

**Dan Choi's Journey**

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**Lady Gaga in Arizona**

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**Gay Games Begin**

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**nightspots**  
pick it up  
take it home

# Target under fire from LGBT groups

BY MASON HARRISON

Target Corporation's July 6 donation to a Minnesota political action committee that is backing the state's anti-gay Republican candidate for governor has run into a national political buzzsaw powered by the LGBT community in recent weeks. Calls for contrition on the part of Target and for LGBTs and their allies to boycott the company have caused the giant retailer to rethink its political giving strategy only a few days after staunchly defending its contribution.

The recent brouhaha portends a potential match-up, as the 2010 election cycle heats up, between the political interests of major corpora-

tions and the political mettle of the LGBT community.

Minnesota Forward, a business community-backed political action group, received \$100,000 in cash and \$50,000 in in-kind contributions from Target to support the company's "business objectives," according to a statement from Target's CEO Gregg Steinhafel. But various LGBT groups and activists charge Target's objectives run contrary to the interests of not just Target's gay and lesbian shoppers but the LGBT community as a whole. Officials with Minnesota Forward did not respond to repeated requests for comment at press time.

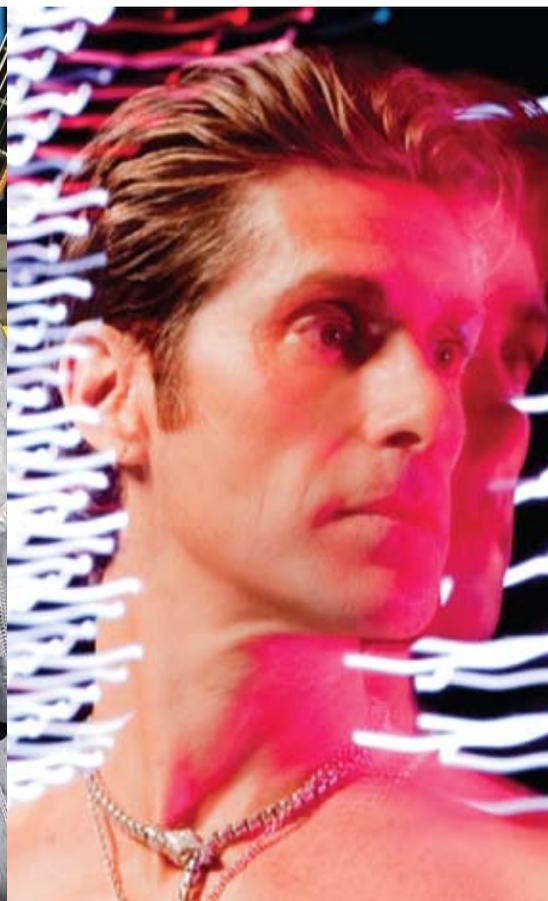
Minnesota Forward has run ads in the state

supporting state Republican Rep. Tom Emmer. Emmer, who is likely to grab the GOP nomination for governor, is against marriage equality and leveling the playing field for LGBTs in areas of discrimination in housing, the workplace, immigration and health care. Emmer has also been linked to an anti-gay ministry that reportedly advocates violence against LGBTs. A spokesperson for the Emmer campaign said the group would not comment on the controversy and said the decision about which candidate to support in the race for governor was solely a decision of Minnesota Forward.

Turn to page 8

# BIG MUSIC WEEKEND

Music lovers will delight at this weekend's options, including Melissa Etheridge at The Chicago Theatre (left); Lollapalooza, brainchild of rocker Perry Farrell (center); and Jennifer Holliday (right) at Market Days. Read interviews with Melissa and Perry on pages 17 and 19, as well as one with country superstar Lee Ann Womack on page 16. See our calendar on page 24 for info on Market Days.





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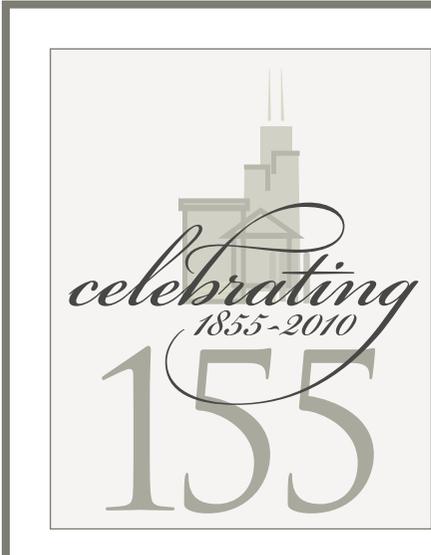
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Photos on cover: Photo of Dan Choi by John Fenoglio; Lady Gaga PR photo; Image of Kien Tran at the Cologne Gay Games opening ceremony courtesy of Tran



Groundbreaking agent Albert Gaskin (above) is profiled in WCT's real estate section. See page 21.



Shrek the Musical is one of the theatrical productions reviewed this week. See page 14.

Photo by Joan Marcus

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**ONLINE INDEX**

**LONG DIVISION**  
Amuse Bouche looks at the Division Street farmers' market that takes place every Saturday during the summer.



Photo by Greg Perrine

**DISC AND THAT**



The column Disc and That looks at recently released and upcoming DVDs, including Kick-Ass and volume five of The Judy Garland Show.

**GRAND KANYON**

Windy City Times takes a look at a book that details the life of the late gay wrestler Chris Klucsaritis, also known as Chris Canyon (right).



Photo courtesy of Robert McLearn

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'08 Mazda 3 Sedan	Automatic, Air, Full Power, Alloys, 41K, Gold, P3700	\$12,495
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'09 Subaru Tribeca Ltd.	Leather, Sunroof, Full Luxury, Black, 15K, P3697	\$27,495
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'06 Subaru Outback 2.5i	Automatic, Air, Full Power, 15K, Green, P3711	\$23,995
'10 Subaru Legacy Prem.	All Weather Pkg., Silver or Blue, P3729 6015A	\$19,995
'08 Subaru Outback 2.5i	Auto., Heated Power Seats, Silver, 36K, P3733	\$18,995
'05 Subaru Outback 3.0R LL Bean	Leather, Sunroof, 33K, Blue, P3709A	\$18,995
'08 Subaru Outback 2.5i	Automatic, Air, Full Power, Gold, 5951A	\$17,995
'09 Subaru Legacy 2.5i SE	Automatic, Air, Sunroof, 10K, BlackP3709/10	\$17,495
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**Dan Choi.**  
Photo by  
John  
Fenoglio

## Looking at Dan Choi's journey

BY CHUCK COLBERT

It was official first. Now it's public. Army infantry officer and Arabic language specialist, Dan Choi has been discharged from the armed services, effective June 29.

"Based on board findings that [Lt.] Daniel Choi did publicly admit, one more than one occasion, in person and through the media, that he is a homosexual, such conduct being in violation of [Army and National Guard regulations], I direct that Choi be discharged from the New York Army National Guard with an Honorable characterization of service," wrote Brigadier General Patrick A. Murphy.

Choi first learned of his honorable discharge by telephone, a call from his commander, according to a Newsweek report last week. From yet another source, the Iraqi war veteran discovered that his father, living in Orange County, Calif., had received a letter, the official discharge notification, sometime earlier. But the West Point alumnus and his father a Southern Baptist minister, are not on speaking terms, a family communications breach, explaining the information time lag.

Still, the 29-year-old Army man stands resolute. Issuing a statement following his discharge notice, Lt. Choi said the news is "both infuriating and painful," coming after 11 years of military service, beginning at the US Military Academy, and including 17 months of openly gay service.

"But my service continues," he said, adding, "To all those veterans who have endured similar trials and injustices or prematurely ended their military service because of the unjust policy: Our fight has only begun."

Choi's military discharge bring to close 17

months of whirlwind activism that began on national television, May 7, 2009, when he said out loud on the Rachel Maddow Show three words, "I am gay," a clear violation of the military's don't ask, don't tell (DADT) policy. Since then, the articulate and passionate all-military man has spoken out continuously, advocating coast to coast, repeal of the nearly 17-year old federal law and Pentagon policy that bans openly gay service.

Choi's lift-the-ban odyssey even included a March 18, 2010, arrest outside the White House for a non-violent civil disobedience protest against the DADT policy, an incident in which he and another former Army officer, Capt. James Pietrangolo, handcuffed themselves to an iron fence surrounding 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Consequently, Choi faced police charges for refusing to obey a lawful order, but those charges were dropped by the District of Columbia July 14.

For the most part, Choi's activism has been well-received among LGBT activists, bloggers, and gay media—and within the larger gay and lesbian community. But after a seven-day hunger strike ended June 3 without achieving its ends, criticism of Choi's direct-action approach gained some traction.

For example, blogger Bil Browning, co-founder of the Bilerico Project, wrote, "With all of Choi's recent actions, tons of media appearances, chaining himself to the White House fence and this hunger strike, many in the community think Choi's gone off the deep end. They say this has become more about his ego than a smart strategy to repeal DADT quickly."

But dynamics for grassroots activism seemed to shift significantly most recently. Recently in Las Vegas, Choi and U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, embraced at Netroots Nation. In a poignantly defining moment, moderator Joan McCarter presented the Nevada senator with Choi's West Point ring, along with a copy of his discharge papers. When Reid promised to return the ring after DADT's repeal, Choi's said he would hold Reid accountable for his word. On stage together, the two men shook hands and embraced.

Truth Wins Out ([www.truthwinsout.org](http://www.truthwinsout.org)) Executive Director Wayne Besen, in attendance at the Netroots Nation gathering of progressives, offered an assessment of Choi and recent direct action of the new grassroots organization Get Equal ([www.getequal.org](http://www.getequal.org)).

"The new generation of activists, such as Choi, are the best crop I have seen," he said. "They have added incredible verve to the movement and immediacy to our issues. While they are known for direct action, it is important to note



they are not one-trick ponies. These are intelligent, media savvy, multidimensional people who are reasonable, rational and very focused."

Besen, whose organization fights religious extremism and the "ex-gay" myth, also addressed Choi's detractors. "Some of the critics appear stuck in the past or they seem to be trying to defend the ineffective strategies of old. It is time to give the new generation a chance to accomplish our unfinished business. They deserve our full support for their valiant efforts."

Former Clinton administration official Richard Socarides couldn't agree more. "The battle to end don't ask, don't tell is not over. The other side has not given up and neither can we," he said, adding, "Dan Choi has played a heroic role in the last several chapters of this struggle and we have been lucky to have his courage, forcefulness and charismatic presence as part of the effort. I'm sure he has a big role to play going forward in our movement generally and I, for one, am very happy for it."

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## HRC criticizes Indiana hospital

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has urged Ball Memorial Hospital (in Muncie, Ind., to immediately adopt an LGBT-inclusive patient non-discrimination policy and staff training after a transgender woman claimed biased treatment, according to a press release.

On July 18, transgender woman Erin Vaught went to Ball's emergency room, accompanied by

her wife and their son, seeking treatment for what she suspected was a lung infection. According to the Muncie Star Press, staff members repeatedly degraded Vaught. At one point, Vaught's wife was allegedly asked by a nurse, "So is it a he or a she? Or a he-she?" In the end, after a two-hour wait without any medical treatment, Vaught was told "we don't know how to go about treating someone with your condition," referring to her gender history.

HRC President Joe Solmonese said, "No one should be forced to pick and choose which hospital to go to for safe and respectful treatment," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "The incident at Ball Memorial Hospital is a sad reminder of discrimination and hostility faced by LGBT patients in hospitals across the country. Transgender patients often face the worst of these discriminatory actions."

According to its website, the hospital "serves as a destination health facility for the people of East Central Indiana, and is home to nearly 400 physicians and more than 45 medical specialties including a Cancer Center, Cardiology program, Total Joint and Spine Center, and specialized services for women and children."

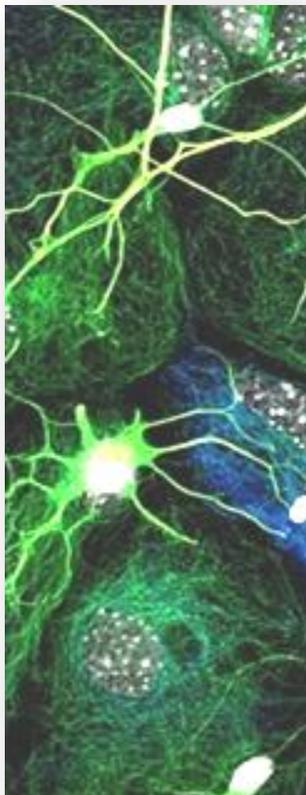
## Man wins \$650K after forced separation

In California, Clay Greene and the estate of Harold Scull, Greene's deceased partner of 20 years, reached a settlement with the County of Sonoma and other defendants, with the county agreeing to pay \$653,000 compensate for attorney fees and damages the couple suffered due to the County's discriminatory and unlawful conduct, according to a press release from the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Greene and Scull lived together for 20 years and had executed both mutual powers of attorney for medical and financial decisions and wills naming each other as beneficiaries. In April 2008, county employees separated the couple after Scull fell outside their shared home. For the next three months, county officials ignored the couple's legal documentation, unlawfully auctioned their possessions, terminated their lease and forced Greene into an assisted living facility against his will. Scull passed away in August 2008.

In August 2009, Greene and the representative of Scull's estate filed a lawsuit alleging, among other things, elder abuse, breach of fiduciary duty and false imprisonment.

The county has agreed to pay \$600,000, with defendant Agua Caliente Villa paying \$53,000.



# Do you suffer from pain due to HIV-related neuropathy?

The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC) is conducting a study for participants who have pain associated with HIV-related neuropathy. The study will evaluate the safety and efficacy of a study medication to treat this pain.

If you are interested in participating, please call (312) 238-7611.

Participants must meet the following criteria:

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This study will last about 127 days. Participants may receive placebo or study drug that has not been approved by the FDA for this condition. Subjects may receive compensation for participation.



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# Pre-election polls and same-sex relationships

BY CHUCK COLBERT

Anti-gay marriage ballot measures don't come cheap. Proposition 8 now holds the record with its whopping \$83 million price tag, a figure representing the combined total both sides spent in California where voters in 2008 narrowly approved a constitutional amendment, rolling back same-sex marriage rights.

On a smaller scale in Maine, the warring sides last fall spent a total of \$9.5 million on Question 1, with voters approving a ballot initiative that repealed same-sex civil marriage legislation signed into law by the governor.

What then has all this money bought? Apparently nothing, according to a recent study conducted by a New York University (NYU) assistant professor. "The study indicates that when all of [the campaigning] is over, the result is a wash," NYU's Patrick Egan told reporters at press conference at San Francisco City Hall on June 15.

In other words, during the heat of a campaign, hard-hitting television ads had little effect in changing voters' views, one way or the other.

Egan, a political scientist, undertook the study, an analysis of pre-election polling data, spanning the decade from 1988 to 2008. The study includes data from states that held ballot measures on marriage equality or domestic partnerships—a total of 167 surveys on 32 different ballot measures. In 30 states, voters approved anti gay-marriage initiatives, mostly constitutional amendments, while two other ballot measures focused on domestic partnerships laws.

Unlike LGBT Americans in 30 other states, Illinois' gay community has not faced any ballot measure fight over partnership recognition. While the Illinois General Assembly enacted legislation in 1996 restricting marriage to the union of one man and one woman, lawmakers could overturn marriage inequality by a simple majority. The state has no constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. In fact, amending the Illinois Constitution is not all that easy to do, either through the legislature or by citizens' initiated petition. (See the sidebar for a discussion of lessons applicable from the study for Illinois.)

The San Francisco-based non-profit Evelyn & Walter Haas Jr. Fund commissioned the study. The full report, "Findings from a Decade of Polling on Ballot Measures Regarding the Legal Status of Same-Sex Couples," is available at [http://www.haasjr.org/sites/default/files/Marriage percent20Polling.pdf](http://www.haasjr.org/sites/default/files/Marriage%20Polling.pdf).

The study revealed, among other key findings, that pre-election polls consistently underestimate voter support for bans—the "Yes" vote—on the legal recognition of same-sex relation-



Patrick Egan.

ships. At the same time, "No" vote estimates prove to be fairly accurate indicators of how marriage equality backers end up voting, according to the report.

"The share of voters ... saying they will vote to ban same sex marriage [runs] typically seven percentage points [below] the actual vote on Election Day," the study states.

Furthermore, the report found, polling surveys do not become any more accurate as Election Day approaches. In fact, "Support for a ban on same-sex marriage projected from final polling typically falls three percentage points short of actual results," the study states. Accordingly, polls done in the final weeks and days beforehand apparently understate the full share of the vote against legal recognition for same-sex relationships.

During the hour-long press availability, Egan told reporters—some of whom participated through a telephone conference call—the impetus for the study resulted from ten years of ballot measures, conventional wisdom concerning the accuracy of polling surveys, and theories about why the polling data are inaccurate.

What accounts for the gap between polling surveys and election outcomes? Two phenomena may come into play. Some voters voice support for same-sex marriage rights and then don't vote that way. Or nearly all the undecided voters support marriage equality bans.

Interestingly, Egan finds no evidence for the "Bradley Effect," a theoretical explanation, which holds that voters conceal their biased intentions, telling pollsters they intend to vote one way, but in fact vote another. The theory's name derives from the 1982 California gubernatorial race where exit polls showed Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley had won. But Bradley, an African American, lost in a close contest. Some political observers attribute racial bias for his defeat.

In the case of marriage equality, however, "There is very little evidence to support suggestions are lying to pollsters when asked about support for bans," Egan said, referring to the theory of social desirability bias, which may give

rise to a politically correct pro-gay response.

Why is that? For one thing, professor Egan's analysis demonstrates remarkable consistency in polling outcomes across an entire decade. The study accounts for surveys from states with a larger LGBT population and, therefore, may well be more pro-gay. Egan's analysis includes polling data from the later part of the decade, when generally speaking, nationwide social attitudes tended to be more gay-tolerant. Finally, the study includes surveys relying on both automated and human interviewers.

Beyond that, Egan said, further investigation is necessary for a fuller explanation of the discrepancies between polling surveys and election outcomes, adding, "preferably research that looks at individuals"—and conducted by "[marriage equality] advocates."

But could there have been a "massive shift in voter intention [in California or Maine] during the very last stage of the campaign?"

"It's possible, but not very likely," Egan said.

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**See what other key LGBT figures have to say about the study online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).**

## The election study and Illinois

BY CHUCK COLBERT

What lessons do the recent Haas Fund study conducted by New York University professor and political scientist Patrick Egan hold for Illinois where both a civil unions and marriage equality bill have been introduced into the General Assembly and where the state's leading gay-rights advocacy organization is pressing lawmakers to enact civil unions, the next best thing.

"Even though there is no binding referendum process," said Equality Illinois CEO Bernard Cherkasov. "It is extremely important that we build public support for LGBT equality legislation, specifically partnership recognition."

First, relying on the courts to secure rights not enough because legislatures can over turn" any gains, he said, especially "if they do not reflect the will of the people."

At the same time, Cherkasov explained during a telephone interview, "It's not enough to secure victories in the Legislature because if they do not reflect the will of the people," any law "can be overturned."

For those two reasons, he added, "It's important for us to secure and sustain our victories through educating the general population."

To that end, Equality Illinois has a two-pronged statewide public-education program, with outreach downstate to Carbondale and Belleville, throughout central and western Illinois to Springfield and the Quad Cities—locations all far away from Chicago and the big city influ-

ence. "We've started this work early and intend to keep on doing it in every corner of the state," said Cherkasov.

