

**PETER GALLAGHER TALKS WITH WCT**

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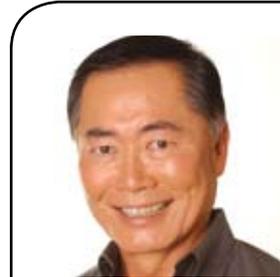
# WINDY CITY TIMES

THE VOICE OF CHICAGO'S GAY, LESBIAN, BI AND TRANS COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

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**AIDS @30**

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**BRITNEY IN POP MAKING SENSE**

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**CHRISTIAN SIRIANO**

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pick it up  
take it home

# Lesbian appt. to state rep post

BY TRACY BAIM

Longtime lesbian activist Kelly Cassidy has been appointed to fill Illinois' 14th District state representative seat on Chicago's Far North Side. State Rep. Harry Osterman is leaving the post to assume his 48th Ward aldermanic duties in May.

Another lesbian, Paula Basta, had been in consideration for the post, as was transgender activist Catherine Sikora, vice president of the board of Equality Illinois. There were more than 20 people vying for the

appointment.

Basta, regional director of the Levy Center, which serves seniors in Chicago, is not stopping her campaign, however; she announced she is running for the 14th District seat in the 2012 elections.

On May 16, Cassidy will join two other openly gay members of the state House: Rep. Greg Harris and Rep. Deborah Mell. Cassidy is currently director of programs and development as part of the Cook County State's Attorney's executive staff.

The replacement for a vacant post was decided by

Democratic ward committeepersons in the area, after a lengthy public meeting April 16. Committeewoman and former state Sen. Carol Ronen had a large influence because of the location of her district within the state rep area.

"I am pleased that after reviewing credentials and hearing from 23 candidates the committeemen unanimously selected Kelly Cassidy to fill the seat vacated by Harry Osterman," Ronen said. "Kelly Cassidy has a set

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## House holds DOMA-DoJ hearing

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Democrats came out swinging April 15 during a House subcommittee hearing on the Department of Justice (DoJ) announcement that it would curtail its defense of the federal ban on recognition of same-sex marriages.

The hearing, entitled "Defending Marriage," was called by Rep. Trent Franks, R-Ariz., the new Republican chairman of the subcommittee.

Franks called only three witnesses—two of which have taken high-profile stances against same-sex marriage and the DoJ decision to limit its defense of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

One witness—Ed Whelan, head of a religious conservative think tank called the Ethics and Public Policy Center—claimed the Obama administration's decision to limit its defense was the culmination of a strategy by Obama to promote same-sex marriage.

"I think one would have to be very naïve to think anything other than that [through] a stealth strategy, step-by-step, the administration is doing whatever it can to promote same-sex marriage and to induce the courts to adopt that approach."

Whelan said the fact that President Obama was once a professor of constitutional law "makes all the more implausible that he suddenly discovered" that DOMA is unconstitutional. Whelan did not mention, nor did anyone else, that the DoJ made clear it would continue enforcing DOMA, that it would defend DOMA as meeting the simplest of judicial standards at least in the 1st Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, and that it would assist Congress in its defense of the law.

Ranking Democrat Jerrold Nadler pointed out to witness Maggie Gallagher of the National Organization for Marriage that two children in the hearing room had same-sex parents.

Turn to page 6

## SCARLET FEVER



The inaugural Chicago Red Dress Party, at 525 W. Monroe, featured cocktails, great company and singer Kristine W as women (and some men) donned the signature clothing item of the evening. See more on page 23 and online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)



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\*DHHS = Department of Health and Human Services †IAS-USA = International AIDS Society USA.  
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Photos on cover (left, from top): Peter Gallagher PR pic; George Takei photo from The Old Globe; AIDS @ 30 logo by Kirk Williamson; Britney Spears PR photo; Christian Siriano PR pic

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**CUFF ENOUGH**  
Singer Joan Wasser (a.k.a. Joan As Police Woman) talks about, among other things, the origin of her name.

Photo by Thatcher Keats



Judy Gold (above) and Rahm Emanuel were among those at a recent big-name Seder in Chicago.

Image by Robin Subar Photography



Anthony Paull's latest column is about SXSW, Jake Gyllenhaal (above) ... and slurping.

Photo by Anthony Paull

**EAT AND GREET**  
Sugar & Spice looks at some prime spots for brunch.

**LEATHER REGIONS**  
Find out about a traveling leather museum that's coming to Chicago.

**THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT**  
This week's entertainment round-up includes items on Adam Lambert, Anderson Cooper and Nicki Minaj.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

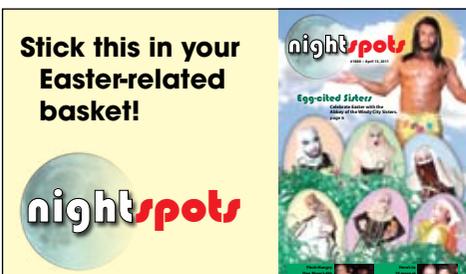
**NOTHING BUT TRUFFLE**



The sweets at The Confection Connection Too! and Britney's newest CD are among Five Worth Finding.

Photo from Amy Levin

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# Pro-LGBT bills (re)introduced, but little movement is expected

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., reintroduced the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) to the Senate on Wednesday, and U.S. Rep. Jerrald Nadler, D-N.Y., and U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., each recently reintroduced a bill to help binational LGBT couples.

These latest measures bring to 15 the number of pro-LGBT bills introduced to the House and Senate thus far in the 112th Congress. The number of bills hostile to LGBT rights now totals seven.

In announcing ENDA's reintroduction at a press conference on April 14, Merkley was joined by one of his three co-sponsors, Republican Sen. Mark Kirk of Illinois. A press release from Merkley's office indicated Sens. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, and Susan Collins, R-Maine, were also signed on as original co-sponsors.

The text of this year's ENDA (S. 811) is the same as last year's, according to Merkley spokeswoman Julie Edwards. Last year's version of the bill in the Senate eventually accumulated 45 co-sponsors; in the House, it eventually collected 203 co-sponsors.

Although he announced the reintroduction of this year's House version late last month, U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., "dropped" ENDA into the wooden "hopper" next to the House Clerk's desk April 6, officially starting the measure on its journey through the 112th Congress.

Neither the House nor Senate version of ENDA is expected to travel far during the 2011-12 Congressional session.

That's because Republicans control the House, and very few Republicans seem convinced that there is a need to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Without any real prospects of passing the House, Democrats in the Senate are unlikely to press for a vote there.

If there's a silver lining to the way things stand for ENDA now, it's that the LGBT community won't be listening to every tick of the clock on this Congressional session, as it did in the last session, when there was some movement on the legislation. Both the House and Senate ENDAs received committee hearings during the last session, but neither got a committee vote nor a chance to reach the floor, despite repeated



U.S. Rep. Judy Biggert.

assurances for months from Democratic leaders that votes were imminent. No one is making such promises this time around.

A Frank spokesman, Harry Gural, said Frank is "realistic" about ENDA's chances in a Republican-controlled House.

"It's probably not going to happen," said Gural. But, he said Frank "is optimistic in the long run."

"You don't just say, 'Republicans are in power so we're not going to do anything,'" said Gural.

Supporters of the legislation say its reintroduction makes it easier for advocates to get the attention of legislators who need to be lobbied to support the bills.

In the House, the key lobby effort will likely have to focus on Republicans. Only three Republicans were among the 111 members of the House to join Frank as original co-sponsors of the legislation before it was filed: chief co-sponsor Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida, Todd Platts of Pennsylvania and Judy Biggert of Illinois.

Biggert represents somewhat of a victory as an original co-sponsor. Although she was an original co-sponsor last session, she was one of the first Republicans to back off the bill when discussion erupted—as if often does—over the "gender identity" language. Biggert had voted for a "sexual orientation only" version of ENDA in 2007 but said last April that she was undecided about the 111th Congressional version that included gender identity. She said she was concerned about how adding that language could

affect schools. A spokesman for her office did not return a reporter's call to explain why she's back on as a co-sponsor now.

The bill (identified as H.R. 1397 in the House) is "exactly" the same as last Congressional session, and it has been referred to the usual committees: four in the House, including the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Some news reports last week suggested that support for ENDA had dropped dramatically. However, the bill had 117 original co-sponsors when it was first introduced to the 111th Congress, and 111 co-sponsors in the 112th. Presumably, Frank could have delayed the actual introduction of the bill to gain the additional six co-sponsors.

There appears to be relatively few changes in language this year to the Leahy's and Nadler's immigration bills. Both versions were reintroduced April 14, seeking to allow LGBT American citizens the ability to sponsor their "permanent partners" or spouses for legal residency in the United States.

Currently, immigration law provides a relatively easy route for heterosexual married Americans to obtain a green card for their foreign spouses. However, the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which prohibits federal recognition of marriage licenses to same-sex couples, bars immigration officials from using that same route for same-sex spouses.

Nadler held a press conference April 14 on Capitol Hill to announce the reintroduction. Joining him at the event were openly gay Reps. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and Jared Polis, D-Colo., as well as Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., and Jackie

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NATIONAL NEWS

—UNC student falsely claims hate crime

—Charles Robbins (left) resigns from The Trevor Project

—Anti-gay RNC website disappears

Speier, D-Calif. A spokesman said the bill has 98 original co-sponsors.

Leahy issued a statement on his website, noting that this is the fourth session of Congress to which he has introduced the bill. The statement also says he has 17 co-sponsors thus far, including California Sen. Barbara Boxer (but not Dianne Feinstein), Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin (but not Kirk), Maryland Sen. Benjamin Cardin (but not Barbara Mikulski) and Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry (but not Scott Brown).

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## Restricted access to ADAP begins July 1

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has announced plans to restrict access to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) to new applicants with incomes at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty level (\$32,670 for a single individual) beginning in July, according to a press release from AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC).

The current limit to qualify for Illinois ADAP



David Ernesto Munar.

is 500 percent of federal poverty (\$54,450 for a single individual).

"This is a sad day for the fight against HIV/AIDS in Illinois," said AFC President/CEO David Ernesto Munar. "The new policy will keep ADAP out-of-reach for hundreds of individuals who have nowhere else to turn for help. Many will simply forgo treatment, at great risk to themselves and their partners."

All current program recipients, including those with incomes between 300-500 percent of poverty, will continue to receive ADAP services, provided they meet other eligibility criteria and reapply for the program every six months. Stemming spiraling costs that threaten continuity of care for existing program clients motivated the changes, state officials said.

Jointly funded by the federal and state governments, ADAP provides HIV medications each month to more than 4,200 Illinoisans who have no other means to afford their life-saving medications, which can cost \$18,000 or more per year.

For more information on ADAP, visit <http://www.aidschicago.org/adap>.

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# HUD's ad campaign promotes equal housing access

BY DANA RUDOLPH  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently announced that it is launching a national media campaign to promote equal access to housing regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity, among other characteristics. Also, new data shows a marked increase in the number of LGBT housing discrimination complaints filed under existing law.

The ad campaign is the latest in a series of moves HUD has made to address discrimination against LGBT people or those perceived to be.

The new campaign, "Live Free," will run throughout the year and include "Facebook ads, targeted print ads, digital videos, and podcasts," according to a HUD press release.

One print ad asks, "Should Gender Stereotypes Influence Where You Live?" and directs people to learn more about HUD's LGBT initiatives at HUD's Fair Housing Web site, [www.hud.gov/fair-housing](http://www.hud.gov/fair-housing).

Last July, HUD issued a clarification of existing policy, stating that, although the Fair Housing Act—a pivotal civil rights act that prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, and familial status—does not specifically cover sexual orientation- or gender identity-based discrimination, it may still cover it in other ways. For example, gender-identity discrimination may be seen as

sex discrimination.

Since that guidance was issued, the number of complaints from LGBT individuals to HUD about housing discrimination has increased, according to HUD. From July 1, 2010 through Feb. 28, 2011, LGBT individuals filed 47 complaints of gender-based housing discrimination. During the same date range in 2009 and 2010, before the guidance was issued, there were only three such complaints.

No national study has quantified how many LGBT people have faced housing discrimination, although several smaller studies and examples have indicated pervasive discrimination, especially against transgender people and LGBT seniors.

HUD has been preparing a national study to fill this gap, with a target date for reporting findings in late 2012. It may also include LGBT discrimination in its decennial study of housing discrimination, which has, in the past, looked at racial- and ethnic-based discrimination, according to a HUD spokesperson.

HUD has also instructed staff to inform individuals about state and local LGBT protections that may apply to them. And HUD has told its grant applicants—who seek a total of \$3.25 billion in federal funding—they must comply with such state and local laws, where they exist.

Additionally, in January 2011, HUD announced a proposed new rule intended to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in its core housing programs—programs

that impact 4.4 million units of housing in the country.

The proposed rule would prohibit owners and operators of HUD-assisted or -financed housing from inquiring about applicants' sexual orientation or gender identity, and prevent them from excluding otherwise eligible families if one or more members is or is perceived to be LGBT. It would also prevent lenders from using sexual orientation or gender identity of an applicant as a basis to determine eligibility for Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgages, which



U.S. Rep.  
Jerrold  
Nadler.

represent one-third of all new mortgages in the country.

Many comments on the HUD rule simply expressed support—including a letter representing the 1.1 million members of the National Association of Realtors.

Other comments included specific suggestions. Maya Rupert, federal policy attorney at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, urged "a more explicit definition of who qualifies as a 'child' in the definition of 'family'" under the rule. Rupert suggested specifying "biological or adopted children, stepchildren, children for whom anyone in the family is standing in loco parentis, and foster children," thus providing protection to families where one parent may not be legally recognized as such.

In addition, several people, including Kristina Wertz of the Transgender Law Center, suggested modifying the proposed rule to clarify that

housing providers "may only inquire about an individual's gender identity for the purpose of placing them in a gender-specific accommodation," but not "regarding a person's birth sex, anatomy or medical history."

There are currently no explicit federal protections that ban housing discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Twenty states plus the District of Columbia have housing protections specific to sexual orientation, and 13 states plus the District have protections specific to gender identity. Approximately 150 cities, towns, and counties have LGBT protections as well, according to HUD.

At the end of the last session of Congress, Reps. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., John Conyers, D-Mich., and Edolphus Towns, D-N.Y., introduced the Housing Opportunities Made Equal, HOME, Act, which would amend the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination in housing, not just HUD housing, on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, source of income, or marital status. Individuals seeking redress under the Fair Housing Act may bring a lawsuit in federal district court or file an administrative complaint with HUD.

The bill would also expand the Fair Housing Act's definition of "familial status" to include "anyone standing in loco parentis" ("in place of a parent") to a minor.

A spokesperson for Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., said Nadler hopes to reintroduce the bill "soon," although he did not have an exact date.

With Republican control of the House this session, however, Nadler lost his chairmanship of the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. The new chair for the renamed Subcommittee on the Constitution is Rep. Trent Franks, R-Ariz. Trent received a 0 percent score from the Human Rights Campaign for each of the past two Congresses, indicating he never voted in favor of legislation to further LGBT equality.

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# Local lecturer/professor talks LGBT politics

BY TERRENCE CHAPPELL

Honorary speaker Cathy Cohen of the University of Chicago hosted a dynamic lecture on the social, economic and racial intricacies associated with queer politics and the larger LGBT political agenda.

Each year the University of Chicago awards a faculty member with the Iris Marion Young Distinguished Faculty Lecture. Cohen was selected as this year's recipient for her work and academic contributions. Cohen opened her lecture with admiration for the late Marion's diligence and body of work. The two women shared an office suite. Even now, Cohen noted that she "went to her [Marion's] work for challenge and inspiration" for her own daily work tasks. Before continuing, Cohen jokingly advised guests that she will not produce your run-of-the-mill, "detached, scholarly talk of U. of C."

The lecture explored three main areas of interest: race and marriage; death and rebirth; and inauguration and liberation. Regarding the first topic, Cohen spoke of the demonization of single moms and other groups of people or behavior that deviates from the norm. Concerning the LGBT fight for same-sex marriage, Cohen said that not only does same-sex marriage perpetuate the norm but also privatizes public responsibility, thus furthering the concept of a norm and

the doling out of rewards and punishments for anyone who follows or deviates from that norm.

She went on to expand on how race is related to marriage and social norms. According to Cohen, because Black children may not come from two-parent homes, this paints a picture of deviation and makes them "vulnerable to state power." However, she added, "In the age of Obama, the Black nuclear family is coming back."

Cohen used such examples as the violent, tragic beating of Fenger high school student Derrion Albert and the suicidal hanging of 11-year-old Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover in her segment about death and rebirth. Cohen went on to question guests about the LGBT political agenda regarding who should be the face of queer politics or "who are we comfortable using as the face of queer politics." She also noted that neither victim identified as gay.

Hate-crime laws are not a deterrent, according to Cohen. Cohen turned to Seattle University School of Law professor and transgender activist Dean Spade's analysis of hate-crime laws, concluding that such regulations are brought by a justice that target the very people they are suppose to protect. Gender JUST (Gender Justice United for Societal Transformation)—a local, grassroots advocacy group for young LG-BTQA people of color—challenged Cohen to think about queer politics in a different way.

The group opposes hate-crime penalties and anti-bullying measures, also adding that neither method acts as a deterrent.

"I'm in awe of how students applied their education," said Cohen.

In Cohen's last lecture segment of inauguration and liberation, she said she believed that education should create spaces for liberal, open thinking. Cohen ended with declaring that the LGBT political agenda should to in a more radical direction and away from its current neoliberalism approach and thinking. Even though people, as a whole, have come a long way in race and politics, Cohen said that full normative assimilation or just fitting the norm is not an option for Black people.

University of Chicago student Johnathan Lykes sat in on the lecture and believed that Cohen was projecting queer politics as an all-encompassing larger picture for race and social justice.

"You get the realization of a new politics," he said. "Queer politics is a broader understanding and projection of the oppressed. The LGBT agenda should really be about the projections of deviance."



Cathy Cohen. Photo by Terrence Chappell

## DOMA from cover

"How would you explain to children like McKinley and Brianna who are here with us with their parents today that their family is not deserving and should be excluded from the protections and benefits of marriage, including the important confirmation that the federal government considers them a family," asked Nadler. "Or do you consider these children expendable?"

Gallagher said no child is expendable and defended her position against same-sex marriage, saying she was an unwed mother and understands what it's like to be in a "non-marital family."

Rep. Mike Quigley, D-Ill., asked Gallagher how people who claim they want government out of their lives could defend DOMA.

"What could be more personal than the decision on who you should love and how to express that love and raising children?" asked Quigley.

"We would agree on so much if we weren't in a hotly contested political arena where its not in anyone's interest to agree issue," said Gallagher. "I believe there are gay people who are wonderful parents," she added. "And it's interesting to me that, no matter how hard I try to avoid it, people interpret what I say as a condemnation of gay people and their parenting skills—cause that's not my intent."

Gallagher said, "the enormous problem in this country"—concerning the survival of

marriage—"wasn't caused by gay people and it can't be cured by them."

"But if your concern is to defend marriage, don't you see greater threats being infidelity, domestic violence, alcoholism, drug-use?" asked Quigley. "Those are the things that drive families apart."

Gallagher said she still spends "some" of her time on some of those types of problems, "and if I could wave a magic wand" and eliminate divorce and have gay marriage, "I might wave that wand." But gay marriage, like no-fault divorce, she said, changes the sense that marriage is a permanent commitment.

"Same-sex marriage is eventually going to affect everyone's marriage," said Gallagher, "...by changing the public understanding of what this institution is and what it's for."

The third witness, law professor Carlos Ball of Rutgers, got very little time to express his view, defending the Obama administration's decision to curtail its defense of DOMA, saying it was a "careful and thorough" analysis of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

Nadler and Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., who chaired the Judiciary Committee in the last Congressional session, also admonished Franks for holding a hearing about the DoJ decision without calling a witness from the DoJ. Franks later responded, saying that the House would hold a DoJ oversight hearing in May and then invite the DoJ.

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Patti Duke and George Takei in the Social Security promotion. PR image

## Gay actor promotes Social Security, prompting questions

BY NATASHA HEMLEY

George Takei, the openly gay actor who was part of the original Star Trek TV series, is teaming with another actor, Patti Duke, to get U.S. residents to "boldly go" to the Social Security website. However, there are questions as to why the out Takei would promote a benefit denied to Takei and his husband.

The Social Security website allows baby boomers and other people to apply for Medicare, retirement and disability. They also can make change their address or personal information, as well set up direct deposit.

"Social Security has a great website and the top-rated online services in the U.S.," wrote Michael J. Astrue, commissioner of social security, in a statement.

The Social Security administration approached Takei to voluntarily lend his celebrity power to this public service announcement. "I am a publicly and socially engaged person. I was more than happy to join in with Patti," Takei told Windy City Times exclusively.

In 2005, Takei revealed to Frontiers magazine that he was gay and had been in a 18-year relationship with boyfriend Brad Altman. In 2008, Takei married Altman in West Hollywood before the ability to get married in California was nullified. Several states, including Illinois, have passed civil-union measures

that allow same- and opposite-sex couples to have the same rights under state law that married straight couples receive, such as medical decision-making and the right to sue for wrongful death.

However, same-sex couples who are legally married are denied spousal Social Security benefits because the federal government does not acknowledge their marriage. It is no surprise then, that some in the LGBT community might find it a bit confusing that a public figure such as Takei would help endorse an administration like Social Security, which is run by the federal government.

Chicago attorney Jill Metz of Jill Metz and Associates—who works in a variety of areas, including family law—told Windy City Times, "It is ironic [referring to Takei's recent involvement with the Social Security administration], but I have more of a problem with legislators who advocate for continued discriminations [of government programs like Social Security]."

When asked about the possible confusion involved in helping the organization, Takei told Windy City Times, "Why should it be confusing? I find our democracy to not be perfect. I want to make it better, so I choose to participate in the process. Do I not vote? Do I not volunteer in the electoral campaign? No!"

"You get actively engaged in the process to make our democracy better and the same with Social Security. I'm talking about a better, fairer Social Security—that's why I choose to participate in it."

The Social Security administration hopes to reach millions with lines such as "It's so easy even Kirk [Star Trek's captain] could do it."



Maggie Gallagher of the National Organization of Marriage at the DOMA hearing. Photo by Patsy Lynch

# Anti-gay adoption bill defeated in state Senate committee 7-6

BY YASMIN NAIR

In a narrow victory for gay-rights activists, Senate Bill 1123—which would have effectively allowed religious child welfare and adoption agencies to bar adoptions and foster care by gay parents—was struck down April 13.

The vote was seven to six. “Yes” votes were Christine Radogno (R-41), Dale A. Righter (R-55), Matt Murphy (R-27), David S. Luechtfeld (R-58), Bill Brady (R-44) and Antonio Muñoz (D-1).

The seven “no” votes were Don Harmon (D-39), Ira L. Silverstein (D-8), M. Maggie Crotty (D-19), Jeffrey M. Schoenberg (D-9), Kimberly A. Lightford (D-4), John J. Cullerton (D-6) and Donne E. Trotter (D-17).

As per procedure, one opponent and one proponent was allowed to testify. Mary Dixon of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) spoke against the bill and Robert Gilligan of the Illinois Catholic Conference spoke in favor. The ACLU, The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA), Equality Illinois (EI), Protestants for the Common Good, the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois Bar Association and Lutheran Social Services of Illinois were among those monitoring the situation as opponents, as was the activist Rick Garcia.

Speaking to Windy City Times immediately after the vote, Ed Yohnka, communications director of ACLU said, “This means that the senate executive committee has rejected an effort to write discrimination into the law. On the back of the historic civil-unions law, that really would have been a tragedy. The hard work that folks did in the last 48 hours in terms of really spreading the word about this and making the damage that this would have really paid off. I think people were well-educated in terms of what this would mean.”

Muñoz was the only Democrat who voted for the bill, and Rick Garcia offered Windy City Times a behind-the-scenes look at how that came to be, saying that, “Sen. Muñoz only voted yes because [as he indicated] that yesterday when he had talked to Senator Koehler, he was “unaware” of the great opposition to this bill. And he said, “Because I gave you my word, I will vote yes, but I don’t think that, if it gets out of committee, I don’t think I can vote on the floor for it.” Here again, this is very interesting because what that was about is that we were down here and we were visible and we did a really excellent job in articulating that this is not acceptable.” Garcia was among those who were initially nervous about the bill going to the floor for a vote: “I thought for sure there was better than even chance that he bill would get out of committee.”

