Report: Catholics for same-sex marriage

BY CHUCK COLBERT

Catholic advocates for LGBT rights got a boost with the release of a new report showing the faithful are more supportive of gay rights than the general public and other Christian denominations. At the same time, the report points to a higher Catholic interest in civil unions, suggesting education may be key in convincing civil-unions backers to embrace full marriage equality.

“Catholics are at least five percentage points more supportive than the general population,” said Robert P. Jones, chief executive officer of the Public Religion Research Institute, referring to a range of public policy and legal issues, including same-sex marriage, workplace non-discrimination, open military service, and adoption rights for lesbian and gay couples.

Jones’ remarks came during a telephone press conference March 22, when two panelists discussed report findings. The report, “Catholic Attitudes on Gay and Lesbian Issues,” is said to be the most comprehensive portrait to date on the topic. Some key findings from the study include:

—“Nearly three-quarters of Catholics favor either allowing gay and lesbian people to marry (43 percent) or allowing them to form civil unions (31 percent). Only 22 percent of Catholics say there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple’s relationship.”

—“When same-sex marriage is defined explicitly as a civil marriage,” moreover, “support is dramatically higher among Catholics.” For example, “If marriage for gay couples is defined as a civil marriage ‘like you get in city hall,’ Catholic support for allowing gay couples to marry increases by 28 points, from 43 percent to 71 percent. A similar pattern exists in the general population, but the Catholic increase is more pronounced.”

—The report also showed strong Catholic support for other aspects of gay rights, with 73 percent supporting laws against workplace discrimination, 60 percent favoring gay adoptions, and 63 percent favoring openly gay military service.

—“A majority of Catholics (56 percent) believe that sexual relations between two adults of the same gender is not a sin.” By way of contrast, “among the general population, less than half (46 percent) believe it is not a sin.”

Maine South student, GSA make strides

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

A year ago last February, Maine South senior Anna Rangos left her English class in tears after fellow students criticized her for an article she authored in the school paper about transgender issues. Since then, Rangos and the school’s gay-straight alliance (GSA) have worked tirelessly to create awareness of both their club and LGBT issues throughout the school and community.

Much of that effort has been placed with trying to provide LGBT sensitivity training for Maine South teachers and faculty. Maine South principal Shawn Messmer approved the GSA’s proposal to bring in professionals from Chicago’s About Face Youth Theatre, but its application to receive grant money from a foundation through Maine Township was denied. The club has continually struggled to secure the necessary funding.

“We’ve been going off education grants and it’s been really frustrating because there’s not much we can do as students,” Rangos said. “We’ve gotten turned down from a few probably because there’s not as much administrative support as there should or could be.”

The GSA’s faculty sponsor, Jennifer Sarashinsky, has had to shoulder much of the grant work-load. She said the sensitivity training has the support of the administration, but part of the problem has been that most grants are typically not given to specific student clubs.

“The principal and other staff members think it’s valid and something that needs to happen.”
Talk with your doctor and consider all the factors about starting treatment. HIV treatment is now recommended for everyone with a T-cell count of 500 or less and should be considered when T-cells are higher than 500, according to the DHHS* and the IAS-USA†. Starting treatment early may help protect your immune system and vital organs. Today’s medicines may have fewer, more manageable side effects. They may help you live a longer, healthier life. Receive helpful information about living with HIV that you should know. Call toll free 1-888-497-9639, or visit TREATHIVNOW.COM.

*DHHS = Department of Health and Human Services †IAS-USA = International AIDS Society USA.

©2011 Gilead Sciences, Inc. All rights reserved. UN8512 03/11
Elizabeth Taylor: Actor, activist dies at 79

BY TRACY BAUM

Elizabeth Taylor, 79, one of the most important early supporters in the fight against AIDS, died March 23 of congestive heart failure.

Taylor won numerous awards over the years, and is seventh on the American Film Institute’s Female Legends List. She won two Academy Awards for Best Actress (for Butterfield 8 and Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?), and the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award in 1992 for her AIDS work.

Among her dozens of credits are the following films: National Velvet, Little Women, Father of the Bride, A Place in the Sun, Giant, Cat on a Hat Tin Roof, The Taming of the Shrew, These Old Broads, The Flintstones, and Suddenly, Last Summer.

Taylor was a critical voice of reason in the 1980s, when AIDS first became prominent in the United States. She also was an early and fierce advocate for agencies receiving funding from the foundation.

In her GLAAD acceptance speech, she said: “It’s the first award I’ve received from a gay organization and I’m honored and just tickled.”

Reporter Rex Wockner detailed more of her activism in the ‘80s when a new disease emerged that was quickly and inexplicably killing people. Worse than the virus there was the terrible discrimination and prejudice it left in its wake. Suddenly it made gay people stop being human beings and start becoming the enemy. I knew somebody had to do something. For God’s sake, our president didn’t even utter the word for years into the epidemic. So I got involved.

“All of my life I’ve spent a lot of time with gay men—Montgomery Clift, Jimmy Dean, Rock Hudson—who are my colleagues, coworkers, confidantes, my closest friends, but I never thought of who they slept with! They were just the people I loved. I could never understand why they couldn’t be afforded the same rights and protections as all the rest of us. There is no gay agenda, it’s a human agenda.

“All of us should be treated the same, and GLAAD knows that. Why shouldn’t gay people be allowed to marry? Those against gay marriages say marriage should only be between a man and a woman. God, I, of all people know that [the remainder of the sentence was inaudible due to an audience outburst]. I feel that any home where there is love constitutes a family and all families should have the same legal rights, including the right to marry and have or adopt children.

“Why shouldn’t gay people be able to live as open and freely as everybody else? What it comes down to, ultimately, is love. How can anything bad come out of love? The bad stuff comes out of mistrust, misunderstanding and, God knows, from hate and from ignorance. Thank God GLAAD works to fight this. During my life I’ve seen many things, good and bad, but the bad things never came out of loving acts, loving gestures or loving relationships. That’s why I’m here tonight—to celebrate you and your families. And to tell you to hang in there and to say, once and for all of us, long live love.”

National Minority AIDS Council Deputy Executive Director Daniel C. Montoya also issued a statement: “From the onset of the epidemic, Ms. Taylor was an early and fierce advocate for action to combat HIV/AIDS. Moved by news that those living with HIV/AIDS were under fire. We were inspired by your outspoken honesty in the face of the disbelievers. And we were comforted by your deep compassion for all those living with HIV/AIDS.”

The group added: “amfAR will remember and honor Elizabeth Taylor for keeping the faith and for inspiring us year after year to keep going until this devastating epidemic is conquered.”

“My dear Liz...I adored her,” said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. “Taylor was a true star to take up the banner of HIV/AIDS activism.”

“We are deeply saddened by the death Elizabeth Taylor,” said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. “Taylor was a true star to take up the banner of HIV/AIDS activism.”

“From the onset of the epidemic, Ms. Taylor was an early and fierce advocate for agencies receiving funding from the foundation.”

“amfAR mourns the loss of our beloved Founding International Chairman, who went to memorial page.”

Elizabeth Taylor was the founding international chairman of amfAR.

Elizabeth Taylor was a fitting tribute then and is a fitting tribulation’s event journals. The organization posted it online on the day Taylor died, a message that was a fitting tribute then and is a fitting tribute now. “All your life you were known for your beauty. During the past two decades or so, we gradually came to take that beauty for granted, but we were also constantly arrested by your other qualities. We were staggered by your grace under fire. We were inspired by your outspoken honesty in the face of the disbelievers. And we were comforted by your deep compassion for all those living with HIV/AIDS.” The group added: “amfAR will remember and honor Elizabeth Taylor for keeping the faith and for inspiring us year after year to keep going until this devastating epidemic is conquered.”

“We are deeply saddened by the death Elizabeth Taylor,” said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. “Taylor was a true star to take up the banner of HIV/AIDS activism.”

“We are deeply saddened by the death Elizabeth Taylor,” said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. “Taylor was a true star to take up the banner of HIV/AIDS activism.”

“We are deeply saddened by the death Elizabeth Taylor,” said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. “Taylor was a true star to take up the banner of HIV/AIDS activism.”

“We are deeply saddened by the death Elizabeth Taylor,” said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. “Taylor was a true star to take up the banner of HIV/AIDS activism.”

“We are deeply saddened by the death Elizabeth Taylor,” said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. “Taylor was a true star to take up the banner of HIV/AIDS activism.”

“amfAR mourns the loss of our beloved Founding International Chairman, who went to memorial page.”

Elizabeth Taylor was the founding international chairman of amfAR.
Proposition 8 stay remains

BY REX WOCKNER

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on March 23 refused a request from the American Foundation for Equal Rights and lawyers Ted Olson and David Boies that it lift its block on the August 2010 federal district court ruling that struck down Proposition 8. U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker had issued an injunction barring further enforcement of Prop 8 after finding that it violates the U.S. Constitution. The 9th Circuit, however, quickly “stayed” Walker’s injunction, and his ruling has been tied up on appeal since.

Prop 8, passed by voters in November 2008, amended the California Constitution to prohibit same-sex marriage, which was legal in the state at the time.

Olson and Boies say the appeal process is taking too long, especially given a lengthy delay introduced into the case in February when the 9th Circuit punted to the California Supreme Court the question of whether the people who are appealing Walker’s ruling—the folks who put Prop 8 on the ballot—actually have any right, under California law, to appeal.

None of the people who are defendants in the case—including Gov. Jerry Brown and Attorney General Kamala Harris—have an interest in appealing Walker’s ruling or defending Prop 8. As a result, if the Prop 8 supporters are found to have no standing to appeal, then the 9th Circuit won’t hear the case, Walker’s ruling would take effect, and same-sex couples could marry again in California—although the question of standing also could be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

“The stay was originally ordered with the understanding that the 9th Circuit would rule swiftly on the case before it,” said Olson. “Now that the issue of the (Prop 8) proponents’ standing to appeal has been referred for analysis by the California Supreme Court, substantial additional, indefinite and unanticipated delays lie ahead. It’s unreasonable and decidedly unjust to expect California’s gay and lesbian couples to put their lives on hold and suffer daily discrimination as second-class citizens while their U.S. District Court victory is debated further.”

The 9th Circuit apparently was unswayed by that line of reasoning, though it did not explain why.

On March 23, the judges ordered: “Having considered all of the factors set forth in Meen v. Holder ... and all of the facts and circumstances surrounding Plaintiffs’ motion to vacate the stay pending appeal, as well as the standard for vacatur set forth in Southeast Alaska Conservation Council v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ... we deny Plaintiffs’ motion at this time.”

It was unclear if the phrase “at this time” was an indication that the court might see the matter differently at some future time.

For now, LGB Californians will wait for the California Supreme Court’s answer to the 9th Circuit’s question, which will be taken into consideration by the 9th Circuit judges when they decide whether to give the Prop 8 supporters federal standing to appeal and serve as defendants. The California Supreme Court has said it won’t hear oral arguments on the matter until September at the earliest.

Equality California said it was “profoundly disappointed by the court’s refusal to lift the stay,” Minter said. “A federal court held that Prop 8 is unconstitutional and that its continued enforcement causes serious harm to same-sex couples and their children. Without explanation, the 9th Circuit’s ruling today allows that harm to continue. Every day that Prop 8 remains in effect, the state of California is harming families, sending a devastating message to LGBT youth, and perpetuating violence and discrimination against LGBT people.”

—Assistant: William Kelley

Geraldine Ferraro: 1935-2011

Geraldine Ferraro, an attorney who became the first woman nominated for U.S. vice president by a major political party, died March 26 after battling blood cancer for 12 years. She was 75.

Ferraro ran with Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale in the 1984 election; they lost to Ronald Reagan and his running mate, George H.W. Bush.

A resident of New York, Ferraro was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives during the years 1979-1985.

In a statement, her family said, “Her family said "Geraldine Anne Ferraro Zaccaro was widely known as a leader, a fighter for justice, and a tireless advocate for those without a voice. To us, she was a wife, mother, grand-
White House pushes to end persecution of LGBTs worldwide

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The White House announced March 22 that President Obama and Brazilian President Dilma Vana Rousseff have established a “special rapporteur on LGBT issues at the Organization of American States.” It also drew attention to a United Nations declaration, backed by the United States and joined by 85 other countries, calling for an end to violence and persecution against LGBT people.

Obama was in Brazil as part of his first presidential visit to South America. The trip, which was to focus on the economy and trade, has been in stiff competition with the news that American forces—as part of a United Nations action—are now bombing Libya.

Rousseff, who has been in office only two months, also issued a statement March 21 about fighting homophobia.

The White House announcement was issued through Press Secretary Jay Carney’s office, saying Obama “was pleased to announce during his trip to Brazil that he and President Rousseff agreed to promote respect for the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals through the establishment of a special rapporteur on LGBT issues at the Organization of American States.”

This “special rapporteur” will be the first of its kind in the international system. The Organization of American States currently has three rapporteurs—or study groups—on issues such as the rights of Afro-descendants, indigenous people, and people deprived of liberty. It has four “special rapporteur” looking at the rights of children, women, migrant workers and their families, and the freedom of expression.

The White House press statement Tuesday night also drew attention to a “joint commitment” by the United States and 85 other countries to reaffirm “our joint commitment to end acts of violence and human rights abuses on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.”

“Over the past months, our diplomats have been engaged in frank, and at times difficult, conversations about the human rights of LGBT persons with governments from around world,” noted the Press Secretary’s statement, issued March 22 at 8:44 p.m. “The President is proud of the work we have done to build international consensus on this critical issue and is committed to continuing our determined efforts to advance the human rights of all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

State Department Secretary Hillary Clinton also issued a statement March 22, saying the United States took “a leading role” in developing the statement with 30 other countries.

“We will continue to promote human rights around the world for all people who are marginalized and discriminated against because of sexual orientation or gender identity,” said Clinton’s statement. “And we will not rest until every man, woman and child is able to live up to his or her potential free from persecution or discrimination of any kind.”

According to a fact sheet issued by the White House late Tuesday night, the United Nations statement is entitled, “Ending Acts of Violence and Related Human Rights Violations Based On Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.” Two previous statements—one in 2006 and one in 2008—were signed by 54 and 67 countries, respectively. The 2011 statement, unlike the previous ones, includes a statement welcoming attention to LGBT issues as a part of the Universal Periodic Review process. It also notes increased attention to LGBT issues in regional human rights forms, encourages the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue addressing LGBT issues, and calls for states to end criminal sanctions based on LGBT status.

The United States, Colombia, and Slovenia co-chaired a group of 30 countries that worked actively on the new statement. The 10-point document calls on all countries “to take steps to end acts of violence, criminal sanctions and related human rights violations committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, encourage Special Procedures, treaty bodies and other stakeholders to continue to integrate these issues within their relevant mandates, and urge the Council to address these important human rights issues.”

“2011 Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

More than 260 DADT discharges in FY 2010

Servicemembers United, the nation’s largest organization of gay and lesbian troops and veterans, announced that it has obtained documents showing that the total official number of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) discharges for fiscal year 2010 was 261.

The annual fiscal year DADT discharge statistic combines the total number of discharges reported by the Department of Defense, which was 250, with the total number of discharges reported by the Department of Homeland Security for the Coast Guard, which was 11.