One outreach effort, Equality Illinois' Faith and Freedom Project, aims to "engage leaders and communities of faith in understanding LGBT equality issues, what same-sex partnership recognition means, and how it affects people on the ground every single day," Cherkasov explained, pointing to the Equality Prayer Breakfast, held earlier this year in Chicago and which included 100 faith leaders—Jews, mainline Protestants, and Catholics—all in attendance to voice support for same-sex unions and partnership recognition.

As a former seminarian, Cherkasov "rejects outright the argument in the battle for marriage equality that it's God versus gays," he said, adding, Equality Illinois has on staff and its board of directors people who are "fluent in the language of theology" and who are "active in their faith communities," enabling "us to take a longer-term" view.

Indeed, an orthodox rabbi presided over the concluding prayer service. The rabbi's main point, Cherkasov said, served as a reminder: "God's very first concern was to create partners for human beings. That has been a consistent concern to this very day."

So much for those who say, "true people of faith" don't LGBT equality," Cherkasov said. "The same people who say an orthodox Jew wouldn't support gay rights" are the same ones who "tell us a true Catholic wouldn't" either.

Undoubtedly, Catholic Church hierarchy is a major player in Chicago and throughout the state. In fact, Illinois' Catholic population is slightly more than 30 percent, with Chicago's nearly 5 million among the faithful (nearly 39 percent) ranking the local archdiocese third in the nation, according to church data from 2008.

But within the organized Catholic community, explained Cherkasov, "There is diversity of opinion. When people look how the law impact daily lives, it's not about morality," he said, adding, "It's about making sure people in long term relationships are able to support each other and stay together without having the law step in and pull them apart."

Another Equality Illinois outreach effort, the Ally for Equality Project, reaches out to heterosexual allies, family members, parents, friends, coworkers, neighbors and people "who don't know anyone openly gay" and are "focused on fairness, the core issue of equality," or fundamental Midwestern values, explained Cherkasov. "Our idea is to engage them and make sure they understand what relationship recognition means so when the time comes for them at the ballot box, they can make informed choices."

In the short run, one choice seems clear for LGBT voters and allies. "[The gubernatorial race] is extremely important to us," said Cherkasov. "We're doing everything to make sure the progressive side wins."

"It's a very clear-cut choice between someone [Democrat and incumbent Governor Pat Quinn] who has said he supports civil unions and he will work to pass legislation and an opponent who not only does not support us, but whose very first act after becoming the Republican nominee [state Senator Bill Brady] was to propose an amendment to the Constitution that would permanently ban any recognition for same-sex relationships.

"Then when that [idea] was not moving very far, [Brady] proposed gutting the Illinois Human Rights Act to allow discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity because the current law prohibits that right now."

The bottom line for LGBT voters is this, Cherkasov added, is that "[h]e is as homophobic and dangerous and scary as can be."



Bernard Cherkasov. Photo courtesy of Danny Maurice

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## Movement to ban gay adoption: Sacrificing childrens' well-being

BY DANA RUDOLPH  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

When child-protective services took two young children from their home and brought them to Frank Martin Gill and his partner in December 2004, the investigator told the men, experienced foster parents, that the boys deserved a good holiday. The men were planning to move soon but agreed to take them temporarily.

It was clear the boys, ages four years and four months, needed care. The elder boy was wearing a dirty adult-sized T-shirt and sneakers four sizes too small. He did not speak, and his only concern was caring for his infant brother. Both boys had scalp ringworm and the younger had an ear infection, but the medicines brought from their home had been unused. When the older boy began to speak after about a month, the men learned he had never seen a book, could not count, and did not even know letters from numbers.

The brothers stayed and the men did not move. The boys developed friendships at school and in the neighborhood. They bonded with the biological son of Gill's partner and with the men's parents and siblings. They began referring to Gill and his partner (who is not identified in court documents) as "Papi" and "Daddy." In 2007, after the rights of the biological parents were terminated, Gill petitioned to adopt.

The men, however, live in the state of Florida—the one state that bans any gay men or lesbians from adopting. And that has created a dilemma for the courts: either they honor the law or honor their duty to rule in the best interests of the children.

Despite a positive home study, the Florida Department of Children and Families denied Gill's adoption application. With the help of the ACLU of Florida, Gill sued the state. (The men felt they would stand no chance if they sued for a joint adoption.) During the trial, the court heard expert testimony from a psychologist who had assessed the boys and determined they would be "emotionally devastated" if taken from their current home.

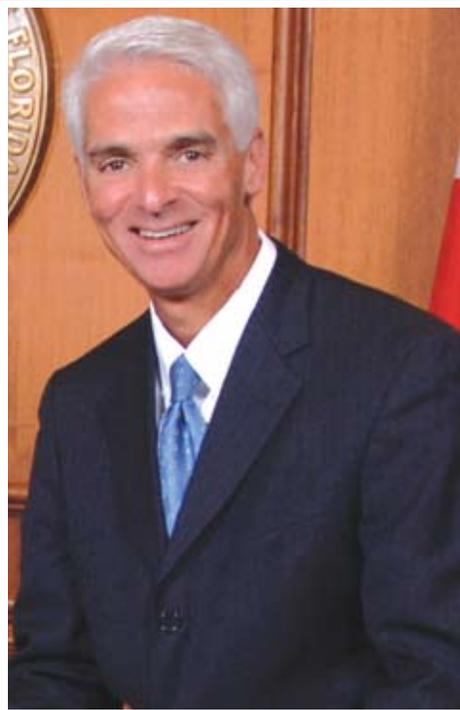
In November 2008, Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Cindy Lederman ruled that the adoption ban violated Gill and the children's right to equal protection under the state Constitution. The government, she said, failed to demonstrate a rational reason for imposing the ban, and the law obstructed the right of children to a permanent, stable home as provided by federal and state law.

The state's Department of Children and Families (DCF) appealed the ruling to the state's Third District Court of Appeals, which heard arguments in August 2009. The decision has now been pending for a year.

A few other states have some restrictions on gay people adopting children, but Florida is the only state whose law specifically bans adoptions by all gay men or lesbians. Mississippi bans same-sex couples from doing so, and Arkansas, Michigan, and Utah ban unmarried couples (by definition, all same-sex couples in the state).

So far, despite the ban, Florida courts have ruled three times to allow an adoption by a gay or lesbian parent. Nadine Smith, executive director of Equality Florida, an LGBT advocacy group, observed in an interview, "Judges are beginning to push back and say 'There's a contradiction in this law that does not allow us to carry out our prime mission, and that is that the children have to come first. What their needs are has to be the primary guidance in what we do.'"

Florida legislators have also recently attempted to overturn the ban in the legislature. Three



Gov. Charlie Crist.

billions were introduced in March, but two were withdrawn before a vote and one died in committee.

And Gov. Charlie Crist, who now running for U.S. Senate, told TIME magazine in June he believes in "a live and let live attitude as it regards adoption [by gay men and lesbians]." He said "the best decision maker would be a judge," but that the current law must change first.

"I'm sure that a future legislature and maybe the next governor might address that issue," he added.

Beyond Florida, some LGBT experts and advocates think that adoption could be the next major target—after marriage equality—for opponents of LGBT civil rights. In the federal trial this year challenging the constitutionality of Proposition 8, California's ban on same-sex marriage, a witness for the plaintiffs, Dr. Gary Segura predicted that, as fewer states are able to use the initiative process to contest same-sex marriage, "the new front line would be gay and lesbian adoption."

"I would not be surprised to see anti-adoption initiatives appearing in the near future," said Segura, professor of political science at Stanford University.

Equality Florida's Smith agreed, saying, "The entire country has a stake in ending [the Florida] adoption ban so that the far right doesn't begin trying to export it and expand it elsewhere through the same mechanisms that they pushed the marriage ban. ... The far right, nationally, is geared up to defend and expand this ban and we've got to be geared up nationally to defeat it."

There are signs of this already. The Arizona House approved a bill at the end of February that would give preference to married couples when placing children with adoptive parents. It is now in the State Senate.

And voters in Arkansas approved that state's ban on allowing adoptions by unmarried couples in November 2008. In April, a state circuit judge struck down the ban for that circuit, but the state is expected to appeal.

Anti-LGBT groups have long tried to tie the right to parent with the right to marry. In the Proposition 8 case, for example, attorneys defending the marriage ban tried to persuade the court that an opposite-sex couple provides the best family structure for raising children, and that marriage should therefore be limited to opposite-sex couples.

The defense's star witness, David Blankenhorn, president of the Institute for American Values, however, testified, "I believe that adopting same-sex marriage would be likely to improve the well-being of gay and lesbian households and their children."

Attorneys on the plaintiffs' side brought in two experts who had also testified in the Florida Gill case. One was Dr. Michael Lamb, profes-

sor of developmental psychology at Cambridge University, who spoke in both cases about the extensive research showing that children do as well with gay or lesbian parents as with straight ones. The other was Dr. Letitia Peplau, professor of psychology and sociology at UCLA, who testified to the stability of same-sex relationships.

Anti-LGBT groups may have better luck at the ballot box than in the court room, as the field of experts to testify on their behalf about same-sex couples and children seems to be shrinking. In the Gill case, the DCF brought in two experts for the trial court hearing who argued that gay men and lesbians were not suitable to become parents. Judge Lederman said of one, clinical psychologist Dr. George Rekers, "the court can not consider his testimony to be credible nor worthy of forming the basis of public policy." (Rekers was later reported to be traveling with a gay male escort who claimed Rekers himself was gay. Rekers responded that he spends time with sinners in order to help them.)

The other DCF expert, Dr. Walter Schumm, associate professor of family studies at Kansas State University, seemed to argue for Gill when he said, during the Florida trial, that "gay parents can be good foster parents," and "the decision to permit homosexuals to adopt is best made by the judiciary on a case by case basis."

Only one federal bill seeks to address the issue. The Every Child Deserves a Family Act, introduced by Rep. Pete Stark, D-Calif., in March, would prohibit federal funds to states that discriminate in adoption based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Gill himself testified at a U.S. House panel discussion when the bill was introduced. The bill is now in the House Ways and Means Committee and has 29 co-sponsors, but there are no scheduled hearings and no Senate counterpart, making it unlikely it will pass this session.

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## Commission backs gay school official in firing case

The Cook County Human Rights Commission has found "substantial evidence" of sexual-orientation discrimination after Lambda Legal filed a complaint against the Bremen Community High School District No. 228 and School Board President Evelyn Gleason on behalf of former school district superintendent Dr. Richard Mitchell, according to a Lambda Legal press release.

The commission ruled that Mitchell was discriminated against during his employment and that the school district fired him without just cause when he asserted his rights under the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance.

"The findings clearly illustrate that school boards can't be in the business of firing teachers or administrators because they are gay," said Christopher Clark, senior staff attorney in Lambda Legal's Midwest Regional Office.

The school district is based in Midlothian and includes Bremen, Hillcrest, Tinley Park and Oak Forest high schools.

## Anti-gay group cancels banquet

The organization Americans For Truth About Homosexuality (AFAH) has canceled an Aug. 4 banquet/lecture that would have launched an "academy," according to a press release from the Gay Liberation Network (GLN). All references to the banquet, originally scheduled at the AFAH headquarters in Carol Stream, have been removed from AFAH's website.

The anti-gay "academy," scheduled to begin Thursday, Aug. 5, will now be the target of a protest by pro-gay groups. A new pro-gay counter-protest is scheduled to take place at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 5 in front of the Christian Liberty Academy, 502 W. Euclid, Arlington Heights, to coincide with the "Special Thursday evening presentation" that AFAH is holding.

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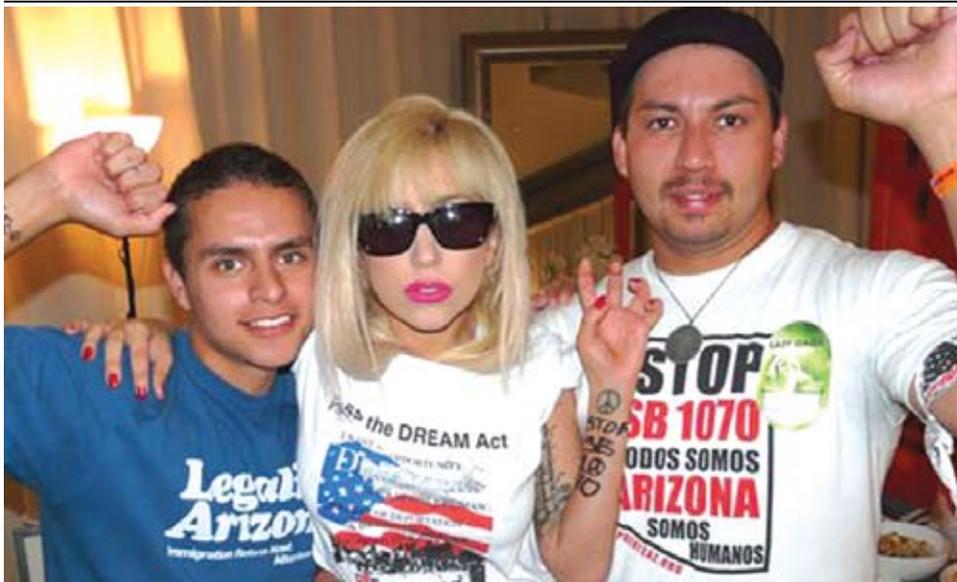
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From left: Victor Medina, Lady Gaga and Amelec Diaz before Gaga's July 31 concert in Phoenix, Ariz. Photo courtesy of Emmanuel Garcia

## Lady Gaga protests SB1070 in Arizona

BY EMMANUEL GARCIA

If you had 10 minutes with Lady Gaga what would you say? Victor Medina and Amelec Diaz had that opportunity July 31 when Lady Gaga performed at the U.S. Airways Center in Phoenix, Ariz., as part of her Monster Ball tour.

Both gay activists, working around immigration rights, wrote a petition asking Lady Gaga to join artists like Rage Against the Machine and Kanye West in honoring a boycott that's in place due to the controversial immigration law SB1070.

However, Gaga did not cancel her show; instead, her management invited both men to a meet-and-greet with the singer.

They met Gaga backstage while she was getting her hair done. She invited them to sit in a meeting that Medina said lasted 20 minutes. In that meeting Diaz shared his personal story about his house being raided and his brother being deported over a traffic violation. The young men said the meeting was emotional, describing the singer as "very nice, open and expressive." Medina said that prior to their meeting, Gaga said that she was not aware of the immigration law and asked that they scribble SB1070 on her arm so she could remember.

It was that moment that led Gaga to address her audience during her show. She told the crowd of more than 20,000 fans that she received calls from artists personally asking her to cancel the show, but said, she would not cancel, explaining, "And I said, you really think that us [expletive] pop stars are going to collapse the economy of Arizona? We have to actively protest and the nature of the Monster Ball is to actively protest prejudice and injustice."

Medina agreed, saying that while they originally called for her to boycott, the concert defied the embargo: "It drew a lot of the LGBT community together, we know what oppression is like. It's important that we got to her because

she's such a big icon. What she did in a matter of minutes would have taken us months."

"I will yell and I will scream louder, I will hold you and we will hold each other and we will peaceably protest this state," Gaga yelled. "If it wasn't for all of you immigrants this country wouldn't have [expletive]."

The Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act, also known as Arizona SB 1070, created controversy in Arizona by allowing police to question anyone they perceived to be "illegal." Gov. Jan Brewer signed the Act into law April 23, sending human-rights activists to protest and call for a boycott of the state. Last week, on the eve of the law going into effect, U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton blocked the most controversial parts of the statute due to a pending lawsuit by the United States Department of Justice, which has stated that it interferes with federal immigration regulations.

This is at least the second time Gaga has publicly spoken out on a political issue. While she often addresses her gay fans in concerts, interviews and videos, she received praise for her participation at the National Equality March in Washington, D.C., last October.

## Howard Brown seeks chief medical officer

Howard Brown Health Center is seeking a chief medical officer (CMO). The CMO would report to the CEO.

According to a release from Howard Brown, "the CMO plans the strategy and sets goals for all medical services at HBHC and its affiliate clinics. The CMO collaborates closely with the Clinical Director and the Clinical Operations Manager to run medical services in the most high-quality, efficient manner possible while maintaining compliance at all levels. The CMO is also responsible for providing primary medical care to HBHC patients."

Among other things, the CMO must be a licensed medical provider with an MD or DO degree; an MPH, MBA, MS or MSPH is desirable. Three to five years outpatient clinical experience are also required.

E-mail a resume/CV, cover letter and salary history/requirements to CEO Jamal Edwards at Jamal@howardbrown.org.

## TARGET from cover

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) issued a statement July 30 condemning Target's donation and asked its members to sign on to a letter calling on the retailer to make an equivalent donation to candidates who support equality for LGBTs. Target has consistently received high marks in HRC's index on corporate equality, but the group has no plans to change Target's rating in the wake of the corporate giving uproar. The index, said a spokesman for HRC, does not take into account corporate campaign donations.

That, however, has come under fire from some activists. Jeffrey Henson, who started a Facebook page calling for a boycott of Target, said HRC's index should take into account corporate giving, or at the very least, HRC—the country's largest LGBT-rights organization—should not take donations from the very organizations it rates. "It would be like having Consumer Reports take money from Toyota and then rating Toyota as the number one maker of vehicles," Henson said. Henson's page has been "liked" by more than 28,000 Facebook users.



An image used by Target protesters.

One Target boycotter, Randi Reitan, was featured in a YouTube video produced by an independent media group known as The Uptake. The group's executive producer and founder, Michael McIntee, told Windy City Times that consumers, following a January Supreme Court case that allows corporations to give more freely, should be more cognizant of where corporate dollars are going. Reitan is heard in the video saying that she will avoid shopping at Target until "they make this right," echoing the sentiments of HRC and other activists.

McIntee added that his group has surveyed a number of consumers who have vowed to hold off on spending money at the Minnesota-based retailer until Target makes a move in a more positive direction. He estimated that, if the boycott holds, Target could lose upwards of \$250,000 over the course of a year, more than the \$150,000 the company has already dumped into the coffers of Minnesota Forward.

Target, however, is not the only corporate giant to come under LGBT inspection in recent weeks. Minnesota-based Best Buy gave \$100,000 to Minnesota Forward July 19 and has

similarly faced calls to "make it right" by making an equal contribution to an LGBT-friendly candidate or organization. In an open letter to both corporations, HRC states that the candidates supported by Minnesota Forward would turn back the clock on the quest for equality in Minnesota. Best Buy officials could not be reached for comment at press time.

Corporate giving has a long history in U.S. politics, as does the boycott of corporate interests by consumers. John Stauber, founder of the Center for Media and Democracy, a group that analyzes corporate giving, said Target executives are now being forced to "walk a tight-rope" that straddles on one side heeding the call of LGBT activists to not support anti-gay causes and on the other side not being seen as giving in too easily to the very same demands. Stauber said: "Successful boycotts encourage successful boycotts."

A successful boycott, Stauber said, does not have to hit Target to a great extent in its wallet, but instead where it hurts the most: Target's public image.

"The boycott is a long-standing tactic. Target will try to prevent people from hearing about it," Stauber said. "This is classic corporate crisis prevention. Target really has to take it seriously. The LGBT community is tremendously successful in advancing its agenda. If this were just another [People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals] campaign, then I wouldn't worry about it, but the LGBT has a lot of political and financial influence."

According to figures from the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, LGBTs, in the United States, have a collective buying power of more than \$700 billion.

In Illinois, Target has given to a bevy of local politicians and political organizations, ranging from the likes of Barack Obama to Mayor Richard M. Daley. The corporation's donations total more than \$600,000. Some local politicians have spoken out following the giving scandal. James Cappleman, who is running for alderman in Chicago's 46th Ward, called the contribution to Minnesota Forward "disheartening" and said that the "ball is now in Target's court" to do something to allay the concerns of LGBTs.