Garcia also spoke about the role of the Catholic Conference’s stand on the matter, saying that, at one point, “[They were] asked by one of the dissenters, what would happen to the children in the charity’s care if this bill does not pass. And the spokesman suggested that the Catho-



State Sen. Antonio Muñoz.

lic charities would have to get out of the child welfare business. I think that’s a bluff ... other dioceses have threatened it. But fine. Let them get out of the child welfare business, if they’re basing everything on anti-gay messages, let them get out. Some people have said we have to stop antagonizing faith-based organizations and to that I say a resounding, ‘Bullshit.’ Because if we weren’t here antagonizing the Catholic Conference ... we would have lost.”

Garcia praised Mary Dixon, who, he said, did an excellent job in giving the testimony for the opponent: “She outlined exactly what the problems were, and explained that this was not just unpopular but bad for the children, and about codifying discrimination into the law.”

Anthony Martinez of TCRA, talking with Windy City Times, expanded on the Catholic Conference’s arguments, and said that they “spoke about why they opposed the bill, which goes back to their covenant of marriage and not placing children in homes without parents that are married.” Like Garcia, he was pleasantly surprised that the bill was held in committee, adding that, “This is such an amazing victory and shows what an organized community can achieve in a short amount of time.”

Bernard Cherkasov of EI spoke with Windy City Times about the significance of the vote and what lies ahead: “If this amendment had become law, tens of thousands of children across the state of Illinois who are in a welfare or adoption process right now would have been denied their best interests because agencies would have been allowed to reject otherwise perfectly qualified couples only because they were same-sex couples in a civil-unions relationship.”

Cherkasov added that “[w]e have to continue educating our lawmakers on just how serious these issues are. It is clear that they may not have understood clearly some of the key issues around the bill in adoption and foster care especially when it comes to prospective LGBT parents. We have to continue having that conversation with them; there are no permanent enemies in

the political world, no door is ever closed and no conversation is ever finished. So we just have to go back to our supporters and those who didn’t support us this time and continue educating them.” He also pointed out that the bill’s defeat would not have been possible if “thousands” of people had not called in immediately after hearing the news to express their opposition to their state senators.

[Editor’s note: However, the bill is not dead just yet. Even though it failed in committee, the measure appears to have been given a final action deadline extension along with a number of other bills. The new deadline is May 4. The Illinois Senate returns May 3.]

## Professional Young Gays event April 21

Professional Young Gays (PYG) will hold its spring mixer Thursday, April 21, 6-8:30 p.m., at the penthouse suite at 111 W. Jackson.

PYG is a venue for networking, developing contacts and the exchanging of ideas among guests and members in a safe gay friendly atmosphere. PYG always features an informative speaker at each reception.

For more information, e-mail events@p-y-g.org.

## About Face’s Wonka Ball April 21

About Face will hold its annual Wonka Ball Thursday, April 21, at the School of the Art Institute’s ballroom, 112 S. Michigan.

The theme is “Wonka Throws a Royal Wedding.”

The VIP reception is 5:30 p.m.; general admission starts at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$150-\$250; see <http://www.aboutfacetheatre.com>.

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# Project files complaint on behalf of LGBT immigrant detainees

BY YASMIN NAIR

The National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC), a project of the Heartland Alliance, recently released a mass civil-rights complaint about the "abuse and mistreatment" of thirteen immigrant detainees in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The complaint was filed with the DHS's Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and Office of Inspector General April 20.

The complainants are all gay and/or transgender individuals, and their complaints list and detail systemic forms of abuse related to their sexuality and/or gender identity. In the cases described, HIV-positive detainees were denied their HIV medication, people identified as gay or "homosexual" suffered sexual epithets hurled at them and those identified as gender non-conforming were held in long-term solitary confinement, ostensibly for their protection, or subjected to various forms of sexual harassment and assault.

Juan (only first names are used in the complaint, and some are changed to ensure the privacy of the complainants) was sexually assaulted by two other detainees but only transferred to another facility after three months of his reporting the incident, despite his repeatedly asking for a transfer. Steve, an HIV-positive individual, was taken to the doctor's office for a regular checkup and endured having blood drawn from the veins on the back of his hands because a facility officer refused to unshackle them, even after repeated requests from the doctor and nurse. Monica, an MTF transgender inmate, has been denied her hormone treatments for over five months and has received no treatment for her trauma-related depression.

These are the issues facing LGBTQ asylum seekers in the United States. Mary Meg McCarthy, executive director of NIJC, spoke with Windy City Times about the legal and political conundrums that asylees face and the organization's research into the systemic abuse inflicted upon so many which prompted the complaint. She says it is the first of its kind and has been in process for about a year.

It is not illegal to seek asylum in the United States and, in fact, McCarthy emphasized, it is actually a right to do so: "Under immigration laws, [in the cases of] individuals who do not have legal status upon entering the country, the

government may detain those individuals [in administrative or civil custody]. These individuals face, oftentimes, indefinite detention unless their immigration case is resolved. That's a concern to us and contrary to international law. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has issued guidelines regarding detention of asylum seekers and [recommended that] those individuals are to have what they call individualized assessments as to whether or not they are a danger to the community or a flight risk. And if the answer is no, they should be released."

NIJC hopes for specific outcomes from this complaint. McCarthy said one goal was that individuals such as these thirteen and the many others whose cases may not even be heard of, are not detained. She added, "We are also hoping for the Obama administration to immediately investigate these allegations and take steps to remedy them and implement the recommendations we set forth." NIJC is also hoping that the administration "will apply the protections of the Prison Rape Elimination Act," which is currently under consideration by the Department of Justice. Another component, according to her, is that some individuals are being mandatorily detained if they have committed some type of offense in the United States, "so we would advocate that the government does have discretion to review their detention and that their detention should not be arbitrary and prolonged without any kind of review."

The fact that asylees can be detained on arbitrary grounds has meant an explosion in the number of detainees. According to McCarthy, immigration officers detain 33,400 individuals (immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers) a day in 250-300 jails across the country. Many times, this happens in remote areas where they have no access to attorneys (they do not have a right to court-appointed counsel) or pro bono counsel, all of which is compounded by the fact that an asylee or refugee is more likely to be very poor and/or not fluent in English. In addition, they are often fleeing abuse and torture in the jails of their native countries, suffer from trauma and may not even be aware of their rights to medical treatment.

Owen Daniel-McCarter is a lead attorney and founder of Transformative Justice Law Project, which seeks to bring more attention and legal aid to people in the prison system. The group defines itself as "deeply committed to prison ab-



Owen Daniel-McCarter. Pic by Carrie Maxwell

olition, transformative justice, and gender self-determination." He praised the NIJC complaint, saying that "this effort to raise awareness in a public forum of what is happening to LGBT folks in detention is really important, and I'm grateful that NIJC has filed this complaint. Most people have no awareness that such instances of abuse are even happening."

Saying that the kinds of accounts presented in the complaint were just "the tip of the iceberg" and calling the detention system a "fortress of violence," Daniel-McCarter said that "immigration detention, as a whole, has so little accountability." He spoke of TJLP clients' experiences in detention, "where folks are placed in facilities according to the sex assigned at birth—which results in women being placed in men's facilities—verbal harassment, physical assault, and denial of medical care." He pointed out that the last was not just restricted to transgender inmates but reflected, on the whole, the way the medical system "is used as another way to harass people in jails."

Describing living conditions, he said that detainees were often living with 50-80 people in bunk beds, cots, or on the floor, and that part of the goal, for activists, ought to be to make sure that "we see the root causes of harassment as coming from the institution," and that detainees are often "mirroring" the behavior of keepers and enforcers when they abuse each other." Because of what he calls a culture of acceptance of such behavior, Daniel-McCarter "tend[s] not to blame other detainees for homophobic and transphobic behavior."

However, Daniel-McCarter also wants a shift in how such matters are addressed, saying that, "There needs to be a conversation simultaneous with legal efforts like this and we need to think of the structural problems with the immigration and the detention system as a whole." He would like people, in thinking about the issues facing immigrants in detention, "to also be addressing all of the huge problems happening inside of prisons and just a lack of accountability as a whole, when we have systems of incarceration and detention of any kind. I worry that [the complaint] has the potential to glorify the prison system. What does this do as far as further institutionalizing or accepting the use of immigration detention at all? Why are LGBT folks being disproportionately deported? [How do we address the] inherent heterosexism within immigration law as a whole?"

Daniel-McCarter acknowledged that none of these were easily resolvable: "It's this problem that all of us struggle with as attorneys—what are the limitations to a litigation strategy? And those are just conversations that the legal system as a whole doesn't allow us to have. It would be amazing if there were some sort of progressive, grassroots activism, happening in Chicago separate from NIJC, that supports this and also asks questions that force us to move beyond, 'What's happening in detention?' to 'Why do we have detention?'" He emphasized the importance of the NIJC complaint, saying that, "What they're doing within the legal framework is absolutely progressive and trying to push the boundaries of what ICE [Immigrations and Cus-

toms Enforcement], DHS and DOJ and have been doing so far."

NIJC has begun an online letter writing campaign, which can be found at <http://www.immigrantjustice.org/press/detention/ocrcl-complaint.html>. McCarthy, in speaking to the need for the LGBTQ community to respond to this matter, said, "We hope this will encourage the community to become aware of these issues happening to its brothers and sisters who are oftentimes invisible in our communities, and to talk about this and raise it with government officials."



Jesse Jackson. Photo by Andrew Davis

## Jackson, Rainbow PUSH deny claims

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., and his Chicago-based civil-rights organization, Rainbow PUSH, have denied the claims of Tommy Bennett, a former employee who alleges, among other things, termination and harassment because of his sexual orientation.

In a complaint filed with the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, Bennett made claims ranging from a co-worker refusing to work for him because he is gay to Jackson allegedly forcing Bennett to perform tasks Bennett found humiliating.

In a statement on its website, Rainbow PUSH said, "The Rainbow PUSH Coalition unequivocally denies Tommy Bennett's false claims of harassment, retaliation and discrimination"

"The Rainbow PUSH Coalition and Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. unequivocally deny Tommy Bennett's false claims of harassment, retaliation and discrimination. We are fully cooperating with the Chicago Commission on Human Relations and expect to be fully exonerated.

"The organization does not condone or tolerate discrimination in any form. Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. and the Rainbow PUSH Coalition stands on their record of advocating for equality and human rights for all people—from standing up to affirm the humanity of persons with HIV/AIDS and advocating for HIV/AIDS education and research, to supporting marriage equality and the abolition of Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy of the U.S. Military.

"His inflammatory allegations are an attempt to malign Rev. Jackson and the organization, and are hurtful and harmful to the progressive community.

"Rainbow PUSH and Rev. Jackson will have no further comment while the matter is pending before the Commission."



Mary Meg McCarthy. Photo courtesy of McCarthy

# Youth panel a tribute to activist Renae Ogletree

BY TERRENCE CHAPPELL

In celebration of Youth Awareness Month and in tribute to longtime youth activist Renae Ogletree, the Center on Halsted teamed with the Chicago Freedom School, Gender JUST and Broadway Youth Center for a dynamic April 15 panel discussion of how queer youth can change their communities and the world.

The queer youth panel discussion was a part of a month-long series of activities, discussions and other events for Youth Awareness Month. Friday, April 22, 6-9 p.m., at the Center there will be an "Eye of Our World: Youth Artists Showcase", and on April 29, 6-9 p.m., the Center presents "April Showers: Youth Awareness Awards."

Gender JUST's Sage Morgan-Hubbard moder-

ated the queer youth panel, titled "How Queer Youth Change the World." Panelists were Ansheera "Ace" Hilliard, Chicago Freedom School (via Skype from school in Madison); Russell Love-Mitchell, Center on Halsted's public ally; and Brian Johnson of Gender JUST.

Johnson, who has been an activist since he was 14, said he saw the panel discussion as not only a way to build his experience as a public speaker but also to represent Gender JUST. "My mother's recent passing inspires me to organize. She taught me to never give up on anything. I took that from her, and I use that every day," said Johnson.

Hilliard said she is committed to empowering youth "to speak up for what they want and the change they want to see." Hilliard is one of the

youth featured in Mary Morten's Woke Up Black documentary.

Center on Halsted's youth program director, Alicia Vega, said she was delighted to work with the other organizations to host a discussion that welcomed and offered insight on the problems young people face in today's world, and how to approach them and ignite change. Vega also said she was happy to dedicate the event in honor of the late Renae Ogletree (who died in April 2010).

Ogletree was a pillar of the LGBT community. Inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 1998, Ogletree sat on a number of boards in support of LGBT community affairs, including Gay Games VII, the Chicago Police Department's 23rd District Gay and Lesbian Advisory Committee and Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays. Ogletree escorted Michelle Obama to a 2004 Lesbian Community Cancer Project benefit at South Shore Cultural Center. The community leader lost her battle with cancer at the age of 59 on April 23, 2010. However, Ogletree's work and dedication to youth activism lives on and acts as a model for adults and youth to follow, to practice and to put into action.

"Ogletree had a passion for young people and has done so much to support them. She is truly a historical piece for young people," said Vega.

Chicago Freedom School, one of the participating organizations for the panel discussion, is a nonprofit agency committed to social justice issues that affect youth. Mia Henry, Chicago Freedom School's director, believes that her organization's work and participation represents one of Chicago Freedom School's missions of creating safe spaces where youth can express themselves, brainstorm ideas and work together. According to Henry, the discussion was a step in the right direction of building healthy intergenerational relationships.

"We want to support young people who are interested in activism. Chicago Freedom School offers a renewed passion for understanding history and what young people are doing today.

As adults, we can't leave young people on their own. We have to help them," said Henry.

Center on Halsted's youth program clinician Iu-Luen Jeng works with youth on their issues and concerns. Jeng was excited to see youth taking an active role in the problems and obstacles that affect them.

"I love seeing youth advocate for themselves. I think it's exciting to see young activists express how they feel and what they want. This is an example of how social justice can take place in a different way," said Jeng.

See more photos from the event online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.



Alicia Vega.  
Photo by  
Tracy Baim

## PASSAGES

### Andrew Karzas

Andrew John Karzas—renowned WFMT host of "From the Recording Horn" for 35 years, lecturer, opera aficionado, graduate of Harvard College and former owner of the Aragon Ballroom—passed away peacefully at home April 11. He was 77.

Karzas was the beloved life partner of 42 years of the late James Deuter; was the brother of Lois (John) Kempton of Iowa and the late Helen Cambourelis; uncle of Kathryn Kempton of Redondo Beach, Calif., Eleni Cambourelis-Benedikt of Windsor, United Kingdom and Diane Cambourelis-Haskins of Massachusetts. Karzas was also the dear friend of many valued associates and colleagues.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to: Lyric Opera of Chicago, [www.lyricopera.org](http://www.lyricopera.org); da Corneto Opera, 847-662-2694 or [www.dacorneto.org](http://www.dacorneto.org); or The Metropolitan Opera (Broadcast Division), 212-870-4505 or [http://www.metoperafamily.org/metopera/support/broadcast/make\\_gift.aspx](http://www.metoperafamily.org/metopera/support/broadcast/make_gift.aspx).

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# Making us count: Chicago queer couples in the census

Part two of a series

BY JOSEPH ERBENTRAUT

As the community anticipates the summer release of U.S. Census Bureau data on same-sex couples as reported in last year's decennial census, Windy City Times is running the second part of our series analyzing existing data from the "mini-census" American Community Surveys as it pertained to self-reporting same-sex couple-led households across the state of Illinois. [See the April 20 issue of Windy City Times for part one.]

This part two, we dig deeper into ACS data pertaining specifically to the city of Chicago. Just as the statewide analysis shed light on queer communities spread across a wide geographical expanse, our analysis continues to challenge the stereotype that LGBTQ people live exclusively in the most urban, glitzy parts of the state or, in this case, the city.

That said, much like last week's finding that half of the state's estimated 25,710 "unmarried partner households" (as they are labeled by the Census bureau) can be found in Cook County, a large portion (37.1 percent) of the city's unmarried partner households are estimated to be located in the four northernmost Lakefront-adjacent community areas.

Perhaps expectedly, Lakeview leads the way among the city's 77 designated community areas—identified by the University of Chicago's

Social Research Committee, in terms of its total number of estimated same-sex couple-led households. Lakeview is home to 1,106 such households, or 12 percent of the city total, followed by Edgewater (951, 10.3 percent), Rogers Park (736, 8 percent) and Uptown (635, 6.9 percent). These are only self-reporting same-sex couple-led households.

When these four community areas are combined with their nearest neighbors to the west—West Ridge, Lincoln Square and North Center—the seven combined community areas still account for just less than half (46.4 percent) of the city's total, indicating that any North Side-centric story about LGBTQ Chicagoans is, indeed, only telling (less than) half of the story of the city's queer communities.

Significant enclaves of queer households can also be found on the city's West and South Sides. Three of the top 10 community areas with the highest total of same-sex couple-led households are found on the Near West Side—namely West Town (including Wicker Park and Ukrainian Village), Logan Square and Near West (including Little Italy and the University of Illinois-Chicago campus). When accompanied with its adjacent-to-the-north neighbor, the up-and-coming Avondale neighborhood, the four areas make up 12.6 percent of the city's total.

Five lakefront-bordering areas on the city's South Side also account for a significant portion of the city's total estimate of queer couple-

led households (1.89 male households for every 1 female household) than Lakeview. Lakeview is estimated to be home to 10.77 queer male households for every one female household.

The variance in queer male:female households is further accentuated between Edgewater and Lakeview when the analysis is narrowed to the Census tracts comprising the respective Andersonville and Boystown "gayborhoods." Andersonville's male-to-female ratio is estimated to be 1.33:1, while Boystown's is 12.15:1. Andersonville's rate of queer couple-led households as a percentage of all households (5.3 percent) is also markedly higher than Boystown (2.4 percent). While we're not going to choose a side in this battle of the particular battle of the gayborhoods, we're going to go ahead and let these numbers speak for themselves.

Our analysis, finally, found another large discrepancy in how many queer female couple-led households reported a home south of Roosevelt Road (largely accepted as the boundary between the northern half of the city and its southern portion). Eighty-six percent of queer male households are found north of Roosevelt, while only 50 percent of queer female households are found in the northern half of the city. Further, among the community areas with the top 15 queer male:female ratios, 11 are found north of Roosevelt. That finding is reversed among the top 15 female:male ratios, where 11 such areas are located south of Roosevelt.

All told, only seven of the city's 77 community areas (9 percent) did not report being home to any same-sex couple-led households. Queer households can be found throughout the city—throughout its North, West and South sides, a notable assertion to be shared with any lawmaker or public decision-maker outside of the city's Lakefront-adjacent North Side who may not see LGBTQ concerns as issues of interest to their constituents.

However, all of these numbers are presented, just as with last week's statewide analysis, with significant caveats. First, many LGBTQ people remain invisible in the Census's eyes as the current survey offers no option for single people, as well as many bisexual people, transgender people and individuals who do not live with their partners to identify themselves.

As the sample size of this data goes down, so too does the reliability of the data. For example, the estimate of 9,228 same-sex couple-led households across the city, based on ACS data from the 2005-2009 five-year file, has a margin of error of +/- about 10 percent. As the lens focuses in closer on specific community areas, as in this analysis, that margin of error grows even higher, and for this reason, this analysis is meant to offer only a sketch of what the forthcoming decennial Census data may report.

Gary Gates, a Williams Distinguished Scholar at the Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy at the UCLA law school, has recently come under some fire in the community for releasing a recent report estimating that, based on the limited existing data that is reliable, only some four million adults identify as gay or lesbian—1.7 percent of the adult population, far lower than the popular 10 percent Kinsey Institute figure.

However, as Gates wrote in an April 8 op-ed in the Washington Post, such estimates—which he is among the first to call "imprecise"—sound a rallying cry for more reliable demographical

data on LGBTQ communities. "[T]here certainly is no longer a need to prove that gay people exist," Gates said, but as courts and lawmakers throughout the country take up debates surrounding how queer Americans can live their lives, accurate, defensible numbers are needed. Gates has been one of the leading advocates for the Census Bureau to add a question specifically pertaining to sexual orientation and gender identity to upcoming ACS forms.

"Assumptions about people are flimsy; numbers are solid," Gates said, referencing the decades-old Kinsey report. "The reality of our political system is that you don't really count unless you are counted. So it's time to stop believing an old estimate and start making an accurate count."

## Howard Brown names new COO, finance leader

Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) has announced the appointment of healthcare management and clinical operations leader David Grazman, MPP, Ph.D., as HBHC's senior vice president and chief operating officer. HBHC has also named experienced not-for-profit accountant Lowell Raven, CPA, as its controller.

Grazman's experience includes roles as the executive director of Heartland Health



David Grazman. Facebook pic

Outreach, a health program of the Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights, and as a professor of healthcare administration and public policy at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

As for Grazman recently leaving the alliance, Heartland Alliance President the Rev. Dr. Sid Mohr emailed Windy City Times that "Grazman did not complete his employment provisional period."

"Dr. Grazman brings with him significant insight and a unique skill set to Howard Brown Health Center that will promote and advance effectiveness and efficiency among our staff and in our services. Together we will continue our current and planned enhancements to improve our patient and client satisfaction and ensure we deliver the best possible care and support to those who have chosen Howard Brown Health Center for their health and wellness needs," said Jamal Edwards, HBHC president/CEO.

Raven joins Howard Brown Health Center after serving as a certified public accountant for more than 23 years, gaining experience with both public and private industry accounting.

—Andrew Davis



Edgewater.  
Photo by  
Mason  
Harrison

led households. Between the areas of Kenwood, Hyde Park, Woodlawn, South Shore and South Chicago, an estimated 5.9 percent of the city's total live.

When reported as a percentage of all the estimated households in their respective community area, Lakeview's rate of self-reported same-sex couple-led households (2.1 percent) remains well above the city average (0.9 percent) but its ranking falls behind two others—Edgewater (3.2 percent) and Rogers Park (3.0 percent).

Comparing the community areas' ratios of queer male households to queer female households, Edgewater (1.60 male households for every one female household), Uptown (3.04:1) and Rogers Park (3.91:1) are much more in line

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# Out at CHM look at history 'from Anita Bryant to Prop 8'

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The Out at the CHM (Chicago History Museum) series of talks, held at the museum's Rubloff Auditorium, concluded its eighth year of discussions April 14 with the topic "LGBT History Goes to Court: From Anita Bryant to Prop 8." George Chauncey, a Yale historian and author, was the featured speaker on why history matters to the courts.

Speaking to an almost packed house, Chauncey discussed various anti-gay tactics that have been used throughout the past 100 years to foster discrimination and how those tactics have played into court cases dealing with LGBT issues around the country.

During his opening remarks, Chauncey said it never occurred to him that any court would listen to him on LGBT issues. However, he has been in demand for the last 18 years as a witness for over a dozen gay-rights cases. The most notable were *Romer v. Evans* (1996), *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003) and *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* (2008 to present). His expertise has also been called upon as an historical consultant on numerous public history projects including this lecture series

which began in 2003.

Weaving between significant LGBT court cases and the work of anti-gay forces, Chauncey told the audience that both knowledge and ignorance of LGBT history have played roles in the pro and con arguments regarding the marriage issue, equal protection and sodomy laws.

He said that passage of anti-discrimination laws was slow in the beginning, with certain cities passing them in the 1970s and 1980s and states only coming on-board in the last 20 years. Part of that slow pace was due in part because of conservatives such as Anita Bryant and organizations like Focus on the Family, the American Family Foundation, the Moral Majority and the Family Research Council which were formed in the 1970s and early 1980s. Chauncey showed the audience newspaper headlines and video clips that these organizations used to demonize LGBT people and sway the public against LGBT rights.

Chauncey also reminded everyone that there has been a longer history of LGBT censorship that dates to before the 1970s. It began, Chauncey said, with theater censorship. In 1927, New York passed the "padlock law" banning lesbian

and gay content in theater productions. Then it moved to the movie industry with the production code in 1930 that the Catholic Church spearheaded. This code essentially took depictions of LGBT people out of the movies for years. Not only did censorship exist in theater and the movies—the post office also got involved in the 1950s when they confiscated materials with pro-gay images.

LGBT people were also prevented from living full lives, Chauncey explained. Beginning in 1934, they were refused service at bars and, later, employment in various fields, including the military, government and education. Chauncey added that immigration enforcement has always penalized same-sex binational couples, and anti-gay legislation and policing brought the movement to a new level. This is when the courts got involved, with mixed results for the LGBT community on all fronts.

