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Radio host
Stephanie Miller



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LGBT Voter
Registration Drive



page 12

Obejas Among
Hall of Fame
Inductees

nightspots
pick it up
take it home

DADT vote stalls in U.S. Senate

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The Senate has rejected a motion to break a Republican-led filibuster against an annual defense-spending bill that includes language aimed at ending the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) law banning gays. The Sept. 21 vote was 56 to 43.

The vote was uncertain all the way up to the vote, which started at 2:30 p.m. Eastern time, as Democratic leaders were reportedly trying to negotiate an agreement with one or two senators to reach the 60-vote count they needed to proceed. But Republicans stood united in their

contention that a procedural restriction placed on consideration of the annual defense-spending bill was politically motivated to win the votes of LGBT people and Latinos for the mid-term elections in November.

In the end, all seven moderate Republicans who were identified as potential supporters on the motion to proceed on the defense bill voted "no," as did Democrat Mark Pryor of Arkansas.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's rule called for amendments to be considered on only three items during discussion of the defense authorization bill this week—DADT, immigration and a Senate rule on secret holds on nominations. All other amendments, he said, would be taken up

after the mid-term elections.

Republican leadership immediately balked and charged Reid with playing politics with the defense bill. They refused to grant the necessary unanimous consent to proceed with consideration of the bill. So, Reid filed a motion last week to require the Senate to vote Tuesday on a motion to proceed without unanimous consent. That motion required 60 votes.

But that was no confidence that even all 59 Democrats would agree. Reports were circulating even as late as the afternoon of Sept. 21 that Senator Jim Webb, D-Va., might balk. But in the

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Show and tell

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Windy City Times talks with out designer Nate Berkus about his new daytime show. Read page 19. Photo by Jack Guy/Sony Pictures Television

Judy Shepard continues to fight for LGBT rights

BY JERRY NUNN

Judy Shepard is the mother of Matthew Shepard, who was a victim of a hate crime in Laramie, Wyo. Afterwards, she became a strong leader for LGBT rights and composed a memoir about the ordeal called *The Meaning of Matthew: My Son's Murder in Laramie, and a World Transformed*. Judy Shepard will be speaking at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, next week. She spoke exclusively with Windy City Times about the book.

Windy City Times: Hi, Judy. I just finished reading your book. Was [writing] it cathartic for you?

Judy Shepard: There is a yin and a yang to that, right? You have to go back there and relive all of those memories: the trial, the hospital and all of that. But the good part is that it allowed us as family—this was a collaboration so I could keep things in the right order—to remember the things about Matt that made us happy but annoyed us as well.

WCT: You were candid about a lot of things, which must have been hard to be.

JS: That was the reason that I wrote the book. I didn't feel it was fair to Matt or to his peers and friends to not be as honest as I could be, to my knowledge anyway. I wrote the book so people would meet Matt. I couldn't have done it another way.

WCT: For your appearance on Center on Hal-

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WINDY CITY TIMES

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Photos on cover (left): Stephanie Miller photo courtesy of Miller; photo of Lee Reinhart courtesy of Reinhart; photo of Achy Obejas by Ross Forman

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ZOE GOOD

Windy City Times talks with Rachel Zoe (left), star of Bravo's The Rachel Zoe Project.

Photo courtesy of Bravo



The Queer Film Society and Reeling hosted a screening of Howl, which stars James Franco.

Photo by Micki Leventhal



Dining: Amuse Bouche zeroes in on eggplant parmesan while Sugar & Spice reviews Vincent (above).

Photo by Shira Kollins

'PARTY' TIME

Read a review of the book Party Animals, which centers on the late, great gay movie/theater producer Allan Carr.

POLITICAL POWER

Read an account of a recent discussion at Jenner & Block headlined by U.S. Reps Mike Quigley and Jan Schakowsky.

MORE THEATER, MILLER

Read more of WCT's interview with now-out talk-radio host Stephanie Miller, and find out what one of our theater critics thought of Louis Slotin Sonata.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

Miss and Mr. Continental
Demi Moore at Hydrate
Jake Shears at Berlin

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'CHICAGO' HOPE



Chicago House CEO the Rev. Stan Sloan (above) was among those honored at "Who IS Chicago?" Sept. 16.

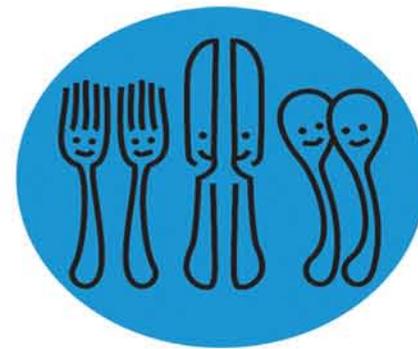
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Kagan's recusals possible barrier to pro-gay rulings

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

At first glance, it might draw a yawn: Elena Kagan, the U.S. Supreme Court's newest member, has recused herself from some cases that are coming before the court. But have a cup of coffee and ruminate for a few minutes over this list of cases that could very well be before the nation's highest court within a very few years:

Pery v. Schwarzenegger, *Gill v. Office of Personnel Management*, *Massachusetts v. Health and Human Services*, *Log Cabin Republicans v. U.S.*, and *Witt v. U.S.*

If Kagan recuses herself from any of these cases, the probability for a tie is the best the LGBT community can hope for in any of these cases. Rather than pinning hopes on Justice Anthony Kennedy to serve as a swing vote to victory, pro-gay attorneys will be desperate to persuade Kennedy in order to maintain the *status quo*.

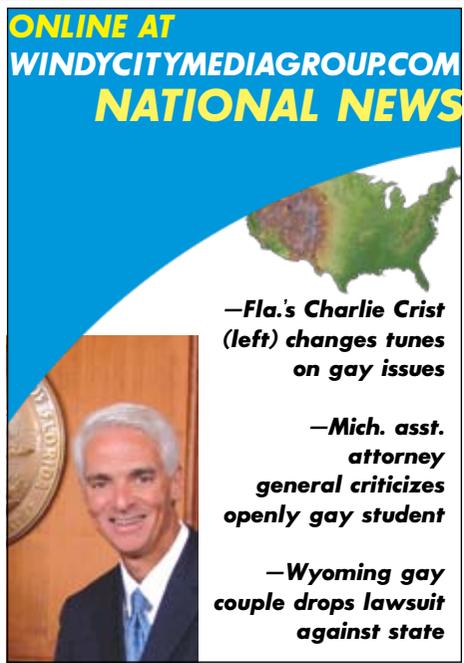
When there's a tie in the Supreme Court, the lower court ruling stands but applies only to that federal circuit.

So, if the 9th Circuit agrees with District Court Judge Vaughn Walker that California's same-sex marriage ban is unconstitutional and the Yes on 8 supporters of Proposition 8 appeal to the Supreme Court, the best gay-rights supporters could hope for—given the current ideological make-up of the court—is to preserve the 9th Circuit ruling for the nine 9th Circuit states.

On the other hand, if the 9th Circuit should disagree with Walker's ruling, perhaps the worst outcome would likely be that banning same-sex marriage would be considered constitutional in only those nine states.

Kagan, and other justices, also have the option of recusing themselves from votes about

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NATIONAL NEWS



—*Fla.'s Charlie Crist (left) changes tunes on gay issues*

—*Mich. asst. attorney general criticizes openly gay student*

—*Wyoming gay couple drops lawsuit against state*

whether to take a case for appeal. It takes four justices to agree to an appeal before the Supreme Court will hear it. So Kagan's vote is also critical to whether the high court will even hear a case brought by a pro-gay advocate.

The number of Kagan recusals for this term has gained notice in several law-oriented blogs. As the Blog of the Legal Times (BLT) noted Sept. 10, Kagan has, thus far, recused herself from 21 of the court's current 40 cases for the session that begins Oct. 4.

As BLT noted, Kagan said during her confirmation hearing this summer that she would recuse herself from any case in which she "personally reviewed a draft pleading or participated in discussions to formulate the government's litigating position."

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Read the entire Kagan article online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.

DADT from cover



Lady Gaga addresses the crowd at the #4the14k Rally in Portland, Maine. Photo by Terry Richardson

end, Webb stuck with Democrats and voted to proceed.

Pro-repeal advocates identified seven moderate Republicans they thought might be persuaded to vote for cloture, but on Sept. 20, one of those—Olympia Snowe of Maine—said no, and on the morning of Sept. 21 Susan Collins of Maine and George LeMieux of Florida joined her in refusing to cross the partisan divide.

Snowe said she believes DADT warrants a "thorough review," but she said the Senate should hold off its vote on repeal until after the Pentagon submits its report on implementation of repeal. The report is due Dec. 1.

Snowe also said she objected to Reid's limiting of the debate to just three amendments.

Collins, who supports the DADT repeal language, expressed anguish at Reid limiting the amendments. Even though she supports the repeal of DADT, said Collins, "I will defend the right of my colleagues to offer amendments on this issue and others. They deserve to have a civil, fair, and open debate on the Senate floor."

Sen. Scott Brown, R-Mass., said on the floor Sept. 21 that he, too, would oppose proceeding to the defense bill, saying he believed there should be an "open amendment" process.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Collins raised some "legitimate objections," and he assured both senators there would be an "open process." But he said there could be consideration of no amendments unless the Senate agrees to proceed to the defense authorization bill.

Reid did allow Republicans 15 minutes additional to debate the motion and enabled Minority Leader Mitch McConnell to propose a different procedure—one that would have apparently enabled unlimited amendments, the first 20 of which would have to be defense-related and none of which could relate to immigration. Reid, looking impatient, characterized McConnell's proposal as partisan bickering per usual and objected, forcing the motion for cloture to vote immediately.

Republicans had been beating a drum for the past week that two of the three amendments Reid would allow were non-defense related and shouldn't be part of the discussion. Log Cabin Republicans, which supports repeal of DADT, issued a press release Monday calling Reid's limit on amendments "partisan tactics" and urging Reid to allow other amendments.

But Levin disputed that argument. On the floor of the Senate Sept. 20, he itemized all the non-defense related amendments that have been considered on the defense authorization bill in previous years—including years in which Republicans were in the majority. In particular, he emphasized an amendment offered in 2000 by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., on

campaign reform.

Much of the news leading up to the Sept. 21 vote was focused on the involvement of popular performer Lady Gaga, who has used her various media platforms to direct attention to the effort to repeal DADT. The previous day, she led a rally in Portland, Maine, hoping to persuade the state's two senators—Snowe and Collins—to vote for cloture (a procedure for ending a debate and taking a vote) Sept. 21.

Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., questioned Levin's claims that top military leaders support repeal, saying Joint Chiefs Chairman Admiral Mike Mullen is an appointee of President Obama and that Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has not been an enthusiastic supporter of repeal. Sessions said Gates has simply "gone along" with Obama's directive. He noted that the chiefs of the various individual branches of military oppose the repeal.

Reid noted during Senate morning business Sept. 21 that the DADT amendment had been generating "all the attention" for the defense-bill vote. He emphasized that the DADT law "is not repealed" by the language in the bill.

Instead, he noted, the language provides for a process by which the law can be repealed. That process requires that the president, the secretary of defense, and the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff all "certify" in writing that they have read the Pentagon report on how best to implement repeal and have considered whatever recommendations are made in the report. They must further certify that the necessary regulations to accompany repeal have been developed and that repeal is "consistent with the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting and retention of the Armed Forces."

Minority Leader Mitchell said the cloture vote on the defense bill was a political tactic by Democrats seeking to "show special interest groups that they haven't forgotten about them."

McCain, one of the most ardent opponents of DADT repeal, said he was not opposed to debating repeal but was opposed to bringing up the defense bill before the Pentagon survey of troops is completed.

"This is all about elections," said McCain, who contended that voting on DADT would be "ignoring" the views of the troops, adding, "We are pursuing the social agenda of the Democratic party."

Vice President Joe Biden said last week he was vigorously working for passage of the DADT repeal, but his schedule on Sept. 21 kept him in meetings at the White House. The White House issued a statement, through its Office of Management and Budget, expressing support for the overall defense-authorization bill. The statement listed 15 areas of "concern." The fifth issue listed was DADT; the statement said it supports the language that calls for the certification process leading to repeal of DADT.

On MSNBC Sept. 21, Alex Nicholson, head of Servicemembers United, criticized Reid for pushing the cloture vote without compromising on how many amendments could be heard: "If Senator Reid would just budge a little bit and come to an agreement on a reasonable way to proceed, we could potentially get the votes. But so far, he's not been willing to do that, unfortunately."

Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, called the Sept. 21 vote a "frustrating blow. We lost because of the political maneuvering dictated by the mid-term elections. Opponents to repealing 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' did not have the votes to strike those provisions from the bill. Instead, they had the votes for delay."

Sarvis also expressed concern that chances for repeal will dim considerably following the mid-terms.

As majority leader, Reid has the option to bring the cloture motion up again at any point.

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Nikolai Alexseev. Photo by Andrew Davis

WORLD ROUNDUP

BY REX WOCKNER

Russian gay leader abducted, released

Moscow Pride founder and leader Nikolai Alexseev has reported that he was abducted by government agents of some sort at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport Sept. 15 and held for more than two days.

He was seized after passing through passport control and taken to a room by security officials and an airline worker, he said. There, his luggage, documents and computer were examined for more than two hours.

Alexseev then was turned over to what he called "hulking men in civilian clothes, with faces not disfigured by intellect," who removed him from the airport via nonpublic passageways and drove him to a police facility two hours away, where he was further searched. In a moment when he was left alone, Alexseev used his iPad to discover where he was.

"I got my iPad and with two taps learned my location," he said. "If I did not have this device, I would have never found out where I was the first day. Thanks, Apple! The location showed up as the city of Kashira. I began frantically finger-zooming the map to find the exact address, but there was no 3G Internet there and the EDGE network loads maps very slowly. ... Afraid that they would catch me, I disconnected the iPad completely. Then they tried to get into it, but couldn't, because it was password-protected."

Alexseev said he was mocked and insulted, called "faggot" and "pederast," probably drugged via a glass of water, and eventually presented with a paper to sign, which said that an agreement had been reached to drop his lawsuits at the European Court of Human Rights over Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov's bans of gay pride parades. He didn't sign it, "despite persistent 'advice' not to enter into conflict with the authorities."

The second night, Alexseev was moved to another police facility in the city of Tula, farther south of Moscow, he said. Around the same time, someone used his cell phone to text false information to the media -- saying that Alexseev was in Belarus, had sought political asylum there, and was dropping his European court cases.

When this was reported in the media, activists and journalists around the world who have regular contact with Alexseev strongly suspected that the information had not come from Alexseev or that he was no longer in control of his own mind.

Alexseev was released on the outskirts of Tula early the morning of Sept. 18, made his way to the city center, and took a bus to Moscow, he said.

"I intend to sue the Domodedovo Airport and its aviation-security services, which violated in-

ternational law and forced me back under Russian jurisdiction," Alexseev said.

"In addition, my ticket was bought in Switzerland. Thus, the contract between Swiss Air Lines and the passenger falls under Swiss law. In this regard, I will seek a trial in Switzerland. I will also demand a complete investigation into the basis of crimes against me in the form of illegal deprivation of freedom and kidnapping."

(Though he speaks English fluently, Alexseev's primary lengthy account of his ordeal was written in Russian on his LiveJournal blog, and the quotations here have been translated. On Facebook, Alexseev said he would "get mad" if he tried to translate it.)

