Controversial food chain
Chick-fil-A coming to town

BY YASMIN NAIR

The Chick-fil-A sandwich franchise is planning to open its doors in late April on the intersection of Wabash and Chicago, in the heart of Chicago's downtown. Founded by S. Truett Cathy in the 1960s, the chain is especially popular in the South but has enough of a reputation and devoted fans that the Chicago opening is bound to attract crowds.

However, recent news and controversies regarding its Christian background and allegations about its negative attitudes towards homosexuality may prove to be a stumbling block. Given all the many stories that have been circulating, a closer examination of the facts reveals some truths that appear to have been ignored thus far and also throws light on the task ahead if the Chicago gay community does in fact plan either a boycott or a protest of the franchise.

Cathy's original venture was the Dwarf Grill restaurant in Hapeville, Ga., started in 1946. The first Chick-fil-A store was established in an Atlanta mall in 1967. Today, the chain runs—by most accounts, including its website—about 900 free-standing restaurants, 29 drive-through locations and 214 licensed locations in places like college campuses and hospitals.

Since the chain has yet to open in Chicago, this reporter was unable to procure a sample for research purposes, but this website description of their basic sandwich is sufficiently detailed: “A boneless breast of chicken seasoned to perfection, hand-breaded, pressure cooked in 100% refined peanut oil and served on a toasted, buttered bun with dill pickle chips.” The sandwich is also available on a “Golden Wheat bun.” That combination of unctuous indulgence and practicality (the bread soaks up the grease from the chicken thus making it easier to eat the
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**love bites**
Sugar & Spice looks at five restaurants where you can have a very romantic time this Valentine’s Day.

**a league of their own**
Read about another 46th Ward aldermanic forum, this one organized by the League of Women Voters.

**that’s entertainment**
This week’s entertainment round-up includes bits on Perez Hilton, k.d. lang and Ewan McGregor.

**snow place like home**
See photos of Chicago’s historic snowstorm online.

** cole-hearted**
WCT talked with actor Jasper Cole (left) about being out in Hollywood and his gay cult-classic film, Get Your Stuff.

**national gay and lesbian task force**
ED Rea Carey recently spoke at the Creating Change confab. Read her speech in its entirety.

**snow place like home**
See photos of Chicago’s historic snowstorm online.

**cole-hearted**
WCT recently talked with singer Melanie Fiona, who’s up for a Grammy.

**daily breaking news**

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The state of marriage

BY DANA RUDOLPH
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Marriage equality in Maryland got a boost in the past week from two prominent politicians, but a winter storm delayed a marriage equality hearing in Rhode Island. Elsewhere, conditions were variable.

—Maryland: State Sen. Allan Kittleman, R-Howard County, announced Feb. 2 that he supports a pending marriage-equality bill. Kittleman had earlier said he would introduce a separate civil-union bill. He then resigned as minority leader Jan. 18, saying Republican colleagues did not want a “social moderate” as leader.

In a statement about his shift in support, Kittleman described himself as “a strong follower of Jesus Christ,” and added, “while my faith may teach that marriage is between a man and a woman, our government is not a theocracy. ... Therefore, while my spiritual life is extremely important to me, it cannot be the sole basis for my decisions as a state senator.”

Kittleman also noted that his father, the late state Senator Robert Kittleman, R-Howard County, helped fight racial discrimination in the 1950s and 1960s, which “instilled in me the belief that everyone, regardless of race, sex, national origin or sexual orientation, is entitled to equal rights.”

A public hearing on the Senate bill is scheduled for Feb. 8.

Maryland Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, a Democrat, also made his first public statement in support of the marriage bill.

Brown, a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, released a statement in December applauding the repeal of the federal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” ban on openly gay servicemembers.

The marriage bill is expected to pass the legislature, and Democratic Gov. Martin O’Malley has said he will sign it. Brown told the Washington Blade, however, that he expects opponents will gather enough signatures for a voter referendum on the bill in 2012, but believes voters will uphold it.

A poll from Gonzales Research and Marketing released Jan. 25 showed 51 percent of Maryland residents support full marriage equality, 44 percent oppose it, and 5 percent did not respond.

—Iowa: The full Iowa House approved a bill Feb. 1 to put a measure on the ballot asking voters whether to amend the state constitution to ban legal recognition for same-sex relationships.

The vote came after a packed public hearing that included the testimony of 19-year-old Zach Wahls, a University of Iowa student raised by two mothers. His speech has become an Internet sensation, receiving over a million viewings on YouTube.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal, D-Council Bluffs, had said he would block a vote on the bill in his chamber, where Democrats have a one-year-old marriage equality law. One pending bill would prevent the state’s ban on same-sex marriage from ending early next week. State Rep. Mark Ferrandino, D-Denver, said on his Facebook page Feb. 3 that he would be introducing a civil union bill “early next week.”

In 2006, Colorado voters approved a state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage and rejected a bill to domestic partnerships. Since 2009, however, unmarried couples have been able to obtain a designated beneficiary agreement that gives them limited rights over each other’s medical, financial, and end-of-life matters.

Colorado was the setting for Romer v. Evans, the landmark 1996 LGBT civil-rights case in which the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the state’s Amendment 2, which prohibited ordinances protecting people based on sexual orientation.

—New Hampshire: The House Judiciary Committee announced it will hold a public hearing Feb. 17 on two bills that seek to repeal the state’s one-year-old marriage equality law. One bill, introduced by State Rep. David Bates, R-Windham, would ban only marriage for same-sex couples; the other, introduced by state Rep. Leo Pepino, R-Manchester, would also prohibit civil unions.

—Illinois: Gov. Pat Quinn, a Democrat, signed into law a civil union bill Jan. 2 that he had supported for 15 years. He had previously announced his support in 2010.

—Rhode Island: A House hearing on state Rep. Arthur Handy’s, D-Cranston, bill to enact marriage equality was postponed until February 9 because of a winter storm. State Sen. Rhoda Perry, D-Providence, has introduced a similar bill in the Senate.

But three other bills—also filed by Democrats—would pass a measure on the ballot in 2012 asking voters if they would like to amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage. State Rep. Jon Brien, D-Doornsocket, and Sen. John Tassoni, Jr., D-Smithfield, on Feb. 3 filed identical bills to do so. Sen. Frank Ciccone, D-Providence, who is openly gay, is a cosponsor of Handy’s bill. Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed, however, opposes marriage equality.

—Utah: State Rep. LaLa Christensen, R-Drapier, who introduced the 2004 bill (now law) that bans same-sex marriage under the state constitution, filed two bills Feb. 2 that could further limit rights for same-sex couples.

One would require that “publicly funded social programs, government services, laws, and regulations designed to support families be carefully scrutinized to ensure that they promote the family.” The bill defines “family” as “the legal union of a man, a woman, and their children, “consistent with the Laws of Nature and Nature’s God.”

Christensen’s second bill—nearly identical to one that narrowly failed in 2006—states, “An arrangement, agreement or transaction that is unlawful or violates public policy is void and unenforceable.”

—New York: Barbara Bush, daughter of former President George W. Bush, taped a video expressing her support for marriage equality and calling on New Yorkers to join her. And a Quinnipiac University poll released January 27 found that New York State voters support marriage equality legislation by 56 to 37 percent, the highest margin ever for that poll. A Siena poll released January 18 showed similar numbers.

—I2I helps to create change

From left: Iowa state Sen. Mike Gronstal; Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley.
Chaos at Kato’s funeral

BY REX WOCKNER

Even in death, there was no peace for David Kato, the prominent Ugandan activist bashed to death with a hammer in his home Jan. 26 after a tabloid newspaper published his picture and the pictures of other gay people with the caption “Kill Them”—and just 23 days after he won a lawsuit against the newspaper over the article.

At Kato’s funeral, the Anglican official conducting the service, Thomas Musoke, started bashing gays, saying that “admiring a fellow man” is “ungodly,” that even animals can distinguish male from female, and that “gays ... should repent.”

Kato’s gay friends rushed the pulpit and seized the microphone.

Then people at the funeral who apparently agreed with the celeb rant got into physical skirmishes with the gay people. After that, the residents who would have carried the casket to the cemetery refused to do so, and Kato’s friends had to do it.

On Feb. 2, police told local media that a “thief” had bailed out of prison, Nsubuga Enock, confessed to killing Kato because Kato failed to give him a car, house and money that Kato purportedly dangled to coerce him into sodomy.

Numerous gay activists in Uganda and the U.S. said they do not believe the killing was about withheld gifts and are worried that the homophobic government intends to cover up the true motive for the crime to protect itself from foreign criticism and safeguard foreign aid.

Kato was the advocacy officer for the organization Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG) and had been a leading voice in the fight against the Anti-Homosexuality Bill, which has been before Uganda’s Parliament since October 2009.

More than 100 people walked from Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza near the United Nations to Uganda House in New York City on Feb. 3 demanding a proper investigation into the murder of prominent Ugandan gay activist David Kato and that the Anti-Homosexuality Bill be withdrawn from Uganda’s Parliament. Photo by Joe Jervis

The legislation would imprison for life anyone convicted of “the offense of homosexuality,” punish “aggravated homosexuality” (repeat offenses, or having gay sex while being HIV-positive) with the death penalty, forbid “promotion of homosexuality” and incarcerate gay-rights defenders, and jail individuals in positions of authority for up to three years if they fail to report within 24 hours the existence of all LGBT people or sympathizers known to them.

Some U.S. and Ugandan activists and reporters have blamed U.S. evangelical visitors to Uganda for inspiring the bill, which, they believe, led to the newspaper article, which, they suspect, led to the murder.

“A March 2009 conference in Kampala ... featured notorious American anti-gay campaigners, who promoted the idea of a sinister global homosexual conspiracy to corrupt Uganda,” said Political Research Associates, a nonprofit that studies the U.S. political right. “Conference speakers advocated parliamentary action to thwart this ‘international gay agenda’ (and) met with Ugandan lawmakers and government officials, some of whom drafted Parliament’s infamous Anti-Homosexuality Bill.”

Val Kalenda, board chair of Freedom and Roam Uganda, said the visitors “planted hatred in Uganda (and) must take responsibility for David’s blood.”

Scott Long, who headed Human Rights Watch’s LGBT Rights Division for several years said, “The foreign Christian leaders who have supported the spread of murderous homophobia in Uganda ... should search their consciences today and beg forgiveness.”

SMUG said that Kato had “been receiving death threats since his face was put on the front page of Rolling Stone magazine, which called for his death and the death of all homosexuals.” (The publication is unrelated to the U.S. magazine.)

The newspaper article said, in part: “The mighty Rolling Stone is glad to reveal some of the most horrible secrets in gay community, which is bent on recruiting at least one million members by 2012. Dishearteningly, gays are after young kids, who are easily brainwashed towards bisexual orientation. ... The leaked pictures of Uganda’s top homosexuals and lesbians have renewed calls for the strengthening of the war against the rampage that threatens the future of our generation by hanging gays. Unless government takes a bold step by hanging dozens of homosexuals, the vice will continue eating up the moral fibre and culture of our great nation,’ ... said a radical church leader who preferred anonymity.”

On Feb. 3 in New York City, more than 100 people walked from Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza near the United Nations to Uganda House demanding a proper investigation of Kato’s murder and that the Anti-Homosexuality Bill be withdrawn from Parliament. A similarly sized action took place in San Francisco’s Harvey Milk Plaza.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

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Ugandan leader talks about LGBT oppression, David Kato

BY TULLY SATRE

The Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Art and Media hosted a presentation and conversation addressing LGBT activist efforts in Uganda as well as the current state of the country's LGBT rights. The presentation, held on Jan. 31 at Columbia College, fell just days after the brutal murder of David Kato, one of few openly gay activists in Uganda. Kato served as the publicity and advocacy officer for Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG), an underground effort to restore basic human rights for the LGBT community in Uganda, a country notorious for its Inhumane treatment of LGBT people.

“We are not here tonight because David Kato was murdered,” said Jane Saks, executive director of the ESBI Institute, “We’re here because he should be alive.”

Frank Mugisha, who serves as the current executive director of SMUG, sat in the first row as Saks recounted meeting the 27-year-old Mugisha a year prior in Kampala, Uganda, “I have grown to admire him as a leader,” she said of Mugisha, “as a young man making courageous decisions.” Saks introduced Mugisha, who approached the podium with a big smile, seemingly carefree and worry-free.

“If you’re gay you can be expelled,” Mugisha began, “your family can throw you out and the church can throw you out. And I love my faith.” Mugisha grew up thinking he was alone and described trying everything to cure his homosexuality from laying out in the sun to hours of prayer. He soon realized that there was nothing he could do to change, so he came out.

“When I got family support I said, ‘why can’t I also reach out and get support [from other people]?” leading Mugisha to come out publicly. He met David Kato during a Ugandan court case where Kato spotted a smiling Mugisha from across the room. He insisted Mugisha become involved in his efforts to promote fair treatment for the LGBT community in Uganda. “He became a father to me in the movement,” said Mugisha. “He became a supporter of me in the movement.”

Mugisha was already en route to Chicago when he learned of Kato’s murder. Local authorities quickly dubbed the murder the result of a robbery. But Mugisha knew otherwise, “Many of us will get killed in the struggle,” he said nonchalantly much to the surprise of many in the crowd, most under the age of thirty. “David was much to the surprise of many in the crowd.”

In 1996, the South African constitution was the first in the world to specifically outlaw discrimination on the grounds of sexual preference. But this progressive stance has not changed the way many South Africans think about or treat gays and lesbians. Hate crimes are on the rise, particularly against black sexual minorities.

“We are not advocating for marriage,” Mugisha explained that the equal opportunities act of 2007 states that “the minority can enjoy marriage in a western country and homosexuality as a ‘western import’ a fact that has been kindled recently by American evangelical missions in Uganda using fear tactics to entice church communities.

In March 2009, three American evangelicals in collaboration with local churches, Christian organizations (spurred head by the Family Life Network) held a seminar in Uganda called “Coming Out Straight.” The individuals (Scott Lively, Don Schmierer and Caleb Lee Brundidge) told Ugandans that gays can be healed, that there is a gay agenda from the western world and that they (people from the west) have paid homosexuals to come to Uganda and spread homosexuality.

Mugisha noted that many in Uganda started to talk about gays only in the context of anal sex. “Who says I am having sex?” Mugisha asks, “Why are you talking about sex?” The ignorance is fueled by Ugandan media.

In the October issue of Rolling Stone, a local newspaper in Uganda, the photographs and short report on 100 gay Ugandans were published with a subtitle that accused gays and lesbians of recruiting children and asked for their execution. This story sparked the initial death threats that Kato received. Saks pointed out that there are approximately 11-15 openly gay people in Uganda willing to speak up, meaning the Rolling Stone article outdated of individuals putting their safety and security at high risk. SMUG successfully sued Rolling Stone shortly after the article was published.

The political climate towards the LGBT community continues to be unstable. Legislators and government officials have uttered homophobia in Uganda which often fuel homophobia. In 1999 the president of Uganda called for the open shooting and killing of homosexuals. “That kind of talk from state figures has a list of intolerance and homophobia in Uganda,” said Mugisha.

In 2005 an amendment to the Ugandan constitution criminalized same-sex marriage. Further, Mugisha explained that the equal opportunities act of 2007 states that “the minority can enjoy their rights only if the majority accept them,” a clear hindrance towards human rights.

Section 140 of the penal code of the Republic of Uganda criminalized “carnal knowledge against the order of nature” with maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Sec. 141 prohibits “attempts at carnal knowledge” with maximum seven years imprisonment.

Section 143 punishes acts of procurement of or attempts to procure acts of gross indecency between men in public or private at up to five years in prison. All these laws and more have been used to legally mistreat the LGBT community in Uganda.

A notorious 2009 law called the “anti-homosexuality bill” punishes the promotion of homosexuality. Activists like Mugisha may be punished with life imprisonment. If Ugandans do not report those who have condoned their homosexuality, they may be imprisoned as well.

In fact, Mugisha pointed out, his presence at the evening’s forum would be considered illegal in Uganda. If the offense is committed many times, it may lead to execution.

SMUG is known but is operated underground for the safety and security of its members. If the location of their offices and operations becomes known, they have to move. “We live our life where we have to watch our back,” said Mugisha, “I have to live in areas that are not so populated.” Saks noted that Mugisha may not return to his apartment in Uganda but due to continued support from people within the U.S., a new apartment has been found for him when he returns to Uganda. Despite the constant moving around, SMUG remains organized and can boast many successes. Aside from winning the case against Rolling Stone, SMUG continues to challenge the state and take cases to court under the leadership of Frank Mugisha.

“What is happening in Uganda can happen somewhere else,” Mugisha said bringing to mind a famous 1963 quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Mugisha wrapped up the evening remembering the courageous and tireless efforts of David Kato: “He’s the kind of person who would get beaten because he says he’s gay. He was very open. He stood out for everyone. We looked at him like our father in the movement.”

A broadcast of the presentation will be aired on CAN-TV Sunday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m. on Channel 21 and Thursday, Feb. 17, at 8 a.m. on Channel 15.

More on SMUG can be found online at http://sexualminoritiesuganda.org.

Dress for Success opens in Chicago

Dress for Success Worldwide, an international not-for-profit organization, has opened its Central regional office at 515 N. State, according to a press release.

Dress for Success worldwide promotes the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. Since starting operations in 1997, Dress for Success has expanded to more than 100 cities in the United States, Australia, Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, the United Kingdom and the West Indies.