State Rep. Greg Harris said he would feel "a little different" if Target had given \$10,000 or \$15,000 to Minnesota Forward, but that the company's donation of \$150,000 means the corporation has "bought themselves the whole package" when it comes to Emmer's views on LGBT issues. "They can't say that they haven't adopted his social or political agenda when they've given that much money," Harris said.

Target denied requests to interview any of the corporation's LGBT employees or its director of diversity, but a spokesperson told Windy City Times that the corporation has "heard the calls" to boycott the retailer and that those calls are "disappointing" given Target's record of supporting LGBT causes. The spokesperson added that in the wake of the uproar over the donation to Minnesota Forward, Target executives are currently "evaluating" the company's giving strategy.



Minn. gubernatorial candidate Tom Emmer.



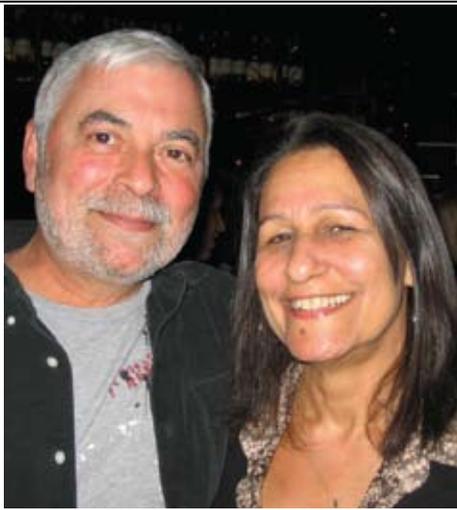
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46th Ward Alderman Helen Shiller with Sidetrack co-owner Pepe Pena. Photo by Andrew Davis

## Ald. Shiller won't run again

Ald. Helen Shiller of Chicago's 46th Ward on the North Side announced she would not seek re-election in 2011, when her term is up. She has served the diverse Uptown neighborhood since 1987. She was a big ally of the late Mayor Harold Washington.

Shiller has a long history of support for gay rights, and was especially important in early battles for increased city funding in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

At least two gay men have already announced efforts to run for the seat: James Cappleman, who lost to Shiller four years ago, and Don Nowotny, a superintendent with Chicago Streets and Sanitation.

"My first memory of Ald. Shiller was witnessing her as a strong advocate for those living with HIV, during the time when the general public had such strong fears and prejudice toward those with this disease. Her support helped open the eyes of others to realize that help was sorely needed," Cappleman said.

He added, "It's clear that the ward was seeking a change and Ald. Shiller knew that was the case. We need someone in office who is more focused on open communication and community input. Residents living in apartments, shelters, condos, and affordable housing also wanted a more proactive response to crime in the ward.

"Now is the time for true change and reform. We should not repeat our mistakes from the past, but take this opportunity to choose an alderman who knows the community well and has a track record of accomplishments improving the ward. I will continue to fight for the people of the 46th ward because we deserve better."

Nowotny's campaign also released a statement:

"Today's announcement that long-serving 46th Ward Ald. Helen Shiller will not be seeking reelection marks an opportunity for 46th Ward residents to start anew. After nearly a quarter century as alderman, Shiller has had a career marked by accomplishment and controversy.

"I have known Alderman Shiller for the 16 years that I served as Ward Superintendent. Though I applaud Shiller's work on recycling initiatives, her advocacy for an increase in AIDS funding and support of Chicago's Human Rights Ordinance, and her development of neighborhood parking alternatives, I disagree with her strongly on many other issues—including the deadly serious problem of gangs and drugs in our ward and what many perceive as a lack of accessibility and unwillingness to communicate with residents. The 46th Ward has a tremendous opportunity for a fresh start. The people of this Ward want an Alderman who is responsive to their concerns, seeks their input on issues concerning the community and shares their priorities. I am committed to being that kind of Alderman."

There are at least two other candidates running for the post.

## Lawyers mark firms' LGBT feats

BY MASON HARRISON

Lawyers and other legal professionals committed to the issue of workplace diversity came together at the nightspot Sidetrack July 29 to celebrate the LGBT-related accomplishments of some of the state's biggest law firms in the area.

Lawyers for Diversity, as the group is known, held its sixth annual summer gathering to underscore the importance of the laws that affect the LGBT community "around the country and around the world," said Ed Mullen, one of the event's attendees. William Choslovsky, another attendee, told Windy City Times that marking diversity should be "part and parcel of what we do." Choslovsky, the co-chair of the law firm Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg's diversity committee, said the issue of diversity "strikes me as important because we care about the safety of anyone who walks through our door" and, as someone who is straight, he looks forward to the day when "none of have to care about sexual orientation," but until then he and others like him, he promised, will continue working toward LGBT equality.

At the event, Equality Illinois announced the results of its recent law firm diversity survey. The firms Jennifer & Block; McDermott, Will & Emery; and Perkins Coie are the top three firms that are, according to Equality Illinois, "setting the bar" in the area of workplace diversity. Rounding out the top 10 are the firms Bryan Cave; Chapman and Cutler; DLA Piper; Greenberg Traurig; Kirkland & Ellis; Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg; and Sidley Austin.

Michael McRaith, the state's openly gay insurance commissioner, was the event's keynote speaker. McRaith thanked those in attendance and said that his position as insurance commissioner is directly related to the political power exercised by the state's LGBT electorate and asked for the audience's continued support.

Lawyers for Diversity raises money for AIDS Legal Council of Chicago; the Equality Illinois Education Project; the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago Foundation; and Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.



An attendee at the Lawyers for Diversity event. Photo by Mason Harrison

## ALMA scholarship reception Aug. 19

The Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA) is holding its annual scholarship awards ceremony Thursday, Aug. 19, at Rehab Night Lounge, 3641 N. Halsted, 7-10 p.m.

Two individuals will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

Tickets are \$25 each; the fee includes appetizers, a drink special, entertainment and a goodie bag. Attendees will also receive passes to the adjoining Circuit nightclub for later that evening. See [www.almachicago.org](http://www.almachicago.org) or the "ALMA Scholarship Award Reception and Fundraiser" Facebook page for more info.



Lael Scoglio.

## PASSAGES Lael Scoglio

Lael Ruth Scoglio passed away July 29 in her Chicago home of cancer; she was 62. She was surrounded by her loved ones at her bedside.

Scoglio always loved an adventure. One of her favorite adventures to recount was a story when she was in the San Cristobal area of Mexico in 1970. While horseback riding in the mountains, she removed the horse's bit (not knowing its function) and was forced to cling to its mane as it raced down the steep trail and collided with vendor carts in a street festival. At age 50, Scoglio journeyed to Canada on an Outward Bound scholarship. While there she scaled a mountain and swam in rapid waters. Scoglio loved to travel, and in general made her life an event to remember.

An artist at heart, she created and sold crafts with the craft collective "Jamboree," making puppets and children's toys. She created stained glass, ceramic pieces and paintings throughout her life. Her love of books was evident in two successful businesses: The Book-Worm children's bookstore in Evanston that she

co-founded and ran in the '80s and as a book procurer in the '90s for Chicago Public School's elementary teachers through the Roshelle Lee Fund, where her loving guidance in book selections was appreciated by her many clients. Scoglio also helped her husband, Frank, operate the Burgundy Inn, a popular North side Chicago restaurant, for three decades, and was loving mother to her children.

A community organizer, Scoglio founded the Northside Parent's Network in 1980 and chaired Kindred Hearts, a women's support organization in Evanston, for many years. Throughout her life, she continually strived for higher ground and received her bachelor's degree in photography from Columbia College in 1976, and a master's degree in psychotherapy from Roosevelt University in 1998. She later became a licensed appraiser and the owner and founder of AppraiserChicago.com.

Born Lael Ruth Cropper in Mount Prospect, Ill., in 1947 to Ralph and Ellen Cropper, she is survived by her partner, Karen Baier; children Anthony Scoglio and Megan (Daryl) Moon; mother Ellen Cropper; and siblings John (Judy) Cropper, Dave Cropper and Joy (Steve) Rainey. She is preceded in death by brother Andy Cropper, father Ralph Cropper and husband Frank Scoglio.

The visitation and memorial service will be held Sunday, Aug. 8, at Lakeview Funeral Home, 1458 W. Belmont. The visitation will be 3-4:30 p.m. and the memorial service will be 4:30-5:30 p.m. For more information, call Baier at 773-807-5381.

Throughout her cancer treatments, Scoglio was supported and treated by many doctors and caregivers, and she would like to show her appreciation for them. She is therefore asking that instead of flowers, donations be made in her name to The Jiang Jing Institute, 1515 Sherman, Evanston, Ill., 60201.

Scoglio will be greatly missed by her family, many friends and colleagues.

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Charles Middleton.

## Roosevelt head talks about LGBT confab

BY KRISTIN KOWALSKI

A group of LGBT presidents in higher education will come together for a meeting Aug. 6-7 in Chicago at the Adler School of Professional Psychology and Roosevelt University. Roosevelt President Dr. Charles Middleton talked to Windy City Times about the meeting and future potential of the group.

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

Charles Middleton: I think that it sort of emerged organically from a series of conversations some of us were having one-on-one or in small groups of two or three. If you go back just six or seven years, there weren't any of us or just two or three, at the most. Suddenly we realized that there were more and more people that we needed to know and we thought maybe we needed to get together and talk about issues of mutual concern. Somebody said, "Well, why don't we have a meeting?" That might have been [Adler President] Ray Crossman, actually.

**WCT: So, what is the main goal of the organization?**

CM: Well, it's not an organization, yet. Right now it's a meeting. One of the issues is, should we have an organization and, if so, to do what. That's an open question at this point; I don't think there's been any systematic thinking about it one way or the other. So, that's one of the purposes of getting together.

Remember, we're all college or university presidents, so we're going to talk about college or

university things like enrollment and financial aid and recruiting good faculty and dealing with boards and how do you do your alumni development and all those kind of things that are related to our jobs.

I'm sure we'll talk about how we can support each other and how to do things. I think that there will probably be some discussion about where we can be helpful to other LGBT people who may be in lower level positions, but who might be aspiring to the presidency down the line when they have had more experience—advocate for them and those kinds of things. But that's just Chuck Middleton sort of speculating and after next week's meeting, I'll know a lot more about what it was and I'm sure we'll have something to say about it that we've all agreed on.

**WCT: What else will take place at the meeting?**

CM: The partners are going to be meeting to talk about an agenda that they have or will set up with regard to the issues that they face as the same-sex partner of a university or college president. We will, of course, have some social time together. Ray and I—since we're both on the board for the Center on Halsted—are going to take them up to the Center and introduce them to that amazing facility and talk about how great the city of Chicago is, so we're going to do a little bragging. I'm sure that there'll be opportunities for networking—not just for the group as whole, but within the group.

**WCT: Why do you think there are so few LGBT presidents in higher education?**

CM: Well, that's a matter of some discussion. I think that, just generally speaking, the LGBT community across society, as a whole, has emerged in the last quarter of the century as a legitimate and recognized and valued community in more and more areas of American society. And higher education as an industry, like every other industry, has been slow to acknowledge at the very highest levels of universities and colleges that LGBT people have and can be exceptional and extraordinary leaders of those institutions.

**WCT: What are some challenges that you faced in getting where you are today?**

CM: I think this is a terrific place; it's always been on the forefront of openness and diversity. So, my challenges here have nothing to do with my sexual orientation. They just have to do with the challenges of being a university president.

It's really a frontier that's opening up. We're going to brag about Chicago, and the LGBT community is part of it.



Serena Worthington. Photo courtesy of Worthington

## Center's Serena Worthington makes SAGE decision

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

Serena Worthington, senior director of public programs for Center on Halsted, has accepted a new position as a national advocate for LGBT seniors. She will serve as the director of community advocacy and capacity-building for Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders (SAGE).

Worthington's new position entails coordinating and working with the 16 SAGE affiliates across the country and improving advocacy training within those communities. She will also be a major player in helping shape federal policy agenda in Washington in terms of advocating for LGBT seniors.

**Windy City Times: What are some of the exciting opportunities you're looking forward to with this new job and what are your goals?**

Serena Worthington: For me, building on the work of SAGE is an incredible opportunity. We're at a very exciting point in history where we have an administration that's paying attention to aging issues and LGBT issues and we have, in my opinion, a society that is very receptive to hearing about the specific needs of LGBT elders, so for me it's a really great time to join the organization.

It's a three-year grant and they're working with three partners; the goal of that will be to provide technical assistance training and resources

to LGBT seniors and providers across the country and that's really incredible. It's also very exciting in terms of the community-advocacy part because it's a really good time to advance the work of policy reform around some of the inequities that exist and improve the quality of life.

**WCT: What will you be sacrificing or missing most now that you're moving on to this big national stage, as it were?**

SW: I will miss the Center. The Center is an amazing locus of activity and excitement. Just being here physically I will miss. There's amazing leadership here for our senior services initiative and that support is incredible. I think on a personal level just seeing all these amazing people and all the amazing programs and activities and meetings that happen in this building on a daily basis I will miss that. The main thing I will miss I think are the seniors that I grew to know over the course of my time building the SAGE program. I will very much miss seeing them on a semi-regular basis. That will be a really hard goodbye.

**WCT: Was working with the LGBT elderly something you thought might always be in the cards for you? What was it that called you to this very specific segment of LGBT advocacy?**

SW: It was really working in a long-term care environment where I got to know the gay and lesbian residents and seeing for myself what their experience was like. I worked at a place that provided excellent care but for a closeted individual the quality of life is different. You're more isolated; there's an increased risk for depression—and that's the best-case scenario. The worst-case scenario is that you suffer neglect and abuse at the hands of people who would discriminate against you, so just seeing this isolation and putting myself in that place gave me this growing understanding of what that was like.

When my boss had us write 10 things it would take for us to move in where I worked, I realized I would want primarily a safe and affirming environment. I would want a place that celebrated who I was, and when I realized that there are all these people who are 80, 90, 95, 100 years old living in nursing homes right now who are the people who helped make [it] possible that I could work somewhere and be out and have domestic-partnership benefits.

**WCT: In your career thus far, what are some of your biggest accomplishments? What do you hope to add to that list before you're through?**

SW: Where SAGE is now is an amazing accomplishment. When I started it was a 10-year-old program that had four or five programs a month and about 20 people involved on a regular basis; now we've served almost 800 people individually and there are about 40 programs a month and our many services. Right now one of the last things that happened before I left is the launch of the nation's first LGBT-homesharing program. The last piece that I think is incredible is the center got a \$475,000 grant from the government. It's a federal appropriation. I helped get that grant and the work that's going to happen as a result of that is going to be incredible.

**WCT: What are some of the most current endeavors as far as government policy that you expect to jump right into when you start?**

SW: "The Future is In Our Hands" is the constituent conference that I'd love everyone to know they're welcome to. It's in New York Nov. 11-13. Check the website [www.sageusa.org] to find out what that's going to be about.

As for policy issues, I would say the Older American Act and including LGBT seniors as a vulnerable population, making sure federal funding is moving towards programs that specifically serve LGBT people and their allies and then including sexual orientation and gender identity when the government is asking questions. That's one area that was so frustrating when I started; there was so little data about how many LGBT seniors are there and what are their needs are. When the government requires people to ask those questions we will know so much more.

**Wed., Aug. 11  
7:30 p.m.  
Mary F. Burns  
J: The Woman Who  
Wrote the Bible**

**Thursday, Aug. 12  
7:30 p.m.  
Alexa Stevenson  
Half-Baked: The Story  
of My Nerves,  
My Newborn, And  
How We Both  
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## Busy BEHIV



Donors and other supporters of Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV), an HIV/AIDS support services organization, gathered in the Rogers Park neighborhood July 31 to celebrate the group's more than 20 years of service to Chicagoans living with HIV and AIDS. The gathering, which took place at the home of one of the organization's longtime supporters, was billed as a thank-you to those who have backed the group over the years.

Eric Nelson, BEHIV's executive director, told Windy City Times that, despite the bleak economic outlook and a dearth of funding for the group from the state, his organization is pressing ahead with plans to assist as many people living with HIV/AIDS as the group possibly can. "We've added three new housing units for HIV patients," Nelson said, adding, "There are more people who have needed help than ever before."

BEHIV, founded by community volunteers in 1989, provides case management, housing, prevention, testing, mental health counseling, massage therapy and art therapy services to those living with HIV/AIDS. Photos and text by Mason Harrison

## SAGE BBQ hot time in the city

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

Leaders and volunteers for SAGE (Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elderly) hosted a barbecue for more than 75 seniors on the Richard Daley Rooftop of the Center on Halsted July 31.

The event represents one of the many ways in which SAGE aims to provide help and support for LGBT elderly. Other services include government advocacy, a variety of wellness programming and training so that LGBT seniors can confidently seek out additional help for themselves without fear of discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

"We want [LGBT seniors] to feel safe and affirmed that they can go to an outside provider that's not going to discriminate and get consistently competent services," said Jay Very, SAGE program coordinator.

Although that is one of the overall goals of SAGE, Very said that small social events such as the barbecue help provide LGBT seniors with a much-needed sense of community.

"We really want to create a community and a sense of family and people reaching out and helping each other," Very said. "As you age, you lose important people in your life: that could be your son, daughter, parents or lover. A lot of people come here to find a sense of community."

June LaTrobe, transgender program volunteer liaison for the Center, said that these events allow seniors a chance to be themselves.

"For a lot of LGBT seniors, facing retirement means having to go back in the closet or living alone because you don't have a family," she said.

SAGE was able to open the event to the public thanks to a number of donations from Whole Foods. During the afternoon, Very also introduced Britta Larson, who began working for SAGE two weeks ago as homesharing manager. The new homesharing program is expected to begin this fall.

On Friday, Aug. 27, SAGE will host the Early Bird NightClub for women at 7-9:30 p.m. Anyone who identifies as female may attend. To RSVP, call 773-472-6469 or e-mail [jvery@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:jvery@centeronhalsted.org).

## WORLD ROUNDUP

BY REX WOCKNER

### Gay weddings begin in Argentina

Same-sex couples began marrying in Argentina on July 30, nine days after President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner signed the bill legalizing same-sex marriage. It passed the Senate on July 15 by a vote of 33 to 27.

A gay couple in the northern province of Santiago del Estero—José Luis Navarro and Miguel Ángel Calefato—were the first to marry, quickly followed by several other couples around the country.

Navarro and Calefato said they will accept the Mexico City government's all-expenses-paid honeymoon offer for the first married Argentine gay couple. Mexico City is the only other place in Latin America where same-sex marriage is legal.

Gay and lesbian couples also can marry in Belgium, Canada, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington, D.C.

The New York Times reported July 27 that more than 3,000 same-sex couples have married in South Africa since it became legal in 2006. The paper said that in half of the marriages, one or both partners were foreigners.

### Gays march in Jerusalem

Jerusalem's eighth LGBT pride parade attracted thousands of marchers July 29 along with anti-gay protesters.

The counterdemonstrators carried banners calling gay people sick.

The parade traveled from Independence Park downtown to the Wohl Rose Park in front of the Knesset, the Israeli parliament.

Thousands of police officers protected the procession and arrested a few people who tried to disrupt the festivities.

Organizers said the march marked "the end of a year of mourning and the beginning of a year of activism in pursuit of LGBT rights and the eradication of discrimination and hate."

Last Aug. 1, a masked man entered a youth-group meeting in the basement of Bar Noar, an LGBT youth organization in Tel Aviv, and shot to death the group's leader, Nir Katz, and 16-year-old Liz Trobishi. Eleven others were injured, including two teens who were left permanently disabled. The gunman remains at large.