“While this latest official discharge number represents an all-time annual low, it is still unusually high considering that the secretary of defense issued a directive half-way through the fiscal year to make it much harder for military units to discharge troops under ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,’” said Alexander Nicholson, executive director of Servicemembers United.

“Over the past months, our diplomats have been engaged in frank, and at times difficult, conversations about the human rights of LGBT persons with governments from around world,” noted the Press Secretary’s statement, issued March 22 at 8:44 p.m. “The President is proud of the work we have done to build international consensus on this critical issue and is committed to continuing our determined efforts to advance the human rights of all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

State Department Secretary Hillary Clinton also issued a statement March 22, saying the United States took “a leading role” in developing the statement with 30 other countries.

“We will continue to promote human rights around the world for all people who are marginalized and discriminated against because of sexual orientation or gender identity,” said Clinton’s statement. “And we will not rest until every man, woman and child is able to live up to his or her potential free from persecution or discrimination of any kind.”

According to a fact sheet issued by the White House late Tuesday night, the United Nations statement is entitled, “Ending Acts of Violence and Related Human Rights Violations Based On Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.” Two previous statements—one in 2006 and one in 2008—were signed by 54 and 67 countries, respectively. The 2011 statement, unlike the previous ones, includes a statement welcoming attention to LGBT issues as a part of the Universal Periodic Review process. It also notes increased attention to LGBT issues in regional human rights forms, encourages the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue addressing LGBT issues, and calls for states to end criminal sanctions based on LGBT status.”

The United States, Colombia, and Slovenia co-chaired a group of 30 countries that worked actively on the new statement. The 10-point document calls on all countries “to take steps to end acts of violence, criminal sanctions and related human rights violations committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, encourage Special Procedures, treaty bodies and other stakeholders to continue to integrate these issues within their relevant mandates, and urge the Council to address these important human rights issues.”

“2011 Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

More than 260 DADT discharges in FY 2010

Servicemembers United, the nation’s largest organization of gay and lesbian troops and veterans, announced that it has obtained documents showing that the total official number of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) discharges for fiscal year 2010 was 261.

The annual fiscal year DADT discharge statistic combines the total number of discharges reported by the Department of Defense, which was 250, with the total number of discharges reported by the Department of Homeland Security for the Coast Guard, which was 11.

“While this latest official discharge number represents an all-time annual low, it is still unusually high considering that the secretary of defense issued a directive half-way through the fiscal year to make it much harder for military units to discharge troops under ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,’” said Alexander Nicholson, executive director of Servicemembers United.

“Over the past months, our diplomats have been engaged in frank, and at times difficult, conversations about the human rights of LGBT persons with governments from around world,” noted the Press Secretary’s statement, issued March 22 at 8:44 p.m. “The President is proud of the work we have done to build international consensus on this critical issue and is committed to continuing our determined efforts to advance the human rights of all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

State Department Secretary Hillary Clinton also issued a statement March 22, saying the United States took “a leading role” in developing the statement with 30 other countries.

“We will continue to promote human rights around the world for all people who are marginalized and discriminated against because of sexual orientation or gender identity,” said Clinton’s statement. “And we will not rest until every man, woman and child is able to live up to his or her potential free from persecution or discrimination of any kind.”

According to a fact sheet issued by the White House late Tuesday night, the United Nations statement is entitled, “Ending Acts of Violence and Related Human Rights Violations Based On Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.” Two previous statements—one in 2006 and one in 2008—were signed by 54 and 67 countries, respectively. The 2011 statement, unlike the previous ones, includes a statement welcoming attention to LGBT issues as a part of the Universal Periodic Review process. It also notes increased attention to LGBT issues in regional human rights forms, encourages the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue addressing LGBT issues, and calls for states to end criminal sanctions based on LGBT status.”

The United States, Colombia, and Slovenia co-chaired a group of 30 countries that worked actively on the new statement. The 10-point document calls on all countries “to take steps to end acts of violence, criminal sanctions and related human rights violations committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, encourage Special Procedures, treaty bodies and other stakeholders to continue to integrate these issues within their relevant mandates, and urge the Council to address these important human rights issues.”

“2011 Keen News Service. All rights reserved.
Center, library host forum on women’s healthcare

BY EMMANUEL GARCIA

The Chicago Public Library (CPL) recently partnered with the Center on Halsted to host a series of forums designed to address topics of interest to lesbian, bi and trans women. On March 24, this new partnership produced SpeakOUT: Women’s Healthcare in Chicago: Past, Present and Future at the center’s Hoover-Leppen Theater. Simone Koehlinger moderated the evening by asking each panelist to give a brief history of the work the individual organizations have done regarding healthcare.

Affinity Executive Director Kim Hunt and Amigas Latinas Treasurer Marta Coronado shared statistics from research studies their organizations have conducted in the past couple of years. In 2007, Amigas Latinas—a not-for-profit organization for Latina lesbian and bisexual women—funded Proyecto Latina, a survey of more than 300 women. According to Coronado the data showed that 27 percent of those surveyed suffered from clinical depression and that 20 percent had attempted suicide. Similarly, in 2001, Affinity—an organization for Black lesbians and bisexual women—conducted the “Take Charge” study through the University of Chicago. Hunt, said that of the 230 women that participated, all said they were “out” to their doctors. Both Hunt and Coronado said the data has helped them develop better mental health programming.

Christina Santiago, manager of programming for the Lesbian Community Care Project (LCCP), spoke of the merger between LCCP and Howard Brown Health Center as an example of how the needs of an organization change from its inception to what is needed now. Saying, “LCCP changed from being a grassroots cancer networking and support group for queer women, to being a portal through which queer women can access healthcare through the bigger umbrella that is Howard Brown,” Chicago Women’s AIDS Project Executive Director Cathy Christeller expressed great concern for substance abuse and drug-treatment programs ahead of funding cuts. “The fact that the city, state and feds are all going to cut services in some unknown sets of horrific ways, all at once, is something we don’t have a grip on,” she said.

During the Q&A portion of the forum an attendee asked what can the organizations present do to improve support for transgender people when they are referred out of “safe spaces.” Angelique Grandone, health educator at Chicago Women’s Health Center, said her organization vets affiliates so that they are trans-informed and are constantly looking for referrals; however, a key support they have developed is to have another trans-identified person as an advocate. “So that there were actually three people in the room, the individual patient, an advocate, the healthcare provider to be able to create a safer space, talk about language use and also to provide additional support,” Grandone said.

Outside of school, Rangos has also been involved as an LGBT activist. Her involvement in the Illinois Safe School Alliance helped her earn a spot as one of two teenagers on the School Bullying Prevention Task Force. Assembled by the Illinois Prevent School Violence Act, the task force was created for the purpose of addressing bullying policy and procedure in Illinois schools with recommendations that were submitted to Governor Pat Quinn and the General Assembly March 1.

Sarashinsky said that Rangos has done an excellent job dealing with the issues that she’s had to face during this last year, but still has room to grow.

“One thing I’ve been thinking about is that Anna’s a young woman who has really worked to make her environment a better, more accepting place,” she said. “I think that Anna has room to grow in realizing that change does not happen as quickly as one would want it to and that sometimes it takes more persistence and patience.”

Rangos plans to stay in Chicago after she graduates this semester. She’s hoping for acceptance to DePaul University where she would like to major in Women’s and Gender Studies with the intention of eventually attending law school.

Homosexuality: The Battleground for a Dying Form of Christianity

Bishop John Shelby Spong

Best-selling author, biblical scholar and retired Episcopal bishop

Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
Frick Center, Founders Lounge
190 Prospect Avenue, Elmhurst, Illinois

Admission is free. Questions? (630) 617-3390 or www.elmhurst.edu
CATHOLICS from cover

Altogether, attitudes among U.S. Catholics contrast sharply with views of bishops who continue to oppose a range of gay-rights public policy issues and legislative proposals. While church doctrine holds sexual relations between two people of the same gender as always sinful, pastoral teaching says “homosexual persons must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity.”

During the press conference, panelist and sociologist Michele Dillon, said she was not surprised by the report’s findings, even if the results contradict a popular stereotype of Catholics as traditionally conservative on social issues.

“The findings do fit with increased general patterns of support in the general U.S. population as a whole for various aspects of gay rights, including same-sex marriage,” said Dillon, chair of the sociology department at the University of New Hampshire.

In particular, she added, “Catholic support fits with what has been well-documented over the last several years of a pretty strong pattern of liberalism among Catholics in general for various issues,” for instance, “abortion, divorce without annulment,” the “sexually, socially contested” issues within the Church.

More good news: Catholic attitudes on gay rights from the new report fall in line with a March 18 Washington Post-ABC poll that found that a slim majority of Americans—53 percent—say they now support same-sex marriage. Just five years ago, only 36 percent of U.S. residents said they supported gay marriage.

And yet Dillon said, “Even though the report data show strong support among the Catholic laity, I don’t think we should expect the Catholic bishops to stand back and say we don’t need to focus on these issues.”

As she explained, “Quite the contrary. The bishops often repeat they are not going to be distracted by any polls or what the laity say,” adding, “We’re certainly going to see a lot of activism on the part of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to try to keep at bay the move toward increasing laws favoring same-sex marriage.”

For example, New York’s Archishop Timothy Dolan, the newly elected president of the bishops’ conference, recently compared same-sex marriage to incest. “I mean, I love my mom,” Dolan told CBS’ “60 Minutes,” but “I don’t have the right to marry her, OK? There are certain rights and attractions in life that are very beautiful and noble but don’t entitle you to marry.”

Meanwhile, what accounts for the Catholic laity’s progressive gay-rights positions?

“For Catholics, same-sex issues are personal matters of morality: and just as Catholics have made up their own minds about divorce and contraception, they also see same-sex relations in the same arena,” Dillon explained. “It’s up to the individuals involved. They see these issues as being independent of church teaching.”

Marianne Duddy-Burke, executive director of Dignity/USA, an LGBT Catholic advocacy group, who was not on the conference call, but reached afterwards, said she attributed the laity’s liberal attitudes to “the climate that has allowed more and more Catholics to come out to their families, their friends, and fellow Catholics.”

For Casey Lopata of Fortunate Families, a national gay-positive ministry of outreach to parents of LGBT children, “It’s that personal relationship, once you personally know someone and love,” he said, referring to Catholic parents who see their gay sons and lesbian daughters in relationships and are grandparents.

The other panellist on the call agreed with professor Dillon’s assessment of liberal trends among the laity, “Even among Latino Catholics, long supposed to be a group supportive of traditional social values, the numbers point to growing support for same-sex marriage,” said Stephen Schncke, director of the Catholic University of America’s Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies.

“The question facing the bishops, who opposed same-sex marriage on doctrinal grounds, is how they will choose to address this momentum.”

Schncke also spoke to what he called another “striking feature” of the report, “the much higher Catholic interest, especially among white non-Latino Catholics, in civil unions compared to other denominations and Americans generally.”

Apparent, he said, “Catholics like civil unions as an alternative to same-sex marriage.”

But civil-union support is a matter of perspective.

“If Catholics who support civil unions are counted among those favoring same-sex marriage, then a majority of Catholics support it,” Schncke explained. “If on the other hand, civil-union supporters are counted among those who oppose same-sex marriage, then the majority of Catholics oppose same-sex marriage by 55 to 43 percent. It’s the possible swing group for both sides on this issue.”

Bernard Cherkasov, executive director of Equality Illinois, sees the challenge ahead. “This report identifies for us additional opportunities for education and outreach work,” he said. “While more than 60 percent of respondents already support marriage equality, an additional over 30 percent support equal protections for same-sex couples without the term marriage.” We need to understand the reason for that distinction in the respondents minds so that we can make our case for full equality even clearer.”

Chris Pett, chapter president of Dignity/Chicago, who also leads Equality Illinois’ religious outreach committee, said he was delighted by the report’s findings. “The power and truth of this study is certainly confirmed by our recent experience with passage of a civil unions bill,” he said, referring to “the many Catholics across the state who spoke to their state legislators, calling for commitment to fairness and justice for all couples, straight or gay, who want their relationships acknowledged and respected under the new law.”

Pett also holds out hope for Catholic bishops, who he said, given the report, “have a great opportunity to dialogue and learn by engaging with the faithful versus issuing lobbying statements and pronouncements from behind the hierarchical curtain.”

Civil Rights Agenda asks sheriff to resign

The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA), an Illinois’ statewide LGBT advocacy and political organization, is calling for the resignation of Schuyler County Sheriff Don Schiefeddecker.

It was reported that he posted a comment on Facebook that referred to a co-worker as “a little fag Jew boy.” according to an organizational press release.

“It is absolutely incomprehensible that an elected official would use such language to refer to a subordinate. I don’t care if it was meant in jest or not. I don’t care if he means for everyone to see it or not,” said TCRA press coordinator Anthony Martinez, executive director of TCRA.

“Not only is this remark extremely hurtful to many Illinoisans, it sends a message to folks that it is okay to use such language,” he said. “He sends the message that it is appropriate to mock Jewish people and people who are gay or part of the LGBT community.”

“There is no room for bigots in this state,” said Lowell Jaffe, TCRA political director. “As a Jewish descendant and a member of the LGBT Community, this comment turns my stomach. The Sheriff is a very public figure and an elected official; he is a leader. His comments do not show leadership, they show discrimination and ignorance. Think of what this says to a child, especially a child who may be struggling with their sexual identity.”

TCRA has asked residents of Illinois, especially residents of Schuyler County, to contact the sheriff and respectfully ask him to step down. Schuyler County Sheriff Don Schiefeddecker can be reached at 217-322-4366, or by email at schuylercoso@casscomm.com.

“We will be watching this very closely,” said Martinez. “We will be contacting the elected officials in the area, and other organizations and groups within the state that will work with us to ensure that the Sheriff is held accountable for his discriminatory remarks.”

According to ADR News, Schiefeddecker made the comment under a Facebook photo of a boy with his mouth open. Someone posted, “Look, I found a fag,” to which the sheriff replied (in a post that has been removed), “Yes and his mouth is open, his glasses are off, he’s ready, little fag Jew boy.”

Schiefeddecker has apologized for his re-marks, saying, “I am extremely sorry, I have spent over 30 years of my life here giving public service, and I have never intentionally done anything to hurt anyone for any reason. … All I can do is say I am sorry. … I am extremely sorry [and] I beg people’s forgive-ness.”

Schuyler County is located in west-central Illinois, about 240 miles southwest of Chi-cago. Its county seat is Rushville.

Bishop Spong to speak in Elmhurst April 6

Author, biblical scholar and retired Episcopal bishop John Shelby Spong will present “Homosexuality: The Battleground for a Dying Form of Christianity” Wed., April 6, as part of the Stll Speaking: Conversations on Faith lecture series.

The lecture will begin at 7 p.m. in the Founders Lounge of the Frick Center at Elmhurst College, 190 Prospect, Elmhurst.

Spong—viewed as one of the leading spokespersons for liberal Christianity—was bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark for 24 years, before his retirement in 2001. His admirers see him as a teaching bishop who makes contemporary theological accessible to the laity.

For more information, call 630-617-3390.

Bishop John Shelby Spong.

