

**FRAN
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WITH
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WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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Chicago's Black Pride



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Windy City Black Pride's park festival was just one of the many exciting Black Pride events over the holiday weekend. Photo by Terrence Chappell



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AT THE
LAKE**
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Lady Gaga looks back

In a wide-ranging interview, the superstar talks about gay fans, her legacy and political activism. Photo by Meeno

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this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Fran Drescher photo from TV Land; photo of LZ Granderson from Granderson; photo at "Take Boystown Back" rally by Kate Sosin; Facebook photo of the Rev. Amy DeLong; rendering of the Admiral at the Lake courtesy of Jennifer Anderson



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NEXT OF LYNN

Bent Nights reviews shows by Glen Hansard and country-music icon Loretta Lynn (left).

Photo by Vern Hester



Read a Gay World Series profile of Brian Kettner.

Ross Forman photo



Read a profile of Youth Pride Services.

Photo from Youth Pride Services

BREAKING NEWS

Get the latest news on local, national and global happenings.

GOO EVERYTHING

Read an interview with Goo Goo Dolls bassist Robby Takac.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

This week's entertainment round-up includes items on Kate Moss, John Galliano and Lil Kim.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

GARY ON



Steve Starr's Starrlight series kicks off with a look at legendary star Gary Cooper (above).

Photo courtesy of Steve Starr

Pride weekend coverage and Barefoot Ballad.

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- July 28 (THU) Jackhammer hosts Minute to Win It at 8pm
- August 3 (WED) Crew hosts the \$25 Pyramid at 9pm
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DoJ comes out swinging vs. DOMA

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The Department of Justice (DoJ), on July 1, recommended a federal appeals court in California dismiss a motion promoted by the House of Representatives to dismiss a challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

The argument came during *Golinski v. Office of Personnel Management (OPM)*, a case filed by Lambda Legal Defense in which the DoJ initially tried to dismiss the case itself.

Williams Institute Legal Director Jenny Pizer, a former Lambda attorney, noted that, "while this step is fully consistent with the position taken back in February, it was not at all assumed that the Administration would participate actively in the pending DOMA cases."

Attorney General Eric Holder, on Feb. 23, sent a letter to House Speaker John Boehner, alerting him that the administration considers Section 3 of DOMA to be unconstitutional. Section 3 states that the federal government will not, for any federal purposes, recognize any same-sex marriage. Holder's letter said the administration would not defend it beyond the First Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. (The First Circuit, noted Holder, has said that laws treating people differently on the basis of sexual orientation should be examined using the lowest level of judicial scrutiny—rational basis—under which almost any reason can pass muster.)

Holder's letter said the administration believes laws disfavoring persons based on sexual orientation should have to pass the most stringent judicial review: heightened scrutiny. Also, it said the administration would argue so in two cases challenging DOMA in the 2nd Circuit.

Golinski is in the Ninth Circuit. Although the DoJ acknowledges that the Ninth Circuit, like the First, has previously held that rational-basis review is appropriate for sexual orientation, "we respectfully submit that this decision no longer withstands scrutiny."

To justify its argument, the DoJ noted that, in 2003 with *Lawrence v. Texas*, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down laws prohibiting private consensual sex between same-sex partners. Also, it said "gay and lesbian individuals" fit the bill as a long-oppressed minority—or suspect class. It has been frequently targeted by discrimination, it is a class with limited political power and it is a class defined by an immutable trait that bears no relationship to the individuals' ability to contribute to and participate in society—criteria for a suspect class.

The brief argues that there is no justification



Attorney General Eric Holder.

for DOMA's treating same-sex couples differently and that the record surrounding the law "evidences the kind of animus and stereotype-based type thinking that the Equal Protection Clause is designed to guard against."

"The Obama Administration is putting very welcome additional flesh on the important bones of Attorney General Holder's February letter to John Boehner explaining why the Administration won't defend DOMA any longer."

Signing the July 1 DoJ brief were Michael Hertz, a deputy assistant attorney general; Melinda Haag, a U.S. attorney; and Arthur Goldberg, assistant branch director.

Pizer said the Hertz brief "gives a detailed and immensely persuasive examination of why anti-gay laws should be subjected to rigorous constitutional review, including with a very substantial documenting of the systematic mistreatment of gay people by government, the religious and other legally improper reasons for that mistreatment, and further reinforcement of the point that the needs of children are served by equal treatment of all married parents, rather than federal discrimination against some of them."

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese said the brief "represents real leadership from the Obama administration and further has-

tens the day in which we will leave this odious law in the dustbin of history."

The brief—which typically takes weeks, if not months, to complete—was filed as President Obama was coming under increasing pressure from the LGBT community and the media to speak out in favor of same-sex marriages and marriage equality laws.

In *Golinski*, an employee of the Ninth Circuit federal appeals court, is suing to obtain health coverage for her spouse. The federal court provides such benefits to the spouses of straight employees and was prepared to offer them to *Golinski*. However, the OPM, headed by openly gay appointee John Berry, instructed the court's insurance company, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, to deny the claim, citing DOMA.

DOMA, enacted in 1996, prohibits any federal entity from recognizing a marriage license granted to a same-sex couple.

In March, a federal district court judge granted the DoJ's initial request that *Golinski's* lawsuit be dismissed, agreeing that OPM had a duty to enforce DOMA that trumped the Ninth Circuit's

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NATIONAL NEWS



—LGBT-rights advocate Jean Harris dies

—AMA backs marriage equality

—Al Franken (left), other senators in 'It Gets Better' video



agreement to provide benefits to *Golinski*.

Lambda has filed an amended complaint and the DoJ brief was submitted to that pending litigation in the U.S. District Court for Northern California. The House's Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group has filed a motion to intervene in *Golinski* to defend DOMA.

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Kevin Jennings, office seat both gone

BY DANA RUDOLPH
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The U.S. Department of Education office once headed by openly gay appointee Kevin Jennings and charged with helping with efforts to stop bullying and harassment of students, including LGBT youth, is now gone—a victim of drastic federal budget cuts.

The Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, which manages the education department's largest safe-schools and anti-bullying programs, has been renamed the Office of Safe and Healthy Students. It has been relocated to the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education and moved one step down on the organizational hierarchy, according to Education Week.

Jennings, the openly gay head of the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, left two weeks ago to take a position in the private sector. However, he and other LGBT advocates say the Obama administration's commitment to protecting LGBT youth remains strong.

The mission of the new Office of Safe and Healthy Students, said Education Department Deputy Secretary Tony Miller, will be to "maximize limited resources, while preserving our program focus."

Jennings, before he left, said the Fiscal Year (FY) '11 budget for his office had been slashed by more than 25 percent from FY '10—from \$393 million to \$288 million. Also, the FY '10 numbers were themselves down from \$690 million in 2009, the last year of the George W. Bush administration.

Jennings said that, despite the cuts by Congress, "This is an administration that is committed to including LGBT youth as part of its work" and that he's "very confident about the President and [Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's] commitment to keeping that work going."

Daryl Presgraves, a spokesperson for the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), one of the LGBT organizations that has worked most closely with Jennings' former office, said it remains to be seen what

the impact of the organizational change will have on that office's work to address anti-LGBT bullying in schools.

"We hope the Department of Education and Obama Administration are making the best of a situation beyond their control," said Presgraves.

He also noted that GLSEN has also been working actively with a number of other federal departments and offices on initiatives to create safer schools for LGBT students. They include the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Justice, and the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education.

On June 17, for example, the Department of Adolescent and School Health at HHS's U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention granted GLSEN a \$285,000 annually renewable grant to increase the percentage of schools that identify and maintain "safe spaces" for LGBT youth.

"GLSEN will carefully monitor the full breadth of the federal government's engagement on the critical issues of school climate, culture, safety and health to ensure that this does not reflect a weakening commitment," Presgraves said.

Michael Cole-Schwarz, a spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, said his organization has seen "no signs that the Department of Education is backing down on their tremendous commitment to addressing anti-LGBT bullying in schools."

He noted the first-ever federal summit on LGBT youth held by the department, on June 6 and 7.

Jennings, who founded the GLSEN in 1990 and led it until 2008, was seen as one of President Obama's more important appointments for the LGBT community.

He announced his resignation May 19, saying that, at the end of July, he would become president and CEO of Cambridge, Mass.-based Be the Change, a nonprofit organization that creates national, issue-based campaigns and coalitions, and is launching a new campaign to address poverty in America. Jennings said his departure was not about budget cuts to his office.

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R.I. civil-union law pleases no one

BY DANA RUDOLPH
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee (I) signed a civil-union bill into law July 2—but LGBT-rights advocates are not happy with his decision to do so. Chafee himself said the bill “fails to fully achieve” the goal of providing same-sex couples with equal rights.

The bill, passed by the House in May, states that it would give same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, and responsibilities as married opposite-sex couples. But LGBT groups say an amendment providing for extensive religious exemptions from the law “legalizes discrimination against the very status and protections it creates.”

Marriage Equality Rhode Island and several leading LGBT advocacy organizations sent a letter to Chafee June 28, asking him to veto the civil-union legislation if it includes the amendment. They said the amendment would allow religion-affiliated “hospitals, day care centers, schools or cemeteries to openly and intentionally discriminate against civil-union spouses.” Hospitals, they say, “could refuse to allow a spouse to visit their dying partner or make medical decisions in an emergency situation.”

Fourteen state representatives sent a similar letter to Chafee the day before.

Chafee, in a signing statement, called the bill “a step forward,” but added that it “fails to extend full marriage equality to all Rhode Islanders, a civil right that I strongly support and urged the general assembly to enact.” He added that he believes one of the bill’s religious exemptions is too broad.

The civil-union bill has been a disappointment to many LGBT advocates from the start because a bill for full marriage equality was dropped in April after it failed to gain enough support, even though Democrats hold large majorities in both chambers and Chafee, a longtime supporter of LGBT equality, said he would back it.

However, one of the marriage-equality bill’s sponsors, openly gay House Speaker Gordon Fox (D), said in a statement in April that “there is no realistic chance for passage of the bill in the Senate,” where Senate President M. Teresa Paiva Weed, D-Newport, opposed it. Fox said he would not move forward with a vote in the House.

The Providence Journal newspaper also reported that Fox said he did not have the votes to pass the bill even in the House, where Democrats hold 65 seats to Republicans’ 10.



Gov. Lincoln Chafee.

Fox instead sponsored the bill for civil unions, a decision that did not go over well with LGBT groups, even before the religious exemption amendment. Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI) held a rally at the State House to protest Fox’s decision to drop the marriage equality bill. Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders and other groups issued statements criticizing Fox’s decision and calling it “completely unacceptable.”

However, the civil-union bill went to the House floor May 19, where Rep. Arthur Corvese, D-North Providence, introduced the amendment regarding religious exemptions.

The amendment exempts religious organizations, religiously affiliated charitable or educational organizations, and their employees, from solemnizing civil unions and from providing related services, facilities, or accommodations.

Religious exemptions were included in New York’s recently passed marriage equality bill, but the Rhode Island amendment goes further and exempts the organizations and individuals from treating civil unions as valid in any way, if to do so goes against their “sincerely held religious beliefs.”

Chafee called that language “a religious exemption of unparalleled and alarming scope” that “eviscerates the important rights that enacting a civil union law was meant to guarantee for same sex couples in the first place.”

At the same time, he said, the bill “brings tangible rights and benefits to thousands of Rhode Islanders” and “provides a foundation from which we will continue to fight for full marriage equality.”

Martha Holt, board chair of Marriage Equality Rhode Island, said in a statement that her organization is “remarkably disappointed” that

the governor signed the bill, and hopes that he “will soon return” to his commitment to push for marriage equality.

Interestingly, even opponents of marriage equality oppose the civil-union bill. Chris Planete, executive director of the National Organization for Marriage chapter in Rhode Island, issued a statement, saying that civil unions were “a clear threat to the definition of marriage” and to religious liberties.

On June 29, the same day that the civil-union bill passed the final legislative hurdle in Rhode Island, Lambda Legal and Garden State Equality, New Jersey’s leading LGBT political group, filed a lawsuit in New Jersey Superior Court on behalf of seven same-sex couples, claiming that the state’s existing civil-union laws do not provide them with full equality.

Two other states—Connecticut and Vermont—also won marriage equality after their highest courts ruled that civil unions were insufficient in providing equal rights and benefits.

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Local healthcare facilities evaluated in HRC report

A report released by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation on LGBT healthcare equality, rates three Chicagoland healthcare facilities, two of which achieved “Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality” status for their perfect ratings, according to a press release.

Ratings are based on responses to the Healthcare Equality Index (HEI) 2011 survey that the foundation administers. The survey respondents, which voluntarily submitted information on their policies related to LGBT patients and families, include Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Rush University Medical Center and Evanston Hospital.

In Chicago, Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center and Rush University Medical Center are recognized as “Leaders in LGBT Healthcare Equality,” a designation awarded to survey respondents that achieve credit for each of the applicable rated criteria in the HEI survey. These respondents have explicit policies in place to protect LGBT patients and employees from discrimination and ensure equal visitation access for same-sex couples and same-sex parents. They also provide LGBT cultural competency training for all staff.

Evanston Hospital, on the other hand, only

fulfilled one criterion: an equal employment opportunity policy that includes sexual orientation.

Nationally, the Healthcare Equality Index 2011 found that nearly 90 percent of participating healthcare facilities include sexual orientation in their Patient’s Bill of Rights and/or non-discrimination policy, but only 60 percent include gender identity in these policies. Additionally, only 49 percent of participating facilities have an explicitly inclusive visitation policy granting equal access for same-sex couples and 52 percent have such a policy inclusive of same-sex parents. In response to a memorandum from President Obama, the Department of Health and Human Services issued rules in January of this year requiring all hospitals that receive federal Medicare and Medicaid funding—which includes nearly every hospital in the United States—to protect the visitation rights of LGBT people.

In conjunction with the HEI report, the HRC Foundation has released a companion piece. A resource for those interested in Healthcare Equality Index participation, this document serves as a “call to action” for healthcare administrators, outlining the business and quality incentives for participating.

View the HRC Foundation’s Healthcare Equality Index 2011 and this companion resource at <http://www.hrc.org/hei>.

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Obama 'not going to make news on marriage equality' any time soon

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

President Obama, at a midday nationally televised press conference June 29, was repeatedly pressed for his views on marriage equality. He spoke out strongly against discrimination based on sexual orientation and detailed many of the things his administration has done to advance equal rights for LGBT people. However, he continued to dodge questions about his personal view of same-sex marriage.

Political commentators had been speculating that a question about marriage equality would be asked, given Obama's high-profile speech in New York on the eve of that marriage equality vote last week. Also, for the first time in the history of presidential press conferences, a gay-specific question came up at the beginning of the event. The second reporter called on—MSNBC's White House reporter Chuck Todd—asked the president to comment on the constitutionality of three things: the War Powers Act, the debt limit and if Obama believed "marriage is a civil right."

After Todd asked his question, the president laughed and noted that Todd had asked a "hodgepodge" of a question.

"We're going to assign you to the Supreme Court," quipped the president. "I'm not a Supreme Court justice, so I'm not going to put on my constitutional-law professor hat here." He then said he wanted to talk about Libya and did so, concluding that he didn't think the constitutionality of the War Powers Act was really at issue. He then asked Todd to repeat the other parts of his question and Todd asked about marriage.

The president was clearly prepared.

"This administration under my direction has consistently said we can not discriminate as a country against people based on sexual orientation," said Obama. He said his administration has done more to advance equal rights for LGBT people in two and a half years than the previous 43 presidents, and he rattled off a list of accomplishments—from a new hate-crimes law to a law repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" to hospital visitation to refusing to defend "the federal government poking its nose" into state laws defining marriage. He also said the administration "filed briefs before the Supreme Court that say we think any discrimination against gay, lesbian, and transgender people is subject to heightened scrutiny."

That latter reference was apparently to a letter the administration sent to Congress, not the Supreme Court, notifying it that the president and attorney general had concluded the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional and that laws infringing upon the rights of LGBT people, like DOMA, should be given the highest level of scrutiny by the courts.

"We've made sure that is a central principle of this administration," said Obama.

Although Todd did not ask about New York specifically, Obama spoke about New York's marriage law, essentially repeating comments made at last week's fundraiser. He said the state of New York "made a decision to recognize civil marriage, and I think it is important for us to work through these issues." Each community and each state, he said, will be different.

"What you're seeing is a profound recognition that gay, lesbian and transgender persons are our brothers and sisters, our children, our friends and co-workers, and they've got to be treated like every other American, and I think that principle will win out," said Obama. He said he does not think progress in this area will be "perfectly smooth" but that he has learned "a president can't dictate precisely how this process moves."

"But we're moving in the direction of greater



President Obama.

equality," said Obama, "and I think that's a good thing."

Laura Meckler of the Wall Street Journal pressed a second question on marriage equality, asking Obama, "Do you personally now support same-sex marriage?"

"I'm not going to make news on that today," said Obama, using a line he has engaged in previous interviews when asked about marriage equality. He then answered another question of Meckler's on a different topic.

Meckler then pressed again, asking about his personal views on same-sex marriage.

"I think this has been asked and answered," said Obama, "and I'll keep on giving you the same answer until I give you a different one, and that won't be today."

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Chicagoan reflects on Obama's LGBT reception

BY ERICA DEMAREST

It's been several days since her first trip to Washington D.C., and Adrienne Williams is still buzzing with excitement.

"It was just wonderful," the lifelong Chicagoan gushed. "I loved D.C. so much I wanted to live there," she said with a laugh.

Williams, who founded the Bi Social Network in 2008, was one of hundreds of LGBT activists invited to President Obama's third annual Pride reception, held at the White House June 29. The Bi Social Network is the largest social-media hub for bisexual content on the Internet.

Obama briefly addressed the packed house ("Nothing ruins a good party like a long speech from a politician."), and highlighted the strides his administration made in recent years. He specifically pointed out the Matthew Shepard Act, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the decision to stop defending DOMA in courts and lifting the HIV travel ban.

"Now, that doesn't mean our work is done," Obama said. "There are going to be times where you're still frustrated with me. I know there are going to be times where you're still frustrated at the pace of change. I understand that. I know I can count on you to let me know. This is not a shy group."

Obama insisted he would continue to push for gains, but said those in the audience would

Several same-sex divorces among first in Illinois

BY KATE SOSIN

While it was widely believed that the state's first same-sex divorce was filed in Peoria June 1, Windy City Times has found that five other same-sex divorces were filed at the same moment in Cook County, bringing the number of immediate same-sex divorces filed up to six.

On June 15, Windy City Times reported that Mark Bayer began filing for a divorce from Dr. Nathan Fredrick at 8:30 a.m. June 1, making him the first same-sex partner to file for divorce. Joshua P. Haid, Bayer's attorney, released a press statement later that day confirming the news.

However, at the same moment Haid was filing paperwork in Peoria, Richard Wilson, a Chicago divorce attorney, was at the Daley Center downtown filing the same paperwork for five clients.

"I wanted to be in the door as soon as it opened because I've been waiting too long for this," Wilson said, noting that his clients had been waiting between two to seven years to file for divorces in Illinois.

The beginning of civil unions in Illinois has also meant the start of same-sex divorces because partners who wed or got civil unions outside of the state are now recognized by law. As civil unions went into effect on June 1, so did same-sex divorces.

Wilson said he arrived at the Daley Center at 7:45 a.m. and waited downstairs until offices upstairs opened. He said during that time, he happily watched a parade of excited same-sex couples arriving at the Daley Center to get their civil-union licenses.

Wilson began filing the five dissolutions in succession. Windy City Times has not listed the names of those filing for divorce because they requested privacy.

Haid and Wilson filed for divorces at 8:31 a.m., the first moment possible as the courts opened for business just a minute before.

Both attorneys furnished documents to Windy City Times, confirming that the first dissolutions are stamped 8:31 a.m.—although because Wilson filed multiple divorces, some were stamped a few minutes after that time.

According to Haid, his client might still be first to complete a same-sex divorce in the state. Bayer's divorce was finalized June 13. None of Wilson's have yet to go through.

While Wilson recognized the historical significance of the his filings, he said he was more concerned with helping his clients out of bad situations than being the first to file a same-sex divorce. Many of his clients have wanted divorces for years, he said. Now, they'll be able to finally dissolve their legal connections to exes.

"I was going to be there on the first day at the first moment to finally get these people their divorces, to get these people what they're entitled to," he said. "This is a milestone if for no other reason than for the first time in the nearly 20 years I've been practicing law, people have relationship recognition, not just at the front end but at the back end."



Richard Wilson. Photo courtesy of Wilson

be the game-changers. "What gives me hope is the deeper shift that we're seeing that's a transformation not just in our laws but in the hearts and minds of people—the progress led not by Washington but by ordinary citizens," he said.



Adrienne Williams at Obama's reception. Photo courtesy of Williams

Guests were served complimentary champagne and an array of hors d'oeuvres, including crab cakes, baby lamb chops and mini-cupcakes. Williams said spirits were high at the event, as attendees laughed, chatted and networked with one another.