“With the launch of Dress for Success Worldwide, Central, we will be able to serve more women in Chicago and positively influence not only them but their children as well,” said Joli Gordon, CEO of Dress for Success Worldwide. See http://www.dressforsuccess.org for more info.
Queer Palestinians hold forum at Hull House
BY YASMIN NAIR

The Jane Hull House Museum hosted a ground-breaking appearance by two Palestinian queer women and feminists (currently on a multi-city tour) Feb. 6.

Ghardir Shafei is a feminist activist and member of the Jerusalem-based organization Aswat (“voices” in Arabic) and Haneen Maikay is a queer activist and director of al-Qaws (“rainbow” in Arabic), a community based organization that works with LGBTQ Palestinians throughout Israel and the Palestinian occupied territories.

Photos were not permitted due to security reasons. Addressing a standing room-only audience, Lynette Jackson, associate professor of history and gender and women’s studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, spoke about the importance of the event in the current context of “the waves of popular uprisings” in Egypt, the “stubborn persistence of the Palestinian imagination,” and the need to think about the persecution of queers worldwide.

After a brief spoken-word performance by Tristan Silverman, the women addressed questions posed by Jackson and Lalla Farah, associate professor of women’s and gender studies at DePaul University. They spoke of how their respective groups had come about because of the need to find spaces where they would be recognized, and multiple identities as Palestinian, queer and feminist. Shafei said of moving to Tel Aviv in an attempt to find a queer community. She was warmly embraced by Israeli friends who nevertheless were uncomfortable with her political identity as a Palestinian woman. The two said that feminist circles were reluctant to fully embrace queers. Both groups came out of the need to establish “safe spaces” for feminist, queer lesbians to find solidarity.

Maikay addressed the problems that arise for women who need and are often denied special passes to leave their areas, and the fact that mobility and education are key factors in attendance. She emphasized that this was one reason al-Qaws did a lot of grassroots outreach.

Jackson raised the issue of “pink-washing,” a term used by some commentators on queer issues in the Middle East to describe what they describe as Israel’s attempt to “rebrand” itself as a gay haven in the area. Maikay said that this “diverts attention from Israel’s institutionalized policies of discrimination” and that soldiers at checkpoints “don’t discriminate between gay and straight.”

Both women spoke about the particular challenges facing Palestinian women and queers as they sought more gender freedom in a conservative society and their queer identities in a situation where such are relatively invisible. They emphasized that their groups were explicitly political, and that it was impossible not to be so in what Shafei described as “levels of oppression which can shift by the minute and which are an integral part of our struggle.” Maikay stressed that while they engaged a nationalist discourse, “we are not a nationalist group, but a human rights group, even as we are aware that we are part of a nationalist struggle.”

Maikay was also critical of the concept of “coming out,” saying that “the ceremonial notion of coming out is a very Western concept which can shift by the minute and which are an integral part of our struggle.” Maikay stressed that while they engaged a nationalist discourse, “we are not a nationalist group, but a human rights group, even as we are aware that we are part of a nationalist struggle.”

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The city issued a letter in response to concerns that the event would violate an ordinance that bars most picketing of religious services immediately before, during or after they are being conducted. The protest is slated to take place at 10:30 a.m.

The American Civil Liberties Union wrote a letter to Chicago Police Department (CPD) Superintendent Jody Weis, CPD General Counsel Debra Kirby, Corporation Counsel Mara Georges and 18th District Commander Kenneth Angarone, asking if they planned to enforce the ordinance. The city responded that it would not. GLN stated that the protesters will show their opposition to “the anti-LGBT bigotry of the Catholic hierarchy;” and urge that “tax dollars no longer go to tax-exempt religious groups that refuse to commit to equal rights for LGBT people.”

City will not arrest Feb. 13 protesters

The City of Chicago has indicated that it will not arrest participants at a Feb. 13 Gay Liberation Network (GLN) protest at Holy Name Cathedral, 735 N. State, according to a GLN press release.

The Rainbow Wedding Network's third annual “Same Love, Same Rights” Wedding Expo will take place Sunday, March 27, at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 W. Mart Center, 1-4 p.m. For more info, see http://www.RainbowWeddingNetwork.com.
From suppression to expression: Egypt, WikiLeaks and the nascent power of free speech

Jorjet Harper

I spent close to a month in a city in Egypt in 1995. I went there to see the ancient monuments, and, as of this writing, to cosmopolitan Egypt, and, as of this writing, to my surprise I fell in love with the modern what it was like to be an Egyptian citizen. It was my first experience living in a country where I could speak with people who also spoke English. But it was the first country I'd ever visited that was clearly a dictatorship.

Posters of President Hosni Mubarak were hung prominently not only in every post office and government building but in every bank, every hotel, all over the place like Big Brother. Trafﬁc cops wielded machine guns. People who were otherwise friendly and articulate grew nervous when the talk turned to their government, especially when soldiers and police were nearby.

Visitors could feel quite safe despite the ubiquitous uniformed presence because the police were there to ‘keep order’. But the Egyptian people themselves have now been prey to the whims of Mubarak’s enforcers for three decades. Stories of innocent citizens snatched up in the streets and tortured in Mubarak’s “sweeps” for decades.

Yet in the last several years, WikiLeaks appears to have accomplished exactly what the Bushies failed to inspire with their ruthless, bloody, counterproductive efforts toward democratic freedoms in other automactic regimes in the Middle East.

Here we are all these years later, still at war in Iraq and Afghanistan, pouring billions of dollars down that endless quagmire, having caused the deaths of millions of ordinary people and the displacement of millions more, and making ourselves even more hated around the world.

WCT seeking 30 Under 30 nominations

Ray Koenig, III

The annual Windy City Times 30 Under 30 Awards are co-sponsored by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Chicago House, Howard Brown Health Center, Center on Halsted, the Chicago History Museum and the Respiratory Health Care of Metro Chicago.

Chicagoland — Windy City Times is seeking to recognize 30 more outstanding LGBT individuals (and allies) for its annual 30 Under 30 Awards.

Nominees should be 30 years or under as of June 30, 2011, and should have made some substantial contributions to the LGBT community, whether in the fields of entertainment, politics, health, activism, academics, sports or other areas.

The deadline to nominate individuals is Friday, April 22.

The annual Windy City Times 30 Under 30 Awards are co-sponsored by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Chicago House, Howard Brown Health Center, Center on Halsted, the Chicago History Museum and the Respiratory Health Care of Metro Chicago.

Windy City Times Managing Editor Andrew Davis coordinates the awards program for the paper. Hundreds of people have been honored by the paper in the more than 10 years since the awards were established. Most honorees have gone on to great success in their careers and educational endeavors, including working for the Obama presidential campaign and administration, plus individual successes in music, legal, professional and academic careers and much more.

Individuals, organizations, co-workers, etc. can nominate a person by e-mailing Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com or faxed to Andrew Davis’ attention to 773-871-7609. Self-nomina- tions are welcome.

The nomination should be 100 words or fewer and should state what achievements or contributions the nominee has made. Nominators should include their own names and contact information as well as the contact information and the age of the nominee.

Note: Following the policy instituted in 2005, individuals can only win once. Those who have won the award since that year are ineligible for this year’s awards.

Nominees will be notiﬁed in May and recognized at a free ceremony Wed., June 22, 5:30 p.m., at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted.

Windy City Media Group (WCMG) produces Windy City Times, Nightspots, OUT! Resource Guide, Identity online, WindyCityQueercast. com and QueerTNetwork.com. WCMG is also the producer of these annual events: Windy City Gay 1604, Guys Got Talent, 30 Under 30 and the Windy City Times Theater Series. To download all of our products visit, windycitymediagroup.com. Send questions to publisher@windycitymediagroup.com or call 773-871-7610.

‘Cocktails and a Conversation on Aging’ Feb. 10 at Tower Club

Ray J. Koenig, III

The Women’s Bar Association of Illinois; Clark Hill PLC; and Wells Fargo will present “Cocktails and a Conversation on Aging” Thursday, Feb. 10, 7-7:30 p.m. at the Tower Club, 20 N. Wacker.

The event will include networking and a panel discussion. The panel—featuring out attorney

‘Women of Concern’ event Feb. 25

Concern Worldwide will hold its annual Women of Concern Brigid Awards luncheon on Fri., Feb. 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Renaissance Chicago Downtown Hotel, 1 W. Wacker.

The 2011 Women of Concern Brigid Awards luncheon honors three Chicagoland women (Justice Francis X. Koenig, Terrie McDermott) for their achievements. A silent auction featuring national and local artists will take place. The funds raised from this event will support Concern Worldwide’s maternal and child health programs in Haiti, Rwanda and Malawi.

Call 312-431-8400 or visit http://www.concernusa.org.
BLACk HISTORY MONTH PROFILE
LZ Granderson
BY LEyla FaraH

Perhaps one of the most visible sports journalists in the nation, LZ Granderson is African-American, openly gay, Christian and one of ESPN’s most popular columnists. The one-time Detroit gang member is now a sought-after commentator on pivotal topics such as race, gender and politics, in addition to sports.

Prior to joining ESPN first as a magazine editor and later as a writer, Granderson was a sports columnist for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and was the reporter to whom professional basketball player Sheryl Swoopes came out of the closet in 2005. He later joined ESPN360’s talk show Game Night.

Now a force to be reckoned with at ESPN.com’s Page 2 and ESPN the Magazine, Granderson sparked controversy in his July 16, 2009 CNN column titled “Gay is Not the New Black.” In the piece, Granderson wrote:

“In their minds, Obama is not moving fast enough on behalf of the GLBT community. The outcry is not completely without merit—the Justice Department’s unnerving brief on the Defense of Marriage Act immediately comes to mind. I was upset by some of the statements, but not surprised. (After the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, President Ronald Reagan’s initial handling of AIDS and, more recently, Katrina, there is little that surprises me when it comes to the government and the treatment of its people).

Still, rarely has criticism regarding Obama and the GLBT community come from the kind of person you would find standing in line at a spot like The Prop House, and there’s a reason for that. Despite the catchiness of the slogan, gay is not the new black. Black is still black. And if any group should know this, it’s the gay community.”

BLACk HISTORY MONTH PROFILE
Meshell Ndegeocello
BY LEyla FaraH

Credited in the media for having started the “neo-soul” movement, 42-year-old singer-songwriter Meshell Ndegeocello is a proud bisexual African American woman with ten Grammy Award nominations stowed in her satchel.

Born in Germany and raised in Washington, D.C., Ndegeocello started her music career by recording a self-made demo in her bedroom before taking off to New York City hoping to strike gold as a bassist. She was soon signed to Madonna’s Maverick Records and eight studio albums would be released between the years of 1993 and 2009.

Tantalizing sounds, strikingly-authentic structures, and gnawingly raw lyrics lined the albums from the inside out and Ndegeocello’s sound and passion caught immediate fire within the entertainment industry. The musician’s ambiguous demeanor and representation of self further fueled media speculation into not only her music, but sexuality and social practices that were fairly taboo at the time of her arrival on the scene.

With her shaved head and sultry vocals Ndegeocello was the antithesis of R&B’s more traditionally manicured divas, and her open bisexuality challenged virtually everyone. In an interview with the Los Angeles Times, she said:

“I’m the ultimate misfit … I’m black. I’m a woman. I’m bisexual.”

The Granderson and Ndegeocello profiles are from the forthcoming book Black, Gifted and Gay by LGBT media pioneer Leyla FaraH (with assistance from LGBT celebrity reporter Sarah Toce).
ELECTIONS ’11: 48TH WARD
Jose Arteaga
BY ROSS FORMAN

Jose E. Arteaga, nicknamed “Joee,” is making his debut in politics this year, running for alderman in the 48th Ward.

The 36-year-old Arteaga has been a paramedic for 17 years and was in the U.S. Army. He is gay and has been partnered with Steve Boudreau, who works at a major Chicago law firm, for 16 years.

Windy City Times: Why are you getting into politics?
Jose E. Arteaga: I want to try something new. The old 48th Ward political ways are not working. Most people I speak to from my ward are unhappy.

WCT: What made you want to enter politics?
JA: Only a few weeks before Christmas, a young man was shot in front of [the bar] Big Chicks. I was told a million different versions of what happened that night. I asked as a concerned neighbor, community leader and taxpayer. No one knew anything. The alderman knew nothing; the police knew nothing; and the police liaisons knew nothing. No one ever called me back—people seemed annoyed and bothered that a member of the community was concerned about a shooting one block from my home, in front of a business that I am a patron of. A week later, a female runner was attacked in Buttercup Park along the lake. The same answers were given to me. No one knew anything. This is where the idea started. A friend of mine said, "Why don't you run? You would be a great alderman?" I had all the qualifications and plenty of heart and passion. One week later, I was gathering signatures for my petition.

WCT: What do you bring to the political world?
JA: I bring a fresh new outlook. I bring a new eye to old problems. I bring youth and innovation. I also bring a lot of heart and passion and a new attitude—Let's try something new. I have an open mind, and most important, I work hard. I'm not just going to talk. I'm going to do. In the U.S. Army I learned to lead and I learned organizational skills. I learned to delegate and prioritize. Most important, I know that I can listen. I listen and learn. I don't know everything but I'm willing to learn and I will fight for the people of the 48th Ward. Anyone who believes they know everything no longer listens. I know one thing, the people of the 48th Ward are tired of not being listened to.

WCT: What are your strengths?
JA: I am self-motivated. I learn fast. I am open-minded and fearless. My motto has to be, "I know life is hard and I don't mind." WCT: What are your weaknesses?
JA: I am, at times, too passionate. I want to fight for all who can't speak up or fight for themselves. I want to "try something new." I want

Please remember to vote on February 22

Jose Arteaga.

Jose Arteaga

everyone in my ward to have a voice.

WCT: Who is Jose Arteaga?
JA: I am a South Side kid who beat all the odds. Statistics said that I, for many reasons, should not do well in life. I beat all the odds. I educated myself. I served my country. I served the City of Chicago. I have been in EMS for almost 20 years. I work for the community. I don't talk about it. This is a tough question for anyone. I don't think anyone can just say, "This is who I am." So, I'll leave it this way: To be continued. I'm still evolving as a person, as a human and as a man.

WCT: Why should someone vote for you?
JA: Once again, I'm trying something new.

I will not speak ill of my opponents. For decades in Chicago politics, people have been mudslinging and it gets them nowhere. I won't do that. This election is not about the candidates running for the offices. It should be about the voters and the citizens of the 48th Ward. It should be about the economy, education, crime, becoming green, taxes and city services. These are the issues I'm fighting for.

WCT: What's the biggest surprise you've found so far in the political world?
JA: It has been how some people don't know or care about politics. Many people don't know the process of getting on a ballot, or the process of running in a major city like Chicago. Some people don't know the dates of an election or what ward they live in. As I have said, "I'm trying something new, so whatever I learn, I pass on to you. I speak to.

WCT: What do you want to do for the 48th and how do you plan to get things done?
JA: The major concern I have heard from the people of the 48th Ward has been about safety. I totally believe that if you clean up and make Argy, Thorndale and Sheridan [Streets] safe, you could be made mayor. I have, and will, continue to call the police. I will encourage everyone to call [the] police weekly, daily [or] hourly if we have to. The police must be held accountable for their service. We need more police liaisons for our Ward and precincts.

I want high-rises to go green. More recycling can be made. Mayor Lightfoot is probably the best candidate I can think of. He knew he was wrong, he knew he had done wrong and he had that ego— and that's what the public needs. The public needs strong answers, and people need to take responsibility.

WCT: Do you feel that being the ward’s only candidate gives you any sort of advantage?
JA: I don’t think so. Gay is powerful, smart and informed. I don’t think they’re in that mode of “Hey! Here’s a gay candidate. Why don’t we jump on this bandwagon?” I think they want to be recognized as being politically aware, so I don’t think [my sexual orientation] is an issue.

WCT: What are the biggest issues/concerns you see for the 48th?
JA: My greatest concern for my Ward is that people won’t come out and vote on Feb. 22. My other concern is they won’t take a chance on a new kid [who is] “trying something new” and they will sit back with nothing changing in the 48th Ward.

Marilyn Morales falls short, reflects
BY ROSS FORMAN

Marilyn Morales wanted to make history as Chicago’s city clerk—she would have been the highest-ranking gay person in city government and the first Latina to hold the position.

But Morales, a lesbian activist and Chicago Park District operations manager, was not able to secure the required 12,500 signatures by the deadline to put her name on the ballot.

“I started late in the game,” Morales said. “If I had gotten on the ballot and won, one of the things I would have done would be to get election information out there so it is much more transparent, so individuals who really want to serve the public and are not affiliated with any political party, will have the information [needed.] I did not have the information in a timely manner. So what now?

She plans to rest, she said. Laughing.

And she also is tracking the race for mayor of Chicago.

In a discussion with 44th Ward Alderman Tom Tunney (who is now running unopposed), the out politician discussed voter apathy, small business and a school for LGBT students.

**Windy City Times:** In a 2008 interview with **Windy City Times**, you mentioned that only one in four people votes in the 44th ward. As Lakeview is packed with a younger crowd, many of whom are new to the city, how have you worked towards engaging the young residents in Lakeview to make a difference by casting their votes?

**Tom Tunney:** Our voter turnout has been up and I think that’s because I am working on national democratic issues. We had a huge spike under Barack Obama. And we had a nice significant uptick with the election of Gov. Quinn. I think, in a lot of ways, the community was very wary about the Republican challenger Bill Brady. I think with the mayoral excitement our numbers are up. I’m very satisfied with the work we’re doing in terms of voter registration, especially in terms of the LGBT community.

**WCT:** Are there a few openly gay candidates on the ballot this February. What advice would you have for openly gay candidates in the upcoming election?