In a five-year battle with Luzhkov, who has banned the gay pride march each year and sent police to arrest small groups of activists who defied the bans, Alexseev, a lawyer, has filed a series of lawsuits at the European Court of Human Rights. The court has merged the cases and is expected to deal with them this year.

"It appears the Russian authorities realize their inevitable humiliating defeat at the European Court of Human Rights and employ such desperate methods as intimidation, threats and abduction to prevent it," said the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, or ILGA-Europe.

Gay Saudi diplomat seeks U.S. asylum

The former first secretary of Saudi Arabia's consulate in Los Angeles has requested asylum in the United States because he says he'll be executed for being gay if he returns home.

"If I go back to Saudi Arabia, they will kill me openly in broad daylight," Ali Ahmad Asseri e-mailed media outlets in mid-September.

Asseri said Saudi officials ordered him home after finding out he's gay and is friends with a Jew. He apparently has been in hiding since.

The U.S. does grant asylum to foreign gays if the U.S. is convinced they face genuine harm in their native lands. The laws treat gay asylum-seekers as members of "a particular social group."

Saudi Arabia's entry in the United States' 2009 State Department Human Rights Reports says: "Under Shari'a as interpreted in the country, sexual activity between two persons of the same gender is punishable by death or flogging. It is illegal for men 'to behave like women' or to wear women's clothes and vice versa. There were few reports of societal discrimination, physical violence, or harassment based on sexual orientation. There were no organizations of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons. There

was no official discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, statelessness, or access to education or health care. Sexual orientation could constitute the basis for harassment, blackmail, or other actions. No such cases were reported."

The entry continues: "On June 13, Riyadh police arrested 67 men from the Philippines for drinking and dressing in women's clothing at a private party. According to their embassy, police released the men to their employers while charges were being processed. In 2007 the newspaper Okaz reported the public flogging of two men in the city of Al-Bahah after being found guilty of sodomy. The sentence was 7,000 lashes."

George Michael sent to jail

Gay pop singer George Michael was jailed for eight weeks in London on Sept. 14 for crashing his car into a building last July after apparently mixing pot and prescription drugs.

The court also took away his driver's license for five years and fined him nearly \$2,000.

It was Michael's fourth incident of being caught driving while seemingly impaired, and his second conviction on such charges.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

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Do not take REYATAZ if you are taking the following medicines due to potential for serious, life-threatening side effects or death: Versed[®] (midazolam) when taken by mouth, Halcion[®] (triazolam), ergot medicines (dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as Cafegot[®], Migranal[®], D.H.E. 45[®], ergotrate maleate, Methergine[®], and others), Propulsid[®] (cisapride), or Orap[®] (pimozide).

Do not take REYATAZ with the following medicines due to potential for serious side effects: Camptosar[®] (irinotecan), Crixivan[®] (indinavir), Mevacor[®] (lovastatin), Zocor[®] (simvastatin), Uroxatral[®] (alfuzosin), or Revatio[®] (sildenafil).

Do not take REYATAZ with the following medicines as they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood, which may lead to increased HIV viral load and resistance to REYATAZ or other anti-HIV medicines: rifampin (also known as Rimactane[®], Rifadin[®], Rifater[®], or Rifamate[®]), St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)-containing products, or Viramune[®] (nevirapine).

Serevent Diskus[®] (salmeterol) and Advair[®] (salmeterol with fluticasone) are **not recommended with REYATAZ.**

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The above lists of medicines are not complete. **Taking REYATAZ with some other medicines may require your therapy to be monitored more closely or may require a change in dose or dose schedule of REYATAZ or the other medicine.** Discuss with your healthcare provider all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take.

Tell your healthcare provider if you are **pregnant, breast-feeding**, planning to become pregnant or breast-feed, or if you have **end-stage kidney disease** managed with hemodialysis or **severe liver dysfunction.**

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

- **Mild rash** (redness and itching) without other symptoms sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment.

- **Severe rash** has occurred in a small number of patients taking REYATAZ. This type of rash is associated with other symptoms that could be serious and potentially cause death. **If you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms, stop using REYATAZ and call your healthcare provider right away:**

- Shortness of breath
- General ill-feeling or “flu-like” symptoms
- Fever
- Muscle or joint aches
- Conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like “pink-eye”)
- Blisters
- Mouth sores
- Swelling of your face

- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).

- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur. You may feel dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.

- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.

- **If you have liver disease**, including hepatitis B or C, it may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.

- **Kidney stones** have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ. Signs or symptoms of kidney stones include pain in your side, blood in your urine, and pain when you urinate.

- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ.

- **Changes in body fat** have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

- **Gallbladder disorders** (including gallstones and gallbladder inflammation) have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ.

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

You should take REYATAZ once daily with food (a meal or snack). Swallow the capsules whole; do not open the capsules. You should take REYATAZ and your other anti-HIV medicines exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.

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

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birthday
party

Thursday
5:30
Choir
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REYATAZ[®]
(atazanavir sulfate) 200 mg/300 mg capsules

Fight HIV your way.

Please see Important Patient Information about REYATAZ on the adjacent pages.

how you spend your time is up to you.



Individual results
may vary.

Once-daily REYATAZ can help fight your HIV.

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

- ◆ Can help lower your viral load and raise your T-cell (CD4+ cell) count
- ◆ Has a low chance of diarrhea (shown in clinical trials)
 - REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1%-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea in adults.
- ◆ Is taken once a day with a snack or meal

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

Do not take REYATAZ if you are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients.

Ask your healthcare team about REYATAZ www.REYATAZ.com

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

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Patient Information

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

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

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

What is REYATAZ?

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

Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?

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

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

Who should not take REYATAZ?

Do not take REYATAZ if you:

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

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?

Tell your healthcare provider:

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

REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

How should I take REYATAZ?

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

Can children take REYATAZ?

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

What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?

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

The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:

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

REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- CRIXIVAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIXIVAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).
- UROXATRAL® (alfuzosin, used to treat benign enlargement of the prostate).
- REVATIO® (sildenafil, used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension).

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

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

The following medicines are not recommended with REYATAZ:

- SEREVENT DISKUS® (salmeterol) and ADVAIR® (salmeterol with fluticasone), used to treat asthma, emphysema/chronic obstructive pulmonary disease also known as COPD.

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

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely (for some medicines a change in the dose or dose schedule may be needed):

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil), used to treat erectile dysfunction. REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- ADCIRCA® (tadalafil) or TRACLEER® (bosentan), used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension.
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin) or CRESTOR® (rosuvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.

REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin, an antibiotic used to treat tuberculosis).
- BUPRENEX®, SUBUTEX®, SUBOXONE®, (buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone, used to treat pain and addiction to narcotic painkillers).
- VASCOR® (bepridil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporin), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).
- The antidepressant trazodone (DESYREL® and others).
- Fluticasone propionate (FLONASE®, FLOVENT®), given by nose or inhaled to treat allergic symptoms or asthma. Your doctor may choose not to keep you on fluticasone, especially if you are also taking NORVIR®.
- Colchicine (COLCRYS®), used to prevent or treat gout or treat familial Mediterranean fever.

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

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

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

Remember:

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

How should I store REYATAZ?

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

General information about REYATAZ

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

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

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?

Active Ingredient: atazanavir sulfate

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

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Panel provides report on marriage rights

BY MICKI LEVENTHAL

Lambda Legal attorney Camilla Taylor and state Rep. Deborah Mell, D-Chicago, joined journalist Laura Washington at the Chicago History Museum (CHM) Sept. 14 for a lively update on the status of marriage rights for LGBT individuals. The event, part of CHM's In The K/Now public education series, was intended to be a debate. However, museum staffers were unable to secure a commitment from an anti-marriage activist to participate and the resulting program felt more like a rally; when polled, only two people in the near-capacity audience admitted to being against marriage rights.

Mell made national news in April when she took a "point of personal privilege" on the House floor to announce her engagement to her partner Christin Baker and talk about their upcoming trip to Iowa to get married (see video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWUSejGaE08>). One of her motives, she explained at the CHM program, was to put a face to the issue because she wants her colleagues "to know us" and to know



From left: State Rep. Deb Mell, Laura Washington and Camilla Taylor. Photo by Micki Leventhal

Baker when the Civil Unions Act comes up for a vote in the Illinois legislature after the November elections.

"Gay people will be allowed to marry in Illinois someday," said Mell. "I'm not thrilled about civil unions; I want access to the institution of marriage," she added, explaining that there has been a positive shift in attitude in Baker's family since the engagement announcement as "marriage is very important in her family. Getting 'civil unionized' does not have the same quality to it. Taylor—who was the lead counsel

on *Varnum v. Brien*, the lawsuit filed in 2005 that was the basis for the unanimous 2009 Iowa Supreme Court ruling granting same-sex couples equal marriage rights—noted that "civil unions can never be equal to marriage." However, she admitted that "we have work remaining in Illinois; we're not there yet."

While supporters are secure in a plentitude of votes in support of civil unions for Illinois, that support drops sharply when marriage is brought into the mix. At this time, Mell explained, civil unions are "doable." After passage of the bill,

advocates in and out of the legislature will continue to work for full marriage equality. "I'm very comfortable with how things are progressing," she said. "Greg Harris [lead bill sponsor and the only other out gay member of the General Assembly] is a very talented legislator."

Taylor stressed the need for more public education and outreach. "You need to have the legal decision embraced so that you can hold onto victory, you don't want a backlash. In Iowa, 53 percent of the public supports gay marriage."

She explained that while Iowa may be thought of as an unlikely place to support gay marriage, the state actually has a "long tradition of leadership on civil-rights issues." It was the first state to let a woman onto the bar, the first state with court-ordered desegregation of schools and the first state to refuse to accommodate the Fugitive Slave Act.

Taylor found that during the years of public education in Iowa "because of the rural nature there was a 'live and let live' mentality and basic respect for discourse." She did caution that there is some concern around the November elections: three of the Iowa judges are up for retention and rights opponents around the country are sending money to fight their retention.

Things have moved slowly in Illinois due in part to the amount of resources that have been devoted to "standing up against targeted measures of popular expressions of dislike or hatred against a minority," Taylor said.

Illinois does not have a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage (although state statute defines marriage as "a union between a man and a woman"), but because the state has an advisory referendum process there is a perpetual resource drain fighting efforts to get a ban on the ballot.

Washington noted that at the heart of the issue are language and the perception "that marriage is a sacred activity that has a religious connotation to it."

Taylor stated that any church or religious institution can decide if it will perform a faith-based union between individuals. "Religion does not speak with a monolithic voice," she said, noting objections to performing marriage rites for divorced individuals or interfaith couples in certain religions.

However, "when we are talking about equality, we're talking about how government treats you. It is inherently wrong for government to say to some families that you are not as good as other families and we will not let you participate in the only institution that we recognize as a family," she said. "If government makes available an institution to some people, it is sound constitutional law that that institution be available to everyone."

For the time being, marriage rights advocates will support the Illinois Civil Union Act (SB 1716) which "defines civil union as a legal relationship between 2 persons, of either the same or opposite sex, established in accordance with the Act. Provides that a party to a civil union shall be entitled to the same legal obligations, responsibilities, protections, and benefits afforded or recognized by the law of Illinois to spouses."

During the Q&A one audience member asked Taylor to speculate on a U.S. Supreme Court vote. Taylor was optimistic and noted that federal courts are increasingly ruling in favor of LGBT questions, viewing sexual orientation classification issues the same as sexual (male/female) classification issues. She said that in court decisions gay people are increasingly being treated with respect as individuals and that we have moved beyond the time when it was okay to say that gay people are repugnant or that the "desire to express disapproval for another group of people is an okay basis for legislation."

Taylor said the two cases to watch are the challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act with the Massachusetts' *Gill v. Office of Personnel Management* and California's Prop 8 case, which "has the potential to strike down all state marriage bans."

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Gay man leads movement for voter registration

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

Lee Reinhart, director of We Are Voting Illinois (WAVI), wants you to vote and make your voice heard in this year's elections. "We have families, we have financial and employment concerns, health care concerns and, of course, we have civil rights concerns. With concerns as broad and important as those, we need to have a voice and a vote," he explained, talking about the LGBT community, specifically.

Reinhart understands the importance of having a voice and using that voice to make a difference and, for the past four years, he has stepped out into the spotlight as an advocate for the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT), a law he was directly affected by in 2002.

"I served in the Navy from 1995-1999. The last two years I served openly as a gay man," Reinhart said. "I never once had any problems. After the events of Sept 11, 2001, I decided to return to active duty but chose the Coast Guard. I entered the Coast Guard in the spring of 2002 but within six months I was being discharged under DADT simply because I went to a gay bar in Portland, Ore. It has been my mission and deep passion since to see DADT repealed."

Reinhart saw first-hand how subjective DADT is. He explained, "I was definitely out my last two years in the Navy and never once had any issue. I, along with three other openly gay men, was blessed to be on a ship where we were judged by the content of our character not by our sexual orientation. We served alongside men who saw us as their friend or brother. The law is so subjective that a military member could be at one command where he or she is accepted and is allowed to serve, then moves on to a new command where the commanding officer may be homophobic and chooses to end the service member's career. That is what happened in my case."

The experience influenced Reinhart to believe in the power and influence of each individual and led him to his current involvement with WAVI.

"I realize that one can't just sit on the sidelines and hope someone else fixes the problem for you," he said. "I got myself involved in every way possible and the last three to four years have been an intense ride for me, making trips to D.C., lobbying, marches and town halls. [I continued] to tell my own personal story of how I was affected by DADT. I believe the more stories people tell the more people listen and take notice."

He continued, "I am extremely excited to be in the city and working with WAVI. I love being out on the streets meeting folks. My biggest hope is that folks sense the passion and drive I have, begin to feel it themselves, and decide to do their own small part and become part of the process. That starts by getting registered."

Out on the streets for WAVI, Reinhart encourages passersby to stop and register to vote so that they too can make their voice heard, make their story count.

"Regardless of your partisan views, the LGBT voice needs to be heard on the issues," he said, citing examples from the upcoming election, "In this year's Governor election, LGBT voters have a choice between a candidate who supports abortion rights and another who opposes abortion even in cases of rape or incest. LGBT voters have a choice between a candidate who supports the pending civil union legislation and a candidate who wants a constitutional amendment prohibiting gay marriage. LGBT voters have a choice between a candidate who opposes any form of gun control and a candidate who believes in constraints on assault weapons. These differences, regardless of a voter's views, represent a choice for LGBT voters."



Lee Reinhart. Photo courtesy of Reinhart

Reinhart has a lot of help hitting the pavement this year: "We organize volunteers from all kinds of non-profit organizations and support the registration effort so that volunteers only have to show up and work with prospective voters. We try to have volunteers on the streets and in the places people visit. In a non-partisan way, we try to raise awareness of the importance of voter registration and voting. We also try to remind folks who have moved since the last election that they need to re-register."

WAVI volunteers are out working to register voters every day of the week. On weekends, they are stationed at "L" stops and during the week they are often invited to register voters within businesses, community centers, health agencies and even coffee shops. This past Saturday, Reinhart and his volunteers concentrated their efforts on the North Side, in the 40th and 48th wards. Reinhart said, "Volunteers are stationed at stores like Jewel [and] Dominicks, along Clark Street in Andersonville and the area 'L' stops. Rain may reduce foot traffic, but does not deter us."