Chauncey reminded everyone that history is forgotten and in some cases—like with the LGBT community—systematically erased from classes, making it easier for people to argue anti-gay agendas, both in the courtroom and in the court of public opinion. He added that, for all the historical exaggeration of anti-gay agendas, they have only been 20th-century (and, now, 21st-century) issues, Chauncey said.

During a question-and-answer session, when asked if the court of law or the court of public opinion was more effective in confronting discrimination, Chauncey said that both were equally important. He also said that we should look to the '60s civil-rights movement as an example to keep the movement going forward towards full LGBT equality.

To find out more about what the Chicago History Museum, visit <http://www.chicagohistory.org> and for the upcoming Out in Chicago exhibit that will open May 21, visit <http://www.chicagohistory.org/planavisit/exhibitions/out-in-chicago>.

See more photos from the event online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.

## TCRA lauds board's response to sheriff's anti-gay remark

The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA), a statewide civil-rights advocacy organization, released a statement praising the Schuyler County Board, who recently voted unanimously to mandate diversity training for all county department heads, employees and all members of the board.

The development occurred in response to remarks posted on Facebook by Schuyler County Sheriff Don Schieferdecker. According to AOL News, Schieferdecker 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), "Yup and his mouth is open, his glasses are off, he's ready, little fag Jew boy." Schieferdecker has apologized.

TCRA Executive Director Anthony Martinez recently gave a statement to the county board that included portions of a letter from Sue Hyde of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Hyde grew up in neighboring Beardstown.

After the vote, Martinez said in a statement, "This is an amazing achievement for Civil Rights in Illinois. To have all of the employees of the entire county going through diversity training, especially in a rural county such as this, will help to create change in every community throughout Schuyler. Education is one of the most important weapons we have in our arsenal against discrimination. I am thrilled with this outcome."



From left: Victor Salvo, George Chauncey and Lori Cannon. Photo by Tracy Baim

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# Gay man makes history on local school board

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

On April 5, residents in the Evanston-Skokie School District 65 region elected three new school board members, including openly gay candidate Richard Rykhus.

Rykhus is the first openly gay man to serve on the school board in the district. His appointment will begin upon the conclusion of a swearing-in ceremony scheduled for May 2.

A transplant to Evanston, Rykhus grew up in Michigan, where his parents were both educators. His father's career included positions as a teacher, principal and superintendent; his mother worked as a teacher.

Rykhus attended Catholic schools as a child and then attended a public high school. He was involved in sports and drama, playing varsity tennis and acting in many school productions.

He said that though his parents were committed to public education their Catholic religion impacted their decision to send Rykhus to private schools. Still, he said that his parent's always believed in the importance of quality public education to the success of a community.

Having two educators as parent's impacted Rykhus and influenced his interest and understanding in the field of education. He said, "There's no doubt that their focus and commitment to education really did sort of genetically find its way to me. Obviously there is nothing genetic about it, but when you are surrounded by educators and a lot of their friends who are educators, the topics that are covered when you are having dinner or reading and talking, you just soak it up in a way that I think people from non-educator families don't have the same opportunity to do. I would say that it had a profound impact on me."

Although he did not grow up to become a teacher himself, education remained an important area of interest for him. He began his career in training and business development after earning bachelor of art degrees in both marketing and Spanish from Michigan State University. He later went back to school and earned a masters degree in Learning Sciences from Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy, and currently works in the field of corporate learning as a director of strategic learning for Grant Thornton LLP.

Having an even greater impact on his continuing interest in education, and the reason that really helped him make the decision to run for school board, was the adoption of his son, Ty'rith, with his partner Carlos.

"We have eight years left in the school district. We know that there is a long road ahead of us in terms of the education that we hope our son will be able to get. Secondly, a few years ago we started paying more attention to what was going on at the board level. We would go to the meetings and I would leave scratching my head about some of the priorities that they were talking about and some of the conclusions they reached that were different than what I thought the data was telling them and elements of data that were not being considered. There were several choices that were made over the last year that really reinforced that for me. I decided I either needed to deal with things as they are or I needed to take action."

In addition to his professional background and personal stake in helping mold the district, Rykhus also has been actively involved in volunteer positions that he believes have equipped him with the skills to advocate effectively.

He held volunteer positions with both Evan-



Photo of husband Carlos, son Ty'rith and Richard Rykhus. Photo from Rykhus

ston Citizens for Appropriate Special Education, where he was an advocate for special education services for students with special needs, and GLSEN Chicago, "working to create safe schools for high school students and teachers, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity."

During the coming year, he has a handful of priorities he would like to see the school board begin to address.

Those priorities include: making sure that the district has a long-term growth plan to ensure that students have appropriate and adequate space to be successful learners; creating a clear vision of what achievement is that goes beyond test scores; to improve recruiting and retention of top tier teachers; and to consider the possibility of a merger with the local high school.

In addition, Rykhus said that Evanston is lucky to be a district that is still able to offer arts education and extracurricular activities for its students and he believes that these opportunities are vital in building life skills.

"They are critical," he said. "That is where you build community. That is where individuals really have a chance to pursue and deepen their expertise or knowledge in certain areas. It's complimentary because so much of what is focused on in class time is more academic in nature, but this helps you build those other essential life skills, in terms of organization and interpersonal skills and I think its critical."

While he is not fully aware of how the district is handling the rising issue of bullies and bullying, he does think that it is a life skills issue the district is taking a proactive stance against. He mentioned that his typically quiet son attended a production by a theater group on bullying and came home exuberant about what he had seen and learned that day. He would like to see more of this type of education in the classroom.

His new school-board position will keep him busy this year, but Rykhus looks forward to continuing to spend his free time with his family. He said his perfect Saturday would be spent with his husband and son, first watching his son play sports, then spending time at the lake and finally, enjoying a dinner out.

He also enjoys spending his free time reading political blogs, playing tennis or catching a college football or basketball game and meeting up with friends.

Rykhus is glad to be a member of the Evanston community. He knows that in some communities an openly gay man could not win an election for school board and he is proud to be part of a community where sexuality is a non-issue.

## LESBIAN from cover

of unique credentials which will allow her to be a strong and effective progressive force in the Illinois House ... she will hit the ground running on May 16."

"I am honored to have been selected from over 20 candidates to fill the vacancy left by Representative Harry Osterman's election as 48th ward alderman," Cassidy said. "The 14th District has an abundance of motivated and talented people who presented their credentials yesterday. I have nothing but respect for all of the candidates who made presentations and the nearly 200 people who came to see the presentations. I am thankful for the confidence placed in me by Committeewoman Carol Ronan, Committeeman David Fagus and Committeeman Patrick O'Connor who made this decision after an open and fair process."

Basta responded quickly with a press statement attacking both the process of Cassidy's selection, and Cassidy's clout. "Although I am respectful of the laws governing the appointment process for this vacancy, I believe the only true way to earn this seat is through the democratic process where the people get to choose who represents their voices," Basta said in a press statement. "That is why I am announcing without a doubt that I will run for this seat in 2012."

In what appears to be a direct shot at Cassidy, Basta claimed she is "not a well-connected insider or connected to a deep-pocketed political machine. I plan to walk each block, knock on every door and earn each vote from the neighbors and friends I have lived next door to and served for over 30 years."

"I am mindful that I will be representing one of the most diverse districts in the state and I plan to spend as much time as possible in the coming months meeting with residents so that they can share their concerns and ideas about our community," Cassidy said. "I look forward to the opportunity to work closely with all of the people of the 14th District as we work towards solutions to the fiscal challenges our state faces. Over the coming weeks as I prepare to take office, I hope to meet with as many people as possible to gather their thoughts and ideas on the needs of the district and solutions to the budget crisis. I am looking forward to working with Sen. Heather Steans, Rep. Greg Harris, Alderman-elect Osterman, Ald. O'Connor and Ald. Joe Moore to serve our constituents and to do

everything we can to ensure the interests of the district are protected as much as we possibly can in the face of the looming budget cuts ahead."

"Kelly will make a great addition to the House of Representatives," said Harris. "I have known her for many years and have always been impressed by her commitment to LGBT rights, a woman's right to choose, and her neighborhood. She has a long track record of effective work in public policy advocacy, in government and community affairs. I think this is great because it will help her hit the ground running at a time when she will be called upon to help make some of the most dire and difficult choices in our state's history. I will be proud to serve with her!"

Rep. Mell also welcomed Cassidy's appointment. "I am thrilled to serve in the General Assembly with Kelly. She is more than qualified and a perfect fit for the 14th district," Mell said.

Longtime gay-rights activist Rick Garcia sent out a press release on the appointment. "It is telling that Kelly won a unanimous vote. She is imminently qualified to represent the district and she has an impeccable record on LGBT issues," Garcia said.

"There was an abundance of riches in this district," Garcia continued. "Trans rights activist Catherine Sikora has a rich and long history in the community as does Paula Basta. ... The committeemen, and especially Committeewoman Carol Ronan, should be commended not only for the open process but for considering all the diversity of this district."

Garcia said in 1996 Cassidy (who had a broken leg) helped organize a lobby day at the Springfield capitol to oppose the legislative ban on same-sex marriage. "It was one of our largest lobby days and there was Kelly hobbling around in a foot cast and crutches," Garcia said. "That is a real commitment to fairness and equality. She will be a strong and effective advocate in Springfield."

"We are thrilled with this appointment. Kelly has the experience and intelligence to be an excellent state legislator," said Lowell Jaffe, political director of The Civil Rights Agenda. "The LGBTQ community has a new ally in the General Assembly, and I have no doubt that she will be able to make the difficult decisions that are facing our leaders and the state. Our legislative team is very much looking forward to working with her in her new role."

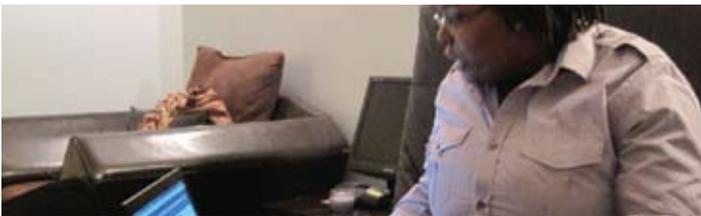


The newest Illinois state representative, Kelly Cassidy, with her sons. Photo courtesy of Cassidy



*a*  
**GAY** *in the*  
**LIFE**

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY KATE SOSIN



Webcaster  
**Anna DeShawn**

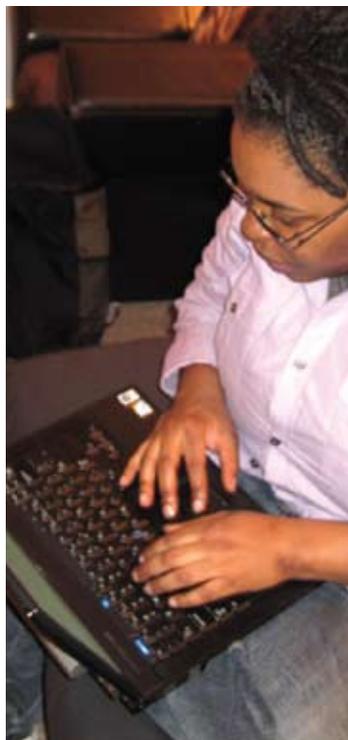
At a time when many journalists are covering before the blogosphere, Anna DeShawn is more excited than ever to talk about the many ways she feels the internet can change the face of news. DeShawn is the founder of E3 Radio, an internet-based independent radio station committed to education, enlightenment, and empowerment (thus the E3).

By day, DeShawn works as a webcaster for INXP0, company that uses internet video streaming to allow clients to virtually attend meetings, workshops, and conventions. By night, DeShawn runs the entire E3 station and website from her living room couch, on a single laptop. It's a more honest way of producing news, she told Windy City Times.

"You don't have to put up or look a certain way," she said. DeShawn studied communications and broadcast at Drake University, but she fell out of love with television and mainstream media. "I got tired of the status quo," she said.

E3 radio was an attempt at something new, a widely accessible free radio station that would feature local music and politically aware conversation. "The whole idea is to be authentically edgy and socially conscious," DeShawn said. DeShawn's own program, The Anna DeShawn show, focuses on issues relevant to queer people of color.

The station was founded just over a year ago, and so far, it's working. E3 is growing rapidly, attracting thousands of listeners from all over the country. DeShawn hopes the result will be a successful, independent media company. She's just getting started, she said. "The Internet is so freaking powerful. We haven't even tapped into all we can do."




**Name**  
Anna DeShawn

**Neighborhood**  
Lake View

**Hobbies**  
Basketball, technology,  
watching reality TV

**Relationship status**  
Partnered

**Wants to interview**  
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Angela Davis



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# AIDS @30

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Touched By A Person With AIDS

This was a common activist tactic in the 1980s, trying to attack the incorrect rumors about how AIDS is spread. These were stickers used around Chicago. From the Outlines archives.

# U.S. AIDS Confab in Chicago this year

BY KATE SOSIN

The country's largest AIDS conference is Chicago-bound this year for the first time in its 15-year history. The United States Conference on AIDS (USCA), sponsored by the National Minority AIDS Council and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will be Nov. 9-13 at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers downtown. The conference has never before been held in the Midwest.

"We got lucky," said Cynthia Tucker, director of prevention and community partnerships for AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC) and chair of the USCA host committee. Tucker believes that the conference is an opportunity for Chicago to showcase the work of local service providers, both individually and collectively.

The three-day event is expected to bring in more than 3,500 participants and 150 vendors, with workshops on drug use, domestic violence, HIV prevention in communities of color, transgender health and youth, among others. The event is being hosted by a committee composed of 127 local service providers from the Chicago Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Public Health and organizations such as Center on Halsted, Test Positive Aware Network and Vida/SIDA.

The focus of this year's conference will be on gay men, the risk group that experts say is most severely affected by AIDS right now. Tucker said that Chicago was awarded the USCA, in part, because the city is doing a lot to cut down on infection rates among gay men. That's possible, she said, because Chicago organizations talk to each other and share resources through the AFC Service Providers Council, something that has set Chicago apart from many other cities.

"We have a very good surveillance system here in Chicago for tracking ... who is positive, who has AIDS," Tucker said. "We are very organized in Chicago when it comes to care and prevention."

Rosa E. Martínez Colón, assistant director of CALOR and community co-chair of this year's conference, said that Chicago is not only a "model for services," but the city with the fourth largest AIDS problem. Colón said that if Chicago is to continue in its fight against AIDS, service organizations will need more funding and fast.

"I hope that having this conference here is a wake-up call, and we can recharge ourselves,"

she said. "It's incredible the lack of funding that we have right now."

Last year in Illinois, AIDS prevention and care was flat-funded; while the number of HIV-positive people needing resources and financial assistance increased due to a poor economy, funding did not. Hard economic times forced the closure of Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV), a two-decade-old AIDS service organization in Edgewater earlier this year.

AIDS advocates believe the USCA is an opportunity to spotlight those hardships in Chicago. "It will be a time for us to put our local politicians and stakeholders to pinpoint their stance on HIV prevention," Tucker said.

Colón hopes the conference will also put youth issues on the spot. She feels that youth in Chicago aren't worried about HIV because drugs have made AIDS manageable. Colón said she is pushing for more dialogue at the conference on young people and AIDS because, she said "in past conferences, there has not been a lot of attention given to youth. ... HIV/AIDS is not a reality anymore for them."

Registration for the conference is open to all. Admission starts at \$400, but scholarships are available through application. For more information go to <http://www.nmac.org/index/2011-usca>



Cynthia Tucker.



Photo at last year's USCA. Photo courtesy AFC

## Transgender HIV conference in May

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago's Service Providers Council's Transgender Conference will be Thursday, May 19, 2011, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at the University Center, 525 S. State. "TransActions" is organized by AFC's Service Providers' Council (SPC) Prevention & Care Committees and the ad-hoc host committee. It will bring together local, state and national leaders to discuss "best practice," cultural competency, employment issues, research-based programs and HIV/STI prevention for and with transgendered populations.

Featured speakers include Joanne Hermann, author of Transgender Explained For Those Who Are Not; Jamison Green, Ph.D., an international leader in transgender, health, policy, law and education from the University of California, San Francisco; and

Amanda Simpson, a political and transgender trailblazer.

The conference will appeal to anyone interested in promoting healthy behaviors and providing services and those in labor and employment who are interested in increasing diversity in the workplace with regards to the transgender population. It will be of particular value to professional educators; service providers in the areas of mental health, substance abuse prevention, intervention, treatment, prevention education, treatment and adherence education (i.e., healthcare providers, prevention and community health workers, nurses, health educators, program directors, social workers, case managers); and resource managers, labor and diversity specialists.

See <http://www.aidschicago.org>.



Danny Sotomayor editorial cartoon from 1989. Courtesy of Lori Cannon



Sotomayor circa 1990. Photo by Lisa Howe-Ebright

# One-of-a-kind: Danny Sotomayor acted up and fought back

BY OWEN KEEHNEN

Daniel Sotomayor was born in 1958 and grew up in poverty in the Humboldt Park area of Chicago. Initially he wanted to be an actor and studied his craft at Center Theatre. He also graduated with a degree in graphic arts from Columbia College.

Sotomayor's life changed dramatically with his AIDS diagnosis in 1988. In autumn of that year, after experiencing the power of ACT UP/New York at the Food and Drug Administration demonstration in Rockville, Md., Sotomayor returned to Chicago transformed. Along with Paul Adams, Lori Cannon and many others, he helped create the Chicago chapter of ACT UP (the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), and Sotomayor soon became a highly visible member of the organization. His colorful HIV-awareness and safe-sex T-shirts, buttons and protest posters helped give the fledgling organization a visual identity and raised needed funds.

Sotomayor also gained notoriety in the activist community for his tireless confrontation of Mayor Richard M. Daley on the issue of AIDS rights and funding. His relentless protests of the mayor's policies included frequent verbal challenges and even the unfurling of a banner at a black-tie gala that read, "Daley, Tell the Truth About AIDS." Daley once said of him, "Why is that man always screaming at me?" Sotomayor's unrelenting tactics are considered a major factor in Daley's significant increase in AIDS funding during the early 1990s.

On April 24, 1990, ACT UP/Chicago sponsored the National AIDS Action for Healthcare demonstration, a daylong event that consisted of 5,000 to 6,000 protesters clogging the downtown area and targeted the practices of the American Medical Association and the insurance industry in regard to the AIDS epidemic. Sotomayor, Adams, Tim Miller and Billy McMillan emerged with banners flying atop a balcony of the Cook County Building on Clark Street to the cheers of the crowd on the street below.

Eventually Sotomayor and ACT UP/Chicago parted ways. Sotomayor contended that AIDS

was the group's primary focus and opposed widening its focus to include class, gender and race issues. Sotomayor continued his activism with a new direct action group, Cure AIDS Now.

Sotomayor's in-your-face methods and on going struggle for his own life as well as the welfare of other persons with AIDS (PWAs) was the subject of the Public Broadcasting Service documentary film *Short Fuse*. His life was also chronicled in a Chicago Reader cover article, "The Angriest Queer." In the Reader piece, Sotomayor remarked, "This isn't a popularity contest, you know. I really don't care whether people like me, or whether they approve of my style or my methods. The question is whether I'm right and whether we're making progress. Because if we are, then fuck 'em."

That focus and that combative nature were also apparent in Sotomayor's cartoons. In 1989 he became the first nationally syndicated, openly gay editorial cartoonist. During his three-year career with such publications as *Gay Chicago*, *Windy City Times*, *Outlines*, *Heartland*, the *Bay Area Reporter*, the *San Francisco Sentinel*, *Out-Week*, and *Au Courant*, Sotomayor contributed more than 200 cartoons that cut to the heart of matters with acerbic prowess, tackling such issues as bureaucratic red tape, government indifference, pharmaceutical company greed, the health care system, insurance companies, the demonizing policies of the church, and numerous other issues faced by PWAs.

In the midst of his ongoing struggle with outside forces, Sotomayor's own AIDS battle continued. Through much of 1991 and into 1992 Sotomayor and his partner Scott McPherson (author of the acclaimed play *Marvin's Room*) cared for each other with the help of Cannon and other close friends. Sotomayor eventually succumbed to AIDS at Illinois Masonic Medical Center on Feb. 5, 1992.

Since his passing there have been several retrospectives of Sotomayor's activism, life, and work.

From the book *Out and Proud in Chicago: An Overview of the City's Gay Community*, edited by Tracy Baim (2008, Surrey).



Sotomayor (right) and other participants (including Bill McMillan, second from left) at an AIDS vigil circa 1990. Photo by Lisa Howe-Ebright

*"You just have to do what you can do and don't give up, because one day there are going to be survivors." — Danny Sotomayor*



Danny Sotomayor in a rare moment of calm, with lesbian attorney and activist Renee Hanover, circa 1990. Hanover died in January 2011. Photo by Lisa Howe-Ebright



# Chicago HIV/AIDS cases pass 36,000

BY TRACY BAIM

As of March 2011, 36,802 people had been reported to the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) with a diagnosis of HIV infection—this includes both AIDS and HIV (not AIDS)—since reporting began in the early 1980s for AIDS and 1999 for HIV (not AIDS). Of these, 14,507 (39 percent) have died and 22,295 are living with HIV infection.

Accompanying this article are several graphs and tables showing breakdowns of AIDS and HIV Infection Diagnoses by year and selected demographic and risk characteristics in Chicago. Because reporting of HIV (not AIDS) and AIDS began at different times, the graphs and tables are presented for both AIDS and HIV infection. First, looking at the gender breakdown of AIDS,

of the 25,269 cases reported to CDPH through 2009, 20,813 (82 percent) were in men, and 4,456 (18 percent) involved women. [Numbers for the transgender population began to be collected in 2010 and are not yet complete.] The number of HIV infection diagnoses reflects a similar pattern with a slightly higher percentage among women: out of 16,879 HIV-related cases, 13,035 (77 percent) were men and 3,854 (23 percent) were women.

The table on race and ethnicity is also interesting. While the disease in Chicago and other U.S. cities was initially reported in some media as targeting white gay men, reports show its path was not narrow even in the early 1980s. Of the 25,269 reported AIDS cases through 2009, the largest affected racial demographic is, by far, Blacks. In the “Non-Hispanic, Black”

category, CDPH shows 14,052; “Non-Hispanic White” 6,963; “Hispanic” 3,784; and “Other” 467. The breakdown is similar in reported HIV infection cases, with 9,705 of the 16,879 total in Blacks, 3,920 in whites, 2,761 in Hispanics and 475 in “Other.”

In the Mode of Transmission table of reported AIDS cases, “Men who have Sex with Men” (MSM) make up more than 50 percent of the 25,269 total, or 13,237 cases. Intravenous Drug Users (IDU) account for 27 percent, or 6,856 cases, and heterosexual contact account for 12 percent, 2,979, of total reported AIDS cases. MSM who also are IV drug users are 1,802 of the total. Heterosexual transmission accounts for 2,979 cases, with 396 listed as “other.”

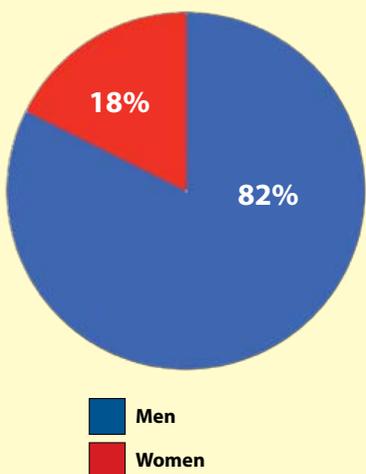
The Chicago Department of Public Health began tracking what would later become known

as AIDS in 1980. The statistics for those early years show fewer than five cases in 1980 and 1981 (low numbers are suppressed in the tables because of privacy concerns), but a jump to 16 in 1982 and 42 in 1983. These were cases reported to CDPH, and likely did not represent the full impact of the epidemic, especially prior to HIV testing. Of the 16,879 HIV cases, 9,134 are in MSM, 3,366 in IDU, 858 in MSM/IDU, 3,386 are listed as heterosexually transmitted and 112 as “other.”

In the coming weeks, Windy City Times will also analyze data from nationwide AIDS/HIV reporting, and take a closer look at the geographic breakdown in Chicago.