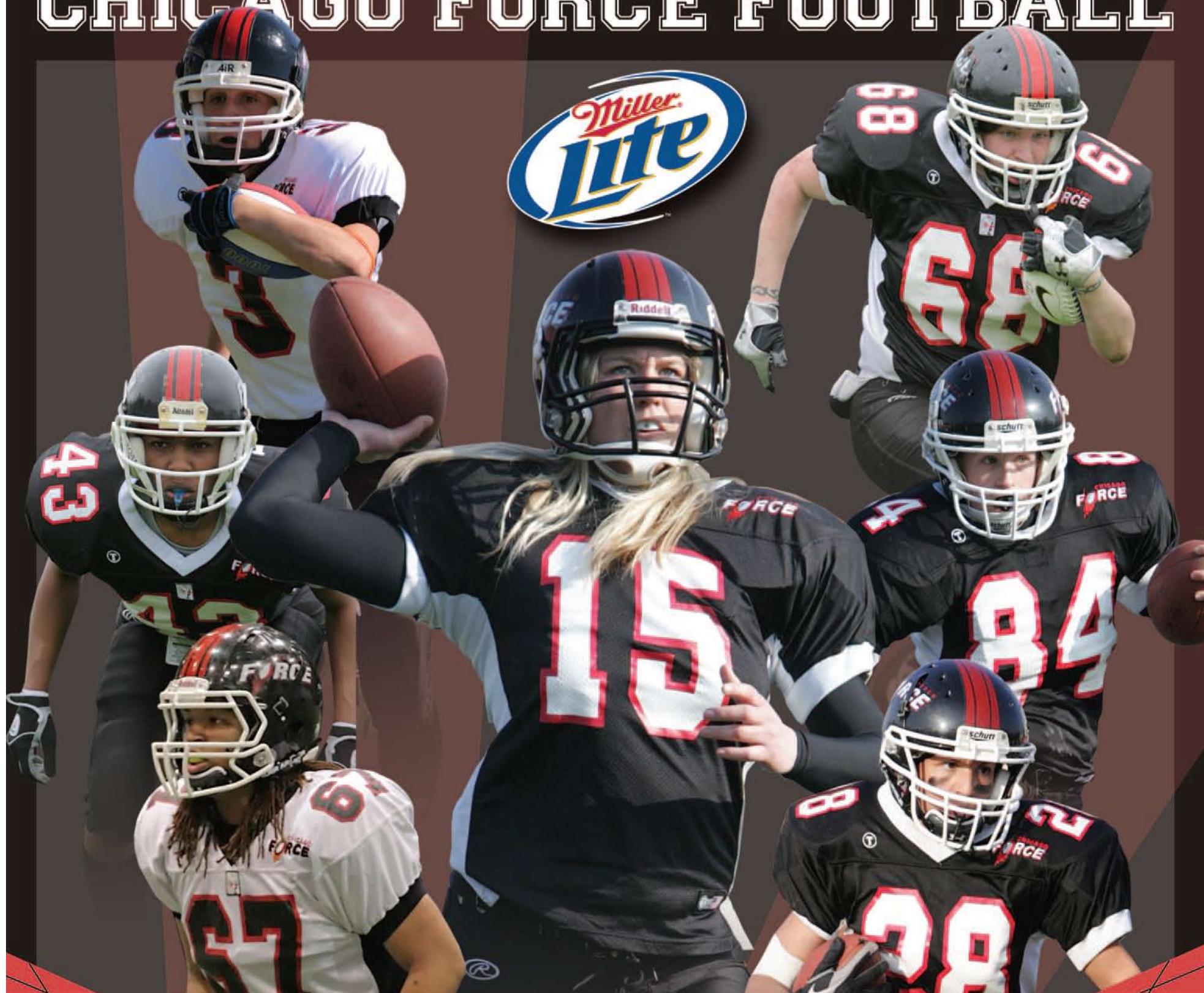
In addition to meeting Obama (Michelle Obama was unable to attend due to recent travel in Africa), Williams spoke with Kathy Greenlee, the assistant secretary for aging at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and discussed conducted studies on bisexuality.

"[HHS feels] that the bi community hasn't gotten enough data, and they want to do a big, giant study on the bi community," Williams said, adding, "They want to get more information so they can get funding with different programs that are needed." Williams cited mental health as an oft-ignored concern that could receive more funding with additional data.

While Williams said networking was one of the biggest draws of the reception, she was also excited about simply being in the White House. Guests continually marveled at being invited to such a "once-in-a-lifetime" event, she said.

"It was overwhelming to see how much history—with all the presidents and their first ladies—is there on these walls," she said. "People were just really, really happy to be there."

CHICAGO FORCE FOOTBALL



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CHURCH AND HARTREY IN EVANSTON. PARK IN SCHOOL LOT!**

PLAYOFFS

SATURDAY, JULY 9

Lesbian Wis. pastor talks about trial, suspension

BY ANDREW DAVIS

In Wisconsin, lesbian United Methodist minister the Rev. Amy DeLong recently received a 20-day suspension (that started July 1) for performing a same-sex wedding in 2009. (In addition, she was found not guilty of being a "self-avowed practicing homosexual.") She was also required to write a document about dealing with issues that "create an adversarial spirit" within the church.

Windy City Times talked with DeLong, 44 (who was ordained in 1997), about the wedding, trial and punishment, and what came across was a woman who is loyal—to her religion but even more to her core beliefs.

Windy City Times: I want to talk about the 2009 wedding. When you performed it, you were aware of the rules and laws, correct?

Rev. Amy DeLong: Correct.

WCT: So why did you choose to officiate?

DeLong: I know the rules of the church, but I feel that any rule that requires me to discriminate is not a rule I feel called to follow. When the couple approached me, I had decided a long time ago that, if I were approached, I would treat that request like any other request for a wedding—and that's what I did. I think of Dr. King, who wrote his letter from a Birmingham jail that we have a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. That's how I feel about discriminatory policies.

WCT: There are no marriage equality or civil unions in Wisconsin, but domestic-partnership registries.

DeLong: Correct. The couple had filed for their registry and wanted a religious ceremony to accompany that.

WCT: Moving on to the trial itself, how did you plead to the counts?

DeLong: I could only plead once, and I pled not guilty.

WCT: What was your sense during the trial? Did it feel one-sided?

DeLong: No; it felt like we were given a very fair trial. It felt like we had mounted a solid and good defense, and we were fairly confident how it would play out—and that's how it did. That was our best-case scenario, and that's how it worked out. The bottom line is that the church was not able to provide evidence to convict me on both counts.

WCT: Do you think the punishment is fair?

DeLong: I think it's more than fair. I think it gives us a great opportunity to be in dialogue. I've dedicated most of my ministry to trying to write and educate around issues of sexual orientation. The trial court punished me to teach and to write—and it actually feels like more of an honor. I think they were incredibly creative in their decision and I applauded them 100 percent.

WCT: I understood the suspension as punishment—but when I saw they required you to write a document, I asked, "They gave her homework?"

DeLong: [Laughs] That's exactly right. I think it's an excellent opportunity. There are others who are working with me, and I hope they approach it with the same open spirit.

WCT: What are your hopes for your denomination?

DeLong: Going into the trial, I said I had three goals or hopes. One was for me to tell the truth about who I am and what I've done. I knew that my relationship with my partner could not be placed second to my position to being in the ministry. That goal has been accomplished and

will continue to be.

The second goal was that the church would be truthful to the proclamations it makes—that God's grace is sufficient, that there's nothing we need to do to earn God's love and that we're part of a denomination that puts limits and conditions on some of God's people simply because we're gay or lesbian. I think that goes against the very gospel of Jesus Christ.

The other hope I have, always, is that the next



Rev. Amy DeLong. Photo from Facebook

generation of LGBT Christians to not hear that they're somehow "less than." We know about the suicide rates among young gay people is three to four times higher than their heterosexual peers—and I think that's due in large part to the church sending such horrible messages. I think the trial let young people hear a different message—one of love and acceptance.

WCT: So if another same-sex couple approached you about officiating a wedding, how would you respond?

DeLong: I would respond like I would with any couple. When I was in pastoral ministry, most weddings involved people I didn't know. It's the right of every clergy person to decide if that's a blessing they want to offer, and you do that by getting to know the couple.

The church council at the trial asked the trial court to suspend me indefinitely until I signed a document saying I would do no more holy unions. On the stand I said that's a document I would never sign. I would never sign a document that told me that I would categorically have to discriminate against people.

So I would get to know the [same-sex] couple and see if it is a union I would want to be involved in. If it is, I would do it without a moment's hesitation.

WCT: Despite the fact that you would probably get a stiffer penalty, such as indefinite suspension?

DeLong: The answer is "yes." I just cannot, in good conscience, engage in that kind of discrimination. To know what it's like to feel that discrimination, there's no way I would do that to someone else. The law of the church gets trumped by compassion and love. That's the bottom line, despite the consequences.

WCT: During the trial, did you ever second-guess being a minister—or did you always

Man guilty of attacking Seattle lesbian couple

BY SARAH TOCE, SEATTLELESBIAN.COM

In Seattle, Wash., Isaiah Kalebu was found guilty July 1 on all counts—aggravated murder, first-degree murder, attempted first-degree murder, first-degree rape and first-degree burglary—in a case in which he attacked Teresa Butz and her surviving partner in 2009.

At one point, Kalebu testified to jurors, "I was instructed by my God, the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob, to attack enemies. I followed the instructions by God."

"It's a somber occasion," said Mark Larson, King County's chief criminal deputy prosecutor to The Seattle Times. "A verdict doesn't fix anything, but it's still an important statement for our community. We're grateful, but the pain doesn't go away."

Kalebu will be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole when he returns to the Seattle courtroom on Aug. 12.



Isaiah Kalebu. Photo from Sarah Toce and SeattleLesbian.com

feel like this is your calling?

DeLong: I do feel like it's my calling to help change the church. There are people who ask, "Why don't you go to a church that's already open?" I don't know anybody who joins a church because they think everything about that organization is perfect. I've never heard anyone run for a school board saying, "I'm running for the school board because I want it to stay the way it is and everything they do is perfect."

Usually, you are part of an organization because you believe in it, you love it and you know it can be better than it is. I know that if there aren't those of us who are willing to stay in the system and risk our power and privilege to make it better, nothing will ever change. I love the church too much to let it be lost in repression and discrimination any longer. Also, I was a Girl Scout—and I was taught that you leave a place better than you found it.

When I took the covenant to enter into or-

ained ministry, I never once said that I would suppress or suspend my conscience. "Covenant" used to be such a beautiful word; now it seems that it's used as a hammer to keep gay people silent. A real covenant is based in love and faithfulness, and shouldn't cause us to abandon our own sense of right and wrong.

WCT: Was there anything you wanted to add?

DeLong: The one thing is this idea that I was found not guilty of being a "self-avowed practicing homosexual." What I am clear about is that I am partnered, I am lesbian and I'm in a covenanted, long-term, monogamous relationship. The church couldn't prove whether my partner and I have sexual contact, and I didn't answer the question—but not out of any sense of shame. I didn't answer because the shame is the church's for thinking it has a right to invade my privacy like that.

Hall of Fame event turns 20



Nearly 150 people packed the front room at Circuit Nightclub for the 20th annual "Pride and Joy" fundraiser for the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame (GLHF) recently.

The night featured drag and vocal entertainment by Circuit club performers. Dozens of past inductees attended the reception, and a set of placards commemorated last year's inductees.

The reception, typically held on the Monday before the Pride parade, is one of two events slotted to raise money for CGLHF induction ceremony, which will honor LGBT Chicago heroes on Nov. 8.

Israel Wright, an organizer of the event, called this year's reception a success. "It was a really great event," he said. "In spite of the economy, I think we did really well." Wright added that hard financial times did not seem to curb attendance at all.

GLHF will host its next fundraiser, an auction, Sept. 20 at Sidetrack bar in Lakeview. Text by Kate Sosin; photos by Sosin and Tracy Baim, with more online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>



Joey Kafka.

Joey Kafka, Lakeview wine-shop owner, dies

BY KATE SOSIN

Joseph "Joey" Frank Kafka, a Boystown entrepreneur who was both praised for his bon vivant appreciation of wine and his lack of pretention, died in the early morning hours of June 26. He was 38 years old.

Kafka, who co-owned Kafka Wine Co. with Michael Scharber, was a well-known figure in Chicago's LGBT community. Kafka Wine regularly sponsored HIV/AIDS-related causes, including a June 9 fundraiser for the AIDS Research foundation.

Kafka and Scharber opened their wine shop in August 2003. The shop quickly became a hit with its hand-written stories about wine and its in-house mascot, Kafka's Boston terrier, Beak-ton.

Scharber said that Kafka had an encyclopedic knowledge about wine but remained humble.

"He really wanted people to feel like wine was something you could do every day," Scharber said.

Joe Zuniga, a longtime friend of Kafka's recalled Kafka's community mindedness, generosity and modesty.

"Joe cared deeply for the arts, the fight against HIV/AIDS, and so many other social justice causes," Zuniga said. "And he put his heart, time and resources behind those causes without the need to have his ego stroked."

According to online reviews of Kafka Wine, Kafka made a point of making good wine accessible and inviting to those who came into his shop. Two days before his death, one customer remarked on Yelp.com how helpful and knowledgeable Kafka was.

Scharber said it was Kafka's enthusiasm for life that set him apart from other people.

"Joe always wanted to better himself," Scharber said. "He had an incredible thirst for information."

Zuniga said he met Kafka at his shop years ago, and the two became instant friends. He noted "how quickly Joe befriended people with his shy smile and open invitation to be a part of his life and vice versa."

According to the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office, Kafka died of multiple injuries related to a "fall from height." His death was ruled a suicide. Kafka's property-management company confirmed that an "unfortunate incident" had occurred at his building, 655 W. Irving Park.

"There will never be another Joe Kafka, said Zuniga. "A gentle man, generous in spirit, who collected friends as some people collect valuables because that is the value he assigned to us."

Visitation was held June 29 at Lakeview Funeral Home; funeral services were held June 30 at the same place.

PASSAGES

Michael 'Mangina' Gabaldon

BY KATE SOSIN

A figure in Chicago's gay community whose drag persona was as famous as his own name passed away June 27. Michael "Mangina" Gabaldon died peacefully, according to friends, at Illinois Masonic Medical Center. He was 40.

"He was one of a kind," said Michael Baren, a close personal friend of Gabaldon. "There wasn't a person that didn't like him. ... He was a very wonderful, happy, positive person."

Gabaldon was born in Phoenix, Ariz., the son of Juanita and Santos Gabaldon and a brother to six siblings: Rachel, Roxanne, Gina, David, Danny and Gabriel.

He spent much of his life in Arizona where he took a job at a Charlie's bar in 1992 and became active in the Arizona Gay and Lesbian Rodeo Association.

It was at Charlie's in Phoenix that Gabaldon developed "Mangina," the not-so-subtly-named drag queen for which Gabaldon became well-known as a performer.

In 1996, Gabaldon moved that persona to the Charlie's Chicago in Lakeview, where he started tending bar. He remained active in rodeo and played volleyball and darts in leagues. Friends credit him with bringing increased visibility to rodeo in LGBT communities, particularly in Chicago.

Gabaldon was a known character in LGBT Chicago. Many reflecting on him paint him as a larger-than-life, well-meaning jokester. According to friends, he gave everyone in his immediate circle nicknames. When customers ordered a drink from him, he would often respond in jest by saying "eventually" and then walking away.

"I will remember his smile and his sharp wit," said Dennis Friedland, a close friend of Gabaldon. "He was sassy and smart. He lived his life to the fullest."

According to Friedland, Gabaldon helped raise thousands of dollars for local AIDS advocacy organizations including Test Positive Aware Network, Howard Brown Health Center, Vital Bridges



Michael "Mangina" Gabaldon.

and the Children's Place Association. Gabaldon repeatedly won Charlie's "Man of the Month" competition and also won the "Man of the Year" award, for raising the most money for local charities.

During his time at Charlie's, Gabaldon met Steven White. The two were together nine years, and White was with Gabaldon when he died in hospice care.

Two years ago, Gabaldon stopped working at Charlie's and got a job at Spin Nightclub. However, he never left the Charlie's family, said Friedland.

Friends remember Gabaldon as a loyal friend who commiserated with them when they were down and had a personal saying for every occasion, including his most famous: "What'd I say?"

Baren said that Gabaldon adored the sitcom The Golden Girls and took one of his favorite phrases from the show. "Thank you for being a friend," Gabaldon often said.

Gabaldon will be remembered at a celebration at Charlie's Chicago, 3726 N. Broadway, on Monday, July 11, at 7:30 p.m.

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Pride Parade aftermath raises questions, concerns

BY KATE SOSIN

Well after the floats rolled back into storage and streets were cleared of litter, Chicago pride parade attendees were still sorting out what went happened this year and why.

Windy City Times reported in its June 29 edition (and online at <http://www.WindyCityMedia-Group.com>) that a combination of bad luck and lack of crowd control at this year's parade led to a series of mishaps, not the least of which was the diversion of an estimated 50 floats off the parade route.

Days after the parade, many were still talking about why the tires on 51 floats had been slashed hours before the parade; what caused streets and CTA to become so jammed that people started to faint; and with police and parade marshals present, why so many verbal altercations turned physical.

While not all pride attendees experienced the chaos, Windy City Times received a number of reports detailing crowd problems at this year's parade.

Richard Pfeiffer, chief organizer of the parade, said the issue was simply numbers.

"No one expected an increase from 450,000 [people from last year's parade] to 750,000 [this year]," Pfeiffer said. "I have lived my whole life in Chicago, and I don't remember attendance at an event ever jumping that much."

According to Pfeiffer, his team had nearly tripled the number of parade marshals on the route in the past two years. Given the number of parade entries, the parade committee is required to supply slightly more than 30 marshals. Pfeiffer said his team produced 120 marshals for this year's event.

Still, some who witnessed the parade complained that they felt unsafe and would not be returning next year.

Todd Bates said he saw more violence at this year's parade than he ever has.

"This was unheard of," he said. "I could not believe what I had seen."

Bates said he saw three physical brawls, two of which turned bloody in the 7-Eleven parking lot at Halsted and Roscoe. He also witnessed an incident in which a man approached a girl who had passed out in the parking and stood over her, fondling himself. Bates said he and friends desperately searched for police to interrupt the incidents but could not find any.

Reports of numerous physical altercations at this year's parade have been backed up by videos posted on YouTube, showing several different fights in Lakeview that day. One occurred at the Dunkin' Donuts on Clark and Belmont, while others took place in the street.

Fighting was not the only issue that resulted from massive turnout.

Wanda Taylor, a Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) spokesperson, confirmed that the police asked the CTA to shut down the Belmont station on the Red and Brown lines for more than an hour due to pedestrian congestion on Belmont. The station was closed between approximately 2:20 p.m. and 3:25 p.m. During that time, a massive crowd formed outside of the station and pressed into the street.

Taylor, asked about the overall capacity issues on trains that day, responded: "On Sunday, CTA provided more frequent service along the Red Line and longer trains operated until 10:30 p.m. to accommodate the crowds attending the Pride Parade. Additional service also was provided on the Brown Line. This was in addition to the extra service provided for the Taste of Chicago."

"Several trains were run express throughout the day in order to maintain proper intervals between trains. This is a routine operational decision that can occur at any time, for example when a train experiences a delay due to a defect, customer requiring assistance or signal



Rich Pfeiffer. Photo by Ross Forman

problems. The express runs were not related to the Pride Parade."

Most of the distress at the parade seemed to come early on in the route at Belmont and Halsted, the official starting point of the parade. On the west side of Halsted, a crowd as thick as a block had been smashed into such a tight space between barricades that some people began to yell for help. Police pulled one woman out of the crowd at approximately 12:05 p.m. because she said she felt light-headed, while another woman screamed that she was having a panic attack from being trapped in the crowd.

Police did not confirm earlier reports that officers were injured in that crowd, despite repeated inquiries from Windy City Times.

Despite attempts by police to hold off crowds, the sheer number of people pushing from behind forced many to jump the fence barricades and stand along the parade route. Police continued to add barricades to create a divide between fence-jumpers and the parade itself, but eventually the crowd overtook the route, and officials with the Office of Emergency Management and Communications re-directed about 50 floats off the scheduled route, south on Clark toward Diversey.

Many who were re-routed complained that they had little information as they were escorted off the route and that no one followed up with them after the parade to explain what happened.

Noa Shayden, who was in charge of Berlin's float, said the experience was disappointing and confusing.

"Nobody told us that we were being diverted," he said. "I didn't find out until we got to Diversey that we had been completely cut out of the parade, and I didn't find out until hours later why."

Still, Shayden added, his contingent made the best of the situation and enjoyed the short time they spent on their float.

According to Pfeiffer several groups that got diverted have asked for credit for next year's parade. A handful of others have requested refunds of this year's fee.

The sabotage of 51 floats before the parade also resulted in disorder. On the morning of the parade, Associated Attractions, a major float provider for the parade, said that someone had slashed two tires each on all 51 floats they had for the parade, sometime between 8 p.m. the night before and 5 a.m. the morning of the parade.

The parade continued despite the more than \$12,000 worth of damage, but with organizers scrambling to get floats in the parade on time,

many entries entered the parade out of order, leaving some who planned to march unable to find their groups.

The Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, got split up in the confusion and marched in the parade with two separate groups, despite the fact that they had been slotted for just one.

One police sergeant, who wished to remain anonymous, said that where she was, there were no parade marshals or officials directing floats as they entered the parade.

The sergeant also said she worked 12 hours that day and that many police got at least four hours overtime pay because alcohol consumption was high and crowds were rowdy.

Windy City Times made multiple inquiries to police spokespeople on the number of arrests at the parade as well as the number of police on staff that day. Initially police told Windy City Times that several arrests had been made, but did not provide a number or specifics on the charges.