"In elections all over the country we have seen that only a handful of votes can determine the outcome of important races. In the February Republican primary for Illinois governor, the winning candidate prevailed by less than 200 votes statewide. In other words, every vote matters and, as a community, we need to embrace the political responsibility, regardless of partisan views, that comes with being visible and influential.

"Also, in terms of convenience, this is the first year Illinois voters can vote by mailing in a ballot without needing an explanation for submitting absentee; Illinois now makes it easier for voters to participate."

So, what's next for Reinhart? He will continue

to work as an advocate to repeal DADT, and said, "Once the law is repealed I will immediately, day one, begin to look at my options and begin the process of re-entering the service if allowed to do so. It depends on the circumstances and my age at the time if I will choose active or reserve duty, but I will do my best to get back in."

The last day to register to vote for the Nov. 2 election is Tuesday, Oct. 5. Visit <http://www.chicagoelections.com> or <http://www.cookcountyclerk.com>.

Early voting will be offered at all Chicago locations Tuesday, Oct. 12, through Thursday, Oct. 28.

Chicago Abortion Fund's 25th-anniv. gala Sept. 23

Chicago Abortion Fund will hold its 25th-anniversary gala Thursday, Sept. 23, 6-8 p.m., at Macy's State Street, 111 N. State, in the Narcissus Room. Heather Booth and The Abortion Seven of the Jane Movement will be honored.

Tickets are \$75-\$100, depending on the date they are purchased. See <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/122273> or <http://www.chicagoabortionfund.com/>.

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Hall of Fame inducting 11 people, four groups

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues has released the names of 11 individuals and four organizations to be inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, the only known government-sponsored hall of fame that honors members of the LGBT community.

The event will take place Wed., Nov. 10, in Sidney R. Yates Gallery at the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m., and the program is scheduled for 6 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. The inductees are as follows:

Individuals

—Claudia Allen, 55, perhaps the most prolific contemporary writer of lesbian-themed plays; 11 of her 24 produced plays have lesbian themes or a major character who is lesbian or bisexual, including *Hannah Free*, which premiered at Chicago's Bailiwick Repertory Theatre in 1992 and became an award-winning feature film in 2009

—Dan Di Leo (1938-1989), a U.S. Army veteran and co-founder of *Gay Chicago Magazine*; his experience and knowledge as a journalist and businessman were largely responsible for the early growth of the magazine, which is a cornerstone of Chicago's LGBT community; he died of complications from AIDS

—Scott Free, 50, activist, musician, and founder of both *Homolatte*, the longest-running queer performance series in the nation, and *ALT Q*, another of the nation's longest running festivals for LGBTQ performers

—Bob Gammie, 84, an active organizer and fundraiser since 1949, for his many years of community service, including being one of the first organizers of gay activities in non-bar settings, in particular the volleyball games in Lincoln Park that grew into the Lincoln Park Lagoons, which continues to flourish

—E. Patrick Johnson, 43, scholar, artist, and performer; for his leadership in the African-American LGBT community, including publishing two books that focus on black LGBT life: *Black Queer Studies* and *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South*, an oral history of Black gay men

—David Ernesto Munar, 40, for his leadership and advocacy on both local and national LGBTQ and Latino issues and, as a person living with HIV, for his work to shape local, state, and federal policy on HIV/AIDS

—Achy Obejas, 54, activist and writer; appointed by former Mayor Harold Washington to

the city's first Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues and by former Mayor Eugene Sawyer to his Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, she worked to secure passage of the Chicago Human Rights ordinance; as a journalist she shared a Pulitzer Prize in 2001, and she has published fiction, non-fiction and poetry

—Paul G. Oostenbrug, 60, runner and community volunteer, for his long and dedicated service to Team Chicago, which takes LGBT Chicagoans to the Gay Games, and for his involvement on the boards of the Federation of Gay Games and Chicago House, a local AIDS service agency

—Jose R. Rios, 42, police officer, for his nine years of service as the Chicago Police Department's liaison to the LGBT communities of Chicago, including his extensive outreach to the deaf community, youth, other government offices, community organizations and police departments across the nation

—The Rev. Stan Sloan, 47, Episcopal priest and CEO of Chicago House, for his dedicated and innovative leadership in the homeless and AIDS service communities, including opening Sweet Miss Giving's Bakery, which serves as both a jobs program and a source of income for Chicago House

—Mark E. Wojcik, 48, legal scholar, John Marshall Law School professor, and founder of the Chicago Bar Association's Committee on Legal Rights of Lesbian and Gay Men, for leadership and mentorship in the legal profession and for promoting legislative change at the state and federal levels

Organizations

—Asians & Friends: Chicago, for 26 years of providing a social network for gay men of Asian descent and building a bridge between them and the larger LGBT community, culturally, socially, and philanthropically; as one of the first organizations of its kind, it inspired other similar groups to form elsewhere

—International Mr. Leather, for 31 years of drawing worldwide attention and attendance to Chicago by way of its annual weekend of events for the international leather community, significantly contributing to Chicago's tourism revenue; it has also been a pioneer in support of LGBT rights and health issues

Friends of the community

—American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, for decades of support for the civil liberties of the LGBT community and persons living with HIV as well as for advocacy of nondiscrimination laws covering sexual orientation, gender identity, and HIV status

—Chicago History Museum, for decades of acquiring and preserving LGBT historical documents and artifacts and for its groundbreaking "Out at CHM" lecture series, which presents LGBT history in the context of Chicago history

Windy City Times' 25th-anniversary issue out Sept. 29

CHICAGO—Windy City Times newspaper is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a special edition Sept. 29. The issue will feature front pages from the first year of the newspaper, in 1985, as well as columns and articles reflecting back on its founding.

As AIDS was devastating the community and activists fought hard for a gay-rights ordinance, Windy City Times covered some of the most important events and milestones of the Chicago, national, and international gay movements. Windy City Times has won numerous journalism and community awards, and several of its writers and editors have gone on to great acclaim in mainstream journalism.

Windy City Times was founded in September 1985 by Jeff McCourt, Bob Bearden, Drew Badanish, and Tracy Baim, along with dozens of freelance writers, typesetters, photographers, and other individuals. Both McCourt and Bearden have since passed away. Baim is publisher of Windy City Media Group, which produces Windy City Times, *Nightspots*, *Windy City Queercast*, and other gay media. (Baim left the original Windy City Times in 1987 to start *Outlines* newspaper, and *Outlines* purchased Windy City Times from McCourt in 2000.)

"We have hundreds of people to thank for their work on Windy City Times and other related gay media in Chicago," said Baim. "We also could not have done this without the support of our advertisers and our readers. We also have a wonderful team of investors who have

allowed us to serve the community these 25 years."

As all media face a changing landscape, Windy City Media Group has taken on the challenge. The company uses social media tools to reach readers, has an iPhone application, and is easily readable in text or document form on the iPad and other mobile readers that access the Internet. Windy City Times is among the oldest weekly gay newspapers in the country and performs consistently well on reader response surveys.

"We consider ourselves a daily media company, and we post breaking news online when it happens," Baim said. "However, it is very important to stay committed to the print edition of Windy City Times, as many of our readers still need access to the print form to get news and entertainment stories about our community. We look forward to continuing to serve the gay community we are so proud to be part of."

The anniversary issue will feature a new design, as well as columns by writers who worked in gay media, and for Windy City Times, in the 1980s. The new design is by Art Director Kirk Williamson. Managing Editor Andrew Davis is coordinating the edition, and Director of New Media Jean Albright will post online-only features. Assistant Publisher Terri Klinsky, Senior Sales Associate Amy Matheny and Business Manager Meghan Streit round out the Windy City Media Group staff, and they are joined by dozens of other writers, photographers, delivery people and more.

For details, call 773-871-7610 or e-mail advertising@windycitymediagroup.com. Also, see <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com>.

Conference looks at aspects of sexuality

BY SAMUEL WORLEY

AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) President Mark Ishaug welcomed participants Sept. 16 to "Sex and the City," an AFC-sponsored conference on men and HIV that met in the South Loop. Kicking off a day of workshops exploring topics such as health, faith, sexuality and race, Ishaug said, "The purpose of today is to give everybody tools."

"Thirty years ago, we screamed 'Silence equals death,'" Ishaug exhorted the crowd, many of whom were HIV/AIDS advocates and service providers. "I think we need to keep shouting that. I implore you to keep screaming and shouting and singing and dancing."

The first presentation, by DePaul University psychologist Gary Harper, focused on intersecting identities—including race and sexuality—and invisibility. "A lot of what I'm going to be talking about is bolstering a sense of self, a sense of value," Harper said at the beginning of his remarks. "There's so many different negative societal forces that can really fragment your identity."

Harper spent much of the hour-long presenta-

tion defining and clarifying terms. He said that he preferred to use the phrase "gay and bisexual men," for instance, rather than "men who have sex with men (MSM)," a term favored by epidemiologists because, in describing behavior, it steers clear of ascribing identity. MSM, though, "gets down to just us as our penis," said Harper, "and we're about so much more."

Harper said that much of his work as a psychologist has been with young men of color, whose attitudes toward sex and love have been heavily impacted by cultural factors—including racism and heterosexism. His suggestions for how to intervene involved identifying and challenging the cultural messages that are targeted at young people. "We have to explore multiple layers of negative societal messages," Harper said. "Spend a week and just look at TV. See how many times these images are of Black men, and of black gay men in particular."

Harper also told the audience that men working in HIV prevention and treatment need to hear voices other than their own. "As men, we have a lot to learn from women," he said, referencing the "very powerful" political work done by Black and Latina activists.

And, Harper said, "we need to learn a lot more from young people. Some of us have a lot of baggage. I think we need to sit down with [young] people more and see the way they've been pulling these identities together."

PASSAGES

Eduardo Parada-Alcantara

Eduardo Josue Parada-Alcantara, passed away Sept. 9. He was 50.

Parada-Alcantara was born in Usulután, El Salvador, Nov. 14, 1959. He was the son of Amelia Alcantara and Rafael Parada and is survived by his brothers, David Parada (North Carolina) and Jose Parada (El Salvador). He has numerous nephews and nieces as well as a plenitude of friends from around the world that will miss his special smile.

He was battling with non-Hodgkin Lymphoma for little over a year after being diagnosed.

Those close to him would like to thank his doctors and nurses from Prentice Women's Hospital, especially the 15th floor staff.

Parada-Alcantara graduated with a degree in electrical engineering from San Salvador University. He later came to the United States and decided to stay; he became a citizen Oct. 31, 1995.

He was a great friend and was devoted to his family. He would be the first one up for an adventure and loved trying new cuisines, meeting new friends and traveling around the world.

Donations may be made on behalf of Parada-Alcantara to the American Cancer Society under <http://www.main.acsevents.org/goto/eduardoparada>.

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a GAY in the LIFE



Luis Antonio Galvez & Roy C. Smith

Tenors

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN




the stats

Name
 Luis Antonio Galvez

Job
 Teacher

Performance Venues
 Taste of Peru in Rogers Park on the last Sunday of every month

It's a fact...
 He has earned certificates as a master gardener and a piano tuner.



Luis Antonio Galvez looks forward to the Jewish High Holidays every year, so he can sing in the choir at Temple Sholom, located along Lake Shore Drive in Lakeview, which he did last week for Yom Kippur—just as he's done for 20 years.

Galvez, 46, even had a solo performance.

"I've always enjoyed singing with that choir. I really love the music," said Galvez, who sings in Hebrew and English.

A native of Peru, Galvez also has performed in Russian, Italian, French, German and other languages.



Galvez and his partner of 20 years, Roy C. Smith, are the two tenors—soulmates living together in Skokie and, of course, singing mates.

"We've learned a lot from each other," Galvez said.

Smith travels more than 100,000 miles annually, usually on United Airlines, for singing gigs around the world. Galvez puts about 25,000 miles annually on his car for performances.

"I'm proud to represent the Latino community, especially where you might not expect to see a Latino," said Galvez, who graduated from Chicago's Gordon Tech High School in 1982.




the stats

Name
 Roy C. Smith

Job
 Opera singer

Education
 BA and Master's in music, and a doctorate in musical arts

Hobbies
 Web design, cooking, teaching, writing country music

It's a fact...
 He is writing two screenplays.



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

 Community Marketing, Inc.



REV.
IRENE
MONROE

Will Tea Party climate repeal DADT?

With the worldwide kerfuffle about an Islamophobic minister, Rev. Terry Jones of Gainesville, Fla., threatening to burn the Koran on the ninth anniversary of 9/11, little attention last week was given to a federal district court judge's ruling that the military's "don't ask, don't tell" (DADT) ban on gays and lesbians serving openly is unconstitutional.

"In order to justify the encroachment on these rights, defendants faced the burden at trial of showing the 'Don't ask, don't tell' act was necessary to significantly further the government's important interests in military readiness and unit cohesion. Defendants failed to meet that burden," the judge wrote.

While it is a laudable act that the California judge, Virginia A. Phillips, struck down former President Bill Clinton's 1993 policy that bars LGBTQ servicemembers from the military, how does her action strengthen the Pentagon's study, a review due this Dec. 1 on how to maintain the military's "unit cohesion" while integrating LGBTQ servicemembers, in our favor?

At the end of the day, despite Phillips' historic ruling, the plight of our LGBTQ servicemembers remain unchanged.

To date, more than 13,500 LGBTQ servicemembers have been discharged under DADT, and the number continues to grow.

Polls have revealed, however, that where the country was in 1993 with DADT is vastly differ-

ent from where the country is today. As a matter of fact, most Americans—even Republicans—are not adverse to the military having LGBTQ servicemembers.

In May, with a vote of 230 to 191, the House of Representatives passed to repeal DADT. On the same day the House passed to repeal DADT, so too did the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"This legislation will help make our armed forces even stronger and more inclusive by allowing gay and lesbian soldiers to serve honestly and with integrity," President Obama told the Associated Press.

Supporters of lifting the ban argue that allowing LGBTQ servicemembers to serve openly would improve the military because it would draw tens of thousands of additional recruits. And government reports have shown that many of our LGBTQ servicemembers who have been discharged under DADT had critical skills, such as foreign-language proficiency, that are in great demand for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

And just last week a surprise Twitter feed of "One Man, One Woman," a group that describes itself as "working to preserve, protect, and defend the institution of marriage between a man and a woman," wrote, "There is no need to prohibit gays and lesbians from openly serving in the Armed Forces. They should have the opportunity to serve."

But with the momentum of Tea Party candidates—who are anti-Obama, anti-abortion and anti-gay rights—unseating long-term Republican incumbents in this recent primary and with midterm elections now just weeks away, the chances of repealing DADT is looking slimmer.

Also, with both Republican and Democratic candidates revving up to campaign for midterm elections, playing to their bases concerns about taxes and the economy, putting pressure on the Senate to vote immediately to repeal the policy is not likely.

With the military having the real power to either overturn or to uphold DADT, where does this

really leave our LGBTQ servicemembers?

For many in the LGBTQ community, we are anxious about the repeal of DADT coming to fruition, hoping for the President and his administration to effect real and substantive change on our behalf.

But given the political climate now, could Obama have done something sooner to repeal DADT?

I think so.

For example, in 2008, as a campaign promise to LGBTQ voters, Senator Obama empathetically stated he would repeal the discriminatory policy; he campaigned on a full repeal of the law. Soon after Obama's inauguration in 2009, the LGBTQ community waited anxiously to hear that steps were being made to repeal DADT. But on June 8 of that year when the Supreme Court refused to review the Pentagon policy that prohibits LGBTQ servicemembers to serve openly in the military, Obama's people added salt to the wounds of our LGBTQ servicemembers by stating in court papers that the ruling on DADT was correct because of the military's legitimate concern of LGBTQ servicemembers endangering "unit cohesion"—a concept totally debunked by a 2002 study.