**TT:** I don’t think there is as many as there should be. I have given council to a lot of gay candidates and let them know what the job actually is! It’s not easy transition for society even in a tolerant city. I think we need to re-charge. There was some dissention on which avenue we should go. A Harvey Milk type of school had been proposed, somewhat after the School of Social Justice in the Humboldt Park Neighborhood. Our ultimate goal is to make sure LGBT students feel protected in all their schools; we need to make sure there is a climate change on sex education and bullying issues.

**WCT:** As an alderman, how may you assist in improving funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education in your community and throughout the city?

**TT:** I can tell you that on the city council I have been the leading advocate to increase an array of HIV services. Each year on budget time we work very closely with [local organizations] to make sure that resources are not only maintained but also increased. It is going to be especially important as we have a budget shortfall to make sure there is somebody on the city council to protect those funds. It has been an amazing opportunity to be on the council for when these decisions are finally resolved and convincing my colleagues that these issues affect the entire city of Chicago.

**WCT:** What steps have you taken to further HIV/AIDS treatment and education programs?

**TT:** We have been working on prevention with the Department of Health and how to best use prevention funds. We are trying not just to be reactive but also proactive. As you know, most new transmissions are in the minority community. AIDS is deadly, not dead.

**WCT:** What are your thoughts on a school that would be designed specifically for LGBT students, like the Harvey Milk School in New York City?

**TT:** I was involved in the early negotiations. That idea is still active in our community but I think we need to re-charge. There was some discussion on which avenue we should go.

A Harvey Milk type of school had been proposed, somewhat after the School of Social Justice in the Humboldt Park Neighborhood. Our ultimate goal is to make sure LGBT students feel protected in all their schools; we need to make sure there is a climate change on sex education and bullying issues.

**WCT:** As a leader in Chicago’s LGBT community, what do you feel is the biggest problem facing our community today?

**TT:** We need to continue to work on is this whole concept of bullying with our youth and (I would venture to say) recognizing the importance of making sure that youths have role models—that there is an atmosphere of tolerance in everything they do. Coming out is still not an easy transition for society even in a tolerant city that Chicago has become.

The Center on Halsted has been a very good asset to the city to make sure that gay and lesbian youth are not only respected but are cultivated and becoming great members of society. Another reason I am doing this job is because gays and lesbians are part of the cultural fabric of this city and are a part of the success of this city. There is a lot of isolation inside the LGBT community. Many of us do not have nuclear families. We’re hopefully going to unveil a new senior LGBT affordable housing project on Addison and Halsted. The RFP has been out there and completed and we’re hopefully going to announce who is going to be the development team. It talks about our needs for the community as they age in place.

**WCT:** A lot of your success in Chicago stemmed from small business. How have you continued to improve the entrepreneurial growth of small businesses in Chicago?

**TT:** We have actually found new funding for the gay and lesbian chamber of commerce. Our chambers in Lakeview are very supportive. The economic climate of our city is at an all time low, certainly within our lifetime. [Because of this] more people will want to work for themselves.

My job is really to make sure we work with our chambers on streamlining regulations downtown and providing startup financing of small businesses. I am trying to reduce some of the financial taxes. I have been the leading advocate on eliminating the employer expense tax. Everyone on council knows that’s the most regressive tax, on the converse side we don’t have a city tax.

**WCT:** Is there anything else you would like to add?

**TT:** I want to emphasize that I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this ward for the next four years. I have a lot of projects I want to get done: more green space in our ward (there is a specific site on School Street I am working on), working on the gay and lesbian [senior housing project] on Addison/Halsted and redoing the shuttered hotel on Belmont and Sheffield. I have always managed the issues around Wrigley Field. There are new owners, but the commitments and neighborhood protections are still in place.

As far as being on the council at a time when the attitude is a little bit different is to make sure that the next mayor has the same respect for our community as our issues evolve.

---

**KICK OFF THE WEEKEND IN STYLE AT A VERY SPECIAL LGBT RECEPTION WITH RAHM Emanuel**

**candidate for Mayor of Chicago**

**Cocktails and hors d’oeuvres**

Friday, February 11

4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

The Ivy Room at Tree Studios

12 East Ohio

Valet parking is available

Purchase Tickets at [www.chicagoforrahm.com/LGBT](http://www.chicagoforrahm.com/LGBT)

$30 minimum donation per person
The Windy City Times election guide charts include the candidates' responses to 16 LGBT-related questions sent by the newspaper. Windy City Times does not endorse candidates for election.

Approximately 90 percent of the candidates in all the mayoral and aldermanic races were sent surveys. (Windy City Times was not able to reach a few candidates.) We have also included our questionnaire. NOTE: Regarding the mayoral candidates' answers, neither Bill "Dock" Walls nor Patricia Watkins favors marriage equality. In addition, Walls is not pro-choice while Watkins has not employed any LGBT campaign staffers.

For AIDS Foundation of Chicago question responses from mayoral candidates see http://www.aidschicago.org/advocacy/candidate_questionnaire.php. Also, a broad coalition of Chicago-area LGBT organizations has assessed LGBT issue positions of candidates in areas including transgender rights and marriage equality; see http://www.eqil.org/nextmayor.html.

Equality Illinois PAC's and Planned Parenthood's endorsements will be in next week's issue. eqil.org/nextmayor.html.

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Jeffery D. Turner
Martavious "Mark" Carter
Larry G. Nelson
Donnellette C. Lawson
Frank M. Baas
Sharon Denise Dixon

15/16

ALDERMAN - 25th WARD
Cuauhtemoc Morfin
Daniel "Danny" Solis
Ambrosio "Ambi" Medrano, Jr.
14/16

ALDERMAN - 26th WARD
Roberto Maldonado
Devon Reid

ALDERMAN - 27th WARD
Tom Courtney
Walter Burnett, Jr.
Geovanna Fassett
10/16

ALDERMAN - 28th WARD
Michael A. "Mike" Stonson
William Spehn
Jason C. Ervin
Carmenta F. Earl

ALDERMAN - 29th WARD
C. B. Johnson
Deborah L. Graham
Thomas E. Simmons

ALDERMAN - 30th WARD
Stella Nicipri
Ariel E. Robyosa
Doug Cannon

ALDERMAN - 31st WARD
Regner "Ray" Suarez
Chaster R. Homowski

ALDERMAN - 32nd WARD
David M. Pavlik
Scott Waggoner
Brian Gorman
Brony F. Lynch

ALDERMAN - 33rd WARD
Richard E. Nell

ALDERMAN - 34th WARD
Burt L. McQueen
Henry Moses
Carrie M. Austin
Shirley J. White
Michael E. Mayden

ALDERMAN - 35th WARD
Miguel Sotomayor
Ray Colón
Nancy Schiavone

ALDERMAN - 36th WARD
Nicholas Spoeta
John A. Rice
Thomas J. Motzny
Bruce Randazzo
Jodi Biancane
Brian Murphy

ALDERMAN - 37th WARD
Emma M. Mhts
Maretra Brown-Miller
Minerva V. Orozco
Steven E. Pleasant
Tommy G. Almila
Sharkie J. Finley

11/16

ALDERMAN - 38th WARD
Timothy M. Cullerton
Tom Caravette
Carmen Hernandez

John R. Videckis
Edmund "Ed" J. Quartullio
Mahmoud Elbongaby
Bart Goldberg
Sheryl M. Moschitto

ALDERMAN - 39th WARD
Margaret Laurino
Mary K. Hunter

ALDERMAN - 40th WARD
Patrick J. O'Connor

ALDERMAN - 41st WARD
Thomas Patrick Murphy
Daniel T. Łapiński
James J. Schanne
John Joseph Quinn
Mary O’Connor
Richard Gonzalez
Maurita E. Gavio
George Bannio
Barbara Atara
Jim Mullen
Brook Merck

ALDERMAN - 42nd WARD
Brandan Reilly

ALDERMAN - 43rd WARD
Jim Hinsangan
Tim Egan
Rafael A. Vargas
Bita Buenrostro
Charles E. Eastwood
Michael "Mike" Janikovich
Michela Smith
Carmen Olometti
Mitchell A. Newman

ALDERMAN - 44th WARD
Thomas M. Tunney

ALDERMAN - 45th WARD
Don Blair
John Garrido
John Arena
Anna Kocel
Marina Yolanda Faz-Huppert
Bruno Ballolino
Michael Fitzgerald Ward

ALDERMAN - 46th WARD
Bellevue T. Reo
Mary Anne "Molly" Phelan
Michael Carroll
Don Niwotny
James Cappelinn
Diane Shapiro
Andy W. Lam
Emily Stewart
Marc Kaplan
Caitlin Mckhres
Scott Baskin

ALDERMAN - 47th WARD
Matt Rachle
Ameya Pavar
Tom O'Donnell
Tom Jacks

ALDERMAN - 48th WARD
Harry Osterman
Patrick McDonough
Steven Cheneka
Jose E. Arteaga
Philip R. Bernstein

ALDERMAN - 49th WARD
Brendan Reilly

ALDERMAN - 50th WARD
Bernard L. Stone
Michael Charles Moses
Debra L. Silverstein
Greg Brewer
Ahmed Khan

The following 16 questions appeared on the survey that Windy City Times sent out to candidates in the 2011 election. Surveys were sent out to all candidates for whom we had contact info; we estimate that surveys were sent to 90 percent of all candidates. The questions were the same for candidates in all races. NOTE: Regarding the mayoral candidates’ answers, neither Bill “Dock” Walls nor Patricia Watkins favors marriage equality. In addition, Walls is not pro-choice while Watkins has not employed any LGBT campaign staffers. This is why they each scored 14/16.

1) Do you have or would you install a written policy in your office regarding sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination?
2) What is your position regarding funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education?
3) Have you taken or would you take any steps to further HIV/AIDS treatment and education programs? If so, what are those measures?
4) What are feelings regarding abortion? (i.e., Are you pro-choice or pro-life?)
5) Have you started or would you start sensitivity training for your staff members regarding LGBT-related issues?
6) Do you favor same-sex marriage?
7) If you were in the state legislature, would you have voted in favor of the civil-unions bill that recently passed through the Illinois General Assembly?
8) Do you favor hate-crimes legislation that increases penalties for crimes committed based on the sexual orientation or gender identity of the person attacked?
9) Do you believe that LGBT individuals should become foster parents if they are qualified?
10) Do you believe that LGBT individuals have the right to adopt children if they are qualified?
11) Would you keep committees around such as the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations’ Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues and departments such as the Office of LGBT Health?
12) What are your thoughts on a school that would be designed specifically for LGBT students, much like the Harvey Milk School in New York City?
13) Would you advocate for mandatory anti-bullying policies/training in Chicago public schools?
14) Are any members of your current staff—either campaign or general office personnel—even openly LGBT?
15) Please list any and all experience you have on LGBT-related issues.
16) What do you feel is the biggest problem facing the LGBT community today?
meal while driving) has meant that Chick-fil-A essentially sells a Southern staple, fried chicken, in a form designed for the contemporary consumer. This simple combination of comfort foods in a form designed for the contemporary consumer has resulted in big profits. Annual sales in 2010 were over $3.5 billion, according to the company’s website.

But what sets Chick-fil-A apart from competitors like Kentucky Fried Chicken and Popeeye’s is its resolute and open adherence to Christian principles. Like banks, Chick-fil-A restaurants are never open on Sundays. The company is a privately owned family business. Cathy has stepped down as company president and his son, Dan Cathy, took his place; another son, Donald Cathy, is senior vice president. They were both given the reins on the condition that they continue operating the corporation according to its Christian principles. The father remains busy with the corporation as chairman and CEO. In 1983, he founded the WinShape Foundation largely to work with youth, especially those who needed foster homes. The website describes the mission thus: “to impact young people and families through experiences which enhance their Christian faith, character, and relationships.”

The WinShape Foundation also conducts marital boot camps for both married couples and pre-marital couples alike (living quarters for the latter are single-occupancy only), a 2007 Forbes magazine article on the business, titled, “The Cult of Chick-fil-A,” discussed its hiring practices.

You (GAY; http://www.goodasyou.org) posted a series of posts suggesting that readers sign petitions to support two student efforts. One is ongoing at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). The other, which Change.org celebrates as a victory, has in fact been reversed at the time of this printing, the site had not provided this update. Rashad Davis is a theatre major at FGCU, and the primary person behind the student attempts to get Chick-fil-A off campus. Speaking to Windy City Times from Florida, Davis said that he had in fact been trying to get the effort going for about a year, but his efforts did not gain traction until late 2010 and early this year when the media also began to take more notice. According to him, he and other students—who have met with resistance—have worked to let people know that they are not afraid to talk with them about what they see as Chick-fil-A’s anti-gay policies but that the chain’s use of environmental unfriendly materials. Davis, a vegetarian, also says that the presence of Chick-fil-A in the university’s food court restricts food choices for those who might need more than just chicken. The Change.org petition to oust Chick-fil-A from FGCU has, at the time of this writing, acquired 13,625; the goal is 15,000.

Indiana University South Bend’s Ken Baierle also spoke to WCT, and clarified a point: Chick-fil-A has in fact remained on campus as some reports have claimed. In fact, Chick-fil-A does not maintain kiosks at IUSB’s two dining areas but delivers sandwiches on a weekly basis. After a faculty group raised their issues with Chick-fil-A, the university’s food court restricted food choices for the campus in no way violates the letter or spirit of those policies.”

IUSB planned a public forum to discuss the matter this week. New York University also made the news in this series of campus actions. It holds the unique distinction of being the only place in New York state with a Chick-fil-A. But here, the response was much less enthusiastic and, at least initially, queer students and their various groups have not agreed to a call for a boycott. WCT spoke to Joseph Bishop-Boros, a member of Queer Union, an umbrella group under which the other queer campus groups function, and explained that, “The majority of us have issues with single-issue boycotts, although boycotts can be a very powerful way to mobilize public action. If other students wanted to boycott Chick-fil-A, we’d support them.”

Bishop-Boros also made it clear that the group was not likely to come to its discussion only because of the anti-gay arguments, “...we try to think more in terms of intersectional forms of oppression. We don’t like to identify as a gays-and-lesbians-for-marriage-equality group ... If you think of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), Corporate Equality index, [those corporations] may be gay friendly but they could be doing horrible things to the environment, they could be using童 labour, they could be doing童 stuff to say you’re fighting for equality when in reality you’re supporting corporations that are doing horrible things in the world.”

During its first meeting of the semester this week, the matter will likely be taken up then.

What does all this mean for Chicago? To date, there has been no concerted effort to either lead a boycott or prevent it. Most people in the community have only heard the rumblings and are just beginning to familiarize themselves with the details, which is not surprising since the downtown store will be the first in the city. So far, activists here are weighing the options and considering the dimensions of the issue before
Groups release transgender report

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Last week the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGTFT) and the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) released a comprehensive report at the National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change gathering held in Minneapolis, Minn. It was the first large-scale national study that focused on discrimination among transgender and gender non-conforming people covering a wide range of issues including safety, education, healthcare, employment and housing.

To explain the details of the report both organizations held a conference call with members of the media and other interested parties. It was facilitated by Cathy Renna of NCTE Communications.

Renna introduced Lisa Mottet, J.D.—one of the report’s three authors and also NGLFT’s transgender civil rights project director—who explained the methodology of the study. It lasted six months (from September 2008 to February 2009) and included 6,456 participants who submitted paper or online questionnaires from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Next up was another author of the study Jaime M. Grant, Ph.D., director of the Task Force Policy Institute, a leading LGBT think tank, and then the final author, Justin Tanis, D.Min.—a member of the clergy and community education and communications outreach manager at NCTE—wrapped up the general findings of the survey.

One stark finding that the revealed was 41 percent of respondents have attempted suicide compared to 1.6 percent of the general population. In the area of poverty those who were surveyed were four times as likely to live in extreme poverty with an income of less than $10,000 and are twice as likely to be unemployed. While in the workplace, half of the respondents experienced harassment and one out of four were fired due to gender identity or expression. Housing discrimination was rampant with 19 percent refused a home or apartment and 11 percent getting evicted because of their transgender status. One in five has experienced homelessness at one time or another.

The authors also spoke of bullying in schools and fear of law-enforcement officials. People of color experienced higher rates of harassment than their white counterparts, according to the study. Despite these findings, more than 78 percent of the respondents said they feel more comfortable at work including their level of performance on the job after they have transitioned despite the harassment they still faced in the workplace.

Three transgender individuals then shared their stories of harassment and discrimination. Ja’biel Walthour, a 34-year-old African-American transgender woman from Savannah, Ga., talked being fenced in U.S. society; she said that when she was not ignored she was teased and harassed—so much so that she attempted suicide and became a teenage runaway. Acknowledging that she was transgender while still in high school led to guilt and shame that she said she lived with for many years. Walthour also said that “as an African American it was socially unacceptable and even taboo to speak of such things.” Wanting to enter the armed forces, Walthour was denied that dream due to her transgender status and she also experienced trouble getting a new driver’s license that showed her true identity.

Michelle Enfield—a Navajo transgender woman from Los Angeles, Calif., who works as a prevention training specialist at Red Circle Project, which focuses on Native American HIV Prevention—also talked about facing discrimination. Enfield also talked about her history of being bullied in school by both fellow students and teachers, which led to drug and alcohol abuse. There have also been periods of homelessness and harassment by law enforcement during Enfield’s life as a transgendered individual, she said.

Shane Morgan, founder and chair of TransOhio and an Ohio resident for 13 years, related his struggles with accessing healthcare. He said his family has stood by him and he has not lost his job; however, when he disclosed his transgender status in a pharmacy waiting room he experienced friction from health officials there. Morgan said he was turned away from treatment by a nurse practitioner who was uncomfortable with treating him due to his trans anatomy. Morgan said the nurse practitioner also asked about his genitals and other body parts in a loud voice while saying that his symptoms could not be valid since he looked male. Morgan said that education is the key with all individuals being involved to create a change in how transgender people are perceived in society.