In past years, the Chicago Police Department has released the number of arrests and the type of charges to Windy City

Times the day after the parade. However, several days after the parade, police still reported that they did "not have arrest totals immediately available." Police did not respond to a request to clarify when these numbers would be released.

According to police, no one is in custody for vandalizing the floats.

"While the motive is undetermined at this time, the possibility of this being a hate crime

has not been ruled out," police said in a statement to Windy City Times.

Perhaps the most visible proof that this year's parade left some unsettled was the appearance of the "Take Back Boystown" Facebook page, which had drawn more 1,000 members less than a week after it was created two days after the parade.

The page, which seemed to have appeared as both a response to a June 18 stabbing in a 7-Eleven parking lot as well as issues that this year's pride parade, was created as a forum to discuss what many say is an increase in violent crime in Lakeview.

In the days following the parade, people posted videos and picture to the page of fights that occurred and called on community members to reclaim the neighborhood from violence and gangs.

However, the page quickly turned controversial as some blamed youth of color for the neighborhood's problems, re-igniting a debate as old as the "gayborhood" itself about who is welcome on its streets and who is not.

Still, many who attended this year's parade reflected on the turnout with great enthusiasm. Bill Greaves, director of Chicago's LGBT Advisory Council, said that massive turnout at the parade signals a turning of tides for the LGBT community.

"It speaks to the fact that there's no longer a stigma in coming," Greaves said. "It's a generation shift. ... I think there were glitches that need to be addressed in the coming year, but I had a really positive experience."

In the coming days, Pfeiffer will be sitting down with police officials to review this year's issues and plan for 2012.

Pfeiffer said he thinks the parade needed more police. But, he added, "there is really no blame game here. [The turnout] really shocked everybody."

Another man stabbed in Lakeview over holiday weekend

BY KATE SOSIN

A late-night fight in Lakeview led to a stabbing July 3. The incident is the latest in a slew of violent altercations to cause uproar among many Lakeview residents who say that crime in the neighborhood is out of control.

The incident occurred at 11:54 p.m. at Halsted and Aldine, according to police. A 25-year-old male was stabbed in a physical altercation. No others were reported injured. Information on his condition was not immediately available.

A video of the fight that led to the stabbing was posted to YouTube and re-circulated on the "Take Back Boystown" Facebook page, which was created last week in response to what members say is an increase in crime in Boystown.

The video shows several people attacking the stabbing victim, kicking and hitting him while he is on the ground. He is seen at the end of the video holding what looks like a shirt over the side of his torso. The man who is believed to have posted the video commented that the victim suffered multiple stab wounds.

The incident had many on the "Take Back Boystown" page calling for action, specifically from 44th Ward Ald. Tom Tunney, who is offering free whistles available at his office.

Lakeview residents are planning to discuss recent crimes and possible response at the next CAPS meeting on Wed., July 6, at 7 p.m. The meeting is scheduled to talk place at the 23rd District Police Station, 850 W. Addison, but may be moved due to capacity issues. For more information go to http://www.44thward.org/Safety%20Pages/About_CAPS.html.

Attorney named to bar council, is part of site

Clark Hill Chicago Attorney Ray Koenig has been named the chair of the Trusts & Estates Section Council of the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA). The section is the third-largest section of the ISBA and includes more than 2,700 practicing attorneys across the state. Koenig Ray believes that he is the first openly gay individual to hold this post, adding in a statement, "I am honored to accept my role as chair of this statewide group."

In addition, Koenig's articles, "Creating an Estate Plan: A Legal Perspective" and "Creating and Protecting Personal and Financial Legal Rights," are now featured resources on The National Resource Center on LGBT Aging Center website. The items cover issues ranging from living trusts to wills.

Correction

In Windy City Times' June 29 issue, it was reported that "several groups, including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce submitted letters against net-neutrality only to later retract them." This was a misstatement. While both organizations sent letters within days of each other, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force did file a retraction with the FCC, while the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce did not.

Windy City Times regrets the error.

Education caucus holds mixer at Sidetrack

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The National Education Association's (NEA's) GLBT caucus held its Ichabod Crane reception at Sidetrack June 30. Around 40 people from around the country attended the mixer to celebrate and discuss GLBT issues on the eve of the NEA's annual meeting and representative assembly convention at McCormick Place this past weekend.

A small group of members founded the caucus in the 1980s to provide a means of professional support for GLBT colleagues after years of meeting in secret. Their main mission is to eliminate institutionalized discrimination and homophobia, provide resources and foster communication among educators, students and communities. Not only does the NEA have a GLBT caucus, but it also has a standing committee of 15 members called the Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification (SOGI).

Stephen Henry—co-chair of the NEA GLBT caucus and a standing committee member of SOGI—said, "the NEA has had a long standing history of being a leader on issues of social justice ... making schools a safe place conducive to learning ... as well as training educators on the issue of bullying."

"When it comes to voting, talk to GLBT teachers about the issues and find out what is important to them because schools are important since they produce the next generations of vot-



Jerry Newberry, Eric Brown, Tom Nicholas and Nichole DeVore. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

ers," said Nicole DeVore, co-chair of the NEA GLBT caucus.

SOGI Chair Diane Gonzalez said, "We guide the NEA on where it needs to make improvements in education for students, teachers and support staff. The goal is to create a safe space where everyone can reach their true potential."

This week, the NEA's highest governing body has voted to approve the recommendation of President Barack Obama for re-election in 2012, according to a press release.

"President Barack Obama shares our vision for a stronger America," said Dennis Van Roekel, president of NEA. "He has never wavered from talking about the importance of education or his dedication to a vibrant middle class."

For more information on the caucus, visit <http://www.nea-glbtc.org>. To know more about the NEA, visit <http://www.nea.org>.



LOOK BACK WITH PRIDE

Parade walkers gather in Lincoln Park for the Pride Parade in 1986.

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NEA Executive Director John Wilson, GLBT Caucus co-chair Nichole DeVore and Eric R. Brown, NEA board member from Chicago. Photos by Hal Baim

NEA GLBT caucus hosts Chicago gala

Hundreds of National Education Association GLBT Caucus members and allies attended the caucus dinner in Chicago July 3, in conjunction with the NEA's annual conference.

The Robert Birle Memorial Dinner is held every year during the NEA. Birle, who died in 1996, had chaired the NEA GLBT Caucus from 1989-1991.

The Carol Watchler Award was presented to Marc Stenberger, and the Ryan White Award was given to Laura Pietropaolo.

Actor Doug Spearman of Noah's Arc fame delivered the keynote address.

NEA Executive Director John Wilson also attended the event. GLBT Caucus co-chairs Nic-

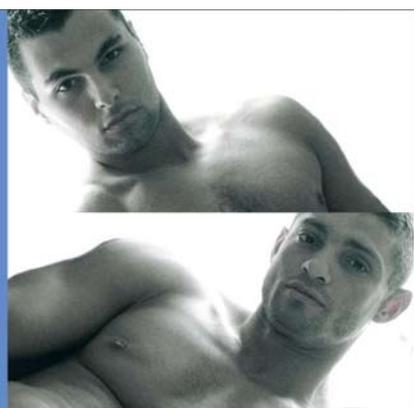
hole DeVore and Stephen Henry were there as well. Also attending was Eric R. Brown, NEA board member from Chicago.

Photos by Hal Baim; more online at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com>



Doug Spearman. Photo by Hal Baim

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Lakeview rally becomes dramatic showdown with youth organizers

BY KATE SOSIN

The intent, said organizers, was simply to raise awareness about crime in Lakeview.

However, what many expected would be a simple community protest of violence in Boystown quickly became a stand-off that reached to the heart of a decades-old dispute over who has a claim to a Chicago "gayborhood." The night also ended with the arrest of two people, including a well-known LGBT activist.

More than 50 people gathered in the 7-Eleven parking lot at Halsted and Roscoe for a neighborhood "positive loitering" walk late on July 2.

The walk, scheduled as a response to what some say is an increase in crime in the neighborhood, was advertised on the new "Take Back Boystown" Facebook page. Its stated intent was to raise awareness about safety and noise problems in Lakeview. Recent events, including a June 18 stabbing outside the 7-Eleven as well as a number of fights that broke out over Pride weekend, have worried many residents in recent weeks.

Before the walk, participants gathered at the south end of the parking lot around 11:30 p.m. However, at the north end of the lot, another group of about 30 people gathered in protest of the first.

As walk organizers readied to divide into groups, the 30 protesters confronted the event with megaphones, accusing attendees of policing queer youth of color out of the neighborhood.

The two groups stood for several minutes at opposing ends of the parking lot, while onlookers started to gather, apparently confused by the stalemate.

The "Take Back Boystown" page started June 28. After advertising the positive loitering walk, it has become more controversial. That is because some its members posted messages blaming Black youth who access LGBT social services in Lakeview for crime and violence.

"The offenders are Black gang members," posted one man. "That's a fact! These trannys are bringing their homey G boyfriends into the neighborhood courtesy of The Center on Halsted. You can tell who they are by the way they act."

Several other members denounced what they said were racist comments and said that the issue was not about race but, rather, safety.

Still, protesters at the positive loitering event said they worried the group was advocating for racial profiling in the neighborhood. Many of those protesters came representing LGBT youth organization Gender JUST, a group largely composed of queer youth of color who have been organizing around the issue for several months.

The positive loitering contingent, which gathered around 23rd Police District Commander Kathleen Boehmer, tried to make announcements to the group, but chants from protesters overwhelmed them.

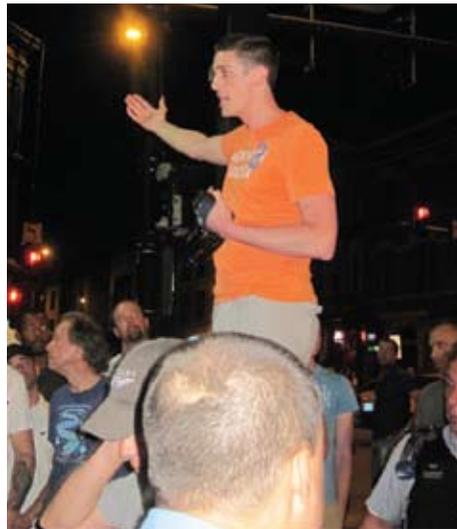
"We're gonna beat back police attack," protesters yelled.

One man turned around and yelled "get the fuck out of my neighborhood" at the protesters.

With Saturday parties in full-swing at neighborhood clubs, the Lakeview streets were packed with partygoers. Many people stopped to watch the confrontation, which became tense when protesters moved closer to the official event.

The positive loiterers largely did not respond to protesters, but rather decided to move away and start their walk. According to Rob Sall, an organizer of the walk, his group sent between five to six groups of people around the neighborhood.

Protesters, however, followed the walkers with



Rob Sall speaking at the rally. Photo by Kate Sosin

megaphones. Sall said the protest "derailed" the walkers from their goal.

"That clearly goes against everything we do on our walk because we move about the neighborhood quietly, peacefully," said Sall, adding that Gender JUST drew unwanted attention to them.

Gender JUST also drew attention to themselves. Sam Finkelstein, a well-known activist with the group, was arrested around 12:45 a.m. According to Finkelstein, one of the walkers told police he was pressing charges against Finkelstein for yelling in the neighborhood and asked that he be arrested. Windy City Times could not confirm that a walker requested the arrest.

A police spokesperson did confirm that Finkelstein was arrested for "disorderly conduct." He was released without charges hours later.

"It's a perfect example of the problem with this," Finkelstein said. "They want to silence any debate."

Finkelstein said many youth are forced to access services in Lakeview due to a dearth of LGBT services elsewhere in the city, only to be chased out by business owners and police.

Janel Bailey, another Gender JUST member, said that she was protesting the walk because she felt that queer youth were being unfairly scapegoated.

"We are the queer youth of color and allies and sex workers," she said. "We're also concerned with safety and want to be included in this conversation and not necessarily made targets."

While Finkelstein was being arrested, a fight unrelated to the loitering event took place at Halsted and Aldine. According to witnesses, a young man had been badly injured in an altercation with several people and had been bludgeoned with either a can of mace or a metal rod. He was arrested but quickly released.

The young man eventually ended up in the 7-Eleven parking lot, where the stand-off between protesters and walkers continued, and an ambulance was called by protesters. Witnesses say the man refused medical care.

Bailey, who witnessed the fight, alleged that the young man was seriously outnumbered and that the police and the positive loitering contingent ignored the victim.

However, Sall said that the presence of Gender JUST had distracted his group from their intended purpose to interrupt such fights. "Had they not derailed what we were doing, [the fight] probably potentially could have been avoided," he said.

While Sall conceded that the "Take Back Boystown" page "is extremely racially charged," he said that racist comments on the page did not reflect those who organized or attended the

walk. He said those at the event were not looking to push anyone out of the neighborhood or racially profile youth.

"We don't care if they're here or not," Sall said. "This is an entertainment district. We expect that. But we do ask that they respect the neighborhood."

Finkelstein maintained that the issue had little to do with safety and everything to do what he feels has been an ongoing class dispute between young poor people and wealthier Lakeview residents.

"Our people own this issue," Finkelstein said. "This is what we do every day. Every time they do this, we're going to be here."

As one confused onlooker watched the night's events unfold, he commented that he wanted to simply push the two groups together. "But I guess I know that's not possible," he said. "It's probably more complicated than that."

Concerned Lakeview residents are planning to discuss recent crimes and possible response at the next CAPS meeting on Wed., July 6, at 7 p.m. The meeting is scheduled to talk place at

the 23rd District Police Station, 850 W. Addison, but may be moved due to capacity issues. For more information, visit http://www.44thward.org/Safety%20Pages/About_CAPS.html.



Counterprotesters at the rally. Photo by Kate Sosin

Stonewall, New York and marriage equality

REFLECTIONS BY JAX JACKSON

On the evening of Friday, June 24, I danced to Lady Gaga wearing a hot pink glitter beard in a crowd in front of the Stonewall Inn in New York City.

Marriage rights were minutes away for same-sex New York couples, but this was not the reason for the gathering. Friday was a day of celebrating non-conformity in the queer community.

Starting with the Trans Day of Action, I marched with trans and gender non-conforming people demanding rights. Then came "Queerball," a marching-band-accompanied dance party for anyone whose personal manifestation of "queer" didn't fit with mainstream pride festivals. Queerball melted into the Drag March, which ended in front of the Stonewall Inn.

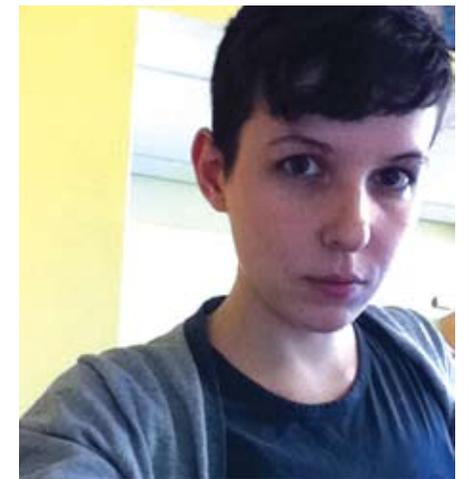
Word about the marriage vote trickled through the crowd, but tracking the vote was not my first priority—nor was it my second. My main concern on Friday was celebrating my fabulous outside-the-box-ness. My second worry was the New York Police Department, and I wasn't the only one worrying.

A few cop cars trailed us by the time we reached Stonewall. A group of officers waved their sticks at some of the crowd, and when a drag queen posed on the hood of a traffic buggy, one cop grabbed and hurled her into the crowd, then shoved her.

Although a few scattered after the incident, most of us stood our ground, chanting, "We're here, we're queer, we're fabulous, don't fuck with us!"

Eventually, the cops left to re-direct traffic around us. We were in the midst of celebrating winning the battle against the cops at Stonewall when someone shouted "IT PASSED!" and the whole block exploded into a community-wide street festival. Those who had gathered because they felt excluded from the gay community were suddenly surrounded by it. Some embraced the explosion, while others faded into the night.

I found out over the next days that the Chelsea gay bar The Eagle had been raided by a group of cops, and at the NYC Dyke March, police officers demanded permits and man-handled marshals. According to The New York Times, the raid on the Eagle had been scheduled blind to the Eagle being a gay bar the Friday before Pride. The imminent marriage vote did not stop the police from making patrons wait outside while they wrote tickets in the Eagle. New York resident Judy Yu was at the Dyke March. "I was at the very first Dyke March," she recalls, "and while I haven't gone



Jacqui Jackson.

to all 19, I've been to many and was surprised...that there was an issue that we had no permit because we've never marched with a permit. I found it absurd that they suddenly made an issue of it, especially given the fact that marriage equality had just passed."

One might think that a state with legalized marriage for gays and lesbians would be a safe and tolerant place to live if one is queer. I think this image rides on the assumption that marriage is the ultimate signifier of equality, and that equality is the end-goal of the gay-rights movement. This assumption ignores many people, including those who do not conform to binary gender standards, expectations of monogamy, traditional family structures or strict boxes that allow for no fluidity of identity.

It may also explain why it seemed to me like so few who showed up after the New York Senate vote were aware that there had been a Drag March, and why so little press was given to aggressive police at Stonewall on Friday.

How is it that we remain targets of the police, yet actions around the criminal system don't get a fraction of the community's attention of actions around marriage rights? At the New York Pride Parade on Sunday, June 26, signs reading "Thank You Governor Cuomo!" abounded, and I couldn't help but think how state budget cuts will negatively affect queer and trans youth as well as low-income queer people.

How is it that economic justice is so rarely a priority for gay-rights groups? And how is it that the LGBTQ community still leaves out its trans and gender non-conforming members? I feel compelled to ask New York: Now that we have marriage, what's next?

Jax (Jacqui) Jackson is an actor and former Chicagoan living in New York. She starred in Hannah Free and Jamie and Jesse Are NOT Together, both lesbian feature films shot in Chicago.

a
GAY *in the*
LIFE

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY CONSTANCE RUHOLL



Student placement specialist
Luticia Coleman



Amidst dealing with cleaning her carpets and finding the new pee spot of her twice-removed ex-girlfriend's cat Pedro, Luticia Coleman vets students through application and interview processes to determine if they will benefit from her program. Through her program she sets students up with 10-week summer internships as well as providing programs to prepare them for future jobs and teaches the basic skills needed to communicate and network professionally.



Coleman graduated from Lourdes College in Ohio with a B.A. in business administration. She went on to graduate studies at DePaul University in Chicago and received a master's in public service. Of her current career she said, "It's nice to have a job that I can use my master's degree for. This program is grant-funded through the Department of Child and Family Services."



Besides working for Kaleidoscope, Coleman serves on the advisory board for Lesbian Community Care Project or LCCP. She began working in the LGBT community by volunteering for Howard Brown Health Center; she later interned with the agency for nine months. She worked on the annual event called Taste for Every Palate to gain knowledge and perspective on the community. She also worked for Equality Illinois for two years on the board of directors.

On June 12 at the United Church of Christ, Coleman entered a civil union with Nancy, her partner of eight years. Coleman said of the church, "We chose them because the church as a whole had the first gay ordained minister as well as the first colored minister. My partner is religious and we wanted to choose a church that would be welcoming and comfortable. We were actually their first civil union."

Nancy Coleman has been an educator for at least 15 years. At the end-of-the-year banquet at Nancy's school they celebrated her coming union with gifts. Luticia Coleman was appreciative because "30 years ago she would have been fired instead of celebrated."



the stats

Name
Luticia Coleman

Age
40

Relationship status
Civil union with Nancy

Hobbies
Cooking and gardening

Favorite artist/band
"I get made fun of because I am a big Bon Jovi fan."

Favorite candy
"I would say M&Ms, but I have to go with Skittles. We recently had issues with M&M's because they [were] our wedding favors."

Fun fact from the past
Served as a cook for eight years in the Ohio Air National Guard

Fun fact from the present
Specifically bought her house with an in-law suite so that her father could stay with her

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Making a 'Poz' connection: Sean Strub

BY CAROLYN BICK

Sean Strub, 53, wasn't supposed to live very long. In fact, he was supposed to die of complications from HIV within a few years of testing positive in 1985.

Today, the very much alive Strub is one of the most well-known activists in both the LGBTQ community and the HIV-positive community, and POZ, the magazine he founded, is a popular HIV-focused publication.

But Strub's introduction to activism did not start with gay issues, or HIV/AIDS-related issues in a large public forum. Rather, it began with his interest in talking about general world issues with the members of his community along his paper route in Iowa City, Iowa.

"We lived in Iowa City, which is a university community, and we lived in a neighborhood with

a lot of faculty from the university, so my paper route sort of gave me a more intimate exposure to wider range of people and ideas than just from classmates in elementary school or other members of our parish," said Strub in a phone interview.

As a child, Strub often felt as though he did not fit in with his classmates, and had difficulty speaking with his family members about his feelings. "I just sort of created these adult relationships with people who were in varying degrees kind of mentor-like to me, and I got involved in anti-war, feminist and local political activism and created my own life there," he said. "Finding people who were so loving, and so interested in me and my ideas and opinions, and could teach me ... opened up a whole different world to me."