Back in the day, LGBTQ servicemembers who died while servicing our country were either closeted about their sexual orientation or were discharged under "honorable conditions" called "Fraudulent Enlistment."

Unfortunately, not much has changed.

And come Dec. 1, if DADT isn't repealed in this Tea Party climate not only will have the Obama administration reneged on its promise to LGBTQ servicemembers, but it will have reneged also on American troops being the strongest they could be.

Our LGBTQ servicemembers are prepared to defend this country with their lives, but not all of our servicemembers are honored for their acts of bravery and patriotism.

The war they should be fighting is the one that awaits them out there—not the war here at home.



The CJR situation, part I

An article printed in the Sept. 8 issue of Windy City Times starts with "A local LGBT-rights organization has come under fire once again from critics who allege that the group's executive director, Marc Loveless, produced a slew of faulty invoices to show to state authorities who reimbursed the organization for more than \$30,000 in spending on what was supposed to be HIV/AIDS-related prevention activities, in-house salaries and other measures related to the group's mission."

Please allow me to take this time to back up this statement and further ad to it by saying Marc Loveless was terminated and removed from the board of directors June 25 for the reasons mentioned above, as well as a host of others. Furthermore, after reviewing Loveless' invoicing practices and spending patterns, we were prompted to call authorities and report these issues.

On June 25, Loveless was arrested at our South Side office for battery against me after being notified of his termination. This seemed to do much of nothing as he was released from jail and immediately attempted to change Coalition for Justice and Respect's (CJR's) board of directors; he also filed a false annual report the proceeding day in an attempt to say that myself and Billy Davis have no power whatsoever to terminate.

We are aware that Loveless is still listed as the resident agent for the company. But this is only because of his attempt to falsify our annual report as he attempted to do so with a check to the secretary of state on a closed bank account. We now need to rectify before any other further company information can be updated.

It saddens me that we are still going through this as we have attempted contacting the states attorney's office and Chicago Police Department with no luck there in any way. It was not until contacting a law firm that we were steered in the direction of the attorney general's office.

CJR, in connection with the Put Illinois Back to Work Program, has been located at 1525 E. 55th, and has been there since May 2009. Yet, Loveless is still informing people that he is in charge and that he is handling these matters. Actually, he has handled CJR business for his personal gain for some time now and—after being confronted, questioned and accused of the actions stated in previous articles concerning his wrongdoing—still continues to collect funds for CJR and has not paid anything.

I would personally like to apologize for allowing this situation to grow to the point it has. I would also like to state that I am committed to seeing Loveless brought to justice. He has supplied letters stating the board has given him full rights to the day to day functions and operations to CJR business.

We have changed our company website to <http://www.fcjrchicago.org> in an attempt to keep the public informed, and will be starting a blog on it by week's end. We will also be hold an open house Sept. 24 and would like to invite the entire community. Loveless started CJR, making our company's motto "Doing nothing is not an option." I will make sure that motto is not lost in this matter, either. The entire community has my word on this.

Sincerely,
 John V Hickman, Jr.
 CJR & FCJR Board President



LETTERS

The CJR situation, part II

Dear Editor:

In response to the recent egregious article in the Sept. 8 issue of Windy City Times let me first and foremost state that all of the expenditures attributed to each and every contract of the Coalition for Justice and Respect is accurate and not fraudulent in any way.

As for statements about people who claim that they were to be paid and weren't, they were paid not by check but by cash, and they signed a receipt at the time they were paid. Copies of those funds received were submitted to the reporting agencies.

If there are questions I have been more than willing to respond. The main thing is that at the end of each year (for three years) we had to submit reports of work accomplished, and we met those obligations and received audited approvals. I don't know where this recent attack is coming from, but I wish the criticism was done with some sense of organizational operations and not wild accusations.

Sincerely,
 Marc Loveless
 Executive Director
 Coalition for Justice and Respect

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

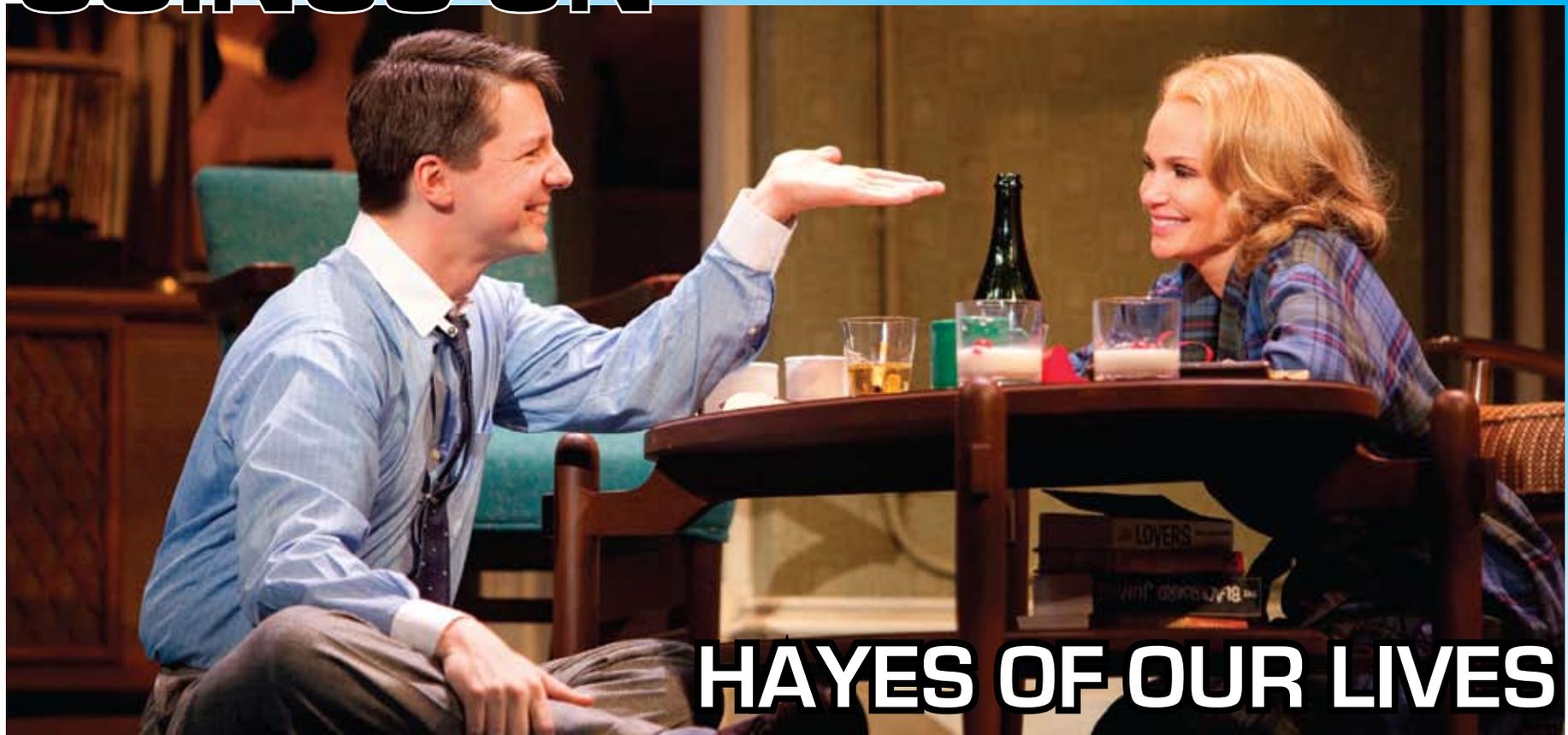


Photo by Joan Marcus

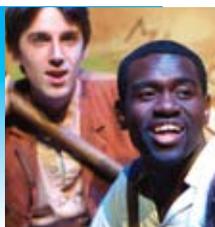
HAYES OF OUR LIVES

Sean Hayes and Kristin Chenoweth star in one of Broadway's most popular shows: *Promises, Promises*. See below.

THEATER

'Big' time.
Page 16.

Photo courtesy of Brandon Dahlquist



AUTOS

Shiny and new
Page 22.

Photo courtesy of Gaywheels.com



SPORTS

Phoenix rises.
Page 26.

Photo courtesy of Art Murnan



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Catch 'em while you can

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

There's a funny thing about deadlines. It's amazing how motivated you get the faster they approach (or pass).

It was the Sept. 12 closing date of director David Cromer's Chicago-to-off-Broadway transfer of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* that spurred me to take a last-minute trip to New York during the last weekend in August. I had unforgivably missed seeing Cromer's revelatory *Our Town* during its two sold-out runs in Chicago, and I'm glad to say that the travel expenses to see it in New York were more than worth it.

And being a theater fanatic, I couldn't pass up seeing two other buzz-worthy shows during my trip: the star-studded Broadway musical revivals of *Promises, Promises* with Sean Hayes (*Will and Grace*) and Kristen Chenoweth (*Glee*, *Wicked*) and *A Little Night Music* with Bernadette Peters (*Into the Woods*, *Sunday in the Park with George*) and Elaine Stritch (*Company*, *30 Rock*).

I was able to purchase half-price tickets to both shows at the shiny new Times Square TKTS booth, which *finally* accepts credit cards. True, I didn't get the best seats (last row of the orchestra for *Promises, Promises*; far-far left mezzanine for *A Little Night Music*), but discount-seekers can't be choosers.

Of the two, *Promises, Promises* has generated the most publicity—not because it's the first Broadway revival of the 1968 Neil Simon/Burt Bacharach/Hal David adaptation of Billy Wilder's 1960 Academy Award-winning film *The Apartment*. It's mostly thanks to the ugly media spat that blew up when former *Newsweek* columnist Ramin Setoodeh criticized Hayes' leading-man performance in an opinion piece claiming that gay actors struggle with believably playing straight characters.

Bernadette Peters in *A Little Night Music*. Photo by Joan Marcus

After finally seeing Hayes in *Promises, Promises* myself, I think Setoodeh's main problem (like so many fans of long-running TV series) was his own inability to see beyond Hayes' *Will and Grace* casting as the high-strung gay character Jack McFarland. Though Hayes finally did come out prior to the opening of *Promises, Promises*, that knowledge didn't cloud my impression of his well-acquitting turn as Chuck Baxter, the Consolidated Life employee who works his way up the corporate ladder by loaning out his apartment to married executives for furtive flings.

For his Broadway debut, Hayes was teamed with Tony Award-winning star Kristen Chenoweth, whom I must agree with the majority of reviewers who say she was miscast in the role of cafeteria worker Fran Kubelik. Though Chenoweth wonderfully sang and acted the role (of what little there was of it, since the producers interpolated the Bacharach song "I Say a Little Prayer" to give Chenoweth more to do), she nonetheless exuded so much strength and con-

fidence that you didn't buy her character's suicide attempt (even though Tony Goldwyn proved himself yet again playing a sleazeball as Fran's initial love interest, the married executive J.D. Sheldrake).

It seems clear that *Promises, Promises* was revived in part to ride the 1960s cool coattails inspired by the AMC TV series *Mad Men* (director/choreographer Rob Ashford and design team pushed back the musicals setting to the early 1960s). While a pleasant production, *Promises, Promises* truly comes to life when Katie Finneran arrives in the second act as the growling and drunken bar floozy Marge MacDougall.

Finneran rightly won a Tony Award for her performance that made you wish the rest of the show was as fun as her two scene-stealing appearances. Finneran is set to leave the production on Oct. 10 (she's pregnant) and is to be replaced by Saturday Night Live alumna Molly Shannon. But you better hurry to catch this hit revival, since *Promises, Promises* has posted a Jan. 2 closing notice.

There currently is not a closing notice for the first Broadway revival of Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler's 1973 musical *A Little Night Music* (based upon Ingmar Bergman's 1955 film *Smiles of a Summer Night*). But with the recent news that Peters is set to star as Sally in a future Kennedy Center production of Sondheim's 1971 musical, *Follies*, it's a sign that this once-in-a-lifetime Broadway casting occasion is one that won't last.

When legendary Sondheim leading ladies Peters and Stritch were announced to respectively take over the roles of Desiree and Madame Armfeldt from Catherine Zeta-Jones and Angela Lansbury in *A Little Night Music* this past summer, the queer opera blog <http://Parterre.com> posted a headline that joked, "History of Gay Culture to Peak in July."

I had previously seen Trevor Nunn's production of *Night Music* in London after it had transferred from the tiny Menier Chocolate Factory Theatre to the Garrick Theatre in the West End. So I already knew what I was in for in terms of the re-

duced off-stage orchestra and the simple sliding panel set that I had been dismissively telling people was no better than what you'd see in a college theater production.

Yet this time around, I found Nunn's intimate production to be much more fulfilling with extra details I had previously forgotten (like the lovely scenic projections that appear in the mirrored panels).

Peters is utter perfection as Desiree, the glamorous early 20th-century Swedish actress whose muddle-filled life suddenly finds hope for stability when she meets up again with a former lover, the lawyer Fredrik Egerman (a still-very sturdy Alexander Hanson). But since Fredrik has remarried a much-younger woman, Desiree tries to put in place a plan to win him over.

Peters' wistful and hurt rendition of the hit song "Send in the Clowns" was extremely touching and genuine (and a lot better than Zeta-Jones' hoarse and lurching performance of it on the Tony Awards broadcast). Peters alone would make this *Night Music* revival worth seeing, but you also get the added bonus of Elaine Stritch playing her character's mother: the grand former courtesan Madame Armfeldt.

Now many online commentators have taken Stritch to task for not being elegant enough for the role. (They've also gossiped about her forgetting lines.) But for an 85-year-old theater pro, Stritch was believable for me as a seen-it-all woman of wealth whose reflections on lost loves seared through with the pain of one questions her ambitions favoring wealth and acquisition instead of true love in the course of her long life. Stritch also nailed the comedy of Wheeler's book brilliantly.

So while some musical-theater fans prefer just to wait for Broadway shows to tour to their hometowns, it's more than likely that these stars won't be traveling with these vehicles any time soon. These "Only in New York" theater moments are fleeting, so my advice is not to delay—lest you regret years later for missing these productions.



Brandon Dahlquist in *Sunday in the Park with George*. Photo by Johnny Knight

THEATER REVIEW

Sunday in the Park with George

Playwrights: Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine

At: Porchlight Music Theatre at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont

Tickets: 773-327-5252;

www.stage773.com; \$38

Runs through: Oct. 31

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Act I of *Sunday in the Park with George* takes place in 1880's Paris, Act II in 1980's New York. Act I concerns real artist George Seurat and his stupendous pointillist painting, *Sunday Afternoon on the Island of the Grand Jatte* (in the Art Institute of Chicago). Act II concerns his fictive great-grandson—also George—an artist who creates computerized light, sound and music sculptures dubbed "Chromalumes." In this 1984 Broadway musical, Seurat is so obsessed with his firm artistic principles that he cuts himself off from emotional life, while his great-grandson is so vague and fearful about artistic principles that he cuts himself off from emotional life.

One can rely on Porchlight Music Theatre for a superior musical production, which they deliver again in this instance, but that doesn't solve the weakness of Act II vs. magical Act I, in which Seurat's great painting is thoroughly deconstructed only to be constructed again—by the cast in three dimensions—before our very eyes. But that deconstruction can be confusing, and I struggled at first—bit by bit putting it together—to find the dramatic focus intended by director L. Walter Stearns.