The final speaker was Jane Ireland, a Tulsa, Okla., resident and transgender mother of three who said she was “honored to be a part of the trans community” but like many other transgender people she said she spent time as a homeless person and has also had to resign from her job. Both Rea Carey, executive director of the Task Force and Mara Keilings, executive director of NCTE, said that these findings pose a challenge to everyone and this report is a call for fairness and equality by all Americans towards the transgender and gender non-conforming communities.

To read the entire report please visit: https://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/rnds_full.pdf and to find out more about the Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality visit their websites at http://www.thetaskforce.org/ and http://transequality.org, respectively.

LGBT coalition to host mayoral forum


Windy City Black LGBT Pride


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**PASSAGES**

**Chuck Wesley**

Chuck Wesley, who played softball and volleyball in the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA), died Feb. 5 after a battle with leukemia. He was 52.

“Heaven is a brighter place today,” said CMSA President Shawn Albritton after learning of Wesley’s passing. Albritton added that he was in “shock” after hearing the news.

“I thought that Chuck was well on the road to recovery. I just saw him three weeks ago and he seemed to be in his usual great spirit.”

Wesley played outfield and catcher on a D-3 vision softball team in 2010, Big Chicks Wicked, coached by Brian Harder.

“It’s never easy losing a friend. I will always remember his positive attitude and outgoing personality,” said CMSA softball commissioner Jack Neilen.

“His fight has taught me that you need to make the most of each day as tomorrow is never promised.”

Neilen had known Wesley for about two years.

“One of my favorite stories of Chuck is running into him last year in Columbus, Ohio, at the Gay Softball World Series,” Neilen said. “Chuck was working the door at the annual Charity Talent Show, and I was one of the entertainers for the evening. The look of surprise on Chuck’s face when he saw me in full makeup was completely priceless.”

Albritton invited Wesley to ride on the CMSA float in the annual Chicago Gay Pride Parade, along with Joey Rivera from New York City and other fellow flag football referees where visiting for the weekend.

“The five of us had a fantastic time all day, on the float and at the after-parties,” Albritton said. “We took some great pictures on the rooftop of Chuck’s condo building. It was a beautiful day and this is how I will always remember Chuck.

“He kept fighting and always was upbeat.”

Wesley also played indoor and beach volleyball for CMSA. He was the human resources manager for Starwood Hotels.

Several of his local friends started the Chuck Wesley Chicago Memorial Page on Facebook.

“Chuck’s passing was a shock to many of us,” said Harder, 46, who lives in Chicago’s Edgewater neighborhood. “He had struggled with leukemia in the past year and we thought it had been taken care of with a bone marrow transplant last fall. When it returned recently and he was admitted to the hospital again, we thought it was just another fight he would win. So we were all surprised to find out he had passed.

“I’ve known Chuck for two years. He came to Chicago in 2009 and we found him a home on our softball team. He was a positive role model and inspirational spirit from the beginning. And when he couldn’t play, he was there to cheer us on.

“I will always remember his selfless spirit and determination to beat the odds. He was deeply spiritual and always knew he was in God’s hands under any and all circumstances.”

—Ross Forman

**PASSAGES**

**David Klug**

David Klug was fast asleep unexpectedly Jan. 28th in his apartment in Chicago. He was 45.

Klug was born March 10, 1965, in West Bend, Wis., to LaVern and Shirley (nee Faber) Klug. He attended St. John’s Lutheran School, West Bend East High School and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He was employed by ADP Account Services in Chicago. He did a lot of traveling for the company, and for his own pleasure, to many parts of the world.

Klug is survived by his mother, Shirley Klug of West Bend; three brothers, Leroy Klug of Janesville, Charlie (Sharon) Klug of West Bend, and Tom (Martan) Klug of West Bend; two sisters, Pam (Steve) Reinke of West Bend, and Lori (Brent) Wrobel of West Bend; numerous nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and a special group of friends in Chicago. Jill, Joel, Brian and Greg. He was preceded in death by his father, LaVern Klug; a nephew, Matthew Klug, and an infant niece at birth.

A private family service will be held.

If desired, memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association or St. John’s Ev. Lutheran Church in West Bend.

The Lord saw that David was very tired and needed help, So He put His comforting arms around David and said “Come with Me.”

David will be greatly missed by all.

**David Klug.**

**Hugh Mathis**

Hugh Mathis of Chicago died unexpectedly Jan. 26 while traveling in California. He was 47.

A successful fundraising executive at Resurrection (Medical Center) Development Foundation, Mathis also invested his creative and financial skills as a board member of Gerber/Hart Library and Heli in a Handbag Productions theater company.

His Songthym dinner parties on the lawn at Ravinia were known to be the envy of many North Shore hosts and hostesses. His annual Oscar parties, co-hosted with friend Tom Hedeon, involved daylong preparations and always featured the life-size Oscar statues and hand-made OSCAR marquise. Mathis was also an inventive traveller, making annual holiday trips to visit friends in New York for theater, Los Angeles for museums, and Provoceintown in the August Gay Carnival Parade. He rarely missed an opportunity to try a new restaurant, explore the latest art exhibit, or share stories of the hidden treasures he discovered while visiting small towns and cities during his travels.

A graduate of Lake Forest College, Mathis grew up in Waukegan, Ill. He is survived by his parents, Richard and Helen Mathis; his brother, Ted; sister-in-law, Tricia; nephews Andrew and Nicholas; very close friend Bill, as well as uncles, aunts, and friends.

The wake was held Feb. 6 at Peterson Funeral Home, 408 N. Sheridan, Waukegan. The funeral was held Feb. 7 at St. Patrick's Church, 15000 W. Wadsworth, Wadsworth.

Hugh Mathis.

**PASSAGES**

**Joyce Sloane**

Joyce Sloane—who was behind The Second City and who found and nurtured celebrities such as John Belushi, Gilda Radner and Chris Farley—died Feb. 3 at the age of 80, according to the Chicago Tribune.

She was associated with Second City for all except one of its 50 years of existence, having occupied several positions, including executive producer and founder of the national touring company.

Sloane was also active with various communities; for example, she served on the board of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

Vicki Quade e-mailed Wendy City Times, “Joyce Sloane could size up a theater performer in a heartbeat and tell you exactly what was good or wrong with it moments after a play had ended.

“I’d seen her at innumerable theaters in Chicago. She and I have a mutual friend, Gitta Jacobs, and I was Gitta’s guest at many opening nights. When Joyce liked something, you knew it. She had an easy laugh. She could boil down a performance to a few choice words of praise. When something was just okay, like so many of us, she might nod off during a show and afterwards would give a little smile and a shrug.

“I was lucky enough to occasionally pick her brain about what worked for her. The conversations were never very long. There was always a gaggle of people wanting to say hello to her, shake her hand, tell her how good she looked. I valued her opinions. Here’s what she told me when she came to see my show, Late Night Catechism. I asked her what she thought. She nodded enthusiastically, and said, ‘I stayed awake for the whole thing’—and then she laughed. It’s a memory to treasure.

Quade later added, “I think it’s fitting that Joyce Sloane went to bed to watch a comedy and that laughter was the last thing in her heart. She loved to laugh, and she loved anything related to Frank Sinatra. If you were with Joyce and a Sinatra song came on the radio, she’d sing along—and then tell you Sinatra stories.

Jim Bennett and Judy Fabian of the gay comedy ensemble GayCo wrote that Sloane “served as the chair emeritus of GayCo Productions, the sketch comedy group founded at Second City in 1966 where ‘gay is the premise—not the punchline.’ Joyce was proud to see the gay community find their voice at Second City.

In 2003, GayCo Productions, along with Second City, created their 4th revue, Poked, a musical comedy celebrating sodomy (the U.S. Supreme Court had struck down the nation’s remaining sodomy laws two months earlier). At the end of the show, Joyce came back to congratulate the cast, declaring that she had not been that uncomfortable watching a show at the Second City since the Vietnam war. From Joyce, that was high praise indeed.

“Joyce knew ‘funny’ and she knew the power of comedy to expand the narrowest of view-points. But above all, Joyce knew how to make you feel special and loved. She always made time for a visit, would greet you with a huge smile and when she asked you how you were doing, she was not asking to be polite, she actually wanted to know and she required details. She will be missed.”

Ralph Lampkin of the Lampkin Music Group e-mailed that “Joyce Sloane taught me how to handle the gifted performers I have produced with grace and respect. She taught me that the nicest compliment receives the best out of any relationship, personal or business; because of Joyce, and her daughter, Cheryl, my career profile was heightened to a level I couldn’t have imagined.

“Our doors were opened that I walked through with confidence. Being a historian of show-business stories, Joyce shared with me many memories that will probably never be heard or read now that she has moved on to the show business heaven. I’m sure that Gilda and John were there to open the pearly gates.

“I, along with Alexandra Billings and many others, will miss her. We were honored by her presence in our lives, and all others, will always remember.”

Speaking of Billings, she wrote a tribute to Sloane. It can be viewed online at http:// abillings.livejournal.com/577667.html.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Sloane’s memory may be made to the American Heart Association for the Arts, 1010 W. Chicago, Chicago, IL, 60642 or Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln, Chicago, IL, 60614.

—Andrew Davis

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**WENDY CITY TIMES**
Chris LaMorte had a meeting with Patty Rothman, the owner of More Cupcakes in downtown Chicago—and naturally sampled one of her sweet treats. Then he was off to Tru for a sit-down meeting with Anthony Martin, the high-end restaurant’s executive chef.

LaMorte also had a cup of Starbucks coffee—a grande, served black—in the morning and another in the afternoon.

Welcome to a normal day in the gay life of this Lakeview resident who is the Chicago editor for UrbanDaddy.com.

UrbanDaddy is a free daily e-mail devoted to showcasing the city’s nightlife, food, style and more. As its website boasts, UrbanDaddy’s “goal is to be your friend. The kind of friend who knows everyone—the maître’ d at all the right restaurants, the bouncers at all the right clubs, the addresses of all the great parties. And the kind of guy who lives to share the wealth.”

UrbanDaddy e-mails daily reports—and LaMorte is the Chicago writer.

UrbanDaddy now hits 13 markets, including Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Miami and San Francisco, among others.

“The prose has to really fit our voice, our style, and also offer the audience what it is looking for. We’re very, very aware of what our audience wants and needs,” said LaMorte, who has watched subscribers to the Chicago version grow from zero to more than 100,000 in less than three years.

“It’s meant for young, sophisticated, mostly men”—and mainly the straight world.

“We don’t write in this testosterone-fueled, frat boy, jocky way. We are delivering a sophisticated take—and gay men in particular appreciate that,” LaMorte said.

So what about a gay version of UrbanDaddy?

Perhaps, he said.

“We have had people ask us if we would ever start a gay edition. What I try to do is write so that we’re not exclusive of anyone, but our target audience is the straight male, 25 to 35,” he said.

LaMorte graduated from Crete-Monee High School in 1988, and then received a B.A. in communication from DePaul in 1993. He earned his M.S. in journalism from the University of Illinois in 1993.

LaMorte also was the senior producer/dining editor at Metromix.

“This is where my writing career has led me,” said LaMorte, who was the first online editor at Westward, the alternative newspaper in Denver—a job he held for about four years.

LaMorte and his partner, Rob Grossett, 45, a radiologist, have been together for 15 years.
Expecting better: LGBT youth around the world

In 2010 we saw some long-overdue attention given to the extreme challenges facing young LGBT people. Traditionally, this attention was prompted by the alarming number of youth suicides and well-publicized cases of anti-gay violence that captured media attention in the United States and reverberated in many other countries. These cases unfortunately represent the tip of the iceberg—violence, isolation, depression, suicide and homelessness are serious problems for our young people, particularly for youth of color and those mired in poverty.

The rights to housing, education, security, bodily integrity and to share in and create culture are all guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and yet LGBT youth everywhere face violations of these rights. Countless young people around the world have shared with IGLHRC stories about being mistreated by family members, school and health-care officials, particularly for youth of color and those mired in poverty.

In Lithuania, a new law criminalized the distribution of information about sexual orientation through any medium to which children have access. This targeting of young LGBT people and their families runs counter to book and school policies. The law was modified after significant international outcry, but another proposed law would now make an offense the “promotion” of homosexuality—thus preventing pride marches—under the same rational of protecting minors.

In Uganda, girls and young women who are not recognized as lesbian, who visibly express their identity, who ask for their right to get married, who express their gender identity are often expelled from schools and families culpable under law for not reporting young LGBT people to the police. And in Jamaica, as 2010 drew to a close, a young LGBT man was killed by his family and colleagues after being lured into an intimate conversation with a classmate who was posing as a friend.

In the Global South, where LGBT movements are growing, but are not yet recognized as political movements, young people outside of the U.S., who face challenges that are simultaneously all too familiar and vastly different. The first level of prejudice, fear and violence is often inflicted by family, community and society. LGBT youth are subjected to discrimination, physical and verbal abuse and they are often forced to wear uniforms or clothes that do not match their gender identity.

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In Uganda, girls and young women who are not recognized as lesbian, who visibly express their identity, who ask for their right to get married, who express their gender identity are often expelled from schools and families culpable under law for not reporting young LGBT people to the police. And in Jamaica, as 2010 drew to a close, a young LGBT man was killed by his family and colleagues after being lured into an intimate conversation with a classmate who was posing as a friend.

While organizations that serve LGBT youth in the U.S. are often underfunded and under attack by the religious right, at least they exist.

On Thursday, we met again with the principal after school. He and the school district had come up with what they thought was a solution that they thought would be comfortable for all the students: to cancel the procession and have the royalty already onstage at the beginning of the Pep Fest. But they were only coming up with these changes because they didn’t want us to have our moment in the spotlight. They were only coming up with these changes because they didn’t want us to have our moment in the spotlight.

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Scottish Play Scott

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Who would have thought that the city of Pittsburgh, Penn., could provide a connecting thread between the Metropolitan Opera premiere of Nixon in China to the Divine Sister, an uproarious off-Broadway comedy spoofing Hollywood films about nuns by out playwright and drag artist extraordinaire Charles Busch? Read on and find out how.

Nixon sings

Avant-garde director Peter Sellars, a native of Pittsburgh, first came up with the idea of depicting President Richard Nixon’s 1972 visit to isolationist Red China as grand opera. Sellars approached American composer John Adams to write his first opera with poet Alice Goodman in 1985, and the rest is history.

When Nixon in China debuted at the Houston Grand Opera in 1987, critical opinion was all over the place. Since then, Nixon in China has increasingly gained a more prominent place in the worldwide operatic repertoire. Nixon in China’s premiere at New York’s Metropolitan Opera certainly gives it an officious stamp of artistic approval.

The Met’s production is imported from the English National Opera, but it’s essentially Sellars’ much-traveled and once-televisioned 1987 production enlarged for a grander stage. There are very impressive.

Isolationist Red China as grand opera. Sellars and his collaborators assume that audiences will know the facts and personalities going in, which means that future productions of Nixon in China will probably need to be exhaustive and historical footnotes to fill in for the receding common knowledge gaps of Nixon and his generation.

That said, the more you know 20th-century American and Chinese history, the more you’ll get out of Nixon in China and the contemplative questions it poses.

Since Adams uses electronic amplification for his excitingly propulsive minimalist score, it’s difficult to truly gauge how strong the vocalists are. Based upon the second performance of Nixon in China on Feb. 5, the majority of singers were very impressive.

The weak link is baritone James Maddalena in the presidential title role, which he also originated in 1987. I suspect that Maddalena was struggling through a cold or infection, since he was heard vocally straining and clearing his throat on the online audio simulcast of the opera’s opening night (Maddalena also avoided a few high notes at the second performance). Still Maddalena had many of Nixon’s hunched mannerisms down pat.

Though many critics nowadays proclaim Nixon in China to be a modern masterpiece, I’ve come away with more reservations now that I’ve seen a recreation of the work’s original staging. Besides, it’s really up to history to be the ultimate judge if Nixon in China continues to be staged centuries from now.

The Metropolitan Opera premiere of Nixon in China is screened worldwide to select movie audiences Saturday, Feb. 12, via a live high-definition simulcast (noon in the Chicago area).

Though Busch has established himself as a Broadway playwright (The Tale of the Allergist’s Wife), he made his name with outrageous gay pop culture inspired off-Broadway spoofs of old Hollywood in the 1980s with such titles as Vampire Lesbians of Sodom and Psycho Beach Party. The Divine Sister is a wonderful return to the sinister visiting German Sister Walburga and the droopy Irish cleaning lady Mrs. Macduffie. Jennifer Van Oyk over-articulates and gesticulates in the grand manner as the atheist philanthropist Mrs. Levinson, while Jonathan Walker knows how to use his bulging blue eyes to best effect as the romantic interest Jeremy. Rounding out the cast is Amy Rutberg’s exaggeratedly innocent yet dementedly visionary postulate Agnes. Newcomers to Busch’s work are also supreme fathomevents.com for participating theaters and ticket prices.

Nun finer

A rundown Catholic parish called St. Veronica’s in Pittsburgh is the setting for Charles Busch’s The Divine Sister, a scathing funny off-Broadway spoof of Catholic films. Movie classics like The Song of Bernadette and The Bells of St. Mary’s get scrambled up with more modern fare like Agnes of God, Doubt and even The Da Vinci Code for this Busch camp fest performed by character actors of the highest caliber.

Because of this, Nixon in China will infuriate opera goers who want a clear narrative throughline with properly dramatized characters like so many 19th-century operas based upon historical figures. Sellars and his collaborators assume that audiences will know the facts and personalities going in, which means that future productions of Nixon in China will probably need to be exhaustively annotated with historical footnotes to fill in for the receding common knowledge gaps of Nixon and his generation.