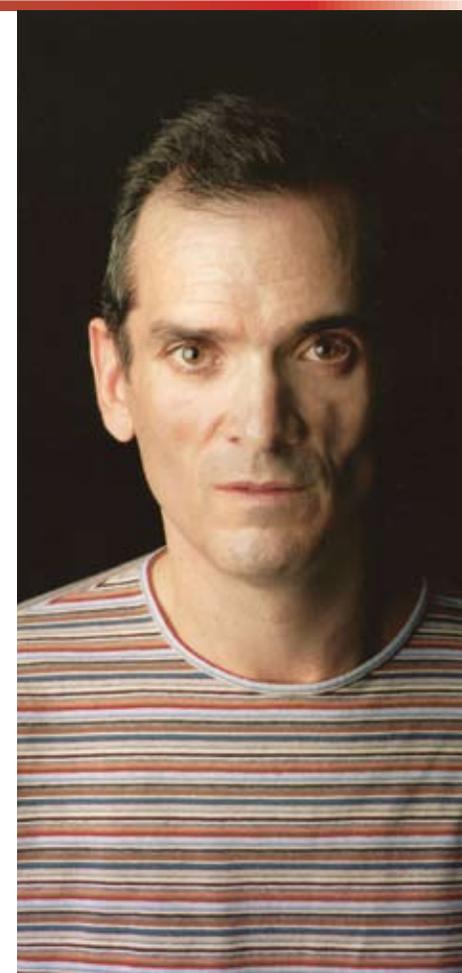
In the 1970s, Strub moved to Washington,

D.C. to attend Georgetown University. It was in Washington that Strub first became active in the gay community and participated in the 1979 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Though Strub transferred to Columbia University in New York, his involvement in activism on behalf of the gay community did not lessen. At first, he ran campaigns in Democratic organizations. But as time went on Strub became more focused on what he calls "issue-based politics".

"Between running campaigns and being involved in activism, I started writing fundraising copy for direct-mail fundraising firms, and started my own firm doing that work," said Strub. "We were doing a lot of work for a lot of the gay organizations. We were ... the first direct-mail fundraising firm that specialized in the gay market."

Strub's work in the LGBTQ community and his own HIV-positive diagnosis drew him close to the epidemic, and more and more of his work became focused on HIV/AIDS. By the late 1980s, Strub was the fundraising co-chair of ACT UP/New York, whose website describes the group as "a diverse, non-partisan group of individuals united in anger and committed to direct action to end the AIDS crisis." And in 1990, Strub ran for U.S. Congress, becoming the first openly HIV-positive person to run for a federal seat.

The magazine POZ is perhaps Strub's most lasting physical contribution to HIV activism. POZ, which Strub founded in 1994, focuses on living with HIV/AIDS, but does so in a way that is meant to give hope and foster communication among those living with HIV. It also seeks to educate the broader public about HIV/AIDS, something to which the American public has only recently been receptive: During the early days of the epidemic, education was not something on the forefront of America's mind. Rather, the gut reaction of the majority of the public was repulsion and avoidance.



Sean Strub.

"When I was very ill, and was ... concentration-camp gaunt, and covered in Kaposi's sarcoma lesions, my disease was visible on my face. It announced it for me," said Strub. "So that ... prompted this immediate, visceral revulsion very often in people that ... was evident."

The American media did nothing to counter this popular revulsion. Rather, it helped to foster the impression that those afflicted with HIV were nothing but miserable, suffering individuals. But the HIV-positive community Strub knew was not the one created by the media.

"While I was living amidst profound loss, I also saw people with HIV leading vibrant lives,

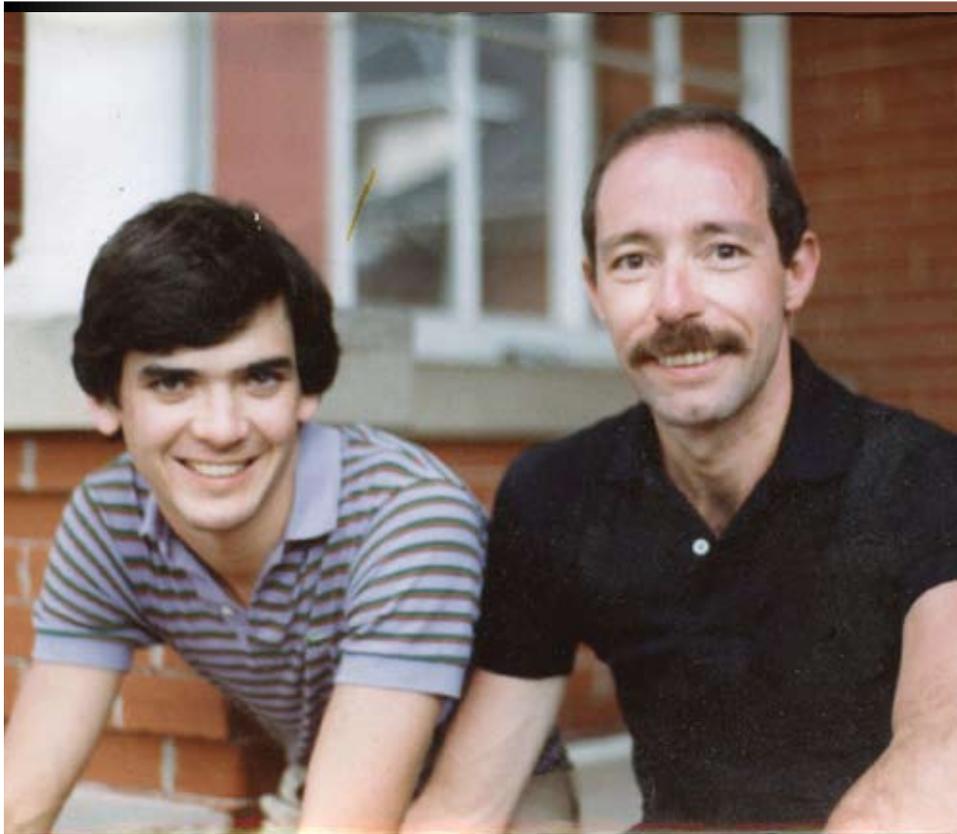
Cont. on pg. 15



ABOVE: Sean Strub getting arrested in front of the White House, June 1, 1987. Photos courtesy of Sean Strub. BELOW: Strub with Kaposi's sarcoma lesions.



Strub (right) with fellow AIDS activist Bob Hattoy.



Strub (left) with Vito Russo on June 5, 1981, which also is the date generally considered to be the “official start” of the epidemic (when the CDC’s Mortality and Morbidity Weekly Report reported the first cases).

STRUB from pg. 14

falling in love and breaking up, getting promoted, building families, raising children, etc.,” said Strub in an email. “I wanted to show that vitality of those lives in the magazine, as an inspiration and example to others.”

Thus, Strub founded POZ. And though the magazine has since had great success, it, like HIV-positive individuals, has faced its own set of challenges and forms of discrimination, from all areas of society.

“There were times there were issues with printers who had concerns about things that we were printing,” said Strub in a phone interview. “We enclosed a condom one time with the magazine, and Barnes and Noble wouldn’t allow it to be distributed to their stores, until we ... made a stink about it.”

Government officials, who were ostensibly working to help the HIV-positive community, were also a source of derision. Speaking of POZ’s 10th anniversary edition, Strub said that the magazine ran into some trouble regarding the 80 naked, HIV-positive individuals on the edition’s cover.

“One of the people on the subscription list was Sen. Tom Coburn, who, at the time, was the co-chair of President Bush’s AIDS commission,” said Strub. “His office contacted us, and they wanted to be removed from our mailing list, because they found that cover so offensive. I just love that ... a doctor who’s co-chair of the AIDS commission was repulsed by a picture of people with AIDS that showed their bodies and what the disease and treatments do to them.”

The magazine also attracted unwanted attention from certain public sectors in the form of verbal hostility that, to date, has not been acted upon.

“There were times when we would get hate mail at the office, or when Fred Phelps and the Westboro Baptist Church started sending us faxes that were kind of threatening,” said Strub. “You’re reminded of the ... hatred out there in ways that gave one pause.”

POZ even faced criticism from members of the LGBTQ community.

“One of the most prominent gay political columnists ... in the country at that time wrote a

column in the New York Native and sort of made fun of it, and said that it would be like Holocaust victims starting a magazine called GAZ,” recalled Strub. “The publisher of the The Advocate at the time ... told one of the leading trade publications he didn’t know why anyone would want to read a magazine about such a grim topic. So there were community problems.”

But despite all the initial obstacles—and those that the magazine still faces—POZ has continued to grow, becoming a stronger magazine as the years have gone on.

“What people discovered—whether they were positive or negative, it didn’t matter—the magazine was just so gripping and engaging, that people would sit down and read it from cover to cover, all the way through, in one sitting,” said Strub. “It just grabbed reader’s imagination, and translated the epidemic into something they could understand in human terms.”

Under the Clinton administration, said Strub, POZ had a wide readership in the White House. But when the second Bush era rolled around, White House POZ readership dropped dramatically—a move Strub sees as mimicking Reagan-era politics regarding the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

“During the Bush administration—they could have cared less People sort of just accept the epidemic as one of those awful, intractable social problems deeply intertwined with poverty, and racism, and all those other things, which it is,” said Strub. “But it didn’t have to be. This was totally controllable. Totally. And it was really the Reagan administration’s utter intentional neglect—it wasn’t just that it wasn’t on their radar screen. It was on their radar screen, and a decision was made just to let people die.”

Though he no longer owns POZ, Strub remains active in his activist efforts. For the last several years, Strub has been combating HIV criminalization, and working to empower those living with HIV. He is a senior advisor to the Center for HIV Law & Policy, and helped to launch the Center’s Positive Justice Project to help fight criminalization.

Strub is also on the board of the North American regional affiliate of the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, and regularly blogs about his efforts against HIV criminalization, and HIV/AIDS-related issues.

Positively Aware explores inflammation, PrEP, and politics

The July/August issue of Chicago-based Positively Aware magazine, *Inflamed Response*, looks at the role inflammation plays in the health of people living with HIV.

Included in this issue is an overview article by Dr. David Shepp, associate professor of medicine at the Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine, about the causes and effects of chronic inflammation. Shepp explains that chronic inflammation resulting from an overstimulated immune system can lead to NAMIs (non-AIDS-defining medical illnesses) such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer.

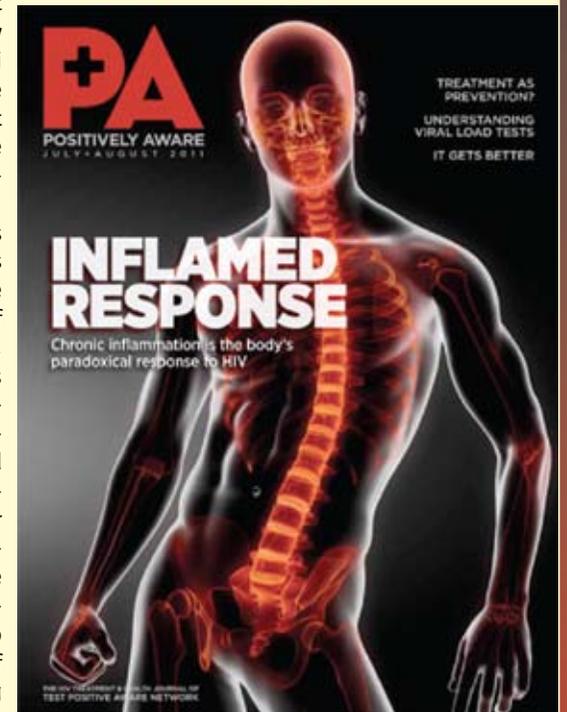
Also featured is a trio of articles exploring the recent good news about PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) and treatment as prevention, including a very personal account by Nick Literski of how he and his HIV-positive partner came to the decision that Nick, HIV-negative, would take Truvada as PrEP to avoid seroconverting.

PA favorite Dr. Tony Mills writes about the array of viral load tests that are now available and the advantages and disadvantages of some of the newer technology, while PA Editor Jeff Berry reports on Dan Savage’s recent appearance at AIDS Foundation Chicago’s Spring Luncheon to spread the word about his “It Gets Better” campaign. TPAN’s Tom Holler profiles Leslie Henderson, a graduate of TPAN’s POWER (Positive Outcomes for Wellness, Education, and Recovery) program, who provides an inspiring example of overcoming adversity and proving that life with HIV can be vibrant and fulfilling.

And finally, Sue Saltmarsh is back on her political soapbox once again, presenting a possible scenario of the results of proposed budget cuts and suggesting some activism during next year’s World AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C.

Positively Aware is an internationally known and respected magazine devoted to HIV treatment and health. Positively Aware has a circulation of 100,000, and is published bi-monthly by Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) in Chicago. Founded in 1987, TPAN is Chicago’s oldest peer-led AIDS service organization and specializes in treatment information, support services, and prevention.

To order copies of the magazine, call (773) 989-9400 or e-mail distribution@tpan.com. For more information about TPAN and Positively Aware magazine visit www.tpan.com and www.positivelyaware.com.



The July/August Positively Aware

Next week:



Jeanne White-Grinder, mother of Ryan White (pictured), speaks out about her son, the AIDS movement, and Ryan’s legacy 21 years later

Bob Strada reflects on impact of AIDS on sports

BY ROSS FORMAN

The memories are vivid, even 28 years later. The emotions are still there, both good and bad, and there were plenty of each. Bob Strada retired from Chicago's gay softball league in 1995 after that year's Gay Softball World Series, which was held in Seattle.

Yet his 1983 Sidetrack jersey still fits today, though a bit snug.

Strada, 59, a Willowbrook resident, was the second baseman for the 1983 Gay Softball World Series-winning team from Chicago. He was one of 13 team members who captured the championship in Chicago, the last time the Series was held in the Windy City. Strada also was instrumental in securing the win for Chicago, picking up a grounder in the seventh inning of a one-run game. He moved to his right, touching second base for an out and then he threw the ball to first for a double play and the final out of the game.

"It was fantastic. When that final out was made, I jumped up, came down and pounded the ground. I'll never forget that moment," said Strada, who has owned a travel agency for 26 years. "I think it was a surprise to our team [that we won]. Sure, we knew that we were competitive, but it was a surprise to ultimately win it all.

"I still think about that moment all the time. The memory from that event never fades. It's a moment I'll never forget."

The '83 Chicago team had to get by Minneapolis en route to the championship game, and they were expecting to play the always-tough Los Angeles team, but the crew from California was eliminated. So Chicago ultimately defeated Atlanta for the championship.

"Home-field advantage definitely came into play in that tournament," Strada said of the '83 Series, which had 16 teams participating from across the U.S., in one division (A).

"A main reason for that [advantage] was our knowledge of Lincoln Park, particularly, playing at that field and knowing its dimensions. It was an open field; there was no home-run fence—and we played well with that type of field. We had a strong, quick outfield; that was an advantage we had."

Chicago's gay softball community was formed in the late 1970s. Strada and others from that era attended the 1979 Series in Milwaukee as fans. He played in his first Series in 1980 in Los Angeles, with 11 participating teams.

"We competed fairly well [in Los Angeles], but we weren't ready to win anything. We needed to learn what was required to win the World Series. And it took us about three years to figure that out," said Strada, who ultimately participated in the Series 15 times.

Chicago had only five or six gay softball teams in 1983, and Strada admitted that, "so many people then were afraid to cross the line and come into Margate Park and even play in

an openly gay league." Still word continued to spread about the gay softball league in the early 1980s through the bars and other vehicles. Three of the most instrumental figures in developing, building and growing the local gay softball league in the early years were Jim Flint, Art Johnston and Sam Molinaro.

Strada's 1983 Sidetrack team qualified for the '83 Series against other local teams, just as teams still do. "We were the dominant team in Chicago at that time, so it would have been a surprise for us to not have qualified," he said.

Despite their glory in 1983, Strada and the Sidetrack bunch never captured another title. Strada's team came in second-place in 1990, third in 1993 and fourth in 1994. "We were maybe a play or two away from winning again. We were very close several years. I really wanted to win it a second time, but we didn't," he said.

Their on-the-field joy was, though, regularly silenced by the off-the-field issues they endured, mainly from HIV/AIDS, much more than anti-gay backlash, attacks or oppositions, which they knew could come at any time.

"It was a terrible time," Strada said slowly, reflecting. "There were many, many times that we'd come to the fields on a Sunday and we'd hear another sad story, the news of another death.

"I was in San Francisco for the Gay Softball World Series in August 1982, and that was the first time I ever heard of the [disease] AIDS," Strada said. "At that time, people were just getting sick and dying. No one really knew what was going on. There were a lot of rumors, etc., but no one knew for sure. We were constantly losing people in the gay community.

"It was a very hard time; I lost many, many friends."

Teammates, too.

Of the 13 players on that 1983 Sidetrack team with Strada, five are dead—all from AIDS, Strada said. Strada and others from that era are not certain about one teammate, so that tally might actually be six.

"AIDS was a death sentence at that time," said Strada, who admits he was most shaken at the AIDS-related death of the team's shortstop, John Cieplak. "I couldn't believe that [death]."

Of the 13 players from that 1983 team, only one was straight, Strada said. The team's manager, Jack McGowan, is also dead.

"Thankfully, if a person takes care or them-



Bob Strada. Photos by Ross Forman

selves, takes the prescribed medicine, HIV/AIDS is now a controllable disease, like diabetes," Strada said.

Strada and his partner Patrick Keegan have been together for 17 years, and with Keegan playing softball again this season after a 10-year absence, Strada is back along the lakefront cheering for his partner's C1 Division team—and also counting the days until the 2011 Gay Softball World Series, which returns to Chicago, starting August 29.

"I can't wait for this year's Series. I'm hoping that some of the guys who I played with and against will come in for it," Strada said. "I know the Series will be emotional. I just want to be there, for the atmosphere."

Sidetrack team roster that won the 1983 Gay Softball World Series championship:

Garry Magida, catcher *
 Greg Chrobak, catcher
 Arturo Agurto, pitcher
 John Barak, first baseman
 Bob Strada, second baseman
 John Cieplak, shortstop *
 Mike Bradley, third baseman *
 Al Kuntz, infielder
 Ed Leyton, outfielder *
 Ed DeRosa, outfielder
 Eric Wynn, outfielder
 John Lewin, outfielder
 John Setzkorn, outfielder *
 Jack McGowan, manager *

Those with an * marked by their name have since passed away.



Bob Strada. Photos by Ross Forman



Various Strada memorabilia from his softball days.

Woman challenges stereotypes about HIV and AIDS

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Maria T. Mejia story is a tribute to her perseverance and pride, filled with anguish, attitude, hardships and a horrendous childhood.

Her first childhood memory, for instance, is when she was 3-years-old, when she was molested by an uncle.

"I was in an abusive household with a father [who] was a tyrant. [He] abused my mother, and verbally and emotionally [abused me]," Mejia said. "I ran away from home at the age of 13—to the streets."

That's where she met her new family—gangs—and she was eventually the girlfriend of the gang leader.

He's the one who infected her with the HIV/AIDS virus, she said.

Mejia returned home at age 17, to live with her mother. "I decided to get my life together and decided to get in a program in Kentucky called Job Corps," she said.

At age 18, she learned she was HIV-positive.

"My first reaction [to being positive] was complete shock," she said. "I was a kid; this was not supposed to happen to me. I thought HIV was a gay man's disease, or for prostitutes, not for a person like me. When the doctor told me I have AIDS, I saw my whole life pass ahead of me. I said to myself, 'I am going to die! I will never have children or marry.'"

"I just wanted to go back to Miami and be with my mother and little brother and DIE! People back in 1991 were dropping like flies [from AIDS]. It was something very hard for a young person to go through."

Mejia left the gang and returned to live with her mother, who gave her unconditional support, yet they agreed not to tell anyone about her condition, including family and friends.

"I know it came from a good place, but she was trying to protect me because, back then, there was much more of a stigma [about HIV and AIDS], ignorance, lack of education and hate."

So she lied about her status, saying that she instead had another illness.

In her early-20s, Mejia moved to Columbia, along with her mother and younger brother. They lived with her grandparents.

Mejia cared for her grandparents, with pride, until they died.

"I became very spiritual, more compassionate [in Columbia,]" Mejia said. "I took care of them until they died and this was very important for me; it made me feel that finally I had done something good in my life. I will never forget it."

Her mother then also opened a health food store, and Mejia took nothing but natural medication to treat her HIV/AIDS.

And, for the first time, she disclosed her HIV status to a partner she had been with for seven years.

"It was hard back then, especially in a third-world country, but he accepted me," Mejia said. "Eventually, [the relationship] didn't work out and I returned to the U.S. in 2001."

Now 38, Mejia lives in Miami, where she is a blogger for multiple outlets. She also is a peer educator for Jackson Memorial Hospital and volunteer for the Red Cross and an HIV trainer and counselor.

And she's been together with her partner, Lisa Laing, for four years.

"My life is almost normal today, though with ups and downs," she said. "I am very happy with my partner. We enjoy traveling, going to dance, shopping, dining [out], etc. I am taking HIV medication now, [as opposed] to the first 10 years [after the diagnosis when] I was only taking natural medication."

"I'm glad I didn't take the high dosages of AZT that [doctors] wanted me to take 20 years ago. They were toxic levels and something in me told me not to take [them], especially when they wanted me to sign a waiver that said, 'This medication might damage your internal organs.'"

Mejia is now an HIV/AIDS educator, helping those infected and affected by the disease. She also works with prevention and education, putting her face out there to try to end the HIV/AIDS stigma.

She blogs for body.com, among other sites, and is regularly speaking about the disease. Plus, she created an HIV group on Facebook for those impacted by the disease, and she's a part of the Ambassadors of Hope, an organization created by Dab Garner, who was infected about 30 years ago when the illness was called G.R.I.D. [Gay-Related Immune Deficiency].