This year's march had a long list of demands, including coverage for gender-modification surgery under basic health insurance, approval for men who have sex with men to donate blood, modification of surrogacy laws, recognition of the parental status of non-biological parents,

recognition of foreign same-sex marriages, extension to same-sex couples of the rights given couples in common-law unions, and reform of local policies that prevent official funding of LGBT organizations.

### Russian marriage cases headed to Euro court

A Russian lesbian couple sued in the European Court of Human Rights on July 21 over Russia's refusal to register their Canadian marriage.

Irina Fedotova and Irina Shipitko claim the denial violates the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

"When the European Court gives its decision, it will have a revolutionary impact on Russia's marriage laws," said leading Moscow activist Nikolai Alekseev. "I have no doubt that the Russian authorities will have to pass a law that would recognize same-sex unions, even if they are named differently than marriage. It is inevitable."

### Nepal planning first pride parade

Kathmandu, Nepal, will see its first LGBT pride parade Aug. 25, says Sunil Pant, an openly gay member of Parliament.

The procession will include elephants, a band and street performers, he said. There also will be a festival in Basantapur Durbar Square.

Aug. 25 also is a Hindu and Buddhist festival day, "Gai Jatra," on which some men dress in drag and wear masks.

Although the day is "for remembering those who have died in the past year," Pant said, "there is a great deal of merrymaking connected with it."

"Many of the participants wear outlandish costumes," he said.

"Traditionally, a good number of the young Newar men in the procession dress in women's clothing. Given this history, Gai Jatra seemed to be a ready-made occasion for the Blue Diamond Society, the Nepalese sexual- and gender-minority association, to stage Nepal's inaugural pride march."

The parade will start at 2 p.m. on Durbar Marg in front of the former Royal Palace.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

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**JOHN THOMPSON**

## On LiLo, lesbian gangs and queers in prison

A few weeks ago I was in a hotel room in Checotah, Okla., flipping through channel after channel of infomercials and reruns of '90s sitcoms, when a news headline on Fox News caught my eye: "Lindsay Lohan possibly targeted by lesbian prison gangs." The next read: "Inmates warn of lesbian gangs, grabbing, filth." While I admit I was curious as to what LiLo did this time to make headlines again, I was triggered by the words I was reading as they scrolled across the bottom of the screen. The last time I saw the phrase "lesbian gang" in the mainstream media was in 2007 when four young black lesbians from New Jersey were convicted of various degrees of assault and gang assault for defending themselves against a violent, homophobic, and misogynist attacker in New York City. The women received prison sentences ranging from three and a half to 11 years. They were demonized in the press and repeatedly described as a "lesbian wolf pack" and a "gang of angry lesbians." The highly publicized case of the New Jersey 4 even caused Bill O'Reilly to declare that the emergence of violent lesbian gangs was becoming a "nationwide epidemic." Three years later, and another one of these alleged gangs is making new headlines.

Reports of this most recent lesbian gang first appeared in early July in The Sun newspaper, a tabloid based in the UK, after Lohan had been sentenced to 90 days at Lynwood Correctional Facility in Los Angeles County. An inmate at Lynwood who was identified as Tamara Haley had leaked the story to The Sun and claimed that lesbian inmates at the prison were anxiously awaiting Lohan's arrival to publicly humiliate and assault her. Haley's relationship to the

"lesbian gang" or how she self-identifies is not disclosed in the article that appeared in The Sun on July 13, 2010.

Regardless of whether this organized group of lesbians actually exists or not, and regardless of the validity of Tamara Haley as a source, the recurring presence of violent lesbian gangs in the media speaks to a much larger problem of the way queer and trans communities—specifically queer and trans communities of color—are regularly demonized and criminalized on the street, in the courts, and in the media. These embellished representations of queerness and criminality reinforce the intersecting stereotypes that queers are predators, people of color are dangerous, criminals are inherently evil, and any group of three or more young people of color are a "gang" and "belong" in prison in order to keep society "safe."

The media hype surrounding these alleged "lesbian gangs" that were awaiting LiLo at Lynwood Correctional Facility necessitate a closer look at the realities of queers in prison. Specifically, there needs to be a clear differentiation between these realities—which often go untold and unrecognized in the media—and the myths about queers in prison.

First, the belief that queers are main perpetrators of violence against other queers is not only inaccurate but also extremely harmful because it distracts us from a larger, much more dangerous source of anti-queer violence: the State. Violence inside prison cannot only be attributed to "criminals" who we tend to believe are inherently violent people. Rather, the institution of the prison itself, and the institutions that support it (the police, the media, for-profit corporations) all enact extreme levels of violence against individuals and entire communities. Furthermore, this also fails to hold correctional staff and other actual perpetrators of violence accountable for their actions. Sexual harassment or assault, physical harm, policing of gender expression, verbal abuse, medical neglect, and public humiliation are all manifestations of violence that queer and trans prisoners endure from correctional staff while incarcerated. Instances of interpersonal violence are almost always from correctional staff as well as homophobic/transphobic inmates—not other queers.

This narrative of lesbian prison gangs also undermines the solidarity and support networks that exist amongst queer and trans communi-

ties on the inside, by instead creating a myth of divisiveness. Forging these networks on the inside is a very common survival strategy for queer and trans prisoners. Any harm committed against Lohan would most likely be because of her celebrity status and not her bisexuality.

Lastly, the media frenzy over this story is grounded in the age-old binary of good vs. evil. In one corner of the ring we have LiLo: a wealthy, white, femme (read: weak/defenseless), celebrity who doesn't really deserve to be in prison because she isn't a real criminal. In the other corner is the gang of lesbian inmates: a group of dangerous and violent sexual predators who embody the filthy, deviant side of queerness and who the white imagination has created to be a "gang" (read: of color and tough/masculine/butch, as demonstrated in the profiling of the New Jersey 4). These people are the real threats to society and are obviously in prison for a reason. The reality is that nearly half of the US prison population is serving sentences related to drug-related offenses, DUIs, and other nonviolent offenses—similar to the those Lohan is being charged with. What makes the women of Lynwood Correctional Facility any more dangerous or deserving of prison time than Lohan? What makes us think of these women as a threat and Lohan as a victim?

As LiLo ends week one at Lynwood Correctional Facility seemingly unharmed, queer cultures of self-defense and survival, whether on the street or inside prison walls, continue to be squashed by the media, the courts, the cops, and other entities of the State. When and if Lohan completes her 90-day sentence, there will still be millions of people behind bars for similar offenses (nearly half of them people of color). We should be less concerned with mythical lesbian gangs and more concerned about racist and transphobic cops. We should not place more value on one bisexual celebrity's life over the lives of thousands of queer and trans people in US prisons who are targets of both State violence and interpersonal violence on a daily basis.

[Editor's note: Lohan was released from jail in the early morning hours of Aug. 2.]

**John R. Thompson is a writer, activist and educator residing in Chicago. He is a co-founder of the Write to Win Collective, which is a penpal project for transgender and gender non-conforming prisoners in Illinois. He can be reached at john@tjlp.org.**

## School ties

The controversy surrounding the recent dismissal of Professor Kenneth Howell of the University of Illinois may not be settled before the fall. He taught at the University of Illinois the Campaign/Urban Campus in religious studies department "Introduction to Catholicism" and "Modern Catholic Thought" in university classrooms, but served on the payroll of the St. John's Catholic Newman Center funded by the diocese of Peoria. He was terminated for making controversial statements about homosexuality which were interpreted as hate speech.

Part of a religious studies course is presumed to be about explaining what the Catholic faith believes and to analyze why a religion acts as it does and why others would disagree.

What is being questioned now is not so much the controversial statements the professor made concerning the position of the Catholic Church had on the issue of homosexuality, rather it is the relationship between the University of Illinois and the Catholic Diocese of Peoria, and who should be hiring professors for this course the University or the Diocese of Peoria.

The University of Illinois is a secular college that has a religious studies department. The purpose of that department is the study of religion

from the perspective of the humanities, not in an oppositional or contrary way to religion, but in a way that doesn't just look from the orthodox believer's perspective, but the non-believer's as well. In other words, the class from a university's perspective should not be used to promote a religious agenda, and it should be the university, not the diocese of Peoria, that performs all academic vetting of professors when hiring for this course.

What is troublesome about Howell's situation is that he had sought a mandatum a certification provided by Catholic bishops that theologians teaching at Catholic universities are doing so in accordance with the Church's teaching. The professor does not teach at a Catholic university, nor is he teaching a class about theology. Why did he feel a need to apply for religious authority to teach in a secular environment?

What is not being discussed by the supporters of Professor Howell is his relationship, not with the University of Illinois, but rather with the Catholic diocese of Peoria.

If you want to study Buddhist, Methodist or Jewish thought at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, there are relevant courses in religious studies—courses where the instructors have been selected by a department of scholars, through standard academic procedures.

But if you want to study Roman Catholicism, your instructors have been through different vetting—they will have been nominated by (and their salaries paid by) the St. John's Catholic Newman Center, a church organization independent of the university, set up to serve Catholic students at the university. Despite objections from scholars, the agreement with the church has remained in place at the Urbana-Champaign campus since the religious studies department was founded in 1971.

It is time this whole situation be re-evaluated in light of this incident.

Joe Murray  
Rainbow Sash Movement

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## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



There's more than meets the eye with *Scissor Sisters* (above). Read more on page 18.

## REAL ESTATE

Life's a beach.  
Page 21.

Photo by Mason Harrison



## MOVIES

Heart of 'Stonewall.'  
Page 20.

Photo by Bettye Lane



## SPORTS

We got Games.  
Page 26.

Photo of Kien Tran at opening ceremony courtesy of Tran

SCOTTISH  
PLAY SCOTTGo north,  
Broadway  
babies!

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Chicago may be hosting big Broadway shows like *Billy Elliot The Musical* and *Shrek The Musical* in the Loop this summer. However, diehard musical-theater fans know to go north to the Ravinia Festival to see what should be *the* Broadway event of the summer: two-time Tony Award-winner Patti LuPone starring in Irving Berlin's 1946 musical classic *Annie Get Your Gun*.

The event marks LuPone's third take on major roles originated by the late and great Broadway belter Ethel Merman. In 1987, LuPone played Reno Sweeney in Lincoln Center Theater's Broadway revival of Cole Porter's *Anything Goes*. Then LuPone assayed the titanic role of Madame Rose in *Gypsy* first at Ravinia before it was eventually presented at City Center Encores and then on Broadway—leading to LuPone's second Tony Award in 2009.

Now it's unlikely that LuPone will be able to play rifle-rarin' Annie Oakley in a full-fledged staging at this point in her career (though Ethel Merman did it at Lincoln Center in 1966, when wags dubbed it "Grannie Get Your Gun"). So now could be the only chance to see LuPone's interpretation of the great musical theater heroine at Ravinia.

LuPone is joined for the occasion by Ravinia regulars Lonnie Price as director, Paul Gemignani as musical director and fellow two-time Tony Award winner George Hearn as Buffalo Bill Cody. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra should be an amazing pit band onstage.

Tony Award winner Brian Stokes Mitchell was



Patti LuPone. Photo by Ethan Hill

to have been Frank Butler, but pulled out of the concert. However, Ravinia was able to get Broadway regular (and silver fox) Patrick Cassidy to play Butler.

Cassidy comes from show biz royalty. His mom is the Academy Award-winner (and *Partridge Family* star) Shirley Jones, his dad is the late Tony Award-winner Jack Cassidy and his half-brother is pop star David Cassidy.

Cassidy was a replacement Frank Butler in the last Broadway revival (opposite the Annie Oakley of *Charlie's Angels* star Cheryl Ladd), and his most recent Broadway credit was director Julian Marsh in the revival of *42nd Street* alongside his mom, who played diva Dorothy Brock. The two even made an appearance that year at the Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS fundraiser *Broadway Bares*. If you do a certain amount of web sleuthing, you can find online photos of a shirtless and sculpted Cassidy next to his mom (who isn't shirtless).

*Annie Get Your Gun* only plays 7:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday Aug. 13-15 at the Ravinia Festival in Highland Park. Visit [www.ravinia.org](http://www.ravinia.org) or call 847-266-5100.

## South Pacific soubrette

There's even more Broadway to be had a Ravinia, since three-time Tony Award-nominee Kelli O'Hara performs a solo concert at Ravinia's intimate Martin Theatre at 8:30 p.m. Wed., Aug. 4. (O'Hara is also conducting a master class—free for concert ticket-holders—with conductor James Conlon at 7 p.m. in Bennett-Gordon Hall.)

Over the past decade, O'Hara has emerged as a beautiful golden-voiced soprano in such shows as *The Light in the Piazza*, *The Pajama Game* and, especially, in the Lincoln Center Theater revival of *South Pacific*. If you miss O'Hara locally, then be sure to set your DVR to record the Live from Lincoln Center PBS broadcast of the seven-time Tony Award-winning revival of *South Pacific* Wed., Aug. 18.

Now Chicago PBS affiliate WTTW-11 currently doesn't show it broadcasting *South Pacific* on that date. But don't fret too much Broadway babies. Back in 2006 when Live from Lincoln Center broadcast Adam Guettel and Craig Lucas' musical *The Light in the Piazza*, WTTW offered a tape-delay broadcast the following Sunday.

## Sellars says

Controversial theater and opera director Peter Sellars hasn't officially directed on Broadway, but his career has made waves both internationally and locally. In opera, Sellars directed the 1987 world premiere of John Adams' *Nixon in China* (which was recently added to the Metropolitan Opera's upcoming season of live HD simulcasts in movie theaters) and he's famed for updating the Mozart/Da Ponte operas (like setting *The Marriage of Figaro* in the Trump Tower).

At the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Sellars generated lots of controversy in the 1980s with his modern-day *Mikado* and televangelist take on

Wagner's *Tannhäuser*.

Sellars returns to the Lyric with a new production of Handel's *Hercules* in 2011. And from the promotional art in brochures, it looks like Sellars will use the opportunity to comment on America's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. One brochure features a modern-day American soldier walking alone presumably in an Iraqi or Afghan desert. Another showcases what looks like a wealthy North Shore McMansion with a burning silhouette of a soldier in front of it.

Sellars will appear in conversation with James Cuno, president of the Art Institute of Chicago, at 6 p.m. Wed., Aug. 4, at the Harold Washington Library's Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, 400 S. State. So audiences might be able to ask Sellars about his *Hercules* concept then. The event is free, but seating is limited. Visit [www.chipublib.org](http://www.chipublib.org) for more information.

## A shifting Circle

It's a pity that the city of Forest Park isn't doing more to keep the 25 year-old Circle Theatre within its borders. But after 21 years, Circle Theatre is leaving its current location at 7300 W. Madison since its lease expires on Sunday, Oct. 31.

Long before Starbucks appeared across the street, Circle Theatre was doing its part to help attract visitors to a rapidly gentrifying Forest Park. Now it looks like Oak Park will benefit.

After its summer production of *The Philadelphia Story* closes (and youth theater productions of *Annie Jr.* and *Ragtime*), Circle Theatre will then temporarily relocate to Oak Park at 1010 Madison (where Village Players is a resident company). The first production is set to be the regional premiere of the musical *The Wedding Singer*. Circle Theatre hopes to find a new permanent performing space within 14 months.

Please send any theater-related news and other tidbits to [scottishplayscott@yahoo.com](mailto:scottishplayscott@yahoo.com) or [Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com).

## THEATER REVIEW

Reefer Madness:  
The Musical

Book and score: Kevin Murphy and Dan Studney

At: ensemble 113 at Athenaeum Studio 3, 2936 N. Southport  
Phone: 800-982-2787; \$10-\$15  
Runs through: Aug. 7

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Very few off-Broadway musicals get made into full-length movies, let alone flop ones that ran less than a month. But that's what happened with *Reefer Madness: The Musical*. The Showtime cable network filmed this 2001 show in 2005 as a companion piece for the launch of the pot comedy *Weeds*.

*Reefer Madness* is an adaptation of the 1936 cult film of the same name. It showed such outrageous outcomes of marijuana use that it has become a camp classic.

The film was just 67 minutes, yet composer Dan Studney and lyricist Kevin Murphy's musical adaptation fills out to a flabby two hours. It's about a half hour too long since Studney and Murphy's material is stuffed with caricatures instead of real characters you actually give a damn about. It also isn't nearly as clever as it should be (we don't really need yet another Jesus Christ visitation production number).

The weaknesses of *Reefer Madness* become more apparent when the ensemble performing it can't get the right campy tone to mock this tale of sunny American youths getting hooked on pot. The pert and pretty performers of ensemble 113—under director Corey Lubowich and choreographer Rachel Freidman—do their darnedest to make the musical funny, but their inexperience shows.

This is very apparent in the casting of the corruptible pot fiends. Joseph Boersma as pusher Jack Stone, Kim Grossman as addict Mae and Elyse Panchen as reckless mother Sally each lack the film noir tone to make their dialogue crackle with self-aware ironic humor.

Their comic timing is also way off. Boersma's scenes of domestic abuse on Mae should be cartoonish to prompt audience laughter—not the gasps of horror like on opening night.

As the wholesome high school sweethearts Jimmy Harper and Mary Lane, Will Aaron and Amy Stricker respectively do much better at creating the laughable wide-eyed naivety of their characters. Clayton Fox also has loads of fun as the Lecturer who warns the parents (but also seems to revel in playing other characters ranging from a randy satyr to a preachy FDR).

But the whole cast could ratchet up their per-

formances with a more arch awareness of how simple the motivations are for their paltry roles. And the scene changes could be speedier (even if the tatty couch and booze bottle-filled table fit cozily in set designer Michael Bou-Maroun's platform set).

Yet these qualms with *Reefer Madness* and ensemble 113's so-so production of it probably won't matter much to the recreational user demographic, since it cooks up plenty of jokes to suit them. But fans of well-written musical theater will probably wish they were watching a better off-Broadway movie-musical adaptation like *Little Shop of Horrors* instead.

## THEATER REVIEW

## Shrek the Musical

Playwright: book and lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire,

music by Jeanine Tesori

At: Broadway In Chicago at the Cadillac Palace, 151 W. Randolph

Phone: 800-775-2000; \$25-\$90

Runs through: Sept. 5

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

There's some deep psychology lurking beneath the Crayola hues in William Steig's modern fable: our hero, warned by his parents that his will be a lonely and unloved life, has learned to embrace solitude. Our heroine is afflicted with a birth defect leading to her incarceration until a cure can be found. Even our villain's cruel "ethnic cleansing" policies are rooted in his own low self-image. We also encounter a hostile thug (who only needs a little tenderness), a whining crybaby (who learns to assert himself) and numerous other allegorical personae who come to celebrate their diversity even as *Amor* conquers *Omnia* for our well-met lovers.

For those (like me) unfamiliar with the animated films from which this theatrical adaptation draws its story, the plot is precipitated by the evil Lord Farquaad's ejection from his realm of all "freakish" fairy-tale personnel. In order to preserve his swampland home from infestation by strangers, Shrek the Ogre offers to plead their case at court. Upon arriving at Duloc Castle, accompanied by a Donkey companion, Shrek is assigned the task of fetching the princess whom Farquaad plans to marry. But don't worry—in the end, the deserving are rewarded and the unregenerate punished.