AIDS 2002

Coming in April

A SPECIAL PROJECT

WINDY CITY TIMES

We’re looking for HIV-negative men, 18-50 years old. You cannot get HIV from the vaccine. You will be paid for your time.

www.standup4love.org

312 413-5897

STAND UP FOR LOVE

VOLUNTEER FOR AN HIV VACCINE STUDY
Gilead Sciences will soon apply to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for approval to market its HIV chemo-therapy Truvada to HIV negative gay men. Truvada is currently only approved for use in HIV+ patients. However, it can be prescribed off-label to HIV negative patients by any doctor who feels that their patient is at high risk of contracting HIV.

The multi-billion dollar profit that Gilead is currently making on Truvada is not enough for them. Bloomberg has estimated that Gilead would add $1 billion in revenue if the FDA approves Truvada for use in HIV negatives. One billion dollars is more than the entire US government budget for HIV prevention.

Gilead is basing its application on a single study that found that it reduced infection by only 44%. What medication is approved based on only a 44% success rate? That means that 56% of the gay men who participated in the study were not protected.

The study itself is not reflective of the real world. The study participants were paid; they went to the doctor monthly and were tested for STDs and HIV monthly; they were individually intensively counseled to take their medication; the US participants were only drawn from San Francisco and Boston; and the overwhelming majority of study participants in the US were white and educated. Nevertheless, when their blood was tested, 51% of them had no Truvada in their system at all - they weren't taking the medication.

Gilead intends to charge $10,000 a year for the drug as a preventative. It is highly unlikely that government programs will pay for it. There are already 7,000 HIV infected patients on waiting lists nationwide who do not have access to medication. So only the wealthy and insured would have access.

About 26,000 gay men are infected with HIV every year in the United States. More than half of these are the result of men who are positive but don't know it. If the majority of gay men were not currently practicing safer sex most of the time these numbers would be much higher.

If we tell gay men that there is a magic pill that will protect them, fewer of them will use condoms and more of them will become infected. Gilead is irresponsibly seeking more profits based on a single study with dubious results. We respectfully urge them to hold-off in applying to the FDA to use Truvada for prevention until extensive studies in real-life situations, with diverse populations have been completed.

The first obligation of healthcare providers is to do no harm. Gilead is playing a very dangerous game.

NOMAGICPILLS.ORG
Rick Garcia honored at Vida/SIDA event

BY JOSEPH ERBENTRAUT

In an event that attracted numerous elected officials and community leaders to Circuit Nightclub's Rehab Lounge, the Humboldt Park-based Puerto Rican Cultural Center board member Roberto Sanabria, state Rep. Toni Berrios, announced they would name one of the shelter's three floors after Garcia.

"When some LGBTQ youth come out to their families and an atmosphere of discrimination, harassment or even abuse in their own family, that is when kids who need us so that they can grow, so that they can be loved and they can love and they can participate in this great city and have great lives." Garcia continued.

Speaking before the crowd at Circuit, Toni Berrios applauded Garcia's history of advocacy. "When Rick speaks, you can tell it's from the heart," Berrios said. "Rick has just done such an amazing job for the LGBT community. You just gravitate to him when you first meet him. You want to learn as much as you can from him and want to help out as much as you can because you can feel the passion he has for these issues.

"Even though he is not with Equality Illinois any more, he is still out there doing the same things he's always been doing," Meister said. "Everyone knows Rick, everyone has a tremendous amount of respect for him and the work he's done through the years and they should. He has his hand on the pulse of the legislative and administrative changes that are going on in Springfield and he's going to continue to be on the forefront."
Daniel Solis is one of several current alderman facing a runoff election—but he is not lacking in confidence. Solis, who has represented the very diverse 25th Ward since 1996, talked about the election, one of same-sex marriage and the very controversial Fisk Coal Plant.

**Windy City Times:** Let's talk about the runoff off itself. Are you fine being in one, or do you think it should be that whoever has the majority of votes is the winner?

**Daniel Solis:** I've mixed feelings about it, but I think I lean more towards the runoffs. It's a good idea to get at least 50 percent of your voters' support, as opposed to the winner getting 30 percent or 22 percent.

**WCT:** You've been alderman since 1996.

**DS:** Right. I was appointed in '96 because my predecessor resigned, and then I had a special election in '97. Then I went through the regular cycle of elections in '99, 2001, 2007 and, now, 2015 ... I mean, 2011.

**WCT:** Looking ahead already, are we?

**DS:** [laughs] Yeah ... looking ahead.

**WCT:** OK. What are the biggest changes that you've seen in your ward since becoming alderman?

**DS:** I see my ward as a collection of great ethnic neighborhoods; it's a microcosm of Chicago. I have an Asian community; a Hispanic community; Eastern Europeans; ethnic groups especially in the southwest portion of my ward, especially in the Heart of Chicago area; Little Italy; African Americans; and young professionals. Also, there is a contingent of younger artists and hipster-type people in the east end of Pilsen.

So I've got everything—and each one of these neighborhoods has seen improvements in the key areas that are important to a city. Education has improved. Crime has declined 25 percent this past year. I've got about 10 more acres of green space in my ward. I've constructed new schools, added parks. I've got libraries. I've got a magnetic school coming.

I've increased jobs: the Pilsen industrial quarter is where the great companies of the '60s and '70s were—General Electric and ComEd—but they left. When they left, they took jobs and tax revenue, and left contaminated land. That's when I introduced the TIF [tax-increment financing] in 2002, which allowed me to clean up the land, and improve and get more modern infrastructure. So that allowed me to attract new industries, and we were able to add 3,000 jobs and tax revenue. I can use revenue to help public institutions, like schools and parks.

Starting at the end of last year, they started construction of the first green street in Chicago, and that street will be intersecting my ward from east to west.

**WCT:** What exactly do you mean by a “green street?”

**DS:** What I mean is that the materials used to construct the street are made from recycled materials. The street and the sidewalks will be permeable—meaning the water will soak through, be collected and be reused. They are going to have kiosks across the new streets that will be powered by solar panels; these kiosks will give information to English and Spanish to individu- als about the streets, and information about the neighborhoods.

Also, we've got more green: for example, on one of the streets—on Germak from Ashland to Halsted—the sidewalk won't have driveways. It'll have green areas that are friendly to pedestrians and bicycle riders. It's expected to be completed by the summer or fall of this year.

**WCT:** There's a lot of controversy about the Fisk Generating System. According to an article at ChicagoNewsCoop.org, you switched positions about this coal plant—now supporting a clean-power measure—in order to get union support. Can you address this?

**DS:** I think that [the article] misrepresents me. Fisk is a coal-burning power plant in the southwest side of the city. The reason I say it's a misrepresentation is because years before this clean-power ordinance was introduced last year, I introduced a similar—and, in some aspects, stronger—ordinance in 2002. It was co-sponsored by Ald. Ed Burke.

When we introduced it, the same questions came up then that are coming up now, although I think we can get this one passed. The issue [involved] Chicago, or any municipality, being restricted regarding the regulation of power plants. The power plants are regulated by the EPA, the federal government, the state government [and] the attorney general. Because of that question, it languished in committee for four years, until 2006. But it drew attention to the EPA, so in 2006—four years after I introduced the measure—the state of Illinois, the EPA and Midwest Generation agreed to clean [Fisk and the other coal-burning plant in Chicago], with a time limit of 2015. If they weren't cleaned up in 2015, they would have to close.

The reason I think that information is important is that 10 months ago my colleague from the North Side, [49th Ward Ald.] Joe Moore, introduced his measure. I said, “We've already done this, and we have this agreement. I don't know how [this new ordinance] will be more successful.”

It's not an easy explanation, and when my colleagues see this plant continuing to operate, they don't know how much cleaner that smoke is. I've talked with a number of voters, and some said, “I'll vote for you but I wish you would change your mind [about the plant]”—even after I explained it to them. And some voters who supported me in the past said, “Well, this is very important to me and because of this I don't think I'm going to support you.”

So on election night, Andrew, I said, “Look, I think this is the issue that prevented me from getting my 50 percent plus one.” My opponents did a fantastic job of attacking me on that issue; I think they had about nine mailers and robocalls. So I said, “I've heard my constituents. I'm going to sign on to this ordinance.” That was election night, Feb. 22.

Less than a week later, I had a meeting with the head of the SEIU [Service Employees International Union], Tom Balanoff. He basically said, “I'm glad you're going to be on this. You're key to me and you have all this seniority and you have a lot of respect from your colleagues. We believe that, if you're on board, this has a better chance of passing.” I said, “I am,” and he made a commitment that the SEIU would support and endorse me. Now we're partners, and I think this is the partner we didn't have in 2002, when I first introduced the ordinance. I've talked with several people—including Mayor-elect Rahm Emanuel—and I think we'll be able to pass it during the next administration.

I hope this long story gives you a broader picture than just “flip-flopped.” I like to think that I have been a strong environmental activist, and that I've made a difference in my ward.

**WCT:** Where do you stand regarding marriage equality?

**DS:** I support it. I have family members and I have friends who are gay. I spent time talking to them and listening to their frustrations that they don't have the same rights as heterosexuals—and I agree with them.

**WCT:** Knowing that you're a big advocate of education, I want to get your thoughts on a school that is only for LGBT students—or do you feel that there should be more LGBT-friendly programs, etc., in school now?

**DS:** I can see both things happening but my happening. However, my preference would be—like you have schools with representation from different genders, ethnicities, communities—to have gay students to be part of one big community. So if I had a child or a friend who asked for my counsel, I'd say, “He or she is just as good as everybody else. Put [that child] in with everybody else. He or she should be exposed to the differences in our community.”

Now, I know that some people prefer for their children to go to, say, military schools or Catholic school, an all-boys school or an all-girls school. I do respect that, I would prefer for gay children to attend school with everyone else and maybe have special programs [in that school].

**WCT:** What do you feel is the biggest problem facing the LGBT community?

**DS:** I think the biggest problem is that people see them as too different or outside the norm, don't realize that LGBT people [are like] everyone else—with the same concerns, same needs, same fears and same aspirations as any one else.

ELECTIONS ‘11: 25TH WARD

Témoc Morfin
BY ANDREW DAVIS

Cuauhtémoc Morfin—known by the 25th Ward residents simply as “Témoc”—has a formidable obstacle in his attempt to become alderman: incumbent Daniel Solis, who has led the ward since the mid-1990s. Morfin talked with Windy City Times about his opponent (leveling some heavy charges), term limits, abortion and, of course, LGBT issues.

Windy City Times: How confident are you going into this election?

Témoc Morfin: Very confident. This has been a long journey. I ran in 2007 for the same position and I came very, very close to a runoff election, and I have been very active ever since. I’d been working as a juvenile probation officer, as vice president of the local chamber of commerce, as vice president of the local school council at Benito Juarez High School. I founded Community in Action; the objective of this organization is to get people—especially young people—involved in cleaning up our community and focusing on recycling. I’ve been really active and people know that—[and] I’m really, really confident.

I’ve been really active and people know that—[and] I’m really, really confident.

Windy City Times: You mention “struggle.” Can you name three things you feel the current alderman

Témoc Morfin: Let’s start with the [Tisk] coal plant. It’s a hot-button issue because you’re talking about residents—not only in the 25th Ward, but citywide. We’re talking about the 21st century, and this plant is not up to code—and it’s in the middle of communities, parks, schools. Statistics show that there are 31 premature deaths a year and 2,800 cases of asthma—the highest in the nation.

Windy City Times: And are those all connected to the coal plant?

Témoc Morfin: Yes. They’re all connected to the coal plant here. There are two [coal plants]: one is on [1111 W.] Cermak and [Crawford] is on [3500 S.] Pulaski. The alderman has been in his pocket; he’s taken $52,000 in the last 10 years from them. Quite frankly, he’s letting them get away with murder—because that’s what it is. People are dying. That’s blood money he’s being taken.

But there are other issues, [such as] the violence. Just in the last six days, there have been five different shootings in the Pulaski area. We’re talking about the gang violence and the exposure of drugs here, especially in Pulaski. [Solis] is talking about how he’s doing the police camera, but I used to be a juvenile probation officer and I know what works to prevent violence. We need to open community centers; we need to open up the schools and utilize them—have them implement programs so young people have an option of being recruited by gangs. The alderman has done something about that. We need to allocate resources to implement these programs.

Part of my platform [involves] dedicating 25 percent of my salary for aldermanic programming, and I will strongly advocate that every other alderman do the same. That’s quite a bit of money.

I’m a community individual; I’ve been in this community for 30 years. I know all the issues. I know that, as a community, we can tackle these issues. We can make the community safer and healthier—we just have to get the people involved. We need a leader, not a politician who always caters to special interests.

Windy City Times: Let’s say you become alderman. How would you like to accomplish within your first 100 days of office?

Témoc Morfin: Well, I have a lot of ideas that I’d like to throw on the table once I’m elected alderman of the 25th Ward. I’m also for term limits; I strongly believe that the aldermen and mayor should have term limits. If the president of the United States, then so should the mayor and aldermen. Politicians, if they don’t have term limits, [issues] broken promises. There are some aldermen who have been [in city council] for 20 years. So that’s one of the things I’d propose right away.

Also, aldermen are making $110,000 a year. We’re going through harsh economic times; aldermen should take a pay cut and dedicate some of the money to help out with scholarships and programs.

Also, I want to take a closer look at TIF [tax-increment funding] money. Often, we don’t know what’s going on with the money until it’s already been allocated. What I want to do is convene a budgetary committee of residents and business owners so we can determine what our priorities are in the 25th Ward, and put that money to use in the right way to create jobs and programs. It’s really tough right now; you take a walk down 18th and Cermak, and every other business is an empty storefront.

Windy City Times: Switching topics, where do you stand regarding abortion?

Témoc Morfin: I would say I’m pro-life. I was raised as a Catholic and come from a huge family; I have seven sisters and three brothers, so I’m very family-oriented. That’s one of my strongest assets. [Note: Interestingly, in his Windy City Times survey, Morfin said that he believes “universally in a woman’s right to choose whether or not to end her pregnancy. The rights of women to do so have steadily eroded since Roe v. Wade, I am alarmed at any effort to defund entities which help women obtain access to safe, legal abortion.”]

If you elect to have sexual intercourse and your partner becomes pregnant, then you should be responsible. I’m an individual who believes [strongly] in responsibility—and this is one of the reasons I’m in favor of gambling. I believe that as long as it’s regulated gambling—people are suffering and need jobs.

If someone decides to get an abortion, you’re killing a human being and you’re [taking away] a chance for someone to be born. I come from a big Catholic family and, for me, family is always first. When I was a juvenile probation officer, it just devastated me that there are so many families who neglect to give quality time to their children; that’s one of the main reasons people who want attention get recruited by gangs.

Find out Morfin’s thoughts on marriage equality and other issues online at http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.
It’s been a wild ride over the past year for Pat Ewert, filled with every emotional extreme possible. Last March, for instance, her company downsized, thus ending her career in the corporate world at an international consulting firm. She was then diagnosed with breast cancer following a self-exam.

Ewert endured four months of chemotherapy and almost seven weeks of radiation treatment, ultimately finishing her treatment in October. “I’m the poster child for modern medicine,” said Ewert, whose partner, Vernita Gray, has herself been battling breast cancer since 1997. “Today, I’m healthy and full of energy. I feel great.”

She has been feeling great especially since her professional world is on a roll, too. It’s been a wild ride over the past year for Pat Ewert, filled with every emotional extreme possible. Last March, for instance, her company downsized, thus ending her career in the corporate world at an international consulting firm. She was then diagnosed with breast cancer following a self-exam.