"I help people who are suicidal, or people who think they might have it. It is my job to convince them to get tested," Mejia said.

Yes, Mejia truly has turned her life around, rebounding from her childhood abuse. Clearly, she is a fighter, a soldier—as she calls herself.

"I want so many things," she began. "I want to be everywhere and help others. I want to write a book. I want to grow more spiritually. I



Maria T. Mejia.

also want [to see] a cure [for HIV/AIDS] in my lifetime."

Mejia has taken a strong public stance, anchored by the death of her partner's sister last November from a brain tumor.

"It was very sad and hard [to watch]," Mejia said. "She was a very strong woman and I just said to myself after she passed, 'Why can people say they have cancer, or lupus, or another serious illness, and yet I cannot say I am HIV-positive?'"

So she decided to come out of the closet—about her status—in 2011.

"I am not a criminal, nor a delinquent. I just thought, 'Why do I have to continue to hide?'" Mejia said. "I am a human being who happens to have HIV/AIDS. I said to myself that now is the time to show my face, to help try to take the stigma away. I want to show my face and tell my story and to educate others, to show a different face to HIV/AIDS."

"Today, I feel as free as a butterfly, and happy."

Her partner, Laing, is negative, and yet is lov-

ing and supportive of Mejia.

"You need to get educated [about the disease]," Laing said. "It's a learning process, especially if you're new to HIV/AIDS. [The disease] has taught me to be more understanding and more compassionate and to judge less. It has opened my eyes as to what Maria and others go through on a daily basis."

Mejia has dated partners who are negative almost all her life.

"I am very blessed to be with my soulmate, as we call each other," Mejia said. "It feels awesome to have her support, and to be there for each other. It's an unconditional love. When I disclosed [my status to her] I gave her the option to be just friends or continue with our [intimate] feelings [for each other], and she chose to stay [together]. I love her deeply as she loves me, although sometimes it is hard because she doesn't know what I am going through with some side effects of the medications, etc. Only another positive person would know [what I'm experiencing] because they are going through it, too. All she can do when she asks me, 'What can I do?' is just being there [for me]. I tell her that there really is nothing she or anyone can do."

Mejia said one of the biggest moments of her life was Magic Johnson's announcement that he, too, was HIV-positive because she then knew she wasn't alone.

"My health in general is good nowadays, but I have to go through some side effects of the medication, like neuropathy, which is nerve damage. Your hands and feet hurt a lot," she said. "I know some people who can't walk anymore due to the pain. I have good days and bad days, some days with fatigue, some normal days. Overall, I am strong and pretty healthy. You just get tired sometimes of this illness ... 20 years is a long time, but hey, things could be worse."

"I hope I am seen as someone who is trying to fight [the HIV/AIDS] stigma. The people and organizations I have come across from the Hispanic community are very supportive and proud of me. The good thing about me is that I reach everyone, especially through Facebook, [and that includes] those affected with HIV/AIDS, those impacted by the disease, plus the LGBT community, old, young, straight, bi-sexual, gay, men, women ... everyone."

"Many people are minimizing this illness to nothing, and that is why so many people are not taking care of themselves. As I tell them, [HIV/AIDS] is not a death sentence, but rather, it is a life sentence."



Maria T. Mejia's (right) and Lisa Laing's (left) AIDS campaign posters.

VIEWPOINTS

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TIMES

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

TRACY
BAIM

What next for the Pride Parade?

This year's Chicago Pride Parade was the largest ever, causing some concerns about whether it has become too big for its Lakeview bitches.

Pride Chicago and its leader, Rich Pfeiffer, organize the parade. Pfeiffer and his team have done incredible work as a backbone of Pride since the early 1970s. While other cities have faced massive changes in leadership, scandals and a diverted focus, Pride Chicago has had a singular goal of running the Pride Parade each year. It is to be applauded for this work.

However, it also has many competing interests to wrangle. These include citizens, businesses, politicians, police, emergency services, transportation, streets and sanitation, and much more. Change will not come easy.

After complaints as crowds swelled in the late 2000s, more barricades were added to increase the safety of those in the parade and those

watching. Contingents were told not to hand out anything. (Even the politicians ignored the rule this year.) A limit of 240 was placed on the number of contingents (although many people and groups combine as an end-run around that rule). More parade marshals and police were used. More portable restrooms were placed.

However, with beautiful weather, and coming two days after New York passed a marriage-equality law and four weeks after Illinois started civil unions, an estimated 750,000 people crowded into in Lakeview June 26. It was a perfect storm.

Tens of thousands of people streamed off the train platforms at Belmont and Addison. The Belmont station had to be closed temporarily. Hundreds of thousands tried to see the parade along Halsted, making the crowds impassable. Had the weather been hotter, there may have actually been some deaths caused by heat exhaustion. Some people simply had no way to get out of the crowds. Some were nearly crushed. There was violence, and there were a lot of drunk people.

So what needs to happen? Most important, we need a solution well before next year's parade, so that the community knows what will happen. The solutions below are focused on keeping the Parade near the heaviest LGBT areas, but some people are suggesting it needs to move downtown. Since the end of June conflicts with Taste of Chicago, this would mean changing the parade dates. In the interest of trying to keep it in the same area, at the end of June, here are some ideas.

—Start the parade at 10 a.m. or, at the latest,

11 a.m. People are hopefully not as drunk by then.

—Move the parade to Saturday morning. It can then be the start of the weekend celebration.

—Move the Pride Parade to be along Sheridan, starting at Diversey and going north to Belmont, then Belmont west to Halsted, where it ends. The floats could be staged south of Diversey along Cannon Drive. The parade would then end at Belmont and Halsted, and folks could still celebrate along Halsted and Broadway at LGBT businesses. This partly solves the CTA and traffic-crush problem, as folks would be more dispersed in how they reached the parade.

—PrideFest, which is a two-day festival on Halsted Friday and Saturday before the parade on Sunday, could be made instead into a Saturday and Sunday event, and be also partly along Broadway.

—Have big screens with the parade showing live at points along Halsted and Broadway, maybe in parking lots or park areas, for overflow folks to go. Also have it on all screens at the bars, live, and maybe even in a few points in other communities such as Andersonville, Hyde Park, Logan Square, Rogers Park, Oak Park, etc.

Other cities have tried to move their parades out of the LGBT areas, with little success. It would be ideal not to force the parade downtown. However, to keep it in Lakeview, there must be major adjustments. Many people will need to work hard on solutions and compromises, all in the interest of LGBT pride.

Tracy Baim is publisher and executive editor of *Windy City Times*.

KEITH
ECKER

Boystown Is Burning: Prejudice takes root in the community

Watch out Boystown! The Blacks are coming to get you! At least that's the message that some in the community seem to be broadcasting.

In response to violent criminal incidents in the gayborhood, Facebook users launched a page on June 28 called "Take Back Boystown." In one day, the group garnered more than 700 members. While some are thinking progressively by lobbying for increased citizen-led patrols and communication with police, others seem to be capitalizing on this issue to voice their racial prejudices.

For example, one fan of the page writes, "It's all of us innocent people that are being attacked by the blacks." Another echoes the words of many by placing blame on the Black GLBT youths that seek services at the Center on

Halsted, posting that "We have a center full of 'kids' who don't live in the neighborhood just wandering around the streets because they lack the funds and/or age required to get into bars. So, what happens then? Well, I think we've all seen what happens..."

This ignorance reflects a growing schism that has taken root in Chicago's gay community. On one side are the mainstream gays. We are those who are portrayed in the mass and GLBT media and serve as the target audience for Lady Gaga and Glee. Politicians court us, and businesses cater to us. On the other side are the disenfranchised gay Black youths. These young adults have no public platform. Many come from extraordinarily intolerant communities. Some are homeless. Few have much money to their names. For the mainstreams, it gets better. For the others, not so much.

Have us gays really come so far as to have the "privilege" to look down on others with condescension? Have we achieved such "lofty" status as to completely trivialize the plights of others? I guess now that Ellen is the queen of daytime talk and Broadway isn't just for gays, we have the right to lump all Black people together as misfits and criminals.

Look, I get it. Boystown residents and bar patrons are scared. They feel as if the recent slew of violent attacks has jeopardized their safety, a belief that is not without reason. And it would be disingenuous of me to not disclose that I have been subjected to verbal harassment from some of the Black GLBT youths along Halsted. But there is a giant leap between verbal harassment and physical assault.

Bigotry merely represents a lack of understanding. And ignorance is fueled by fear. We of all people should know the harm that bigotry and ignorance can render. To think that Black GLBT youths are somehow separate from our commu-

nity reflects this narrow-mindedness. The more we take an us-versus-them stance, the more we show ourselves to be hypocrites. These young adults have nowhere else to go, and here we trumpet Boystown as the urban oasis for Chicago's GLBT community, a safe space that welcomes all ... or should that be "all" with an asterisk?

So let's admit we have an information gap and correct the problem. I propose we organize a public forum where members of the young Black GLBT community and the mainstream Boystown community can come together and have an honest Q&A. The goal should be discussion, not arguing. From here, we can begin to build a bridge between these two seemingly disparate worlds. Perhaps from these talks we may jointly develop programs to empower GLBT youths, facilitate a mutual cultural understanding and create safe spaces where all, regardless of age and race, can safely convene at night.

Make no mistake. Crime is a problem in Boystown—and we should definitely aim to take back Boystown from those who threaten the safety of any resident or visitor.

However, to think that Boystown is the property of a largely white middle-class segment of the gay population is ridiculous. Boystown is ours, and when I say ours I mean it belongs to each and every oppressed and disenfranchised GLBT individual. The more we rail against our community's Black GLBT youth, the more we hinder the opportunity to begin a dialogue. Chicago has enough of a racial divide. Let's set an example for the entire city. The decision is ours: Do Boystown's rainbow pillars represent open doors or fortified walls?

Keith Ecker is a Chicago-based essayist, journalist, comedian and activist. Read his blog at <http://www.keithecker.com>.

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GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

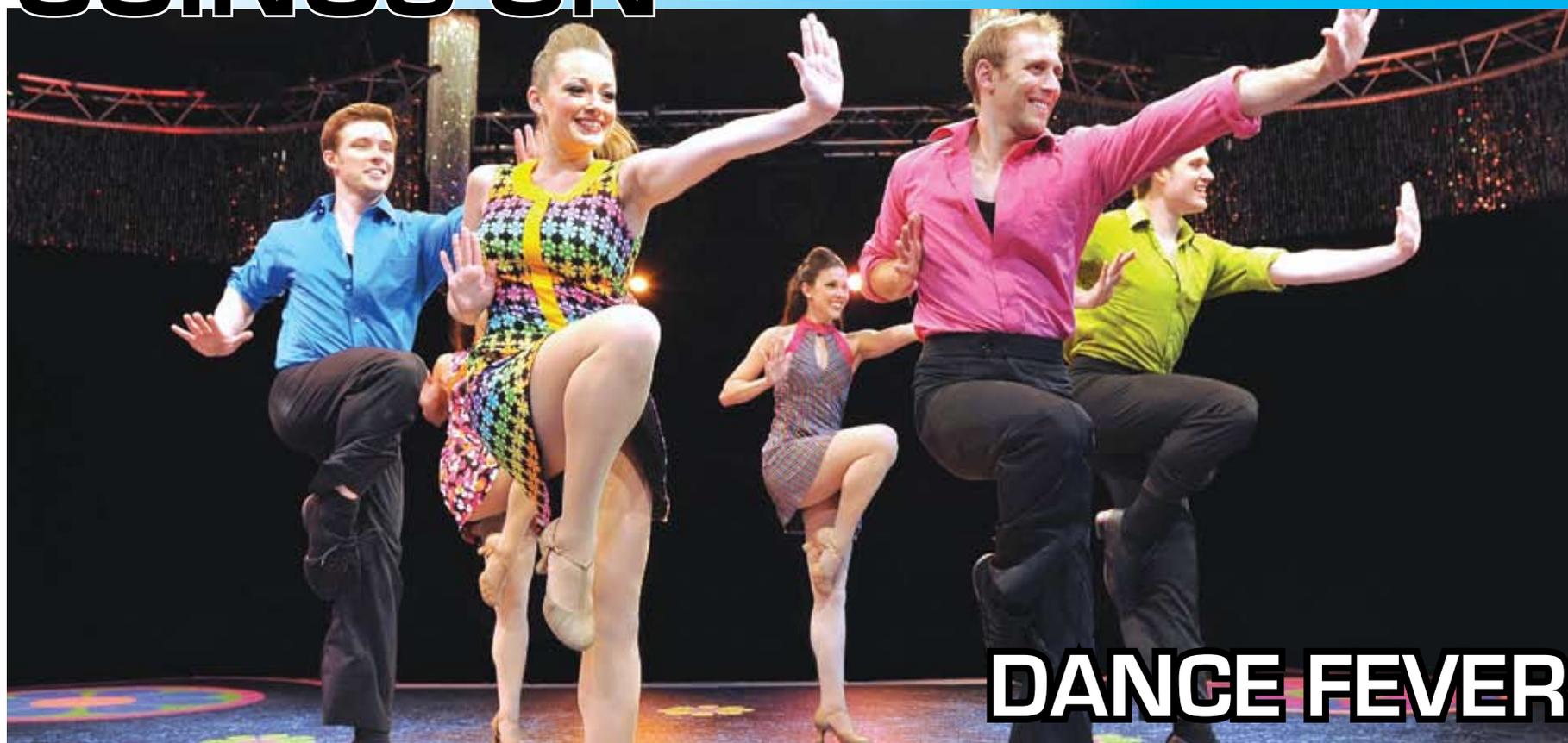


Photo
by
Peter
Coombs
and the
Marriott
Theatre

The fast-moving *Shout!* is one of the productions being reviewed this week. See page 26.

THEATER

'Chinglish' lesson.
Page 24.

Photo by Eric Y. Exit



SPORTS

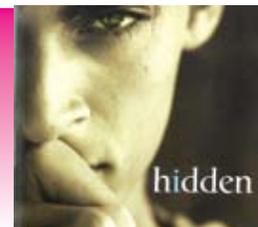
Play ball!
Page 38.

Photo of Ted Cappas (left) and
Jack Neilsen by Ross Forman



BOOKS

'Hidden' agenda.
Page 27.



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Chinglish and Stick Fly are Broadway-bound

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Two Chicago world premiere plays are now Broadway-bound.

David Henry Hwang's hilarious comedy, *Chinglish*, got an instant Broadway try-out last week—just one day after it officially opened at the Goodman Theatre June 27. That's when New York producers Jeffrey Richards and Jerry Frankel announced their plans to transfer *Chinglish* to a Shubert-owned Broadway theater this fall.

Hwang is riding high at the moment in Chicago, since his other plays, *Yellow Face* and *Family Devotions*, are also playing around town this summer (respectively, with *Silk Road Theatre Project* and *Halcyon Theatre*). However, the Broadway news about *Chinglish* is extra-sweet for the Tony Award-winning playwright of *M. Butterfly* and *Golden Child*. Don't wait to get your *Chinglish* tickets now.

You won't be able to see the other Chicago world premiere headed to Broadway. That's because Lydia R. Diamond's *Stick Fly* closed back in 2006.

Stick Fly debuted with Chicago's Congo Square Theatre and has subsequently had high-profile regional productions like at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, N.J., the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., and the Huntington Theatre Company in Boston. *Stick Fly* deals with a wealthy African-American family spending a weekend in Martha's Vineyard.

Stick Fly casting hasn't been announced, but the Broadway production already boasts one celebrity: Grammy Award-winning pop star Alicia Keys has signed on to be on of the show's producers.

"This is a story that everybody can relate to," Keys said in a statement reported on Playbill.com. "I'm passionate about this play because it is so beautifully written and portrays Black America in a way that we don't often get to see in entertainment. I know it will touch all audiences, who will find a piece of themselves somewhere inside this house."

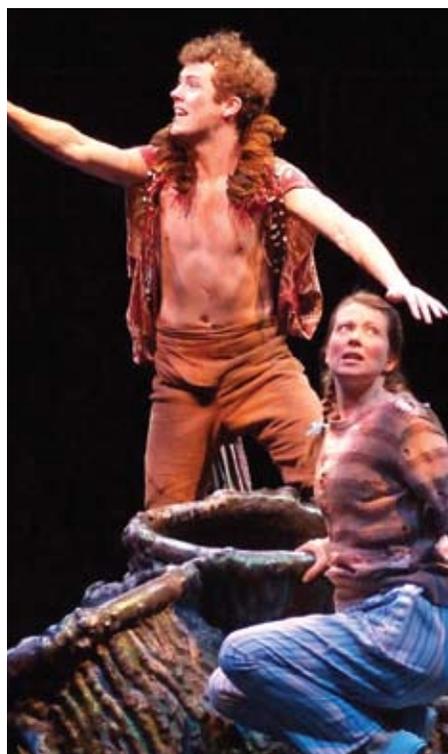
Extensions aplenty

Procrastinators can breathe an extra sigh of relief. A whole slew of acclaimed shows around Chicago have recently announced extensions.

Million Dollar Quartet, the jukebox show that celebrates the historic night in 1956 when Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins all jammed together in a recording studio, has announced an extension through Dec. 31 at the Apollo Theatre. The hit musical has been playing in Chicago since 2008 and recently opened in London. Though the Broadway production of *Million Dollar Quartet* abruptly closed in June, the show will move off-Broadway later this month. Visit <http://www.milliondollarquartetlive.com>.

Chemically Imbalanced Comedy's long-running 2010 revival of Amy and David Sedaris' *The Book of Liz* has announced a final extension through to Aug. 13. The quirky tale of a religiously "Squeamish" woman who must fend for herself in the real world has proven to be quite the hit for this tiny storefront theater at 1420 W. Irving Park Road. Visit <http://www.cicomedy.com>.

Fresh off its 2011 Regional Theatre Tony Award win, Lookingglass Theatre has announced an extension through Aug. 7 for its world-premiere production of *The Last Act of Lilka Kadison*.



Peter Pan—just one production that's been extended. Photo by Ed Krieger

The ensemble-created piece is inspired by the life and work of Johanna Cooper and is about a woman who reflects on her life after fleeing Poland on the eve of World War II. Visit <http://www.lookingglasstheatre.org>.

Audiences have one more week to catch Keith Huff's acclaimed world-premiere drama *The Detective's Wife*, now through Aug. 7 at Writers' Theatre in Glencoe. The Gary Griffin-directed production stars Barbara Robertson as the wife of a Chicago homicide detective who is determined to find out who gunned down her husband on the job. Visit <http://www.writerstheatre.org>.

Another locally set world premiere, William Nedved's Northwest Highway, gets more mileage at the Gift Theatre. Following its sold-out run

through July 17, Northwest Highway returns for another run from Aug. 18 through Sept. 11 at the Jefferson Park neighborhood theater. Visit <http://www.thegifttheatre.org>.

Redtwist Theatre's hit production of *Bug* will continue to get under people's skin since it has been extended through July 31. (The disturbing drama, by Pulitzer Prize-winning Steppenwolf Theatre ensemble member Tracy Letts, will play in repertory with Polly Stehham's *That Face*.) Visit <http://www.redtwist.org>.

Finally, if you like theatrical spectacles in tents, then you'll be pleased to hear that the London-born production of *Peter Pan* (the one in the custom 1,300-seat tent near the Chicago Tribune Freedom Center) will finish out the summer months through Aug. 21. Visit <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com>. Also sticking around a bit longer is the insect-inspired Cirque du Soleil show *OVO*, which will stay put through Aug. 21. Visit <http://www.cirquedusoleil.com>.

Be on MTV

Most people don't think of the Portage Theatre in Chicago's Portage Park neighborhood as a hotbed for drag acts, burlesque dancers or go-go boys. However, Expose Theater Company is trying to change that perception with its one-night-only revue *Inhibition: Let Go!* at the historic 1,300-seat theater located along Milwaukee Avenue just north of Irving Park Road.

Inhibition: Let Go! is set to star drag artists Cyon Flare and Tajma Hall with special appearances by pop singer Andrea Eve, Teri Yaki and the Windy City Beauties and Dolce and Gabanna DiVita. However, according to publicist James Baptist, the other major draw is the news that MTV plans on taping the entire evening (including an after-party) for broadcast in the future.

Expose Theater Company's *Inhibition: Let Go!* plays the Portage Theatre, 4050 N. Milwaukee, at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 9. (Doors open 6 p.m.) Tickets are \$20 and can be obtained by visiting <http://www.exposetheater.com>.

On REYATAZ,

INDICATION: REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate) is a prescription medicine used in combination with other medicines to treat people 6 years of age and older who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). REYATAZ has been studied in a 48-week trial in patients who have taken anti-HIV medicines and a 96-week trial in patients who have never taken anti-HIV medicines.

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IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

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

Do not take REYATAZ if you are taking the following medicines due to potential for serious, life-threatening side effects or death:

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

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

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

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

Tell your healthcare provider if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. REYATAZ use during pregnancy has not been associated with an increase in birth defects. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. **After your baby is born,** tell your healthcare provider if your baby's skin or the white part of his/her eyes turns yellow. **You should not breast-feed** if you are HIV-positive.