A text rhyming "granny dress" with "tranny mess" and has Pinocchio declare, "I'm wood! I'm good! Get used to it" is clearly aimed at grown-ups, but this is not *Into the Woods*. While very young children may get restless during the two



Eric Petersen in *Shrek the Musical*. Photo by Joan Marcus

and a half hours between curtains, the issues are confronted at distinctly juvenile levels—indeed, the farting contest providing the ogre sweethearts their bonding moment will likely set the adults to squirming. Assisting the message of tolerance are sly visual and musical references to everything from Motown to Philly soul (did I mention the dragon who sings like Jennifer Hudson?), from Neil Diamond to Judy Blume, from *Lion King* to *Wicked* to *Les Miz*.

The inside humor, however, is only the decoration on a sophisticated pop score delivered by the mighty-voiced, but always endearing, Eric Petersen, augmented by Haven Burton's rebellious Fiona, Alan Mingo, Jr.'s, resourceful Donkey and David F. M. Vaughn, wearing a cageful of prosthetics, as the—um, vertically challenged Farquaad. If the tap-dancing rats (long drape, furry shoes—trust me, you'll love it) and the surprise encore don't win you over, then you're grumpier than Farquaad's deadbeat dad.

## Online This Week:

—Late: A Cowboy Song

www.windycitymediagroup.com

## THEATER REVIEW

Sherlock Holmes:  
The Final Adventure

Playwright: Steven Dietz, adapted from the play by Arthur Conan Doyle and William Gillette

At: Idle Muse Theatre Company at the Side Project, 1439 W. Jarvis  
Phone: 773-382-2472; \$20  
Runs through: Aug. 22

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Somewhere it's written that cold-blooded Victorian gentlemen cannot swash and swagger with cavalier flair, but upstart American authors have ratified exceptions to that rule throughout their nation's literary history. And so in 1899, Arthur Conan Doyle's hypercerebral hero was permitted to court a lady—on sound scientific principles, naturally—when triple-threat William Gillette adapted several of the famous whodunits into the hit drama that introduced the image of the

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Dental Society Midwinter Meeting**, At Play Productions at Chicago Dramatists, through Aug. 7. Disgruntled dentists karaoke "Novocain For My Soul" and rant about bacon-flavored floss in Laura Jacqmin's slyly satirical look at the American Tooth Industry—and why haven't you hugged your dentist lately? MSB

**Fucking Men**, Bailiwick Chicago at Stage 773, through Aug. 8. Director Tom Mullen extracts strong, nuanced performances from his all-male cast in this contemporary daisy-chain mating dance based upon Arthur Schnitzler's sexually frank 1897 hetero original. JA

**Lookingglass Alice**, Lookingglass Theatre Company, through Aug. 29. A circus-like version of Lewis Carroll which kids will like, but with adult psychological depths such as repeated images of burial and resurrection. Return visit of troupe's signature show. JA

**A Parallelogram**, Steppenwolf Theatre, through Aug. 29. Bruce Norris' compelling comedy about a woman who discovers a way to predict the future is intricately clever and full of insight as it posits audiences to seriously question their own relationships and other quality of life issues. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

deerstalker-capped, calabash-smoking slueth that we recognize to this day.

Prevailing show-business wisdom also dictates that you can't sell 19th-century melodrama to modern audiences, especially on a storefront stage barely 12 feet square. How do you replicate the picturesque locales—fashionable London townhouses, bankside industrial plants, pastoral gardens along the Danube? Won't audiences scoff at the stock characters—ruthless villains, straitlaced maidens, bumbling aristocrats and comical servants? And what about the elaborate special effects likewise characteristic of the genre? With Steven Dietz's 2006 adaptation of the Doyle-Gillette collaboration setting a waggish tone stopping just short of parody, wouldn't it be easier—and safer—to simply shrug off the whole thing as giggly camp?

Fortunately, Evan Jackson and the Idle Muse Theatre Company have, from their very inception, essayed only the most challenging of projects. Their realization of this vintage action-adventure tale overcomes its limitations with an alacrity as seemingly effortless as that with which their genius detective uncovers clues, outwits adversaries and resolves disorder presenting a threat to his society. Credit Jackson for directing his cast to play their roles seriously, with no winks or asides—even when encumbered by a running gag involving Holmes' exhaustive reference library. Conviction like this, conveyed with understatement proportionate to its intimate quarters, renders plausible the most artificial of occurrences.

Artifice being unavoidable in close quarters, however, Dennis Mae's scenic design embraces such imaginative motifs as set dressing etched on plexiglass panels, relying instead on the expository dialogue to locate us in our various milieux. The actors' youthfulness becomes invisible after a few minutes, Luke Hamilton personifying the austere Holmes with the able support of Nathan Pease's meek Dr. Watson and Elizabeth Macdougald's feisty Irene Adler. But the chief factor generating the requisite suspense is Nathan Thompson's chilling portrayal of the evil Dr. Moriarty, who—armed only with a deadly looking cane—radiates more menace than any modern WMD-schlepping baddie.

## SPOTLIGHT



Clockwise Theatre certainly picked a hot-button issue for its inaugural production. In Tanya Saracho's *Kita y Fernanda*, the issue of immigration directly affects its two main characters: the daughter of a rich Mexican family living in Texas and the daughter of an undocumented worker who is the family's maid. *Kita y Fernanda* continues 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays until Aug. 15 at 114 S. Genesee, Waukegan. Tickets are \$15. Call 708-721-3973 or visit [www.clockwisetheatre.org](http://www.clockwisetheatre.org) for more information. Photo of Diana Serna and Wendy George Valasso by Chris Tooley



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## Lee Ann Womack: Country superstar comes to Morton

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

Grammy-winning country star Lee Ann Womack will meet up with country legend Mark Chesnutt for a one-time only concert event Saturday, Aug. 7, at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Ill.

Womack, best known for her chart-topping single "I Hope You Dance," is a Texas-born singer and songwriter who pursued a life as a performing artist from a very young age. Her career in Nashville began in the mid-'90s and in that time she has recorded seven albums, her most recent being *Call Me Crazy* in 2008. In 2001 she received the Country Music Association's Female Vocalist award.

Classic country performers influenced Womack in her early years, artists such as Tammy Wynette, George Jones, Bob Wills, Ray Price and Glen Campbell. She considers her road act real, authentic country.

Womack spoke with *Windy City Times* about the upcoming performance, the approach she takes

to performing in markets like Chicago that aren't predominantly country and she also shared her thoughts about singer/songwriter Chely Wright coming out last May as the first lesbian country star.

**Windy City Times:** Tell us a bit about this tour. What we can look forward to from your concert at the Morton Arboretum?

**Lee Ann Womack:** The thing I'm looking the most forward to is that Mark Chesnutt will be there. He and I have known each other forever, we're from the same part of the country—Texas—and I get super, super charged when I'm around him. I'm very much looking forward to it because I have a lot of people in Nashville who when they found out we were doing a show together started getting a bus together and planning a road trip to see the show.

**WCT:** Playing in a place like Chicago—it's not exactly the heartland of country music. Are there any differences performing in a market where country isn't a way of life, so to speak?

**LAW:** You know, not really. Like when I play somewhere like in downtown New York, like Manhattan, or in L.A., I'm more likely to dig deeper into a real traditional country sound just because they don't get it all the time. If they buy a ticket to hear a country show then I figure

they'd be disappointed if they didn't get real, authentic country music. So, for the most part, I'm just hardcore straight-up Texas honky-tonk country.

**WCT:** Every artist of your stature probably has that song that they're going to perform every time they go out—in your case, "I Hope You Dance." Does it ever get tough to perform or have you found new significance it over the years?

**LAW:** Well, I'm not going to lie, it does get tough and it does get frustrating sometimes because that's more contemporary, more pop-country and what I prefer to do is more traditional country. But then again, always remember, even if I never recorded another song I could work forever off that one song so it's good and bad, but sometimes it does feel like an albatross.

**WCT:** Lately, noticeably on *Call Me Crazy*, a lot of your song choices have come much more consistently from a soulful place and less in a contemporary/pop style. What sort of influences were there in putting that album together?

**LAW:** I think I just try to pick the best songs I can pick or write. I love all kinds of music and I prefer to branch out and try different things sometimes, but the heart and soul of everything I am is more traditional, so if I get away from it



Lee Ann Womack. PR photo

for a little bit I desperately miss it. I don't think any musician or artist or singer worth listening to should never break out and try something different; I think everybody should [do something different]. I think it makes you do what you do better, but probably most everybody has either their specialty or their favorite.

**WCT:** *Windy City Times* is an LGBT publication, so I wanted to ask you a bit about your experience a few years back performing at the Nashville Human Rights Campaign Equality dinner. What was that like? Had you been involved with LGBT community before?

**LAW:** I had one of my very best friends ask me to do that. He was in charge of getting the entertainment for that and he asked me to do it and I said, "Sure." He's a gay friend of mine and I love him just—I can't even describe, beyond words. I was like, "I'll do whatever you want me to do." So I did that for him. I'm not an activist in anything, I just believe very, very strongly that people should leave people alone and let them live the way they want to live, and I cannot begin to say that enough. So that's why I was perfectly willing to go and do that.

**WCT:** Just a couple months ago, Chely Wright came out as the first openly gay country star. How well do you know Chely and what was your reaction?

**LAW:** I don't know Chely that well, but I have known her for years. She is precious and I just wish her the very best. I don't think anybody around Nashville was shocked when she came out because most people knew already. But, you know, just taking a public stance and everything, she had a round of press to do and dealt with it head-on and I think that's great.

**WCT:** Back to the music: What are you working on that fans can look forward to?

**LAW:** I'm working in the studio with my husband [Frank Liddell] and [producer] Tony Brown and just writing and working on a new record. I'll hopefully have it finished this year.

Lee Ann Womack is part of an all-star concert line-up Aug. 6-8—"In Tune with Trees"—at the Morton Arboretum that will include Lyle Lovett, Marc Cohn and Bettye LaVette. See [www.mortonarb.org](http://www.mortonarb.org) or call 630-725-2066 (Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.) for more information.

Find out more about country superstar Lee Ann Womack—including what fans can expect at her show at Morton—online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

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## NUNN ON ONE

# Melissa Etheridge on 'Dancing,' Rick Warren and music

BY JERRY NUNN

Melissa Etheridge came to our window back in '93 and told us "Yes I Am," never looking back. This out and proud singer continues to blaze a trail politically, musically and privately.

**Windy City Times:** So it's an honor to interview you, and like your new song says, you make me "Nervous." I've been listening to your new album, and it's incredible. Did you always want to be a singer?

Melissa Etheridge: Always, everything I wanted to be, the only thing I could ever be. Yeah, ever since I was 3 years old, I had this crazy dream, and just put my mind to it.

**WCT:** Who were your influences growing up?

ME: Well, of course there was the Beatles, in the '60s, and it just went from there. I grew up in Canada and it had one radio station. They played the Beatles, Tammy Wynette, Marvin Gaye, and Led Zeppelin. And so that was just music to me. It didn't have all these compartments like now it does. And I went from there into the '70s, listening to Fleetwood Mac, Bob Seger and Bruce Springsteen, and also you had Bette Midler and Barbara Streisand. I just loved any great performer.

**WCT:** And now you've influenced a whole new generation.

ME: I hope so; that would be nice.

**WCT:** So let's talk about the new album, *Fearless Love*. When you were putting this album together, did you know it was the end of your relationship?

ME: Not really. It was over a year ago when I was writing these songs, and even though I knew there were issues and we were dealing with them, you hope you can keep it together.

**WCT:** Was the song "Miss California" written about a real person?

ME: It's *not* about Carrie Prejean. It's about the state of California. I wanted to write a love song, or you-done-me-wrong song, to the state of California, and kind of put it in that perspective.

**WCT:** And the song "Indiana?"

ME: That was about Tammy, my former partner. To me, that's her life story. She inspired that.

**WCT:** Does touring have a big impact on your songwriting?

ME: Oh, yeah! Touring is a big part of my life, so it definitely does.

**WCT:** We'll need you to write a song called "Chicago" next...

ME: Well, you know, "The Wanting of You," I talk about that wild night in Chicago.

**WCT:** You can write a song about [rocker/American Idol alum] Crystal Bowersox now, too.

ME: Yeah, a Mama Sox song, Mama Sox. You know, I met her in Chicago. She came to the Chicago Theater in 2008.

**WCT:** She used to play at coffeehouses around the city...

ME: I loooooove that America is loving her. That really makes me happy about music.

**WCT:** Now how was it appearing on *Dancing With the Stars*?

ME: Surreal. Weird. Crazy. Kind of weirdly fun. It just blows my mind that that's America's number one show. Like, what are we doing? It's so campy, it's a little old-fashioned, and so dramatic with all of those men running around with their shirts off, looking so beautiful and oh-so-gay.

**WCT:** You have been such a champion for gay rights and so involved in many outside projects, I don't know how you do it. How do you feel Obama is doing so far with LGBT issues?

ME: Oh, we're always at the bottom rung of



Melissa Etheridge. Photo taken by James Minchin III

those things, all those promises. I think when it comes down to actually pushing these things forward, they do little things here and there, and it's all inching forward. I just think he, anyone in high office, are so bottled up and owned by the international, the multinational corporations that run this world, there's just nothing that a person in that position can do now, because it's just been bought and sold.

**WCT:** I think it's admirable that you make peace with Rick Warren, or you were talking with Elizabeth Hasselback, people who are kind of opponents.

ME: Because I realized if I get up there and fight them, they're going to fight me back, because they're just afraid of me. And if I sit down with them at the table, and I talk about my kids, and pull out my pictures, they go hey wait a minute, she loves her kids like I love mine, and it's just love, and this has got to be a love that comes from God or whatever, then that's how we're going to do it. We're here, oops, here we are again, we're down your street, we're in your office, here we are, and you know what, we're good people.

**WCT:** You won an Academy Award. Do you want to do more soundtracks in the future?

ME: If it comes up, if it's the right thing. That was definitely a unique experience, that I had no idea, I thought it would be shown around in high schools, I had no idea it would be an Academy Award thing. But it does have to be the right project.

**WCT:** Well all your fans are looking forward to seeing you at the Chicago Theater. Is it going to be a fairly theatrical show or more stripped-down?

ME: I don't know. I'm just starting to put it together now. The music on this album is much more dramatic, so I think it will be more dynamically dramatic. I'm not really a "show" person, but we'll see.

Want to come over and see how the show turns out? Melissa performs Saturday, Aug. 7, at 8 p.m. at the Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State. Visit [www.thechicagotheatre.com](http://www.thechicagotheatre.com) or [www.jamusa.com](http://www.jamusa.com) to purchase tickets.

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BY DAVID BYRNE WITH TONY PEREGRIN

Chicago continues to maintain its reputation for having magnificent music festivals with Lollapalooza and Northalsted Market Days coinciding over the Aug. 6-8 weekend.

This year, **Lollapalooza** has an impressive, yet exhausting line-up overtaking Grant Park. There are queer-fronted acts like Semi Precious Weapons and Grizzly Bear joined by alternative darlings the Stars, Matt & Kim and Rogue Wave. My recommendations to see include Mavis Staples, Chromeo, Raphael Saadiq and The Temper Trap. The main draws are Green Day, Soundgarden and a certain blonde New Yorker you may have heard of dubbed Lady Gaga. Tickets and a schedule are available at [www.lollapalooza.com](http://www.lollapalooza.com).

There will be a series of **pre-Lollapalooza** events, as well as additional concerts throughout the city after the festival calls it a night, as detailed on [do312.com/lollaaftershows](http://do312.com/lollaaftershows). The

Ettes and American Bang keep jamming into the night at The House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn, on Friday, Aug. 6, at 11 p.m. The Cut Copy and Dragonette show for the same night at The Metro, 3730 N. Clark, has already sold out.

Headlining the 29th Annual **Northalsted Market Days** on Sunday Aug. 8 is Joan Jett and the Blackhearts. Also due to perform are Latin music sensation Jon Secada, former American Idol runner-up Blake Lewis, dance-radio staple September and Tony Award

winner Jennifer Holliday. Chicago's Sixteen Candles, Kimi Hayes, The Joans, Pulsation, Dot Dot Dot and Cathy Richardson and the Macrodots will be entertaining the crowd too. For a complete schedule, please visit [chicagoevents.com](http://chicagoevents.com).

Without the support of a record label, **Kelis** began working on a bold project that ultimately became *Flesh Tone*. This nine-track set finds the New York-based artist delving deeper into club music. "Intro" gets things started with its mesmerizing synthesizers and concludes with her whispering, "we control the dancefloor." The "Bossy" singer looks into the future on "22nd Century," where "everybody's dancing" and she pleads, "Just take me away."

"A Song for the Baby" and the album's highlight "Acapella" are inspired by Kelis' infant son, Knight. "Scream" and "Emancipate" keep *Flesh Tone* "young fresh n' new." The explosive "4th of July (Fireworks)" has been commissioned for



Kelis.

remixes by Richard X and Calvin Harris. Kelis is embarking in a mini tour with fellow boundary pushing artist Robyn. *Flesh Tone* is out now via Interscope.

Need more Kelis? She takes to flight alongside Jean Baptiste and apl.de.ap from Black Eyed Peas on Benny Benassi's "Spaceship."

Now functioning as a quartet, **Scissor Sisters** returns with an abundance of filth, sleaze and camp—basically everything we love about the group—on *Night Work*. Just check out the raunchy Bee Gees knockoff "Any Which Way." The set's shining moments are when the mostly queer act brings a new approach to its sound, as heard on the Talking Heads-inspired "Running Out" and "The Harder You Get," where lead singer Jake Shears is almost unrecognizable singing in a lower register. The trimmed-down Ana Matronic gets her time in the spotlight on "Skin This Cat." "Invisible Light" is the missing link between Heaven 17's "Let Me Go" and Kylie Minogue's "I Believe in You," which Shears and Babydaddy co-wrote and co-produced.

Check out Scissor Sisters giving Minogue's "All the Lovers" a Dolly Parton-worthy makeover on YouTube. *Night Work* is out now and the foursome will be at The Riviera, 4750 N. Broadway, on Thursday, Sept. 2.

Shortly after releasing *Dirty King*, Toronto's rock outfit **The Cliks** lost three of its members then added Dresden Dolls' drummer Brian Viglione and bassist Tobi Parks—that guarantees one hell of a live show. Still fronted by Lucas Silveira, The Cliks will be at Schubas, 3159 N. Southport, on Tuesday, Aug. 10, with the female trio Hunter Valentine and Killola.

Last year **Matt Alber**'s first concert in Chicago sold out. The former Chanticleer singer could not hide his glee that a packed house came to hear his music and the stories behind his art. The openly gay crooner returns to Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark, on Friday, Aug. 20, with Jen Porter opening. Tickets can be purchased at [fleshhungrydog.com](http://fleshhungrydog.com). The videos to Alber's ethereal "Monarch" and hopelessly romantic "End of the World" reigned on Logo's Click List. Alber



The Cliks' Lucas Silveira.

is working on a successor to *Hide Nothing*.

When I played **Andrew Suvalsky's** 2006 debut *Vintage Pop* and the *Jazz Sides*, his cool, smooth voice melted my headphones. This gay artist has recorded a broad variety of material—covering standards, pop classics and contemporary selections like Cole Porter's "You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To," The Beatles' "Fool on the Hill" and David Gray's "This Year's Love." The Milwaukee native was a member of The Jackie Allen Jazz Improv Group in Chicago before moving to New York.

Suvalsky recently released the uplifting track "The Curtain." Part hymnal, part theatrical, his new single also features a gospel choir. Elements of "The Curtain" recall the '80s feel-good hit "That's What Friends Are For." "The Curtain," as well as both of Suvalsky's full-length albums, can be found on iTunes.



Blake Lewis.

## Northalsted Market Days Aug. 7-8

Tens of thousands of people are expected Aug. 7-8 to celebrate the annual Northalsted Market Days. This event is the largest two-day street fair in the Midwest.