Ewert said she is going to reach out to the LGBT community to become active at the Chicago Archery Center. She has been feeling great especially since her professional world is on a roll, too. "I feel great."

Ewert also had no previous archery experience, but is taking archery training and also is studying to be a certified archery coach. "My main job now is finding ways to sponsor archery leagues a la bowling leagues."

Ewert said she is going to reach out to the LGBT community to become active at the Chicago Archery Center. “It is a fun sport—a great way to meet people,” she said.

Her routine includes 30 minutes on the treadmill, 15 minutes on the Elliptical Machine and 15 minutes with free weights. She also does yoga two or three times per week.
It gets better later

I turned the corner of the house and witnessed a nightmare. My brother stumbled down the hill as a bus full of children screamed insults and threw trash out the window towards him. It was not just one or two bullies, but a busload. I thought, “Why doesn’t the bus driver do something?”

The decade of abstinence-confessionalism and the school bully that told me he enjoyed the pain he inflicted on others is the reason I have been a teacher for the last 20 years. My goal was to create a community where children are safe and supported.

Wayne Besen

Forbidden sex and chicken sandwiches

It was mid-afternoon and I was driving into Stillwater to speak at Oklahoma State University. Hungry, I saw a gleaming red Chick-fil-A restaurant in the distance. Now, I had never eaten at this restaurant because of its alleged anti-gay policies. No need to say, the prohibition only heightened my dislike for the place. While eating, but my judgment I slinked inside for a forbidden chicken at this restaurant because of its alleged anti-gay ty. Hungry, I saw a gleaming red Chick-fil-A restaurant in the distance. Now, I had never eaten at this restaurant because of its alleged anti-gay policies. No need to say, the prohibition only heightened my dislike for the place. While eating, but my judgment I slinked inside for a forbidden chicken at this restaurant because of its alleged anti-gay policies.

Wayne Besen

Forbidden sex and chicken sandwiches

It was mid-afternoon and I was driving into Stillwater to speak at Oklahoma State University. Hungry, I saw a gleaming red Chick-fil-A restaurant in the distance. Now, I had never eaten at this restaurant because of its alleged anti-gay policies. No need to say, the prohibition only heightened my dislike for the place. While eating, but my judgment I slinked inside for a forbidden chicken at this restaurant because of its alleged anti-gay policies. Hungry, I saw a gleaming red Chick-fil-A restaurant in the distance. Now, I had never eaten at this restaurant because of its alleged anti-gay policies. No need to say, the prohibition only heightened my dislike for the place. While eating, but my judgment I slinked inside for a forbidden chicken at this restaurant because of its alleged anti-gay policies.

Wayne Besen

Forbidden sex and chicken sandwiches

It was mid-afternoon and I was driving into Stillwater to speak at Oklahoma State University. Hungry, I saw a gleaming red Chick-fil-A restaurant in the distance. Now, I had never eaten at this restaurant because of its alleged anti-gay policies. No need to say, the prohibition only heightened my dislike for the place. While eating, but my judgment I slinked inside for a forbidden chicken at this restaurant because of its alleged anti-gay policies. Hungry, I saw a gleaming red Chick-fil-A restaurant in the distance. Now, I had never eaten at this restaurant because of its alleged anti-gay policies. No need to say, the prohibition only heightened my dislike for the place. While eating, but my judgment I slinked inside for a forbidden chicken at this restaurant because of its alleged anti-gay policies. Hungry, I saw a gleaming red Chick-fil-A restaurant in the distance. Now, I had never eaten at this restaurant because of its alleged anti-gay policies. No need to say, the prohibition only heightened my dislike for the place. While eating, but my judgment I slinked inside for a forbidden chicken at this restaurant because of its alleged anti-gay policies.
The 1984 off-Broadway transfer to Circle Rep of Steppenwolf’s 1980 production of Balm in Gilead brought national attention to its ensemble of actors, notably Laurie Metcalf and John Malkovich who directed the production. Malkovich and Steppenwolf ensemble member Joan Allen later go on to star in Wilson’s 1987 Broadway drama Burn This, which is about four people coping with the death of a gay dancer friend in a beating accident. Allen would go onto win a Tony Award for her performance.

“Lanford was a singular voice in the American theatre—an important artist, a gentle soul and a good friend,” said Terry Kinney, a Steppenwolf Co-founder who appeared in Balm in Gilead and also directed a 2010 production of Fifth of July at Bay Street Theatre in Williamstown, Mass. “We will miss him sorely.”

Steppenwolf Theatre presents Lanford Wilson’s The Hot L Baltimore at 1650 N. Halsted now through May 29. Tickets are $20-$73. Call 312-335-1650 or visit http://www.steppenwolf.org for more information.

Armory action
The National Theatre of Scotland barely formed in 2006 when it launched the critically acclaimed hit play Black Watch at the Edinburgh Festival that year. Since then, Black Watch has toured internationally and picked up a trove of trophies like the Olivier Award for Best Play and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best New Foreign Play.

Like the ethos behind The National Theatre of Scotland (which has no permanent theater and focuses its efforts on touring to existing spaces), Black Watch has performed in unconventional spaces like former army drill halls and indoor community soccer stadiums. That’s in part because Gregory Burke’s drama about the traditions and current Iraq involvement of Scotland’s famed military regiment is staged like a Scottish military tattoo, with the audience on both sides of an esplanade stage.

So when Chicago Shakespeare Theater aimed to bring in Black Watch as part of its World’s Stage International theater series, the company had to find just the right location to host it. According to Chicago Shakespeare Theater executive director Criss Henderson, the Broadway Armory in Edgewater looked to be a perfect fit.

“The building won’t feel like a conventional theater,” Henderson said, happy to point out the Armory’s origins in the 1910s as a military drill hall before it eventually became an indoor community center run by the Chicago Park District.

“I think all of the neighborhood and its history are important part of our bringing Black Watch to Chicago,” Henderson said. Henderson also added that he’s heard the current Black Watch touring cast is excited for their Windy City engagement in part because they’ve performed the show in more conventional theater spaces recently.

Chicago Shakespeare Theater presents Black Watch as part of its World’s Stage International theater series at the Broadway Armory, 5917 N. Broadway, now through Sunday, April 10. Performances are 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are $38-$54. Call 312-595-5600 or visit http://www.chicagoshakes.com

From Lanford Wilson’s The Hot L Baltimore at the Steppenwolf. Photo by Michael Brosilow

Wilson dealt not only with urban characters in works like his 1965 ensemble drama Balm in Gilead, but his works also reflected his Midwestern Missouri roots and were often set against the strains of small town life. Notably, his 2002 drama Book of Days touched upon the insidious rise of the Religious Right in a small town in the Ozarks.

Wilson’s plays also proved to be great and significant to the development and fame of Chicago’s Steppenwolf Theatre.

“Steppenwolf has a long history with Lanford Wilson. His play Balm in Gilead helped vault the company into national recognition,” said Steppenwolf Theatre artistic director Martha Lavey in a statement. “The way that Balm captured the lives of nobodies—the forgotten and overlooked, the marginal and disregarded—and gave them their own vividness and humanity, helped define the voice of Steppenwolf.”

The 1984 off-Broadway transfer to Circle Rep of Steppenwolf’s first preview performance of Wilson’s The Hot L Baltimore. Photo by Michael Brosilow

Lanford Wilson’s Hot L Baltimore at the Steppenwolf. Photo by Michael Brosilow

It was an uncanny coincidence that Pulitzer Prize-winning gay playwright Lanford Wilson passed away on Thursday, March 24, the same day of Steppenwolf Theatre’s first preview performance of Wilson’s The Hot L Baltimore.

After the performance, director and Steppenwolf Ensemble member Tina Landau addressed the audience and asked for a moment of silence in Wilson’s honor.

“We are blessed to be performing Lanford’s work,” Landau is reported to have said. “His tremendous spirit is with us in the theater and tonight’s show will be in his memory and honor.”

Wilson died at age 73 due to complications from pneumonia at a long-term care facility in Wayne, N.J. According to Playbill.com, director Marshall W. Mason posted on Facebook.com that actors Jeff Daniels and John Hogan were able to serenade Wilson in his hospital room a few days before his death.

After living in Chicago for six years, Wilson’s talent as a playwright emerged in the rough-and-tumble off-off-Broadway scene in New York in the late 1960s. Wilson was notably one of the first playwrights to touch upon modern gay culture with The Madness of Lady Bright. Wilson would also go on to co-found the celebrated Circle Rep which largely produced new dramas from its company member playwrights for its company of actors.

Though Circle Rep eventually disbanded in 1996 due to financial troubles, it produced a number of works like Wilson’s The Hot L Baltimore, Fifth of July and Talley’s Folly. The latter play won Wilson the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and was part of a celebrated trilogy that included Talley and Son and Fifth of July (which features a disillusioned gay paralyzed Vietnam veteran as one of its main characters).

Secret Lovers
Christian Mercado and Manolo Cardona hug it out in Undertow, a film reviewed this week by Richard Knight, Jr., on page 24.

The Hot L Baltimore by Lanford Wilson. Photo by Michael Brosilow

Losing playwright Lanford Wilson
BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Secret Lovers
Christian Mercado and Manolo Cardona hug it out in Undertow, a film reviewed this week by Richard Knight, Jr., on page 24.

The Hot L Baltimore by Lanford Wilson. Photo by Michael Brosilow

Losing playwright Lanford Wilson
BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

SECRET LOVERS

Christian Mercado and Manolo Cardona hug it out in Undertow, a film reviewed this week by Richard Knight, Jr., on page 24.

The Hot L Baltimore by Lanford Wilson. Photo by Michael Brosilow

Losing playwright Lanford Wilson
BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

SECRET LOVERS

Christian Mercado and Manolo Cardona hug it out in Undertow, a film reviewed this week by Richard Knight, Jr., on page 24.

The Hot L Baltimore by Lanford Wilson. Photo by Michael Brosilow

Losing playwright Lanford Wilson
BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

SECRET LOVERS

Christian Mercado and Manolo Cardona hug it out in Undertow, a film reviewed this week by Richard Knight, Jr., on page 24.

The Hot L Baltimore by Lanford Wilson. Photo by Michael Brosilow

Losing playwright Lanford Wilson
BY SCOTT C. MORGAN
Whatever it is that Ms. Dixie Longate swills onstage from the eye-popping fuchsia tumbler (with matching sippy-straw) must be laced with enough caffeine to fuel a NASCAR conference. Never for an instant during the 90 minutes we spend in her sunny-bright company does she swerve from the goal of a Tupperware Party being charged for what you order.) But this isn’t the hen-session that you remember attending with your mother—or grandmother. Ms. Dixie knows what sells nowadays and her partner, delivered with the speed of a tobacco auctioneer and the ebullience of a revivalist preacher, takes advantage of every opportunity to note the sexually-oriented versatility of her goods. (There is the cake decorator with the wide selection of nozzles, for example, or the child’s ball-toy inspiring a stream of double entendres at the expense of a couple cajoled from the audience at the performance I attended.)

With the re-entry of women into the workplace, living-room group-shopping is more often centered on cosmetics or lingerie than housekeeping supplies. However, Anderson’s look at an earlier chapter in our nation’s cultural evolution reminds us of the role played by such grassroots enterprises in extending income and independence to economically-marginalized citizens. Even if you just come for the irreverent—but never petty—homophile/gynecentric humor, Ms. Dixie’s indefatigable charm will quickly have you cheering her.
THE KICKOFF EVENT!
The Glenwood
6970 N. Glenwood
WED. APRIL 6

$100 to the singer with the most votes!

Top Two Finalists advance to Semi-finals!

facebook.com/WindyCityGayIdol
For more, visit windycitymediagroup.com
or e-mail cynthia@windycitymediagroup.com

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

*The 13th of Paris,* Livewire Theatre at Greenhouse Theater, through April 17. Where did under-30 playwright Mat Smart acquire the maturity to write this all-ages comedy about romance in all its wise, enduring, bittersweet wonder and mystery? MSB

*The Three Faces of Dr. Crippen,* Strange Tree Group at Steppenwolf Garage, through April 24. Murder, Scotland Yard and the Mar- cent wireless: Strange Tree blends horror, vaudeville and whimsy to tell the 1911 tale. It’s one-third of the Steppenwolf Garage Rep, JA

*This, Theater Wit,* through April 3. Melissa James Gibson’s 2009 comic drama is amusingly filled with quirky and overly articulate New Yorkers who reflect on their unhappi- ness and discontentment in life. SCM

**DOUBLE REVIEW**

**The Warriors**

Playwright: Evan Linder; conceived by Mary Hollis Inboden

At: The New Colony at The Second Stage Theater

Phone: 773-413-0862; $15-$25

Runs through: April 17

**MilkMilkLemonade**

Playwright: Joshua Conkel

At: Pavement Group at Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago

Phone: 773-789-8093; $20

Runs through: April 17

By Scott C. Morgan

The Warriors and MilkMilkLemonade are two Chi- cago-developed plays that couldn’t be more dif- ferent in style. However, both play with adolescents who are or have had to cope with extremely trying issues or events.

Mary Hollis Inboden, a member of The New Colony, is a survivor of the 1998 Westside Mid- dle School shooting in Jonesboro, Ark. One of Inboden’s best friends was among the five stu- dents and a teacher who were killed when two of their classmates opened fire on the school.

Inboden spearheaded The Warriors, a world- premiere drama by Evan Linder that takes its name from Westside mascot, to examine how she and her classmates are dealing with the shooting as twentiesomething adults. Based upon inter- views, The Warriors creates a composite of five characters (including Inboden playing a very personable version of herself) to richly explore the feelings and views of the former adolescents who are living their lives years after that trau- matic event.

Director Benno Nelson stages a straightforward production that allows the acting company in- cluding Sarah Gitenstein, Wes Needham, Whit Nelson, Nicole Pellegrino and Michael Peters to shine. The only confusion comes in the flash- back within flashback scenes. Linder’s dialogue allows for the survivors to touch upon feelings of forgiveness (or lack thereof), survivors guilt and even anger at being exploited as “victim art.” What largely works in The Warriors is so good that you want the play to go on longer with more featured voices.

When compared to multi-character dramas drawn from real-life events like The Laramie Project and The People’s Temple, The Warriors could stand to expand and grow into a larger- scale work.

**SPOTLIGHT**

**Doll*ly**

The Better Day World Tour

July 28 • Rosemont Theatre

Buy Tickets at JAMUSA.com • Rosemont Theatre Box Office • All Ticketmaster outlets • 800-745-3000 • Online at ticketmaster.com

www.dollypartonmusic.net

a joan production.