In this photo, then-Mayor Richard J. Daley sits with his family at the 1957 Chicago Auto Show. Read about this year’s show on page 32.
INDICATION: REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used in combination with other medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). REYATAZ has been studied in a 48-week trial in patients who have taken anti-HIV medicines and a 96-week trial in patients who have never taken anti-HIV medicines.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:
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, Halcon® (triazolam), ergot medicines (dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as Caferton®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, Methergine®, and others), Propulsid® (cisapride), or Oras® (pimozide).

Do not take REYATAZ with the following medicines due to potential for serious side effects: Compazine® (prochlorperazine), Citrasen® (indyminavir), Mexoryl® (lovastatin), Zocor® (simvastatin), Unoxatral® (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: Ampin® (also known as Rimactane®), Bilasid®, Bilomar®, or Bilofen®; St. John’s wort (Hypericum perforatum)-containing products, or Viramune® (nevirapine). Serevent Discus® (salmeterol) and Advair® (salmeterol with fluticasone) are not recommended with REYATAZ.

Do not take Viracept® (vonconazole) if you are taking REYATAZ and Norvir® (ritonavir).

The above list 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:
  - 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.

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- Is taken once a day with a snack or meal

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If you have hemophilia. About all the medicines you take that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some opportunistic infections are conditions 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 cure HIV 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. Some opportunistic infections are conditions 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 allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients.

Tell your healthcare provider:

• 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.

• If you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms stop using REYATAZ:
• redness and itching
• 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.

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 start 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. Rash and 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.

Glaucoma disorders (which may include glaucoma and glaucoma 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): to your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when taken with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRAFIL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHEDRINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- OXYPOP® (gosurol, used for Tourette’s disorder).
- PROPLIS® (cispamid, used for certain stomach problems).
- Tramadol, also known as HALCION® (used for insomnia).
- Risperdal, also known as VENZEP® (used for sedation), when taken by mouth.

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

- CAIVALIS®, (a nitrate, used for cancer).
- CRINXAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRINXAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).
- UNOPRO® (afluzosin, 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 body. 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.
- Vfen® (fenoterol).

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):

- Cilast®, (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil), used to treat erectile dysfunction. REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CILAS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CILAS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- ADICRINE® (tadalafil) or TRACELEPP® (bosantan), 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.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), Lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARIDOUINE®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin, an antibiotic used to treat tuberculosis).
- BUPREX® or SUBUTEX® or SUBOK® (buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone, used to treat pain and addiction to narcotic painkillers).
- VASCON® (beprazole, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORTIAN® (desipramine), SINEQUANT® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VISTA® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporine), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).
- The antidepressant trazodone (DESYREL® and others).
- Fluconazole propionate (FLONASE®, FLONEST®), given by nose or inhaled to treat allergic symptoms or asthma. Your doctor may choose not to keep you on fluconazole, especially if you are also taking NORVIR®.
- Clofibrate (COLCRYST®), 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.
- VIDEK® (didanosine).
- WREAP® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CAZIMED® or TIAZAC® (diltiazem), COVENA-HS® or ISOPTIN SR® (verapamil) and others.
- BAKIN® (benzamidine).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAME® (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? 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.

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 1-900-321-1335.

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ? Active ingredients: atazanavir sulfate

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

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CRITICS’ PICKS

As You Like It. Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, through March 6. Director Gary Grif- fin takes a page from Georgette Heyer for Shakespeare’s romantic comedy. What could be more romantic, after all than cross-dressing lovers in regency garb gambling in a countryside of immaculate forests and courteous shepherds? MSNBC

Camillo, The Italian Theatre at the Storefront, through Feb. 26. Forget Bram Stoker and his masculine posturing—the vampire legend as we know it began with its women, and WildClaw delves its romanticist roots with this erotic re-giggles prototype starring cult divas-in-training Michaela Pet- ro and Britanny Burch. MSNBC

In Darfur, TimeLine Theatre, through March 20. This compelling drama about the genocide in Sudan masterfully shows the different agendas of people who are trying their utmost to help out in an impos- sible and deadly situation. SCM

Madagascar, Next Theatre, through Feb. 20. A spider’s web of intricate and simis- ter character relationships that eventually dooms a family, told in three elegant inter- twined monologues in J. T. Rogers’ beauti- fully written play, beautifully acted at Next. JA

—By Ababanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATRE REVIEW

Conviction
Playwright: Oren Neeman, based on a novel by Yonatan Ben Nachum
At: Maya Productions et al. at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont
Phone: 773-975-8150; $27.50
Runs through: Feb. 20

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The kol wilde is the prayer recited at the start of Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement. This plea for absolution from oaths sworn, but not honored, may seem of small necessity in our time, but it was long-buried secrets, double lives and agonizing risk, as detailed in the confession of a priest named Andrés González, who, one fatal day, suc- cumbed to the lure of the bewitching converso Ysabel and the childhood memories awakened by her family’s illegal worship.

Fans of mystery-suspense literature will likely guess the outcome of this doomed adventure after the first 15 minutes: Yes, Andrés is himself a converso, he and Ysabel marry, have a son, are

betrayed and the fate of their child erased from memory. Casko- rippfng romance is not the goal of playwright Oren Neeman, however, nor of Yonatan Ben Nachum, from whose novel this play has been adapted. While Andrés struggles to reconcile the spiritual conflicts that torment his soul as fiercely as the threat of exposure and certain death, his exploration of warring faiths lead him to renounce, not Jesus, but those who commit inhuman deeds in His name.

Generating empathy for a 15th-century theo- logical argument is a hefty task for a single ac- tor, even assisted by a text both incisive and evocative in its imagery, but under the direction of Kevin Hart, Ami Dayan shifts effortlessly between his various roles—chiefly, the smug archi- vo official and the vulnerable Andrés—to paint a very human picture of this humble martyrs’ ex- cruciation and ecstasy. His portrayal is enhanced by Jon Sousa and Yossi Green’s score of Spanish guitar incidental music, its complex harmonies suggesting inner turmoil as intense as the se- renity invoked by the orderly script of Fr. Andrés’s story—a phenomenon that Susan even- tually finds in The Italian Theatre of the 19th century. SCM

The cast members are strong while bringing a cozy comedy or a domestic drama hearkening to an age when social problems were discussed on the stage rather than television. Joel Drake Johnson’s exploration of middle-aged male un- ease appears undesired as regards ITS genre, however, making for a deceptively jocular first act (physical slapstick over who gets the bed the way it looked but also could be emphasizing “the Hustle.”)

SAM (Patrick Andrews) and Eddie Sisson (Frances Guillan) play the dysfunctional rela- tives that never trust the outside world or each other. The actors are not strangers in real life having performed in the past with the produc- tion American Buffalo together at the Step- penwolf Theatre. Patrick tends to fall back on that angst-ridden character in this show also although he shines when he relaxes to play off Writers’ Theatre veteran Karen Janes Woditsch’s later scenes. Karen and Joe Minoso stand out playing multiple characters getting hustled throughout the hour and a half show. One local sitting next to me said they hardly recognized Joe in the various cameos roles he played.

It was a wise choice by the director Michael Halberstam to keep things simple and gritty. The set, sound and lighting work nicely in the cozy space as the swindlers feel the rush of constantly cheating people out of their money. The cast members are strong while bringing a charm and realism to the script that is enjoy- able to watch what will happen next.

Ever been hustled with the shell game? That is how these guys work with a dupe that can fool even the smartest of victims. By the end of the show it is so much to watch the twists and turns that the plot brings. The drama is full of surprises as it comes to a head for the final scam. No one likes to feel robbed of money or trust, and lucky for the audience, that doesn’t happen with Do The Hustle.

THEATRE REVIEW

The Boys Room
Playwright: Joel Drake Johnson
At: Victory Gardens Theater at the Biograph, 2433 N. Lincoln
Phone: 773-871-3000; $20-$50
Runs through: Feb. 20

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Once upon a time, there was a nurse named Susan who had two sons, Ronnie and Timmy. Their father died early, leaving her to raise her young boys alone. Eventually, both married and left home, as men in our society are expected to do. But now Ron and Tim need their mother again—more important, they need their child- hood home, where they can forget that they’re now grown, with grownup responsibilities.

Isn’t that the bummer of being a parent? You can’t be a kid with real kids in the house! You have to be a mentor, a role model, an exemplary fount of strength and wisdom, for chrissakes! With her offspring enjoying comfortable lives— Ron is a dentist, Tim sells office supplies— Susan was looking forward to solitary pleasures (like flirting with her Latino neighbor), but even as she resists the re-imposition of caregiver du- ties, old habits reassert themselves. Ron and Tim likewise revel in adolescent behavior—until Ron’s teenage daughter arrives, bearing messag-
These one-act plays by Korean-American playwright Young Jean Lee have nothing to do with her Korean heritage. Her subject is born-again religion or, to be more accurate, religiosity. They aren’t the same thing, the latter reflecting the worst type of accept-Jesus-or-be-damned, I-love-you-but-I-pity-you attitudes of Bible-thumping Christianity. You cannot have a metaphysical discussion with such folk because they don’t accept that matters of faith cannot be proven, and that your faith—or lack of it—is equally correct. So, these plays made me extremely uncomfortable and I don’t quite understand why Red Tape selected them for production, as capable as that production is.

The second play was easier, more direct: a church service with four preachers who sermonize in a variety of ways (do you know The Parable of the Tuna and the Bird or the dangers of mummies?), ending with a rousing gospel choir. Trouble is, you’re in a closed room with forced participation.

What playwright Lee does with both is to bend in a totally realistic and believable fashion. The performance style of the works remains realistic, but gradually the speakers wax more and more fantastical and absurd. Alas, it’s done so dryly that true believers may take the entire trip without ever realizing when the joke begins … and that’s scary. The plays lack emotionally engaging stories or characters, so I found them of interest only, other than my overall reaction to the enforced Christianity. Still, they are well-presented by director James Palmer and his ensemble of artists, who merge acting, design, music, choreography and environment into an effective presentation.

In the first play, a poised woman tells us she will reveal the secrets of how to live, which involve social skills, suffering and understanding that “You ARE you.” But she’s interrupted by another woman who speaks of “rainbow-colored balloons in a sky filled with jack rabbits” and insists “You are safe.” OK, I figured, they represent the Apol- lonian and Dionysian aspects of each individual. But then the third guy comes on, proclaiming “I am an angel of the Lord,” having splitting headaches and somehow triggering an epiphany in which hellish, monstrous Bosch-like figures are revealed. So, no, I don’t understand it.

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Next up: February 13 Brushed Orange Theater Company presents “I Saw You” at Sono Wood Fired, 1582 North Clybourn Avenue
Janette Manrara: Feeling the ‘Burn’

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Despite the cold, the sizzling Latin and ballroom dance event “Burn the Floor”—a Latin and ballroom dance event—is heating the Bank of America Theatre, Windy City Times spoke via telephone with dancer Janette Manrara on Feb. 2 (the second day of Chicago’s record-breaking snowstorm) about this show as well as being on the shows Glee and So You Think You Can Dance.

Windy City Times: So … what do you think of our weather?

Janette Manrara: It’s beautiful! It’s cold, and I have a sore throat right now. I had to walk back home in the blizzard—it was fun. We had to take the Red Line and then walk four or five blocks to the hotel. I had never seen snow before, so I’m definitely getting my snow’s worth.

WCT: You actually performed last night.

JM: Yes—the show must go on! [Laughs] There actually weren’t that many people here last night but they were awesome. They were screaming and cheering us on. There was one gentleman who got a little wild with [dancer] Ryan [Di Lello], but it was all great.

WCT: What three words would you use to describe “Burn the Floor?”

JM: They would definitely be “passion,” “intense” and “entertainment.” I think it encompasses all three very much. You can see the passion and intensity in everything we do, and you’ll definitely be entertained.

WCT: Like that man was last night.

JM: Oh, that man was definitely entertained! [Laughs]

WCT: How did you become interested in dance?

JM: Well, my journey is a very interesting one. I did musical theater as a kid. It was [mostly] singing and acting; I didn’t focus that much on dance. But when I was about 19, the director closed down the studio and the gentleman who used to run the dance classes decided to open his own studio strictly for dancing.

I knew I wanted to continue exploring and wasn’t sure where it was going to take me. I had been on television for a while; I was working on Univision, a Spanish TV station down in Miami. I did a lot of skits with the kids and things like that, so I was used to the camera. The [studio owner] said, “I see something in you that tells me that you could be an amazing dancer one day.” I said, “All right. I love music, and I’ve always liked to dance. Why not perfect it?”

I was 19—and I had to prepare myself for auditions and things that people had been preparing themselves for since they were 3 so it was a huge battle. I had to work full-time and I was going to school, studying finance. It was tough. I danced in order to catch up for about eight years.

I auditioned for [the reality-competition show] So You Think You Can Dance, and got into the top 10 but I wasn’t selected. That only added fuel to the fire; I saw how close I got. I had belief in myself. I went back for season five, and the rest is history.

WCT: I want to say that you thought you were going to win that season.

JM: Oh, thanks. It was weird because Jason [Glover] and I both got eliminated at the same time. We still have interviews to do afterwards, and people kept telling me, “You [being eliminated] was the shock of the season.” It was funny because I felt badly for Jason. I was just taking everything one step at a time.

I had a really long conversation with [judge/executive producer] Nigel [Lythgoe] after the show. He was very frustrated [with the result]. He had very strong theories about what may have happened, but you know what? I am blessed and I am happy with what I did. I would do it all over again in a heartbeat [even though] you’re being judged by three people and watched by 14-15 million [others]—and I made so many friends. It was hard but it was amazing; it was the best time of my life.

WCT: What’s one thing you learned about yourself or the business from this show?

JM: Well, I learned two things. I learned that opportunities come and go so fast. I remember when the tour ended; it flew by and the new season was coming. That moment in the spotlight goes away so quickly. You have to try and leave a mark so that you’re not a one-hit wonder and people remember you.

The second thing is that I took [would be] the memories. I’ve made so many friends, from my season and from seasons past. I am extremely close with Courtney Galiano, Comort and Travis Wall; besides them, I developed friendships with Kaya [Radomski] and Jason, who was my boyfriend for a while. Ade [Obayomi] and Brandon [Dumlao]. I think I grew as a person and as a performer.

It was such a crazy roller-coaster ride. One day, we’d be rehearsing our brains out: two duets, a solo and a group number for the day. We’d be exhausted and mentally drained but you’d come back home knowing you had friends who were going through the same thing.

Also, to be honest with you, the best, best, best part of it was the fans. I got so many letters from people who were touched or inspired. I would tear up and feel so touched and blessed. I think that, as an artist, that’s what you want to do—touch someone. And the tour would really show it to you, when you’re dancing in front of 10,000 people in an arena, and when we did signings—I’m not kidding you, Andrew— the line would go on forever. [Laughs]

WCT: Often, dancers are the unsung heroes so it has to be nice to be recognized for who you are and what you do.

JM: Yes, definitely. Dancers work hard—and actors and singers do, too, but in a different way. But, physically, we put our bodies through so much. Having acted, danced and sung, dancing is the most physically demanding. We go through so much pain and sweat and injury and broken toenails and shoulders and soreness, and that’s why I’m thankful for shows like So You Think You Can Dance, Dancing with the Stars and, now, Live to Dance. They let America know what we go through.

WCT: What do you think of Live to Dance?

JM: It’s a new show with a very different format. The other dance shows are all duets. I think Paula Abdul is trying to do something different, and I wish the show the best. I actually have two acts that will be performing in the finals tonight that are from my studio: Dance Town Chaos (and my best friend Richard is the lead dancer in the boys’ group) and D’Angelo & Amanda, who dance ballroom and jazz. [Editor’s note: The winning act was slated to be announced Feb. 9.] I have my fingers crossed.

WCT: I have to ask you about Glee, where you have danced. What is it like being on the set?

JM: Oh, wow. Well, I was on [the competing glee club] Vocal Adrenaline, so most of our performances were in the campus auditorium. We did get to meet all the cast. Glee was so much fun. The choreographer (Zach Woodlee, who is also a producer) and assistant choreographer were amazing. Rehearsal did not feel like work; it feels like eight hours of fun. It was such a good time working on that show.

The best time for me was going on the Glee Live tour; it was awesome traveling with them and hanging with them after the show. I was so frustrated that I couldn’t do the second season; they asked me to come back but I had already signed the contract for Burn the Floor. Maybe it’ll happen another time.

But the Burn Floor is going great. I love the show, and I love every single person in this cast as well.

WCT: And I thought it was interesting that Heather Morris [who plays Brittany on Glee] once tried out for So You Think You Can Dance—but got cut just before making the top 20.

JM: Oh, yeah! She’s stepping up for the dancers! [Laughs] A lot of people think that only the top four become successful, but so many doors open for you after being on So You Think You Can Dance. I’m so grateful because they saw something in me and [19] other people, even though 15,000 other people auditioned.

Heather Morris is the perfect example: Just look at her now. I give her a million and one props—and she’s amazing to work with; she’s fun and very talented. I’m very happy for her.

WCT: I call it “The Jennifer Hudson Effect.” She didn’t get too far as a finalist on American Idol, but look at her now.

JM: Yes—she’s another one! You have no idea how many opportunities are presented because of these shows.