As ever, musical director Eugene Dizon glorifies the Stephen Sondheim score—one of his most lyrical—even in reducing it for a seven-piece orchestra. Never before have I appreciated the minimalism of so much of this show's instrumental music, with the orchestra playing delicate wavering, repetitive, rhythmic lines under vocals that alternate between broad/soaring and fast/pizzicato. Also, the intimate production (150

seat theater, about) allows one to hear the lyrics with new clarity, revealing words and phrases missed in seeing previous productions.

The lyrical music, however, is in distinct contrast to the brittle, aloof figure of Seurat and charmingly aloof modern George. As fashioned by Sondheim and James Lapine, they don't give the audience a lot to like. Sondheim almost always chooses to subordinate the potential emotional power of his music to an intellectual concept, in this case the nature of the artist and the artistic process, shouldered by the two Georges. One marvels at Sondheim, but he's not your man if you seek musical sentiment or more than momentary warmth.

The large cast is sparked by wide-eyed Jess Godwin in the dual role of Dot/Marie and statuesque Brandon Dahlquist (through Oct. 10) as both Georges. They are a well-voiced and handsome couple, especially in Mina Hyun-Ok Hong's extravagant period costumes, so very rich in texture, pattern and detail. Director Stearns and his highly creative design team deliver one of Porchlight's most complex productions, vivid with projections and emblematic dot-like scenic devices. It's a very large scenescape which requires distance to be seen best—just like the Seurat painting—so ask for seats at least four rows back.

THEATER REVIEWS

Menorca

Playwright: Robert Koon

At: 16th Street Theater, 6420 16th, Berwyn

Phone: 708-795-6704; \$16

Runs through: Oct. 16

The Sound of a Yellow Flower

Playwright: Dustin Spence

At: Strangeloop Theatre at

Trap Door Theatre, 1655 W. Cortland

Phone: 773-276-0458; \$10-\$15

Runs through: Oct. 3

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Don't you hate it when expectations aren't met? This hurts especially when you're anticipating something that never happens—or when something that does happen comes from way out of left field without warning.

These are respective flaws in two recently opened world-premiere dramas: Robert Koon's *Menorca* for 16th Street Theater in Berwyn and *The Sound of a Yellow Flower* for Strangeloop Theatre in Chicago. Both plays offer great dramatic scenes for actors to sink their teeth into, but the dramas disappoint since they don't fully deliver on what you think they could.

Koon's *Menorca* centers on a Basque forensic archeologist named Ollie (Kirsten d'Aurelio) as she oversees a dig in Menorca, Spain, while

flashing back to a conversation with Latino-American U.S. Border Patrol agent George (Juan Gabriel) near the Mexican border of Baja California.

In both locations, skeletal remains of women have been found, which might build expectations that the play will turn into a murder-mystery. Instead, Koon uses the remains as symbols for Ollie to question her place in the world as a perpetual outsider (and her unsatisfying relationship with her by-the-rules university-researcher boyfriend).

While this back-and-forth journey of self-realization for Ollie is an eloquent one on the nature of national identity, Koon clutters up the story with under-characterized college interns in the Menorca scenes. Koon also opts not to wrap up the mystery behind the Baja remains.

These omissions make *Menorca* feel like something is ultimately missing, even though the handsome production, under Ann Filmer's direction, proves to be vital and timely in light of the growing xenophobia that is currently being stoked for ugly political gain in the United States today.

A glaring omission in terms of build up for a game-changing plot point is what ultimately undoes Dustin Spence's drama *The Sound of a*



Yellow Flower. The drama focuses on four unsatisfied souls in the modern-day oppressive dictatorship of the former Soviet republic of Belarus.

A once-nationalist violinist named Sasha (Rich Logan) is back in his homeland with his activist American wife, Zoe (Samantha Garcia), much to the disappointment of his former friend-turned-government official Nikolai (Mark Pracht), who wields his power brutally over dissenters and his ex-junkie prostitute girlfriend, Natalia (Meghan M. Martinez).

With her great actors, director Letitia Guillaud shapes a fairly honest and gritty staging (which fits compactly into Glen Anderson's utilitarian pop-out gray set). But playwright Spence doesn't hold up his end of the bargain when he fails to provide any foreshadowing to a cataclysmic ending that is as abrupt as it is unexplained.

So while both *Menorca* and *The Sound of a Yellow Flower* both have commendable elements, they ultimately don't take you on the journey that you were expecting them to.

THEATER REVIEW

Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Playwright: music & lyrics by

Roger Miller, book by William Hauptman,

based on the novel by Mark Twain

At: Bohemian Theatre Ensemble

at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont

Phone: 773-975-8150; \$18-\$25

Runs through: Oct. 10

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Mark Twain's American epic encompasses enough Rousseauian fantasy and sly satire to have kept scholars and adapters busy for well over a century. The latter have mostly skirted the author's candid exposé of Southern small-town hypocrisy and intolerance to revel instead in the boy-

CRITICS' PICKS

Daredevils' Hamlet, The Neo-Futurists at the Neo-Futurarium, through Sept. 25. Shakespeare's tragedy about the melancholy Dane gets delightfully deconstructed by the Daredevils, who are always ready to rumble and physically reveal themselves in a number of amazing and introspective stunts. SCM

Hot Mikado, Drury Lane Theatre Oakbrook, through Oct. 3. Here's a state of things that swings. The combo cooks like a big band in this zoot-suited update of Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado*. With a \$45 top ticket, it delivers musical band for the bucks. JA

Red Herring, Noble Fool Theatricals at Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, through Oct. 24. If you missed Michael Hollinger's hilarious send-up of film noir mysteries and Cold War spy capers at Northlight Theatre back in 2005, then head west to catch Noble Fool's superlative production featuring a very funny cast of versatile character actors. SCM

The Weir, Seanachai Theatre Company at Irish American Heritage Center, through Oct. 17. A buncha pub regulars recounting creepy yarns might not promise an exciting time, but the Seanachai ensemble shows us why Conor McPherson's play is so popular with American audiences. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

ish adventures associated with the pantheistic dream of fleeing adult responsibilities and making a fresh start in pastoral surroundings.

The focus of this 1984 collaboration between playwright William Hauptman and singer-songwriter Roger Miller, however, is the moral evolution of its adolescent protagonist, whose acceptance of his corrupt society gradually gives way to espousal of humane values, even as he continues to apologize for his "contrary" ways. (Taught that slavery is the will of God, our hero struggles with the prospect of divine punishment before defiantly resolving to help his friend, Jim, escape to freedom.)

But this doesn't mean that Twain's humorous observations have been excised in service of academic analysis (and that includes Leslie Fiedler's notorious homoerotic tract on bucolic man-boy relationships). What distinguished the late Roger Miller from his peers was his irrepressibly playful aesthetic—this is the man who wrote "You Can't Roller-Skate in a Buffalo Herd," after all. For every rousing hand-clapper like "Muddy Water" or contemplative ballad like "Leavin's Not the Only Way to Go," we also get such delightful ditties as a homage to our porcine pals ("Hand for the Hog") and a patriotic anthem seemingly written for the sheer fun of finding rhymes for "Arkansas."

Andrew Mueller and Brian-Alwyn Newland's Huck and Jim lead a vocally agile ensemble featuring Courtney Crouse as the fanciful Tom Sawyer, John B. Leen (in a departure from his usual somber roles) as the bogus Duke and a jim-dandy string band augmented by several double-threat actors. But BoHo's inaugural production in the newly rehabbed Theatre Wit's auditorium is not without its flaws: while the proximity of spectators ranged no deeper than three rows from the curtain line makes for a cozy intimacy, its wide-thrust configuration tends to fragment the action, making individual comprehension of the story largely reliant on seat location. The sound-proofing, however, is everything that the owners promised, with not a whisper of ambient noise interrupting the pleasures of this genial opening to another season on Chicago's burgeoning off-Loop circuit.

SPOTLIGHT



Can love blossom in an increasingly Orwellian world where everyone is under extreme surveillance? Playwright Jennifer Barclay explores the idea in her world-premiere drama *Obscura* for Red Tape Theatre. *Obscura* plays 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays until Oct. 23 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 621 W. Belmont. Tickets are \$10-\$25. Call 847-738-6919 or visit <http://www.redtapetheatre.org> for more information. Photo by James Palmer

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Stephanie Miller: Talk-radio host speaks on coming out

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

One day after Proposition 8 was overturned in California, nationally syndicated talk-radio host Stephanie Miller decided it was time to come out as a lesbian.

An ever-present liberal voice on political issues as heard on her daily morning show as well as MSNBC and other political commentary stations and programs, Miller made the announcement with the on-air support of her friend, country singer Chely Wright, who came out as a lesbian earlier this year.

Miller, 48, spent the late '80s in Chicago co-hosting the WCKG morning show with John Howell, but in the many years since, settled in California. She spoke with Windy City Times about the many reasons she decided to come out on a professional level and what the last month has been like.

Windy City Times: The news is obviously still pretty fresh, as it's been less than a month since you came out on your show. Could you talk about what became the "tipping point" where you said, 'This is the day; this is the show'?"

Stephanie Miller: When you say "tipping point," though, that's a good phrase that I know I've used before or "perfect storm" or whatever you want to call it. I think everyone's path is different. It was fairly spontaneous in that it was the day after they overturned Prop 8. ... For me it became time to stop cheering gay rights from the sidelines and step down on the battle-



Stephanie Miller. Photo courtesy of Miller

field and put a human face on it. I'm just one more, but I think that's part of what moves any civil-rights battle forward is people putting a human face on it.

And there are people who inspired me like my friend, Chely Wright, who's the country singer who just came out. We got to be friends and she was able to speak to it in a way that I hadn't sort of heard before because I said on the air I've always been a very private person and I've never said I'm straight or I'm not gay or made up boyfriends; I've been out to my friends and family for years, so I didn't feel like in some ways I was in the closet, I just didn't talk about my personal life.

WCT: How has coming out professionally been what you expected it would be like and

what ways has it been different?

SM: The response has been probably overwhelmingly positive. See, my family is very Republican Catholic, so I learned a lesson there. I spent so many years thinking they would judge me that I realized I was judging them. They were overwhelmingly supportive and loving about it so the other point is when I did this I thought, "I guess I was judging my listeners in the same way."

One of the things I said on the air that I was most shocked about is that so many people were shocked. I'm a 48-year-old woman who's never been married, doesn't have kids and certainly hasn't made up boyfriends. But that was again part of what resonated with me that my friend Chely Wright said to me: That's why it's incumbent for those of us that can hide that we don't, and I got what she meant by that because maybe you don't fit a certain stereotype or a presumption about your sexuality, but you don't hide because it is an important time and that's the point I've tried to make as well.

WCT: Obviously your work is tied to politics and discussing this stuff on a regular basis, so as far as that goes professionally—people can compare you to Rachel Maddow, who was out before her show even went on the air—how does it make a difference in terms of your line of work to be out right away?

SM: Well, I think what you bring up is a key point in all of this and that is that it's a generational thing. Rachel's a thousand years younger than I am, but I think that's part of what you look at. But you know, in the latest CNN poll for the first time there's majority support for gay marriage in the United States and, for people under 30, there's majority support in every state, not just in liberal state—every state. But part of it is, again, for Rachel, it was never an issue; when I was coming up, I think it might have been.

Read much more about Stephanie Miller—including her thoughts on being a gay-rights activist—online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.

SHEPARD from cover

sted, are you reading excerpts from it?

JS: I have a general program that I do, which includes my big impact statement from Russell Henderson's sentencing. [Editor's note: In 1999—a year after Matthew Shepard was killed—Henderson pled guilty to felony murder and kidnapping in the case of Matthew Shepard. He was sentenced to two consecutive life terms without parole.] I talk about politics a little bit, Matt and Wyoming, on what it is like to grow up here and be here. I talk about the general state of the gay community in a legislative legal sense. After, I do a session with questions and answers.

WCT: President Obama signed the Matthew Shepard Act last year. How have things changed since the signing?

JS: Well, the FBI and the Department of Justice went right to work. They were very encouraging to us because they sometimes start a job that never gets done. They had training sessions for law enforcement officials that they were aware of what the law does and what it can do now, along with community leaders. They have been to the states where there is no hate crime law with Wyoming being included. I don't know if actual occurrences have been altered in any way with a hate crime. But I certainly hope that the reporting of the crimes has been improved. I guess we will know soon, that would be great if we didn't have to find out, but actually being able to prosecute more judicially would work.

WCT: You are working for a campaign for schools, correct?

JS: Yes. We have always been involved in the bullying issue as it deals with kids at risk, not just gay and lesbian kids. We are very specific that our website, <http://www.matthewshepard.org>, deals with not just the gay and lesbian youth but all youth at risk who feel somehow on the fringe of what else is going on or bullied. This is not just about gay kids. It is about kids perceived to be gay or different. This is a big issue and I am glad the Department of Education is taking that on.

WCT: I grew up in the South and was picked on in the past.

JS: Yeah, now you throw in cyberbullying. This is almost impossible to do anything about because it is so anonymous. It is just awful.

WCT: People feel protected hiding behind a computer.

JS: Well, they are given a false sense of courage, right? They can be just as mean and nasty as they want.

WCT: I noticed on the website that Jennifer Beals from The L Word is helping you with some proceeds from her book.

JS: Yes, she has been a great friend to the [Matthew Shepard] foundation and several ce-



Judy Shepard.

lebrities have been. She has just been terrific.

WCT: That is good to hear.

JS: That has been one of the rewarding things is that people who command respect and audience have been really good to us.

WCT: Great. So the website people can go to is <http://www.matthewshepard.org>.

JS: Yes, and <http://www.matthewshepard.org>. They are both undergoing a redo so I am not sure where we are at in the process. We are getting some stops and starts right now.

WCT: What can people in Chicago do to help with the cause?

JS: Because we don't do chapters, to help us is to be out and honest about who you are. That is really the only way to change things is to tell our stories. Support your local groups, be sure and vote, be an educated voter, and pay attention to what is going on. Tell your stories, you need to share life about what you don't and do have with family and friends and not just one.

WCT: You are a hero to me. I really got a lot out of your book. I cried during the part with Logan in the hospital and I am sure it was not easy to share that story. I appreciate you writing about it.

JS: Well, thank you very much.

WCT: We will see you in Chicago.

Judy Shepard speaks at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, as part of the H.E.A.L. Ourselves: Opening Eyes, Closing Wounds Thursday, Sept. 30, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 online at <http://www.centeronhalsted.org> or at the door. A sign-language interpreter is available on request.

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Nate Berkus' big move

BY JERRY NUNN

Interior designer Nate Berkus is leaving Oprah behind and starting his own show in The Big Apple: New York City. Windy City Times spoke to him before his series debut about his new endeavor and reminded the decorator to not forget his roots.

Windy City Times: Hello, Nate. I was wondering with Oprah leaving Chicago, why did you decide to film the show in New York and not in the Windy City?

Nate Berkus: The truth is it just made sense business-wise for me right now. From the studio space to where my staff and where all the resumes were coming in from, the staff that I needed to hire were all in New York.

And ultimately, Jerry, you know, Oprah is in her 25th year and I'm launching a daily syndicated show. Oprah has one control room over there on Carpenter Street so I didn't want to be the guy that said, "Yeah, just give me another 10 minutes. I'll be out of here for you."

