl. Buses will depart from various locations. All buses will drop off attendees at The Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. 6th, Springfield, at approximately 11 a.m. Attendees will have a chance to meet with their legislators from 1-3:30 p.m. at the State House. A debrief, reception and dinner will be held from 3:30-5:30 p.m. All buses depart Springfield at 5:30 p.m.; 7am, 773-477-7173, Various departure points, <http://www.eqil.org>

"Bon" Foster Celebration Lambda Legal's largest fundraiser in the Midwest honors the late civil-rights activist and attorney who was an outspoken opponent of injustice and challenged others to demand the best for themselves. His generosity aided in the creation of Lambda Legal's Midwest Regional Office and its subsequent civil rights victories. E-mail Jeff Souva at jsouva@lambdalegal.org; 5:30 p.m., 312-663-4413, ext. 335, Chicago History Museum, 1601 N Clark, www.lambdalegal.com

Windy City Gay Idol 2010 Windy City Gay Idol, now in its 8th year, searches for the best amateur LGBT singers in the Chicago area. 8 p.m., Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont

Saturday, April 24

TrueChild Hosts Celebrity Cook-Off TrueChild, a national organization that helps children break through stereotypes so they can be true to themselves and reach their full potential, will host the annual TrueFlavors Celebrity Cook-Off with Casey Thompson and Sunny Anderson. 1 p.m., 202-462-6610, The Chopping Block. Merchandise Mark, 107, Chicago, <http://www.truechild.org>



BON MEN

Thursday, April 22

Lambda Legal's annual Bon Foster celebration will take place at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark.

Photo from 2009 Bon Foster gala by Kat Fitzgerald
(MysticImagesPhotography.com)

BILLY MASTERS

"I'm not gay. A lot of people say that I'm gay and that doesn't bother me because I could eat a pizza in a male shower and not feel anything because I'm secure with myself."—Jamie Foxx uses a curious analogy to defend his heterosexuality. I'm wondering why he'd be eating a pizza in a male shower. And I don't know about you, but I'm suspect of anyone who's not even a little aroused eating a pizza!

While in Boston for Easter, I zipped down to the D.C. area for Tyne Daly and crabs. Well, I didn't get 'em from Tyne—I defy you to find me one man who has! Plus, you can get crabs anywhere. But you've gotta be in Baltimore for good crab cakes. As luck would have it, the Kennedy Center was celebrating the work of playwright Terrence McNally, so I had a perfect excuse for a quick jaunt. One day, two plays, six crab cakes, one penis, and Tyne Daly—it doesn't get better than that (which is perhaps the saddest admission I've ever made in print).

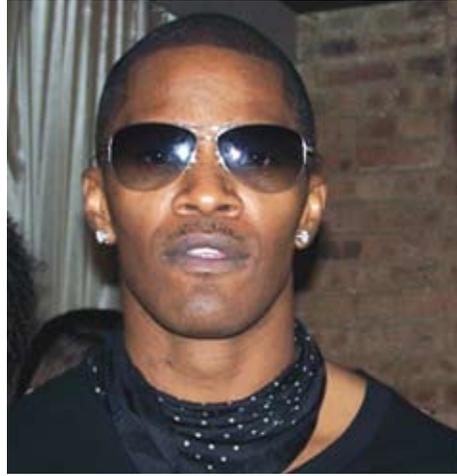
Tyne Daly assumed the persona of Maria Callas in Master Class, and it was a triumph-in-progress. Since I saw the show in previews, Tyne only had five shows under her belt—certainly not enough for the role to fit as second skin. But to the actress' credit, the framework and intentions were crystal clear and spot on. Almost completely gone were the tough, gruff, trucker-esque mannerisms that color many of Daly's portrayals. She was almost—dare I say—feminine.

The Kennedy Center is also presenting The Lisbon Traviata. Once again, Callas is McNally's muse, but this time as a disembodied voice. In the first act, obviously John Glover's "Mendy" is going to grab all of the attention—much as Nathan Lane did in the original production. However, Malcolm Gets as Steven more than holds his own. Manu Narayan, as "Michael, does his best with what is really a thankless role. But let me single out Chris Hartl who plays Paul. When he's not acting, he's a trainer at Steel Gym in NYC. To equate his acting ability with his physical appearance would be high praise indeed. If for no other reason, you should see this production for his full-frontal entrance in the second act. I'd give him a 10—literally!