Also tell your healthcare provider if you have end-stage kidney disease managed with hemodialysis or **severe liver dysfunction.**

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

- **Mild rash** (redness and itching) without other symptoms sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment.
- **Severe rash** may develop with other symptoms that could be serious and potentially cause death. **If you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms, stop using REYATAZ and call your healthcare provider right away:**
 - Shortness of breath
 - General ill-feeling or "flu-like" symptoms
 - Fever
 - Muscle or joint aches
 - Conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like "pink-eye")
 - Blisters
 - Mouth sores
 - Swelling of your face
- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).
- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur. You may feel dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- **If you have liver disease,** including hepatitis B or C, it may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- **Kidney stones** have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ. Signs or symptoms of kidney stones include pain in your side, blood in your urine, and pain when you urinate.
- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ.
- **Changes in body fat** have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.
- **Immune reconstitution syndrome** has been seen in some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) and a history of opportunistic infection. Signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after starting anti-HIV treatment, including REYATAZ.
- **Gallbladder disorders** (including gallstones and gallbladder inflammation) have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ.

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

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

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

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

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

Ask your healthcare team about REYATAZ www.REYATAZ.com

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

People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection.

Find out if you can save on REYATAZ.
Call 1-888-281-8981 or visit
ReyatazSavings.com for details.

Subject to terms and conditions. Restrictions apply.

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Rx ONLY

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

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

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

What is REYATAZ?

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people 6 years of age and older who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of (T) cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?

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

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

Who should not take REYATAZ?

Do not take REYATAZ if you:

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

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

Tell your healthcare provider:

- **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** REYATAZ use during pregnancy has not been associated with an increase in birth defects. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
 - **After your baby is born,** tell your healthcare provider if your baby’s skin or the white part of his/her eyes turns yellow.
- **If you are breast-feeding.** You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- **If you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus.** See “What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?”
- **If you have end stage kidney disease** managed with hemodialysis.
- **If you have diabetes.** See “What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?”
- **If you have hemophilia.** See “What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?”

REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

- **About all the medicines you take** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see “What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?” and “Who should not take REYATAZ?” Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

How should I take REYATAZ?

- **Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
- **Always take REYATAZ with food** (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. **Do not open the capsules.** Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- **If you are taking antacids or didanosine (VIDEX® or VIDEX® EC),** take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- **If you are taking medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), ZANTAC® (ranitidine), AcipHex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILLOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole),** talk to your healthcare provider.
- **Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider.** It is important to stay under a healthcare provider’s care while taking REYATAZ.
- **When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low,** get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- **If you miss a dose of REYATAZ,** take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.**
- **If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ,** call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?

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

The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:

- **mild rash** (redness and itching) without other symptoms sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- **severe rash:** Rash may develop in association with other symptoms which could be serious and potentially cause death.

If you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms stop using REYATAZ and call your healthcare provider right away:

- shortness of breath
- general ill feeling or “flu-like” symptoms
- fever
- muscle or joint aches
- conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like “pink eye”)
- blisters
- mouth sores
- swelling of your face
- **yellowing of the skin or eyes.** These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, call your healthcare provider promptly if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow.
- **a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change).** Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- **diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia)** sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- **if you have liver disease** including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- **kidney stones** have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ. If you develop signs or symptoms of kidney stones (pain in your side, blood in your urine, pain when you urinate) tell your healthcare provider promptly.

REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

- **some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- **changes in body fat.** These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- **immune reconstitution syndrome.** In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) and a history of opportunistic infection, signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment, including REYATAZ, is started.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The following medicines are not recommended with REYATAZ:

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

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

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

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

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil), used to treat erectile dysfunction. REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- ADCIRCA® (tadalafil) or TRACLEER® (bosentan), used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension.
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin) or CRESTOR® (rosuvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin, an antibiotic used to treat tuberculosis).

REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

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

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

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

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

Remember:

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

How should I store REYATAZ?

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

General information about REYATAZ

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

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

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?

Active Ingredient: atazanavir sulfate

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

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F1-B0001B-02-11

Rev February 2011

THEATER REVIEW

Middletown

Playwright: Will Eno
 At: Steppenwolf Theatre,
 1650 N. Halsted
 Phone: 312-335-1650; \$20-\$73
 Runs through: Aug. 14

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

At one point in our play, an astronaut reports from his tiny home in the stars that his carefully-rationed supply of oxygen is "good," to which his controller on the ground—surrounded by oxygen in abundance—replies "It sure is!" At another, a landscaper planting a tree outside the emergency entrance to a hospital expresses hope that arrivals thereat will be comforted by its beauty. Later, a pair of tourists, weary of ancient monuments, are enchanted by the thought that the air they are breathing was shared, centuries earlier, by the stonemason who sculpted the memorials they now view.

Every American playwright, sooner or later, pays homage to Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. Unlike the residents of Grover's Corners, though, the citizens of *Middletown* are fully conscious of the wonder and mystery to be found in the most commonplace occurrences, savoring each precious passing moment as a gift to be explored and contemplated. All but one, that is—an unexceptional man so lacking in direction that even his sentences trail off unfinished. When an end to his opportunities finally looms, his efforts to crowd a lifetime into his final minutes are heartbreaking in their futility.

Will Eno's brand of verbal microanalysis demands a high level of intimacy to generate the empathy necessary to appreciate observations that could easily become cloyingly twee. (Did



Middletown. Photo by Michael Brosilow

I mention the equine fancier whose fondness for statues of mounted generals is limited to their horses?) It's unlikely to be achieved on the Steppenwolf mainstage, however. Despite an all-star cast that includes an underutilized Brenda Barrie, a droll cast-against-type Michael Patrick Thornton, and an appropriately self-effacing Tracy Letts (who contributes the most clinically harrowing death scene in Chicago theatre history), the sheer dimensions of our physical environment cannot help but dwarf Antje Ellermann's spare scenic design and the people thereon, rendering Eno's delicate universe self-consciously artificial.

Playgoers recalling the production of Eno's *The Flu Season* in 2009 will attest to the quirky charm associated with close—really close—scrutiny of discourse we too often take for granted. Director Les Waters tries to bridge the aesthetic distance by means of devices lifted straight from his text's 1938 prototype, but ultimately, we are left with a concert for chamber orchestra diluted by an arena better suited to brass bands.

THEATER REVIEW

Chinglish

Playwright: David Henry Hwang
 At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn
 Phone: 312-443-3800; \$25-\$73
 Runs through: July 24

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

In 2009, Aditi Brennan Kapil's *Love Person* asked its audiences to think in three languages simultaneously—ASL (American Sign Language), spoken English and written English. David Henry Hwang asks us to follow dialogue in only two—Mandarin Chinese and American English, with subtitled translations from the first to the second projected near the action—reducing, but not eliminating, the frustrations inherent in cross-cultural confrontations. Still, if we are to appreciate the discomforts of the global relations that provide our play its theme, it's only fair that we share in the discomfort. Besides, aren't romantic comedies *supposed* to revel in giddy confusion?

Ah, but just because a play proposes two attractive people falling into bed together doesn't make it a romcom. We may begin with the typical east-meets-west dissonance and finish in lovers contented with their rewards, but not until Hwang has introduced some Confucian proverbs for our age: A disgrace in one country may prove an asset in another.

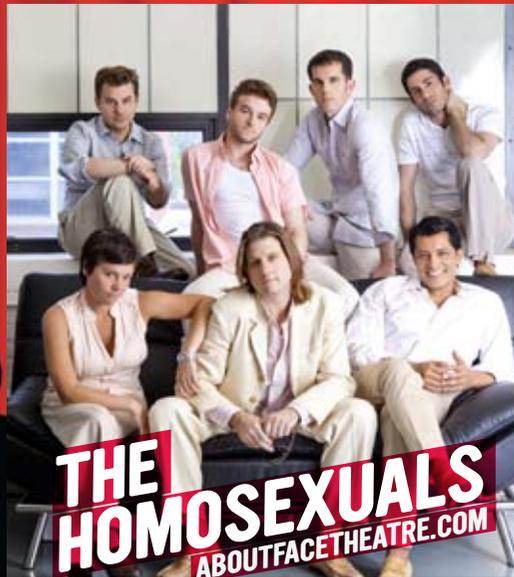
Beware of idealizing the merely exotic or enigmatic. Those who cling nostalgically to the past often fare badly. This is wisdom refusing to elevate the values of one tribe over another. *Romeo and Juliet* may have eagerly offered to renounce their filial allegiances, but in Hwang's universe, nobody must sacrifice who they are in order to get what they want—what they *really* want, that is.

Playgoers anticipating the brain-aerobics of Hwang's currently-running *Yellow Face* will find *Chinglish* a far easier assignment. David Korins' revolving-door scenic design relocates us from boardroom to bedroom and points between with dazzling alacrity, and the agile and mostly bilingual cast assembled by director Leigh Silverman keeps the repartee animated and rapier-swift. Special commendations are due Jennifer Lim in the role of the Assistant Minister whose broken English is punctuated with the hesitations reflecting the multiple dimensions mandated by second-language diction, as well as Stephen Pucci, whose delivery encompasses not only fluent oratory in English and Chinese, but a heavy Australian accent imposed upon both.

It can be argued that all verbal discourse is a translative process—we are born hearing *sounds*, but only learn to *talk* later in life. Hwang explores the universal difficulties that follow this occurrence with an impish humor whose depth is as profound as his compassion for pilgrims lost in a wilderness of unfamiliar words.

James Waterston (left) and Larry Zhang in *Chinglish*. Photo by Eric Y. Exit

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SPOTLIGHT



Before the national tour of *West Side Story* hits the Windy City later this month, why not brush up on the original Shakespeare tragedy that inspired it? First Folio Theatre in Oak Brook allows audiences to watch the star-crossed lovers *Romeo and Juliet* out under the stars in a production directed by Nick Sandys. *Romeo and Juliet* plays in previews 8:15 p.m. July 6-8, with an official opening at 8:15 p.m. July 9. The production then continues 8:15 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays at the May-slake Peabody Estate at 31st St. and Route 83 in Oak Brook. Tickets are \$20 for previews, then \$29-\$35 during the regular run (\$25-\$30 for students and seniors). Call 630-986-8067 or visit <http://www.firstfolio.org>. Photo of Kelsey Brennan and Will Allan Romeo and Juliet by D. Rice

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DOUBLE REVIEW

The Women

Playwright: Clare Booth Luce
 At: Circle Theatre, 1010 W. Madison,
 Oak Park
 Phone: 708-660-9540; \$22-\$26
 Runs through: Aug. 14

Five Lesbians Eating a Quiche

Playwrights: Andrew Hobgood and
 Evan Linder with the ensemble
 At: The New Colony at D
 ANK Haus, 4740 N. Western
 Phone: 773-413-0862; \$20
 Runs through: July 30

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

A friend joked to me that Clare Booth Luce's *The Women* should be on the syllabus for any Gay 101 course. So if there aren't already lots of lavender-leaning audiences attending Circle Theatre's strong take on Luce's clever 1936 play, there should be.

The Women is cultural catnip for many a gay man due to its catty dialogue and its gorgeous art deco fashions and settings. But many feminists will undoubtedly grimace at any number of politically incorrect aspects about *The Women*, ranging from its gossipy back-biting characters to its plot about a wealthy New York society woman who loses her unfaithful husband before finding a way to win him back.

Yet it's best to remember that *The Women's* credo of "a woman's best protection is the right man" is reflective of the time when it was originally written (which might explain why the modernized 2008 film of *The Women* flopped).

However, at the same time, the sexual frankness of Luce's play is quite surprising for people who only know *The Women* from George Cukor's sanitized 1939 film starring Joan Crawford and



Five Lesbians Eating a Quiche. Photo by Anne Petersen

Rosalind Russell. It's this brasher sexuality, plus a very enjoyable production at Circle Theatre that makes an Oak Park trip all but essential for gay audiences.

Director Jim Schneider has attracted a large and skilled cast for *The Women*, right down to the smaller bit parts. The actors are clearly reveling their chance to deliver such funny lines like "Jungle Red!" or "Where I spit no grass grows ever!" while wearing such period-perfect costumes designed by Elizabeth Wislar.

Now there are a couple of wrong notes in Circle's *The Women*. Katelyn Smith is too old to be playing Little Mary, while the occasional bit of 1960s modern furniture and patterning sneaks into Bob Knuth's otherwise ingenious rotating art deco set.

While Circle's cast of *The Women* probably won't erase memories of the film's iconic Hollywood starlets, they still make it such a pleasure to experience Luce's play live in its unadulterated original format.

Another all-women cast likely to attract gay audiences is The New Colony's *Five Lesbians Eat-*

ing a Quiche. Originally just a sketch by Evan Linder and Andrew Hobgood, the collaboration has been expanded to an hour-length play spoofing 1950s wholesomeness and atomic-age paranoia.

In terms of humor, there's plenty of innuendo about these "widows" and their love of eggs and quiche and how they would never let sausage near it.

Five Lesbians never really shakes off its silly sketch origins, but it does boast a funny quintet of actors with precision comic timing and outrageous characterizations. Much credit goes to Mary Hollis Inboden, Megan Johns, Thea Lux, Beth Stelling and Maari Suorsa who all make the play ultimately worthwhile.

CRITICS' PICKS

The Chicago Landmark Project, Theatre Seven at Greenhouse Theater, through July 10. It's the perfect staycation—a tour of Chicago from 63rd Street to Lincoln Square, from the dawn of the 20th century to the present day. And you complete the entire excursion in one evening without ever having to leave your seat. MSB

The Front Page, TimeLine Theatre, through July 17. Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur's classic 1920s Chicago journalism comedy gets a crackling good production that is so intimate that the audience practically gets to be on top of the action. SCM

The Homosexuals, About Face Theatre at the Biograph, through July 24. It's a decade in the life of a once-naive young gay man, told via two-person flashbacks through friends and lovers. Philip Dawkins's serio-comic world premiere is smart writing, well-acted. JA

Yellow Face, Silk Road Theatre Project, through July 17. David Henry Hwang's ethnographic twist on the old tale of *The Emperor's New Clothes* makes for savage satire and insightful arguments ultimately championing the all-American tradition of self-reinvention. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

Shout!

Playwright: Many
 At: Marriott Theatre, Lincolnshire,
 Tickets: 1-846-634-0200;
<http://www.marriotttheatre.com>; \$40-\$48
 Runs through: Aug. 14

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

What's not to like about *Shout!*? This colorful and joyous revue celebrates the chick singers who dominated 1960s pop music, in particular Brit chicks Petula Clark, Cilla Black and Lulu, the 1960s quintessential big-hair stars. It features five full-throated girl singers who perfectly capture 1960s-pop style, backed by seven agile dancers (the program lists nine, so they must rotate), an excellent ensemble company

There's no plot to this astute reworking of a 2006 Off-Broadway show, although director/choreographer Rachel Rockwell says the theme is love, and the songs follow a woman's journey from first love to self love. I can see that when I review the 30-plus songs delivered in a smart 90 minutes, but the concept never overwhelms (and that's good). Rockwell's best renovation of the earlier work is to cover American territory as well as Brit turf, dropping the original sub-title, "the Mod Musical."

The 1960s were a great music era when the innocence of doo-wop and early rock came under the influence of Early Motown, jazz and r&b, and before Acid Rock and Heavy Metal emerged. The Marriott production covers almost all the waterfront and covers it well, missing only a few iconic hits such as "Where the Boys Are" (Connie Francis, 1960).

The Marriott design team gets into the spirit as well, turning the in-the-square stage into a Pachelbel board of flowers and vaguely psychedelic lighting patterns (Thomas M. Ryan, scenic, and Diane Ferry Williams, lighting). As always, the Marriott sound design is superb with a real presence to the voices, not disembodied vocals coming from speakers (Robert E. Gilmartin, sound). But the spectacle star



Shout! Photo by Peter Coombs and the Marriott Theatre

is costume designer Nancy Missimi. She begins with her nine chicks (five singers and four dancers) in Popsicle-colored mini-dresses and knee-high white boots (and big hair, natch) and has them progress by the end into stunning, geometric-patterned variations on black-and-white cocktail dresses and formal outfits. The three male dancers wear far less flashy outfits, but many readers of this paper will appreciate their butt-hugging trousers.

As always, the Marriott band is under the sure baton of Patti Garwood with wonderful orchestrations—lots of horns and baritone sax—by the always-reliable Marriott veteran David Siegel. The musical arrangements kick ass for sure, yet remain always understated and tasteful as does the entire show. Since the 1960s weren't always tasteful, this is something of a surprise. However, maybe it's only by contrast to the far-less-tasteful styles of the present decade.

Some highlights include "Goldfinger" with jazz vocalese accompanying an apache dance duet, the vocal duet "All I See Is You," a pairing of "Georgy Girl" with "Windy," another pas-de-deux danced to "Son of a Preacher Man" and the title tune itself. Go see *Shout!* You'll enjoy.

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BOOK REVIEW

Hidden

by Tomas Mournian

\$15; Kensington; 387 pages

REVIEW BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You hated being "It."

In fact, nobody liked being "It" when playing hide and seek. "It" was the banished position, the spot for losers, the hardest role in the game.

Was it possible, after all, to find all the other kids and tag them before they had a chance to get Home? Not really, and besides, "It" missed the hiding part, which definitely displayed creativity.

Also, "It" missed the heart-pounding, screaming race to get Home in the end.

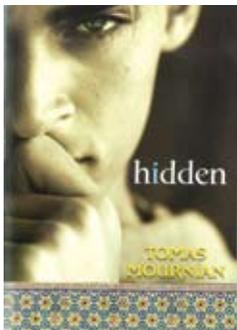
However, hide and seek is just a game. In the new novel *Hidden*, by Tomas Mournian, staying concealed may be a life-or-death matter.

Ahmed was drugged.

At least, he was sure he was. He felt really high, and everything was slow. His father and stepmother number—was it four?—had come to pick him up at Serenity Ridge, and they expected complacency on the way home. No problems here.

However, even woozy, Ahmed knew that escape was essential. There was no way he was going to be sent back to SR, a "residential treatment facility" for queer teens.

So when whispers turned out to be correct—that there was a certain truck stop near a certain sign in the middle of the desert where he



could find help—Ahmed told his father that he had to "go."

When two women motioned for him to follow them, he went...

Passed from vehicle to vehicle, Ahmed ended up in a bus station with a phone number in his hand and a ticket to San Francisco. But getting there—and finding the safe house he was told to seek—wouldn't be easy. There were men (bounty hunters) whose job it was to find runaway teens who could potentially embarrass their parents—and they were looking for him.

In the safe house, Ahmed became "Ben." Someone dyed his hair and told him that he couldn't look out the window. He was told that he couldn't leave, either, but the other kids living there found a way: there was a rooftop area, perfect for smoking and listening to music. It was comfortable, and semi-private. It was the perfect place to escape the drama of too many kids hiding.

It's only a book. It's only a book. It's only a book. Those are the words you'll want to remember while reading this pulse-racing novel.

Hidden is an easy book to get caught up in. The first half is pure classic chase-scene, complete with evil henchmen, vicious dogs and an Underground Railroad-like passage to safety. You almost want to look over Ahmed's shoulder for him, lest he get caught.

Then author Tomas Mournian switches gears by adding a tiniest amount of malevolence to the discomfort of a dozen varied personalities packed in a small area for an unspecified time. This only ratchets up the tension, making *Hidden* a heart-pounder.

Perhaps meant for older teens, I think this book is an excellent read for any adult, too. If you're looking for a book from which your attention may never escape, *Hidden* is one to seek.

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The (Gay) Gaga interview

Superstar talks activism, her legacy and how being a gay icon is a 'tall order'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Lady Gaga is one of the biggest superstars in the world. However, speaking to her only briefly during this rare interview, she evades her larger-than-life image with affable charm, self-deprecating humor (take that, so-called penis) and a down-to-earth demeanor. She's sweet, perverted, articulate and talkative—and she can't stop gushing about how much her fans mean to her.

When I have to cut her off to get a few last-minute questions in, she doesn't pull a diva trip; she's cordial as can be. "I could talk to you forever, you're so cute," she said, almost in baby goo-goo, ga-ga talk.

Point is, Gaga doesn't sound like someone who just scored the best first-week sales of the year so far with *Born This Way*, her opus that seems to position her as the Mother Teresa of music. Since we last spoke—nearly two years ago, when "Just Dance" was charting—she was barely a blip on the pop scene. How quickly things can change.

This time, Gaga spoke about inspiring young gay people, why she cried for a week straight, what she'd do with an Ann Coulter-like kid and the legacy she wants to leave.

Chris Azzopardi: We have lots more to talk about this time than your love for Italian sausages.

Lady Gaga: [Laughs] I love Italian sausages ... as much as I love my own.

CA: Don't take this the wrong way, but as a

fashion icon I have to ask: What are you wearing?

LG: I'm actually in a black bra and underwear. That's it. The top one is lace and the bottom one is just plain and silky. This is my daywear. I'm walking around my hotel room and I'm going to yoga soon, and I probably won't change. [Laughs]

CA: How did you spend your last day off?

LG: I watched *So You Think You Can Dance*, and I've been planning my performances for the next few months for television and getting ready for the new tour.

CA: That's work. That's not time off, Gaga.

LG: [Laughs] I know, I know. I always do that. I'm sorry. I don't really take time off. I try, but I think I find comfort in my creativity. It's like a warm blanket for me, so I will end up in some sort of way creating something or writing something.

CA: How do you feel about your role as a gay icon and a leader in the LGBT-rights movement?

LG: That's a really, really tall order and quite a description. I never set out to be a gay icon or become one or be revered as one, and I'm just really grateful to all the people that have believed in me and my music and my work. The most special thing of all has been that my sort of assimilation as a public figure has very organically stemmed out of who my natural friends were in high school.