“Burn the Floor” is at the Bank of America Theatre, 18 W. Monroe, through Sunday, Feb. 13. Tickets are $16-$80, and are available at all Broadway In Chicago box offices, the Broadway In Chicago Ticket Kiosk at Water Tower Place, 845 N. Michigan, the Broadway In Chicago Ticket Line at 800-775-2000, all Ticketmaster retail locations and online at http://www.BroadwayInChicago.com.
Marcus has joined the army with one intention—with honors. He puts him out of commission and he is discharged. Marcus sustains a leg injury that permanently affects his second-in-command, Lutorius (played by Richard Kind), a young Roman commander sent to the Hadrian Gates, these two discover that they have hatched a plan to head north and find out what happened to Marcus’ dad and, almost more importantly, the golden eagle.

Traveling north to the forbidden area, past Rome but something about his new master’s attitude (or more likely, his equally hot body) speaks to Esca’s sensibilities and stirs him to convince his fellow Romans to give the “thumbs up”—thus saving Esca’s life. Marcus is a tad taken aback when his bemused uncle gifts him with Esca—assuming that Marcus wants him for illicit purposes. (This is strongly suggested rather than spoken, I hasten to add.) Esca himself is the sworn enemy of Rome but something about his new master’s attitude (or more likely, his equally hot body) quells the servant’s blood lust. When a local surgeon discovers that he can fix Marcus’ bad leg, Esca is there to help him recover. Soon the two have hatched a plan to head north and find out what happened to Marcus’ dad and, almost more importantly, the golden eagle.

With theHadrian Gates, these two discover that they must learn to trust each other if the fierce north tribesman (who have the habit of painting their half-naked bodies) are to be defeated. Naturally, many combat sequences are on the menu for both Marcus and Esca although, sadly—this being homoerotic and not homo physical—nothing more than an intense friendship is part of the ensuing action. (Perhaps a sequel will rectify that situation.)

Nicely shaped with plenty of nicely shaped male eye candy, The Eagle will certainly please filmgoers looking to get their fix of onscreen male testosterone satisfied. A passel of recent home viewing film releases that fall into the classics category are worth noting, including:

—Lucky Lady (1975): Three years after her fourette performance, Oscar-winning performance in 1972’s Cabaret Liza Minnelli finally returned to cinema in director Stanley Donen’s attempt to recreate the screwball comedy. Minnelli teams with Gene Hackman and Burt Reynolds as a trio of inept, lascivious bootleggers (the three end up sharing a bed) during the roaring ’20s who, through a series of timely coincidences, “accidentally” become successful. Gorgeously shot and dressed, although badly overacted by all three principals, the movie was an expensive flop upon release but has moments of charm here and there and gives Liza a song or two (worth checking out).

—Basil Dearden’s London Underground: This four-film set from Criterion is a well-deserved homage to the little known works of British director Dearden, whose late ’50s-early ’60s films often tackled social problems. The movies include Victim, the bon a fide 1961 gay cinema classic in which Dirk Bogarde’s life is turned upside down when he is blackmailed because he is gay. Dearden’s sympathetic, even-handed approach to this “sensational” topic is also found in Sapphire (1958), a story of a racially motivated murder (the only film in the set in color), The League of Gentlemen (1960), a “slice of life” comedy starring Jack Hawkins and the fascinating, musicaly thrilling All Night Long (1962), Dearden’s inspired updating of Shakespeare’s Othello—set in the world of Jazz with stars Paul Harris, Marty Stevens, Patrick McGoughan and rare appearances by jazz legends Charles Mingus, Dave Brubeck, Tubbie Hayes and many others.

—TCM Greatest Classic Film Collection—Legends-Jean Harlow: This four-film set is a worthy introduction to the platinum blonde bombshell whose comedic and dramatic gifts were nicely displayed—along with her shapely torso—in a series of smartly packaged movies before her untimely death at 26 in 1937. The set includes four of her best: Dinner at Eight (1933), China Seas (1935), Wife vs. Secretary (1936) and Libeled Lady (1936).

—All About Eve (1950) and An Affair to Remember (1957): Are both have been released in new Blu-ray editions and are worth the upgrade as both show significant improvement in picture and sound quality (and each has a few new extras and photo booklets as well).

Check out my archived reviews at http://www.windycitymovies.com or http://www.knightatthemovies.com. Readers can leave feedback at the latter website.

**GLAAD announces award nominees**

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defama-

tion (GLAAD) has announced the nominees for its 22nd Annual GLAAD Media Awards. Among those getting nods are the films Howl, Easy A, Burlesque, I Love You Phillip Morris and The Kids Are All Right; TV shows Anderson Cooper 360, Modern Family, Glee, True Blood, Nurse Jackie, Greek and 30 Rock; and musicians Scissor Sisters, Chely Wright and Big Freedia.

The Oprah Winfrey Show also was nomi-

nated for Ricky Martin’s first televised inter-

view after he came out. During that show, Chicagoan and GLAAD member Ricardo Torres and his mother explained how Martin’s announcemence engineered an open discussion of Ricardo’s sexuality.

However, showing that it’s more than about movies, TV and music, there are nods for outstanding digital-journalism article (including pieces by Kerry Eleveld, LZ Granderson and Jim Buzinski) as well as outstanding blog (with Joe.My.God and The Bilerico Project among the nominees) and outstanding comic book (such as Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Fgotown).

The GLAAD Media Awards ceremonies will be held in New York on March 19 at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square; in San Fran-

cisco on May 14 at San Francisco Marriott Marquis; and in Los Angeles. See http://www. glaad.org.

**The Eagle:** classic DVD round-up

There’s nothing like a hot little homoerotic sword-and-sandal epic to get the blood racing—especially in light of the record setting winter weather we’ve experienced this year. And The Eagle is a nicely paced variation on this film genre beloved by generations of gay men.

Based on the 1954 novel by Rosemary Sutcliff, whose series of adventure books have thrilled the genre beloved by generations of gay men.

The Eagle; whose series of adventure books have thrilled the genre beloved by generations of gay men.

Channing Tatum (foreground) in The Eagle. Photo by Matt Nethem
When Grammy nominee Robyn's Body Talk did not make my top album of 2010, I got flamed. The set has fantastic upbeat jams like "Dancing on My Own" and "In My Eyes," as well as more experimental goodies like "Fembot" and "We Dance to the Beat." Some of her material can be indistinguishable, but not the same degree as the Kings of Leon should have reconsidered the tactless comments be taken?

In a piece where Murphy does not take the bait on PerezHilton.com, Followill's return is regarded as homophobic. The drummer has issued an apology via Twitter: "I'm sorry 4 anyone that misconstrued my comments as homophobic or misogynistic. I'm so not that kind of person. I really do apologize." Okay, then how should these tactless comments be taken?

Kings of Leon should have reconsidered the chance to have its music featured on Glee. Just look at Florence and the Machine. The British act's "Dog Days Are Over" is covered in the season opener of Glee, helping the overlooked track from 2009's album, Lungs, to ignite on radio. Kings of Leon is best known for the hits "Sex on Fire" and "Use Somebody" from '08 Only by the Night, last year's follow-up, Come Around Sundown, was amiss and could have used the leverage from a hit prime-time show like Glee.

George Michael's 'Faith' out with deluxe edition
George Michael's CD Faith—originally released in 1987—is out with a special deluxe edition.

The album reached several high marks, including 87 weeks on the Billboard 200 albums chart (including 12 weeks at #1 in 1988), a rare RIAA diamond certification (signifying 10 million units sold) and a Grammy for album of the year. Among the hit singles were the title track, "Father Figure," "I Want Your Sex," "One More Try" and "Monkey."

The numbered, limited-edition box set can be ordered now at http://www.GeorgeMichael.com. It includes a CD of the remastered 10-song album; a 60-page book with interview, rare photos and more; a vinyl replica LP; a DVD with a BBC interview and seven promo videos; and a memorabilia envelope with five art prints, poster, tickets and Faith tour pass.

There are also two other packages. Faith: Special Edition will feature the two CDs and the DVD, as described above. A standard 'mastered' double-CD edition will also be released. Both of these editions are available at all retail outlets.

Lady Gaga show
Feb. 28
Singing superstar Lady Gaga—who has an upcoming CD, Born This Way—will perform at the United Center, 1901 W. Madison, on Feb. 28 as part of The Monster Ball Tour. Scissor Sisters will be the special guests. Tickets are $49.50-$175, and are on sale. See http://www.LiveNation.com.

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Linda Eder: Talking with the sultry Broadway legend
BY JERRY NUNN

Linda Eder first caught attention with a Broadway debut in the musical Jekyll & Hyde. Recording more than 10 albums with themes ranging from Christmas to country music, this chanteuse keeps it coming with a new album and tour. Linda Eder: Hi, Jerry. Sorry I didn’t hear your call. I was shoveling my steps with all this snow.

Windy City Times: That’s okay. What part of the country are you calling from?
WCT: There is a lot of snow right now, I heard.
LE: Oh, yeah.
WCT: You will be visiting Skokie soon. You have been in Chicago before?
LE: Yes, I have been performing there for a long time, years ago, in a lot of different places. It is so close to Minnesota, which feels like an extension of that whole area for me.
WCT: You have a new album coming out the first of March.
LE: Yes; it’s called Now. It basically is a re-

uniting of Frank Wildhorn and myself. We always knew we would make another record together one day. The timing seemed right and it is all the beautiful melodies that he is known for. I have sung many of them over the years. There are a lot of great songs. Sometimes they are songs from shows that were in the works or didn’t happen for some reason. They may be from shows that they didn’t fit into as well. There are also brand new things for the record. It brings back a lot of the collaborators that we have worked with over the years. It is a pretty cool album.

WCT: Why is it called Now?
LE: Because there was a period of years where I went out and did my own thing. Now I am back to this again. It represents my today. It is a record like we used to make and how cool we are now. Our sensibilities have grown and we have matured. We wanted to see what we would do with that kind of stuff today.

WCT: It is on Sony Masterworks?
LE: Yes, it is.
WCT: It is a great music label and good at promoting an artist’s work.
LE: I do have been with different labels over the years and I really like them.

WCT: Who are your influences as far as music? I heard you are a Judy Garland fan.
LE: She is the reason that I sing but I have always liked a lot of different types. That is why the show is called All of Me because I do all kinds of music, even pop. Now the show spans the whole genre from Broadway to country pop. For me it’s a blast because I like so many different styles.

WCT: Are you singing anything from Jekyll and Hyde at the show in Skokie?
LE: I usually do the song “Someone Like You” which is my signature song from that show. I pretty much have that in ever show that I do.
WCT: Is there a Broadway show that you would like to do but haven’t?
LE: I get asked that a lot but I don’t really know. I think the play hasn’t been written yet.
WCT: I like that answer! Would you ever want to be on Glee?
LE: Sure, I would do it. I got on the bandwagon kind of late. I didn’t watch it at the beginning like everyone else. I did check it out and I think it’s great. The performers are good and whomever is doing the musical arranging is just genius.
WCT: I think it can bring younger people to Broadway.
LE: I think so too and not just Broadway but the melody and great arrangement is really what it is about.
WCT: You were on Star Search a long time ago. What do you think about American Idol?
LE: The show that I was on was the kinder gentler version. It was bad enough to be judged. All they could do with me was give me one to four stars. They couldn’t talk to me and abuse me verbally. [American Idol] is smashing together a reality show and a talent show. It does start a lot of careers. I think it is a little too harsh and I know that the psyches of some young people are being damaged as a result for our amusement and entertainment. I don’t like that part of it but I do enjoy the singing. I don’t watch the early rounds. It is stupid manipulation and I don’t believe a word of it. Once I get to the finals then I enjoy the musicians and good arrangements. Before that, I don’t watch it at all.
WCT: Any special message for your gay following over the years?
LE: Just keep it coming! People ask me what I attribute my large gay following to and I have no idea. I always say, “If I didn’t have a gay following then I would be doing something wrong!”
WCT: Well, get back to shoveling.
LE: [Laughs] I will! Great talking to you.

The new album Now can be purchased at the show visit http://www.northshorecenter.org. If you are interested in participating, please call (312) 238-7611.

Participants must meet the following criteria:
• Be at least 18 years of age
• Be diagnosed with HIV-related neuropathy

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

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

The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago is an academic affiliate of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Linda Eder.
A few weeks ago, I got an e-mail from a lesbian couple in New Hampshire who’d been having trouble with their best gay friend/spem donor. They’d read my essay in the anthology And Baby Makes More: Known Donors, Queer Parents, and Our Unexpected Families, about having two children with our best gay friend/spem donor, and thought maybe I could help. Their friend was straying from their original donor agreement by asking for an overnight with their son. They were particularly annoyed by the request since they’d spent six months with their donor negotiating the terms of their agreement, which did not include overnights. What should they do?

My first thought was: “What’s his phone number? He can take my kids.” I mean, seriously—ladies—give up the kids. Why deprive yourselves of the greatest benefit of the known donor arrangement: free babysitting? Have a romantic evening. Light candles, have sex, watch movies, play dominos, nuzzle. The world will not end because you are enjoying yourself without your children. There are other humans uniquely qualified to love and care for them.

I told the couple that, when it came to arrangements with our kids’ donor, my partner and I stuck by two principles: 1) Trust. Everything is going to be fine. We are all safe. 2) What is best for our kids? We cannot control the path our donor’s or our children’s hearts take. The nature of our kids’ relationship with their donor—whom they both call dad—is theirs to create. It’s not our business to dictate how that relationship plays out, nor could we if we wanted to.

The couple responded: “What you wrote in your essay, that it would be better if they had just one mom and one dad. And everything’s fine.”

Having kids with a known donor is not for the faint of heart. It requires multiple leaps of faith. The closest thing you get to security is some nimbleness at adjusting to the continual shifting of the ground beneath your feet. It’s a ridiculous idea, lesbians using a known donor to make themselves a baby. Sharing parenting—no matter what your carefully crafted language in the legally non-binding donor agreement you all signed amounts to the contrary—is just not the lesbian way. It’s not anybody’s way. It is at its essence unnatural to mix your friend’s sperm with your egg to make a baby that belongs solely to you and your partner. It’s ridiculous to think that your child’s donor can paint her bedroom and make her homemade marshmallows and assemble her IKEA bed—that he can babysit or take her for the occasional weekend—but that he must never, ever think of himself as dad, parent, or relative in any nuance or implication of the word.

It doesn’t work that way. Your donor will fall in love with your kids. His kids. This is a fact. Get used to it. Now. If your donor does not fall in love with your kids, congratulations: you just had children with a psychopath. Go ahead, sign that donor agreement where he agrees never to admit dad-like thoughts, whether he has them or not. Don’t think that words can prevent an occurrence of the heart, stop the natural flow of love, or litigate away any discomfort, ambiguity, pain, alienation, self-doubt, threat, or vague, bewildering feelings you might have about making a baby with your best friend. Never mind that it’s right there on paper as legal as it could be if any law recognized it. High-larious! Have your agreement restated if you really want the kids to fall over laughing. Notarize it, and have your lawyer retain a copy. Maybe your lawyer, like ours, will tell you your agreement doesn’t carry the legal weight of the paper it’s printed on.

You probably didn’t know your two-year-old daughter would stand before you with the persistence of a waterfall and ask, over and over, “Who’s my daddy?” Her hair will be braided into two adorables braids, courtesy of—who else?—her donor, because he can braid better than both of you. She’ll sit there, so cute in those braids, asking who her daddy is. Digesting in her belly, nourishing the blood cells that feed the brain that thinks up these astonishing questions, is the pork loin her donor made for all of you for dinner. Now that’s a funny scene.

You thought you were going to tell your kids they didn’t have a daddy; rather, they had a special-donor-friend-uncle-unicorn-biological-tooth-fairy-neighbor or something. You thought this conversation would happen when they were oh, ten, and you’d calmly explain the concept of donor insemination. Too bad she’s two and insisting the postman is her daddy and if he’s not her daddy well then who is. And all the while she’s asking she’s sitting in the lap of her donor, who is tall and cute and really good at braiding her’s or our children’s hearts take. The nature of donor insemination. Too bad she’s two and insisting the postman is her daddy and if he’s not her daddy well then who is. And all the while she’s asking she’s sitting in the lap of her donor, who is tall and cute and really good at braiding little girls’ hair and also just helped you fix your toilet.

Send the kids on the overnight and dust off the lube, ladies. If you thought you was good enough to be your donor, he’s probably just fine to take care of them for a night. And if not, send him my way.

Mary Bowers is a Chicago-based writer and graphic designer. Hear Mary and other contributors read from And Baby Makes More: Known Donors, Queer Parents, and Our Unexpected Families, a quirky, funny, and occasionally heartbreakind collection of personal essays on the relative risks and unexpected rewards of queer, do-it-yourself, babymaking on Thursday, Feb. 17, at Women and Children First Books, 5223 N. Clark. The event starts at 7:30 p.m. and includes a Q&A session and book giveaways.
BOOK REVIEW

Annabel
by Kathleen Winter; Black Cat
$14.95 paperback; 480 pages

REVIEW BY TERRI SCHLICHEMER

You always jump in with both feet.
There's nothing hesitant about you; when you're in,
you're in. You go whole-hog, pedal to the metal, all
or nothing. People can count on you because you're
not the least bit wishy-washy. With you, there's no
half-way.

That's not the case for Wayne Blake, child of Tread-
way and Jacinta. In the new novel, Annabel by Kath-
leen Winter, Wayne can only go halfway because he's
only half a boy.

On the morning that Wayne Blake entered the
world, the midwife, Thomasina Baikie, did what came
natural: She checked to see if the baby was male or
female, and was shocked.

The child appeared to be both. After tending to
the mother, Jacinta, Thomasina broke the news to the
new father.