WCT: You are the latest friend of Oprah to get your own show.

NB: Well, for me, what happens is when things



Nate Berkus on the set of his show. Photo by Jack Guy/Sony Pictures Television

happen organically. And my participation as a contributor to The Oprah Show happened because I met a producer by chance at an art gallery and we started talking, which led to me doing a makeover. It resonated for Oprah, the audience and me.

So I was not in a rush to do this. I wanted to do this really in a way that felt like the right way for me because I was very happy with my role on the Oprah show. And I think that the timing is great right now because there's always been so much interest in people's homes and always been so much interest in living well but I've had years to prepare for this.

WCT: What have you had to get used to having your own show?

NB: There's a different mindset in going from a gracious guest to the host of a show. One of the most important elements of that is that it's my responsibility to make my guests and my audience comfortable.

WCT: Can you tell our readers what are some guests that you have had so far?

NB: Absolutely. Dolly Parton is going to be a part of the show on Tuesday, Sept. 14. Then

Friday the 17th, which happens to be my 39th birthday, Elizabeth Edwards and I are together on the show.

WCT: Happy early birthday! I will go ahead and assume that you have the best-looking set on television.

NB: The set was designed by me, but I collaborated with a set designer named Jeff Hall who's done lots of different TV shows. We had a deal that he would do everything that made it function, then we would sit down together and I would be able to do my thing, pick every finish, all the furniture and all the [implementing of fixtures].

I wanted the set to feel like somebody was walking into my home every day, so it's very fresh. It's not like a fake home set with a staircase that leads to nowhere and books no one's read. It's a mix of vintage and new things. It's going to change up periodically as I become interested in different things that are happening the world of design. But it's definitely different than anything that's out there.

WCT: How is the show set up?

NB: Well, first of all, what we're doing is we're letting the stories of the people that we find lead us to different contributors on the show and expanding out different segments. So ultimately the show is really about living well, and that involves a great deal of design, of which there's several signature segments. My instant design studio, which has become a part of the show, is accomplished with 3-D gaming technology that allows me to basically have that decorator moment.

WCT: Sounds very high-tech.

NB: We have a segment called "Nate's Crate," where we have this crate that can end up anywhere at any time with anything in it. For example, it might end up on the doorstep of three different viewers in three different cities across the country and contain materials inside that create a challenge for them. Or it could contain that one thing that's going to change that

person's story and be the catalyst to help that person move forward. So you can only imagine how much fun and how creative we can get with that.

WCT: Yes, it does sound fun.

NB: We also have something called "Curbside Pickup," which I love, where whenever I am at the shoot or I see something on the side of the road, I send my friend Katie Lee, the chef, out to New Jersey to work with the garbagemen to bring back vintage finds and antiques that people throw away. We recondition them and, at the end of the year, we're going to use them in different makeovers throughout the season. [Also,] at the end of the year we're going to produce a catalog with an auction and donate the proceeds to charity.

WCT: Are you able to be open about your sexuality on the show?

NB: I've never played anybody but myself on TV and it's not my intention to try to do that now. You'll see more of me actually than anyone ever has. So my day to day will definitely be a part of that show.

WCT: It's important for people all over the world to see that.

NB: Well, it's important for me as a person to put my best foot forward and lead by example. I don't define myself by only being gay just like I don't define myself by only being Jewish or only being anything. All of us have a lot of different facets to one another. I think having my own show is an enormous responsibility for several reasons, one of which is to lead by example.

WCT: Well, don't forget about all your fans in Chicago while you are in New York City.

NB: You know what? It's important I think because Chicago's been such a wonderful city to me and helped me so much business-wise. My businesses are still based in Chicago, and will remain so.

The Nate Berkus Show is on weekdays. Check out <http://www.thenateshow.com> for information and listings.

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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.



Ryan Reynolds
in *Buried*.

Buried; Jack Goes Boating; film note

What red-blooded gay male wouldn't want the chance to spend 90 minutes alone—lying prone—with hunky movie star Ryan Reynolds? The answer seems like it would be a no-brainer but after spending said 90 minutes plus confined with the comely actor in *Buried*, his latest movie, I'd advise my fellow gay horndogs to return to their fantasies for a modicum of satisfaction.

The movie's not bad as these gimmicky things go—Reynolds plays Paul, a poor schlub working in Iraq who wakes up to find himself buried in a coffin with only a lighter, a cell phone and a lot of suspenseful plot developments for company. And be warned moviegoers with claustrophobia: Director Rodrigo Cortes keeps us inside that wooden box underground with Reynolds for the entire film. (The movie, like a theme park ride, should come with a caution sign.)

Chris Sparling's screenplay, an adaptation of

a Japanese version, methodically metes out the suspense along with a not-so-subtle political message. Mostly, *Buried* is like a modern-day *Sorry, Wrong Number*—with the voices on the phone becoming more cold, indifferent and huffier with Paul as his desperation increases. A lot of the movie hinges on Paul's ability to use the features on the cell phone—to upload videos and access other stuff on it—to the point where at times the picture feels like a twisted commercial for the phone.

Like other solo films in confined circumstances, it all comes down to the performance of the leading actor, and Reynolds certainly gives it the college try. He pleads, he screams, he cries, he laughs, he becomes terrified, hysterical, angry, resigned, sarcastic, depressed, feisty, crafty—you name it. The guy runs the gamut of emotions alright, but not one of them does more than bounce off you. Like every other movie in which Reynolds has tried to stretch beyond the standard issue blockbuster action character or dreamy heartthrob he excels at, his acting reach far exceeds his grasp. In keeping such close proximity with Reynolds throughout *Buried*, a rather sad irony becomes clear: Playing a character buried underneath the ground, he reveals

that when it comes to acting he's all surface and no depth.

Philip Seymour Hoffman, the Oscar-winning actor for his compelling performance as gay icon Truman Capote in the film of that name, is never less than interesting on screen. Now the actor, who divides his time between complex roles on screen and with his theatre company, is making his directorial feature debut with the gentle romantic drama *Jack Goes Boating*.

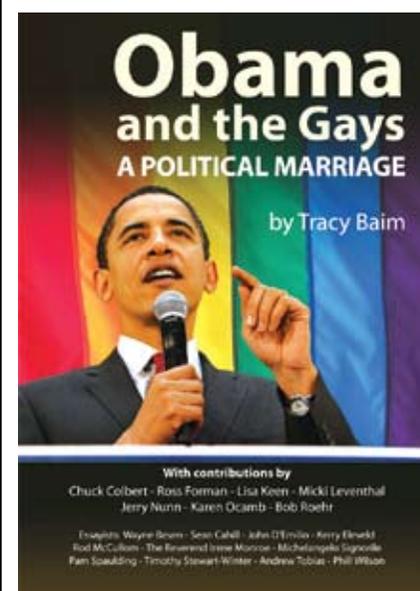
The film is an adaptation of Robert Glaudivi's play for Hoffman's acting company, and stars the actor in the title role as a shy limo driver in Manhattan who loves reggae music (to the point where he wears dreadlocks in his hair) and keeps mostly to himself. But a blind date with Connie (Amy Ryan, showing restraint and vulnerability under her usual toughness) set up by his energetic best friend, Clyde (John Ortiz), awakens Jack from his cocoon. As the romance with Connie slowly builds, however, it contrasts with the increasingly troubled relationship between Clyde and Lucy (Daphne Rubin-Vega in an expressive performance), which is slowly disintegrating.

Hoffman has opened the action to include a variety of offbeat urban locations, breathing some needed color into this subtle, exceedingly well-acted variation on the ordinary lives of working class, a.k.a. "the little people." The ghost of Paddy Chayefsky's *Marty* and *The Catered Affair* hovers over the movie, but the writing and Seymour Hoffman's judicious cutting avoid the sentimentality that might have dated the material. (The jaunty reggae music also livens the film.) And there are plenty of moments of acting fireworks on display as well. *Jack Goes Boating* is a well-made, tender movie that exhorts its characters to grab the simple pleasures of life before they pass one by—a message Hoffman, with this nicely shaded film, successfully imparts to his audience as well.

Film note:

—The Friday, Sept. 24, Camp Midnight screening of *Valley of the Dolls* with Patty Duke in person at the Music Box has had to be rescheduled due to a conflict with the Oscar-winning actress' filming schedule on a new movie. The new date and time is Saturday, Nov. 20; there are a 1 p.m. pre-show and 1:30 p.m. screening followed by a Q&A with Duke at approximately 3:30 p.m. The event will still partially benefit the Queer Film Society and ticket prices are the same—\$14 in advance and \$17 at the door (if available). But the Music Box, in announcing the rescheduled event, has added a terrific new bonus: a block of VIP tickets for \$40 that includes preferred seating in the center of the theatre, an autographed photo of Duke and access to a private reception with the actress following the screening. Only 70 VIP tickets will be available. All those with tickets purchased for the original date can reschedule or receive a refund by calling Brown Paper Tickets at 800-838-3006. See <http://www.musicboxtheatre.com>.

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



New book about Obama and the gay community

Obama and the Gays: A Political Marriage is a new book by long-time Chicago-based journalist Tracy Baim. The book presents an in-depth look at Obama's trajectory on gay issues, and will be available on print-on-demand through Amazon.com and ebook readers. It is also available through CreateSpace, <https://www.createpace.com/3481486>

Baim, co-founder of Windy City Times newspaper, has compiled documents, photos and interviews with Obama for a close look at how his views on LGBT issues have changed over the years, as well as the accomplishments and stumbles of his presidential administration. In the first book ever published on this important topic, Baim is joined by some of the most respected LGBT journalists, bloggers and activists from around the US. The book includes articles by Chuck Colbert, Lisa Keen, Karen Ocamb, Bob Roehr and others; essays by Wayne Besen, Sean Cahill, John D'Emilio, Kerry Eleveld, Rod McCullom, the Reverend Irene Monroe, Michelangelo Signorile, Pam Spaulding, Timothy Stewart-Winter, Andrew Tobias and Phill Wilson; and dozens of interviews with Chicago and national gay movement leaders. Senior editors are Toni Armstrong Jr., Jorjet Harper and William B. Kelley.

Baim will read from and sign copies of the book Wed., Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. at Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark, and Wed., Oct. 27, 6 p.m. at the Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State.

DADT. ENDA. DOMA. These four-letter words are familiar to everyone involved in the struggle for gay civil rights. Like it or not, they form the core of the national "gay agenda." When Barack Obama ran for president, he promised repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell military gay ban and passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. He also said he would push for repeal of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, even though he was personally against same-sex marriage.

Obama and the Gays presents a clear, lively, in-depth review of Barack Obama's policies on gay issues, from the early days of his political career through his meteoric rise to prominence—all in the context of the political landscape of the times—and examines the role the gay community has played in Obama's victories. *Obama and the Gays* also documents the actions and reactions of influential gay organizations and gay community leaders to Obama's speeches, positions and decisions that directly affect the lives of our LGBT citizens.

The website for the book is <http://www.ObamaAndTheGays.com>.

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ALCC's Club Tango



Club Tango was the theme of this year's AIDS Legal Council of Chicago annual travel-themed fundraiser at Sidetrack on Sept. 15. The silent auction included over 100 items donated by many generous members of the community. Photos by Kirk Williamson; look for more photos in next week's issue of Nightspots.

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PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

PICKUP WATER COOLERS NOTICE. Dolphin Capital and Alpine Water Systems pickup your 3 water coolers from School of Expressive Arts & Learning 1110 N Main St., Lombard IL 60148, 630-916-6340. **Picked up by Oct 10, 2010, or they will be trashed.** (9/22/10-2)



VEHICLE REVIEW

2010 Jaguar XF

BY CASEY WILLIAMS, GAYWHEELS.COM

Every decade or so, Jaguar launches a truly advanced car that shocks the brand faithful. I've heard and said plenty about the current XF and XJ sedans. They are nothing like previous Jaguars, yet are completely like previous Jaguars. People were amazed when the XJ-120 first rolled out in 1949. The E-Type shocked everybody when it stormed the roads in 1961. XJ-S coupes were just as controversial when they replaced the E-Type in 1975. The 1986 XJ, which was developed with a pile of British taxpayers' money, was derided, but lasted 18 years! All of these cars made people uneasy and just a little bit queasy. Each went on to distinguished service.

More recent Jags had their issues too. The S-Type looked like a '60s S-Type, but was based on the DEW98 vehicle architecture that also supported the Lincoln LS and Ford Thunderbird. The

X-Type, while it looked like a twice-dried XJ, was a re-bodied European Ford Mondeo and was given standard all-wheel-drive so it wouldn't enter the world with the donor's standard front-drive lay-out. The '04 XJ was a technically advanced aluminum-bodied flagship that put Mercedes in its place, but looked like every Jaguar sedan since the '60s and nobody noticed. This had to change if the British automaker was to survive. The XF, replacement for the S-Type, was the first Jaguar to plot a new course since the '70s.

I couldn't help but see a resemblance to the Lexus GS when I first saw the XF. My initial reaction was, "At least the S-Type looked like a Jaguar and was recognizable from two corn fields away!" It drew nobody out of their Mercedes E-Class or BMW 5-Series, but it was undeniably a Jaguar with its quad eyeballs, chrome grille, hood leaper, and stately flanks.

Original thought always causes one to re-consider all they thought was right with the world. The sky becomes green, grass is orange, and Jaguars look like Lexus. Designers embraced a contemporary British aesthetic with a streamlined



2010 Jaguar XF. Photo courtesy of Gaywheels.com

body that starts with a large mesh grille, long hood, and cabin that flows into the rear deck. Subtle chrome details and side vents are classic touches. Inside, wood and leather tell you it is British, but a dial gear selector, touch-sensor glovebox latch, navigation, and USB audio input trowel new lanes.

Snatch the leather-wrapped steering wheel and haul heel over the throttle to wake up the standard 385-HP 5.0-litre V8 that moves the cool cat from 0-60 mph in 5.5s. An available 510-HP supercharged V8 propels this luxury loafer along much faster, reaching 60 mph from naught in 4.7s. A smooth-shifting six-speed transmission puts all of that power to the drive wheels expeditiously.

More than adequate power makes a roaring meow, but driving the XF is also fun-laced beverage. A solid body structure lets the firm, yet compliant, suspension system glide over rough roads with little drama while feeling nimble under your bum in the twisties. Steering motions are equally gratifying, balancing direct communication with relaxed cruising. You get the sense that the body structure isn't quite as bullet resistant solid as a 'Benz, but is well-engineered by any other standard.

To really make your feline purr, stroke up the XFR. Besides the supercharged V8, XFR receives 20" alloy wheels, refined mesh grille, enhanced ground affects and "R" badging. Interiors are enhanced with dark wood and upscale leather. Under the skin, XFR receives Jaguar's Adaptive Dynamics, a suspension system that automatically adjusts between soft and firm depending on driving behavior and road conditions. Unlike other systems that have only a few settings, Adaptive Dynamics progressively varies damping through the range of possibilities. It can go from all-out sport sedan to luxury cruiser with no thought from the pilot.

Jaguar used to be about shocking competitors and customers with rapidly-advancing technology and design. Under founder Sir William Lyons, Jaguar threw out the baby, poured new bath water, and scrubbed away all sense of history every several years. A lot of Ford money went to develop these great cars, but the brand is now owned by India's Tata who seems determined to guarantee Jaguar once-again steps out with

design and technology worth getting excited about. Prices for the XF start around \$53,000.