All is not rosy for Terrence. His availability to spend time in DC might be thanks to Megan Mullally, or director Joe Mantello—depending on who you ask. The Roundabout Theatre planned to open a Broadway revival of McNally's "Lips Together, Teeth Apart," which would be directed by Mantello and star Mullally, Lily Taylor, David Wilson and Patton Oswalt. Although the details are murky, we know that Mullally and Oswalt had some sort of issue during rehearsals. Rumors swirl that Oswalt (in his Broadway debut) was not up to Mullally's theatrical standards. Others say she clashed with the sometimes combative Mantello. Or, that Mullally wanted Oswalt replaced and Mantello refused. Whatever the reason, Megan walked. The Roundabout immediately issued a statement expressing sadness that Megan "had to withdraw from the production immediately in breach of her contract" (sounds like a lawsuit is coming). Since the play was two weeks into rehearsal, it was thought a revised schedule could salvage the production. However, when it became clear that a competent replacement who was also a box-office draw could not be found, the play was "postponed" indefinitely.

And in London, we're told that Kim Cattrall is turning in quite a performance in Private Lives. The West End production is doing well enough to warrant buzz of a Broadway transfer. Before that, Cattrall has another character on the horizon—Cleopatra! Yes, the ageless beauty will play the fabled Queen of the Nile in Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra this summer at Liverpool's Everyman Theatre.

Remember all that stuff about Nicolette Sheridan leaving Desperate Housewives on great terms,



Jamie Foxx uses food to defend his heterosexuality. (Yes, you read that correctly.) Photo by Steve Starr

that everyone loved her and that her exit was simply storyline-dictated? Well, forget it. Nic has filed a lawsuit against DH creator Marc Cherry for wrongful termination; gender violence; and assault and battery! According to Sheridan's suit, she criticized Cherry about something in the script during rehearsal. He took her aside, and hit her with his hand across her face/head. Obviously I wasn't there, but I know Marc Cherry and find this impossible to believe. Of course, I also know Nicolette and I'd expect her to slug him right back! She says Cherry later went to her trailer to apologize, but she still reported the incident to ABC. Her role was immediately slashed and eventually she was killed off—depriving her of millions of dollars in salary (she's suing for \$20 million). BTW, she says she wasn't the only victim of his abuse. Sheridan claims that Teri Hatcher once complained to a higher-up about Cherry. She alleges that Marc responded by saying, "I hope Teri Hatcher gets hit by a car and dies." One big happy family...

This past week, Oscar-nominee Julianne Moore returned to her soap roots on *As the World Turns*. This prompted an "Ask Billy" question from Roger in San Francisco: "I've never seen *As the World Turns* before, but fell completely in lust with Billy Magnussen. He's gorgeous! What can you tell me about him?"

The young actor joined ATWT back in 2007 as a pivotal player with a penchant for parading in his panties. The lack of clothing is something he's also enjoyed on stage and the big screen. In 2007, he made his Broadway debut in a revival of Terrence McNally's comedy "The Ritz," where he played a non-speaking, towel-wearing patron in a gay bathhouse alongside such luminaries as gay porn legend Ryan Idol. He followed up his turn on the legitimate stage with an appearance in the movie "Happy Tears". You certainly would be hard-pressed not to experience some tears of joy seeing Magnussen without a stitch of clothing and exhibiting a rather weighty and lengthy appendage. Don't fret if your local video store has never heard of this flick. You can see all on BillyMasters.com.

When soap studs are cavorting in a gay bathhouse, it's time to end yet another column. Look at that—we started with Terrence McNally. And, poof, there he was at the end. I'd love to figure out what that means, but I have to dash to Jeffrey Sanker's White Party in Palm Springs. By the time you read this, it'll all be a distant memory. I'm sure I'll have a full report on www.BillyMasters.com—once I regain consciousness. In the interim, feel free to drop your queries to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Nicolette replaces Megan in "Lips Together". Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

A Cabaret of Favorite Broadway Tunes Performed by Members of WINDY CITY GAY CHORUS & ARIA: WINDY CITY WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE

SATURDAY, APRIL 24 • 5-8PM

WINDY CITY PERFORMING ARTS

AN EVENING OF BROADWAY

A BENEFIT FOR WINDY CITY PERFORMING ARTS
\$30 donation in MainBar & CherryBar at Sidetrack (includes sponsored bar, silent auction & more!)
GlassBar & SideBar open as usual/No cover.

SIDETRACK

Keep up-to-date by joining us on

facebook

Sidetrack The Video Bar • 3349 N. Halsted • SidetrackChicago.com

THE HOTTEST TICKET ON THE WEB

GayMovies.com

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

SPORTS

Richard Cordova aims for AIDS ride record

BY ROSS FORMAN

Richard Cordova has quite an ambitious goal for the 2010 Ride For AIDS, the annual two-day, 190-mile bicycle trek from Northwestern University's Evanston campus to Lake Geneva and back.

He wants his 21-person team to raise \$30,000 for the event's sponsor/promoter—Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN)—which would set the record for most money ever raised by a team.