**CULTURE CLUB**

**MARCH 18 – MAY 15**

**LIMITED EIGHT WEEK ENGAGEMENT**

**Dixie’s Tupperware Party**

For tickets, call the Royal George Box Office 312-988-9800 or Ticketmaster at 800-929-3300. Tickets also available at Ticketmaster outlets and at Tupperware retail locations. Ticket prices are $49 for weekday and $59 for weekend. For groups of 10 or more, call 312-473-6612.

www.dixiestupperwareparty.com

Pavement Group was the first company to give Joshua Conkel’s comedy MilkMilkLemonade a reading, so it’s appropriate they’re presenting its Chicago premiere. Director Cassy Sanders brings the play to life in a colorfully cartoon-style staging with an acting company who are ex- pertly adept at exaggerating all their characters’ gender-bending or anthropomorphic quirks. The play concerns Emory (Matt Farabe), a very artsy fifth-grader who wants to ribbon-dance his way to stardom to get away from his rural chicken-farm home and his cancer-stricken Nan- na (John Zinn). Emory’s best friend is a chicken named Linda (Cyd Blakewell) who has dreams of doing comedy standup, but he’s taunted by neighboring bully Elliot (Jessica London-Shields), who is actually a closet case. Narrating and punctuating everything with sound effects is Sarah Rose Graber as the Lady in a Leotard. MilkMilkLemonade is a lot of fun with very amusing performances. However, ultimately the drama of adolescent boys coming to terms with their homosexuality is ultimately undercut by too much wryness and meandering whimsy. While both these plays have room for improve- ment, the pluses ultimately outweigh any nega- tives.
Charo’s surreal life

BY JERRY NUNN

Charo.

Maria del Rosario Pilar Martínez Molina Gutiérrez de los Perales Santa Ana Romanguera y de María del Rosario Pilar Martínez Molina Gutiérrez is bringing her act around town. The outspoken performer talked cuchi-cuchi, flamenco guitar and Carol Burnett.

Windy City Times: Hola, Charo! How are you?

Charo: Good, I was looking forward to this interview because I am very excited about performing at this school. This time I am going to take time to give lessons to the kids. I am a serious musician. It just that cuchi-cuchi is for money! [Both laugh.]

WCT: You studied guitar your whole life, correct?

C: All my life, that’s my gig and my vibe. When I pick up the guitar then I have to sit down. This is flamenco guitar not roll and rock. I really sit there and hold the guitar to my heart. I concentrate to make each note sing and give a message to the listener.

WCT: Is it relaxing to you?

C: To me, it’s my life. I asked my producer if I could play the guitar. Because it was sweeps he wanted me to shake it and do the cuchi-cuchi: “All the pop singers have a little bit of you in their act and they are getting rich also. Beyoncé and Shakira are doing good just following your way. Why do you want to abandon it and play classical flamenco?” I told him, “I am flattered but I already did it.”

WCT: I heard you have something new coming out.

C: I am planning on introducing a single called “Sexy! Sexy!” It is going to be a big, big hit. Already a difficult panel of producers and DJs have critiqued it. My son wrote the song thinking he was going to give it to Britney Spears. I told him, “Change your mind. The song is mine!”

WCT: That is hilarious! [Laughs]

C: He was laughing exactly like you. He said okay. It is very cute and charming with an incredible down beat.

WCT: I heard you sang [Rihanna’s] “Don’t Stop the Music” at the Jerry Lewis Telethon.

C: You know what? Rihanna is very beautiful and has a cute voice. She is her persona. I don’t see any copy at all of anybody else. She has a good range and very lucky that they give her excellent songs. I changed it because God forbid that I copy anybody. I would prefer to sell tomatoes in Tijuana.

WCT: Where did the expression “cuchi-cuchi” come from?

C: It is an old long story. It is very depressing about my dog. He died before I became rich. I didn’t even give him the 10 percent. I used to have a dog and a car or something damaged his back. My grandmother, rest in peace, was an incredible animal lover. She rescued the dog and brought it back to life in her home. He always had a problem after that and when he was happy he shook and walked funny. They gave him to me and he was called “Cuchillo,” like knife. I was too young to call him “Cuchillo” so I called him “Cuchi.”

WCT: Oh, that makes sense now.

C: So I copied him. I used to say, “Mira como [look like] Cuchi?” and I would make the same movement. That’s the only thing I copy in my life, that dog. [Laughs]

WCT: Your appearance on [the reality show] The Surreal Life was very entertaining.

C: When I went on the Surreal Life I told the producer, “These people suck!” I swear I did. “You brought me here understanding that the show was called House of Music and none of these idiots know nothing!” There was a lady running around with maracas named Brigitte Nielsen and that crazy but adorable Flavor Flav. I said, “Why not call it Enter At Your Own Risk?”

WCT: I can’t believe they tricked you!

C: I wanted to get the hell out of there. They talked me into staying telling me that I would pull the whole thing together. One night I tried to escape and the window was controlled with an alarm. When the alarm started ringing I said, “Oh shit; they got me.” When I stayed I just did my best. I went for the comedy and it was the only Surreal Life for a People’s Choice Award. Every time things get out of control once again I find a way to put a joke on it.

WCT: When I was a kid I watched you on Carol Burnett, and you were so funny!

C: Oh my God! My whole world changed, the network went crazy the following day. They got a huge rating that would be immortal forever. The network could not believe it with Carol and her chi chis hanging down to the floor. She is a unique genius comedienne and lady. She deserves everything in the world, I saw her in action and saw how she works. She is like me—if something funny goes in her mind then she is going to say it.

WCT: Tell me about your upcoming appearance.

C: You are going to see the show called Hot Flamenco Nights. There is only one show at 7:30. It is in Palos Hills and someone must be Spanish because of the name. I am going to find a lot of my cousins there because my grandfather fooled around with everything that moved!

WCT: What is your story for Hot Flamenco Nights?

C: You brought me here understanding that the show was called House of Music and none of these idiots know nothing!” There was a lady running around with maracas named Brigitte Nielsen and that crazy but adorable Flavor Flav. I said, “Why not call it Enter At Your Own Risk?”

WCT: I can’t believe they tricked you!

C: I wanted to get the hell out of there. They talked me into staying telling me that I would pull the whole thing together. One night I tried to escape and the window was controlled with an alarm. When the alarm started ringing I said, “Oh shit; they got me.” When I stayed I just did my best. I went for the comedy and it was the only Surreal Life for a People’s Choice Award. Every time things get out of control once again I find a way to put a joke on it.

WCT: When I was a kid I watched you on Carol Burnett, and you were so funny!

C: Oh my God! My whole world changed, the network went crazy the following day. They got a huge rating that would be immortal forever. The network could not believe it with Carol and her chi chis hanging down to the floor. She is a unique genius comedienne and lady. She deserves everything in the world, I saw her in action and saw how she works. She is like me—if something funny goes in her mind then she is going to say it.

WCT: Tell me about your upcoming appearance.

C: You are going to see the show called Hot Flamenco Nights. There is only one show at 7:30. It is in Palos Hills and someone must be Spanish because of the name. I am going to find a lot of my cousins there because my grandfather fooled around with everything that moved!

WCT: What is your story for Hot Flamenco Nights?

C: You brought me here understanding that the show was called House of Music and none of these idiots know nothing!” There was a lady running around with maracas named Brigitte Nielsen and that crazy but adorable Flavor Flav. I said, “Why not call it Enter At Your Own Risk?”

WCT: I can’t believe they tricked you!

C: I wanted to get the hell out of there. They talked me into staying telling me that I would pull the whole thing together. One night I tried to escape and the window was controlled with an alarm. When the alarm started ringing I said, “Oh shit; they got me.” When I stayed I just did my best. I went for the comedy and it was the only Surreal Life for a People’s Choice Award. Every time things get out of control once again I find a way to put a joke on it.
Awards next year. especially when comparing it to output from makes the favorite by The Cure lounge-ready. track. A stripped down reworking of "Lovesong" latter easily could be a lost Dusty Springfield "Someone Like You" and "One and Only." The "Don't You Remember" and "Take It All" to serve new production of Beyond the Valley of the Dolls. It" is just retro enough that it could be used in a the mood for the set. The chorus on "Rumor Has drums on "Rolling in the Deep," which paints her mighty voice.

Even with only a piano and guitar accompanying sophomore album, 21. Her Unplugged perfor-

British songstress Adele raises the bar for her contemporaries with the outstanding, timeless

By no means is this a traditional ballet score. The ballet's storyline stems from Hans Christian An-

The Flesh Hungry Dog Show has a “Party out of Bounds” theme for its six-year anniversary

This year, Miles Davis would have turned 85. The legendary trumpeter is being saluted with a series of live shows throughout Chicago, including a 40th-anniversary celebration of the groundbreaking Bitches Brew at Martyrs, 3855 N. Lincoln, on Thursday, March 31. For more information, please visit http://www.milesdav-


Sun., April 3- Wed., April 6 6:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m. Stage 773 1225 W. Belmont Ave.

“Music/Comedy is the source of Healing for All Our Souls”

Alexandra Billings’ "Katie’s Corner" with Mary Beidler Gearen, Honey West & Sean Abley 6:30 p.m.

Jeremy Rill Concert Debut with Robert Ollis 8:30 p.m.

Monday, April 4

Spider Saloff sings Gershwin with Jeremy Kahn 6:30 p.m.

“Savory Sensations” Shellen Lubin with pianists Carlo Capelle & Justin Williams 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 5

Bon Lerman plays the Ukulele 6:30 p.m.

“Underlying Issues” Robin Kay 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 6

Ester Hana with singer Carlo Capelle 6:30 p.m.

“Intertwined” Danny Lerman & Tim Gant 8:30 p.m.

Tickets available at www.stage773.org or 773-929-7369. Tickets are $25. Vouchers for performances April 10

LIMITED TIME OFFER! $25 SEATS

Sponsored by Windy City Times, ShowBizChicago, Conquest and Duley Press. www.lampkinmusic.com
Savage, Miller tell crowd ‘It Gets Better’  
BY JERRY NUNN

It was a packed house at the Nettelhorst School’s auditorium in Lake View when Unabridged Bookstore, AIDS Foundation of Chicago and Equality Illinois hosted Dan Savage and partner Terry Miller for the book-signing of It Gets Better March 23. Despite weather problems and arriving late the night did get better as Bernard Cherkasov from Equality Illinois began the presentation by explaining that every school should create a safe space for teens.

Savage arrived with Miller—his “husband in Canada but boyfriend in America”—in tow and described how the entire project started. Savage talked about being angered after Billy Lucas was encouraged to kill himself by bullies mid-September of last year. Savage used his column, “The Fabulous Life” in The Advocate to write about how Lucas’s story was a “turning point” in the life of 16-year-old David Pendley from Canada but boyfriend in America—told to pack his bags and come to Chicago with Savage in tow to campaign and to help encourage people to create safe spaces for teens.

Savage arrived with Miller—his “husband in Canada but boyfriend in America”—in tow and described how the entire project started. Savage talked about being angered after Billy Lucas was encouraged to kill himself by bullies mid-September of last year. Savage used his column, “The Fabulous Life” in The Advocate to write about how Lucas’s story was a “turning point” in the life of 16-year-old David Pendley from Canada but boyfriend in America—told to pack his bags and come to Chicago with Savage in tow to campaign and to help encourage people to create safe spaces for teens.

By his side, they made a home video and broadcast it on YouTube. They encouraged others to do the same and within four days had more than 650 submissions. Now the movement has gone international with It Gets Better segments in Australia and Latin America.

The duo read sections of the book, followed by local contributors Xean Christopher Ray and David Daddo, who spoke of moments of suicide and “following a destiny.” Afterwards, the authors answered questions about who they would have liked to have included in the program but didn’t (“no public elected Republicans contributed”) and favorite musical submission (Rebecca Drysdale).

Also, they discussed plans for the future were covered in this section of the evening: “The goal is to keep raising money and give most of it away.” The website needs funding in order to continue the outreach of future youth in getting better.


TAYLOR from page 4

ed the American Foundation for AIDS Research in 1985 and in 1986, testified before Congress about the need for increased federal funding to combat the epidemic. Despite her own deteriorating health in recent years, Ms. Taylor remained committed to the fight against HIV/AIDS, serving as an inspiration to all of us living with and struggling against this disease. She was a beacon of compassion and fairness and her light will truly be missed by our community.”

Taylor launched a second career as an AIDS activist in 1985 when she organized the first AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA) “Commitment to Life” event, which would go on to become the biggest AIDS fundraiser in history.

“It’s impossible to underestimate Elizabeth Taylor’s impact on the fight against AIDS from the very beginning,” said APLA Executive Director Craig E. Thompson. “We’re simply devastated by her loss.”

For Taylor, the fight against AIDS became personal from the start. While she and her publicist worked in the first months of 1985 to organize the inaugural “Commitment to Life” event, she would learn that her friend and co-star Rock Hudson was dying of the disease.

APLA said Taylor worked to pack the Bonaventure Hotel for the gala, which raised $1.3 million. More than 2,500 attended, and Taylor took the stage to present the first Commitment to Life award to First Lady Betty Ford. Among the attendees were Abigail Van Buren, Cher, Sammy Davis, Jr., Burt Lancaster, Cyndi Lauper, Shirley MacLaine, Rod Stewart, and Stevie Wonder. Taylor was honored at the following year’s Commitment to Life gala, and the event continued annually for more than a decade.

Taylor appeared as recently as 2009 on the stage of Macy’s and American Express Passport in Los Angeles—another annual event that she helped found, which has raised more than $28 million for AIDS organizations, APLA said.

Longtime AIDS activist Sean Strub, founder of POZ magazine, wrote in his blog about the cover story in November 1997. “She spoke frankly about the need for education and prevention, including through needle exchange. Other people also spoke about Taylor’s impact, especially during the early years of AIDS. The interview is available on www.poz.com and will run in an upcoming edition of Windy City Times.

Those who would like to make a donation in Taylor’s name can send a check (including name and address for acknowledgement) to: The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, c/o Derrick Lee, Reback Lee & Co., Inc., 12400 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1275, Los Angeles, Calif., 90025.
PBS to air two new LGBT documentaries

By TRACY BAIM

If you wonder why the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) is important for the country, or if you’re frustrated by seeing so much non-gay or British TV (OK some of that can be pretty gay) on its channels, well, you’re in for a treat in the coming weeks.

The American Experience presents Stonewall Uprising, premiering on PBS across America on Monday, April 25, 8 p.m. CT. In addition, airing in June on PBS channels is OUT in America, which takes a look at the last few decades of the LGBT movement in the United States.

The interviews are the most important part of the Stonewall Uprising, by Kate Davis and David Heilbroner, focuses mainly on the events of June 1969 in Greenwich Village, New York City, when LGBTs of all kinds fought back against police when the mob-owned Stonewall Inn gay bar was raided. The film first sets the stage of what it was like for gays in New York before those riots, and then explains what happened during those few days of outrage. We also learn how Stonewall inspired a new generation of activists.

The filmmakers don’t correct these statements that made Stonewall itself possible. Also in the film, former New York Mayor Ed Koch (long rumored to be gay) was a local politician in the early era of gay rights in New York, and he tries to justify the police treatment of gays by saying it was only about public sex. But times gay men were being hunted. Gay men were so desperate for safe places, hundreds of them would gather at night and have sex in the same trucks used by meatpacking companies during the day.

Officer Pine, interviewed some four decades after Stonewall, had this to say: “You felt bad that you were part of this when you knew they broke the law, but what kind of law was that?” He said he felt bad because most were just youth, and he knew he could ruin their lives with just one arrest. But as one interviewee said, there was no going back now, “we had discovered a power we weren’t even aware we had.” A pride march was planned and now every year, LGBTs in cities around the world mark gay pride.

Longtime activist Virginia Apuzzo said in the film, it’s very American to say “this is not right,” the way gays were treated. True “Gay Power” had begun, and this film is a great tribute to the activists who fought back those summer nights in New York City.