2010 Jaguar XF

- Five-passenger, RWD Sedan.
- Powertrain: 385-HP 5.0-litre V8, 6-speed auto trans.
- Suspension f/r: Ind./Ind.
- Wheels: 19"/19" alloy f/r.
- Brakes: Disc/Disc fr/rr with ABS.
- Must-have feature: Style, tech
- Fuel economy (city/hwy.): 16/23-MPG
- Base price: \$53,000

See <http://www.Gaywheels.com>.

Auto news

—**Honor for Audi:** The Point Foundation—the country's largest scholarship-granting organization for LGBT students of merit—will honor Audi with its Point Inspiration Award at a Sept. 25 gala at at Raleigh Studios Hollywood, according to Gaywheels.com. In a press release, Audi of America, Inc., CEO Jeffrey S. Kuhlman said, "Audi has been privileged to work with the Point Foundation throughout the years and is honored to be this year's recipient of the Inspiration Award. We believe that diversity is a key driver of innovation, and we applaud the Point Foundation for developing future leaders through their generous scholarship program. The leaders of our two organizations are proud to share the understanding that support and inclusion are necessary ingredients for success." Actors Alan Cumming and Brittany Snow will also be honored.

—**Hot-lanta:** Celebrities such as singers Ne-Yo and Monica were among those who attended "Dance at Dusk," a Sept. 18 event in Atlanta, Ga., that spotlighted the 2011 Porsche Cayenne, according to a press release. The Cayenne was an instant success, reaching 100,000 in sales faster than any Porsche model ever. For 2011, the all-new Cayenne is available as Cayenne (V6 /300 hp), Cayenne S (V8/400 hp), Cayenne Turbo (V8/500 hp) and Cayenne Hybrid (V6/380 hp). The vehicle will be available at Porsche dealerships starting in October.



Pet for adoption:

Yikes

Age: 10 years

Gender: Female

Color: Brown Tabby

Altered: Yes

Yikes a young 10 years old and is a very pretty, front-declawed brown tabby who has big green eyes. She is a gentle and friendly girl, although having only recently arrived in the adoption room, she is still getting used to her new surroundings and is a little scared. But just come

and visit her and you will soon hear a meow that will steal your heart. Yikes will chit-chat a bit to get your attention, so you don't pass her by!

Yikes is a pleasingly plump girl that probably should lose a little weight in her new home, but for now there is just a bit more of her to love. She would be a great new addition to the family and would be a wonderful friend for your present

older feline family member.

So stop on over to The Anti-Cruelty Society and ask to meet Yikes, #10175747. This sweet girl will have you at "meow"! Yikes is ready to go home today.

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WINDY CITY TIMES



Wed., Sept. 22

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. 6 p.m., Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark, <http://windycityopenmic.com/>

New HIV-Positive Support Groups Connect with others living with HIV/AIDS, to share your stories and experiences in a safe and friendly environment? Center on Halsted is holding three, free, age-specific, 10-week groups for persons living with HIV. Info or register with Gregory Gross at ggross@centeronhalsted.org; 6pm, 773.472.6469 x 478, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Emma Donoghue, author of Room: A Novel Beloved lesbian author and anthropologist Emma Donoghue (Landing, Slammerkin) marks a stunning thematic shift. Experienced through the perceptions of five-year-old Jack, Room tells the story of a mother and son held in captivity, of the mother's struggle for survival, and Jack's innocent acceptance of the only world he's ever known. 7:30pm, Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark St., <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Thursday, Sept. 23

Black Women for Reproductive Justice press conference To coincide with Alveda King's (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s niece) visit to Illinois and to protest her involvement with billboards going up across the

JAN OF ACTION Sunday, Sept. 26

U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky is holding a meet-and-greet brunch at Hamburger Mary's, 5400 N. Clark.



nation describing abortion as black genocide. Speakers will address the billboards, Alveda King, and the need to trust black women. Tentative speakers include: Dorothy Roberts (Author and Northwestern University Professor), Gaylon Alcares (Executive Director of the Chicago Abortion Fund), 11am, ACLU Chicago, 180 N. Michigan, Chicago, <http://www.bwrj.org>

Chicago Abortion Fund 25th Anniversary Event Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and celebration of twenty five years of the important work of the Chicago Abortion Fund. Honoring Heather Booth and The Abortion Seven of the Jane Movement. \$75 until September 15, \$100 after; 1:45pm, Macy's State St., Narcissus Rm., 111 N. State; <http://www.chicagoabortionfund.com>

Celebrate Bisexual Day The Center on Halsted welcomes seven of the most dedicated Chicago Bi activists from 1986, Bi health, and even Bi ministry. The speakers will help educate, celebrate, and share an American day that has not been forgotten. 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted,

<http://www.centeronhalsted.org/coh/calendar/newevents-details.cfm?id=1179>

Newtown Writers general workshop Newtown Writers is a gay and lesbian writers' salon based in Chicago, Illinois, and holds fortnightly workshop-style meetings where members share works-in-progress with a mission of fostering gay literature. Newtown Writers publishes the literary anthology Off The Rocks and the e-zine Swell. 7:30pm, Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W Granville, <http://www.newtownwriters.org>

CAZWELL Live at Hydrate Hydrate Nightclub presents Cazwell LIVE. Tickets are \$10/\$15 VIP; 8pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com/home/>

Friday, Sept. 24

The Rocky Horror Picture Show In its 35th anniversary year showings of the cult classic midnights on the last Friday of every month, \$10 per person. Dress the part and participate in the interactive viewing experience along with live actors singing, dancing and "time-warping" along with the film. Classic props will be for sale (\$2-\$5) and provided by the "actors" for audience participation (SAY IT!)-pation. 12pm, Excalibur Nightclub, 632 N Dearborn, <http://www.excaliburchicago.com>

DJ & Dancing at Velvet Rope Velvet Rope has some of the hottest boys and DJ's! 5pm, 708-358-8840, Velvet Rope, 728 W. Lake, <http://velvetropelounge.com>

Glitter and Be Gay at Goodman Theatre 6 - 7:30 pm, cocktails, culture, cuisine, elegant pre-theatre party where music director Doug Peck performs Leonard Bernstein's Broadway hits with cast members from Candide, then at 8 pm see the show, all co-sponsored by Windy City Times. \$75. 6:30pm, Goodman Theatre, 170 N Dearborn, <http://www.goodmantheatre.org>

Thank GLAAD It's Friday in Chicago GLAAD's national networking event series for young LGBT professionals in Chicago! Join GLAAD and ABSOLUT Vodka as we host our "Thank GLAAD It's Friday" (TGIF) 2010 Chicago event series. \$35 includes complimentary ABSOLUT cocktails, raffle entry and one-year membership to GLAAD. 7pm, Minibar Ultra Lounge and Cafe, 3341 N Halsted, <http://www.glaad.org/events/tgif/chicago>

Saturday, Sept. 25

Race for the Cure Komen Chicago announces its first year to offer two race locations for its annual Race for the Cure® event. Over 13,000 cancer survivors and activists are expected to participate in the signature 10K/5K Run/Walk and a 1 Mile

Fun Walk in both Chicago and Lombard, IL. Register online. 8am, 773-444-0061, Grant Park - Butler Field, Chicago, <http://www.komenchicago.org>

2010 Chamber Expo 2010 Chamber Expo Celebrating the LGBT Community and Business, will bring together over 40 area businesses, include a mini "Taste of the Chamber", a sampling of some of Chicago's finest restaurants and caterers and give the public an opportunity to check out a variety of goods and services provided by members of the Chicago Area Gay Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Info Christina at cpinson@glchamber.org; 12pm, 773-303-0167, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.glchamber.org>

Don Nowotny for Alderman Open House petition drive, light refreshments. Please RSVP; 3pm, 773-728-2014, Campaign Headquarters, 1303 W. Wilson, Chicago, <http://www.donnnowotny.com>

The Call Girls Kickball Team "Fabulous Fall Fling" for BEHIV Members of the team will be guest bartending followed by a show hosted by Ashley Morgan with performances by members of The Call Girls Team, Dominique Diamond, Double D Devine Diva, Gender Bent and The Chicago Spirit Brigade. suggested donation of \$10 which includes a cocktail provided by the event's sponsor Absolut® Vodka. Proceeds from the event will benefit BEHIV, whose mission is to improve the lives of people with HIV and AIDS in the communities; 7pm, 773.334.2525, The Call, 1547 W Bryn Mawr, <http://www.facebook.com/callbar>

Music Music Music Spotlight Theatrix presents this song & dance cabaret show to benefit ArtReach Educational Theatre. Come experience the music of Madonna, Lady Gaga, Beyonce, and your favorite pop and Broadway hits in a fun-filled atmosphere with raffles, shots, fun & prizes. Suggested donation is \$5. Party begins at 9pm, Show at 10pm. 9pm, 773.604.1892, @mosphere, 5355 N. Clark St., <http://www.artreachspotlite.com/artreach/benefits.htm>

Sunday, Sept. 26

LGBT Brunch with Jan Schakowsky Meet and support a staunch LGBT ally Jan Schakowsky. 1pm, Hamburger Mary's, 5400 N Clark, <http://www.janschakowsky.org>

No Wire Hanger Productions' Art & Soul with Chicago LGBT artists Art & Soul features Neo Soul artist Le Ciel, the Clyde Project band, R&B singer Antonio King. The event will be; 6pm, Rehab Lounge, 3641 N Halsted, <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=137812859586551&ref=ts>.

Queer Dharma Chicago meets every Sunday from 6:30 - 8:30pm at the Shambhala Meditation center for sitting meditation, discussion & socializing. Free meditation instruction. www.queerdharmachicago.com 6:30pm, 773-230-3886, Shambhala Meditation Center, 7331 N. Sheridan, <http://chicago.shambhala.org/programs.php?cid=170>

Monday, Sept. 27

Singles Night hosted by Lance & Lyndon at Velvet Rope Join the Velvet Rope for their Monday Monday specials hosted by Lance & Lyndon! 5pm, 708-358-8840, Velvet Rope, 728 West Lake Street, <http://velvetropelounge.com>

Community Forum on LGBT Equality Agenda Equality Illinois and HRC will team up to present an update on the state of LGBT equality issues on the federal level. The community forum will feature Congressman Mike Quigley (IL-5) and cover a wide variety of issues, such as Employment Non-Discrimination Act, repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, inclusion of binational same-sex couples in immigration reform, and the status of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act. info@eqil.org; 6:30pm, 773-477-7173., Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted



ALL THAT CAZ Thursday, Sept. 23

Out musician Cazwell will perform at Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted.

PR photo

Tuesday, Sept. 28

Join Graphic Novel Class with Nicole Hollander For the fall session, Lillstreet Art Center offers a new Graphic Novel Class with renowned cartoonist Nicole Hollander. Adults will learn to combine words and pictures to create a narrative while heightening their drawing skills and experimenting with different voices and characters. Students will expand storytelling abilities and develop their own storyboards. 6:30pm, (73-769-4226, Lillstreet Art Center 4401 N. Ravenswood Ave. Chicago, IL 60640, <http://lillstreet.com>

Glee viewings at The Portage on Tuesdays Catch the highly anticipated new season of Glee on HD TVs in the bar and library room as they indulge in an array of specialty cocktails uniquely created for Glee viewing parties; 8 p.m., The Portage, 3938 N. Central, <http://www.theportagechicago.com>

Wed., Sept. 29

Dining Out for Equality 2010 This exciting event, hosted by Equality Illinois, involves a select group of Chicago dining establishments, all of which are committed to equality. Our restaurant partners have graciously agreed to make a contribution to Equality Illinois. 5pm, Yoshi's Cafe, 3257 N. Halsted, <http://www.diningoutforequality.com>

The Art of Protection A HIV/AIDS Awareness & Testing Event Highlighting the artistic talents of the LGBTQ Youth. We encourage LGBTQ Youth ages 18 - 24 to attend The best poets, singers, dancers and rappers, All fighting HIV through artistic expression. Free confidential HIV Testing provided by TaskForce Prevention and Community Services. Following the show there will be a youth speed dating session and after party. Refreshments will be served.FREE for all youth 18-24; 6pm, 312 629 2988 ext 12, ROOM 43, 1039 E. 43rd St Chicago

LGBT Caucus of the 10th Congressional District Democrats Inaugural meeting, various statewide and local candidates will be there to answer questions on LGBT issues. 6:30pm, RAM Restaurant and Brewery, 700 Milwaukee, Wheeling, <http://www.tenthdems.org>

Thursday, Sept. 30

Chef Art Smith Day in Chicago Mayor Daley has proclaimed Sept. 30, 2010, "Chef Art Smith Day in Chicago" honoring his culinary and philanthropic accomplishments and the day includes his induction into the Chefs Hall of Fame by the Chicago Culinary Museum with a gala fundraiser open to the public: awards 6:30 pm, dinner 7 pm, tickets \$175 per person at carnella. anello@us.nestle.com and \$200 at door, if available. 6:30pm, 630-505-5381, Mid-America Club, 200 E. Randolph, <http://www.thechicagoculinarymuseum.org>



ART TIME

Thursday, Sept. 30

Chef Art Smith will be honored for his myriad achievements at the Mid-America Club, 200 E. Randolph.

Photo from Julia Shell

BILLY MASTERS

"I was offered to do a porno movie. It was a masturbation movie. I looked at it and said no. It's dirty. So I won't do porn. I won't do anything where I have to wear a big fuzzy animal costume, like no 'Disney On Ice' or anything, and that's basically it. I'll try pretty much anything else. I mean, I don't want to drive a Zamboni!"—Johnny Weir

It almost looked like George Michael was going to get away with a slap on the wrist for driving under the influence back in July. As we reported, last month he pled guilty and the judge suspended his license for five years—with a caveat: "I make it clear the options in respect of sentence remain open, including the power to imprison." That option was picked up and Georgie faces eight weeks in jail. Hey, I thought this was supposed to be a punishment?? I guess the punishment is that he'll only get to serve four of the weeks, with the other four being served under supervised probation. Why, that's barely long enough to meet a couple of dozen insignificant others.

At least George got to answer the charges. What about allegations against dead celebs? What rights do they have? For instance, in his upcoming biography of Paul Newman, author Darwin Porter includes portions of an interview he did with Marlon Brando in 2004. It should be noted that around this time, Marlon was nutty as a fruitcake and was kissing Larry King on the lips. Brando is quoted as saying, "He never fooled me. Paul Newman had just as many on-location affairs as the rest of us, and he was just as bisexual as I was. But, where I was always getting caught with my pants down, he managed to do it in the dark." Porter's investigation also turns up evidence of a sexual relationship between Newman and James Dean. So, lemme get this straight—we're taking the word of a nut who is now deceased discussing the sex life of two other dead celebrities, and the only one who could set the whole mess straight is Joanne Woodward? This is gonna be like who really killed JFK ... Joanne ain't sayin' nothing.

Does Josh Duhamel have something to hide? Yes, indeed. When it came time to shoot the poster for his flick *Life As We Know It* (where he teams up with that Heigl woman), he only would agree to appear in his boxer briefs if some judicious and delicious Photoshopping was done. OK, so you think he wants a bubble butt. Or a bigger package. But, no. "I was like, 'OK, dude, I'll do the underwear. But please make my right calf look a little bit bigger. I ruptured my Achilles, like six years ago and it never grew back, so it's like half the size of the other one.'" That's his big secret? He's ashamed of his calves? Really, Duhamel? I've seen your nude photos and your calves are the last place I'd start! I'm just sayin'. And I'm just showing on BillyMasters.com.