The event spans six city blocks (in Boyston, from Belmont to Brompton along Halsted), has 17 entrance gates and features three music stages with more than 40 musical acts performing. Scheduled performers include Joan Jett, Jennifer Holliday, Jon Secada, Blake Lewis, Kimi Hayes, Cathy Richardson and The Joans.

Northalsted Market Days is also known for its vast array of unique vendors. The event features 400 food, arts and crafts vendors.

## Ellen leaving 'American Idol'

Saying that the post did not feel right for her and citing an exhausting schedule, talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres is leaving her position as judge on *American Idol*, according to [People.com](http://People.com).

DeGeneres, who replaced Paula Abdul, became a full-time judge on the show during its ninth season, won by Illinoisan Lee Dewyze.

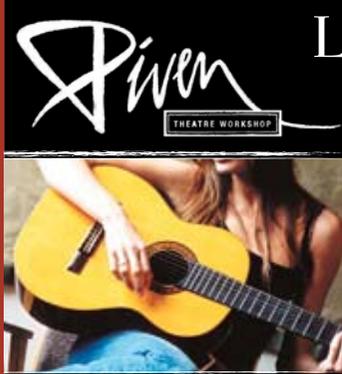
In a statement, DeGeneres said, "A couple months ago, I let FOX and the *American Idol* producers know that this didn't feel like the right fit for me. ... It was a difficult decision to make, but my work schedule became more than I bargained for."

She also cited a more emotional reason for departing: "I also realized this season that while I love discovering, supporting and nurturing young talent, it was hard for me to judge people and sometimes hurt their feelings."

Another judge, Simon Cowell, left at the end of last season to focus on bringing the British talent show *The X Factor* here.

Examiner.com has reported that Jennifer Lopez has signed on to be a new judge and that judge Kara DioGuardi's contract was allegedly not renewed.

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## NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

# Perry Farrell: Lollapalooza founder chats about the show

BY JERRY NUNN

Created as a farewell tour for the band Jane's Addiction back in 1991, Lollapalooza has grown into a monster destination event for the city of Chicago bringing music fans and revenue from all over the world. Windy City Times chased down its front man, Perry Farrell, for a Nunn on One interview.

**Perry Farrell:** Jerry! What's happening?

**Windy City Times:** How are you, Perry? I went to the first Lollapalooza back in the day in Cleveland. The festival has been getting bigger every year as far as attendance, correct?

**PF:** It is. When we were first started out. We would have, I would say, between 10 to 20 thousand kids. You know it's funny because this was before amphitheatres. So, I honestly think looking at the amount of people Lollapalooza was drawing in kind of has detailed these amphitheatres to contain about that size of group of people. And the amphitheatres had kind of run out of options, *per se*. It was really a kind of destructive set-up, a very destructive arrangement over the years to have these amphitheater that didn't feel as good as the prior year.

**WCT:** How did it wind up in Chicago?

**PF:** It ran its course until about 1997, when we decided to take a break and we didn't really have any options. Then years later we came back and decided to make it a destination music festival and look for a beautiful location, a park, a field or land. We came back, I think, in 2005 and we had about 40 to 50 thousand people who came to that show. Now, I think it's on its seventh year in Chicago and it's grown to number of over a quarter of million people in a course of three days. Isn't that crazy?

**WCT:** Wow. That is crazy. Of course, it's great for our city, Chicago. It brings in a lot of people from all over.

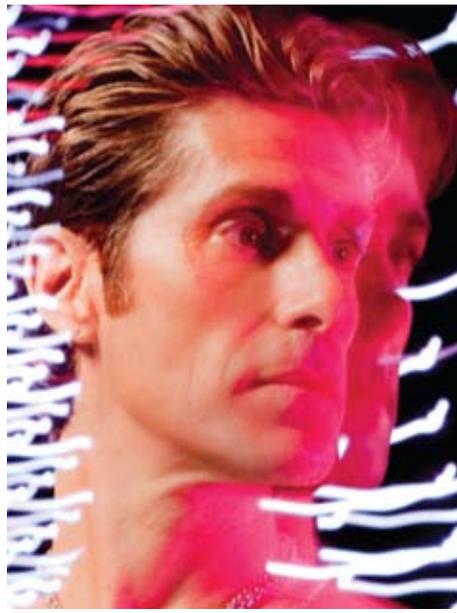
**PF:** Oh, yeah. To the city itself, just between the hotels and the restaurants, I think it brings to the city near 30 million dollars. Everybody is getting paid. If I can say, the clubs themselves are also making money because of the after parties.

**WCT:** Yeah, it's a huge weekend. Lilith Fair was a few weeks ago and had trouble with ticket sales. Is it easier to do the one destination event instead of doing it all over like Sarah?

**PF:** You know, I just want to say, that it's its own organism, festivals. Even these tours or individual tours—they are their own beasts. You have to look at each and every one of them as a child. Although they're in a family they each have their own unique personality. I find that today because of some of the issues, that I just discussed like the amphitheater.

The amphitheater, for shows like Lollapalooza, doesn't work. It might work for someone, I don't know, like Bonnie Raitt or James Taylor. You know, you sit down and relax. You're there with a date. So, you're not really moving and shaking. Something like Lollapalooza, it has high rock-and-roll and high-impact dance. You want to be loose and you want to be boppin' around. You want to be on the grass and you want to be in open air. All of those things are truly wonderful and you have look for it.

And you have to take your time more. Some of the tours that are put together are snap-in situations. Next year we are going to have our 20th anniversary for Lollapalooza. I've had a really good long time to learn about live performances and events. If you want to do them right and



Perry Farrell.

leave a mark. You have to do them slower. Find a good location and work with the city. Work with the original people and then you'll have a successful event.

**WCT:** Are you planning something big for the anniversary?

**PF:** Well, first it really starts with the talent. So, you know, people I [have] to call [are] running through my mind. Some acts probably won't do it because they think they're too big for festivals. They want to go on tour. Things are getting more difficult. People today want added value that they are going to purchase. You know, to purchase a car there has to be some kind of added value to it with the purchase of that car. I think it's the same thing with music today. If we're going to go to a concert today I think people are going to want to look at a concert as they look at their iPods. They want to hear lots of different music like their iPods. So, the added value as you would get with an event like Lollapalooza is you have 130 groups.

So, instead of just going in and, I don't know, watching the Jonas Brothers. They're cute and all but, you know what I mean, they're adorable but half the audience has already moved on and that's what happens with these young groups. There are a lot of reasons why a Jonas Brothers concert doesn't work this year. They fix the prices very high and, really, what I'm getting back to is that the added value when you go see the Jonas Brothers is not the same as when you pay for 130 groups, like Lollapalooza, and you'll have this incredible weekend. You tell me?

**WCT:** That's a good point.

**PF:** So, even these tweens want added value.

**WCT:** Exactly. You know what's funny to me is that I was in college and I went to see the first Lollapalooza with my college friends. Their daughters are coming up to see the show. So, it's like a whole different generation are going to the show now.

**PF:** Yeah, we have an area called Kidzapalooza and I put it there because you got to figure that since 1991 these people could have children that are 18 years old. Crazy, right?

**WCT:** It is.

**PF:** I don't know about you but I practically consider myself to be 18 years old and I'm, like, 51 but I feel like I'm 18. So I thought there might be something good here because rather than go to some Disney show as their first concert, where I feel like they're kind of being spoon fed garbage as their first concert, kids can go to Lollapalooza and see some great groups and also have an area. This year we have Yo Gabba Gabba, which is a children's show that the White Stripes and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs have been on. Lance Rocket is a great DJ who's on the show. So, Lance Rocket is going to go and DJ for these little kids.

**WCT:** That's awesome.

Turn to page 22

## IT'S UNANIMOUS! CHICAGO CRITICS LOVE SHREK

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# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT, JR.

## Stonewall Uprising

The Stonewall riots, the beginning of the gay-rights movement in this country, are similar to other singular moments in history in that many of the details of what exactly happened—when and how it happened, as well as who was involved—have become buried within the momentousness of the incident itself. We mark June 28 each year, but beyond the overview about what occurred in that tatty little bar in New York called the Stonewall Inn more than 40 years ago, much has become blurred.

There have been other documentaries and examinations of the riots that ensued when the disenfranchised patrons of that little bar fought back after the cops came in for one of their regular raids. But Stonewall Uprising—the documentary by the husband-and-wife filmmaking team Kate Davis and David Heilbroner, based on the David Carter book Stonewall: The Riots that Sparked the Gay Revolution—attempts to present the details and the timeline of the events of June 28, 1969, itself.

The movie utilizes eyewitness testimony; the scant extant footage and photos, recreation and “educational” period films; and other clips of the era to dramatize what happened. That the result is, ironically, a bit unfocused as it lays out the details of the crucial first night of the riots doesn’t prevent it from being an important addition to Our gay cinematic history. And for the uninformed, there is much here that will illuminate the incident that was the epicenter of Our movement.

Davis and Heilbroner remind us at the outset that homosexual acts were a crime nationwide



From the film Stonewall Uprising. Photo by Betty Lane.

(except within our fair state) in 1969, when the riots occurred. With that fact in mind, we proceed to an overview of the plight of gay Americans during the ‘50s and ‘60s leading up to Stonewall. An almost invisible population shunned, reviled, openly hunted and subjected to horrendous psychological and physical persecution with almost a religious fervor when discovered by the public at large, it’s no wonder that, as writer Eric Marcus comments, for gay people “[t]here was no ‘out.’ There was just in.”

Slowly, urban centers—especially Greenwich Village in Manhattan—became meccas for gays and lesbians. But even in these liberal pockets queers weren’t embraced. As another participant in the film recalls, “It was free but not quite free enough for us.” Segregated into mafia-owned bars, the “twilight people” (who only came out at night) nevertheless endured and, as the film reveals, a perfect storm of circumstances coalesced on that fateful night (and for several nights—accounts vary as to how many—thereafter).

Throughout the movie the various talking heads provide a wealth of reminiscences but, maddeningly, the filmmakers provide little or no background on these participants so it’s often hard to place them in context (and it doesn’t help that after a quick graphic with a name and sometimes a designation like “writer,” “historian,” etc., the talking heads are never identified again).

Two of the on-camera subjects, however, are easy to recall: Seymour Pine, the 90-year-old “morals inspector” who led the raid for the cops and the former New York City Mayor Ed Koch—both of whom are given a lot more camera time than seems necessary. (Also, why the hell it was important to include Koch, longtime enemy of Our People, is beyond me; it’s not like he’s needed for balance.)

Most powerful, of course, are the memories of the gay people who were there. At one point, one of them, John O’Brien, comments about the half dozen or so cops trapped inside the Stonewall Inn with the growing, angry mob outside: “It must have been terrifying for them. I hope it was.” O’Brien’s fury is still fresh after 41 years. In moments like that Stonewall Uprising transcends its sometimes fuzzy construction and the spark that ignited a revolution becomes tremendously palpable and galvanizing.

## Get Low

“Bout time for me to get low,” Robert Duvall as Felix Bush, a hated and feared backwoods hermit says to a speechless Bill Murray and Lucas Black, as Frank Quinn, a slick funeral home director and Buddy, his naïve, eager to prove himself assistant. After 40 years alone on his land, Felix wants to have a funeral party while he’s still alive and for everyone in the county to come and share their stories about him. Felix’s unusual request sets in motion one of the most pleasurable movies of the year.

Set in the late South in the 1930s, Get Low—

from director Aaron Schneider (making his feature debut) and writers Chris Provenzano and C. Gaby Mitchell—finds us deep within Eudora Welty-Truman Capote-Harper Lee territory and the richly constructed characters, period detail and the compelling story, based on a real incident, offer the equally rich cast the chance to act their heads off.

Leading them all is Duvall as the eccentric Felix, giving one of those legendary performances that can only come after decades of legendary performances. (Even his breathing has gravitas.) He is matched in scene after scene by Murray (delightfully droll); Sissy Spacek, whose character has an old, mysterious connection to Felix; and the one actor who gives Duvall a run for his money—a stubborn mule (literally) who has shared Felix’s self-imposed hibernation on his backwoods land. As the gigantic party approaches complications arise, lives are transformed, old hurts trotted out and the mystery deepens.

At one point Felix comments about his vast land holdings, “You leave things alone, they’ll know what to do”—perfectly stating the theme

of the film, the trust that the director places in his cast and perhaps more importantly, his audience. Like Felix and that stubborn mule, Get Low moves at its own measured, confident pace, intensifying your responses to it as it progresses (like falling in love). It’s one of those rare film experiences that both everyday moviegoers and longtime film critics like myself hope for each time the lights go down. It reminded me of the essential joy and transformative power that many great movies share (and that almost always take me by surprise), and I was delighted and moved from beginning to end by this aptly self-described “true tall tale.”

Check out my archived reviews at [www.windycitytimes.com](http://www.windycitytimes.com) or [www.knightatthemovies.com](http://www.knightatthemovies.com). Readers can leave feedback at the latter website



Lucas Black in Get Low. Photo courtesy Sony Pictures Classics.

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## Albert Gaskin: A groundbreaking real estate agent

BY CHASSE REHWINKEL

At the heart of Albert Gaskin's life was a love story, one that began more than 41 years ago on the corner of Clark and Division.

There, in a bar called Sam's, on Feb. 1, 1969, two young Chicagoans forged a lasting bond, a bond that would go unbroken for more than four decades, until Gaskin's passing earlier this month.

"We always knew our exact anniversary," said Robert Bachand, Gaskin's longtime partner. "We have a framed piece of paper with my name and number on it in my handwriting and in his handwriting the date: Feb. 1, 1969. And that was it, after that moment we never dated anyone else ever again."

Gaskin will be remembered by many people within the Chicagoland area, for many different things.

In the African-American community he will be remembered as the real estate agent who broke down the unwritten segregated housing rules that plagued Evanston and the North Shore until the 1960s and '70s.

Among the North Shore realtor community, Gaskin will be remembered as the man who helped open up the realty business to all qualified persons, regardless of color or creed.

Evanstonians will remember his scholarship, rewarded to one African American graduating senior each year from the Evanston Township High School. And the LGBT community will remember Gaskin as a shining example of a strong, open and stable gay man.

But, above all of these accomplishments and characteristics, those who knew Albert Gaskin say that they will remember him for two qualities, his always gentleman-like nature and his strong integrity.

"He always wore a suit," said Bachand. "It would be the dark months of July and August, with the temperature at about 95 degrees, and I would say that he didn't have to wear a suit today. But he'd always reply, 'Yes I do.' He always wanted to look professional."

"A professional" might be the perfect way to describe Gaskin. Thriving in an industry that holds a less-than-pristine moral reputation, Gaskin was never known to be anything other than reliable in his business dealings.

At a recent open house, held in Gaskin's memory at his old real estate office, Bachand recalled the unwavering support he was shown by those who had turned up to show their respects.

"I'm not sure if most of the people even knew Albert was gay," said Bachand. "But they knew that I was Albert's partner and came up to me to give their condolences. No one was insincere, they all recalled how Albert had always been straight with them and that they never had to worry about Albert trying to sneak something past them."

Growing up in an age of intolerance and hatred, in a profession known for always seeking out the top dollar, Albert Gaskin defied tradition and public perception to rise to prominence in not only one community, but several.

And in his rise Gaskin became a pillar, an unwavering example of integrity and respect that broke down barriers and bound communities of long lasting differences together on at least one subject, their respect for Albert Gaskin.

Forty-one years is a long time to be in a relationship. Ask any long lasting couple and they will say it takes tremendous strength, effort and love to keep a relationship strong for nearly of half century.

For Gaskin, a man remembered for his determination and strength, his relationship with Robert Bachand is the perfect summarization of his life. Gaskin knew what he wanted and was willing to put in as much effort as necessary to make this happen, doubters be damned.



Albert Gaskin.

7. Vallejo-Fairfield, Calif.
8. Reno-Sparks, Nev.
9. Bakersfield, Calif.
10. Port St. Lucie, Fla.

## Real estate news

—We are the **CHUMP**-ions: Lucid Realty, Inc. has introduced CHUMP, a real estate service targeted to Chicagoland home buyers and sellers, according to PRWeb.com. CHUMP (Catering to Highly Unsophisticated and Misguided People) lets clients receive the same service provided to Lucid Realty's regular home buyers and sellers, but forgo the savings that are normally offered in the form of rebates to buyers and discounted commissions to sellers. "CHUMP is an optional plan that we introduced to appeal to those Chicago area consumers that still believe, despite all evidence to the contrary, that traditional, full-priced real estate brokers offer some vague advantage," said Lucid Realty President Gary Lucido.



Osterman (Hollywood) Beach. Photo by Mason Harrison

## Chicago spot among best lesser-known beach buys

BY JEFFERY A. HAMMERBERG,  
GAYREALSTATE.COM

During the sweltering days of summer, everyone who can do so seems to make tracks for the nearest beach. But when the rush is on to hit the sand and surf, world-renowned coastal hotspots tend to attract huge throngs and quickly become overcrowded. So for those interested in bucking the trend and taking the path less traveled, here are four suggestions for great LGBT beaches that often go unnoticed.

### Block Island, R.I.

Block Island, which is located just off the coast of Rhode Island, represents the quintessential laid-back and less hectic beach with an authentic seaside character that has endured for generations. Although it does not have a bustling LGBT scene, the small town is not small-minded and the progressive community warmly welcomes LGBT visitors. The natural scenery is beautiful and there are still secluded beaches on the island, even within walking distance of the quaint Old Harbor district with its ferry terminal, surprisingly good restaurants, and interesting shops.

### Cannon Beach, Ore.

Venture west to the opposite coast to discover the many reasons why Cannon Beach, Ore., is the waterfront destination of choice for so many members of the nearby Portland LGBT community. The area is similar to Block Island, in that it is also exceptionally gay friendly, rather quaint and low-key, and boasts some splendid natural coastline. There is a charming little downtown and plenty of restaurants, shops, cafes, and accommodating B&Bs. Plus Cannon Beach boasts three miles of fabulous beachfront. Enjoy stunning, rugged rock formations that add high drama to the shoreline—including the dramatic 250-foot tall Haystack Rock.

### Osterman (Hollywood) Beach, Chicago

Although it may seem completely contradictory, some of the nation's best beaches are nowhere near the ocean. There are several fantastic LGBT waterfronts in the USA that are actually inland, in places where most people might never think to look for a wonderful house or condo near the shore. One of the favorites among the LGBT residents of Chicago is Hollywood Beach—which is located in a diverse Chicago neighborhood.

The beach got its name from nearby Hollywood Avenue. The moniker has endured despite the fact that the beach's name was officially changed years ago to Kathy Osterman Beach, in

honor of the woman who used to head up the Special Events department within the mayor's office. Locals regard Hollywood Beach as Chicago's "gay beach" because it is so popular with the LGBT community. But compared to most of the hugely popular LGBT beach towns, Chicago is bargain-priced in terms of its real estate. The city managed to hold its own pretty well during the recent housing crisis, but it still represents great value and offers a tremendous variety of housing and architectural options.

Frank Lloyd Wright's original studio was located in the Oak Park district, for example, and the Riverside district has greenway features designed by Frederick Law Olmstead—who is best remembered for designing New York's Central Park. The Windy City is also one of the most vibrant and exciting cities in the world in terms of art, culture and entertainment. Considering that it is also home to a fun and friendly beach, Chicago may be the perfect place to buy a home or vacation getaway while prices are still so affordable.