I had a lot of gay friends growing up, not even realizing they were gay. We didn't really talk about it and I went to theater school and I did a lot of shows, so I guess it never really mattered to me if they were gay or straight—and we nev-



Lady Gaga. Photo by Nick Knight

er really talked about it. We just loved talking about music and art and theater and fashion. So now it's less about being a leader and more just about being a part of my generation and being part of the fight for equality that I feel is part of who I am and part of my childhood, and part of where I'm going.

CA: The message you stand for as a public figure—about being yourself no matter who you are—is also a big part of *Born This Way*.

LG: The album was inspired by the spirit of the fans, the spirit of the show and the spirit of people all over the world every night talking to me about social justice and sharing their stories with me and me realizing that my mission with music was driven in a very specific way at this point. So social justice has to be the most paramount issue that I address on the album.

CA: I wish I knew who you were when I was a teenager. Young people these days are lucky to have such a role model.

LG: That's so sweet. Thanks for saying that. I hope that I can really be that, and I hope that they know that it's so genuine and so authentic.

CA: Which album gave you a sense of belonging and allowed you to be yourself when you were a kid?

LG: I always talk about Green Day, because *Dookie* was the first album that I went to buy on my own. I think because I got bullied in school there was something I really appreciated about punk culture. It allowed me to feel unified with something that was separate from my community at school.

Even though I didn't have a lot of punk friends or I didn't go to punk shows—because when I was 13, my mother would never have allowed me to leave the house and go downtown to see a punk show—just having the album in my hands and reading the lyrics and listening to the music made me feel like I was a punk, feel like a Green Day fan, feel like I was part of a union that was separate from my situation. That's really carried through into my music and my dream and my message. But what's been so great is social media. Unlike when I was a kid, my fans now have a way to get to know each other and be connected through social media so that the culture can grow.

CA: And you're using social networking a lot

as a political platform, urging fans to step up in the fight for equality.

LG: Oh, yeah. I just got on Twitter and I was firing away like I was on the Senate floor. I couldn't stop because I think to myself, almost instantly, there are 11 million people who are receiving this message from me and they have to know what's going on. Even if I just get five people to call in New York, I can make that small bit of difference.

CA: If you had a daughter and you found out she was going to be the next [conservative pundit] Ann Coulter, what would you do?

LG: Oh. I'd have to have a sit-down with her.

CA: What's been the most rewarding moment of your career so far?

LG: So many different things. It was a very, very huge shock for me when I heard the album sales for *Born This Way*. I just cried for, like, a week straight. [Laughs] It was seven full days of rainwater tears. I think I could've filled an entire ocean of gratitude. I just worked so hard on the music and I cared so much that the fans loved it, and all that mattered to me was they loved it. The feedback of the music and of the videos has been so wonderful.

I sat down with the label and I talked to my team and we talked about the new album cycle and I said to them, "I don't want for the goal of this to be that we gain new fans. If we gain new fans, that's wonderful. But the goal for me is to strengthen my artistic evolution and strengthen the bond between the fans." That was the single most important thing to me. Not to sell more records, not to gain more fans, not to convert people that didn't like me before to like me now. That was not what I wanted. What I wanted to do was to look out into the crowd and know that they were stronger than ever, and the thing that has been the most exciting for me is to watch that happen, because what we have—what I have witnessed so far with the release of this album—is that the super fan section of my fans has grown.

CA: This is basically a dedication to your *Little Monsters*, right?

LG: It's a dedication, exactly. It's not fair-weather fans. These are real fans.

CA: If you could be reincarnated as a real living monster, what would you come back as?

LG: Myself. But I would have all my protrusions be real and I would be a real fairy monster.

CA: How gay of you.

LG: I know. But she would be mean and fierce, too. And have a fake mole. And I would be able to instantly change a wig with a thought in my mind or change my bone structure based on my thoughts.

CA: It's like a drag queen's dream.

LG: Yeah. It's my dream. It's every girl's dream! [Laughs]

CA: Two of your songs are named after human features—"Hair" and "Teeth." What's the next body part you'll write about?

LG: Who knows? I didn't even think of it that way. Where should I go next? I don't know. I've already been thinking about the next album, though. Don't shoot me.

CA: Can you give us a glimpse into that one?

LG: No, no. Stay on this one. We're not done yet. [Laughs] I am planning on making the "You and I" video, though, and I'm really excited about that.

CA: Everyone talks about overexposure when you're as big of a star as you are. Does that worry you at all?

LG: No. You're just a right or left click away from the other direction.

CA: Have you thought about the legacy you want to leave and what that might be?

LG: Yes, I have—and it changes and grows. I would say that my wish is to be remembered as a cultural force, as someone who was fearless and unpredictable, who didn't care *what* anyone thought about what I have created but only cared *that* they thought about it.

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NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION

Fran Drescher on her new show, gay rights and 'The Nanny'



BY JERRY NUNN

The TV Land network has a fresh idea with its new show, *Happily Divorced*. A florist from L.A. ends her 18-year old marriage when she finds out her husband is gay. It's loosely based on the real-life adventures of Fran Drescher and her ex-husband, Peter Marc Jacobson, who worked together on the successful sitcom *The Nanny*.

The television icon had a quick chat about the concept and supporting her gay friends.

Windy City Times: Hi, Fran. I just watched your first two episodes and they were very entertaining.

Fran Drescher: Great.

WCT: How does it feel to have the show out there and people watching it?

FD: It feels good. The numbers are strong and we are getting a very positive response. I feel that all of the hard work has paid off. We worked so hard to try and make it good. I went on the mother of all press tours in New York last week and came right back into shooting another show so I would feel defeated if people weren't enjoying it. It is good to hear that it is well received.

WCT: You should come to Chicago and promote.

FD: I was there quite recently. I did the Oprah Winfrey Show. I love Chi-Town. I don't know when I will get back there but it might not be until my children's book comes out in the late fall.

WCT: Keep me posted on that. It is very interesting that you drew from your life and made this into a show.

FD: You know I always write about what I do and draw from my real life experiences. Over the past decade Peter and I have evolved into a new version of ourselves and each other. It seemed like it was fertile ground for a fresh relationship to explore in writing for the screenplay. I was approached to pitch ideas over for a series. People wanted ideas for a story that I could star in. I said that would have to be my gay ex-husband and our friendship and how he helps me with my dates.

WCT: Gay sitcoms have now evolved from *Will & Grace*. There are all types of relationships out there on television now.

FD: Yes, absolutely. It is the 21st century and I am happy to say that we are living in a society where God willing things are becoming more tolerant. I am glad to see that New York passed gay marriage. I was very involved in trying to overturn Prop 8 in California. It is unfortunate that there are people that are prejudiced but I think we are moving in a positive direction. I hope there is a change into the integration of gays for a normal part of the human experience.

WCT: The gay community appreciates you being a big supporter of our rights.

FD: Civil liberties is a big platform of mine and I am proud to say that I won the Ally for Equality Award for the Human Rights Campaign.

WCT: Congrats on that. How is it working

with the cast on *Happily Divorced*? You have Rita Moreno playing your mother.

FD: She is fantastic. Everyone on the cast is great. It is just a wonderful experience. I love everybody. Everybody is mature and at a place in their life and appreciate the good fortune that we have particularly with this comedy, to be working with such talented people. We have such quality writers. We are just all appreciative and happy.

WCT: You play a florist. Do you have a green thumb and good with plants?

FD: I love arranging flowers. I am not really a gardener. Peter was always the gardener but I love arranging flowers. We were looking for an occupation that would keep us close to the home and give us the opportunity to have nice flowers in the house. It is a pretty set and I enjoy it.

WCT: Having such a huge success with *The Nanny*, is comedy like this easy for you?

FD: We are finding our ground on the show in



Fran Drescher. Photo courtesy of TV Land

the same way that we did in *The Nanny*. The first year is really critical with building a foundation and developing a formula. We have all of the great writers from *The Nanny* working on this. I think they are succeeding. This is a little more mature and adult of a show. It is about some-

thing. The global message of *The Nanny* was it doesn't matter what you look like or sound like but it is what is in your heart that counts. The global message of this show is love is love.

WCT: Is there a member in your family that you talk similarly to?

FD: Probably my mom and my sister all have similar voices.

WCT: Are you doing any more stage acting? I know you did *Love, Loss and What I Wore*.

FD: Yeah, that was the last play I did. I love doing theatre. I can't right now because the show is all-consuming. It is all I can do to portion out time just to keep myself looking presentable and exercise. Even to find a small amount of culture and socializing to rejuvenate me is a miracle.

WCT: You look amazing. How do you do it?

FD: I work seven days a week on the show. I am going on a hike this morning. At three o'clock I have reflexology. That is the way I do it. I make a plan and that forces me to finish by a clock.

WCT: Well, thanks so much for taking time to talk to me today. Great to see you back on TV.

FD: I appreciate that. Thank you!

New episodes of *Happily Divorced* air every Wednesday. Details and listings are at <http://www.tvland.com>.

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North Side senior facility targeting LGBT demographic

BY CONSTANCE RUHOLL

The Admiral at the Lake is a colossal senior living and retirement community that is being constructed at Foster and the lake. The Admiral will be targeting individuals in all communities and demographics, including LGBT individuals. Glenn Brichacek is the president and CEO of The Admiral and Rita Winters is the director of marketing for the project.

Windy City Times: When will the complex be open and how many residents and staff will it accommodate?

Glenn Brichacek: The building is scheduled to

be open in September 2012. There will be 200 independent living apartments; 39 assisted-living suites; 17 memory care rooms for individuals with memory loss or memory impairment; and 36 skilled nursing rooms. It will be hard to determine the exact number of residents because there will be a number of couples moving into the building. We anticipate around 350 to 400 people in the new building along with 150 new employees.

WCT: How do you plan to reach out to the LGBT community?

Rita Winters: We want a community that reflects our neighborhood. We regard ourselves as

a welcoming community that is encouraging diversity. We have also already attracted a number of gay and lesbian couples, partners and individuals. We also rely upon them to make referrals and recommendations to us and to guide our thinking and our approach as to how to recruit new members. We have held events in the neighborhood to show people that we are welcoming. We are non-denominational and in our recruitment of future residents we include people of all faiths, all races and all sexualities.

WCT: How will you train your staff to take care of LGBT residents who may have different issues than heterosexual residents?

GB: We will have training for all of our staff in terms of the fundamental values that are important to The Admiral and Kendal [Corporation, a system of communities and services for older adults], which includes respect for diversity. In addition to that, we are talking with another organization in the Chicago area that has done work in this area called CJE SeniorLife. They work specifically with developing training programs that help with sensitivity training for employees in communities like this.

WCT: What amenities will be offered to the residents?

GB: We will have a couple of dining venues, both formal and informal. We will have a pool,



Glenn Brichacek.

fitness center, salon and spa. We will also have an artist's studio and a media center. There will also be a number of green spaces—landscape garden terraces on some of the rooftops areas that will be accessible to all of the residents.

WCT: Will the staff be in charge of taking care of the green spaces or will residents have the opportunity to garden and landscape them?

GB: We are actually going to do both. We are going to encourage our residents to help us take care of those areas. In fact, we have had a number of individuals who have made reservation deposits who have already expressed an interest.

WCT: Will there be an activities coordinator on staff for the residents?

GB: We will be guided by the requests of the residents. We don't hire an activities director but we expect the residents to self-organize. They will decide what groups they will form and what interests they will pursue. With their help we can decide what kind of support is needed from the staff.

WCT: What was the purpose of the space before you started doing renovations for the new building?

GB: It was a continuing-care retirement community but what we found over the course of time was that it was not well-positioned to meet the changing expectations of older adults. We went through a lengthy period of evaluation and strategic planning and determined the best course of action was to replace the former community and redevelop the site into an entirely new community. We discontinued operations and had to relocate all the residents to other locations. We have kept in contact with them over the past several years and will be moving some of them back into the new community when it is completed.

WCT: As a standalone non-profit organization, how were you able to raise funds for The Admiral?

RW: We have been independently owned and operating since 1858. We are non-profit serving senior citizens but we are in the process of an affiliation with an organization called Kendal out of the northeast.

GB: Kendal is a non-profit senior living organization with a national reputation for developing and operating outstanding retirement communities. The values of the organization are consistent with the core values of The Admiral. Over the past 15 years within the area of senior living, many standalone non-profits like The Admiral at the Lake have recognized that the future is in becoming part of larger systems. We recognized this trend and began conversations with Kendal about two years ago.

WCT: How has being affiliated with Kendal helped The Admiral at the Lake with funding?

GB: It has proved to be a huge lift for our project because it helped expand our market area. We have people coming not just out of Chicago but from across the country. The other way they helped us tremendously was that it was daunting to try to obtain financing as a standalone non-profit but with Kendal's name as part of this project, investors had a lot of confidence in this project.

For more information on The Admiral at the Lake, visit <http://www.admiral.kendal.org>.

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LZ Granderson: Playing (and writing) his way through the sports world

BY ROSS FORMAN

LZ Granderson played in the annual Coady Roundball Classic this April in Chicago, although only in the B-Division because, well, he feels that Father Time is catching up with him. He's been part of the largest and longest-running LGBT basketball tournament for about 10 years.

"It's been so amazing to see it grow over the years, and not just in terms of numbers [of teams and participants], but skill-level and diversity," said Granderson, 39, who lives in Grand Rapids, Mich. "Of all the gay-friendly events I attend, [including] award shows, fundraisers, etc., tournaments like the Coady [Roundball] Classic are, by far, my favorite.

"First, I'm a gym rat, so I'm more in element [at the Coady]. Second, it's great to have a gathering place other than a bar. But, more importantly, there are just so many interesting stories from the participants—some come to play [and] celebrate the fact the two worlds can comfortably co-exist, others like the bragging rights of winning the [tournament, and] some are hoping to find love with someone who loves the game of basketball as much as they do.

"As I look back, I think I've been a part of each of those groups at one point or another."

This was Granderson's first year playing in the B-Division, as opposed to the top-tiered A-Division, which he's participated in previously. That step back was, he said, "tougher to accept than I thought, but seeing some of the brothers I've essentially grown up with also come to that same conclusion was heartwarming.

"That's because, I can remember two beautiful souls, Adrian and Martin, who did not make it to this point in their lives. So while I'm no longer able to play the entire game at full throttle, I'm here, we're here—and that makes me smile."

Granderson also has participated in numerous LGBT tennis events across the country, but it's his work in a different sporting venue where he truly has made his mark.

He is a senior writer for ESPN.com and ESPN The Magazine, and recently added CNN.com columnist to his resume. Granderson has worked for ESPN for eight years, and previously wrote for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution for four years and four years for the Grand Rapids Press.



LZ Granderson. Photo by JasonSmith.com

Granderson is openly gay and married (to Steve), thus owning one of the most high-profile platforms for anyone from the LGBT community—a role he takes very seriously.

"I am not sure why God has led me to this point in my life, but I'm sure it wasn't to sit here scared, just taking up space," he said. "So I try to be a strong, sensible voice. Not just about LGBT issues, but in everything that I write, the TV appearances [that I make], etc. I'm not necessarily the loudest voice, but I don't think my readers come to me for volume as much as depth. Not to say the two qualities are mutually exclusive, but, shouting from the [mountain] is not my style. I'm more of a sit down with a beer kinda guy. Perez Hilton is sort of like a John Mayer bodacious type, [whereas] I'm a Jack Johnson/Jason Mraz let's-chill-at-the-beach type."

Granderson has been prominent in the media, and not just for his outlets, following Kobe Bryant's recent anti-gay slur. He even got into an on-air fight about it.

Granderson is primarily a columnist for ESPN.com, and he's won numerous national recognitions and awards. Plus, the job has led to numerous speaking engagements. He also has had ESPN TV and ESPN Radio appearances, and he co-created a handful of web-based series, including two he hosted.

He's been in talks with CNN since 2009, dating back to his occasional appearances on Headline News.

"One day, my editor at CNN called, said my pieces were among the most-read on the site and wondered if I wanted to do something more formal," Granderson said. "I started off as a metro reporter at a newspaper, so I jumped at the opportunity to write about some of the things I've seen and experienced, in addition to my work at ESPN. I've been pretty blessed, to say the least. In addition to a weekly column, I do online video, podcast and TV. I work a lot, but it's extremely rewarding.

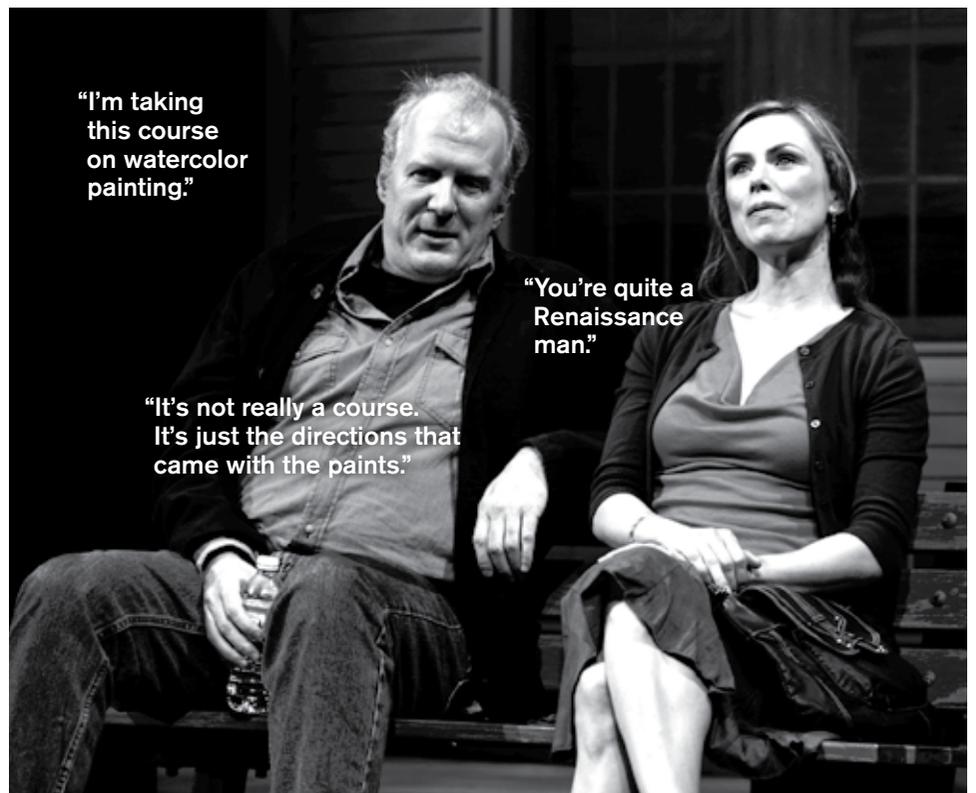
"I would like to think I'm helping a little."

Note: The National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) has named Granderson its Journalist of the Year. He, and others, will be honored at NLGJA's National Convention & LGBT Media Summit, Aug. 25-28, in Philadelphia. See <http://www.nlgja.org/convention/2011> for more information.

Read the entire article on LZ Granderson online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.



LZ Granderson and mother at the 22nd GLAAD Awards. Photo courtesy of Granderson



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Pride in the Park

Windy City Black Pride (WCBP) hosted its annual park festival of entertainment, community outreach and celebration of Black gay pride.

Thousands came out to Sherman Park in Englewood July 3 to attend the outdoor event. Hosted by local entertainers Mz. Ruff-n-Stuff and Otis Mack, the festival featured local musical acts, vendors, HIV/AIDS testing and food. WCBP's marketing and public-relations director, David Dodd, said that the festival was a "fun and safe" way to celebrate and express one's pride.

"We plan for this all year long," he said. "It's not many times out the year where we can come together as a people and celebrate who we are as African-American gays. This is about bringing everyone out together, no matter how effeminate or masculine you are. This is about being family, being one, having a good time and celebrating each other."

Text and photos by Terrence Chappell



GLO TV launches

At the Dana Hotel's Vertigo Sky Lounge July 2, GLO TV—the first urban LGBT television network—held "Summer Nights," a Lux Series event that marked the channel's Chicago launch.

To subscribe to GLO TV, visit <http://www.GLOTVNetwork.com>. New series include All About Tyra (about drag queen Tyra Sanchez), I Am Hip Hop, Uncut, G-Spot and The Porn Star Diaries.

Photos by Vern Hester



Things get 'White Haute'



K Dock Media hosted a White Party to celebrate Black Pride July 3 at Mid Lounge. Entitled "White Haute," the event featured Internet sensation B. Scott as well as local personality Ms. Ruff N Stuff. This is the same spot where the Generator was located, which is why the venue was so familiar to many of the night clubbers who danced until the break of dawn. Look for events from The Boutique Marketing-Media Firm at <http://www.kdockmedia.com>.