"[Raising] \$30,000 is a lofty goal, but with so many people on the team I'm hoping we can rally enough support for such a great cause and make our goal," said Cordova, 32, a gay Lakeview resident who will be participating in his third ride. He has also run five marathons (26.2 miles each) and three half-marathons (13.1 miles).

Cordova, who has a boyfriend, is a health educator at the Center on Halsted; he also is a spinning instructor at the Lakeview Athletic Club.

"The 2009 Ride was great because two of my closest friends, Zak and Andrea, did the ride with me, which really made it a lot of fun," Cordova said. "I decided to start my own team [this year] because I knew I was going to do the Ride again and it just seemed like the logical thing to do."

The Ride for AIDS is July 10-11.

Cordova's team, appropriately dubbed Richard's Riders, has members in their 20s, 30s and 40s. There are grad students, flight attendants and business owners. There also are professionals in education management, finance, advertising, insurance, non-profits and more.

Rider Kevin Ciacco suggested the team name and, "of course I was on board with it; who wouldn't want a team with their name in it?!" Cordova said.



Richard Cordova. Photo courtesy of Cordova

Richard's Riders is one of the bigger teams ever in the history of the ride and each member has their own reason for participating in the grueling gig, Cordova said.

"Some [of the riders] connect with the cause on a personal level because someone they know is HIV positive or they themselves are positive. Others are doing the Ride because it is something they never thought they could do, and some people are doing it because they are on their own personal journey of health and this happens to be a stop on that journey," Cordova said. "As someone living with HIV for over eight years now, I've come to look at physical challenges as my way of sticking it to the man, as they say, and 'the man' being HIV. It's important that I prove to myself that even though I live with this virus every day that I must continue to stay positive and that having HIV doesn't stop me from living my best life. Honestly, having this virus in some ways has helped me live an even better one because I've come to realize how destructive behaviors in my life were leading me to an early grave."

So how demanding is the ride?

"The ride is tough. It's fun, but tough," Cordova said. "The winds can be brutal while the hills and long flat stretches in Wisconsin are mentally and physically draining. The camaraderie among the riders and the crew helps of course."

"The ride also can be pretty emotional. I think any endurance event can and will bring up all sorts of things for the person participating in the event. I know it does for me, during marathons for sure. My friend Zak, who did the Ride last year and is riding again this year, might have said it best when he said, 'I purged my demons [on the Ride].'"

Cordova added, "My team would love it if the kind and benevolent LGBTQ community could find it in their hearts and their wallets by helping us support Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) through a donation. No matter how big or small; every bit counts. Whether it be information dissemination, outreach, testing and prevention, and positive living support groups and more, TPAN is on the front lines every day helping those, myself included, who are living their best life possible with HIV/AIDS. We ride to do our part and when you make a decision to support our ride you are doing yours. Thank You!"

Donations can be made via mail or the Internet; go to www.rideforaids.org, click on "Pledge" and select Richard's Riders.

The team is holding a fundraiser on Wed., April 21, 6:30-9:30 p.m., at Wild Pug, 4810 N. Broadway. For \$30, you get all you can drink well beer and mixed drinks.

Chicago Sky selects Prince

With the fourth pick in the WNBA draft, the Chicago Sky chose 5' 9" guard Epiphanny Prince, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Prince passed on her final year of eligibility at Rutgers University to play in Turkey. In high school, she once scored 113 points in a game.

The Sky's second choice was Oklahoma center Abi Olajuwon, who is the daughter of former NBA great Hakeem Olajuwon.

The Sky ended with a 16-18 record last season, just missing the playoffs.

Red Stars' home opener April 17

The Chicago Red Stars' first home game will take place Saturday, April 17, versus St. Louis Athletica at 7 p.m. The game will take place at Toyota Park, 7000 S. Harlem, Bridgeview.

The Red Stars fell just short in the season opener, losing 1-0 to the defending Women's Professional Soccer champion Sky Blue FC in Piscataway, N.J.

Tickets start at \$15 each; see www.chicagoredstars.com or call 866-WPS-2009.

Some upcoming matches are as follows. (Home games are in bold.):

—**Saturday, April 17, vs. Saint Louis Athletica, 7 p.m.**

—**Sunday, April 25, vs. Sky Blue FC, 5 p.m.**

—Saturday, May 1, at Boston Breakers, 5 p.m.

—Saturday, May 8, at FC Gold Pride, 9 p.m.

—**Saturday, May 15, vs. Philadelphia Independence, 6 p.m.**

Force tames Wolves



The Chicago Force dominated the Wisconsin Wolves April 10 in every aspect of the home game en route to a 62-0 win at Winnebago Stadium.