### Lake Mead, Nev.

But in terms of affordable pricing, Nevada real estate tops almost everything in the USA. The region was, unfortunately, especially vulnerable to the foreclosure crisis. While that has depressed prices it has also created many rare buying opportunities. Those include many incredible properties within driving distance of Lake Mead, which is the largest reservoir in the country and a gorgeously fun waterfront destination. Lake Mead was formed by the Hoover Dam and is on the robust Colorado River, just a half-hour commute from Las Vegas. The lake is encircled by spectacular jagged mountain ranges, and there are abundant other natural attractions such as coves, rocky cliffs, and serene sandy beaches. Lake Mead also forms the main part of the vast Lake Mead National Recreation Area, which covers 1.5 million acres of protected lands and encompasses 25 miles of the Colorado River.

About a half a dozen marinas serve the lake, where boating, water skiing, swimming, and fishing are all popular pastimes. The sunsets across Lake Mead are absolutely breathtaking, thanks to the juxtaposition of the gigantic lake, the mountains, and the exotic desert landscape. After sunset, of course, Sin City awaits just a stone's throw away from the beach. So owning property anywhere in the vicinity truly offers the best of both worlds in terms of outdoor recreation, entertainment, and nonstop nightlife.

Of course, other more famous beaches are also undoubtedly amazing—and are equally worthy of real estate investment. But these four are particularly noted for their beauty, gay-friendly attitudes and the fact that they may be pleasantly less populated—even during the peak tourist season.

Visit [www.GayRealEstate.com](http://www.GayRealEstate.com) or call 888-420-MOVE (6683) toll-free.

## The 10 worst real estate markets

DailyFinance.com has listed the 10 worst real estate markets in the United States.

Among other things, unemployment and foreclosure rates are considered. Real estate research/consulting firm First American CoreLogic has stated that more than 11 million mortgages are "underwater"—in which the amount owed to the bank is higher than the home's value. In the meantime, more than 300,000 foreclosures take place each month.

The 10 worst real estate markets in the United States are:

1. Las Vegas-Paradise, Nev.: The unemployment rate is 14.5 percent and the foreclosure rate is 6.6 percent.
2. Cape Coral-Fort Myers, Fla.
3. Modesto, Calif.
4. Merced, Calif.
5. Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, Calif.
6. Stockton, Calif.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LESBIAN HEALTH STUDY.** Recruiting lesbian women who have abused their intimate female partners for research study and focus group. Call: 1-866-849-7716, leave message with contact method that protects your privacy. (7/28/10-2)

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## REAL ESTATE

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## OUT OF TOWN

**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 qsphomes@comcast.net (9/22/10-26)**

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## FOR RENT

## TWO BEDROOMS

**4 BEDROOM - LOGAN SQUARE,** Moffat street at Kedzie (south of Armitage), 4 BEDROOM, TWO BATH TWO STORY DUPLEX, new fridge/oven/carpeting. Central AC/heat. **Quiet street. \$1290. 219.902.1715 (7/28/10)**

**BEAUTIFUL JEFFERSON PARK TWO FLAT,** first flr, 2bdrms with master, formal dining rm, hardwood flrs, 1 garage space included. No smokers. Good credit. **\$945+Utilities. 773 736-4357 (8/4/10-1)**

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**FOUR BEDROOM TWO BATH.** Huge, bright, beautiful, lovingly restored, short walk to lake, red line, dishwasher, ceiling fans, oak and marble floors, \$1600 heat included, Rogers Park, **Brian at 773-814-3717 or bzzd55@yahoo.com (8/4/10-2)**

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## PERRY from page 19

**PF:** Yeah. So, they are getting indoctrinated into dance music from a good source.

**WCT:** Were you inspired by your sons? Is that what made you want to do it?

**PF:** Yeah, you know having children all day long. You're thinking about what's good for them and what you would like to turn them onto. Turn them on in the right way. I was lucky enough because I had a big brother and a big sister. My big brother loved rock and roll. So I was listening to The Beatles, The Stones and The Who when I was, like, three years old. My sister loved funk. So, I was listening to James Brown and Little Richard. So, that's why I have—I guess you would say—a more sophisticated taste in music. So, I was considering all of that when I was putting this Kidsapalooza area together. I would love for these little kids to come and say their first concert was Radiohead or Rage Against the Machine. As a result of all that overtime the Kidzapalooza stage is not only graced with kid-friendly music but people like Slash come and join me on stage in the kids' area. This year, Chrissie Hynde is going to go there and play. That's really fun.

**WCT:** So, what's your part with the performance part? Are you doing Jane's Addiction stuff or are you going to DJ?

**PF:** This year I'm going to go back to DJing. I've been working really hard on my electronic music. It really was validated this year. It blossomed and it really came into its own with people like Lady Gaga and David Guetta. I think all people are leaning towards electronica these days whether it's hip-hop artists or rock artists.

Even Kings of Leon, one of the biggest dance hits of last year was one of their songs remixed.

**WCT:** That's a good point.

**PF:** I've done a few electronic records. You know, Jane's Addiction has always pulled me back. I love rock as well. We're in writing stages right now and we'll have an album out I think February or March of next year.

**WCT:** I did want to say that at the first Lollapalooza, when you were playing with Jane's Addiction you said, "Do you any of you people have a problem with gay people?" And you said, "I'm gay." I know, you're not technically gay but it meant so much to me being in the closet and hearing everyone cheering for gay people. It means a lot to people when you do things like that.

**PF:** You know what? My pleasure, and it was easy. My position is easy when you get all of the people in the palm of your hand and you can drop a message on them and they'll take it. I'm very close to the gay community. My wife, ETTY, is a dancer so most of our friends are gay and we love gay people.

I think the gay community should be looked upon as an example of a shining community. They're very clean and their lawns are very manicured, which is always appreciated. The biggest reason is that they're peaceful and loving. You never feel like you are going to go into a gay neighborhood and feel threatened. If anything, you feel welcomed. So rather than people bashing or making fun, they should look at the gay community as how they are, safe, friendly and clean. And you know what? They make plenty of money, too.

**WCT:** And they buy a lot of concert tickets

**to your shows, just like me. You never know who's listening in the audience, Perry.**

**PF:** Exactly. See you at the show and I will be at an afterparty at Sound Bar.

**WCT:** Sounds good!

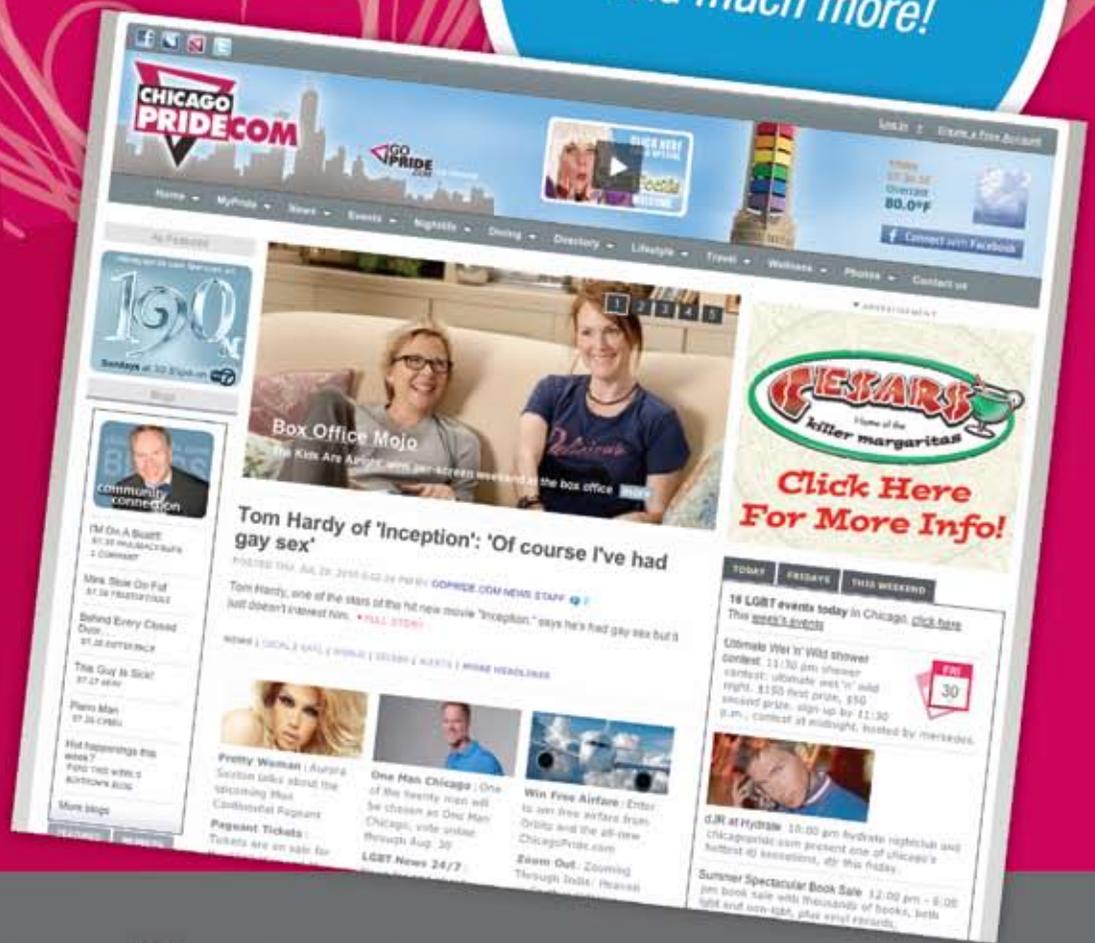
**Lollapalooza takes over Grant Park Aug. 6-8; visit www.lollapalooza.com. Sound Bar is located at 226 W. Ontario; see www.soundbar.com.**



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# calendar

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WINDY CITY TIMES



## Wed., Aug. 4

**Four Women Showcase** This is a great musical series focusing on female singer/songwriters in, around and touring thru Chicago. Each Wednesday, "Four" female performers will showcase their talents in a show. For one month, the same four performers will be featured, but will rotate and change their sets. 6pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark, windycityopenmic.com/

**Summer Spectacular Book Sale** Book Sale with thousands of books, both LGBT and non-LGBT, plus vinyl records, videocassettes, audiocassettes, CDs and DVDs. Through Aug. 8. 6pm, 773-381-8030, Gerber/Hart Library 1127 West Granville Avenue, www.gerberhart.org

## Thursday, Aug. 5

**An Elegant Evening of Pure PINK** Celebrating Market Days Weekend, benefiting Center on Halsted, honoring State Rep Sara Feigenholtz and Lifetime LGBT Activist Vernita Gray, RSVP rsvp@pinkmag.com. Music open bar: wine, champagne, cocktails, food from Chicago's esteemed restaurants, silent auction: Marc Jacobs, Victoria's Secret, gift cards, jewelry, exotic trips and much more. \$25 door includes a fabulous PINK tote filled with extraordinary gifts. Richard M. Daley Rooftop Garden. 6pm, 773.769.6328, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, pinkmag.com/

**DIFFA / Chicago Auxiliary Board: M.E. = Motivate + Educate** Featuring DJ Matthew Harvat. \$10 includes 2 effen drinks, 100% of proceeds go to benefit DIFFA / Chicago. Five neighborhoods across five months to promote awareness of HIV/AIDS and to raise money for the fight against AIDS.

## THINK PINK Thursday, Aug. 5

Vernita Gray (right) and state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz will be honored at "An Elegant Evening of Pure PINK" at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted.



7pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, www.dif-fachicago.org/events.html

**Frat House Thursdays at Scarlet** Join ChicagoPride.com and Scarlet as we host all frat guys and their fans. 10pm, Scarlet, 3320 N Halsted

**IN THE LIFE** Encore presentations: How a work of art inspired The Trevor Project, the leading national organization for crisis and suicide prevention for LGBT and questioning youth; In A Conversation With..., Edmund White and Doric Wilson revisit the Stonewall Riots; and The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence share how, unified as an Order of many faiths and spiritual beliefs, they've been "promulgating universal joy" for over three decades. 10:30pm, On WTTW/Channel 11, www.youtube.com/user/itlmedia#p/search/0/yly87xah\_qi

## Friday, Aug. 6

**Equality Illinois First Friday Networking Event** Equality Illinois and ChicagoPride.com present this monthly "Make A Dif-

ference" event. For a \$10 donation to the Equality Illinois PAC, you receive two drink tickets and a ticket for a door prize drawing. 6pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St, www.eqil.org

**MORE for Gay Men Movie Night** featuring the movie The Bubble; 6:30pm, 312-329-1200, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, moreforgaymen.com

**Hal Sparks Up Close and Personal** WCPT AM & FM and Center on Halsted are proud to present Hal Sparks for an incredible night of stand up comedy and irreverent commentary. An actor and comedian, Hal is best known as a frequent contributor to VH1, a former host of E!'s Talk Soup, a regular on WCPT's Stephanie Miller Show, and as Michael Novotny on Queer as Folk! 6:30pm: Doors open. 7pm: Live show. \$15. Also at 5:30 pm, VIP Meet n' Greet \$35. 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, www.centeronhalsted.org

**Thank GLAAD It's Friday** Set in popular venues, TGIF events include complimentary ABSOLUT® VODKA cocktails, one-year GLAAD memberships, special guest hosts and nightly prize drawings as... well as the opportunity to network and meet with like-minded professionals. 7pm, Minibar Ultra Lounge and Cafe, 3341 N Halsted, www.glaad.org/2010/tgif/chicago1

**Hairspray! The Musical** Up and Coming Theatre presents Hairspray. Tickets: \$16.00 in advance, \$19.00 each at the door for Adults, \$16.00 for children, students and seniors. 7:30pm, Cutting Hall Theater, 150 E Wood St, Palatine, www.uactheatre.com/

**F\*\*king Men** Tony-nominated writer Joe DiPietro's latest play, F\*\*KING MEN, observes the sex lives of the modern urban gay American male. 8pm, (773) 327-5252, Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont, fmenchicago.com

## Saturday, Aug. 7

**29th Annual Northalsted Market Days®** The Midwest's largest two-day outdoor street festival (through Aug. 8). With more than 150,000 visitors it's also one of the largest GLBT-centric outdoor events in the country. Market Days spans four city blocks and has 17 entrance gates and includes four music stages. Also: food and arts & craft vendors—some 400 in total. 11am, (773) 868-3010, North Halsted Street between Belmont and Addison, Chicago, www.chicagoevents.com/event.cfm?eid=124

**16th Annual Sheridan Park Yard Sale** Eight blocks of fabulousness. Come discover hidden treasures in this 16th annual community yard sale. From Montrose to Lawrence, and Broadway to Clark, dozens of

households on every block participating. From 9am-3pm (rain date, Sunday, August 8th); 9am, 773-275-0648, Sheridan Park/Uptown Montrose to Lawrence, and Broadway to Clark

**Center on Halsted Family Playdates** First Saturday of every month the Center Family welcomes families to come together for a fun & informal monthly gathering to simply play & have a great time in a welcoming environment. This FREE event offers parents & children a chance to make new friends and talk about the challenges & joys of being a part of the LGBT Family Community. 10am, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, www.centeronhalsted.org

**Melissa Etheridge Fearless Love Tour 2010** Grammy award-winning out rocker Melissa Etheridge; 8pm, The Chicago Theater, 175 N. State St., Chicago, www.melissaetheridge.com

**URBANO Market Days Party** URBANO 5AM Hip Hop Blatino Market Days Party at Circuit. Sexy URBANO Dancers. DJs Anton & Stoney spinning Hip Hop, R&B, House & Reggaeton. 11pm, (773)325-2233, Circuit Night Club, 3641 N Halsted St, www.urbanochicago.com

## Sunday, Aug. 8

**The Music of the Gershwins & Elton John: A Benefit for Season of Concern** Long-time SoC supporter Karen Bronson has produced this annual SoC fundraiser for over a decade. Make reservations now to join Karen, Mark Mavetz, Doug Orlyk, Stephen Rader, Debbie Roberts, and Lori Skubich for drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and a concert celebrating the music of George & Ira Gershwin and Elton John! Seating is limited. Reservations are required. \$20 Suggested Donation to SoC; 3pm, 708-660-9054, Village Theatre Guild Corner of Butterfield Rd. & Park Blvd Glen Ellyn, IL, www.seasonofconcern.org

**A Boy and His Vagina** As the Mayan Calendar draws to a close, two PhDs; gay vaginista Mike Hunt, and Pulitzer Prize winning author Mona Restin embark on an adventure of epic proportion to save the world from the very evil Kirk Cameron's quest to take over the planet via his creepy Lord Is Come Network. 7pm, 773.306.6595, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark

**Melissa Etheridge Fearless Love Tour 2010** Grammy award-winning out rocker Melissa Etheridge; 8pm, The Chicago Theater, 175 N. State St., Chicago, www.melissaetheridge.com

## Monday, Aug. 9

**From Cow(girls) to the Ok-Corral Gendering in American Popular Culture** Center on Halsted's actOUT series with the Piven Theatre Workshop presents a panel with Polly Noonan and Kathleen Ruhl, Moderator David Chack, Jessica Thebus, Piven Theatre's director of the current production "Late: a Cowboy Song" by 2010 Tony Award Nominee and Macarthur Fellow Sarah Ruhl. \$10/\$5 Youth and Seniors; 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, www.centeronhalsted.org

**\$1 Drink Night with DJ Laura B at Hydrate** Monday at HYDRATE is \$1 DRINK NIGHT! All well cocktails are only One Dollar all night long! 8pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, www.hydratechicago.com

## Wed., Aug. 11

**Four Women Showcase** This is a great musical series focusing on female singer/songwriters in, around and touring thru Chicago. Each Wednesday, "Four" female performers will showcase their talents in a show. For one month, the same four performers will be featured, but will rotate and change their sets. 6pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark, windycityopenmic.com/

**Bisexual Panel Discussion** is a casual, peer-lead conversation group. This is an event for bisexuals, bi-curious, and bi-allies to form community, share ideas, and connect with peers. Come check us out and help



## MUSIC MAN

Saturday, Aug. 14

Pianist Mark Ferris will be performing at 3160, 3160 N. Clark

PR photo

build the bisexual community! 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted

## Thursday, Aug. 12

**3G Summit: The Future of Girls, Gaming and Gender 3G Public Forum**, a free public event with presentations by, and conversations with, five leading women gaming scholars and design artists on the topic of the future of girls, gaming and gender. The 3G Summit is a visionary 4-day initiative that will convene 50 urban teenage girls with five leading women game designers and scholars for intensive dialogue, inquiry, game-play, and rapid prototyping. 6pm, Columbia College Chicago Media Production Center Soundstage, 1600 S. State St., Chicago, www.colum.edu/3gsummit

## Friday, Aug. 13

**"San Francisco in the 1970s"** Final day for a photographic exhibition featuring the photos of Jerry Pritikin, a Chicago publicist, gay-rights activist and Chicago Cubs fan known as the "Bleacher Preacher" Features photos of gay life in San Francisco's Castro neighborhood, which was an epicenter for the gay-rights movement prior to the AIDS epidemic of the '80s. 1:30pm, Gage Gallery, 18 S. Michigan, Chicago, www.youtube.com/watch?v=phlspks9p1c

**Darts Over The Windy City** LGBT darts tournament benefits Chicago House. Also at Spin, 800 W. Belmont. \$3,500 prize fund for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, \$5 per game win to be paid to all places below 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Four player teams, 301/501 Freeze Rule Format. Team registrations \$100 before Aug. 6, \$125 at event. info@dartsverthewindy.com; 7pm, 312-450-2642, Charlie's, 3726 N Broadway, www.dartsverthewindy.com

## Saturday, Aug. 14

**Caring for Kids: Kenny G, Stephanie Mills, Jeffrey Osborne** Every penny raised benefits Shriners Hospitals for Children®. 7 p.m., 800-745-3000, Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River

**AIDS Run and Walk Chicago Kick-Off** Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV) will host kick-off event to register members for its team and to solicit donations. There is no charge to attend the party. This year's AIDS Run and Walk Chicago, organized by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago is Saturday, Oct. 2. 8pm, 773.293.4740, Peck residence, 5455 N. Sheridan Rd #3112, Chicago, www.behiv.org

**Piano Man Mark Farris** at Club 3160 Chicago celebrates the return of popular piano man, Mark Farris. 9pm, 3160, 3160 N. Clark Street, www.chicago3160.com



## BODY TALK

Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 7-8

There will be plenty of sights to see at Northalsted Market Days.