## Trends of AIDS Diagnoses by Sex, Chicago 1981-2009, as of 3/2011

| Year of Diagnosis | Gender        |              | Total         |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|                   | Male          | Female       |               |
| 1981              | -             | -            | -             |
| 1982              | 16            | -            | 16            |
| 1983              | 38            | -            | 42            |
| 1984              | 105           | 8            | 113           |
| 1985              | 215           | 7            | 222           |
| 1986              | 365           | 9            | 374           |
| 1987              | 568           | 34           | 602           |
| 1988              | 711           | 54           | 765           |
| 1989              | 821           | 83           | 904           |
| 1990              | 1,039         | 105          | 1,144         |
| 1991              | 1,240         | 175          | 1,415         |
| 1992              | 1,484         | 238          | 1,722         |
| 1993              | 1,625         | 294          | 1,919         |
| 1994              | 1,532         | 288          | 1,820         |
| 1995              | 1,320         | 296          | 1,616         |
| 1996              | 1,163         | 283          | 1,446         |
| 1997              | 885           | 249          | 1,134         |
| 1998              | 660           | 202          | 862           |
| 1999              | 729           | 202          | 931           |
| 2000              | 750           | 227          | 977           |
| 2001              | 731           | 219          | 950           |
| 2002              | 781           | 259          | 1,040         |
| 2003              | 689           | 229          | 918           |
| 2004              | 601           | 186          | 787           |
| 2005              | 688           | 191          | 879           |
| 2006              | 581           | 172          | 753           |
| 2007              | 500           | 144          | 644           |
| 2008              | 544           | 162          | 706           |
| 2009*             | 429           | 135          | 564           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>20,813</b> | <b>4,456</b> | <b>25,269</b> |



Note: Total includes cells with less than 5 observations but are suppressed in the table. \*Data for 2009 are provisional. Source: Chicago Department of Public Health HIV/STI Division - Surveillance, Epidemiology and Research Section, 03/23/2011

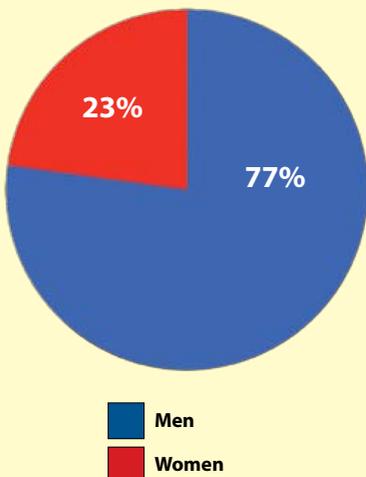
## Trends of AIDS Diagnoses by Race/Ethnicity, Chicago 1981-2009, as of 3/2011

| Year of Diagnosis | Race/Ethnicity      |                     |              |                     | Total*        |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|
|                   | Not Hispanic, Black | Not Hispanic, White | Hispanic     | Not Hispanic, Other |               |
| 1981              | -                   | -                   | -            | -                   | -             |
| 1982              | 6                   | 9                   | -            | -                   | 16            |
| 1983              | 13                  | 24                  | -            | -                   | 42            |
| 1984              | 33                  | 69                  | 10           | -                   | 113           |
| 1985              | 64                  | 131                 | 24           | -                   | 222           |
| 1986              | 134                 | 195                 | 43           | -                   | 374           |
| 1987              | 214                 | 304                 | 80           | -                   | 602           |
| 1988              | 281                 | 366                 | 109          | 9                   | 765           |
| 1989              | 369                 | 401                 | 131          | -                   | 904           |
| 1990              | 529                 | 442                 | 161          | 12                  | 1,144         |
| 1991              | 700                 | 525                 | 180          | 10                  | 1,415         |
| 1992              | 890                 | 571                 | 246          | 15                  | 1,722         |
| 1993              | 1,046               | 589                 | 264          | 20                  | 1,919         |
| 1994              | 979                 | 558                 | 266          | 17                  | 1,820         |
| 1995              | 963                 | 407                 | 213          | 33                  | 1,616         |
| 1996              | 888                 | 334                 | 201          | 23                  | 1,446         |
| 1997              | 732                 | 219                 | 158          | 25                  | 1,134         |
| 1998              | 559                 | 147                 | 134          | 21                  | 862           |
| 1999              | 586                 | 192                 | 133          | 20                  | 931           |
| 2000              | 617                 | 181                 | 161          | 18                  | 977           |
| 2001              | 614                 | 157                 | 160          | 19                  | 950           |
| 2002              | 628                 | 190                 | 191          | 31                  | 1,040         |
| 2003              | 593                 | 148                 | 150          | 27                  | 918           |
| 2004              | 477                 | 151                 | 140          | 19                  | 787           |
| 2005              | 502                 | 193                 | 153          | 31                  | 879           |
| 2006              | 450                 | 140                 | 133          | 30                  | 753           |
| 2007              | 388                 | 122                 | 103          | 31                  | 644           |
| 2008              | 450                 | 111                 | 122          | 23                  | 706           |
| 2009**            | 344                 | 86                  | 113          | 19                  | 564           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>14,052</b>       | <b>6,963</b>        | <b>3,784</b> | <b>467</b>          | <b>25,269</b> |

Note: Total includes cells with less than 5 observations but are suppressed in the table. \*Includes cases with unknown race/ethnicity. \*\*Data for 2009 are provisional. Source: Chicago Department of Public Health HIV/STI Division - Surveillance, Epidemiology and Research Section, 03/23/2011

## Trends of HIV Infection\* Diagnoses by Sex, Chicago 1999-2009, as of 3/2011

| Year of Diagnosis | Gender        |              | Total         |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|                   | Male          | Female       |               |
| 1999              | 1,313         | 408          | 1,721         |
| 2000              | 1,403         | 469          | 1,872         |
| 2001              | 1,442         | 483          | 1,925         |
| 2002              | 1,395         | 429          | 1,824         |
| 2003              | 1,250         | 387          | 1,637         |
| 2004              | 1,123         | 331          | 1,454         |
| 2005              | 1,112         | 273          | 1,385         |
| 2006              | 1,126         | 297          | 1,423         |
| 2007              | 955           | 259          | 1,214         |
| 2008              | 1,001         | 292          | 1,293         |
| 2009**            | 905           | 226          | 1,131         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>13,025</b> | <b>3,854</b> | <b>16,879</b> |

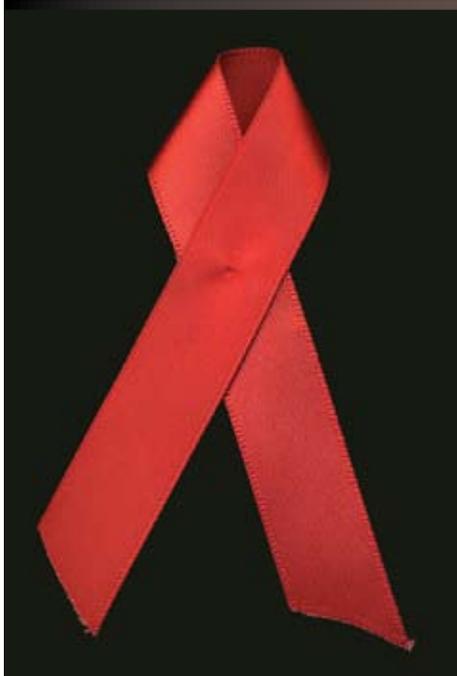


\*HIV infection diagnosis represents a diagnosis of HIV infection regardless of the person's AIDS status at the time of diagnosis. HIV reporting began in July 1999 and thus numbers prior to 1999 are not provided. \*\*Data for 2009 are provisional. Source: Chicago Department of Public Health HIV/STI Division - Surveillance, Epidemiology and Research Section, 03/23/2011

## Trends of HIV Infection\* Diagnoses by Race/Ethnicity, Chicago 1999-2009, as of 3/2011

| Year of Diagnosis | Race/Ethnicity      |                     |              |                     | Total**       |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|
|                   | Not Hispanic, Black | Not Hispanic, White | Hispanic     | Not Hispanic, Other |               |
| 1999              | 1,042               | 392                 | 251          | 36                  | 1,721         |
| 2000              | 1,131               | 401                 | 287          | 53                  | 1,872         |
| 2001              | 1,118               | 428                 | 328          | 51                  | 1,925         |
| 2002              | 1,007               | 450                 | 318          | 49                  | 1,824         |
| 2003              | 930                 | 385                 | 279          | 43                  | 1,637         |
| 2004              | 806                 | 371                 | 235          | 42                  | 1,454         |
| 2005              | 741                 | 378                 | 226          | 40                  | 1,385         |
| 2006              | 804                 | 348                 | 230          | 41                  | 1,423         |
| 2007              | 703                 | 275                 | 193          | 42                  | 1,214         |
| 2008              | 776                 | 253                 | 217          | 47                  | 1,293         |
| 2009***           | 647                 | 239                 | 197          | 31                  | 1,131         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>9,705</b>        | <b>3,920</b>        | <b>2,761</b> | <b>475</b>          | <b>16,879</b> |

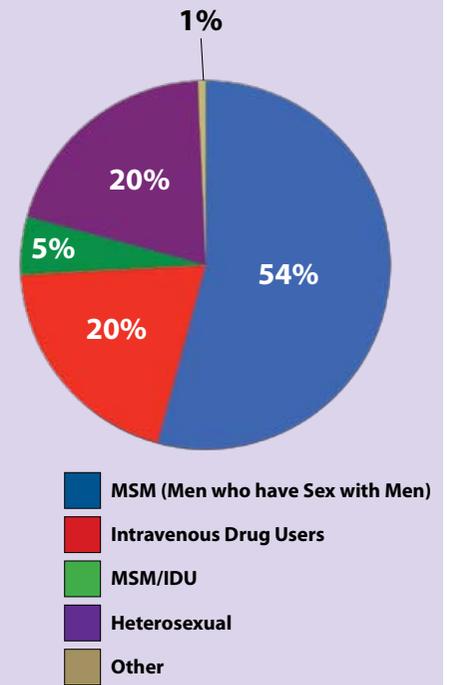
\*HIV infection diagnosis represents a diagnosis of HIV infection regardless of the person's AIDS status at the time of diagnosis. HIV reporting began in July 1999 and thus numbers prior to 1999 are not complete. \*\*Includes cases with unknown race/ethnicity. \*\*\*Data for 2009 are provisional. Source: Chicago Department of Public Health HIV/STI Division - Surveillance, Epidemiology and Research Section, 03/23/2011



### Trends of AIDS Diagnoses by Mode of Transmission, Chicago 1981-2009, as of 3/2011

| Year of Diagnosis | Mode of Transmission             |                               |              |              |            | Total*        |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
|                   | MSM<br>Men who have Sex with Men | IDU<br>Intravenous Drug Users | MSM/IDU      | Heterosexual | Other      |               |
| 1981              | -                                | -                             | -            | -            | -          | -             |
| 1982              | 14                               | -                             | -            | -            | -          | 16            |
| 1983              | 30                               | 5                             | -            | -            | -          | 42            |
| 1984              | 91                               | 10                            | 7            | -            | -          | 113           |
| 1985              | 177                              | 17                            | 19           | -            | 7          | 222           |
| 1986              | 304                              | 28                            | 26           | 5            | 10         | 374           |
| 1987              | 460                              | 84                            | 29           | 10           | 20         | 602           |
| 1988              | 551                              | 129                           | 33           | 30           | 22         | 765           |
| 1989              | 610                              | 181                           | 47           | 25           | 42         | 904           |
| 1990              | 741                              | 250                           | 74           | 44           | 35         | 1,144         |
| 1991              | 840                              | 369                           | 93           | 79           | 34         | 1,415         |
| 1992              | 926                              | 560                           | 116          | 99           | 21         | 1,722         |
| 1993              | 990                              | 643                           | 115          | 134          | 37         | 1,919         |
| 1994              | 930                              | 617                           | 110          | 135          | 27         | 1,820         |
| 1995              | 747                              | 555                           | 140          | 141          | 33         | 1,616         |
| 1996              | 665                              | 496                           | 128          | 144          | 13         | 1,446         |
| 1997              | 464                              | 371                           | 115          | 171          | 13         | 1,134         |
| 1998              | 339                              | 290                           | 83           | 133          | 16         | 862           |
| 1999              | 409                              | 274                           | 86           | 155          | 8          | 931           |
| 2000              | 416                              | 303                           | 80           | 176          | -          | 977           |
| 2001              | 420                              | 266                           | 83           | 172          | 7          | 950           |
| 2002              | 471                              | 289                           | 78           | 196          | 6          | 1,040         |
| 2003              | 431                              | 213                           | 76           | 195          | -          | 918           |
| 2004              | 397                              | 190                           | 53           | 143          | 5          | 787           |
| 2005              | 444                              | 192                           | 56           | 183          | 5          | 879           |
| 2006              | 373                              | 160                           | 51           | 166          | -          | 753           |
| 2007              | 343                              | 127                           | 34           | 137          | -          | 644           |
| 2008              | 357                              | 138                           | 38           | 167          | 5          | 706           |
| 2009**            | 297                              | 100                           | 29           | 134          | -          | 564           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>13,237</b>                    | <b>6,856</b>                  | <b>1,802</b> | <b>2,979</b> | <b>396</b> | <b>25,269</b> |

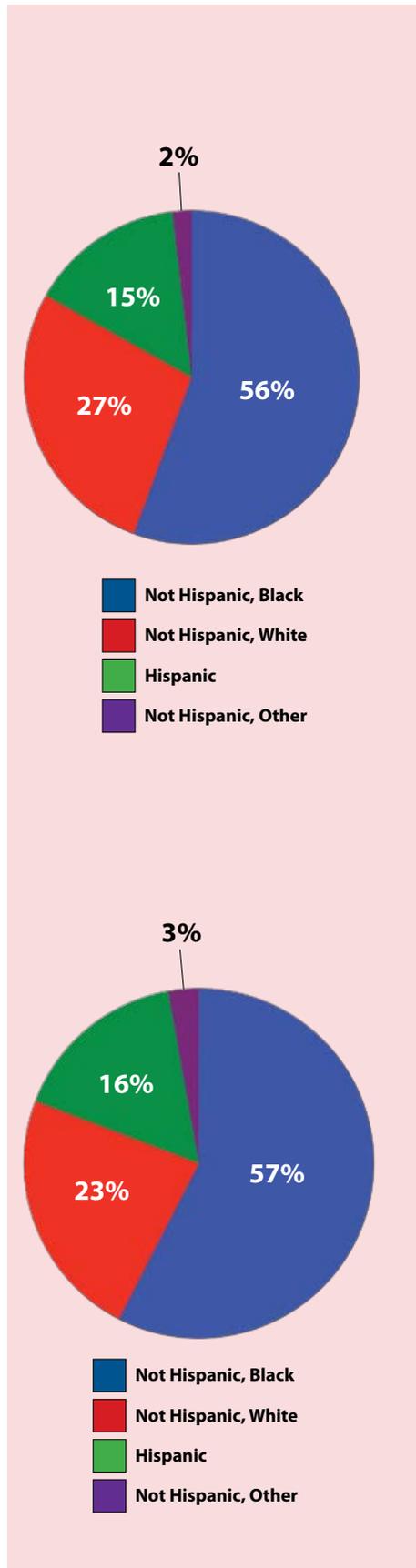
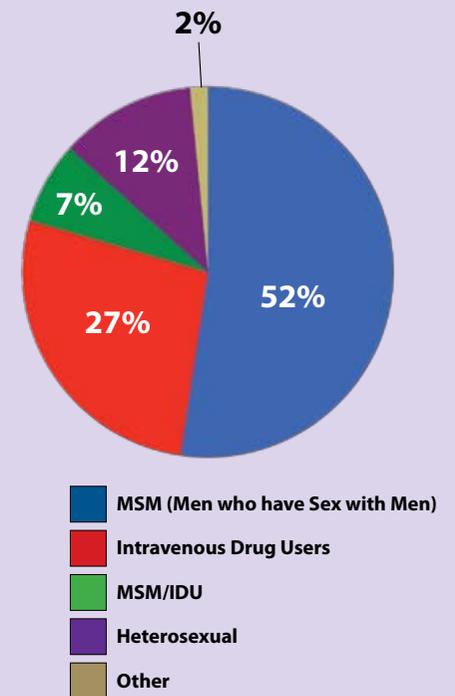
Note: Total includes cells with less than 5 observations but are suppressed in the table.  
 \*Includes cases with unassigned risk.  
 \*\*Data for 2009 are provisional.  
 Source: Chicago Department of Public Health  
 HIV/STI Division - Surveillance, Epidemiology and Research Section, 03/23/2011



### Trends of HIV Infection\* Diagnoses by Mode of Transmission, Chicago 1999-2009, as of 3/2011

| Year of Diagnosis | Mode of Transmission             |                               |            |              |            | Total**       |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
|                   | MSM<br>Men who have Sex with Men | IDU<br>Intravenous Drug Users | MSM/IDU    | Heterosexual | Other      |               |
| 1999              | 794                              | 475                           | 138        | 298          | 17         | 1,721         |
| 2000              | 846                              | 502                           | 123        | 386          | 12         | 1,872         |
| 2001              | 936                              | 472                           | 123        | 377          | 17         | 1,925         |
| 2002              | 978                              | 397                           | 96         | 344          | 10         | 1,824         |
| 2003              | 896                              | 299                           | 94         | 340          | 7          | 1,637         |
| 2004              | 816                              | 279                           | 68         | 284          | 8          | 1,454         |
| 2005              | 798                              | 232                           | 63         | 385          | 7          | 1,385         |
| 2006              | 850                              | 207                           | 45         | 309          | 11         | 1,423         |
| 2007              | 735                              | 183                           | 41         | 244          | 10         | 1,214         |
| 2008              | 774                              | 181                           | 43         | 287          | 7          | 1,293         |
| 2009***           | 712                              | 141                           | 24         | 232          | 7          | 1,131         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>9,134</b>                     | <b>3,366</b>                  | <b>858</b> | <b>3,386</b> | <b>113</b> | <b>16,879</b> |

Note: Total includes cells with less than 5 observations but are suppressed in the table.  
 \*HIV infection diagnosis represents a diagnosis of HIV infection regardless of the person's AIDS status at the time of diagnosis.  
 HIV reporting began in July 1999 and thus numbers prior to 1999 are not provided.  
 \*\*Includes cases with unassigned risk.  
 \*\*\*Data for 2009 are provisional.  
 Source: Chicago Department of Public Health  
 HIV/STI Division - Surveillance, Epidemiology and Research Section, 03/23/2011



## AFC and Windy City Times Want Your Stories for AIDS @ 30

Were you around during the era of GRID and ACT UP? Did you lose friends or family? Then the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) and the Windy City Times want to hear your account of that time. We are teaming up to produce a nine-month series called AIDS @ 30 to recognize the 30th year of AIDS in America, remember the early days of the epidemic, honor those we lost, and celebrate long-term survivors.

AIDS @ 30 will draw from more than two decades of photographs and articles from the Windy City Times and other Chicago publications, but we need your stories to give this project real life. The weekly features will run in the Windy City Times from April through December, tracing the epidemic's history from the early 1980's. The series will feature profiles of local advocates, organizations, those lost to AIDS, and uncover personal stories of family members, friends and people who have lived with AIDS for 20 years or more.

Is there a particular person, organization or story you think needs to be highlighted in AIDS @ 30? If so, please contribute your story ideas!

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AIDSAT30>



## VIEWPOINTS

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 Community Marketing, Inc.

REV. IRENE  
MONROE

## Using Blacks 'for saving America from the bondage of gay marriage'

No faith community knows better than the Black Church how religion-based bigotry shapes prejudicial attitudes many white Americans once held toward African Americans in this country.

Religious texts have been interpreted to justify some of this country's worst crimes against our community, resulting in the legality of slavery, the lynching of Black boys and men— one of which this nation will never forget—15 year old Emmett Till— and the prohibition of interracial marriage.

As African Americans, we continue to experience the harm that religion-based bigotry causes, especially concerning the civil rights issue of same-sex marriage.

I am afraid that the civil rights issues concerning same-sex marriage as it affects all African American families— straight and gay alike —may very well be co-opted again by several national white anti-gay Christian groups and ministers, like just this recently by Rev. Jim Garlow of Skyline Wesleyan Church in La Mesa, Calif., who "thanked African-Americans for saving America from the bondage of gay marriage."

What is Garlow referring to?

His recent manipulative and exploitative campaign of thanking African Americans for the passing of Proposition 8.

In Garlow doing so, he is race-baiting a sector

of California's Christian conservatives who comprise of just 6.2 percent of the state's overall population.

Garlow in 2008 was instrumental in promoting religion-based bigotry in the Prop8 campaign and today on a much broader national scale as part of an organized effort to revitalize the Religious Right and its opposition to marriage equality. Garlow and a number of national white anti-gay Christian groups are once again soliciting African American faith communities to join them in an effort to bring immense harm to LGBTQ people—and society at large from its brand of socially divisive politics.

If you don't understand just how harmful Garlow's message is to LGBTQ African Americans—and all LGBTQ people—consider how it feels to be told your state's constitution will now proscribe that there is something about your person that is so awful and flawed that you don't deserve a fundamental freedom that others enjoy.

However, Jim Garlow's newfound appreciation of the African-American community is disingenuous, considering his and the religious right's irrefutable embrace of divisive and racist politics.

For example, the Religious Right espousal of prejudice toward African Americans is seen in a recent comment by N.C. Republican Senator Jim Forrester who has introduced an anti-gay marriage bill.

"Slick city lawyers and homosexual lobbies and African American lobbies are running Raleigh," Forrester stated in the "Statesville Record and Landmark." Forrester is supportive of Christian Action League of North Carolina, an anti-gay religious organization born of Southern Baptist advocacy.

So why have so many of our African American ministers, who voted on Proposition 8, joined with national white anti-gay Christian groups? And these are some of the same ministers who profess to have marched with Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Many national white anti-gay Christian groups

circumstances that might identify my volunteers. I listen, ask questions, and they tell their stories.

One steelworker I spoke to several months ago feels ready to come out at work. He is relatively young, and still has many years left to work in the mill. He looks very discouraged as he imagines hearing "fag this and gay that" for the rest of his work life, and he wants to be able to say, "Shut up, you have no idea what you're talking about." He says he's not worried about his physical safety, since he's a big guy who can take care of himself. He is, though, worried about "Standing there alone." Like anyone, he wants to feel that he has friends and supporters. He says that when he comes out, I can call him Dr. Martin Luther Queen.

Another steelworker exuberantly announces that when she retires, in just 12 years, she is "going to come out. All the way. And just not worry about who hears." Until then, she claims that, for her, as soon as she "drives over those tracks, I'm in a different world. I'm not even me. I'm just doing my job, earning my paycheck, and keeping to myself." This is a woman who works almost constant back-to-back twelves (12-hour

have and continue to woo cash-strapped African-American churches to their anti-gay crusade under the guise of protecting Black civil rights. However, the truth is they are really engaged in a broad anti-civil rights agenda that's harmful to African-Americans.

When Bush's presidential campaign appeal to African Americans was that the Republican Party is the "party of Lincoln," African American numbers grew, and white Conservative Christian organizations craftily tapped into the solidly Black Democratic voting bloc by drawing cash-strapped Black churches into their sphere. And these organizations doled out big bucks to promote an anti-gay marriage agenda targeted to win Black voters in 2004. Now they are doling out money to sponsor urban anti-violence programs operating out of Black Christian churches.

As the nation commemorates the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War this month, I am reminded that the fight for marriage equality in the U.S. is similarly to my ancestors' fight for freedom.

In their day, before the Civil War in 1861, the United States consisted of 19 free states and 15 slave states. As a matter of fact, in the 2004 presidential race between John Kerry and George Bush where marriage equality was a hot-button issue, the election map results between Kerry's blues states and Bush's red states corresponded to the pre-civil war free states and slave states, respectively.

As an African-American lesbian, I thank God that I am not in slavery. But I am certainly in a civil war with Garlow and national white anti-gay Christian groups and ministers who are now drumming up a manipulative and exploitative campaign to thank Christian conservative African Americans for saving America from the bondage of gay marriage.

Whereas President Lincoln acted on behalf of my ancestor's civil rights, I now need the Black church to act on mine.

shifts), meaning that for more than half of her life, she voluntarily extinguishes herself.