It's rare that New York gets a theatrical event after Los Angeles. But six months after a 25th-anniversary reading of Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* was staged in L.A., a one-night-only benefit for the Actor's Fund has been scheduled for NYC on Oct. 18 at the Walter Kerr Theatre. Like the L.A. reading, this will be directed by Joel Grey, who appeared in the original production (replacing Brad Davis). What was cryptically referred to as an "all-star cast" is starting to shape up rather nicely. Taking on the Davis/Grey role of "Ned Weeks" will be Joe Mantello, making a rare return to the spotlight. (He hasn't acted onstage since the original production of *Angels in America*.) Joining him will be Victor Garber, Jason Butler Harner, John Benjamin Hickey and Patrick Wilson.

This week's "Ask Billy" question comes from Patrick in Manchester, England: "Big fan here in the UK. Love your style—just 'mazing! Do you



Josh Duhamel (above, in *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*) is hiding something—and Billy knows what it is.

know about Ian Watkins from 'Lostprophets'? There's supposed to be a video of him having gay sex, but none of the papers here will cover the story or run any photos. You must know something."

When I first read the name Ian Watkins, I was sure he meant the cutie from the pop group Steps who came out last year. But apparently there's another one. Lostprophets is a Welsh rock band who has done very well on the alternative charts in the U.K. with a unique combination of punk and pop. Lead singer Ian Watkins is kinda broody and grungy and has been linked with a number of high-profile Brit babes. A couple of weeks ago, word of a sex tape surfaced that apparently contains footage of Ian cavorting with a girl and a guy. The photo that we've obtained clearly shows Ian chomping down on some bloke's cock—no gal in sight. Now this could all be a publicity ploy. When the story first surfaced, Ian tweeted, "I love it when a plan comes together." Could he have orchestrated it? Who knows? But a cute guy sucking dick is definitely gonna show up on BillyMasters.com.

When popping up in a gay sex tape is considered a career move, it's definitely time to end yet another column. I still can't get over Josh Duhamel. You wanna be complimented on your calves, Josh? Start hanging out with baby sheep. How hard is that? Certainly no harder than going to www.BillyMasters.com—the site where you can see everything the celebs wish you didn't. Busy scheduled coming up—Sept. 24 in San Francisco for the GayVNs. Gay Days Anaheim on Oct. 2, Divas Simply Singing on Oct. 9. And you people wonder why I stay away from L.A.? I'm exhausted already! If you have a need, a question, a copy of my itinerary, just drop a note to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before George Michael asks for his sentence to be extended! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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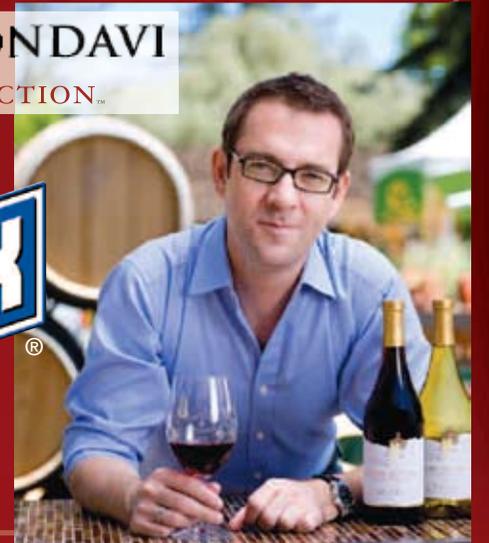
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The Club Escape Phoenix softball team. Photo courtesy of Art Murnan

SOFTBALL

South Side team excels in CMSA

BY ROSS FORMAN

Art Murnan jokes that the only color that matters to the Club Escape Phoenix softball team is their uniform color.

"We do have some divas on the team," Murnan, one of the team's coaches, said, laughing.

The team sported blue uniforms this season, and on the last Sunday in August, it sported the color of a champion, as Club Escape Phoenix won the C2 Division of the annual Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) softball season.

Club Escape Phoenix defeated Jack's 29-24 in the deciding game, overcoming a 15-3 deficit in the fifth inning. The Phoenix scored 26 runs in the final three innings.

Club Escape is one of the only South Side sponsors for a CMSA softball team, and the team is league's only predominantly African-American team—14 African Americans, three whites and one Hispanic.

"We never think about the color of the players on this team; we all bond and get along; we're just happy that others who are not residing on the South Side of Chicago know about our team," said Murnan, who is white. "We've been predominantly African-American since [the team] was formed.

"I can honestly say our only issues this year were, who was going to play. And that's not a bad issue to have considering our [main] issue [previously was,] will we have enough players to field a team."

"We are very excited, honored to win the C2 championship," Murnan said. "We've put a lot of work in to get here. We started practicing indoors in February and continued with practices once or twice a week throughout the season. With all we did to get here, there was no greater feeling than accomplishing our goal. I have coached sports for 43 years and had a lot of successes, but a coach always has a few special moments ... and this was one of them.

"This has been the goal of the team since we started playing in 1993. There is no greater feeling than accomplishing this goal."

Phillip Moore—who now lives in Washington, D.C.—formed the team in 1993. When Moore moved away, the responsibilities of running and managing the team fell on one of the current players, LaToris Jordan, who still coaches, along with Murnan.

The team was disbanded for about five years, and then re-formed in 2008.

The 2010 roster had 18 players.

"The core players of the last two years have been the major reason for success of this team," Murnan said. "We ask for a tremendous commitment and effort and these men have come through on that. Each player has a 'Can win, will win' attitude and gives their all to that belief. We believe in ourselves and believe the only way we lose is when we beat ourselves. We are OK with losing a game or two, as long as we have played our best and given our all. When we don't do that, we re-commit."

The team's top players this season were Kenny Williams (shortstop), Rick Cunningham (outfielder), LaToris Jordan (second baseman) and Darrick Johnson (pitcher).

And certainly Neal Dotson, too.

Dotson hit the game-winning home run against Jack's in a 17-15 come-from-behind playoff game. And Jack's feared Dotson so much that they intentionally walked him every time he batted—10 times in two games on the final Sunday of the season.

Johnson missed games in August to participate in the Gay Games in Cologne, Germany.

"Darrick works as a bartender on Saturday nights until [Sunday at] 6 a.m., and most times goes right to the fields to play two games. His stamina and dedication are fantastic and a source of motivation to all," Murnan said.

"Club Escape and its patrons have been nothing but supportive of our team and our efforts. Club Escape has allowed us to hold fundraisers, raffles and, of course, they have sponsored our team for many years. The patrons of Club Escape have also supported the team by coming [to games] and cheering us on, even for some early morning games. Our sponsor and fans have been great to us over the years. There are no better fans or sponsor, and we thank them."

Murnan said the key to the 2010 championship season was dedication from all players and their drive to improve.

"Our veteran players spend time with [newcomers], giving tips to be better hitters and fielders," Murnan said. "Plus, LaToris will not settle for anything but the best performance on the field from everyone. He plays for the love of the game, and in the two years that I've coached this team, I don't recall him missing a game."

Murnan said it is "an honor" to represent the South Side.

"It feels good to show the city that there are a lot of great things coming from the South Side," he said. "Club Escape Phoenix is composed of people from every walk of life and every side of town. I guess we represent all aspects of the rainbow and the city."

Murnan said the team already is planning for 2011 with one clear goal: "Win the [Gay Softball] World Series," which will be held in Chicago.

Anyone interested in joining the Club Escape Phoenix team should contact Art at art-

murnan@comcast.net or LaToris at ldj5565@yahoo.com.

To find out how teams finished in the regular season and playoffs, please visit <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.

Greg Louganis dives into a new endeavor

BY ROSS FORMAN

Greg Louganis heads to the Pacific Ocean on Sept. 25 for a morning swim; however, the man we've seen for years wearing nothing but a Speedo is nervous, very nervous.

"I'm not really a swimmer, so ...," he said, laughing.

Louganis is, instead, a five-time Olympic gold medal diver, "and divers dogpaddle to the side of the pool," he added with a laugh.

Nonetheless, Louganis will join hundreds of others in the annual 1.7-mile swim in support of Equality California, which raises critical awareness and funds for LGBT rights in California.

Louganis did an open-water swim in late August as part of his training, and though it spanned less than half of the 1.7-mile course, "I felt pretty good; I didn't do too badly; and that [distance] was a feat for a non-swimmer."

Louganis, now 50 and a Malibu, Calif., resident, was among several high-profile athletes who came out earlier this year in support of the Equality California swim. The others, though, were Lenny Krayzelburg, Diana Macmanus and Gary Hall Jr.,—all elite, award-winning swimmers.

"I was just supposed to be an honorary host" at a promotional event held earlier this year for the swim, Louganis said. "But, as [the event was going on,] and we were asking for donations,



Greg Louganis. Photo courtesy of Louganis

someone raised their hand and said that they would sponsor five swimmers. Two hands went up immediately [from swimmers who agreed to participate]. But then there was a lull, so I threw my hand up, [agreeing to participate].

"Then I realized it was 1.7 miles and I thought, 'What did I just agree to do?'"

Yes, 1.7 is quite the distance for the world-renowned diver.

"That's a long [distance]," he said.

Louganis admits he is "excited and nervous," and confident, too.

"Swimming in an ocean is quite different from swimming in a pool. You have the tide, the surf and even the wildlife to deal with," he said. "You have to know that I have a good sense of humor to put myself into something like this. I'm just doing it to have fun and help raise awareness."

Equality California is on the front lines, winning LGBT rights in the legislature and in the court of public opinion. EQCA advocates for the passage of LGBT protections in Sacramento and works with key coalition partners and thousands of volunteers to build public support for marriage for same-sex couples.

"Equality California does such important work, lobbying for equal rights, civil rights, especially for the LGBT community," said Louganis, who has been with his partner, Daniel, for approximately three years.

"We're not asking for special rights; we're just asking for equal rights."

Louganis is still active in the sport he starred in. In fact, when we spoke, he was in Tucson, Ariz., for the annual 2010 Junior World Diving Championships—to be certified as a diving judge.

"It's cool, there are a bunch of us old Olympians from the 1980s who are getting certified," he said.

But certified in the sport he excelled at?

"They want to standardize the judging," he said. "Diving is a sport that evolves, and right now we're in that acrobatic phase."

Louganis said he doesn't miss the competition, just the training.

And the training he's involved with more often these days involves his dogs. Louganis competes with his Jack Russell terriers in agility training, a sport requiring both human and canine fitness.

His last competition was in March.

"We've pulled back from a lot of the dog agility [training], but we may be getting back in the swing of it," he said.

Louganis confirmed that he also has thrown his hat in the pool, so to speak, for the president/CEO position at USA Diving. The current president/CEO is resigning in October, so USA Diving is now looking for a replacement.

"I would love the challenge," he said. "I would be in there fighting tooth and nail for the athletes and coaches. The state of diving globally is, it's the entire world chasing China."

Also on Louganis' resume these days are acting roles. Plus, he's been pitching a reality-TV show.

Kickball fundraiser to benefit BEHIV

The Call Girls kickball team will present a "Fabulous Fall Fling" Saturday, Sept. 25, at The Call, 1547 W. Bryn Mawr. Members of the team will be guest-bartending 7 p.m.-8 p.m.

Ashley Morgan will host the event, with performances by members of The Call Girls Team, Dominique Diamond, Double D Devine Diva, Gender Bent and the Chicago Spirit Brigade. There is a suggested donation of \$10, which includes a cocktail provided by the event's sponsor, Absolut® Vodka. Proceeds from the event will benefit the organization Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV).

For more information, e-mail thecall@cattlecallchicago.com, call 773-334-2525, or check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/callbar.

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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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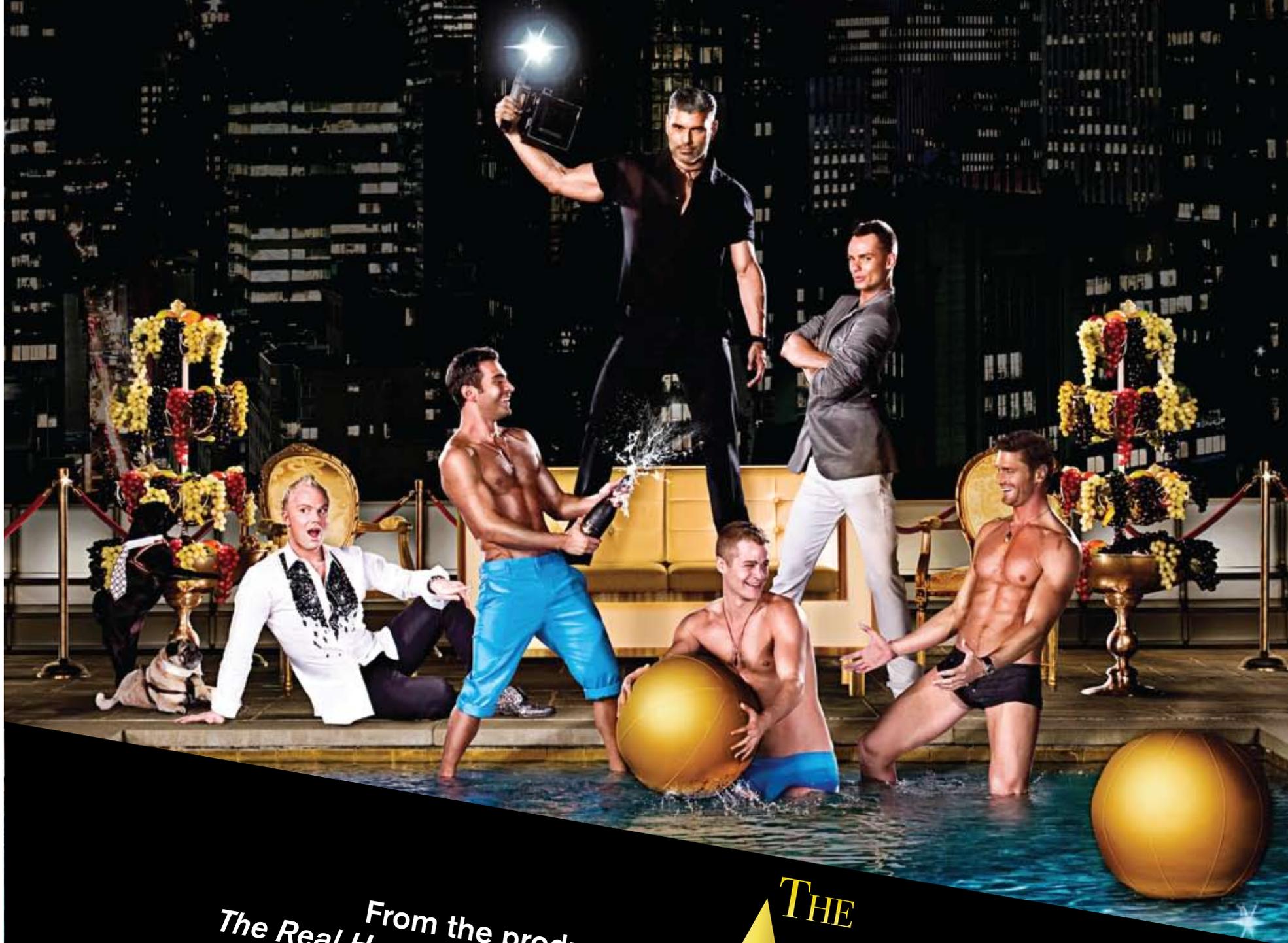
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