Treadway Blake, like his father and his father's fa-
ther, was a trapper in his native Labrador. Spending
six months outdoors was something he could live
with; a child like Wayne was not. When Thomasina
told Treadway that his son was also his daughter,
Treadway declared that Wayne was a boy. Jacinta,
broken-hearted and already loving the girl inside her
son, reluctantly agreed with her husband.

Wayne was never told.

Thomasina, grieving for her own lost family, es-
caped Labrador.

Jacinta took her child to see doctors.

Treadway finally had his son.

But Wayne wasn't the son his father wanted. Grow-
ing up, Wayne preferred the company of girls, espe-
cially that of Wallace Michelin. The friendship he had
with Wally was happy and easy because she never
noticed that Wayne wasn't like other boys, even
though other children saw it. But then Wayne's body
did something medically unusual and though Tread-
way held fast on his ideal of a son, it was time for
Wayne to learn a truth that explained so much, yet so
little.

Confused and ashamed, Wayne knew he could never
speak of his secret to anyone in Labrador. He couldn't
talk to his parents about it, and he could never tell
Wally, who had drifted from him years ago.

Then Wayne, himself, began to drift. Wandering,
he left his home in Labrador and moved to St. John,
where he found a job and a friend who, sadly, couldn't
be trusted.

Saddest of all, Wayne realized that he could never
be the son his father wanted.

Have you ever asked "Where are we going?" and the
answer was "You'll see when we get there."? That's
what it's like reading Annabel: You're along for a trip,
the ending of which you really can't anticipate.

Nuanced, heartbreaking, near-poetic, but with
a certain droll, twinkle-in-her-eye sense of humor,
author Kathleen Winter tells the story of secrets, de-
sires, dreams, and a family that's splintered before it
gets started. I liked Winter's characters, even though
I wanted to shake the peripheral ones a time or two;
and though this story bogs down now and again, I
was captivated by it.

If you're looking for a different sort of book this
winter, give this debut novel a try. For readers who
love the unusual, Annabel ain't half bad.

Want more? Try Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides, or
Normal: Transsexual CEOs, Crossdressing Cops, and
Hermaphrodites with Attitude by Amy Bloom.

Busy?

Are you an HIV-negative gay man under age 50? Had
unprotected sex in the last six months? We’d like to
hear from you. We’re conducting in-person surveys and
focus groups about gay men’s health. The survey should
take 30 minutes and you’ll receive $75 for your time.*

Call 1-855-817-7592
or text CHICAGO to 22122
to see if you’re eligible.

(Message and data rates may apply)

*Based on eligibility. Disponible en Español
**PROFILE**

**Joe Perillo’s Ken Reffsin**

Ken Reffsin has been a sales manager at Joe Perillo BMW for more than a decade. He recently sat down with Windy City Times to talk about everything from his dream car to being out on the job to the Chicago Auto Show.

**Windy City Times: What does being an Internet sales manager encompass?**

Ken Reffsin: That means that if you go to Perillo’s website, I generally will get that lead. If you go to Edmunds.com or KellyBlueBook.com—if you’re going anywhere on the Internet to search for a new car and you submit a request for information, it’s going to come to my mailbox. I used to not take sales off the floor; it would just come through the Internet. But now I take them off the floor, through phone calls—any way I can take it.

**WCT: What do you like about working here?**

KR: I love the clientele. I love the product. I love the location. I love the people I work with. It’s all fun.

**WCT: Is there a down side?**

KR: The down side would be that it doesn’t leave a lot of time for other things—but I wouldn’t want to spend time doing anything else. Yesterday was my day off, and I was here, which took me away from running some important errands. There’s always something going on.

**WCT: What’s your background? How did you come to be at Joe Perillo?**

KR: I went to the University of Arizona, where I majored in psychology and fine arts—actually, a lot of things that are connected with selling cars.

I really came here out of a midlife crisis. I’d been in the apparel business for 12 years (in the late ’90s); retailers were shrinking and going of business, and business methods were changing. So I had a showroom in the Apparel Center, closed that. Then, I worked for a couple of Internet companies trying to put women’s clothing manufacturers online. Unfortunately, we didn’t make any money, and that Internet bubble burst.

I didn’t work for some time—I went through headhunters, psychotherapists, career counselors, you name it. I even bought Tony Robbins CDs. At dinner one night with my friends, I mentioned that I had bought these CDs, and a good friend asked, “How much were they?” I said, “$210.” He said, “You ought to have electroshock therapy. You’re returning those discs.” I had no money so I had no business spending $210 on these CDs, so I returned them.

I’ve always had a passion for cars; I knew everything about them. I lived around the corner from here, so I got the balls together, walked in here and walked right up to Joe Perillo—but, at the time, I didn’t know it was him. I asked if Joe Perillo was here and he said, “I’m Joe.” I asked if he had anyone doing Internet sales. We sat and talked for five minutes, and he said, “You’re hired.” Then I said, “Oh, I don’t know that I want this,” he said. “If you show up on Monday, I’ll know that you took the job—and, just for the record, I don’t care if you come to work in a candy-striper uniform.” That was him letting me know that he knew I was gay and that he didn’t care.

It’s a very gay-friendly showroom and I’m very out here. We have a gay clientele. It doesn’t matter [who you are]; if you want to buy a car, I will sell you a car.

**WCT: In this economy, how are you doing?**

KR: Excellent. There was a time—in 2008, when the economy was tanking—when we sold more used cars than new cars. Luckily, my boss had foresight and bought every used car he could. BMW has auctions all over the country so he bought as many [as possible]. We have the largest selection of used cars anywhere so when the economy tanked we never really skipped a beat.

As the economy has rebounded, and manufacturers need to sell new cars, we have great support deals. BMW is very proactive when it comes to selling cars. Everyone wants a deal, and now it is a great time to get one. So if you have cash and credit, now’s a great time. I’ll sell anything—Andrew, I’ll put a “For sale” sign on you right now. [laughs]

I primarily focus on new cars. There is a strong used-car business, but someone else primarily handles those leads. That’s a whole other business because used cars are so individual that no two are alike.

**WCT: I can’t imagine that it’s a pleasant thing having to tell someone that he or she doesn’t qualify.**

KR: No, it’s not a pleasant thing but they typically know what they’re trying to do and that they may not qualify. The interesting thing is if someone doesn’t qualify, then why are you trying to buy a BMW? You should be trying to buy a lesser brand. There’s nothing wrong with that, but if you have damaged credit you don’t need a BMW right now. It’s better that you buy a lesser-brand car, pay for it for two or three years and establish your credit; then come back and you’ll have a better chance of getting a higher-end car.

**WCT: I think it goes back to something I heard Suze Orman say once: People buy things to impress people they don’t even know.**

KR: That’s very true. But it also fuels their own desire: Who wouldn’t want a BMW? It’s the ultimate driving machine.

**WCT: That leads me to my next question: What is your dream car?**

KR: My dream car would probably be a 1971 Mercedes-Benz 280SE 3.5 convertible. But it’s funny—I used to like cars a lot more before I was in this business. It’s like an interior designer whose own house may look like a shambles or a dentist who may have rotten teeth but who makes everyone else’s teeth look beautiful. Now, in the car business, I’m more about fulfilling other people’s desires than my own.

**WCT: You’ve been to the Chicago Auto Show. What’s been really memorable?**

KR: I love that you can see every make and model. It’s lots of fun to go see the sights—the cars and the people alike.

**WCT: Is there anything you wish to add?**

KR: It’s a great time to buy a car, and BMW makes a great product. The Perillos have actually now bought the Gold Coast Bentley dealership, and have Rolls-Royce, Bentley, Lamborghini and Bugatti.

NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION

Joan Rivers: One tough ‘Mother’

BY JERRY NUNN

Joan Rivers really is a “Piece of Work.” From her start as a comedian in the early days when the biz was tough on women to kicking open the closet door about taboo plastic surgeries, this lady never seems to feel successful enough.

Moving in with her daughter across the country for a new reality television show entitled Joan & Melissa: Mother Knows Best brings antics, laughs and unbelievable moments to the comic. Having spoken with the classic funny lady the same time last year I had to ask once again “Can we talk?” Nunn on One!

Windy City Times: Hi, Joan. I just watched your new show, Mother Knows Best?

JR: I got to see two of them.

WCT: I thought the second was even better than the first.

JR: I am so glad you said that. You are going to see that it turn into something so amazing. It’s funny because we got our legs and really saw it going places.

WCT: The first episode gets you set up there and moved to California from New York. Then you are just on a roll when you get there.

JR: There is a big fight with Melissa and all kinds of stuff that will be happening.

WCT: Do you consider yourself an extrovert and her an introvert?

JR: I think she is much more private. People get to see a side of her that they have never seen. I have been so long in the business that I don’t even notice the cameras behind me, which is very good and why the documentary worked so well.

WCT: That movie was a whole other side to you.

JR: It was great and on DVD now. It is funny because my life is really out there.

WCT: It is and wonderful for fans to see you in a different light.

JR: The thing I love about it is on television as it goes on they will really see the mother daughter dynamic, which is love/hate. Every mother and daughter has that. I love love love you! I hate hate hate you!

WCT: You love your grandson so much and cute to see on this show.

JR: He is so darling. He loves doing the show and the crew gave him a shirt that say “crew” on it. He sits and eats lunch with them. He got totally involved in it.

WCT: I laughed so much at the show I was crying.

JR: It gets even better. It was a great experience. But at one point we were fighting so bad that I couldn’t take it. The lifestyle is so different in LA from New York. When you open the refrigerator it is like being in a foreign country! Everything is brown and say.

WCT: I think this show will be good for the network.

JR: I hope so. They have been wonderful to us but we are still in the honeymoon phase. It is good to see realness. People are obviously responding to that.

WCT: So this was not set up?

JR: We planned nothing. The network was very worried but we kept saying trust us. Our household is like everyone’s household and always has something going on. The nanny is a perfect example. Geez, you couldn’t plan that!

WCT: She is unbelievable.

JR: I came out and said she has got to be in it. With Connad, Melissa’s friend, he just found out he is Jewish. We are going to give him a bar mitzvah next. He found out his grandmother cheated.

WCT: Reality is better than a script!

JR: Isn’t that curious? She confessed. It was a family deathbed confession. He is taking Hebrew classes now. The cast got along great.

WCT: I saw your fellow “Fashion Police” woman Giuliana Rancic at an event the other day.

JR: She is a Chicago girl now, don’t you think? She is based there now because of him.

WCT: Yes, and that E show is still going strong.

JR: Oh gawd, yes. I go out every single week. Melissa produces the show so my daughter is my boss. I have been on the phone all morning to see if I go back to New York then to L.A. Are we scared there will be another snowstorm? Yes, it was such a rough winter this winter.

WCT: Everyone is talking about it. We talked Oscar last time we talked.

JR: I remember that.

WCT: Have you seen any of the movies yet?

JR: I have seen most of them.

WCT: They send them to you, correct?

JR: No, they sort of send them to me. It’s kind of funny, I never get one thing for the Emmys. Melissa gets those. For the Oscars I scourge around and get them.

WCT: What do you think of Black Swan?

JR: I loved it! It’s not a ballet movie. It’s a horror movie, I thought it was great and she was amazing in it.

WCT: I want Natalie Portman to win. Did you like The Kids Are All Right?

JR: I loved it. Too. I thought Annette Bening knocks you out. Everyone forgets Annette is on a par with Kristen Stefan. She doesn’t get her due.

WCT: She might get it this time.

JR: I hope she does.

WCT: I didn’t look at the Best Actor category. Who cares about the men?

JR: Yeah, I know. Well, you know what? With all the outstanding performances this year is all about women. Do you want to see Lazy Bone? Dry Bone? Boned Bone? I haven’t seen that yet.


JR: I heard it is very good.

WCT: And what about Nicole Kidman?

JR: I think she is terrific, that Nicole. She has not been used well. Most of these women have not been used well.

WCT: True; that’s a good point.

JR: I still remember Nicole from that ghost movie The Others. She was so good in that.

WCT: I haven’t seen Rabbit Hole but I hear good things.

JR: Me, too.

WCT: My friends in Nashville said you are heading there soon.

JR: I go wherever they want me. I am a performing whore.

WCT: We love you! You are so good at live stand-up. Do you feel after making the documentary A Piece of Work that you have peace and can relax now?

JR: Oh, please; it is such an uphill fight all the time. I have the Joan & Melissa show, that I love, and now I want that to work. The Fashion Police I also love and I want that to work. It is always worky worky worky, try to make it better.

WCT: Do you feel competitive with Kathy Griffin for the gay dollar?

JR: I feel competitive with everybody. I feel competitive with your neighbor if she does three jokes! Kathy is my really good friend.

WCT: She always says good things about you to me.

JR: I just adore her. But do I feel competitive? Yes, of course. Do I love her? Yes. I think she deserves every bit of success that gets.

WCT: Well, you are such a classy lady. I just love chatting with you.

JR: It is good chatting with you, as always. Make it a Rivers week as Joan & Melissa shout it out on EWtv every Tuesday and see the red carpet treatment Fridays with the Fashion Police on E!


An attendee at the Center’s 2009 Oscar gala. Photo by Steve Starr

Center’s Oscar party Feb. 27

On Sunday, Feb. 27, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, will host its annual “On The Red Carpet” Oscar Party.

Guests will enjoy sponsored cocktails and buffet while the Academy Awards are broadcast live on the big screen in the Hoover-Lep-ten Theatre. For those who prefer to mingle, video monitors will be positioned throughout the theater, on the third floor—even on the roof garden, which will be encased in a heated tent exclusively for the night’s event. Guests may bid on vacations, spa packages and more in our silent auction throughout the evening.

For the first time ever, the center is conducting an Oscar prediction competition. For $10, guests can submit a ballot with their predictions before the telecast begins, and results will be tabulated throughout the night. The person with the most correct predictions will be announced at the conclusion of the ceremony, and will split the winnings with the center.

Doors open for the red carpet pre-show at 6 p.m., and the telecast begins at 7:30 pm. Director-level tickets ($75) include admission to the party, and producer tickets ($125) include reserved telecast seating in the theater with table service. See http://www.centeronhalsted.org.

Love... Feb. 14 in Wilmette

The drag show “Love Is a Many Gendered Thing” will take place Monday, Feb. 14 (Valentine’s Day) at 7:30 p.m. at The Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central, Wilmette.

According to its Facebook page, “all of the performers are veterans of female illusion.”

Comedian Cameron Esposito will host the event.

Tickets are $15 in advance and $18 at the door. Visit http://wilmetteetheatre.com or call 847-251-7424.

Burroughs special Feb. 22 on PBS

Featuring never-before-seen archival footage of the legendary beat author William Burroughs, as well as exclusive interviews with colleagues and confidants including John Waters, Patti Smith, Iggy Pop, Gus Van Sant, and Laurie Anderson, William S. Burroughs: A Man Within looks at the man whose works at once savaged conservative ideals, spawned countercultural movements, and reconfigured 20th-century culture.

Narrated by Peter Weir, with a soundtrack by Patti Smith and Sonic Youth, Yonei Lesyer’s William S. Burroughs: A Man Within will premiere on the PBS series Independent Lens, hosted by America Ferrera, on Tuesday, Feb. 22. (Check local listings.)

Joan and Melissa Rivers. Photo courtesy of weTV

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Darryl Stephens bares his 'Soul'

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Actor Darryl Stephens will be part of the local scene Sunday, Feb. 13, when he will be part of "Art & Soul: The Eargasmic Experience" at Circuit. Stephens—featured in the TV series Noah's Arc and films such as Boy Culture—will discuss the impact of the Logo show, closeted actors and marriage equality.

Windy City Times: What led you to be part of "Art & Soul: The Eargasmic Experience"?

Darryl Stephens: The people who ran "Art & Soul" asked me, presumably because they're aware of my general interest in HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. I haven't seen my Chicago friends in five years; it should be fun.

WCT: Have you seen you in the films Circuit and Boy Culture. Of course, you're best known for the Logo series Noah's Arc. At the time, did you realize how groundbreaking the series was—and that you would impact as many people as you have?

DS: It's impossible to know how a show is going to be received. The public can be a fickle beast. We expected, at the very least, that the show would be popular with Black gay men. Ironically, most of the negative responses that I heard early on came from Black men who thought we were somehow demeaning them by depicting gay men as anything other than hyper-masculine and "unclockable." I think as the show went on, they were able to see the characters beyond their hairstyles and their clothes. The biggest surprise to me was the show's female base. Noah's Arc fans are the best.

WCT: [Noah's Arc creator/director] Patrick Ian Polk seems like an outspoken individual with a specific vision. What has it been like working with him?

DS: Patrick's choice to make the show's hero the sweet, fashion-forward romantic was pretty bold. The general consensus in Hollywood was and still is that gay men should be depicted as normal guys who just happen to be gay. This show wasn't pulling any punches. You weren't watching to the whole woman: journalist, columnist, traditional journalism lines, about her ability to

I wanted to like this book, because I love the work of Ivins. She was unparalleled in her political commentary over the course of several decades. She redefined what it is to be a journalist. She became well known in the 1990s and 2000s, especially as a Texas native and pre-presidential and then presidential years. The book is like an iceberg, providing just first year of college. The decision to come out publicly was far more difficult for me because it required that I make peace with the possibility that I may not work in my chosen field. That being said, I knew I would have a more rewarding life as an actor if I didn't have to constantly lie or dodge the question. Having to balance all of this in the midst of trying to be good at my job also seemed unnecessarily difficult. If I lose a gig because I came out of the closet, I probably didn't want to work with those people, anyway.

WCT: What do you think of “mainstream” shows that feature prominent gay characters, such as Glee and Modern Family? Do you feel like Noah’s Arc has paved the way for any other programs?