Other steelworkers I've talked to are already out at work. Some are comfortable and confident, while others are harassed to the point of having high blood pressure and heart attacks. Their lives contain struggle and danger, but also pride, triumph, and laughter. Often, they have a wicked sense of humor. They tend not to complain, but instead to find solutions, tell stories, and crack jokes. One notes that he goes to Kansas City to escape the closeting and fear of Northwest Indiana, but he says "it's worth it, because men there wear big shiny belt buckles, so I can check how I look ... fix my hair."

If you are someone who works (or was laid off from, or retired in) one of the big production steel mills in this area, please contact me. You only need to reveal as much of your story as you're comfortable with, and your identity will never be disclosed. Thanks in advance for your help.

Contact Anne Balay at abalay@iun.edu and 219-980-6575.

ANNE  
BALAY

## Hard as steel: Talking with LGBT steelworkers

Though the steel mills in and around Gary, n Northwest Indiana, employ fewer people than they did in the recent past, they are still active and important contributors to U.S. manufacturing. Obviously, some of the people who work there must be queer, yet they remain largely invisible both within ordinary people's assumptions, and within published research about the mills and their culture.

I am a professor at Indiana University Northwest, in Gary, and I have been meeting with—and interviewing—gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender steelworkers. I am seeking more volunteers for the project, to document these important contributions to LGBT history.

So what is it like to be gay in the mills? More than a year ago, I realized that the only way to answer this question was to ask queer steelworkers themselves, collect as many stories as possible, and then compile them into a book. As of now, I have interviewed 32 LGBT steelworkers, and I hope for eight to 12 more.

I do not use real names, places of work, or cir-



Gary, Ind.,  
steel mill.  
Photo by  
B. Carey

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by  
Jason  
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WireImage.  
com

Glee's Mike O'Malley (left) and Chris Colfer accept honors at the recent GLAAD Awards in Los Angeles. See more on page 31.

## BOOKS

Say 'Gwen.'  
Page 24.

Photo of Gwendolyn Brooks run with  
permission from HavenGirls.com



## FASHION/TV

Shoe-in.  
Page 26.

PR photo



## SPORTS

Net project.  
Page 34.

Photo by Ross Forman



## SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

# A transgender twist to Woyzeck

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Brooklyn-based transgender playwright Sylvan Oswald was always writing "trouser roles" into his earlier plays. However, with *Pony*, a world-premiere drama presented by About Face Theatre as part a larger Woyzeck Project festival around Chicago, Oswald felt secure enough to feature transgender characters outright.

"I was really interested in female masculinity," Oswald said about his earlier trouser-role characters of women portraying men. It was a way for Oswald to counter stereotypical representations of women just as girlfriends or wives. "I was interested in butch-ness and androgyny."

Yet those trouser role characters created a lot of confusion for many of Oswald's friends and mentors. Although there is a tradition in opera and many early versions of *Peter Pan* to have pubescent boys or young men often portrayed by female performers, many more audiences equate women dressed as men to just be temporary disguises as in so many Shakespearean romantic comedies.

With all of the gender questioning, Oswald came to the realization that his characters were actually transgender: "I was writing around this the whole time and it was eye-opening for me because this is where I realized I needed to start."

In the creation of *Pony*, Oswald took inspiration from Georg Büchner's fragmentary drama *Woyzeck*, which was left unfinished at the playwright's death in 1837. Büchner based *Woyzeck* on an actual crime where a soldier, displaying signs of insanity, murdered his ex-mistress.

Oswald looked to *Woyzeck* in terms of structure for *Pony*, and as a way to create a dialogue between the two plays. Oswald places *Pony* "on

the other side of the woods from *Woyzeck*," though he also describes its historical setting "in a kind of now."

*Pony* is the name of the new guy who is constructing a male identity for himself as he enters a new town. *Pony* attracts the attention of an obsessive waitress named Marie, but is also pursued by young trans-man named Heath.

"The cast kind of represents different position on the queer and trans-dial," Oswald said. "Everybody in world of this play was assigned female at birth, but they present themselves in different ways."

Through *Pony*, Oswald was able to explore some of the complexities and antagonisms between the transgender and queer communities. For instance, there's an older butch lesbian character who expresses plenty of anger toward a younger trans guy.

"Some of these dynamics have been playing out in the LGBT community and I feel that they need to be talked about," Oswald said. "We need more conversation and more representation."

Oswald is honored to have *Pony* run in repertory at the Chopin Theatre with The Hypocrites' new staging of *Woyzeck* in a new adaptation by former artistic director Sean Graney. Oswald is also amazed at how About Face Theatre Artistic Director Bonnie Metzgar (who also directs *Pony*) has been able to reach out to so many other theater companies to create The Woyzeck Project festival.

For instance, Oracle Productions' staging of David Steiger's translation of *Woyzeck* continues through April 30 at 3809 N. Broadway. Other companies will present modernized staged readings at the Chopin Theatre like *Skin* by Naomi Izuka for Route 66 Theatre Company at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 2, and Doyle Avant's *Woyzeck* of



Sylvan Oswald. Photo courtesy of About Face Theatre

Sarajevo for The Inconvenience at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3.

Collaboration is also getting into the mix with two shows. Franz Fest: a Woyzeck Project Party/Performance Exploratory is a multi-artist deconstruction of Büchner's play involving dancers, puppetry and more (7:30 p.m. May 6 and 9 p.m. May 7 at the Flat Iron Building, 1575 N. Milwaukee), while a revival of Brett C. Leonard's critically acclaimed *Guinea Pig Solo* (which updated *Woyzeck* to the wars of today) is presented in a free reading at the Chopin Theatre at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 9.

Although The Woyzeck Project glaringly omits Alban Berg's influential and expressionistic 1925 opera, *Wozzeck* (recently revived in New York by the Metropolitan Opera), Chicago Opera Van-

guard is on hand to offer some remedy through "Voice Check, A Cabaret," which features musical selections from the opera and by other Woyzeck-inspired pieces by musicians like Tom Waits and others at 7:30 p.m. May 10 at the Chopin Theatre.

Oswald is glad that his *Pony* gets to be a part of The Woyzeck Project mix, adding that "queer and trans people need to be dramatically in their own stories." And with the classic dramatic inspiration for *Pony* playing on its off nights, Oswald is happy that audiences will have such a convenient way to draw parallels between the two works.

About Face Theatre's *Pony* and The Hypocrites' *Woyzeck* headline The Woyzeck Project and play in repertory now through Sunday, May 22, at the Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division. Tickets are \$28 per show or \$48 for both shows. Call 866-811-4111. For more information on The Woyzeck Project, visit <http://www.aboutfacetheatre.com> or <http://www.the-hypocrites.com>.

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

## Tony winner to perform May 2

Tony Award winner Alice Ripley will be featured in "Daily Practice: The Acoustic Sessions" Monday, May 2, at 8 p.m. at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont.

Ripley won a Tony for her role in the musical *Next to Normal*, and was nominated for her performance in the musical *Side Show*. She made her Broadway debut in *The Who's Tommy* in 1993.

General admission is \$45 each; the VIP meet-and-greet is \$75 each. See <http://www.Stage773.com> or call 773-327-5252.

## THEATER REVIEW

## White Noise

Playwright: Robert Morris, Steven Morris, Joe Shane (music & lyrics);  
Matte O'Brien (book)

At: Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted  
Tickets: 321-988-8000;  
<http://www.whitenoise.com>; \$54.50-\$74.50  
Runs through: June 5

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

In his debut as director, veteran choreographer Sergio Trujillo has assembled a smashing company and plugged them into a mega-watt generator for 100 minutes of slam-bang, high-tech, rock-concert, multimedia, never-take-a-breath wizardry. *White Noise* looks good, sounds good and packs a punch. That will be enough for most folks, who won't realize that *White Noise* substitutes in-your-face attitude for actual depth.

The Broadway-bound show is inspired by real-life white supremacist rockers Prussian Blue, a band built around two blond-haired sisters that flourished in a niche market for about six years. *White Noise* takes the notion of the sisters, here named Eva (Mackenzie Mauzy) and Eden (Emily Padgett), adds neo-Nazi brother Duke (Patrick

Murney) and puts them under contract to amoral and cynical producer Max (Douglas Sills) who promotes them into the rock music mainstream.

The show opens with something like a rock version of "Springtime for Hitler" from *The Producers*, and within minutes the neo-Nazi siblings are singing "Welcome to Auschwitz." It seems like satire, a hideous "what if" nightmare. But the show quickly turns earnest as the producer also signs musically-mainstream Black twins Dion (Wallace Smith) and Tyler (Rodney Hicks) and repackages them—against their judgment—as a thug hip-hop act. Their song, "Nigger Gonna Shoot the Whiteboy," is as offensive as anything the skinheads sing. Predictably, the two bands clash in a violent outcome.

The show wants to indict popular taste and ignorance, and the ability of mass marketing to mold—or disguise—messages. However, the focus is entirely on the machinations of the music biz rather than on public taste or even the conflicted artists, as characterization, exposition and even plausibility are left on the floor in favor of high energy and presentational pizzazz. For example, gifted and maybe-Jewish songwriter Jake (Eric William Morris) agrees to write hits for both groups. Not credible.

We're given only the flimsiest reasons why Eva, Eden and Duke are white supremacists. Duke



White Noise. Photo by Carol Rosegg

## CRITICS' PICKS

**El Nogalar**, Goodman Theatre, through April 24. The word "foreclosure" takes on ominous new meaning in Tanya Saracho's Chekhovian account of social tensions on the Mexican border where evictions are conducted at gunpoint by criminal cartels and servants hold power over their former masters. MSB

**42nd Street**, Marriott Theatre, Lincolnshire, through May 29. Lovers of tap dancing and Depression-era song standards will be in musical comedy heaven in director Rachel Rockwell's grounded and flashy staging of this 1980 film-to-stage homage of 1930s Busby Berkeley film spectacles. SCM

**Medea**, Chicago Opera Theater at Harris Theater for Music and Dance, April 23 through May 1. Opera as an art form emerged in the late 1590s from Renaissance scholars trying to recreate Greek drama. See how the French approached this relatively "new" art form when Chicago Opera Theater produces the Windy City premiere of Marc-Antoine Charpentier's 1690s French Baroque take on the classic Greek tragedy. SCM

**The Three Faces of Dr. Crippen**, Strange Tree Group at Steppenwolf Garage, through April 24. Murder, Scotland Yard and the Marconi wireless: *Strange Tree* blends horror, vaudeville and whimsy to tell the 1911 tale. It's 1/3 of the Steppenwolf Garage Rep. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

is a one-note character whose final action is telegraphed miles away. Max also is a one-note character, despite the considerable strength of Sills's sharp performance. We're told Jake and Eden are in love but we never see it, they never have a love song and it doesn't impact the story. There's a meaningless and offensive flaming gay character (an influential rock blogger).

Will any of this matter? Probably not. Traditional Broadway audiences will not like *White Noise*, fans of rock musicals such as *American Idiot* probably will, and actual rockers will think it's real, which is scary. They won't notice that most of the well-structured songs by Robert Morris, Steven Morris and Joe Shane do traditional Broadway story-and-character work. Everyone will like the show-stoppers "Mondays Suck" for the neo-nazis and "Country Hip-Hop" for the Brothas.

Tibetan exhibit  
May 7-8

Diamond Way Buddhist Center will present an exhibition of Buddhist statues and *thankgas* (Tibetan scroll paintings) from its North American Collection on Saturday, May 7, 2-7 p.m., and on Sunday, May 8, 12-5 p.m., at Flourish Studio, 3020 N. Lincoln.

Admission is free to see the works. Lectures are \$10 and films are \$4 suggested donation per person. See <http://www.ICanFlourish.com> and <http://www.dwbccchicago.org>.



Mark Pracht (left) and Thad Anzur in *The Copperhead*. Photo by Johnny Knight

## THEATER REVIEW

## The Copperhead

Playwright: Augustus Thomas

At: City Lit Theatre at the Edgewater Presbyterian Church, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr

Phone: 773-293-3682; \$25

Runs through: May 15

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

A phenomenon common to all wars is the swiftness with which the tides of battle turn, rendering an accurate assessment of either side's progress impossible even to those claiming to observe from a distance. Only when the conflicts have ceased irrevocably can the victories and losses be counted, the strategies evaluated and the causes analyzed—most frequently in post-bellum literature focusing on the human aspects overlooked in the flush of patriotic fever.

It is important to remember, therefore, when viewing Augustus Thomas' 1918 drama of undercover espionage during the American Civil War, that events now safely cached in centuries past were still within the immediate recall of audiences at its premiere—memories all the more vivid for having occurred, often literally, on their own front lawns. Our protagonist—a civilian whose brave service to his president is misunderstood by his neighbors, bringing suffering on himself and his family long after the treaties are signed—was, then as now, a figure familiar

to citizens looking back on decisions made in haste and expediency. More than making a case for amnesty extended toward deeds committed amid conflicting public opinions, however, *The Copperhead* was also a plea to a nation, poised on the brink of WW I, for tolerance of Conscientious Objectors—in Thomas' play, wearing the titular copper badge proclaiming their convictions—who refused to participate in a military action they could not advocate in good conscience (hence the term).

Of course, you can't drop an unedited period text into a storefront performance space in 2011—and not just because the original production included regiments of cavalry and foot soldiers on parade. Actors confronting the early dramas of American Realism must also grapple with dialogue reflecting pacing and rhythms very different than those encountered today—a potential pitfall rendering all the more commendable the formidable resistance to mockery of their material displayed by director Kathy Scambiaterra and her valiant cast. Instead, each company member embraces his/her role in generating unhurried narrative suspense sufficient to engage our emotions, the better to heed our story's cautionary lesson. Yes, we may smile at the occasional anachronism—the factory-made field-dispatch envelopes, for example, or the gaudy colors favored by costumer Richard Lurie—but when the moment of our hero's redemption finally looms, the tension in the room is palpable.

## THEATER REVIEW

## The Metal Children

Playwright: Adam Rapp

At: Next Theatre, 927 Noyes, Evanston

Phone: 847-475-1875; \$25-\$40

Runs through: May 8

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Adam Rapp's *The Metal Children* might be a thoroughly aggravating experience for some audiences. And that's because Rapp refuses to reduce at the issue of school book banning to right and wrong absolutes.

Now in its Midwest premiere at Next Theatre in Evanston, *The Metal Children* is not an anti-censorship screed where an intellectual writer takes on a religiously small-minded town. Instead, Rapp presents a deeply flawed and drug-addled New York author who is just nonplussed when his young adult book, *The Metal Children*, is banned in the fictionalized small town of Midlothia due to its magical realism content involving teenage pregnancy and abortion.

Now Rapp is drawing from personal experience with *The Metal Children*, since his own 1997 young adult novel, *The Buffalo Tree*, was banned by Muhlenberg High School in Reading, Pa. And if Tobin Falmouth (a very raspy-sounding and lethargic Sean Cooper) is a stand-in for Rapp, then the whole incident becomes more an examination on how people can extremely revile or revere a text beyond the author's original intentions.

Rapp's moral shades of gray approach to *The Metal Children* offers up a welcome complexity to the issue, but he ultimately undercuts

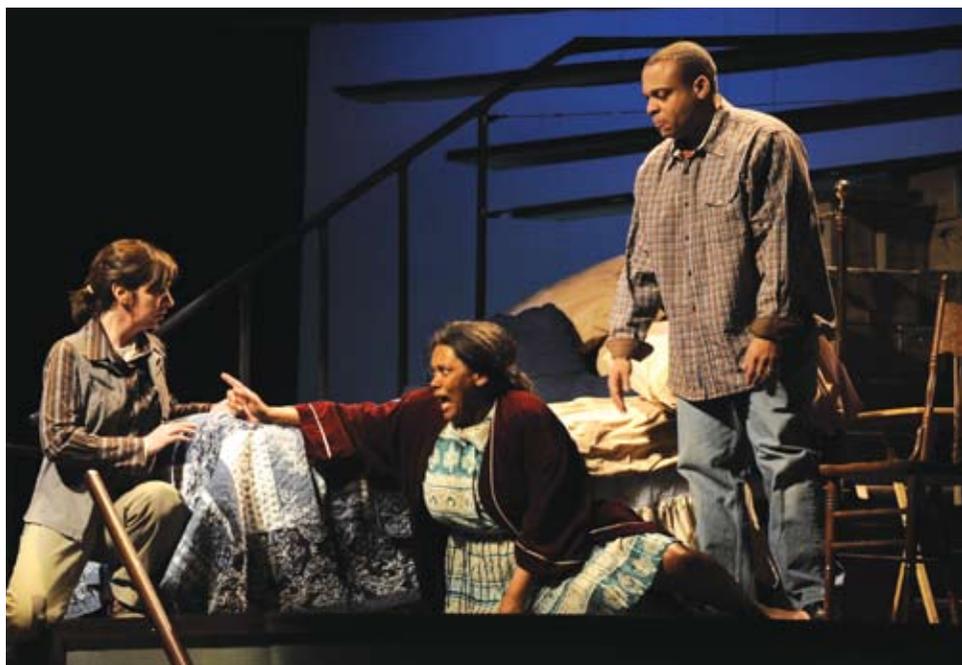
it all with outrageous plot twists that strain credibility. Take for instance the teenage vigilante forces who dress up in pig masks to enforce morality in Midlothia. Or how a group of teenage girls (led by the jarringly articulate 16-year-old student Vera of Caroline Neff) develop a pregnancy cult in Idaho dedicated to Falmouth's novel.

Such extreme behavior would work if Rapp had gone all out with a farcical approach to *The Metal Children*. But Rapp grounds most everything else in a recognizable reality, so these weird flourishes feel like dramatically stylistic clashes.

At least director Joanie Schultz maintains interest throughout the Next Theatre production. And that's even though most of the small town characters aren't offered more in the text than to provide exposition (particularly in the case of Meg Thalken as the down-home motel manger Edith Dundee and Paul Fagen as the embattled English teacher Stacey) rather than truly complex characters.

However, what might annoy most audience members is the cipher-like meekness that Rapp writes into author Tobin Falmouth. Though Rapp explains Tobin's self-pitying doubt and personal problems in the climactic Act II school assembly, the whole speech feels more like Tobin's one attempt to do a book tour speech rather than an unburdening cry of help from the heart.

Though some will find Rapp's morally complex approach to *The Metal Children* fascinating, others will find it more as a big failing. Either way, *The Metal Children* shows how the battle for the hearts and minds of American teenagers continues to rage.



From left: Elaine Rivkin, Celeste Williams and Aaron Todd Douglas. Photo by Liz Lauren

**THEATER REVIEW**

**Tree**

**Playwright:** Julie Hébert  
**At:** Victory Gardens Theatre at the Biograph, 2433 N. Lincoln  
**Phone:** 773-871-3000; \$20-\$50  
**Runs through:** May 1

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Imagine that you're a middle-aged African-American chef living in Chicago with a college-age child and a venerated mother gradually declining into dementia. Or imagine that you're a white gender-studies professor in New Orleans, the daughter of a cruelly embittered father, recently deceased. Now imagine that you are granted the means to discover the secret of how your respective dam and sire, both now beyond redemption or recriminations, came to be the people whom you knew. What would *you* do?

What the long-lost brother and sister at the center of Julie Hébert's *Tree* (as in "family tree") do is to hesitate, then hesitate again, then hesitate some more. Leo says, "Get out!" many times (while never threatening to call the police or take out a restraining order), and Didi likewise repeatedly declares, "I'm going!" (but never retreats farther than her car). Aloof from the denials, resentments, accusations, pleas and challenges are teenage JJ, who rejects her elders' timidity, and matriarch Jesse, who vacillates between lucidity, senility and the oracular pro-

nouncements so beloved of southern playwrights steeped in Shintoistic ancestor-worship.

"Sometimes we have to know where we've come from to know who we are" proclaims the show's publicity. But after 95 minutes of watching Leo and Didi drag their feet, we are left as puzzled as in the beginning. Oh, we know that Mrs. Jesse Price and Mr. Ray Marcantel were once wed in California (where interracial marriages were permitted in 1954) while the latter was in the marines, and that Leo is the offspring of that union, and that the spouses eventually parted ways to seek other partners. But where did Jesse, a former school principal, acquire her salty—and curiously phallogocentric—vocabulary? Why did Ray's dear-john experience assume the repercussive shape that it did? And why does Didi first enter in a boat arising from a smoking pit in the stage floor (representing the Styx?) just as Jesse is ranting about seeing devils?

This isn't the first time that director Andrea J. Dymond has been assigned the task of finding a story in a labyrinth of provocative imagery, and under her guidance Aaron Todd Douglas and Elaine Rivkin maintain a capable level of interest throughout, assisted by Leslie Ann Shepard as the peppery JJ and Celeste Williams in the thankless role of Mama Jesse. Ultimately, however, *Tree* is a premise still searching for a resolution—a goal we eagerly await, perhaps in a later play.

**SPOTLIGHT**



Acrobats and contortionists square off against hip hop dancers amid a gritty urban landscape in **Cirque Éloize iD**, a modern-day multimedia spectacular from the Montreal-based circus troupe. *Cirque Éloize iD* runs eight performances between April 26-May 8 at the Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph. Performances are 7:30 p.m. April 26 and May 6, then 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 1 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$20-\$75. Call 800-775-2000 or visit <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com>.



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**NUNN ON ONE:  
PERFORMANCE**

# Cirque Eloize iD director on family, break dancing and more

BY JERRY NUNN

Cirque Eloize iD debuts in Chicago this spring with a visually spectacular masterpiece. Sixteen artists showcase everything from juggling to stilt walking. Director Jeannot Painchaud sat down to discuss the history of the creation recently.

**Windy City Times: Hello, Jeannot. How did you start this whole endeavor?**

Jeannot Painchaud: I started the whole thing 18 years ago. I am part of what has been called the new wave of the circus. It was started in Quebec, Montreal. About 25 years ago I was a student at the National Circus School. I come from a little island called Magdalen Island, right in the middle of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. We were seven friends studying at the school, which I consider now the best circus school in the world. They have acrobatics, acting, and dancing. An artist is really complete after that.

**WCT: How did the show begin?**

JP: We created a show there to show our families on the island. It is very tiny with 12,000 people living there. The meaning of the word is heat lightning. We made the show with gymnastics and acrobatics. This sparked an interest. I was an acrobat myself and a juggler. I worked with Cirque de Soleil for a year along with other companies. We are all from the same movement in Montreal.

We started Cirque Eloize so my interest from the very beginning was to work with people who didn't really know the circus. So creators from other areas like contemporary dance, theatre and for sure musicians and composers, it is all original. We have been creating for 18 years now and eight different shows that have toured in more than 400 cities and 35 countries. It is a small story with a group of friends that became a company. With time, I have decided to stop being onstage as an artist and now work on development as artistic director. This particular show iD I directed myself.

**WCT: So this is all you and your new baby.**

JP: [Laughs] That's my new baby.

**WCT: What does iD stand for?**

JP: It is for identity. This is about my family and clan. I wanted to express myself through my family and then through myself to show what I am capable of. That is the challenge of the two



Jeannot Painchaud. Photo by Jocelyn Michel

gangs and the story between them. It is a love story. There are some nice quiet poetic moments but most of the show is really powerful. We are talking hip-hop, break dance, rollerblade and even a trampoline wall.

**WCT: I saw in the promo that there are video projections.**

JP: I wanted to create a show where there would be a camera in the city on a corner looking at kids challenging each other. It would zoom in and out to another area. Because it is all video projection on a big wall it is like a cartoon. Characters are like real characters on a cartoon set. There are some movies going this direction with sketches as a set then real actors are on the set. That is the direction that I took for the show.

**WCT: Is the show always changing?**

JP: Sometimes we have to change artists because they leave the show or are being replaced but it is the same show. We just launched it last year and it is the first big American city. It is very important for us because Chicago has such a great theatre scene. We express ourselves with acrobats but there is acting and dance as well.

**WCT: Is there live singing?**

JP: Not live because all the music has been recorded.

**WCT: Who are the artists that you picked music from? It sounded very hip-hop-influenced.**

JP: Yes, it is a real mix. I have friends in a group called Beast. They have been really popular in the last three years. They worked on the melody and the beat of the music. If you listen to them then will recognize the songs of iD. I wanted really urban sounds—electronic, techno but also a nice melody. I always start with the music. It is the first step with me in the process. I make people around the table listen the music, and explain the direction. The set designer, costume designer, choreographer then join me to work on the direction initiated by the music.