The Force offense scored on every position, including five rushing touchdowns from Catherine "Cat" Converse. The Force defense never allowed the Wolves past the Chicago 47, and Martha Dantuma returned two interceptions for touchdowns. "We just played really well, offensively and defensively," said Dantuma, named the Spin Nightclub Defensive Player of the Game. Converse earned Spin Nightclub Offensive Player of the Game accolades after TD rushes of 7, 5, 5, 4 and 3 yards. "Five touchdowns in one game is amazing," Dantuma said. Spin owner David Gassman was present to present the post-game awards.

The remaining regular-season schedule is as follows: Saturday, April 17, at the Wisconsin Warriors, 6 p.m.; Saturday, May 1 vs. the Kansas City Tribe, 3 p.m.; Saturday, May 8, at the Minnesota Vixen, 7 p.m.; Saturday, May 15, at Wisconsin Wolves, 6 p.m.; Saturday, May 22, vs. the Pittsburgh Passion, 3 p.m.; and Saturday, June 5, at the Kansas City Tribe, 5 p.m. For more information and tickets, visit www.chicagoforcefootball.com. Photos and text by Ross Forman

TENNIS IN NO TIME®

6 SESSIONS \$115 STARTS MAY 1

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

Become a player – learn Tennis in No Time!

Midtown membership not required.

To reserve your spot, call today. Space is limited.



MIDTOWN
TENNIS CLUB®

2020 West Fullerton Avenue
Chicago, IL 60647

773.756.5094

midtown.com/chicago



TSAMIS
LAW FIRM, P.C.
Always on your side



BETTY TSAMIS
ATTORNEY
&
COUNSELOR
AT LAW

203 North LaSalle, Suite 2100, Chicago, IL
Office: 312-827-7973 • Mobile: 312-909-1219
email: btsamis@tsamilaw.com
www.TsamisLaw.com



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

CASUAL FLOORING AND TILE



"Building Your Dreams With Our Hands"

EXPERT INSTALLATION AND SERVICE 

Mike or Bruce 708-452-1989

1010



CUSTOM FRAMING

25% off all custom framing!

1478 W. Berwyn - 773.784.3962

CJ Sikora
773-255-1170
catherine@sugarrunhomes.com



SUGAR RUN HOMES

Kitchen & bath remodeling, roof repair, garages built, re-siding houses, rebuild porches, wood and steel. Electrical work, plumbing, carpentry, finish and rough.

Renovation, remodeling, all types of work, large or small. Licensed, insured. We support our community.



You're a neighbor, not a number.

Linda Kuczka, Agent
954 W Webster
Chicago, IL 60614
Bus: 773-975-9111
linda@lindakuczka.com

Total average savings of \$489*
Getting to know you helps me find all the auto discounts you deserve. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®
CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7.



*Average annual household savings based on national 2009 survey of new policyholders who reported savings by switching to State Farm. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL

P090119 06/09



High Point Auto Service

Making every point matter! 

Complete Auto Repair and Body Shop

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




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

Counseling practice specializing in adoption




I see birth mothers, adult adoptees, families with adopted children and people considering adoption as a way to build their family. I have facilitated several same sex adoptions. I am an adult adoptee, have an adopted son and am in contact with my birth family for 12 years.

Peggy Lynch, AM, LCSW
847-492-8182 • plynch300@gmail.com
1599 Maple Ave., Evanston

PARKVIEW PET SUPPLIES
EST. 1921

5358 N. Broadway
Chicago, IL 60640
773-561-0001

*Sensible Food
Sensible Prices*

Mulryan & York
Attorneys At Law

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

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

A Full Service Law Firm for the Community since 1988

410 S. Michigan Ave.,
Suite 628, Chicago

HRC AND ERIC ALVA ARE FIGHTING TO REPEAL "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL."

Eric Alva was the first U.S. service member wounded in Iraq. He lost his right leg to a land mine. He is a proud Marine and a gay man.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" keeps patriotic women and men like Eric from serving openly. He is working with the Human Rights Campaign to repeal this law. Join us and help to repeal it now.



Over the past months, we have worked nationwide to repeal DADT, focusing on 103 priority congressional districts. Our efforts include:

- ★ More than 300,000 phone calls and e-mails to members of Congress.
- ★ 275 HRC members lobbied on Capitol Hill to repeal DADT and pass ENDA and other key legislation.
- ★ Beyond the Beltway, our members conducted more than 250 in-district lobby visits.
- ★ In 41 cities, we held events that highlighted military veterans opposed to DADT, and over the next several months we will conduct dozens more.
- ★ On May 11, we will send hundreds of veterans to Capitol Hill to lobby for repeal.

Join HRC and Eric to repeal DADT
Visit www.hrc.org/RepealDADT



REPEAL
DON'T ASK
DON'T TELL
NOW NOT TOMORROW.
NOT NEXT YEAR. NOW.