Stonewall Uprising

Stonewall Uprising, inspired by the film Stonewall Uprising, premiering on PBS across America on Monday, April 25, 8 p.m. CT. In addition, airing in June on PBS channels is OUT in America, which takes a look at the last few decades of the LGBT movement in the United States.

Both films are kind of a “gay 101” aimed at those less familiar with gay history (that includes non-gays and gays). But even those with a degree in queer studies could probably learn some things from the films, both of which tell their stories through interviews with mostly LGBT people.

Stonewall Uprising inspired a new generation of activists. Why was Stonewall so important as a flashpoint? There had certainly been previous protests in cities across the country, from Los Angeles to Chicago, Philadelphia to D.C. But none equaled the impact of Stonewall, and perhaps that was in part because it happened in 1969, at the end of a decade of protests for so many issues. As one interview subject said: The gay bars were like the churches were to Blacks in the south. Another person called it a war. Gay people stood up and the house of cards crumbled.

Some of the interview subjects make grand statements as if no one was doing any activism before Stonewall, or that no one was openly gay. The filmmakers don’t correct these statements and it is an unfortunate straight-washing of decades of truly courageous pre-Stonewall work that made Stonewall itself possible.

Another person said it was the “hairpin trigger thing” that made the riot happen.

But on June 28, 1969, the gay community experienced what one Village Voice reporter who was on the scene called its “Rosa Parks moment,” when the NYPD raided a Mafia-run gay bar, The Stonewall Inn. For the first time ever, patrons refuse to be led into paddy wagons, setting off a violent three-day uprising that launched the gay-rights movement,” the film notes.

The interviews are the most important part of the documentary, as many LGBT activists from 1969 have since passed away, and we continue to lose that generation’s voices. We hear from patrons who were arrested, rioters outside, reporters and even the police officer who led the raid that first night. We learn what it was like outside the bar, but also inside as the police were barricaded in for their own safety once the crowd turned against them. Unfortunately, the interview subjects are primarily white, and it’s unfortunate that the filmmakers were unable to find more diversity from the riots, which most gays know it was far more than this, and the film shows how cross-dressing laws (including a 1845 law making it a crime to masquerade) were often used to target queers.

The point points out that another gay bar in NYC, the Checkerboard, was raided just a week before the Stonewall. One interview subject said there were also vigilantes doing coordinated harassment of gay men—some were attacked, others thrown in the river, others were fired from their jobs. Another man says it felt as if at the filmmakers, a lot of the street kids, “we didn’t think much about the past or the future, we were thinking about survival. We would go into action—it was the hairpin trigger thing that makes the riot happen.”

For the first night, activists wanted to continue the pressure: 5,000 fliers pointing out the “intolerable situation” with the police and mafia were distributed. “Leaflets in the ’60s were like the Internet today,” one man said. The Mafia reopened the Stonewall Inn the next night, and

Protestors were met with even more brutal force by the police, who now aimed their clubs at people’s heads, not their legs and backs. There was tear gas, and people were left bleeding on the sidewalks.

The filmmakers did not correct these statements that made Stonewall itself possible. Also in the film, former New York Mayor Ed Koch (long rumored to be gay) was a local politician in the early era of gay rights in New York, and he tries to justify the police treatment of gays by saying it was only about public sex. But
OUT in America

BY TRACY BADIN

OUT in America is a more far-reaching and ambitious film, with the Stonewall rebellion just a small portion of the one-hour project. I can’t imagine the difficulty in trying to represent some six decades of U.S. LGBT rights in such a short time, but director Andrew Goldberg, in partnership with PBS and Oregon Public Broadcasting, has clearly tried to show a diversity of LGBT faces. There is a mixture of lesser-known activists and a few “celebrity” faces, but I have to say if there were going to be even some celebrities, the story of only recently out-of-the-closet country singer Chely Wright could have been omitted here, in favor of someone who came out long ago or at least at the peak of their career. Her story is just not unique enough to be included in such a momentous and rare film airing on PBS.

But that’s a minor quibble. The film will still be an important addition to the long line of films that attempt to put a face to our complex LGBT movement.

We have gay horseman Mike Hartman and PJ Serrano, Puerto Rico’s first openly gay and HIV-positive political candidate. There’s gay Latino rapper Richie “Loco” Ruperto, plus Muslim lesbian Samirah Ruhomutally and her partner, a bisexual white woman, Ashley Neely. There is a West Point graduate who is a lesbian, Becky Canis. Plus Ebone Bell, a butch Black lesbian, and a white transgender male police officer, Stephan Thorne. Also interviewed are author Armistead Maupin and Bravo TV’s Andy Cohen, and Robyn Ochs, editor of Bi Women. Partners Kate Clinton and Urvashi Vaid are also included, with Vaid giving a brief movement history lesson.

Former U.S. Ambassador James Hormel also speaks about his struggle to find the gay community of Chicago while he was in student here, and about the gay movement since that time. And there is also an interview with “The Harolds,” a Black/white couple in their 80s, who reminisce about their 45-year partnership. An older white lesbian couple is interviewed, Connie Kurtz and Ruthie Berman. Dr. Dana Beyer talks about her transition from male to female as a Jewish person.

The film is divided into segments including “love,” “homosexual,” “freedom,” “change the world,” and “death” where Maupin and others share their painful stories of the AIDS epidemic. In this segment, therapist Dr. Patricia Hawkins of D.C. speaks emotionally about how lesbians stepped up to care for their gay brothers, and how devastating the losses were.

Gay people today have no sense of the “the panicky moments when our friends were becoming ghosts, dying horrible deaths,” Maupin said. “We saw the true love and sacrifice of the lesbian community. The community had been separatist before that. Women came forward in scores to care for dying gay men. It made a difference.” Reverend Peter Gomes—who came out on the steps of Memorial Church at Harvard, and who died Feb. 28 of this year—is interviewed in the film. It will serve as one of the last interviews with this important gay movement leader. “I am a functioning Christian and I am a homosexual. I give you the evidence of my own life. That threw a monkey wrench into a lot of things,” Gomes said. Once he came out, he said he was relieved, that he didn’t have that “bifurcated feeling” anymore. “I feel happy in that I have been able to carve out a ministry which takes sexuality seriously, takes the Bible seriously, and I am allowed to be taken seriously. Fundamentally I am fulfilled.”

Chely Wright said, “One of the reasons I came out was so I could have a real life … and I could choose my partner in full light.” She added that she is still trying to un-learn old habits, which can take as long as it takes you to develop the skillset to hide.

OUT in America uses some of the same images and video clips as the Stonewall Uprising film, which is likely because so little was covered in the mainstream media about gays prior to 1969. For example, a clip from a Mike Wallace report on “homosexuals” for CBS is in both films.

OUT in America ends on the upbeat notes of progress on military and marriage issues. But as Urvashi Vaid points out, success in these areas will not lift all boats: there are still many struggles across class and race in the LGBT community.

Robyn Ochs said the community has seen “unimaginable progress . . . . Change is happening very quickly historically . . . . If I pull back my lens a little bit, over a decade, 20 years, we really have a tremendous amount of progress.”

Neither of the films have much about Chicago in them, so it’s a good thing that the PBS station in Chicago, WTTW, did their own documentary, Out and Proud in Chicago, in 2008. (My book of the same name was a companion to the film.) It also seems like the OUT in America film is going to be a June pledge drive film nationally, similar to what WTTW did in Chicago. It would be nice if PBS, in its rare coverage of LGBT issues, wouldn’t seem to see the community as mainly donors to the cause. PBS is worth supporting, regardless of these pledge drive queer films, but it would be better if we were seen and heard from far more frequently. A few of those British TV shows can give way a bit, don’t you think?
Undertow; Strange Powers; Taylor tribute

When it rains it pours: This week in Chicago there are so many queer-tinged movies opening that your cranky queer film critic is silenced for once about the usual paucity of LGBT movie choices. What’s even better: the embarrassment of riches includes seemingly something for every kind of queer movie fan. (See listings below.)

First up is my favorite of the lot—the sensual romantic drama Undertow (Contracorriente). Two years after making the rounds of film festivals here and abroad (the movie was the closing-night feature at Reeling last fall) this compelling 2009 Peruvian film (Peru’s official submission for this year’s Oscars) is finally getting a theatrical run in Chicago, opening this Friday at the Music Box. The movie, which marks the feature debut of out-director Javier Fuentes-León (who also produced) is an elegiac, lyrical old-fashioned weepy that combines the supernatural and romantic elements of Ghost; Truly, Madly, Deeply; and fashioned weepy that combines the supernatural with the romantic elements of Ghost; Truly, Madly, Deeply; and In the Bedroom.

This year’s Peruvian film, which marks the feature debut of out-director Javier Fuentes-León (who also produced) is an elegiac, lyrical old-fashioned weepy that combines the supernatural and romantic elements of Ghost; Truly, Madly, Deeply; and In the Bedroom.

Fuentes-León strips down the familiar template to its emotional core and adds interest- ing emotional curves throughout. (Mariella, for instance, isn’t the shrill, stereotypical, un- sympathetic harpy.) The result—gorgeously filmed, and assuredly paced and acted by its fetching cast—is nothing less than a Peruvian variation on Brokeback Mountain.

Of related interest: The 27th Annual Chicago Latino Film Festival, which first screened Undertow last year, returns April 1-14 with a whop- ping line-up that includes more than 100 films (in virtually every genre) from Latin America, Spain and the United States with special segments dedicated to women, Latino films made in this country and LGBT-themed movies. The line- up for the latter includes eight titles that promise to illuminate the queer experience on film—titles include The Elevator, So Hard to Forget, Christmas, Old House, Blattangelus, Cuichillo de Palo 108, Born to Suffer and I Am the Queen.

The story takes places in a conservative sea- side village in Peru. There, the incredibly hot, hot, hot Miguel (Christian Mercado), a fisherman who has an engaging manner with his fellow workers and his neighbors, is eagerly await- ing the imminent birth of his first child along with his lovely wife, Mariella (Tatiana Astengo). However, Miguel also has a secret: a male lover, the painter and photographer Santiago (Manolo Cardona) who he meets on the down-low for leisurely love-making sessions and who has, unknown to him, made a series of nude paint- ings of him. When Santiago accidentally drowns he haunts Miguel, not wanting to leave the love of his life and not able to rest until Miguel can come to terms with what it truly means “to be a man.”

At first Miguel is delighted with the situation: He can continue the secret affair without a chance of being discovered, as Santiago isn’t one of those Patrick Swayze, ectoplasmic spirits. Miguel can touch him, caress him and—in one of the film’s most emotionally exhilarating scenes—walk down the street in his tiny village holding his hand guilt-free (because his fellow villagers can’t see Santiago). This tiny triumph begins Miguel’s emotional transformation—a transformation that is escalated when the nude paintings are found by his gossipy, homophobic neighbors.

Merritt—whose complex songs, dyspeptic opinions and artsy quirks have made him a media favorite, too—is the drawing card for this fly-on-the-wall documentary inside his world, as the band records a couple of albums and performs for its devoted fans.

However, it’s the relationship between Merritt and his collaborator—the band’s sometime manager and best friend, Claudia Gonson, in a relationship dating back to the duo’s college goth-rock days—that is the most illuminating. This intimate portrait of the twosome’s complicated friendship (in true classical gay-culture fashion) and bickering musical partnership will be familiar—funny and heartwarming—to genera- tions of gay men and their best gal pals. The film is returning to the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State, by popular demand beginning Friday, April 1. See http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org.

The Black Swan experience is a one-night-only midnight movie screening on Saturday, April 9, of director Darren Aronofsky’s twisted, intense psychological thriller that features Natalie Portman’s Oscar-winning performance and that much-talked-about smooch between her and co-star Mila Kunis. The screening will be held at the Landmark Century Centre Cinema, 2828 N. Clark, and will be hosted by local drag- queen celebs Frida Lay and Mercedes. Patrons are encouraged to “come as your favorite swan queen,” and giveaways and surprises are promised. Tickets are complimentary and available on a first-come, first-served basis at http://www.iwasperfect.com. (For those wishing to recreate the experience in the privacy of their own home, the DVD has just arrived in stores.)

The last movie star is dead” the headlines screamed when word of Elizabeth Taylor’s pass- ing spread like wildfire around the world last week. In the days that followed media pur- suits weighed in: talk-show hosts and callers waxed enthusiastic; social networks opined with a surprising minimum of snark; film crit- ics like myself wrestled with the importance of Taylor’s somewhat tricky movie career; and the world truly seemed to pause in mourning for the death of the Legend with the violet eyes.

No one paused more than the gay community, where even those not familiar with our history were made acutely aware of our collective heartbreak at the loss of an icon. It was because here, after all, was the celebrity who almost single-handedly brought the scourge that AIDS was wreaking on Our People into the mainstream consciousness in the mid-’80s. While our say- nothings, do-noth-ings, maddeningly silent leaders were not even those not familiar with our history were made acutely aware of our collective heartbreak at the loss of an icon. It was because here, after all, was the celebrity who almost single-handedly brought the scourge that AIDS was wreaking on Our People into the mainstream consciousness in the mid-’80s. While our say- nothings, do-noth-ings, maddeningly silent leaders were not even those not familiar with our history were made acutely aware of our collective heartbreak at the loss of an icon. It was because here, after all, was the celebrity who almost single-handedly brought the scourge that AIDS was wreaking on Our People into the mainstream consciousness in the mid-’80s. While our say- nothings, do-noth-ings, maddeningly silent leaders were not even those not familiar with our history were made acutely aware of our collective heartbreak at the loss of an icon. It was because here, after all, was the celebrity who almost single-handedly brought the scourge that AIDS was wreaking on Our People into the mainstream consciousness in the mid-’80s. While our say- nothings, do-noth-ings, maddeningly silent leaders were not even those not familiar with our history were made acutely aware of our collective heartbreak at the loss of an icon. It was because here, after all, was the celebrity who almost single-handedly brought the scourge that AIDS was wreaking on Our People into the mainstream consciousness in the mid-’80s. While our say- nothings, do-noth-ings, maddeningly silent leaders were not even those not familiar with our history were made acutely aware of our collective heartbreak at the loss of an icon. It was because here, after all, was the celebrity who almost single-handedly brought the scourge that AIDS was wreaking on Our People into the mainstream consciousness in the mid-’80s. While our say- nothings, do-noth-ings, maddeningly silent leaders were not even those not familiar with our history were made acutely aware of our collective heartbreak at the loss of an icon. It was because here, after all, was the celebrity who almost single-handedly brought the scourge that AIDS was wreaking on Our People into the mainstream consciousness in the mid-’80s. While our say- nothings, do-noth-ings, maddeningly silent leaders were not even those not familiar with our history were made acutely aware of our collective heartbreak at the loss of an icon. It was because here, after all, was the celebrity who almost single-handedly brought the scourge that AIDS was wreaking on Our People into the mainstream consciousness in the mid-’80s. While our say- nothings, do-noth-ings, maddeningly silent leaders were not even those not familiar with our history were made acutely aware of our collective heartbreak at the loss of an icon. It was because here, after all, was the celebrity who almost single-handedly brought the scourge that AIDS was wreaking on Our People into the mainstream consciousness in the mid-’80s. While our say- nothings, do-noth-ings, maddeningly silent leaders were not even those not familiar with our history were made acutely aware of our collective heartbreak at the loss of an icon. It was because here, after all, was the celebrity who almost single-handedly brought the scourge that AIDS was wreaking on Our People into the mainstream consciousness in the mid-’80s. While our say- nothings, do-noth-ings, maddeningly silent leaders were not even those not familiar with our history were made acutely aware of our collective heartbreak at the loss of an icon. It was because here, after all, was the celebrity who almost single-handedly brought the scourge that AIDS was wreaking on Our People into the mainstream consciousness in the mid-’80s. While our say-
Groups honor state Rep. Harris

State Rep. Greg Harris and United Food & Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) Local 881 President Ron Powell were honored March 24 at the Sixth Annual Senator Paul Simon/Senator Paul Wellstone Awards, presented by USAction and Citizen Action/Illinois. Harris, one of two openly gay individuals in the state House, was the chief sponsor of the civil-unions legislation that Gov. Pat Quinn signed into law in January. Harris received the Paul Simon Award from Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Powell received the Paul Wellstone Award, named after the late two-term U.S. senator from Minnesota. Photos by Greg Rodil.