Photo from 2009 by Jerry Nunn

# BILLY MASTERS

"She thinks it would be a lovely home for Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt."—Well-known "psychic" Kenny Kingston passes along a message from Marilyn Monroe regarding her Brentwood home. Frankly, I have trouble taking any message seriously from someone who looks that much like Rip Taylor!

I often like to quote a statistic that claims most adolescent males have their first sexual encounter with other males. I hasten to add that most of the men who participated in this study were talking about groups of boys masturbating—which is apparently an extracurricular activity I missed in high school. I bring this up because British actor Tom Hardy gave an interview stating that he's had same-sex encounters. "As a boy? Of course I have. I'm an actor for fuck's sake. I'm an artist. I've played with everything and everyone." He goes on to say that while he's had sex with men, "the gay sex bit does nothing for me." Bravo to him for being honest about it. After all, you don't know what you like until you've tried it (an argument many of my exes have used).

That said, I can't do everything. For instance, I've enjoyed many shows at the Ogunquit Playhouse during my summers back east. But because I'm in Europe most of the summer, I am missing the Sunset Boulevard of Miss Stefanie Powers. It's so tantalizing—I might be able to fly back in time for her final performance Aug. 14.

Last year, I missed my darling Charles Busch in *The Divine Sister*. Busch's latest vehicle was done in a showcase setting and reunited him with muse Julie Halston. The play includes references to such ecclesiastic masterpieces as *The Song of Bernadette* and *Agnes of God* with a bit of *The Singing Nun* thrown in for good measure. (Imagine the box-office business that would come from the aerial stunts of *The Flying Nun*.) I may have missed him last year, but I won't make the same mistake this year. The play will begin a commercial run on Sept. 12 at the Soho Playhouse off-Broadway. Don't miss it.

If you're on the left coast, run to Rancho Cucamonga between Aug. 6-8 for the first performances of Cloris Leachman's new one-woman show, *I'm Eighty Fucking Four & Still Going Strong!* OK, she puts an asterisk where the "u" is, but why would I shy away from a swear? I'm sure Cloris will use the word onstage—repeatedly!

Jon Secada has come up with a unique way of promoting his new Classics CD—by showing he has other career options. The Latin superstar was in Las Vegas to discuss the possibility of doing a long-term show, and stopped by the Rio to see the Chippendales. He surprised everyone by joining the guys onstage, giving the pros a run for their money in the hunkiness department. "It was fun to take my shirt off and represent with those guys. I was joking around, but I was saying, 'I wouldn't mind being in Chippendales. This is an alter ego to my career. If I could sing and strip at the same time, that would be kinda cool.'" He certainly doesn't disappoint, as you can see from the pictures posted on BillyMasters.com.

My favorite story of the week regards casting on the revamped *V*. If rumors are to be believed, a familiar face will be joining the royal family in the person of Anna's mother. But what is really exciting is who the producers want for the role—Jane Badler! OK, so you have to be over 40 to know what that means, but in the original *V* (with Marc Singer, before he became quasi-lizard-esque in real life), Badler played the *V* leader Diana and memorably devoured a live guinea pig!!! Scott Rosenbaum, who is the executive producer of this new series, says the

new character's name is Diana, and claims to be in talks with the actress. Hmmmm....

Our "Ask Billy" question also relates to a TV show. Kevin in Miami asks, "What can you tell me about the hot lead guy on *The Glades*? He's absolutely gorgeous. And is the show really shot here in Florida?"

Yes, the A&E show is filmed in Fort Lauderdale—just a hop, skip and jump away from the Filth2Go Beach House. As to the hunk in question, I'm assuming you're talking about sexy Matt Passmore. And he certainly is a looker. Didya know that he's Australian? Yes, that American accent is fake. But everything else about him is real—including the ass you saw in the first episode. He was pretty proud of turning the other cheek. "I don't think I could ask anyone to be my butt double. My mom would know straight away and she'd bag me out for it." I'm not sure why he is that close with his mom, and what she'd put in this bag, but that's neither here nor there. For a bit more skin, head to BillyMasters.com. In addition to that butt

shot, we have his most memorable work—an underwear commercial where he plays a guy on a plane who spills a drink on his pants, goes to the lavatory, and somehow loses all of his clothes—save for his undies. Maybe that was his audition tape for *The Glades*!

When I'm promoting an Aussie bum, it's definitely time for me to end yet another column. I can't say I'm homesick, but I'm sick about missing some of these happenings. But

you won't miss a single thing that's happening if you regularly check out [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com). And, as you can see, I'm quite solicitous when it comes to your questions. Send anything you'd like to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before Cloris is cast in *Sunset Boulevard*. (I'd have to fly back for that.) So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



Tom Hardy (here in *Inception*) puts it out there—so to speak.

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# Gay Games kick off in grand fashion

BY ROSS FORMAN

Gay Games VIII kicked off July 31 with a bang—of fireworks, that is.

An estimated 30,000 attended the opening ceremony to the quadrennial sports and cultural extravaganza, held in Cologne, Germany, and running through Saturday, Aug. 7. The opening, held inside RhineEnergie Stadium, was aired live via the Internet.

The three-hour spectacle featured fire-eaters, dancers, drummers, cheerleaders, musicians and plenty of speeches. Australian gold medal-winning diver Matthew Mitcham read the athletes' oath.

To kick off the opening ceremony, the traditional participant march, country by country, welcomed about 9,500 athletes from 65 countries.

The lone participant from Angola was first, while the host city, Cologne, with its 900 athletes, marched in last.

About 2,500 people from the United States are participating, second-most to Germany, and it took about four minutes for all the Americans to enter the stadium. Team Chicago was among the first American teams to enter.

Team Chicago sported stylish blue uniforms and the familiar City of Chicago flag, big and small, was easy to spot.

Other countries, meanwhile, were plenty sporty, so to speak, for their entrance. Thailand participants were in native garb; the South Africans blew in with their vuvuzelas, made popular (or hated) during this summer's World Cup; and the British waved a pink Union Jack.

German Minister of Foreign Affairs Guido Westerwelle, the highest-ranking patron in the history of the Gay Games, was among the first speakers.

"We will never forget the generation that fought for our freedom," Westerwelle said. "Our thoughts are with all lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people in the world, who are still treated like criminals."

Singers Agnes and Taylor Dayne closed the opening ceremony. Agnes sang her hit single "Release Me," while Dayne sang multiple songs, including the Games' official anthem, "Facing A Miracle."

"I have been to several opening ceremonies, but Cologne did us queers right," said Sonya Lewis of Team Colorado, a tennis participant. "[There was] a feeling [that] everything is right with the world [at the opening ceremony]."

"The volunteers and organization was right on. You felt secure, yet free to be anything and who you are. Intermittent rain did not deter any spirits and there was ample time for reunions, kisses and hugs. Many athletes have attended these competitions dating back to 1982 and it showed by the squeals of glee and joy."

Kien Tran, a track competitor from San Francisco, was thrilled to walk into the opening ceremony—without help. He was injured about three weeks ago and said he was "lucky" to walk at the opening ceremony without crutches.

Tran carried the San Francisco Track & Field Club's banner during its march into the stadium.

"The competition this time seems very stiff," Tran said. "I will have to scratch both the 100-meter and the 200-meter [races] as they are too high impact [following my foot injury]. My hope is in the 800-meter, 400-meter, as well as the 4x100, 4x200, and 4x400 [races]. My first event is [Aug. 4]."

Tran said that, despite the light rain during the opening ceremony, most attendees were on their feet—and Westerwelle was given a standing ovation.

"His sweet and short message was that no religions can use religion as an excuse to condemn

[people in the LGBT community]," Tran said.

Tran also registered for billiards, which, no doubt, will be a lot less stressful on his injured foot.

Westerwelle has a partner, and mentioned him during his speech.

The opening ceremony was, though, criticized by some attendees who said it was way too long and boring, and that the athletes—where they were positioned in the stands—could not hear the speeches.

Several told Windy City Times that they left the event early because they were simply bored.

"One can mostly sleep through it," Team Chicago's Kyle Chang said of the opening ceremony—and he actually emailed that quote during the Opening. "The first hour of the ceremonies involved speeches, which increased beer and food sales, but did little in the way of capturing participant attention."

Jim Buzinski of Los Angeles, the co-founder of Outsports.com, reported that, after the procession of athletes, the opening ceremony was "snoozeville."

Chang praised the DJ for the opening ceremony and said that Agnes, "brought some energy and life to the celebration."

Andy Burke, who lives in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood, reported nothing but praise for his international journey, so far.

"I love Germany," he said late Sunday (Chicago time). "The people I've met from Germany and around the world are friendly and warm. We've been here for three days and it's been a whirlwind. Traveling around Cologne is easy on their trains. Cologne is welcoming to the Gay Games participants."

Burke is playing volleyball for Chicago Defiance, and the team played well on Day One, he said.

"Most of us [on this team] don't regularly play with one another like the teams we've played [against, such as] Germany, Czechoslovakia and Switzerland. Day One competition was strong and as we move forward in the week, we look for the level to rise.

"The bar scene is fun. I'm not used to walking the streets with an open container of alcohol. There are different pockets of gay bars throughout Cologne. The food has been yummy. It's interesting to see all of the cobble stone streets and historical buildings; that's very different from the United States."

Jessica Andrasko of Chicago also is playing volleyball in the Games, and her team went undefeated on Day One (Sunday), not even losing a game. They played France, Netherlands and Germany. "We are on our way to gold," she said.

Steve Orellana, a paramedic from Palm Bay, Fla., has been training for his first triathlon since January—and he captured first-place on August 1 at the Games, winning the Olympic Distance Triathlon Main Class (18-29 age group).

And what did Orellana do for an encore? He competed in the 10K road race a couple days later.

Kurt Dahl, the co-President of the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) and a Chicago-area resident, spent time Aug. 2 with U.S. Ambassador to Germany Phil Murphy.

"I have just spent entire day with U.S. ambassador Phil Murphy, touring various venues," Dahl said. "Ambassador Murphy, along with Vice Mayor Angela Spizig, handed out Gay Games medals to swimmers and divers, did the kickoff to open the first soccer game, and stayed to watch the last half of [a] water-polo game.

"Ambassador Murphy also spent considerable time meeting with the athletes, asking about their events, how they did, where they are from and posed [for] endless amount of photos. He also asked some great questions about the Gay Games, the LGBT community and about gay



Top row (from left) Chicago's Kyle Chang, Tom Chiola, Kevin Boyer, Drew Jemilo and Dick Uyvari. Bottom row (from left) Seattle's Kelly Stevens and Tim Murphy; they met July 30 at the Hilton City Center. Photo from Ross Forman

sports in general.

"It was a great opportunity for the FGG, the LGBT community and for Games Cologne to have such a high-ranking U.S. government official to be part of the Gay Games, albeit for a short time."

Dahl said the sports venues are great and many sports are within walking distance of each other: "In one day, I was able to watch my partner play softball, watch swimming, beach volleyball and then head over to watch some diving and water polo games, and then soccer.

"Cologne is so welcoming with Gay Games VIII flags all around the city and rainbow flags even more prominent than usual in this very gay-friendly city.

"The opening ceremonies was the opening salvo to a great week of celebration and even some rain could not dampen the revelry and the party atmosphere that emanated from the almost 10000 participants and crowd estimated at 25000. The two musical acts were fantastic and the finale with Taylor Dayne in the center of fire singing the Gay Games VIII anthem was not only amazing, but very moving. The celebration continued as people exited the stadium and onto the trams and into the downtown area.

"It has been a great start and I look forward to a great rest of [the] week. Games Cologne and the City of Cologne should be very proud host of Gay Games VIII."

Area residents have already made their mark in Cologne. Chicagoan Jeff Clark won his first two softball games Aug. 1, although he was playing for a Philadelphia team. Kevin Boyer of Chicago also is playing softball—for an Indianapolis team.

"My impressions, very well organized with plenty of enthusiastic volunteers," Boyer said. "Cologne has hit a home run."

"So far, so good," said Outsports.com co-founder Cyd Zeigler. "The organizing committee has done a great job putting this event together. The sports I've visited so far have all been efficient, on time and very well-organized. I'm impressed. The social atmosphere is fantastic. They've developed essentially a street fair in the gay area of town where it seems everyone is congregating both day and night. It's created a great feeling of camaraderie and unity that has been fantastic to be a part of.

"It's hard to find a criticism so far. If there's one [negative], it's that there were too many speeches to start the opening ceremony. The entire first hour was speech after speech. But after that, the energy picked up and the entertainment was exciting."

The Games also had a sad and scary moment for multisport competitor Hector Torres of Orlando, Fla. He was severely injured during the bicycling portion of the triathlon and had to be taken to the hospital.

"I was top five out of the water overall and

top three on the bike," Torres said Aug. 2. "This [other competitor] geared left when he was not supposed to and I flew off my bike." Torres had a "fractured skull, bleeding on the brain, a bad ankle and a bruised hip." Torres' prognosis was unknown before the press deadline.

The weather in Cologne has been overcast and in the 70s for the first few days.

"People marched into RhineEnergie Stadium in high spirits," said Chicagoan Paul Oostenbrug. "There were more than 100 Chicagoans in the procession, most of them in uniform. Since there did not seem to be much order to how participants from the United States were ordered, Chicago ended up towards the front of the lineup, which was nice.

"I had marched into the stadium with the Federation of Gay Games board and honorees, since I am a board member. Then I looped back to march in with Team Chicago, passing exotically dressed Thais, Mexicans, and Samoans. And a lone Pakistani. Teams marched into the stadium through two entrances, which speeded things up a bit.

"The [opening ceremony] started off with speeches. People particularly liked the gay German foreign minister, though he was whistled at [booed] by the Germans in the audience, [perhaps] because he is in the Conservative Party. Or [maybe] because he came out late in life. Who knows?"

Chicagoans Jerry Johnson and Curt Eakle were part of the chorus that performed at the opening ceremony.

For the first time, there was an orchestra (the Cologne Rainbow Symphony Orchestra) accompanied the chorus.

Oostenbrug added, "Chicagoan Dick Uyvari, who has been to every Gay Games except Sydney, said that this was the most impressive opening ceremony he had ever seen. Personally, I thought that the exploding volcano in Sydney was pretty spectacular, but I really enjoyed this one."

Oostenbrug spent most of Aug. 1 working at the FGG booth in Neumarkt, "where there was all day, and most of the night, entertainment," he said. "The crowd was really upbeat and happy to be here at Gay Games VIII.

"Chicagoan Jere Kelly remarked at how the Gay Games movement has come to maturity. He admired the tremendous amount of work that people from Cologne, people connected with the Federation of Gay Games, and volunteers from around the world had put forth. This 'base' allows the Games to take place every four years, getting stronger with each new edition."

The Federation of Gay Games announced this week they are ending the relationship with the host group for Gay Games IX in Cleveland, but still intend to remain in Cleveland for the 2014 Gay Games. See more online and in next week's issue.

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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. Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

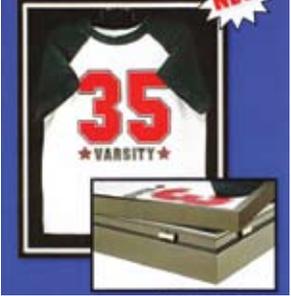
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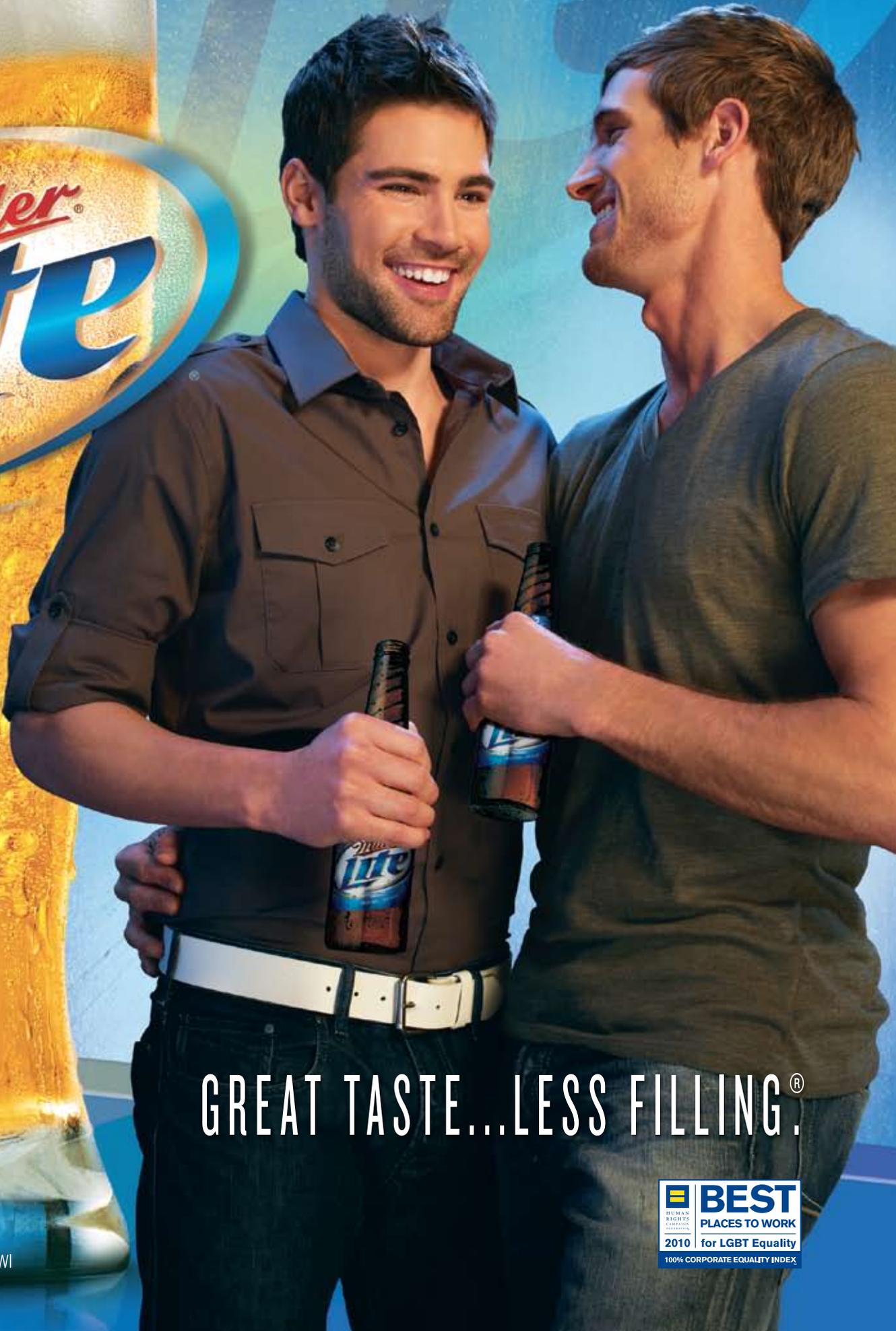
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