DS: I think every single gay TV character is bringing us closer to a world where sexual orientation won't be an issue. What's great about the shows you mentioned is that they are aimed at the mainstream and they are humanizing the gay community in ways most of America hasn't seen.

Noah was great for the folks who happened to be watching Logo. But for people who need their medicine hidden in something sweet, the storyline of an out gay kid being bullied in his high school and having his macho dad come to his defense is revolutionary.

WCT: Out of curiosity, would you consider a reality show that examined your life?

DS: I personally don't see any point to reality shows beyond hawking wares. If I had something to sell that a reality show could help publicize, then maybe. But the idea of being on television just to be on television doesn't appeal to me at all. I'm working on an album and a book now, but sitting and watching me write at a coffee shop doesn't seem like good TV to me.

WCT: Are there any actor's career you would like to emulate? What's next for you, career-wise?

DS: I don't know if we've seen the last of Noah. There has been a lot of talk. As soon as there is real news, I'm sure you'll hear about it.

WCT: Several actors, including Richard Chamberlain and Rupert Everett, have said that gay actors should stay in the closet for the sake of their careers. What are your thoughts on the subject?

DS: I don't think anybody should stay in the closet. It's a miserable place to be. I have been out of the closet in my personal life since my first year of college. The decision to come out publicly was far more difficult for me because it required that I make peace with the possibility that I may not work in my chosen field. That being said, I knew I would have a more rewarding life as an actor if I didn't have to constantly lie or dodge the question. Having to balance all of this in the midst of trying to be good at my job also seemed unnecessarily difficult. If I lose a gig because I came out of the closet, I probably didn't want to work with those people, anyway.

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WCT: Are there any actor’s career you would like to emulate? What’s next for you, career-wise?

DS: I don’t know that my career trajectory is already so different from any other actor’s, just because of all the gay work I’ve done. As a Black actor, there’s no one I can look to and say, “Yes, I’d like the rest of my career to look like this.” My friend Wilson Cruz is the only successful actor I can think of, but I know right now, he’s just as hungry for a real gig as I am. It’s hard out here for a pimp.

But I love Will Smith. I enjoy his work and I really dig his approach to life. He doesn’t believe in having a Plan B. Success is the only option.

I feel like I could really benefit from embracing that perspective.

WCT: I’ve read that you’re quite politically active. Do you feel that marriage equality will be achieved nationally in your lifetime?

DS: The fact that marriage equality continues to be an issue confounds me. How am I paying the same taxes and observing the same laws as my heterosexual brother without reaping the same benefits of our American citizenship? As an American, I am promised freedom of religion. If I don’t have the option to practice that version of that religion, then the opposing argument doesn’t have a leg to stand on.

It’s embarrassing that the debate has gone on this long. But honestly, I am more concerned about the impact of marriage equality on future generations. As a kid, marriage was never even an option in my mind. I’m open to the idea now, but most people my age have already suffered the damage of not believing they’re worthy of that level of commitment. But imagine how the possibility of a stable monogamous relationship, recognized by our families and society, will change the way gay people see themselves and approach their relationships. It’s going to be beautiful—and, yes, I plan on being here long enough to see it.

No Wire Hanger Productions has teamed with Test Positive Aware Network to host “Art & Soul: The Eargasmic Experience” Sunday, Feb. 13, at Circuit Nightclub, 3641 N. Halsted. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.; speed dating begins at 6 p.m.; and the show starts at 7 p.m. Admission for this event is $10.
**Wednesday, Feb. 9**

**Wade Rouse**: Gay author at Chicago Public Library. Wade returns to the Chicago Public Library to discuss and sign his latest book, "It’s All Relative," at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State, at 6 p.m. Photo from Caroline Weisser.

**Tickled Pink Fundraiser**

For the LGBT community and friends, a Drag race with Frida Lay, 8 p.m., Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. $15 in advance, $20 at the door. There will also be a very limited quantity of VIP meet and greet tickets for only $25. 8 p.m., Hydrate, 3438 N. Halsted, Chicago. http://www.hydratechicago.com

**March Strike**

Join YES Vodka and Chicago Institute for Palestinian Peace & Justice for a protest in Chicago’s Union Station, 435 N. Wabash at 11 a.m.

**Saturday, Feb. 12**

** gewGloria**

The Half Life of Sgt. Jen Hunter mini-doc premieres at Chicago’s Center on Halsted, 25 E. Pearson St., Chicago. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. $36 in advance, $45 at the door. "Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell." 7 p.m., Women & Gender Studies Program of the Wright Leadership Institute in partnership with More For Gay Men.

** Tickled Pink fundraiser for Y.M.E.**

Tickled Pink brings together the city’s hip, young or young at heart for a celebration worthy of any V.I.P. to all, no one ever been breast cancer alone. At the event, guests will walk the pink carpet, sip on delicious cocktails and dine on hors d’oeuvres and late night munchies by many of the Wright’s favorite restaurants. Tickets are $75 in advance. Space is limited. 7 p.m., 312-894-8300, The Underground Chicago, 56 W. Adams, Chicago. http://www.tickledpinkchicago.com

**International Dance Vocalist Marcie Joy Live**

One of the world’s most renowned vocalists, Marcie Joy will be in Chicago performing LIVE at the Victor Hotel, 9 p.m., Victor Hotel, 311 N. State, Chicago. http://www.marciéjoy.com

**Rahm Shot**

Chicago mayoral candidate Rahm Emanuel will have an LGBT reception at The Ivy room at Studio Trees, 12 E. Ohio.

If you care to share and send them all to WeSayYes@officialchicago.com. Stories will be added to the website throughout the year. 5 p.m., SideTrak, 3349 N. Halsted, Chicago. http://www.SideTrakChicago.com

**Jason Sechrist hosting Zodiac Singles Mixer**

The adult entertainment industry’s first-ever straight and gay porn blogger, talk show host, nightclub emcee and the mainstream behind JasonaCious.com hosts the Zodiac Singles Mixer at the All Need Love Festival, 175 $, 7 p.m., Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive. http://www.allneedlove.org

**Wednesday, Feb. 9**

**Wade Rouse**

Wade Rouse will talk about his latest book, “It’s All Relative,” at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State.

**Friday, Feb. 11**

**LGBTQ Mayoral Candidate Forum**

A forum for LGBTQ federal candidates will be held in the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 S. Columbus Drive, Chicago. Tickets are $10 in advance or $15 at the door. The forum will feature federal candidates and members of the LGBTQ community. http://www.lgbtqchicago.org
“My goal is to get people to watch this show that I love working on and whatever sensationalist photo or probs I need to do to get people to tune in, that’s what I’ll do.” —Matthew Bomer explains why he doesn’t mind showing as much skin as possible on White Collar. Since he asked, we’ll post more skin shots on our website. You’re welcome, Matt.

I’ve loved Henry Cavill since his sizzling nude scene in the first season of The Tudors. I also loved him in Tristan + Isolde (which I realize no one but me saw). I always felt he was someone who was better than the parts he got. In fact, Empire magazine (which no one in this country reads) called him “the most unlucky man in Hollyw—“ That’s because he always comes this close to landing a number of plum parts. He was second choice to Christian Bale for Batman Begins. He almost got to re-invigorate the James Bond franchise, but the powers that be went with the older Daniel Craig. He was a favorite for a role in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire that, instead, went to Robert Pattinson. And he was McDi’s choice to play Clark Kent in Superman Returns. When McDi pulled out and was replaced by Bryan Singer, Cavill was ousted and Brandon Routh was in.

But in the words of Big Daddy Masters, “All things come to he who waits.” I always thought Big Daddy had just a little too much sake with his crab rangoons, but in Henry’s case, it’s appropriate. He’s just been tapped to play the Man of Steel in the next Superman flick, which means that Brandon Routh is the George Lazenby of that franchise. Given how hot Cavill looks out of his clothes, I think it’s a perfect fit. Needless to say, we’ll post a plethora of photos (especially of his delectable derrière) on BillyMasters.com.

No sooner do I bump into Derek Hough (see last week’s column) than he’s dropped out of the upcoming season of Dancing with the Stars. I swear, I had nothing to do with it. You may have heard that Derek has a guest-starring role opposite Larry King in an upcoming episode of Better With You. Trust me when I tell you he’s not giving up his day job for that! Instead, Hough’s taking time off to film the flick Cobb 3D opposite Korean pop star Boa—oooh, I smell a rivalry! (Opposite Seth Rogen in My Mother’s Curse. Oh, I’m talking to you, Lynn, I’m talking to you.)

Most weeks, I’d have nothing to say, but this week I’d like to point out that Derek’s sister, Julianne, took time off from DWTS to make Burlesque—and they all spoke English on that set! Those of you who felt Barbra Streisand had nowhere to go but up after those “Fockers” movies (yes, Lynn, I’m talking to you), get ready for this. Streisand has just signed on to star opposite Seth Rogen in My Mother’s Curse. Oh, I’m smelling something new—but is it a hit? Or is it an old egg-salad sandwich in my luggage? The film is about an inventor (Rogen) who brings his mom (Streisand) on a road trip as he tries to sell his product and she tries to reunite with a long-lost love. So it’s like Letters to Juliet meets Shark Tank. I was right—egg salad.

If that project doesn’t interest you, what about this one: Jane Fonda would like to make a sequel to Barbarella. Jane told the LA Times, “I have a dream to do a sequel to Barbarella. Not a remake, a sequel. Look, I’m still only a mouse click away. You can e-mail your warm wishes—and any questions you may have—to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before General Hospital borrows yet another plot from my personal DVD collection! Until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.
‘New’ league joins local LGBT sports scene

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Athletic Alliance of Chicago (AAC) is the latest player on the local LGBT sports scene. Well, actually, it’s just the re-named Windy City Athletic Association (WCAA).

“The decision to end operations at WCAA and create a new entity was reached jointly by all current members of the WCAA board in early November,” said Kevin Hansen, of Chicago. “The decision was a logical reaction to the decision of several Board members to step back from their current positions to devote more time to other areas of their life.”

WCIA has been run recently by president Jacen Maleck and vice president Patrick Mooney, and both assisted as needed during the transition in an advisory capacity. Hansen, 40, who lives in Lincoln Square and has worked in public health administration for the past eight years, is the AAC commissioner and also the AAC director of indoor volleyball. Other AAC board members are Dale Reigner, Patrick Lannon, Patrick Nunes, Joe Patla, Patrick Long and Anton Mulvaney.

“The name AAC was a joint effort of many of our current directors and members,” Hansen said. “Anyone who spent more than an hour around us in early November probably had a hand in the decision in some form. To carve it down to one name we probably came up with over a hundred possibilities.”

The official AAC announcement was made in December.

“Our biggest priority currently is to devote our energies to strengthening the sports that we do have, and making them more enjoyable for our members,” Hansen said. “We are working directly with the sports to see how we can best support them, to maximize the interaction and synergy between the individual sports, both from a social as well as a financial standpoint.”

AAC has about 625 members, and about 80 percent of them are male. AAC currently offers women’s basketball, darts, indoor volleyball and floor hockey.

“There may be more opportunities in the future to launch something new,” Hansen said. “If it is something that would benefit our members, we will of course take a look at it. But we are not looking to grow just to get bigger. We are looking to get better in all that we offer.

“We are also home to a few national tournaments, and we are eager to see if we can help to promote those to higher levels. Anything a player comes to Chicago from another city for one of them, we want them to appreciate how vibrant our community is, and also to return year after year to take part in all that the tournament and Chicago itself has to offer.”

AAC launched its floor-hockey season in January in conjunction with the Chicago Gay Hockey Association (CGHA). This is the second season for local floor hockey, and the first for the CGHA aligned with AAC.

“The first week [of floor hockey] was really exciting,” Hansen said. “It was great to see how some of our members walked in skeptical about the game and walked out already talking about some of our members walked in skeptical about the game and walked out already talking about some of our members walked in skeptical about the game and walked out already talking about some of our members walked in skeptical about the game and walked out already talking about some of our members walked in skeptical about the game and walked out already talking about some of our members walked in skeptical about the game and walked out already talking about some of our members walked in skeptical about the game and walked out already talking about some of our members walked in skeptical about the game and walked out already talking about."

And what about the larger, more popular Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA)?

“This was actually one of the questions that I am most happy to have been asked,” Hansen said. “I have been a member of both organizations for just over 10 years at this point [while] participating in athletics in Chicago, and plan to continue. Joining the leagues was one of the best decisions that I have made, and it continues to be a great part of my life.

“In terms of size, CMSA is definitely leading the charge. But, in my opinion, both CMSA and AAC are working toward the same goal, which is to offer sporting and social opportunities to members of the LGBTQ community and those who support our community.

“The number of different sports offered, and the amount of members who are involved in one, or in many cases both of the organizations, points to the fact that the community is willing to give new activities a try. So I do not look at it like we are fighting for a finite numbers of members. I think that as more quality offerings are made available, the pool of athletes that will participate will continue to increase as well.”

For more information about the AAC, visit http://www.athleticallianceofchicago.com.

Kevin Hansen. Photo courtesy of Hansen

Proud to Run says YES

Feb. 9, 2011

The Windy City Rollers, Chicago’s nationally ranked women’s roller derby league, will play its second bout of the home season Sunday, Feb. 13, at UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine.

WCR’s own classically trained opera singer-turned-Raynemarket Roler, Barbara Brawlters will sing the national anthem, and former skater-turned-incredible circus performer Shanya Swanson of The Aloft Loft will perform at halftime.

Doors open at 2 p.m. for this special matinee bout, and the first bout of this month’s doubleheader starts at 3 p.m. Tickets are $20 in advance and $22 at the door. Tickets for the 2011 WCR home season are available online at http://www.windycityrollers.com, Ticketmaster, the UIC box office or from any WCR skater or official.

‘Hancock’ Feb. 27

“Hustle Up the Hancock,” sponsored by the Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago, will take place Sunday, Feb. 27. The full climb is sold out. However, CBS2 Half Climb (52 floors) and Lung Health Champion spots are still available. The total entry fee, due at the time of registration, is $110 for the half-climb and $110-$130 for the lung health spot. (The Lung Health Champion slot has a mandatory additional fundraising amount of $920.)


Rollers playing home bout Feb. 13

Proud to Run says YES

Proud to Run will mark its 30th year with a fundraiser sponsored by YES Vodka at Side-track, 3349 N. Halsted on Wed., March 2, at 7 p.m.

Attendees will get the chance to sponsor their favorite bartenders; see the latest Nike running apparel; and mingle with YES Vodka boys and drag queens.

YES recently donated $3,000 to Proud to Run. Photo of the donation from Tim Henney.
fully committing to the matter. Andy Thayer of Gay Liberation Network said that the group was busy with several other planned actions and events, and if it were to consider an action it would first need to review the facts carefully: “People don’t always understand that a boycott requires time and commitment to be effective, and it’s difficult to measure your progress,” he said, pointing to the 1970s boycott of orange juice around Anita Bryant as an example of a successful campaign that took many years to come to fruition. The fact that the initial problem began with a franchise and not the entire corporation per se could also have a bearing. He emphasized that such factors could play a role in shaping any campaigns, if at all, and that there was a further problem if the associations with anti-gay groups were to the second or third degree. However, Thayer also said that an action was not out of the question after the group had met and discussed the matter more thoroughly.

Erica Meiners, an out faculty member at Northern Illinois University and a long-time social justice activist, was circumspect while broadly supportive of any action in principle, but was concerned, like Bishop-Boros, about a single-issue boycott: “It’s great that we are looking at how organizations are using their excess profits, but I’d also want to know: what are their labor practices? How are they with labor unions? Animal welfare? Where did they stand on healthcare reform as a corporation? It’s great if this issue can become a wedge issue that is use to continue to push on other matters, but I’m not interested in the anti-marriage question.” As Meiners sees it, the larger question is: do we consider corporate greed as well as focus on matters of identity?

R. Clarke Cooper.

While HRC has come out critically against Chick-fil-A, the organization Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) is less willing to support a boycott or protest, which is not surprising given the group’s adherence to the principles of the free market. Speaking to WCT, R. Clarke Cooper of the national office said that people needed to make informed decisions and that Chick-fil-A needed to be educated on the idea that it could be pro-equality and pro-family. He pointed out that the Cathy family, unlike the Manchesters of the Hyatt, Manchester, did not have a demonstrated record of hostility to gays. He also said that the LCR had a lot of other legislation to focus on.

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on Saturday. It would be one last chance to see if there was some way to find common ground and create a solution that worked for everyone.

To our surprise, at the mediation, the school district worked with us—with the help of the judge—to come up with the solution that any member of the royalty court would be allowed to bring any significant person in their life to walk with them during the procession. Not only could Sarah and I could walk together, but our friend Chelsea could walk with her girlfriend, and any other member of the court could bring a boyfriend/girlfriend/best friend/parent, etc., to share the experience with them. How could anyone be upset with that? On top of that, the school district also agreed to include gay-straight alliance clubs and other groups in event planning to make sure that all school events were inclusive to all students and that no one was left out. The outcome of the mediation session was absolutely phenomenal and was everything we asked for, and more.

One thing I would really like people to realize is that this was never about getting attention. This was only about Sarah and I wanting to share a special event together, and about showing other LGBT kids that they don’t have to be afraid to be who they are because they are not alone. We were denied a privilege that straight couples have always received, which is not only against the law but also was sending a very hurtful message to LGBT students that we are not equal to our heterosexual peers. Sarah and I are human beings who deserve the same respect, rights, and opportunities as everyone else, and when push came to shove, we were ready to shave right back. We stood up for something we believe in, and out of that came an amazing change for the school district that I hope will continue to change a lot of things for LGBT students in the future.
MYSKY to 57711 for a chance to win VIP tickets*
*standard rates apply

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