Celebrations

Share your special moments with the community in Windy City Times’ new announcement section!

Got something to celebrate? Send us information on your civil union, anniversary, adoption, marriage or any other joyous moment in life to appear in our new section, Celebrations. Please send an email to andrew@windycitymediagroup.com and let Windy City Times join in your celebration.

Celebrate your Civil Union

Whatever your faith tradition, Rev. Barbara Zeman, a leader with Dignity Chicago, will help you begin your new life with a joyful, spiritual ceremony. Choose your location.

Contact: elke@rcn.com or visit www.wisdomandwordworks.com

DaveOuanoPhotography.com

Events • Fashion • Fitness

ModelMayhem.com/DaveOuano
Facebook: Dave Ouano Photography
daveouano@me.com

Rent the Historic Keith House for your
-CIVIL UNION
-WEDDING
-OR OTHER EVENTS

For rates and availability contact:
Marcy Baim
312-907-7909
events@prairieavenuegallery.com
www.prairieavenuegallery.com

Capacity:
25-150 people

BREAKING NEWS

WWW.WINDYCITYMEDIAGROUP.COM
REAL ESTATE

CALL FOR ARTISTS: Skokie Art Guild’s 50th Annual Artists Advertise here: ADVERTISE HERE ACCOUNTANTS

future. Serious astrology for serious seekers.


our website www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com. ex 101, terri@windycitymediagroup.com, or go to free.

and as a bonus, your ad runs in our online section for City Times! We offer affordable rates, convenient service, www.skokieartguild.org information: skokieart@aol.com or 847-677-8163. downtown Skokie, IL.

awards. Held on the Village Green, 5211 W. Oakton St., 1:20 p.m., Sept. 4. PRIME STAFFING Chicago’s Largest Hospitality Staffing Company is looking for experienced banquet servers, captains, bartenders and porters.

Contact Mike at (773) 724-6806 or email mmcardile@primestaffing.com Pay based on experience.

HOME IMPROVEMENT BATHROOM REMODELING, HOME REPAIRS, PAINTING & MORE, Licensed-Bonded-Insured. One-year warranty. Price by the job - not the hour. FREE estimates! Check us out on Angie’s List. Andy OnCall, 773-244-9961. www.getandy.com (3/3-11-26) Remodeling Expert available for all your home improvement needs. Please call Jim Haneley at 312-282-0305 or email remeexpert@aol.com. (5/4-11-13)

INTERPRETER FOR YOUR AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE/ENGLISH INTERPRETING NEEDS: To consult with you or your company with your ADA needs. Diana Thorpe CI/CT/NIC Master, Nationally Certificated Interpreter, 773-401-1335, or e-mail tthorpe2001@aol.com (2/7)

MOVERS WE ARE AN EXPERT, FULL-SERVICE MOVING COMPANY with over a decade of excellence serving our community. We pride ourselves in offering top-quality, efficient, low-cost, damage-free moves. Small to large trucks, fully equipped with modern tools, supplies of the trade. Rates for guaranteed professional staff: 2-man crew $65/hr.; 3-man crew $85/hr.; 4-man crew $105/hr. (plus low, one-time travel charge.) Call 773-777-1100 or www.chicagocrescentmovers.com. (1/23/11-26)

CLASSIFIEDS

ACCOUNTANTS

Accounting, Consulting and Training for small Developing Businesses The A.C.T. Group

✓ Start-Up Business Assistance
✓ QuickBooks Setup and Consulting
✓ Non-Profit Audits/Consulting
✓ Business Tax Preparation

773 743-2196 Fax: 773 743-0292
6242 N. Clark
www.ACTGroupTo


cleaning services

CHESTNUT CLEANING SERVICES: We’re a house cleaning service for homes, small businesses and small buildings. We also have fabulous organizational skills (a separate function at a separate cost that utilizes your assistance) for what hasn’t been cleaned in many months or years due to long-term illness, depression, physical/mental challenges, for the elderly, if you have downsized and more. Depressed about going home to chaos? We can organize your chaos, straighten out your chaos, help you make sense of your chaos and finally clean what is no longer chaos. Can we help you? Bonded and insured. Chestnut Cleaning Services: 312-332-5575. www.ChestnutCleaning.com (4/22-11-52)

COUNSELING

Counseling and Clinical Hypnotherapy: Providing help to individuals and couples in our community since 1987. I specialize in relationship issues, spiritual issues, childhood trauma, and recurrent patterns that inhibit potential.


LICENSED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST Dr. Whitney Belcher, Psy.D., P.C. 10 years experience in the community. Providing individual and couples therapy with a solution-focused approach. Please call. Change can and does happen. 312-464-0001. (4/20-11-12)

FACELIFT MASSAGE

BELLA EINA FACELIFT MASSAGE. Creating Beauty with Healing Hands. Marilyn Fumagalli, CMT, BellaEina Specialist. Located in Andersonville’s historic Calo Theater Building. Mention this listing for $5 off your first appointment. (773) 965-0972 (9/21-11-26)

HELP WANTED

PRIME STAFFING, CHICAGO’S LARGEST HOSPITALITY STAFFING COMPANY is looking for experienced banquet servers, captains, bartenders and porters. Contact Mike at (773) 724-6806 or email Mike@mmcardile@primestaffing.com. Pay based on experience. (3/30-11-8)

HANDBYK/M/HOUSE MGR NEEDED Northside home seeking full-time daytime help. Responsibilities include house cleaning, yard work, pet care, routine maintenance of house and mechanicals. (HAC, plumbing, electrical) and occasional driving. Relevant prior experience a must. Must be eligible to work in US and drug free. Applicants subjected to criminal background checks. Send resumes to chgowork@yahoo.com. (3/30-11-4)

ASTROLOGY


ADVERTISE HERE

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

ARTISTS


INFORMATION: skokieart@aol.com or 847-677-8163.
Fashion guru Joe Zee puts it ‘All on the Line’

BY ANDREW DAVIS

In the Sundance series All on the Line, Joe Zee, creative director for Elle Magazine, helps struggling designers save their lines from ruin. The affable Zee recently talked with Windy City Times at the W Hotel about the show, fashion basics and Glee.

Windy City Times: Hey, Joe. How are you?

Joe Zee: I’m great. The weather is OK, so I’m fine.

WCT: Be glad you weren’t here a while back when we got two feet of snow.

JZ: Actually, I was here! I was here for a meeting in the morning. I ran to the airport at noon and got on the two o’clock flight. The snow came down later that afternoon. I was on one of the last flights out. I can’t believe people abandoned their cars on Lake Shore Drive.

WCT: Speaking of weather, it’s incredible what Japan is going through.

JZ: I’ve been watching the coverage, and I called some friends in Japan. Tokyo is [relative- ly] fine.

WCT: Well, let’s talk about you. I saw you on [the reality-TV competition] Stylista. What was that experience like?

JZ: That was my first foray doing any of this on television. I loved the people, and I loved everything. I’m a big storyteller, and watching it all was a great experience. The cast of characters was beyond—they were really good.

WCT: Maybe you could bring it back—and you could be in [Elle fashion news director] Anne Slowey’s role.

JZ: [Laughs] She was fun.

WCT: So how did you become interested in fashion?

JZ: I’ve always been interested in magazines. I think things evolved for me as I got older. When I was a teenager in Toronto, I was obsessed with fashion magazines so, in a way, I was obsessed with fashion. I love clothes, creativity and design. Clothes are an expression of who you are—and I loved how magazines defined that.

So I packed my things, moved to New York and wanted to work for a magazine because I loved fashion so much. As I worked in the industry more and more, I realized that I love fashion but I love magazines even more. The magazine tells a story, letting a specific reader know what they need to know that month. It has that flow, that interest level that can keep you. So I realized that I also love versions of media; I love digital, I love broadcast, I love the Internet. I love telling a story.

WCT: And you tell a story on each episode of the series All on the Line.

JZ: I do. Each episode focuses on a designer who’s hit a roadblock in their own design business. I come in and give them a real, honest assessment and I work with them. I don’t just come in and walk away; I roll up my sleeves, get down and dirty, and we work.

What’s different about this show is that there’s no competition, contestants or elimination. It’s real life. Fashion is not glamorous, and you get to see all the blood, sweat and tears behind it.

WCT: This seems to point toward a larger question: What do you want the viewer to take away from this show, besides the entertainment?

JZ: Yes. I want to teach the viewers about having your own stumbling blocks. How did you turn it around?

WCT: Perseverance, I think, and hard work. I have blocks every day. People have big blocks in their careers. It’s so easy to throw in the towel, but that’s an immature way of doing things. Life doesn’t owe you anything—I just expect things from myself.

JZ: You’re like the Suze Orman of fashion.

WCT: [Laughs loudly] I was just watching her today! She was yelling at Nadia Suleman [aka “Octomom”]. I was like, “I kinda like you.”

WCT: You talked about having someone take a look at your work and possibly helping you along?

JZ: For sure, a skinny black pant, a white shirt and a trench coat. You can put those items with everything.

WCT: What designers do you think bring something new?

JZ: Oh, wow. In New York, we constantly go to Marc Jacobs; he just marches to his own beat.

WCT: What are three pieces of clothing every woman should own?

JZ: For sure, a skinny black pant, a white shirt and a trench coat.

WCT: What’s different about this show is that there’s no competition, contestants or elimination. It’s real life. Fashion is not glamorous, and you get to see all the blood, sweat and tears behind it.

WCT: All on the Line is on the Sundance Channel Tuesdays at 9 p.m. See http://www.sundancechannel.com/all-on-the-line.
**THE ‘WHITE’ STUFF**

**Friday, April 1**

The rock musical White Noise, produced by Whoopi Goldberg (above with director/choreographer Sergio Trujillo) will begin a limited run at the Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted.

Photo by CrocCo

**LGBT CoFe with Ald. Daniel Solis LGBT CoFe hosted at Ciao Amore, a gay-owned restaurant. staycraik@gmail.com; 6:30 p.m., 320-403-9323, Ciao Amore, 1134 W. 18th, http://www.ciaostorerestaurante.com

**Thursday, March 31**

500F Comedy Showcase Come on out for 500F’s inaugural comedy event! Laugh at/with near comics Amy Eisenberg, Brian Henning, Kritt Klifffen, Maggie Jenkins, Marla Dowe and Thomas Brotzman. Hosted by the fabulously funny Mark Byrne. $8 double shots of Miller Lite, $5 shots of Jamison, $5 comedic cocktails. While there is no cover, we will be accepting donations, for Claudette’s and Eddie’s Plaza, safer homes for women in Hazel Crest and Harvey. 8 p.m., Sofo. 4923 N. Clark. http://www.claudetteslaquerestaurant.com


**Friday, April 1**


Equality Illinois First Friday Networking Social 31st Equality Illinois every first Friday of the month as they feature a different community partner organization. $10 gets you a cocktail and a ticket for the prize drawing. 6 p.m., Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St. http://www.equalityillinois.org

Paula Poundstone The Center for the Performing Arts in Bloomington presents comedian Paula Poundstone in concert. 7:30 p.m., Bloomington Center for the Arts, http://www.cityofbloomington.org

Whoopi Goldberg presents White Noise White Noise, the new rock musical, follows two sisters who are discovered by a powerful record producer, and groomed into a well-packaged rock/rap band, which mixes irresistible harmonies with coded rhetoric into chart-blazing hits; inspired by real life, White Noise fuses today’s headlines and blogs into a cautionary tale that challenges conventional notions of free speech, media and the power of pop culture. 7:30 p.m., Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted, http://www.white Noise-broadway.com

Britney’s Femme Fatale_period day’s Britney, bitch with Britney Spears giveaways all night long. DJ Riley York. 9 p.m., The Call. 1647 W. Blynn Ave, http://www.cattalocallilchicago.com

**Saturday, April 2**

Free Black Swan screening Come as your favorite queen or fan and join your fellow prima ballerinas for a special free-inter-active screening with hosts Frida Lay and MattieDiva at midnight. Download a free screening pass to The Black Swan Experience. Black Swan is on DVD and TV, 12 p.m., Landmark Century Centre Cinema, 2828 N. Clark. http://www.teaser-fest.com

CHSA Men’s Flag Football Open Registration Party Chicago Metropolitan Sports Assoc. (CHSA) hosts annual open registration party. Teams and individual players welcome all at skills tests. 2 p.m., DS. Tequila Company, 3359 N. Halsted, http://www.chicago3m.org

LGBT Women’s Movie Night Women’s Action Committee monthly movie night featuring a LGBT-women themed film the first Saturday of every other month. Light refreshments, film, a discussion of this month’s movie, Fried Green Tomatoes, 7 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. http://www.centeronhalsted.org

Darkast Before the Dawn: A Gay Cabaret Performers will affirm LGBT persons, through monologues and songs and are being developed with the talents of a number of Chicago actors and performers. Reservations, $15, PassTheTheatre@gmail.com; 7:30 p.m., Fulton Avenue United Methodist Church, 405 S. Euclid, Oak Park.

9 to 12 Bowling LGBT bowling league held with the 1st Saturday of the month at River Rand Bowl in Berwyn. 9 p.m., River Rand Bowl, 3650 N. Berwyn Ave.