**WCT: There was a Latin vibe, from what I saw.**

JP: In some parts, [it's] definitely how the characters are played. It is not West Side Story but there is something about the two gangs and the attitude. Some of the dancers are very good at it. Out of the 16 cast members, four are hip-hop and break dancers. All the artists dance in the show. It is a very physical show. That is always in Cirque Eloize. Everyone participates in the whole thing. You will recognize them in the whole show and be attached to them. The way they look at each other and their moves has Latin roots. I am from Montreal and we are a mix of Europe and America. Our roots are more Latin than Anglo Saxon.

**WCT: I saw the YouTube video of the show and the girl was pulling her leg like a human pretzel!**

JP: She is doing a duet with a b-boy.

**WCT: What is a b-boy?**

JP: A typical break dancer. They do battles from spinning on the head to moving with attitude. I built a duet with a contortionist meeting a b-boy. It is all mixed up together. It creates a piece of art with two different ways of moving. It is animalistic, like *araignee*...

**WCT: French for spider...**

JP: Like a spider meets a strange animal from the city. They work together really close to the floor. That brings something new. There is another scene with a roller skater and a girl up in the air. I am trying to do a strange mix and bring the audience to a new world.

**WCT: It looked like a younger style than some Cirque shows I have seen.**

JP: Absolutely. That is on purpose. I wanted young energy and young artists expressing the city of today.

**WCT: Where are you going after this?**

JP: We are going to Boston, then Singapore and pass the whole summer in Miami.

**Get your tickets to catch iD in town at <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com> as it runs April 26-May 8 at the Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph.**

## Hollis Resnik in 'All About Eve' benefit reading

Award-winning actress Hollis Resnik is Margo Channing in Season of Concern's benefit reading of "All About Eve" May 23 at the Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse.

The reading of Joseph L. Mankiewicz's iconic 1950 screenplay is directed by longtime Goodman Theatre associate producer Steve Scott. Show time is 7 p.m.

Resnik will be joined onstage by other Chicago favorites including Larry Yando as Addison DeWitt, Heidi Kettenring as Karen, Steppenwolf ensemble member James Vincent Meredith as Bill, Peggy Roeder as Birdie, Northlight Theatre Artistic Director BJ Jones as Lloyd, Ross Lehman as Max Fabian, Maura Kidwell as Ms. Caswell and Sandra Delgado as Eve. Longtime Chicago musician John Steinhagen is the pianist.

The 1950 film All About Eve starred Bette Davis as Channing, the prominent yet aging Broadway star, and Anne Baxter as Eve Harrington, a willingly helpful young fan who insinuates herself into Channing's life. Joseph L. Mankiewicz wrote and directed the movie, based on the short story "The Wisdom of Eve" by Mary Orr.

The film was nominated for 14 Academy Awards and won six, including Best Picture.

Season of Concern (SoC) is the Chicago theatre community's fundraising effort, providing compassionate care to artists who are experiencing life-threatening illnesses. Each year, Season of Concern raises funds that provide direct care and address critical healthcare needs for Chicago theatre community members.

At the benefit, SoC will present its 4th Annual Larry Sloan Awards to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, former SoC Board President Barry Taylor and longtime SoC fundraiser Karen Bronson.

All About Eve is presented by special arrangement with Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation and Sonia Friedman Productions. Windy City Media Group is a media sponsor.

Valet parking is available for \$5 at the door. Tickets for the reading are on sale for \$45, or two for \$80. For more information and to purchase tickets visit <http://www.seasonofconcern.org>.

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# Party has patrons seeing red

Girls and guys alike donned their best red dresses April 16 to celebrate Chicago's inaugural Red Dress Party and raise money and awareness for HIV/AIDS.

The lobby of 525 W. Monroe was filled with red lights, red dresses and a whole lot of dancing courtesy of DJs Harmonix and Jeanette. Guests enjoyed complimentary hors d'oeuvres, drinks and a photo booth.

Marcus Riley of NBC and Candace Jordan of Candid Candace hosted the event. Chicago's own Miss Fozzie posed for pictures on the stage, which was later taken over by singer Kristine W. Dancers from the crowd joined her on stage and she dedicated a song to an HIV-positive friend who recently passed away.

"AIDS has been a big cause for me," said Kyler Powell, who organized the event with a board of directors. Powell moved to Chicago from Portland, Ore., where the Red Dress Party started 11 years ago, and decided Chicago needed one of its own. He wants to "bring [AIDS] back into the spotlight."

Powell said the disease is still an issue, but many people have become apathetic about it. The Red Dress Party is "really to raise awareness for HIV and AIDS," he said.

All net proceeds from the event will be donated to AIDS Foundation of Chicago and the Equality Project. Text by Lisa Klein; photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)



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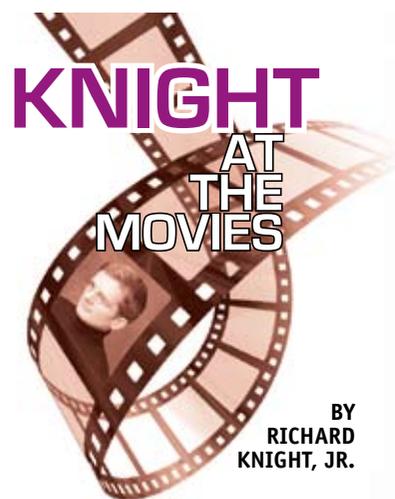
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BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT, JR.

## Spring DVD roundup; film notes

Before spring—and the lovely weather it promises finally takes hold—here's a quintet of recent queer tinged DVD releases to enjoy before heading out of doors.

—**The Times of Harvey Milk:** Director Rob Epstein's 1984 moving portrait of slain gay national hero Harvey Milk, narrated by Harvey Fierstein and set to a memorable score by composer Mark Isham, won the Oscar for Best Documentary and is a seminal movie experience. It's not only a revealing look at the man but also one of a particular era in gay and lesbian history. The film has been painstakingly restored and this newly released two-disc edition from the Criterion Collection (available on either DVD or Blu-ray) is packed with all the goodies that Criterion has long been hailed for. The bonuses include everything from a richly illustrated booklet with essays from film historian B. Ruby Rich and others to a half dozen of Epstein's outtake research interviews, audio and video clips of Milk himself, a reexamination by the various participants of both the documentary and Gus Van Sant's 2008 feature Milk (which includes James Franco), a closer look at the trial of Milk's murderer Dan White, and other archival and new segments created exclusively for this release. It's a must-have release.

—**I Love You Phillip Morris:** Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor star in this true-life 2010 black comedy about a gay man (Carrey, in his best role in years) who just about goes through hell to



Rodrigo Santoro (left) and Jim Carrey in *I Love You Phillip Morris*.

be with the love of his life, the title character (essayed with daffy sweetness by McGregor). This is a lovely, romantic, sexy film that lived up to expectations after being dumped into development hell for its supposedly "shocking" gay content. The disc includes a nice selection of bonus features that include a making-of segment (revolving around a kissing scene between Carrey and McGregor) and some interesting and fun deleted scenes (about 17 minutes worth).

—**Behind the Burley Q:** The entertaining and little-known story of the history of burlesque—a form of entertainment focused on the art of striptease, physical comedy and other forms of "low class" stage entertainment—is brought to life in this energetic little recap of the era by filmmaker Leslie Zemeckis. A bevy of former ladies of burlesque, including Tempest Storm, is featured along with surprise interviewee Alan Alda, who was dragged to shows as a kid by father, Robert, a comedian who rose to fame via burlesque. Tons of archival footage of the strippers at work (take note, ladies!) and endearing, funny reminiscences keep things rolling along. Three short featurettes are included on the disc as well.

—**Used People:** Before directing *Camp and Bandslam*, out writer/director Todd Graff wrote this 1992 autobiographical comedy about his family. This endearing film, set in 1969, stars Shirley MacLaine as a Jewish widow pursued by Marcello Mastroianni as an Italian lothario who won't take no for an answer. However, MacLaine's got her own set of distractions—two really mixed-up daughters (Kathy Bates and Marcia Gay Harden); a cranky, complaining mother (Jessica Tandy); and a grandson who thinks he's a superhero (the character based on Graff). This lively comedy—funny, romantic and truly touching directed by Beeban Kidron—was criminally overlooked upon release and contains one stupendous performance after another, set to a gorgeous film score by Rachel Portman. It's available from Warner Home Archive as part of its DVD on Demand program.

—**Tracy & Hepburn: The Definitive Collection:** Classic fans will no doubt be thrilled with this boxed set that, at last, includes all nine screen teamings of the plain-spoken Spencer Tracy and the fluttery, deeply emotional Katharine Hepburn. The pair, one of Hollywood's most iconic screen duos (whose off screen relationship was equally legendary), dazzles in this 10-disc set. It's all here from the sublime (1942's *Woman of the Year*, their first pairing, and 1949's *Adam's Rib*) to the pretty good (1952's *Pat and Mike*, 1957's *Desk Set* and 1967's *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?*) to the not-so-hot (1945's *Without Love* and Capra's 1948 misfire, *State of the Union*). The set also includes the home-video debut of 1942's noir-ish thriller *Keeper of the Flame* and Elia Kazan's sprawling 1947 western saga *Sea of Grass*. There's also a nice feature-length Tracy portrait narrated by Hepburn. This set is from Warner Home Video (and is just in time for Mother's Day).

ing to *Dinner?*) to the not-so-hot (1945's *Without Love* and Capra's 1948 misfire, *State of the Union*). The set also includes the home-video debut of 1942's noir-ish thriller *Keeper of the Flame* and Elia Kazan's sprawling 1947 western saga *Sea of Grass*. There's also a nice feature-length Tracy portrait narrated by Hepburn. This set is from Warner Home Video (and is just in time for Mother's Day).

### Film notes:

—The impact of *An American Family*, television's first reality series, cannot be overstated, given the current climate of the cultural zeitgeist. The 1973 12-part series originally broadcast on PBS followed Pat and Bill Loud and their

teenaged brood, revealing for the first time cracks in the American Dream. (It was a national sensation when Pat asked Bill on camera for a divorce.) Of equal importance—certainly for the gay community—was the moment when eldest son Lance came out to his supportive family.

The series has never been repeated and isn't available on home video, although an episode featuring Lance and an update film were aired two years after his untimely death from AIDS in 2001. Now, HBO has taken the story of the Louds and turned it into a drama with the apt title *Cinema Verite*. Tim Robbins plays Bill, Diane Lane is Pat, James Gandolfini plays the series producer and Thomas Dekker, who recently starred in out writer-director Gregg Araki's *Kaboom*, plays Lance. The film, which wasn't available for review at press time, debuts on HBO Sunday, April 23, and promises a fascinating and enthralling trip down memory lane. See <http://www.hbo.com/movies/cinema-verite>.

—Tom Shadyac, director and producer of a batch of mainstream comedies (*Ace Ventura*, *Nutty Professor*, *Bruce Almighty*, *I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*, etc.) was living the Hollywood dream writ large but after a biking accident left him with severe injuries he began to seriously reexamine his life. Film crew in tow, Shadyac sought out a batch of great minds to help him answer the questions "What's wrong with the world?" and "What can we do about it?" The result is *I Am*, a documentary that follows Shadyac on his quest. Although his self-deprecating demeanor and intentions are certainly winning, the often insightful responses from his subjects (everyone from Noam Chomsky to Archbishop Desmond Tutu) are eventually undercut and diluted as Shadyac's middlebrow filmmaking techniques (a series of montages of "inspirational" visuals set to "feel good" songs with the volume cranked up) take center stage. The film opens exclusively Friday, April 22, at the Landmark Century Centre Cinema. See <http://www.iamthedoc.com>.

Check out my archived reviews at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com> or <http://www.knightatthemovies.com>. Readers can

## Writers gather at Gwendolyn Brooks confab

BY TERENCE CHAPPELL

Writers, poets and performers took to the stage recently at Chicago State University's "An Exceeding Sun: The 21st Annual Gwendolyn Brooks Writer's Conference."

The three-day conference welcomed established and up-and-coming African-American authors and writers for an opportunity to share their passion, work, and craft to the general public. The conference kicked off with the world premiere of *The Faggot Who Could Fly*, an intimate, telling one-woman transgender performance by KOKUMO. In her performance, KOKUMO offered guests a chilling look into her life as a transgendered woman of color.

"My story is about being resilient because it gets better. It's absolutely liberating to reveal my life on stage," said KOKUMO.

Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing Director Quraysh Ali Lansana said that the conference not only provides a home for Brooks' work, but also reflects her "all-inclusive and embracing" nature. As an accomplished author and professor, Lansana added that because of the openness of the annual event, LGBT authors and writers are encouraged to share their work and experiences to audiences.

"The conference has always been LGBT-friendly. It's a part of who we are. Art should make you think, not tell you what to think," said Lansana.

The three-day writers' event featured special readings, live music, open-mic poetry competitions and panelist discussions from renowned writers such as Nikki Finney and Thomas Sayers Ellis. Ellis, who is also a photographer, is most famous for his politically charged poetry and his community activism. His work has appeared in journals and anthologies, including *Callaloo*, *Best American Poetry* and other major publications. Finney, a fellow poet and writer, has appeared on Russell Simmons' HBO Series *DEF Poetry* and National Public Radio. Her work has been praised by notables such as Nikki Giovanni and the late CBS/60 Minutes news anchor Ed Bradley.

Guest Steve Paris has been an active supporter of the annual Brooks Writers' Conference for the past 10 years. According to Paris, it's the people and art that keeps him coming back.

"I keep coming back to the conference because I have a background and love for African American studies," he said. "The conference has done a great job of showcasing cutting-edge literature. It's a part of making our community more vibrant and keeps tradition going."

Lansana felt that this was a great year for writing and poetry for the Gwendolyn Brooks Writers Conference and that each artist brought something unique and different to the stage.

"When looking for writers and artists to feature in the conference, I'm always more interested in the message and aesthetic," said Lansana. "Social justice is important, but not at the expense of craft. I'm not interested in dogma."

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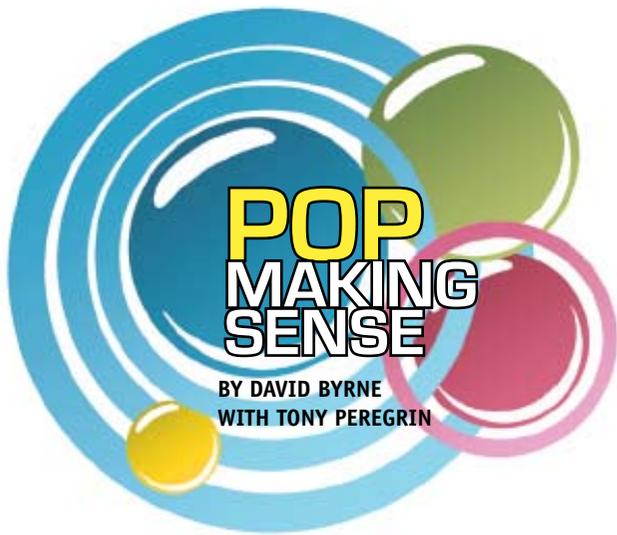
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After she staged a comeback with the catchy "Gimme More," **Britney Spears** has scored multiple hits—more than in her Lolita school girl days. Her latest, *Femme Fatale*, keeps this streak alive.

It is no secret that the 29-year-old has extremely limited vocal capabilities. Spears relies on slick production, clever songwriters and glossy, steamy videos. Bits from the Ke\$ha-penned "Till the World Ends" seem borrowed from her recent number one "Hold It against Me." In 2009 Spears caused a ruckus in Australia, as concert attendees and promoters were infuriated about how heavily she used on pre-recorded vocals during her tour. At least she was not lip-synching when she stepped forth in support of same-sex marriage.

Spears's latest album *Femme Fatale* has generic AutoTune-heavy, cliché-laden, Euro club tracks like "I Wanna Go" and "How I Roll." However, Spears sounds completely bored on "Criminal." The will.i.am collaboration "Big Fat Bass"



**Britney Spears.**

is the life of the party, as Spears ventures into a more electronic realm, where one might find Kylie Minogue or Lady GaGa sitting on pedestals, wondering who erroneously admitted the former Mouseketeer.

The *Femme Fatale* Tour comes to The United Center, 1901 W. Madison, on Friday, July 8. Nicki Minaj, Jessie and the Boy Toys and Nervo are pegged to be opening acts. It is a pop fan's dilemma, as fellow radio-darling **Katy Perry** comes to The Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim, Rosemont, the same night.

Last year, out singer-songwriter **Megan McCormick** released the stunning *Honest Words*. "Shiver" is a passionate, modern-day answer to Peggy Lee's signature "Fever." "Do Right" does just that with its pure Americana pop rock. The slow tempo behind the beautiful numbers "Driveway" and "Lonely Tonight" barely keeps

a pulse to accompany the steel pedal guitar and intimate harmonies. The Ryko album's highlight is "Pick up the Phone." The multi-instrumentalist's "Bulls-eye" is featured in the film *Prayers for Bobby*. Daphne Willis and Eric Stephanian share the bill with McCormick Saturday, April 23, at Martyr's, 3855 N. Lincoln.

Can't get enough of great lesbian singer-songwriters? Violinist extraordinaire **Bitch** is making a stop at Schubas, 3159 N. Southport, Sunday, May 1 as a part of the Decibelle Festival.

Maybe **Uh Huh Her** heard the thunder clapping in the background, as I raised an angered fist to the skies upon hearing the duo's spring tour was skipping Chicago. Alas, a Windy City date has been added with a show at Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee, on Sunday, April 24. Uh Huh Her is fronted by Leisha Hailley, best known for her role on *The L Word*, and Camila Grey, formerly of Mellowdrone. The full-length album *Common Reaction* features the goodies "Not a Love Song," "Explode" and "Wait Another Day." Highly anticipated new material is available exclusively at the band's concert dates.

**Lady Miss Kier** of Deee-Lite fame will have a DJ alongside Greg Haus and Chester at Berlin, 954 W. Belmont, on Sunday, April 24, for a '90s tribute. Between 1990 and 1994, Deee-Lite only had three albums, which spawned 1996's *Sampadelic Relics & Dancefloor Oddities* and the 20-track retrospective, *The Very Best of Deee-Lite*. The New York-based trio's colorful catalog boasts positive messages of unity ("World Clique"), safe sex ("Rubber Lover") and even political uneasiness ("Fuddy Duddy Judge"). Kier has spun crowd-pleasing and funky sets at Northalsted Market Days. Delightful indeed.

When I first saw the tracklisting for **Roxette's** *Charm School*, I thought the Swedish duo was influenced by the camp film *Showgirls*. Just look at the titles "She's Got Nothing On (But the Radio)," "No One Makes It on Her Own," "Way Out" and "Sitting on Top of the World." Alas, the fictional Las Vegas entertainer Nomi Malone has nothing to do with *Charm School*.

As with any Roxette outing, I am partial to the material sung by Marie Fredriksson instead of the pair's key songwriter, Per Gessle. The most energetic number, "She's Got Nothing On (But the Radio)," captures a certain sense of adolescence. A '60s vibe fuels "I'm Glad You Called," "Dream On" and "After All." Let's hope the slower-paced standouts "No One Makes It on Her Own" and "In My Own Way" will be singles. *Charm School* is available stateside only via import shops and already has achieved chart success in Europe.

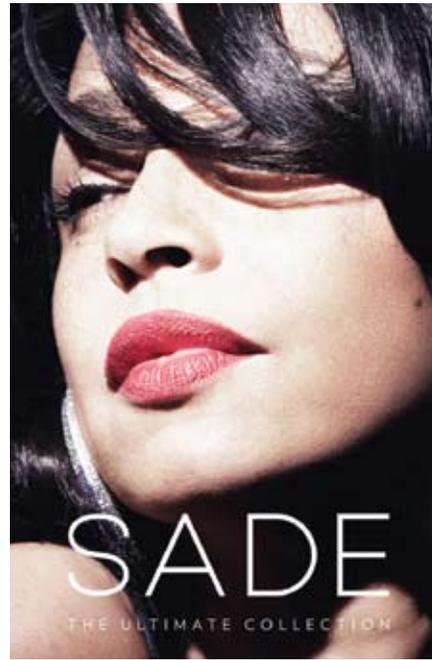
**The New Dance Mix USA: In the Club** acts as the perfect reminder that spring is here. Mixed by Ted the Dillinger, the beats and bass here are begging to be blaring out of cars with the windows rolled down. The continuous mix opens with the Axwell Mix of Temper Trap's "Sweet Disposition." This song has been licensed to (500) Days of Summer and Diet Coke. Last year's comical hit, "Barbra Streisand" by Duck Sauce, has an irresistible groove, which bleeds nicely into LMFAOs "I Am Not a Whore." R&B siren Deborah Cox cameos on "Leave the World Behind" with her voice that never disappoints.

Some—as heard on *The Jersey Shore*—hastily might call the sounds featured here house music, although these tracks do not have the soul and musicality of what defined the house scene more than 20 years ago. However, do not let that discount the energy that comes pumping out of the latest installment of *The New Dance Mix USA*.

## Sade's 'Ultimate Collection' out May 3

The band Sade (led by the singer of the same name) is back with *The Ultimate Collection* to be released Tuesday, May 3.

The 29-track, two-disc album will include four new songs, including a remix to "The Moon And The Sky," featuring Jay-Z. The UL-



imate Collection also features 15 tracks that were not included on Sade's 1994 "Best Of" album. Here for the first time, fans can find all of their favorite Sade classics, including "Smooth Operator" and "Soldier Of Love."

Sade recently announced the second leg of its ultimate summer tour kicking off June 16. Fans who pre-order *The Ultimate Collec-*

tion will have exclusive early access to tickets in select markets. For complete presale and ticket on sale information, visit <http://www.Sade.com>. Tickets for the newly announced dates are on sale at Ticketmaster.com and LiveNation.com.

Sade has enjoyed phenomenal success throughout a 27-year career. Since the release of the debut album, *Diamond Life*, in 1984 the band has seen all five studio albums land in the Top 10 on Billboard's Top 200 Album Chart, selling a total of more than 50 million albums worldwide to date.

## Pet Shop Boys out with ballet

Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe—otherwise known as Pet Shop Boys—have released the music for their first-ever full-length ballet, *The Most Incredible Thing*.

The music was in collaboration with choreographer Javier De Frutos and the British dance theatre Sadler's Wells. The score follows Tennant and Lowe's critically acclaimed soundtrack to the classic silent film *Battleship Potemkin*.

## 'Four Sensuous Men' April 23

"Bear All: Four Sensuous Men Singing Steamy Sweaty Songs" will take place Saturday, April 23, at Touché, 6412 N. Clark, at 10 p.m.

Four singer/songwriters from the bear community—Blair, John Hasbrouck, Matthew David Brown and host Scott Free—join forces for an evening of acoustic entertainment. For more info, email [mrscoffree@gmail.com](mailto:mrscoffree@gmail.com).

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# Peter Gallagher on Cher and 'Covert Affairs'



BY JERRY NUNN

Peter Gallagher has appeared in such memorable roles from Sandy Cohen in *The O.C.* to John in *Sex, Lies and Videotape*. The actor is also known for a vast array of Broadway roles such as Stephen Sondheim's *Company* and an all-male *a cappella* group called the Beezlebubs.

He recently visited the Windy City to host a storytelling event at the Chicago History Museum and talked Cher, video games and his current show, *Covert Affairs*.

**Windy City Times:** Hi, Peter. What are you up to these days?

Peter Gallagher: I have been filming the second season of USA's *Covert Affairs* up in snowy Toronto.

**WCT:** Yes, you play CIA Director Arthur Campbell. How is that going?

PG: It is going great—first of all, to even have a second season and, personally, because they asked me back! It is a great bunch of people produced by Doug Liman and David Bartis, people I had met on the first season of *The O.C.* I had always wanted to work with them again. Our cast is great, Piper Perabo...

**WCT:** I love her!

PG: Also, Sendhil Ramamurthy. It has great writers and crew. We shipped our cars up there and my poor little Prius was battling its way through the snow yesterday and getting blown around. It was a lot of fun to be in the great frozen north.

**WCT:** Oh, no! Well, you are safe in Chicago now.

PG: I am happy to be back. I saw this event in New York and it is really cool. I was very happy that they asked me.

**WCT:** How did you get involved with *A More Perfect Union: Stories of Prejudice and Power*?

PG: Mostly because it is sponsored by USA and *The Moth*. I am working for USA right now and so I was invited to attend in New York. To see how the whole thing works out. They asked me to host here in Chicago.

**WCT:** It has talented people telling their stories about discrimination, correct?

PG: Yes, it is a multi-city tour that has gone around the nation. *The Moth* is a nonprofit organization that specializes in the art and craft of storytelling. In this case it is coordinated with USA's efforts in the *Characters Unite* tour to combat discrimination and support tolerance and respect. I believe in the power of storytelling and have for years. It is something that brings us together. Especially when there are so many examples in politics and business where stories can be used to divide us. These particular stories are well told and bring us together. It is a powerful thing and creates an environment where prejudice, fear and ignorance can't survive in at least for a moment. So I am happy to be contributing.

**WCT:** Let's talk about this huge career of yours.

PG: I just won't quit! No matter what they say, I don't give up.

**WCT:** I just saw you in *Burlesque*.

PG: There you go! That was with my old pal Cher. She was my date 20 years ago in *The Player*.

**WCT:** I forgot about that!

PG: Oh my God, it's a riot. Are you kidding?

**WCT:** She still looks the same. How does that happen?

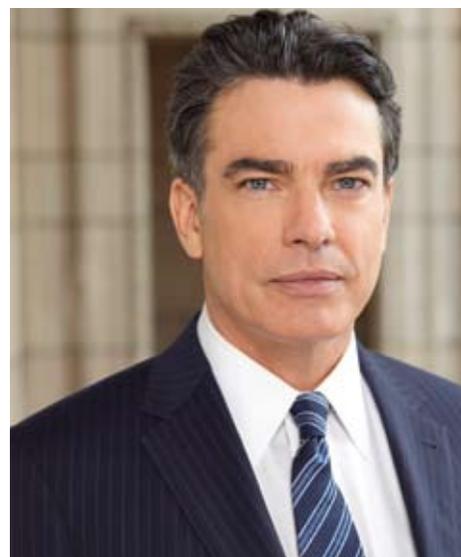
PG: It's a miracle. You know what? That is exactly as it should be. She is just as real, beautiful and as funny as ever.

**WCT:** I really enjoyed that movie.

PG: You know what was cool, too? Denise Faye, who was the assistant for choreography on *Chicago* and *Nine*, was the choreographer on this and was one of my *Hot Box Girls* on Broadway in *Guys and Dolls*. She played Mimi and had the only line of any of the *Hot Box Girls*. It was very exciting to be on a movie set 20 years later and watching her choreograph these unbelievable numbers. This was a terrific cast of people from the theatre and the movies. It was a great set to be on.

**WCT:** You have done so many musicals. Do you want to do more?

PG: Yeah, I love singing. I started off do-



Peter Gallagher.

ing that and with any luck I will be able to do more.

**WCT:** Did you study acting in school?

PG: You know, I didn't. I studied acting independently my whole life. My last acting teacher just died a few years ago and I studied with her for 25 years. I studied music a little bit in college but I got an economics degree, which was a wise thing for me because it reassured me that I had absolutely no aptitude for it or for business. So I rushed headlong to Broadway. I still study singing. You would think after all these years that I would figure it out!

**WCT:** I read on Wikipedia that you are a big video-game person.

PG: That is not true. That is another Peter Gallagher that they have mixed up. My son was a big video-game person when he was younger.

**WCT:** We have to set the record straight!

PG: You can't believe everything. You read things like that sometimes and you think, "Okay, why not?" "I wasn't born there but that's okay!"

**WCT:** So you are not into video games.

PG: I am really not. I just can't play them. I am not good at them at all.

**WCT:** You have a new movie coming out *Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You*.

PG: Yes, it is a great book by Peter Cameron. It is about a young boy coming of age, starring

Toby Regbo. He is a beautiful kid and acted in *Harry Potter*. He plays my son who is 17, turning 18 and figuring out what he is all about. Marcia Gay Harden plays his mother and we are divorced. Ellen Burstyn is in it and Lucy Liu. It is directed by Roberto Faenza from a lovely script and is a real indie. We shot it in New York.

**WCT:** When does it come out?

PG: We are going to find out very soon, in the next couple of weeks, I think.

**WCT:** Any other projects that you have coming up?

PG: I might be doing another movie in June

and I will be doing this series though October. But I think I can sneak out and do a few other things. I still do my little one-man show that I did at the Drury Lane here in Chicago last year. I just did it in Santa Monica recently. I keep rewriting it and will be at a few performing arts centers coming up. I am just keeping it all going on!

Keep up with Gallagher at <http://www.petergallagher.com/blog> and listings for *Covert Affairs* are located at <http://www.usanetwork.com>.

## FASHION/TV

### Christian Siriano talks shoes and success

BY NATASHA HEMLEY



Christian Siriano.

Designer Christian Siriano got his break after winning season four of *Project Runway*, taking the fashion world by storm. He chatted with *Windy City Times* about his new line of shoes for Payless as well as his upcoming appearance at Columbia College Chicago's *Conversation in the Arts*.

**Windy City Times:** Lets talk about your line of shoes for Payless, which is fabulous, by the way!

Christian Siriano: Thank you! I've been working with Payless now for a few years. We've done, like, nine collections together, which has been really great. For me, it was really about bringing fashion to more of an accessible place. I wanted my younger fashionista fan—who loves me, loves what I do, but can't afford my clothing—to [be able to] afford a really great shoe for under \$50. We've taken it now to something bigger and better. Each season, we do a great runway shoe and we do bags. It is really growing and going to keep growing, which is exciting. I love it!

**WCT:** What inspires you when creating the shoes?

CS: Everything. I get inspired by lots of furniture legs or heels. I get inspired by different types of lacing. All kinds of things inspire the shoes. I love architectural items that we can bring into the shoes. All of those little things—prints that we've done [from] Chinese, African [and other] cultures. There's a laundry list of inspiration, which is fun.

**WCT:** Have your ideas about fashion changed in the last three years?

CS: Definitely! Now it is more of a business, but you learn a lot. I've learned so much just from being with customers, different women and how they shop. Every year I learn something new. Business changes me, which is great I love it. It is such a great experience to travel and meet different customers, find out what they like or don't like. It's really nice.

**WCT:** Now I know you did a one hour special, which aired on Bravo last year. Can you talk a little about that experience?

CS: It was great! It was following me and my new life, and that's it; nothing else, which is exactly how I wanted it. I wanted to do a follow-up and a nice little special. It was really cool. It showed me and my business and my world.

**WCT:** Is it a little bit surreal that you got your start from *Project Runway*?

CS: It's cool! I really take it as a fashion business, it's more serious, more real. *Project Runway* is great, but it's not real life. It's a fun show, great experience. I learned a lot. Now I've really learned so much more. I've really grown as a designer [and] as a brand. It definitely feels weird and different, but it's [a] good direction. Everybody wants that!

**WCT:** How are you adjusting to your overnight success?

CS: It's OK. It's a lot of work, not just for

me. Me personally, I work on all of these products, I have to promote them, and that's a lot. Definitely stressful at times. [I] work with celebrity clients and that can be a lot of work, but it's fun and its great to do what you love to do. I am pretty lucky I get to do that.

**WCT:** What do you like to do on your down time?

CS: I wish I had down time. I really don't, unfortunately. I'm really into [the] home. I love decoration and interior design. I like antique stores on the weekends, nothing that interesting. I watch awful TV and sit around eating junk food; that's about it.

**WCT:** You are going to be making an appearance at Columbia College Chicago for its *Conversation in the Arts*. What do you want the audience to take away from that interview?

CS: I really want everyone to know that if you're a young artist, inspired designer or a young creator in any way to follow that dream, to keep going. I'm 25; I'm still learning, but I get to do what I love to do. Lots of people told me I couldn't. If you love what you are doing, you should keep doing it, and that's the biggest thing to kind of do what you want to do.

**WCT:** What's your favorite hot spot when you come to Chicago?

CS: I don't have too many. It's been a while, I have to figure it out, nothing sticking out of my head. I met [and I am] kind of a friends with Billy Dec, who I know owns a few restaurants and things like that. Hopefully, he'll have a little place for me to go.

**WCT:** Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

CS: I really want to see my Christian Siriano brand really grow and develop. Hopefully, we will be opening some type of retail store. I really want to keep it growing and developing. I'd really love to do other things: jewelry, sunglasses, all those things. Hopefully, in the next 10 years we'll be able to do those things.

Nena Ivon, former fashion director at Saks Fifth Avenue in Chicago, will interview Christian Siriano Tuesday, April 26, at Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash, at 7 p.m. (This has changed from the original date of Monday, April 25, according to <http://www.colum.edu/specialevents/up-close/Christian%20Siriano.php>.)

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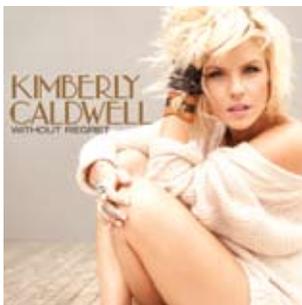
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SUN. MAY 15 7 sign up/8 start

**Scarlet** 3320 N. Halsted  
MON. MAY 16 8 sign up/9 start

**Roscoe's** 3356 N. Halsted  
MON. MAY 23 8 sign up/9 start

**Sidetrack** 3349 N. Halsted  
SAT. JUNE 4 2 door/3 start

**Sidetrack** 3349 N. Halsted  
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# Kate Lane: Chicago actor debuts with LGBTQ film 'redBLUE'

BY SARAH TEREZ ROSENBLUM

If you've never heard of Kate Lane, you soon will. An up-and-coming Chicago actor, Lane recently received rave reviews for her role in Viaduct Theater's "The Observatory."

However, acting is only one piece of the puzzle. For roughly five years, Lane has been working on "redBLUE," a short LGBTQ film she both wrote and produced. The story of a young artist manipulated by her mentors, "redBLUE" stars Tony-nominated Howard Witt and Lane herself. Although a self-described workaholic, Lane found time to discuss the film and a host of other projects.

## Windy City Times: What inspired your film?

Kate Lane: That's a question that makes me squirm. Most succinctly, personal events, but also, screenwriting as an art form. When I was 18, I took a cross-graduate class on Heidegger's Being and Time and the professor showed Muholand Drive. I bought the movie and I watched it every day before bed for two months.

I started to write about who I was in love—or infatuated with—at the time, then spent a lot of time detailing dolly shots (I would marry a dolly if I could). A lot of the inspiration comes from a visual level, thinking about events in my life as if they were a fairytale; the movement of a camera tracking the space down the divide between our bodies spooning, mirroring the divide between two pages in an open book.

In "redBLUE" there's a book motif, and that inspiration came from the fact that I was measuring all my feelings by the things I read in books. I was a philosophy major in addition to acting, so I come from an academic world [in which] everything is calculated and overstuffed with metaphor and meaning and maxims and blah blah get-a-life

## WCT: As a producer, what challenges did you face?

KL: We had the easiest, most fulfilling shoot I have ever been on. It was in post [production] when monsters arose. We [had a] great editor on board for free, but he had a lot of projects



Kate Lane.

going on that paid him, so it took awhile for the rough cut. Then something went wrong with the hard drive and gave us a huge scare. My co-producer and director, Brittani Smith, and I are both workaholics, so we had round-the-clock schedules. Getting an original score and every-thing edited took over a year.

## WCT: Had you considered directing the film yourself?

KL: Not even for a second. I have too many ideas and I do not know how to simplify. Brittani understood the characters and the film as a whole. She knows how to talk to actors, and she knows how to take charge.

## WCT: How was it to portray a character anchored in your personal experience?

KL: I had to detach myself from myself and play someone without the perspective I had gained since I was 18. Brittani was great about keeping me in check and not allowing me to play someone who was more mature than Red. Her naiveté is one of the most important elements, so I am thankful I had Brittani to force me into that uncomfortable, foolish skin.

## WCT: What are your hopes for "redBLUE"?

KL: Many have been fulfilled, in the sense that the people who made it are proud of it and think fondly of the experience and one another. We are currently submitting to festivals, including Boston GLBT, Outfest and San Francisco GLBT. Fingers crossed.

## WCT: You work in film and theater. Which do you prefer?

KL: I like film better. I like how I can think something and it is like I have spoken something, [whereas] onstage, I might have to add a gesture to make myself clear. I also like the workday; doing a section of the text or action over and over is like yoga for me.

## WCT: What are you working on now?

KL: In acting-land, I currently play Tatania in Glass Onion's Midsummer Night's Dream, and am a series regular in the webisodes Classholes. I'm [also] working on two feature-length screenplays—one with my girlfriend, comedian/writer Sarah King, and my grandma, a notable chemist. My grandmother, Sarah, and I had been emailing about Greta Garbo, Marlene Dietrich, Katharine Hepburn, Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury group, and what it meant to be driven, original and fearless. Sarah and I were just bit by some bug and talked on the phone all day about that email, and ended coming up with an idea for a dark comedy about people's perceptions of female sexuality.

## WCT: Obviously, you're out and an actor. Any conflicts?

KL: I guess I gave up a little bit of my marketability in exchange for the chance to be an example to people struggling with their sexuality. There is a good chance I would not be out if I did not want to continue to make my own films and theater. Acting is my core but I compulsively create stuff, so I have to deal with my monsters.

View Kate Lane's work in "Classholes" at <http://www.classholes.com>. Glass Onion's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" runs in rep with "Romeo and Juliet" Mondays and Tuesdays through May 10. For more information, visit [www.glassoniontheatre.org](http://www.glassoniontheatre.org).



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# Giving up on Gay Men

By Michael Weinstein, *President AIDS Healthcare Foundation*



GILEAD

Recent headlines applauded taking medication as 'pre-exposure prophylaxis' to prevent transmission of HIV among gay men.

The news came in a study of nearly 2,500 men in six countries that found that an average man taking the medication

was 44% less likely to become infected than a control group taking a placebo.

How very sad that we have come to this point. The applause for this approach shows just how disposable we consider the lives of gay men.

If we were talking about protecting the general population with a treatment that was only 44% effective, would we be celebrating? The 44% who received a benefit from the medications were intensively counseled monthly, with frequent blood draws and tests for sexual infections. This is in no way representative of any real world situation.

In the real world, why would anyone subject himself to drug therapy—with the potential of very serious side effects—every day if they had any intention of using condoms? If someone tells almost any man that it is safe to have sex without a condom, they will likely do so.

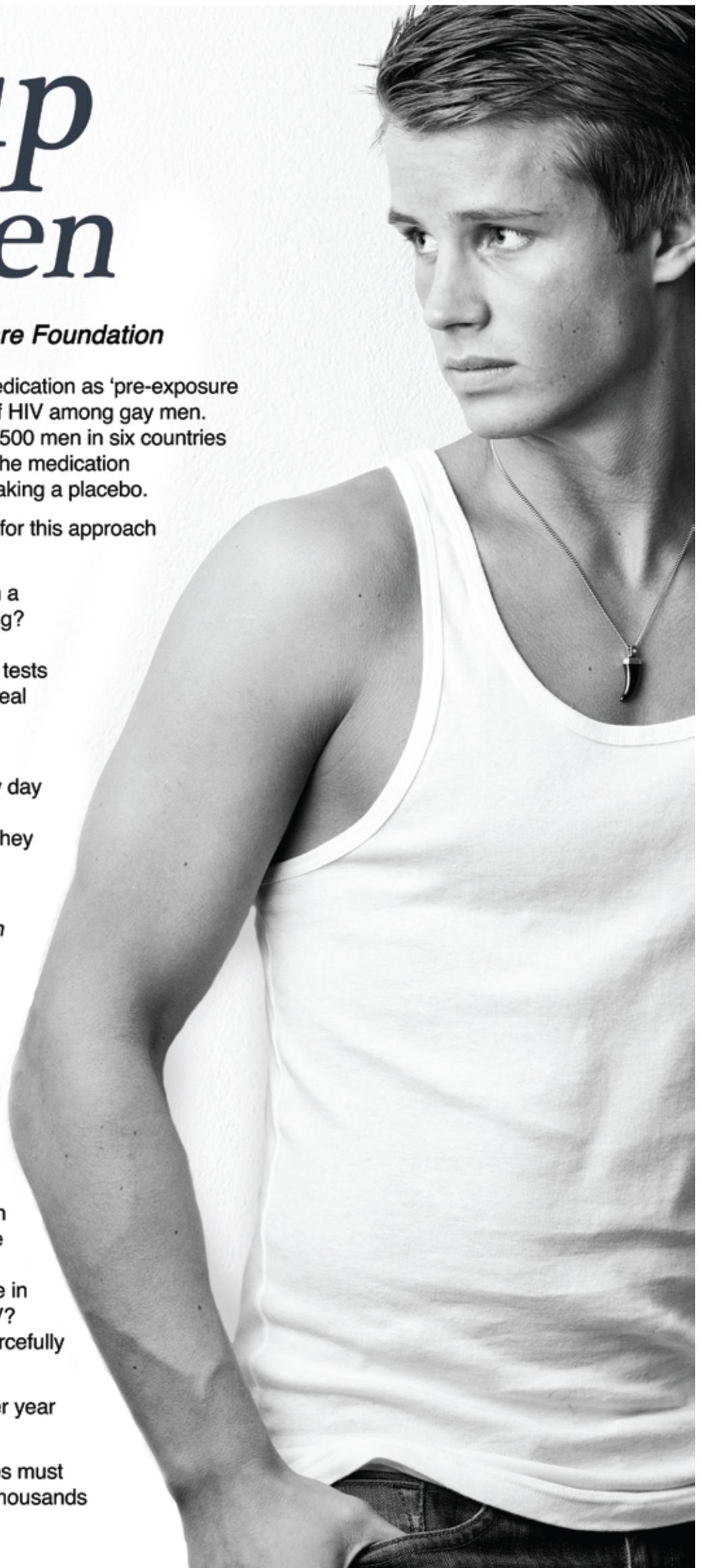
Kevin Fenton, chief of HIV/AIDS for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said: *"Some studies suggest that even a small increase in risk behavior due to a false sense of security about the pills effectiveness could actually increase HIV infections, an outcome we cannot afford."*

A large percentage of patients already infected with HIV do not take their medications. How likely are uninfected men to take pills every day for the rest of their lives to prevent an HIV infection? If the pre-exposure HIV medication is not at therapeutic levels in their system before they have sex, they will not be protected.

The potential use of drugs to prevent HIV infection is based on the premise that we cannot succeed in getting gay men to use condoms. Has an effective effort really been made to market condoms in gay-friendly ways? Are condoms readily available in bars, bathhouses and other meeting spots? Advertised on TV? Do our political, religious and community leaders speak out forcefully for protecting gay men from HIV infection? No.

Another question: who will pay for this \$10,000 per person, per year pre-exposure treatment?

I commend research into HIV prevention. But, our communities must consider these points if we are going to offer up hundreds of thousands of gay men for an unproven experiment.



For more information or to send a letter to Gilead CEO John C. Martin,  
Please visit [nomagicpills.org](http://nomagicpills.org).

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LGB WORKER STUDY** Lesbian, gay, and bisexual people who are employed in Chicago, your help is needed for UIC research study about the experiences of LGB workers. [www.gayworkersurvey.com](http://www.gayworkersurvey.com) (5/4/11 - 4)

## ARTISTS

**CALL FOR ARTISTS: SKOKIE ART GUILD'S 50TH ANNUAL ART FAIR.** July 9 & 10, 2011. Fine art. Prizes and awards. Held on the Village Green, 5211 W. Oakton St., downtown Skokie, IL. Apply now. For applications or information: [skokieart@aol.com](mailto:skokieart@aol.com) or 847-677-8163. [www.skokieartguild.org](http://www.skokieartguild.org) (6/30/11-18)

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# Celebrations

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

## WCT at the GLAAD Awards

BY JOHN FENOGLIO

Some of Hollywood's hottest celebrities joined the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) for its 22nd annual GLAAD Media Awards ceremony, held at the Westin Bonaventure in Los Angeles April 10. The star-studded evening, sponsored by ROKK Vodka, featured honorees such as Kristin Chenoweth, NBC Entertainment Chairman Robert Greenblatt and the best in television and journalism. Amy Poehler and Rashida Jones hosted the event.

The GLAAD Media Awards recognize and honor media for their representation of LGBT individuals and the issues that affect their lives. Proceeds from the evening's event also fund the organization's work to heighten stories of LGBT people and issues that strengthen equality.

GLAAD Award recipients included Kristin Chenoweth (presented by Sean Hayes); Project Runway's Mondo Guerra, Michael Costello, and producer Jonathan Murray; and NBC Entertainment Chairman Robert Greenblatt (presented by Dolly Parton). Parton even sang an abridged version of her hit song "Nine-to-Five," driving the capacity ballroom bonkers.

For a complete list of award recipients, or to watch video of the event, go to <http://www.glaad.org/mediaawards/22/la>.

Photos by Jason Merritt/WireImage.com.

John also caught up with stars Mike O'Malley, Robert Gant and Jason Stuart. See <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=31341> to see what they had to say.



Kristin Chenoweth.



(L-R) Julie Bowen, Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Ariel Winter of TV's Modern Family.



(L-R) Amy Poehler and Rashida Jones of TV's Parks and Recreation.

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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

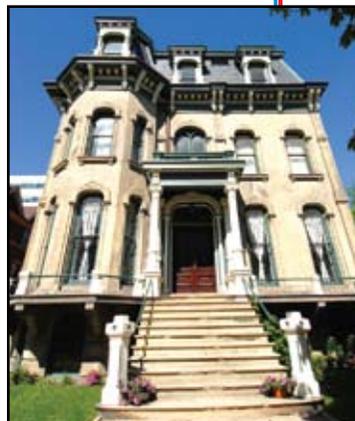
Please send an email to [andrew@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:andrew@windycitymediagroup.com) and let Windy City Times join in your celebration.