**Sunday, April 3**

Achutchmale MHC Worship Celebration The LGBT community’s oldest and largest spiritual community partner organization. $10 cover, 7 p.m., SideTrack, 3349 N. Halsted, http://www.achutchmale.org

GLAAD Lunchbox Council Sunday GLAAD Hatter Brunch Guests are encouraged to wear their furiest, biggest, boldest hat to the event of the month. From a prize awarded to the best. Brunch will feature an all-you-can-eat buffet of eggs, French toast, bacon, bagels, fresh-squeezed orange juice, muffins, and more. In addition to the delicious brunch, guests will be treated to bottomless mimosas and Bloody Marys. Guests will enjoy a first-look at the events of the GLAAD Leadership Council has planned for Chicago in the coming months as well as a chance to meet the dedicated volunteers leading the organization’s mission to share the stories of LGBT people in Chicago. $30 per person or prior to April 3, $50 per person at door; 11 a.m., Hotties Gay Bar/Lounge and Cafe, 3349 N. Halsted, http://www.glaad.org/events/gladdhatter

Reality Bites Back: The Troubling Truth About Guilty Pleasure TV With author Jennifer Pozner, find out why pop culture reduces women and people of color to such limiting stereotypes and get critical media commentary, revealing insights about gender, race, and class in the entertainment industry, and lots of laughs. 4:30 p.m., Women & Children First, 5333 N. Clark, http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.org

Guy’s Breast In Show The women of GayCo are out front in this new original sketch comedy revue originally workshoped at The Second City’s DeMott Theater. 7 p.m. (773) 955-6100, Apollo Theatre, 2540 N. Lincoln Avenue, http://www.gayco.com

What He Did For Love: A Chicago Musical Menu The series, a celebration of founder Ralph Lampronti’s three decades in the Midwest cabaret, theater, and music scenes, will boast the talents of legendary Chicago artist Alexandra Billings and Jeff Award-winning actor Jeremy Rill along the line-up and percentage of the proceeds will benefit Goeroyzen/Vital Bridges and PrideFilmsAndPlays. 8:30 p.m., Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont, http://www.stage773.com

**Wednesday, March 30**

Coalition for Reproductive Health & Access Lobby Day Register online to join Personal PAC to advocate for State House Bill 1619, the IL Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) Act at the state capitol; buses will depart from several points in Chicago at 6:30 a.m. that day, 10:30 a.m., State Capitol, Springfield, http://go.321halast.org

Cinema Q film series: JoJo Baby and two music videos of The Joans The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, the Queer Film Society, the Center on Halsted, and the Reeling Film Festival present free screenings on Wednesdays thru April 6 in the Chicago Cultural Center’s Claudia Cassidy Theater, 78 E. Washington, 6:30 p.m. each featuring a discussion following the film. Media sponsors for the Cinema Q film series are the Windy City Times, Time Out Chicago, and the Chicago Reader. 6:30 p.m., 312-744-6630, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington, http://www.chicagoculturalcenter.org

Chicago Rowing Union All hands Soiree Chicago Rowing Union will be holding a kick-off informational meeting. The meeting will be an opporunity to receive information about the upcoming season including membership packets. Anyone interested in rowing is invited to attend. 7 p.m., Mary’s Attic, 5400 N. Clark, http://www.chicagorowingunion.org

Angela in America Angela in America: Mil- lennium Approaches by the fabulously funny Mark Byrne. $8 double shots of Miller Lite, $5 shots of Jamison, $5 comedic cocktails. While there is no cover, we will be accepting donations, for Claudette’s and Eddie’s Plaza, safer homes for women in Hazel Crest and Harvey. 8 p.m., Sofo. 4923 N. Clark. http://www.claudetteascafe.com/read blyz/2011/01/01.html

**Monday, April 4**

Live Band Karaoke at Amy Armstrong Every Monday at 10 p.m., Join Amy Armstrong for Live Band Karaoke! It’s Your Stage with a five-piece live band! 9 p.m., 773-283-3585, Roscoe’s Tavern, 3356 N. Halsted, http://www.roscoes.com

**Tuesday, April 5**

Bisexuality Social Event for bisexuals, bico-curious, and bi-allies to form community and share ideas and connect with peers. 7:30 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, http://www.centeronhalsted.org

Free Concert with Lakeside Pride Symphony Orchestra Chicago Pride Symphony Orchestra will present Handel’s Music for the Royal Fireworks, Duetto; Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 5 and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 2. as part of the Center on Halsted’s Music Tuesdays; 7:30 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted

Wed., April 6

Windy City Gay Idol kicks off its ninth season at the Glenwood, 6962 N. Glenwood.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

**Circled**

**‘BLACK’ MAGIC**

**Saturday, April 2**

There’s a free midnight screening of Black Swan (co-starring Mila Kunis, above) at the Landmark Century Centre Cinema, 2828 N. Clark

Photo by Nika Tovmazian
BILLY MASTERS

“People didn’t know that she was so talented cutting hair. The one thing she would have liked to become is a hair stylist.” —Jose Eber talks about Elizabeth Taylor’s secret passion. I’m not so sure it would have been a good idea. How much do you tip the stylist with two Oscars and a tracheotomy scar who’s wearing the Cleopatra head-dress?

I only met Elizabeth Taylor once: April 29, 1986. An AIDS benefit in NYC. “To Care is to Cure” was billed as “The World’s Largest Photo Session.” Her “date” for the evening was a very dashing Calvin Klein—and having him show up for Inside the Actor’s Studio: “Ten years ago as an unknown, one man’s filth is another man’s bible. At the old Actors Studio, when James Lipton was lowering his standards, every budding star needs publicity. He should have taken a semi-step backwards and play a Cagele in the revival of La Cigale aux Folies—not necessarily a star-making move, but one that showed the producers of “Priscilla” he could handle anything they threw at him. It hasn’t been a smooth ride. As Nick says, “My professional life has never been better, but my personal life sucks.” I’ve always had a penchant for a hot guy who sucks...

Things seem to be going full steam ahead on the Liberace film with Michael Douglas that’s being shot this summer. Matt Damon, who will be playing Lee’s young paramour, Scott Thorson, said, “I never thought I would get to kiss Michael Douglas. I’m upset that I didn’t get to kiss Catherine Zeta-Jones in ‘Oceans 12,’ but now I get to kiss Michael.” Well, you know what they say—when you sleep with someone, you’re also sleeping with everyone they did. This is why I always look for the tramp in a new city—in an hour, you’re caught up!

Would ya believe that Bradley Cooper missed his graduation ceremony from Pace University because he was having gay sex? Anyone surprised? Hands? No one—just as I suspected. This was back in 2001, when the venerable James Lipton was dean of the school. Brad’s past came back to haunt him when Lippy interviewed him for Inside the Actor’s Studio: “Ten years ago as an unknown, I was handing out diplomas and I noticed you were missing from your graduation ceremony. Where were you?” Brad responded, “I was having sex with Michael Ian Black in a sports shed in ‘Wet Hot American Summer.’” The video I’ll run on BillyMasters.com should answer all of your questions, except for one—what the fuck was Bradley Cooper doing on Inside the Actor’s Studio?

We started this column with a story about a photo session that raised money and awareness for the fight against AIDS. We’d all end with the NOH8 photo campaign, which is trying to raise awareness for gay rights and, I believe, the multiple uses of duct tape! I could be wrong—after all, I’m one of the few people who hasn’t been asked to participate in this campaign. But now it’s a moot point. Last week, Jeffrey Sanker and Charo were photographed together. Honey, I introduce Charo—I know better than to follow her! The two-ome was shot to promote Charo’s upcoming appearance at Sanker’s White Party in Palm Springs April 8-11. In a philanthropic gesture, Jeffrey will be providing a room at the Renaissance Hotel on Friday, April 8, for the NOH8 campaign to photograph people and raise money for the cause. Luckily, there’s a Home Depot nearby should the need for more duct tape arise! On Saturday, I’ll be interviewing luminaries on the white carpet—and I’m sure some of them will wish they had some duct tape to use on me! The full schedule of events can be found at www.JeffreySanker.com.

When James Lipton is lowering his standards, it’s definitely time to end yet another column. But first, a contest: What was the last line of the NOH8 campaign to photograph people and raise money for the cause. Luckily, there’s a Home Depot nearby should the need for more duct tape arise! On Saturday, I’ll be interviewing luminaries on the white carpet—and I’m sure some of them will wish they had some duct tape to use on me! The full schedule of events can be found at www.JeffreySanker.com.

The deadline to nominate individuals is Friday, April 22.

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, or other areas.

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

Honorees 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 St.

The deadline to nominate individuals is Friday, April 22.

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

WindyCityTimes.com

Photo of 2010’s 30 Under 30 honorees by Hal Baim.

March 30, 2011

Because Only Once or Twice a Week Is Never Enough...

WINDY CITY TIMES
12th Annual THIRTY under 30
NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

Honorees 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 St.

Self-nominations are welcome.

Individuals, organizations, co-workers, etc. can nominate a person by e-mailing Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com or faxing to Andrew Davis’ attention to 773-871-7609.

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.

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, or other areas.

The deadline to nominate individuals is Friday, April 22.

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 St.
Christina Kahrl weighs in on baseball season

BY ROSS FORMAN

Christina Kahrl, executive editor for Baseball Prospectus, wouldn’t be surprised if the Chicago Cubs contend this season in the National League’s Central Division title, perhaps into September. However, don’t expect the team’s 103-year drought to end this season, she added.

“Because of [the] relative depth in their lineup, rotation, and bullpen, they’ll contend, perhaps into September if the [Cincinnati] Reds don’t run away from a four-team pack that includes the [Milwaukee] Brewers and [St. Louis] Cardinals,” Kahrl said. “If the Reds don’t run on ahead, nobody in the division wins 90, which means deadline deals can make all the difference.”

But things look a lot more optimistic on the South Side of Chicago, she said.

“They’re a stronger contender in the NL Central, a stronger bet to win 90 or more than the [Detroit] Tigers or [Minnesota] Twins, and my pick to win the division,” she said. “The White Sox have got a real shot at it, because this team enjoys many of the same strengths—deep rotation, good defense, and a good amount of power and straight.”

So responsive was sort of a wakeup call that we should have been doing this sort of thing already, so my hope is that this is something we can do every year.”

Wrigley Field is, of course, located steps away from the heart of Lakeview’s Boystown area and its fabled bars, such as Roscoe’s, Sidetrack, Scarlett and others. So that begs the question, how big a part of the LGBT community is baseball?

“More than you’d think,” Kahrl said. “There’s something funny about the number of gay or lesbian folks I meet where one partner or the other will confide that they really love sports, but their partner doesn’t. The beauty of baseball is its approachability, that you can enjoy it on any level: seriously, like a stathead or a really engaged fan, or casually, rooting for the hometown nine in a matter-of-fact way, or just enjoy it as an excuse to have a beer in the sun at the park with friends, or cause to strike up a conversation in your favorite hoodie.”

“Baseball definitely does cross boundaries, gay and straight.”

“The game is something that pulls people together, and reminds us of what we hold in common—as Chicagoans and Americans, but also, more basically, as people. It’s a source of simple pleasure, and something you can engage people across any social boundary without having to worry about giving offense.”

When asked when there will be an openly gay active major league, Kahrl responded, “By 2025.”

Still, the Cubs are catering to the LGBT community, with the inaugural Pride Day at Wrigley Field being held on March 31 at Sluggers in Lakeview from 6-9 p.m. Kahrl is among the guest speakers. Plus, both the White Sox and the Cubs are donating all sorts of things, including tickets and memorabilia.

“I think it’s great that we pulled this together, sort of on the fly, but I guess I see it as a little bit of cultural diplomacy,” Kahrl said. “Boystown and Wrigleyville are neighbors within Lakeview, yet sometimes it seems like those few blocks between Clark and Halsted on Addison are worlds apart. I’d rather we make a point of highlighting that we’re all Chicagoans, the baseball season is a huge part of what defines our city and our neighborhoods, and let’s enjoy the start of that together. The fact that the Sox and Cubs were so responsive was sort of a wakeup call that we should have been doing this sort of thing already, so my hope is that this is something we can do every year.”

Also, the event, of course, is being held at a straight bar.

“I think the cultural diplomacy element is important,” Kahrl said. “I don’t want this to be something self-segregating, where we just go to the same venues in the gayborhood. This is our city, this is our game, these are our teams. All the more reason to cross a few self-imposed geographic boundaries and highlight what we hold in common.”

Kahrl said the EI event likely will attract fans of both Chicago teams, fierce and casual followers, along with Baseball Prospectus readers, members of the Society for American Baseball Research, and others.

Research, and others.

Former White Sox Minnie Minoso also will attend.

“You can quote Malamud or Lardner or Kinsella or Bill James, and you can still enjoy the game on the same level with someone who has never read a word by any of them. Enjoying baseball—enjoying sports—is a social activity,” Kahrl said.

Turn to page 31
KAHRL from page 30

of athletes will be in Chicago as part of the annual North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association (NAGAAA) world series tournament. (Purchase tickets at http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com/WrigleyPride.)

Kahrl traveled to Arizona for spring training this year, watching 13 games in 13 days. She will attend at least 60 games during the regular season, with stops at eight or more stadiums.

—Best part of spring training: “The intimacy of the parks, the more relaxed attitude in the conversations and comments from players after games.”

—Worst part of spring training: “Is there such a thing? Baseball every day, an escape from a chilly Chicago spring [and] hiking up Camelback during my downtime. Not that I’m going to go looking for one, but I don’t think there is a ‘worst part’.”

—Opening day: “It’s when we really get down to business. When the games and box scores mean something, and [it] kicks off six months of everyday happiness.”

—Favorite stadium: Wrigley Field. I miss Old Comiskey [Park] a lot, I even miss old County Stadium in Milwaukee, but definitely Wrigley.”

—The 2011 edition of the Baseball Prospects is the annual season preview, now in its the 16th edition of the New York Times bestseller. “It comes out in February every year, and features team, player, and manager evaluations, projections, Kevin Goldstein’s top 100 prospects, and more. I’m fond of the chapters I wrote, and I can out myself and confess to writing both the Sox and Cubs chapters this year.”

Predictions

Christina Kahrl and longtime baseball fan/WCT writer Ross Forman peer into the crystal ball for their predictions on the 2011 season:

AL Cy Young Award: CK: Jon Lester, Boston Red Sox
RF: CC Sabathia, New York Yankees

NL Cy Young Award: CK: Roy Halladay, Philadelphia Phillies
RF: Josh Johnson, Florida Marlins

AL MVP: CK: Adrian Gonzalez, Boston
RF: Evan Longoria, Tampa Bay Rays

NL MVP: CK: Troy Tulowitzki, Colorado Rockies
RF: Albert Pujols, St. Louis Cardinals

See more of Christina’s predictions online at www.windycitymediagroup.com.

CONVICTIONS

MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS

Mulryan & York
Attorneys At Law

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

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

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

• Bankruptcy
• Wills, Trusts & Probate
• Real Estate
• Litigation
• Powers of Attorney
• Civil Unions

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

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

A Full Service Law Firm for the Community since 1988

410 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 628, Chicago
Sure, it's just a tire.
Like the Golden Gate is just a bridge.

GET UP TO $100 VALUE BACK on an American Express® Reward Card® by mail when you buy a set of four eligible† Bridgestone tires.

Offer valid March 31 through April 30, 2011. For complete details or the nearest Bridgestone retailer, call 1-877-TIRE USA.

*Offer good in the U.S. only. Card can be used virtually anywhere American Express® Cards are welcome in the U.S. (not for online purchases), not redeemable for cash. Card issued in the name submitted on the rebate form; cannot be issued to minors and is not transferable. Use of Card constitutes acknowledgment that it is given as a Reward Card and no consideration, value or money has been paid by the holder in exchange for this Card. Card subject to monthly fee of $2.00 beginning in 7th month (except where prohibited by law). Terms and conditions apply; see americanexpress.com/reward for details. ©2011 American Express Travel Related Services Company, Inc. †For eligible tires, see your participating Bridgestone retailer. Eligible tires must be purchased from a participating Bridgestone retailer's inventory between March 31 and April 30, 2011. Mail-in claim form required. May not be combined with other offers. Certain restrictions and limitations apply. Offer excludes Costco purchases. See your participating Bridgestone retailer or bridgestonetire.com for complete details.