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# calendar

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## Wed., April 20

**A Conversation with Chicago's Mayor-Elect Rahm Emanuel** Mayor-Elect Rahm Emanuel will talk with the Chicago Tribune Editorial Page Editor Bruce Dold and take audience questions in A Conversation with Chicago's Mayor-Elect at the James Simpson Theater; \$10 by phone or online include a post-event reception. 6 p.m., 312-222-3348, Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore, <http://www.tribnation.com/events>

**Sarah Ruhl's award winning Eurydice** Greek myth from its heroine's perspective: after dying on her wedding day, Eurydice finds herself in the underworld, her memory washed away in the River of Forgetfulness, through May 29; 7:30 p.m., Lacuna Artist Lofts, 2150 S. Canalport, <http://www.filamenttheatre.org>

**Cocktail's 15th anniversary** Join your host geNo and the Cocktail family as they celebrate 15 years! Plus, the return of outside dining in The Gardens. DJs Freddie Bain, Uncle Milty, Sadie Woods, Psycho Bitch & Carla Starla. Plus sexy Go Go boys dancing up a storm. 9 p.m., Cocktail Chicago, 3359 N Halsted Street, <http://www.cocktailbar-chicago.com>

## Thursday, April 21

**Creating Safer Spaces: LGBTQ 101** Overview of LGBTQ identities, and will ask that participants think through how they support LGBTQ-identified young people within their agencies and offer solutions for social service providers for LGBTQs. This training is free; however space is limited and priority is given to Youth Ready Chicago Community Council Members. Par-

## THE WRITE STUFF Saturday, April 30

Writer Nikki Giovanni will be at Harold Washington, 400 S. State.



ticipants must RSVP to [dklein@centeron-halsted.org](mailto:dklein@centeron-halsted.org). CEUs and CPDUs are available to those who are interested for \$10. 10 a.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

**Wonka Ball 2011: A Royal Wedding** About Face Theatre presents Wonka Ball 2011 A Royal Wedding. Polish up your tiara, because a Royal Wedding is coming to town! 5:30 p.m., The School of the Art Institute Ballroom 112 S. Michigan, <http://about-face-theatre.com/index.php>

**Windy City Gay Idol** Now in its 9th year, Idol searches for the best amateur LGBT singers in the Chicago area and is open to all amateur singers age 21 and above, regardless of sexual orientation. \$10 sign-up fee for singers, and a \$5 fee for audience members at all preliminary events, \$10 cover at the semi-finals and finals at Sidetrack, 9 p.m. sign up, 10 p.m. start, 9 p.m., Crew Bar & Grill, 4804 N Broadway

**Bruiser: Tales of a Traumatized Tomboy** BRUISER: Some girls dream about their wedding day. Others long to play with po-

nies. Only a select few name and collect their scabs, speak to imaginary rodents in their minds, and make mortal enemies out of cute yellow doggies. BRUISER is a true story of how a misplaced tomboy blossoms into an even more awkward adult. 8 p.m., 773-598-4549, Gorilla Tango Theatre, <http://www.gorillatango.com/>

## Friday, April 22

### Eyes of the World: Youth Artist Showcase

As a way to celebrate the freedom and healing youth experienced from participating in art therapy services, this artist showcase will open with a reception and performances. Youth artists will showcase their attitude toward life struggles, express their reflections on the various facets of their life and ask others to witness the world of change with an emphasis on youth's power and creativity. The exhibit will remain on display for two weeks. 6 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted

**MidTangent Productions' presents: Twinkle and the Beast** The company that brought you SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DRAG QUEENS and A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: A QUEER TALE are twisting up another classic tale as old as time. 9 p.m., Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

**Good Friday: Heaven & Hell at Minibar Ultra Lounge** Heaven or Hell? That's the question! Minibar is transforming into a limbo between both. Are you into the Proverbial Angels in the front or the Devilish Boys in the back? 9 p.m., Minibar Ultra Lounge and Cafe, 3341 N. Halsted, <http://www.minibarchicago.com>

**Baby Wants Candy at Apollo Theater** Baby Wants Candy kicks off its fifth year at Chicago's Apollo Theater. The completely improvised hit production features performances every Friday night. 10:30 p.m., 773-935-6100, Apollo Theatre, 2540 N Lincoln Avenue, <http://www.baby-wantscandy.com>

## Saturday, April 23

**ILG.RA Party** ILGRA is having a party, and you all are invited! The fun starts at 9 with a Hot Cowgirl and Cowboy Contest and a show starting at 11. Raffle off some great prizes and two hot prizes for the contest winners. FAMOUS Drunken Gummi Bear Shot all night long. Come out and enter the contest and it will not be a normal western contest! 9 p.m., Club Krave, 13126 S. Western

**BEAR ALL: Four Sensuous Men Singing Steamy Sweaty Songs!** Four singer/songwriters from the Bear community join forces for acoustic entertainment, from Blair's impassioned, slam poetry-inspired

anthems to Scott Free's graphic songs of male sexuality to John Hasbrouck's multi-instrument fingerstyle virtuosity to Matthew David Brown's haunting folk stylings, there will be a wealth of musical talents on stage; 10 p.m., 312-218-8123, Touche, 6412 N Clark, <http://www.scottfree.net>

**Passing Strange** Bailiwick Chicago presents the Midwest Premiere of Passing Strange, the Tony Award-winning rock/soul musical. April 21-May 29. 8 p.m., 312-733-6000, Chicago Center for the Performing Arts, 777 N. Green, <http://www.bailwick-chicago.com>

## Sunday, April 24

**Urban Village Church Wicker Park Worship Services** LGBT welcoming worship services at Urban Village Church are eclectic and experiential, practical and intelligent, relevant and, hopefully, inspiring. 5:30 p.m., 1502 N. Hoyne (at LeMoynes), <http://www.newchicagochurch.com/>

**New Town Writers** Regular meeting of Gay and lesbian writers' salon; 7:30 p.m., Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W Granville Ave

**Lady Miss Kier spins!!!** Special DJ set from Lady Miss Kier of Deee-Lite. 10:30 p.m., Berlin, 954 W. Belmont, <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

**Rejoicing in New Life—Easter Sunday at Urban Village Church** Most of us would accept a friend request from God, but would the relationship stay superficial? How can we have a more personal experience? During Lent, Urban Village Church will explore practices to help you meet up with God in powerful ways. This week, Rejoicing in New Life: Easter Sunday; 10:15 a.m., Urban Village Church, Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan, <http://www.newchicagochurch.com>

## Monday, April 25

**Spring 2011 Affinity Board Recruitment Event** Learn about leadership roles, what boards do in general and the particular responsibilities of Affinity board members. In addition, to RSVPing for this event, please submit resume to [executivedirector@affinity95.org](mailto:executivedirector@affinity95.org), with "Spring 2011 Board Recruitment Event" in the subject line. 6:30 p.m., Brown Sugar Bakery, 328 E. 75th, <http://www.affinity95.org>

**United House: A Night of Unity in House Music** Join Hydrate Nightclub, ChicagoPride.com, and host Cyon Flare for United House: A Night of Unity in House Music, featuring New Resident House DJ Semaj; 10 p.m., Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

**In the Life: Backlash or Evolution? and The Importance of Being Iowa** Long-running television show documenting the LGBT life and experience; 10:30 p.m., 773-583-5000, Channel 11, WTTW, in Chicago, <http://www.wttw.com>

## Tuesday, April 26

**Christian Siriano to speak at Columbia College** Fashion designer and Project Runway season four winner Christian Siriano will be the featured guest for Columbia College Chicago's Conversation in the Arts: Fine and Performing Arts, at 7 p.m. on April 26 (changed from April 25). He will be interviewed by Nena Ivon, former long-time Chicago Saks Fifth Avenue fashion director and Columbia College adjunct faculty member. 7 p.m., Film Row Cinema, <http://www.colum.edu/conversations>

**PRIDE Up North** Featuring gourmet burgers & sliders, craft beers and more, PRIDE Up North is a social network for GLBT living north of Hollywood who get together periodically for dinner and conversation, alternating days, RSVP [prideupnorth@hotmail.com](mailto:prideupnorth@hotmail.com); 7 p.m., 773-262-3783, HOP HAUS, 7545 N. Clark, <http://www.the-hophaus.com>

**Gay Men's Book Discussion Group** 7:30 p.m., 773-381-8030, The Gerber/Hart Library 1127 W. Granville, <http://www.gerberhart.org>



## TALK TALK

Wed., April 20

Mayor-elect Rahm Emanuel will have a conversation with editor Bruce Dold at the Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore.

Photo from campaign team

## Wed., April 27

**Monthly EXPOSE Drop-in Night** Lesbian-sensitive care free breast and cervical cancer screenings for insured or uninsured women. Call to schedule appointment, 6-7:30 p.m.. Twenty minute set-up screenings. 773-338-1600, Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N. Sheridan, <http://www.howardbrown.org>

**200 Funny Things Late-Night Improv Show** "200 Funny Things" Late-Night Improv Show by Collaboration; 10:30 p.m., 312-226-9633, Flat Iron Arts Building 1579 N. Milwaukee, 3rd floor studio

## Thursday, April 28

**Lambda Legal's annual Bon Foster celebration** Celebrate the work of Lambda Legal, hear speaker Zach Wahls, who spoke about being raised by two lesbians to the Iowa legislature, and enjoy open bar, food, festivity and support for a worthy cause. \$150 each. 5:30 p.m., 312-663-4413, Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan, <http://www.lambdalegal.org/bonfoster>

**Dining Out for Life** Eat to celebrate good food, great friends and a worthy cause at the 18th annual Dining Out for Life. See [http://www.edgealliance.org/pages/special\\_events/93.php](http://www.edgealliance.org/pages/special_events/93.php)

## Saturday, April 30

**Nikki Giovanni** The author of more than 30 books for adults and children. She published her first book of poetry, Black Feeling, Black Talk, in 1968. Her autobiography, Gemini, was a finalist for the National Book Award. One of Oprah Winfrey's 25 "Living Legends," Giovanni has received dozens of honorary degrees, and the Langston Hughes Medal for Poetry. Cosponsored by The Poetry Foundation. 2 p.m., Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State, <http://www.chicagopubliclibrary.org>

**Ice Dreams Starring Johnny Weir** Two-time Olympian, three-time national champion Johnny Weir performs in Ice Dreams; a show that features elite figure skaters as well as a special appearance by 100 Chicago area youth skaters. 7 p.m., 212-600-4330, Edge Ice Arena, Bensenville., <http://www.icedreamstour.com>

## Sunday, May 1

**Windy City Gay Idol** \$10 signup fee for singers, and a \$5 fee for audience members at all preliminary events, \$10 cover at the semi-finals and finals at Sidetrack, 8 p.m. sign up, 9 p.m. start. 9 p.m., DS Tequila, 3352 N. Halsted, Chicago, <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com>



## PRO AND 'BON'

Thursday, April 28

Lambda Legal's annual Bon Foster celebration will take place at the Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan.

Photo from 2010 by Kat Fitzgerald

# BILLY MASTERS

"I had to have a six-pack on the show. My trainer said to eat nothing apart from sweet potato and very little water. The potato acts as a sponge and your body literally shrinks and gets ripped and tight."—Matt Morrison talks about how he gets in shape for those shirtless scenes. I can't imagine how a sweet potato with butter, brown sugar and marshmallows helps you lose weight, but I'm willing to give it a shot!

I have fully recovered from Jeffrey Sanker's White Party in Palm Springs. I gave you some details last week. I didn't mention the luminary who was supposed to be my "date" because the best-laid plans got waylaid. Or, if rumors are to be believed, he was way laid! I'm just glad someone got laid!

Prince Frederick von Anhalt has announced that he and Zsa Zsa are trying to have a child! I would have sworn Freddie's childbearing years were behind him! According to Mr. Gabor, "It was always my wife's dream for us to have a child and even though we won't be using any of her eggs, she would be thrilled to know I'm going through with this."

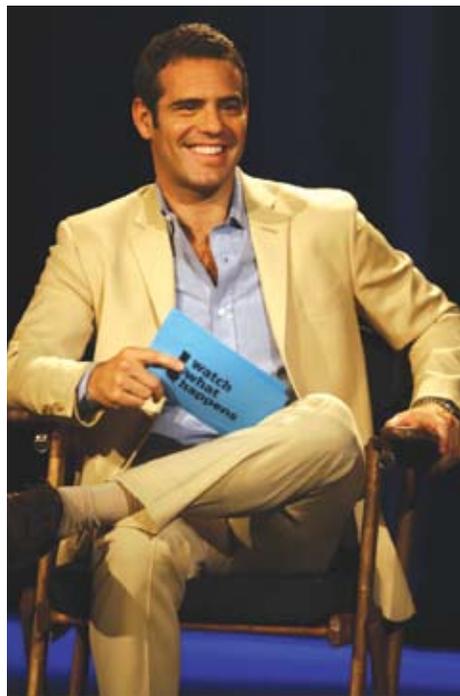
He makes it sounds like they have the option of using Zsa Zsa's eggs. Does he have a time machine I don't know about? How positively Jurassic! So basically he's gonna have a baby with another woman and somehow convince poor comatosed Zsa Zsa that it's really kinda hers? I don't buy it. But he's serious. The Prince said, "I am so excited! I hope Zsa Zsa is going to hang around for a while. I want her to see and hold the baby's hand. She will be a mother again at 95!! It was her wish to have a boy." This sounds like another plan to cut poor Francesca (Zsa's only child) out of the will. Reports indicate that Frederick visited a Beverly Hills fertility clinic last week to deposit some sperm. Well, he's been doing that all over West Hollywood for years! But more often than not, he's looking for a withdrawal.

For eons, a good friend of mine has been begging me to check out the Chippendales show in Las Vegas. Of course, that's because he's their publicist. I've met many of the guys at various events and they are incredibly hot. However, I always think of the Chips as a "ladies-only" show; how 20th-century of moi! Now, I'm told that these days quite a few guys attend—both straight and gay; how 21st-century of them!!! You'd think they got my attention by being named "Best Male Strip Show in Vegas." But no—I needed more, and now I've gotten it since my *bon ami*, Jeff Timmons, will be joining the troupe. OK, he's not exactly gonna be a Chippendale, but he'll be the special musical guest and emcee May 12-June 5 (Thursday through Sunday). Something tells me the Rio Hotel and Casino will get hotter than 98 degrees. (I couldn't resist.) If ever there was a guy with a voice as beautiful as his body and face, Jeff is it. You know what a stickler I am for details. So I got in touch with Jeff to find out some details ... i.e., how much skin he'd show: "Well, I always bear my heart and soul in my songs. So this time, MAYBE my body will go there, too." Count me in.

Speaking of guys with fantastic physiques, brace yourself for more nudity from Joe Manganiello. I know you're wondering how it would be possible to show even more skin on True Blood. However, apparently they're gonna try. At the recent NewNowNext awards (where he picked up the "Cause You're Hot" award), he was asked what to expect from his character in the upcoming season. He responded saying, "A lot naked. I'll say a lot. A lot. A lot!" He may not be able to put together a grammatically correct sentence, but he sure is pretty.

The networks are shooting pilots for next season and one show getting a lot of buzz is A Mann's

World. It centers around Allan Mann, a hairstylist who owns a Beverly Hills salon (shades of Jonathan Antin, anyone?). Normally I wouldn't be excited about a vehicle for Don Johnson (he plays Mr. Mann), but this is the brainchild of Michael Patrick King (writer/director/producer of Sex and the City) and co-stars Mario Cantone and Ellen Barkin. I'm thrilled that another co-star is my pal DJ Pierce, who you all know as Shangela from RuPaul's Drag Race. (We're both members of the House of Lewis—as in Jenifer Lewis.) DJ plays a transplanted New York stylist who brings a little East Coast sass to the salon. As to whether Shangela could pop up, DJ said, "I always got a wig in the bag, so if they need it, it's there". And, do you remember that queen who begged us to "Leave Britney Alone"? Yup,



Call Bravo's Andy Cohen a "City" slicker.

Chris Crocker's also in the cast. We'll run some photos from the set on BillyMasters.com.

Our "Ask Billy" question of the week comes from Roger in Chicago who asks, "Was Andy Cohen ever on Sex and the City? I checked online and he doesn't list it in his credits, but I swear I just saw him on a repeat."

You have good eyes—obviously I'm talking to Roger and not Andy! Yes, Cohen did an uncredited cameo (or, perhaps, extra work) on an episode where he was a shoe salesman helping Carrie. That Andy—he lives to service.

Could it be that a very familiar face and body will be turning up on The Voice? As a contestant? So say people close to the production who tell me that the dynamic diva was allowed to compete, despite her notoriety and well-publicized association with that other show. After all, she didn't exactly get to strut her stuff—at least not during the competition. *C'est magnifique!*

When I'm using my foreign tongue, it's definitely time to end yet another column. And once again, Billy is airborne. Off to New York City, the Big Apple, the Great White Way, Syphilis Central—it's got something for everyone. I'll be checking out a number of shows, catching up with a number of friends, and hopefully collecting a fistful of numbers—fistful, perhaps being the operative word. But no matter where I am, I'm always keeping you abreast of the latest gossip at [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com). If you've got a question, I've got an answer. Just send it off to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before Zsa Zsa's eggs hatch! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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# Coady Roundball Classic brings hoop dreams to UIC

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Coady Roundball Classic had its largest turnout and most competitive field for the 21st edition, held April 16-17 at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

The largest and longest-running LGBT basketball tournament attracted 35 teams from across the United States, the same number as last year, but 310 players—up 20 from last year. The 35 teams tied a tournament record, with new teams from Phoenix, Austin and Portland, Ore., among other cities. Organizers said the event has reached its max for the seven courts used over two days.

Twenty cities were represented in the event, including eight Chicago teams.

"Every year, the event gets better and better," said Sam Coady, an original member of the event's Hall of Fame (Class of 2000). "There were things provided [to participants] this year that no other tournament, in any sport does, including dinner for three nights, T-shirts, drink coupons, etc."

Coady did not play this season due to a recently injured knee, "but it's still very exciting to watch," he said. "I know the event is a success when others run it and do an exceptional job."

Originally called the Chicago Hoops Classic, it has been known as the Coady Roundball Classic for seven years, "and I'm very honored by that," Coady said. Ted Cappas was the organizer for the past seven years before handing the ball



Sam Coady (left) and Rob Smitherman at the Roundball Classic. Photo by Ross Forman

to Steve Waldron and Jeff Edmonds this year.

There were no lesbian players or teams this year, nor were there any Hall of Fame inductees. Last year, the event's Hall of Fame announced its 20th Anniversary All-Tournament Team.

The event attracted a lot more families to watch this year, Coady said. The classic does not have a limit per team on the number of heterosexual players, and there were many.

"The competition [level] this year was really strong," Coady said. "In the past, there has been one extremely good team [in the field], but this year there are three or four really, really good teams."

There were five divisions of play, and the event attracted about 40 former college players. Ira Crawley, the MVP of the 2011 Chicago league (competitive division) led the Midwest Underdogs, while Mike Survillion played for the San Francisco Rock Dogs—and he is, arguably, the tournament's all-around best player.

Organizers said only two players have played in all 21 editions—Frank Kisner of Chicago and Mark Satre of Sacramento. Both are Coady Hall of Fame honorees.

"The competition level has gotten way better. Teams definitely come to this event to compete," said Survillion, 26, who lives and teaches in San Francisco, and graduated from Evanston Township High School in 2002. "The [competition] bar has really been raised since last year."

The Rock Dogs are, arguably, the best gay basketball team in the world, and yet Crawley's Mid-

west Underdogs shocked the Rock Dogs 55-52 on Saturday in round-robin play, marking the Rock Dogs first loss in four years.

"It was shocking and painful," Survillion said of the loss. "We played a good first half, but then let the game slip away. We had a lot of turnovers and just didn't get it done."

Survillion played for the Rock Dogs at the 2006 event, held in conjunction with the Gay Games in Chicago. He has participated in the classic annually since 2007.

"I love the community this event has built," he said.

## Tournament results:

—Men's A1: D.C. Sentinels 53, Chicago Sport Sciorts 34

—Men's A2: Midwest Underdogs 63, Seattle Furry Vengeance 49

—Men's B1: Chicago CSW 52, Chicago Wrecking Crew 38

—Men's B2: Chicago Cougars 61, Real Trade of Atlanta 57

—Men's C: Austin Bball 32, Chicago KP's 25



Johnny Weir.

## Johnny Weir in Bensenville April 30

"Ice Dreams Starring Johnny Weir" is returning to The Edge Ice Arena, 735 E. Jefferson, Bensenville, on Saturday, April 30. This year's show will feature 100 young local skaters in a group number. The \*Future Stars\* were chosen to participate in the show through live and web auditions.

Weir—a three-time U.S. national champion, two-time Olympian and world medalist who recently officially came out—will be joined on the ice by other elite skaters, including two Chicago-area natives; world junior bronze medalist Agnes Zawadzki of Des Plaines and ice-dance Olympian Melissa Gregory of Northfield. U.S. silver medalist Brandon Mroz will also be among those skating.

Ice Dreams will donate \$1 of every ticket sold to the Japanese Red Cross in support of the relief effort. There also will be a silent auction held the night of the show, with all auction proceeds to be donated to the Japanese Red Cross. For more information visit <http://www.icedreamstour.com>.

## Kobe Bryant fined \$100K for anti-gay slur

The National Basketball Association (NBA) fined the Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant \$100,000 April 20 for "offensive and inexcusable" comments he made during the previous night's game against the San Antonio Spurs, according to CNN.

TNT cameras caught Kobe apparently calling referee Bennie Adams a "f\*\*\*ing f\*\*\*ot." Announcer Steve Kerr noticed, and announced on the air that TNT "might want to take the camera off him right now, for the children watching."

According to Towleroad.com, Bryant later said in an ESPN interview, "Even though I

didn't mean it that way, I've since learned what that word still means to a lot of people. I went on-line myself and I did my own research and I saw and I read about kids who were committing suicide because of being teased for who they are. I don't play that.

"For people who don't think my apology is sincere, they don't know me. This isn't over for me. I really plan to do more. What I said was ignorant and I really didn't realize what I was saying. Now that I do and realize how it affects people I really plan to do more and to help with the awareness."

Anti-gay organizations had demanded that Bryant apologize. In a statement, Human Rights Campaign (HRC) said, "What a disgrace for Kobe Bryant to use such horribly offensive and distasteful language, especially when millions of people are watching."

Footage from the game is at <http://www.tz.com/2011/04/13/kobe-bryant-homophobic-slur-during-nba-game>. The Lakers are currently in a first-round playoff series against the New Orleans Hornets.

## 'Mr. Yoga' in Chicago April 22-23

Daniel Lacerda, a yogi known as "Mr. Yoga," will be at TruHarmony Yoga, 900 N. Franklin, April 22-23.

Classes will include the "Mr. Yoga Workout," which is a compilation of yoga poses meant to sculpt muscle. Lacerda is "an ambassador for lululemon athletica and Nike Endurance Sports," according to a press release.

See <http://www.TruHarmonyYoga.com> for more information.



Daniel Lacerda.

*Gay Softball comes to*

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# 9th Annual WINDY CITY GAY IDOL

Nine talented singers fought it out April 14 at Spin, 800 W. Belmont. Only two—Ash Martin and Sissy Van Dyke—advanced to the semi-finals at Sidetrack on Sat., June 4.

Photos by Dave Ouano. See more photos at facebook.com/windycitygayidol.

Check out next week's Nightspots for photos of Windy City Gay Idol at Crew.



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## Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations. Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

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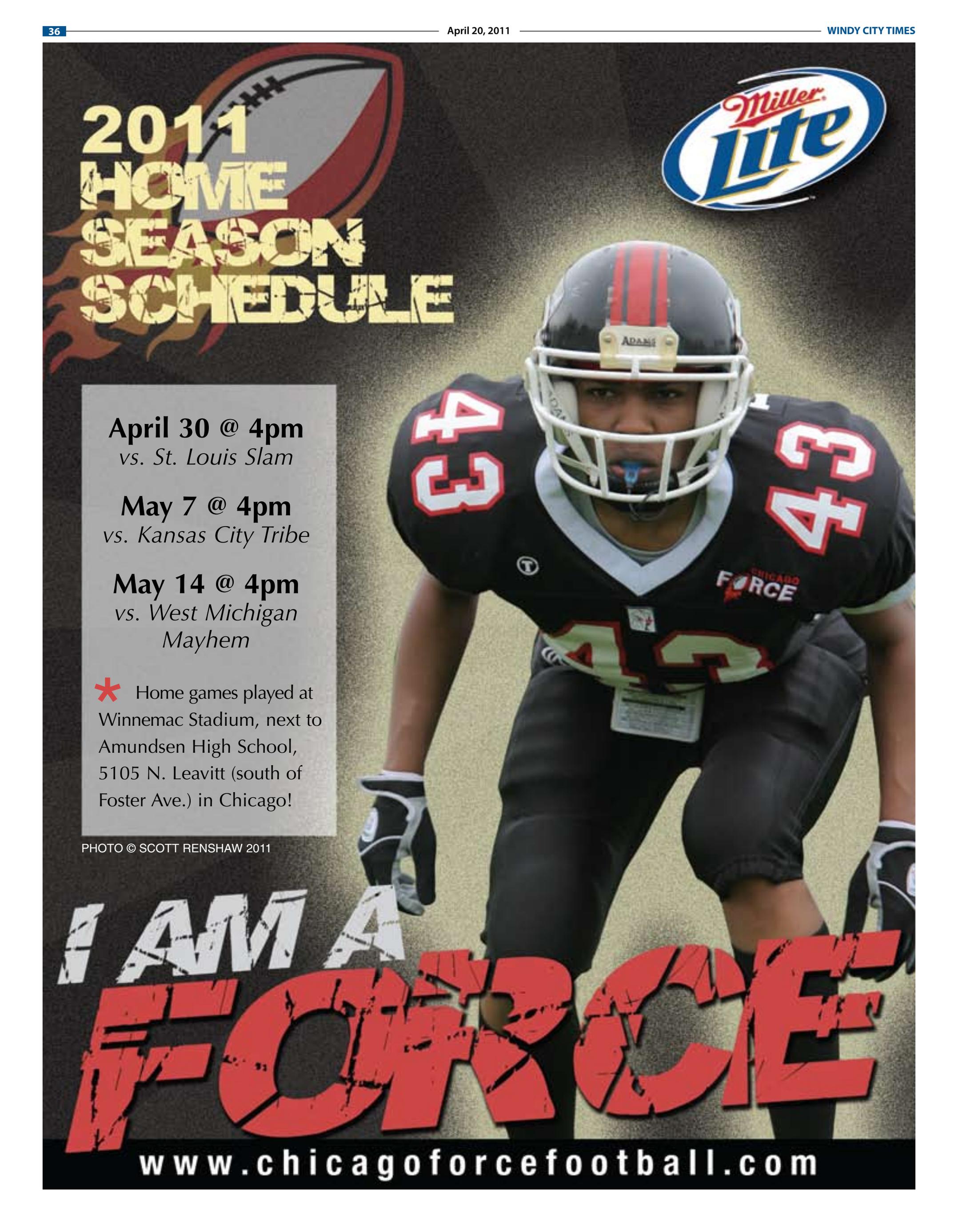
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