Photos and text by Jerry Nunn



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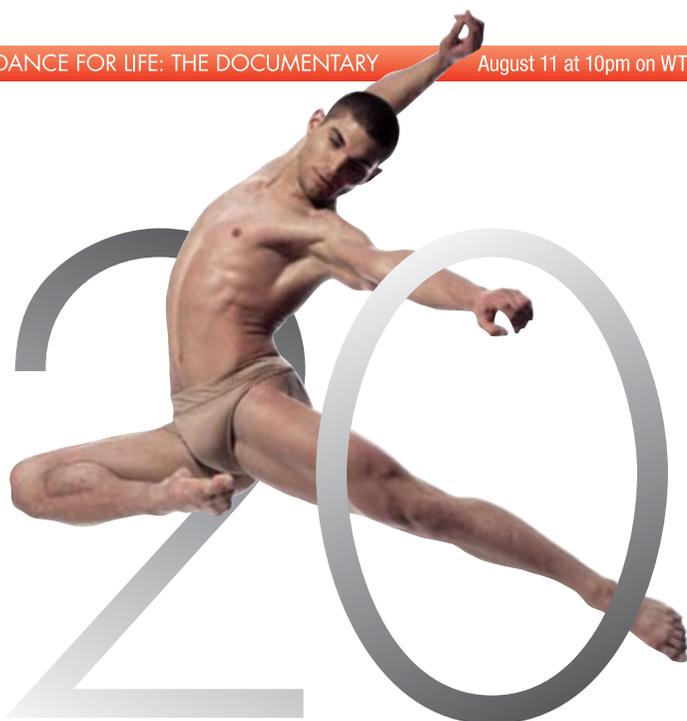
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Photography: Sandro Dancer: Christian Denice, River North Dance Chicago

Celebrations

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

Esteem Awards turns five

More than 30 people celebrated this year's Esteem Award honorees at Sidetrack Chicago bar July 2.

This year marked the fifth year that the awards honored community members for their advocacy for LGBT African Americans. The ceremony is held annually as part of Chicago's Black Gay Pride.

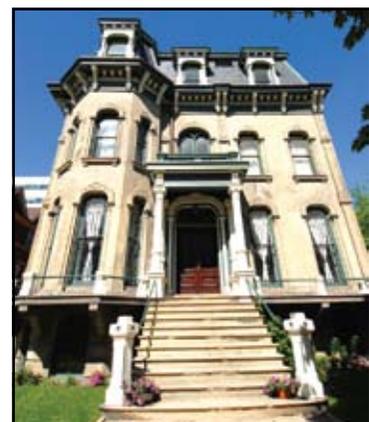
Jamal Edwards, Howard Brown Health Center's CEO, was one of the awardees. Edwards dedicated his award to Lois Bates, the organization's transgender health manager.

"She really speaks to me about what I think is important about Howard Brown," Edwards said, noting that her work with marginalized communities helped make HBHC a leader in transgender and HIV care.

Other honorees included the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, Dance for Life co-founder Keith Elliott, National AIDS and Education for Minorities Services, Chicago House, Curtis Lipscomb, Angel L. Brown, Mary Morten, Monica Roberts, Joy Morris, The Cynical Ones blog, No More Down Low TV, LoveBScott.com, journalist Jonathan Capehart, columnist Mary Mitchell, Emil Wilbekin, The Advocate Magazine's Forty Under 40 series, St. Sukie de la Croix, Kenny Leon, Tarell Alvin McCraney, James Saunders JS Marketing Group, Talents of Chicago, Black Lesbians United, Spark and Project SYNCERE.

The awards also featured poetry readings by Michelle "LOVE the poet" Nelson, Dr. D, Marcell and Yolo Akili.

Text and photos by Kate Sosin



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Celebrations

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calendar

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Wed., July 6

Jay Bakker: A Revolution of God, Self, & Society Jay Bakker, author, pastor and son for former evangelists Jim and Tammy Bakker, will be presenting 'A Revolution of God, Self, & Society'. Presented by The Marin Foundation. Free. 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m., 773-281-3355, Roscoe's, 3356 N. Halsted St, <http://www.roscoes.com>

Gay Liberation Network organizing meeting Organizing meeting for Chicago's LGBTI direct action group—new participants welcome. Located just at the corner of Granville Street & Sheridan Road, a few blocks east of the; 7 p.m.-9 p.m., 773-209-1187, Berger Park Fieldhouse, 6205 N. Sheridan Road, <http://www.gayliberation.net>

Boystown-area Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) meeting This event may be moved to a public parking area in the neighborhood to accommodate the crowd. 7 p.m., Police Station, 850 W. Addison, <http://www.chicagopolice.org>

Battle of the Bars: Bats + Balls Come out and support your favorite Chicago bar staff as they compete in a variety of crazy challenges. A champion will be crowned at the finale Aug. 16. The Battle of the Bars proudly supports the 2011 Gay Softball World Series, which will be played in Chicago Aug. 29-Sept. 3. 9 p.m., Charlie's, 3726 N. Broadway, <http://www.chicagoseries2011.com>

You're The Star Karaoke with Honey West Take your place in the spotlight as hostess, Honey West entertains throughout! There's not a bad seat in the house. 10 p.m., 773-281-3355, Roscoe's, 3356 N. Halsted St, <http://www.roscoes.com>

CAMPING IT UP

Wed., July 13

Mary Morten (right) will lead a session at a boot camp for new nonprofit CEOs at North Park University, 3225 W. Foster.



Thursday, July 7

Chinglish Out lesbian Leigh Silverman directs Chinglish; an Obie winner and frequent collaborator on new work, one of the youngest directors ever on Broadway. 2 p.m., Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn, <http://www.goodmantheatre.org>

Columbia College Dance Benefit Concert The Dance/Movement Therapy and Counseling Department at Columbia College Chicago will stage its 12th annual Student/Faculty Benefit Dance Concert. 7-11 p.m., 312-369-6600, Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago, http://www.colum.edu/dance_center/performances/dance_movement_therapy/

"The Homosexuals" About Face Theatre presents "The Homosexuals," a play by Philip Dawkins exploring friendship through the lens of sex. This comedic and heartbreaking work is for anyone who's ever fallen in love with a friend. Tickets \$28. 8 p.m., Victory Gardens Theater, 2257 N. Lincoln, <http://aboutfacetheatre.com>

Chi-Town Boyz Male Dancers—open auditions Please come ready to perform a short set (no nude dancing). Customers will be asked to fill out feedback sheets, so bring your friends. Email Patrick@Chi-TownBoyz.com. 10 p.m., Velvet Rope, 728 W. Lake, <http://www.chitownboyz.com>

Friday, July 8

Annual Starved Rock Camping Trip with Affinity Community Services Each attendee will be responsible for initiating and finalizing their own reservation. 12 p.m., Starved Rock State Park, near I-80 and I-39 in Utica, Ill., <http://www.affinity95.org>

Gay Liberation Network on Chgo Access Network TV Gay Liberation Network live call-in show on CAN TV, 6:30-6:55 PM on Cable Channel 21 in Chicago. 6:30 p.m.-7 p.m., Channel 21 on Chicago Cable TV, <http://www.gayliberation.net>

Thunder From Down Under Through Oct. 29; 7 p.m.-9 p.m., 312-361-3613, LaSalle Power Company 500 N. LaSalle, <http://www.thunderinchicago.com>

Official Britney Spears after-party With giveaways courtesy of Jive Records. DJ Riley York. 9 p.m., The Call, 1547 W. Bryn Mawr, <http://www.facebook.com/britneyspearschicago>

The Flesh Hungry Dog Show's "Homo Hop!" Featuring Bric-a-Brac, Suzy Brack and the New Jack Lords, Pieptone! and special guest The Revelettes. Tickets \$10 at the door or \$8 online. 9 p.m., Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark, <http://www.fleshhungrydog.com>

Pop Goes the Gio at Club 3160 Pop Goes the Gio Show A Variety Dance Show Like No Other! All 6 Members will be covering the very best dance tunes spanning three decades from the 80's to today's current hits. 9:30 p.m., 3160, 3160 N. Clark Street, <http://www.poppoesthegio.com>

Saturday, July 9

Chicago Red Stars Red Stars join the Women's Premier Soccer League for the 2011 season, home games July 2 and 10, check site for times; 2 p.m., Benedictine University Sports Complex, 5700 College Rd, Lisle, <http://www.chicagoredstars.com>

Joel Hall Dancers "Authentic" A compilation of ballet, jazz, modern, funk, street and house. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., 773-871-3000, Victory Gardens McVay Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln <http://www.joelhall.org>

INHIBITION: Let Go! Expose Theater Company proudly presents their flagship production. The show, which will be in two acts, will enable its audience to let go of inhibitions that tie them down, including the mind, body, and soul. Allow no-

table Chicago drag queen Tajma Hall and ASCAP recording artist Cyon Flare to set you free. Performances by Andrea Eve, Teri Yaki and the Windy City Beauties, including Dida Ritz. 7 p.m.-10 p.m., The Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee, <http://www.exposetheater.com>

Dancing with the Queer Stars Celebrated individuals from the LGBTQ community will be paired up to compete against one another in a ballroom dance competition where the audience picks the winner; fundraiser for 10-20 inner city students who want to learn the performing arts! \$25 VIP ticket includes hors d'oeuvres and wine, a free ballroom dance lesson at 7 p.m. and after party; \$30 at door. Lives on Target Archery Center, 1529 W. Armitage, <http://www.dancingwiththequeerstars.eventbrite.com>

Gay Beret Cabaret Ben Lerman, New York ukulele superstar, is headlining, and the Honey West will emcee a queer cabaret with various musical and performance acts ranging from comedy to burlesque, and everything in between. \$5; 9 p.m., Rehab Lounge, 3641 N. Halsted, <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com>

Sunday, July 10

The L.A.T.E RIDE Pedal for parks! Explore Chicago at night with 8,500 bicyclists! Ride past skyscrapers. See Chicago neighborhoods after midnight. Experience the lakefront path under the stars. Enjoy live music, snacks at the rest stop and refreshments at sunrise. 1:30am-5:30am, 773-918-RIDE, 500 S. Columbus, <http://lateride.org>

Urban Village Church Worship is about coming together as community to make space for God to move in us. It's a place to receive God's grace and love and to give of ourselves, as well. 10:15am-11:30am, Urban Village Church, Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan, <http://www.newchicagochurch.com>

Movies on the Patio Jack's Bar & Grill, 2856 N. Southport, presents Movies on the Patio, a summer series of popular movies every Sunday evening; 6 p.m., 773-404-8400, Jack's Bar & Grill, 2856 N. Southport Ave., <http://www.jackschicago.com/>

Monday, July 11

Who Knows Her Better? Tellofilms.com returns with "Who Knows Her Better?" a game show that asks the question: Who knows a woman better— her husband or her gay best friend? The host will be Georg Coleman, a finalist on the Food Network's show; 6 p.m.-8 p.m., 773-444-9475, Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark, <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/179776>

Celebration of Life for Michael "MANGINA" Gabaldon Please join Charlie's to celebrate Michael "Mangina" Gabaldon's life. He wished not to have a traditional funeral service; he would have liked to have all his friends and family celebrate his life. If you have any photos of Michael and would like to have them included please get them to Ryan "Dakota" Schomer by Friday July 8. The evening will be filled with stories and pictures with a special performance from the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus. 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m., Charlie's, 3726 N Broadway, <http://www.charlieschicago.com>

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>

Live Band Karaoke with Amy Armstrong Every Monday night at 10PM in the Front Bar, hosted by the one and only Amy Armstrong; 10 p.m., 773-281-3355, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted, <http://www.roscoes.com>



BEN THERE

Saturday, July 9

Ukelele player Ben Lerman will entertain at the Gay Beret Cabaret at Rehab, 3641 N. Halsted.

PR photo

Tuesday, July 12

Chicago 121: Asian Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Tank Noodle 4953 N. Broadway

Join the Impact Chicago planning meeting Join the Impact Chicago is a politically independent organization of Chicago-based grassroots activists fighting for full equality for LGBTQ people in all matters governed by civil law in all 50 states. 7 p.m.-9 p.m., 600 S Michigan, Columbia College - basement, <http://jointheimpactchicago.com/>

BTQ Book Group Discussing Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides; 7 p.m., Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W. Granville

Wed., July 13

Two-day Bootcamp for new nonprofit CEOs Mary Morten, community leader and president of the Morten Group, leads one session and attendees will leave with a 90-day action plan that will maximize leadership effectiveness and organizational success, \$695 (\$495 for organizations with operating budgets less than \$1 million) apply online. 9am-5 p.m., North Park University's Axelson Center for Nonprofit Management, 3225 W. Foster, <http://www.northpark.edu/axelson/bootcamp>

Hydrag Revue Hydrag Revue brings you another amazing show featuring Tajma Hall, Aurora Sexton, DiDa Ritz, Naysya Lopez, and more. 10 p.m., Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

Saturday, July 16

Renee Hanover memorial Hanover, who died in January 2011, was a significant leader in Chicago's LGBT movement from the 1960s until she moved to California a few years ago; she opened what is believed to be the first law office in the U.S. focused on women's issues, was believed to be the first "out" lesbian attorney in the county and defended important legal cases and clients. People interested in speaking at the memorial should e-mail Tracy Baim at editor@windycitymediagroup.com. Those attending are also asked to bring photos, memorabilia or even written memories of Hanover. 1 p.m.-3 p.m., 1900 S. Prairie, Chicago, <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/article.php?aid=30130>

Patti LaBelle 7:30 p.m., The Venue at Horseshoe Casino, 777 Casino Center, Hammond, Ind., <http://www.thevenuechicago.com>

Tuesday, July 26

City of Chicago's Ninth annual Salute to LGBT Veterans The city, veterans, supporters gather to honor the military service of LGBT veterans through music and presentations. 12pm-1pm, Daley Plaza, Chicago



BODY LANGUAGE

Ongoing

The Australian all-male troupe Thunder From Down Under is performing at the LaSalle Power Company, 500 N. LaSalle, through October.

PR photo

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online



WindyCityMediaGroup.com
ChicagoPride.com

BILLY MASTERS

"I wear my shirts open because ties give me a headache. I can only wear them for a few hours and then I start to get a migraine."—Designer Tom Ford explains his penchant for open collars. I have the same excuse for wearing no shirt at all.

Of the scores of men I've dated, I rarely contemplated spending the rest of my life with them. In many cases, I wondered if I'd make it through the end of the evening! However, now that gay marriage is more and more of a reality, I've been wondering how many people I would have ever considered marrying. Two spring to mind. I'm not sure either of them would have accepted—in fact, one seriously considered taking out a hit on me. But that's another (true) story for another time. The point is, the times they are a-changin' and the things we'd look for in a mate may be very different than those traits we'd accept in a date.

With the backing of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, New York achieved the impossible and passed same-sex marriage with the help of ... Republicans! Since this took place on the eve of the Gay Pride Parade, pandemonium broke out, with Cuomo being hailed as a conquering hero. He walked alongside NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who plans to launch a huge ad campaign touting NYC as the perfect place for a gay wedding—and who could argue with that?

There's one NYC couple that's pissed off. You may not remember the names Howard Koepfel and Mark Hsiao, but they were thrust into the spotlight because they were best friends with Rudy Giuliani. When he was separated from his second wife, Rudy moved into the same-sex couple's house. At some point, Howard asked Rudy if he would perform their wedding ceremony. Rudy said, "I will, once gay marriage becomes legal in New York." So that day is here—and where is Rudy? Ah, that's the interesting part. He's on TV as a talking head. He's making personal appearances. But he's not returning the calls of his good friends. Interesting, *n'est ce pas?*

Alas, not all popping of champagne corks are met with such jubilation. Take, for instance, the 68th birthday of Prince Frederic Von Anhalt—otherwise known as Mr. Zsa Zsa. To mark the occasion, Princey gave Zsa Zsa some champagne and released a photo of the occasion. Francesca Hilton (the Chaz Bono of the Gabor family) saw this pic and blasted her stepfather: "He once again uses my mother to bring publicity to himself. He once again releases photos of my mother in unflattering situations without hair and makeup, two things that were so important to her. This time he is feeding her alcohol, which could be detrimental to her condition since she is on numerous medications." She won't be any happier with word that Freddie is auctioning off all of Zsa Zsa's possessions so they can "downsize." First her leg and now this!

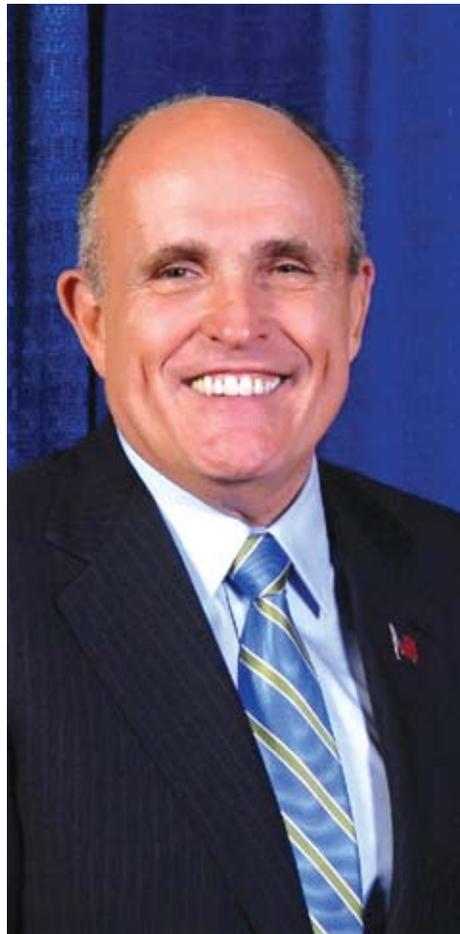
Recently, Debbie Reynolds scrapped her dream of opening a Hollywood museum and auctioned off all of the memorabilia she's accumulated over the past century (give or take). One of the big-ticket items was Marilyn Monroe's white dress from The Seven Year Itch, which went for a staggering \$4.6 million. Other pricey items were Monroe's red sequined Gentlemen Prefer Blondes dress, which sold for \$1.2 million; and Judy Garland's blue dress from The Wizard of Oz, which was snagged for \$910,000. The full auction netted Debbie \$22.8 million—or, what Carrie Fisher would call a moderate room-service bill!

Little Aaron Carter has come forward with some revelations about his close friendship with Michael Jackson. One statement caught my eye: "I did things with him that nobody else did. But I was also troubled about what he did to me." Now, I know what you're thinking - because I'm thinking the same thing. Alas, the inevitable let-down follows: "Yes, he gave me wine. I mean, I

could have refused, but I was 15. I felt weird about that and other stuff." Fingers crossed he eventually shares what that "other stuff" was.

In our "Ask Billy" question, Randy in Maine asks, "Now that *The Chase* has been cancelled, will Jesse Metcalfe be returning to *Desperate Housewives*' next season?"

Sorry—Metcalfe doesn't have *Desperate Housewives* in his future. But fear not, fans. He will be returning to TV next season as part of the revamped version of *Dallas*, which will air on TNT. He'll be playing Christopher Ewing, the son of Bobby and Pam, and Metcalfe will have some familiar faces around. His stepmom will be played by Brenda Strong, who plays the "DH" narrator, Mary Alice Young. Playing his cousin,



Is Rudy Giuliani failing to keep a promise?

John Ross (son of JR and Sue Ellen), is sexy Josh Henderson, who played the nephew of Edie (Nicollette Sheridan). My Lord—it's starting to sound like *Desperate Housewives*: *Dallas*. Veterans Larry Hagman, Linda Gray and Patrick Duffy will all be appearing in the show.

Lastly, because I know you care about these things, porn superstar Erik Rhodes is newly circumcised. I remember a friend undergoing this procedure in his 20s. At the time, we wondered if they would numb him by hitting his penis with a little hammer. In this case, Erik would need a rather large hammer—perhaps a mallet! Taking a little bit off the top hasn't done anything to hinder his performance ... or his largesse, as you can see on BillyMasters.com.

When princes and porn stars are downsizing, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Since many of you will be reading this on the Fourth of July, Happy Independence Day. I will be celebrating this festive weekend at the Filth-2Go Beach House: Provincetown. I'm sure I'll have lots of P-town dish, so check out the latest gossip at www.BillyMasters.com. If you have a question, shoot it on over to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Debbie auctions off Carrie! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Gay World Series brings concerns, economic boon

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Gay Softball World Series will be, without question, an economic boon for Lakeview, Andersonville and the entire city of Chicago.

The six-day tournament, which starts Aug. 29, will be the largest LGBT sporting event of the year and likely the largest Series ever.

Local organizers are expecting about 175 teams from across the United States and Canada to participate and more than 4,000 attendees, which includes players, their partners, family members and friends.

Last year's Gay World Series had a \$6 million economic impact on Columbus, Ohio, the host city. Chicago's economic impact will be greater because the tournament is larger, the city is a more popular destination for vacationers and the tournament ends days before Labor Day, so organizers predict many attendees will stay a few days after the tournament. Some also will arrive early, organizers predict.

Games will be played on multi-field com-

plexes in suburban St. Charles, Schaumburg and Elmhurst.

"Things are coming along well, really well. We're definitely on pace financially, so we're happy with that," said Ted Cappas, president of Chicago's Gay Softball World Series' eight-member Board of Directors. "It's been a long year and a half in terms of fund-raising and building support, but we've had nice, steady progress all the way through, so we're pretty fortunate with that."

Series 2011-Chicago, Inc., the host, held its World Series Summer Kickoff Party June 29 at Sidetrack—two months to the day before the opening ceremony, which will be held in the grand ballroom at Navy Pier, it was announced last week.

The opening ceremony will feature a top-notch talent lineup, including Leslie Jordan, Ben Cohen, Pandora Boxx and hometown favorites Amy Armstrong and Matthew Harvat.

"We can't think of a better venue and more picturesque setting to host the opening cere-



Ted Cappas (left, with Jack Neilsen). Photo by Ross Forman

mony," Cappas said. "The venue is tremendous, a great way to showcase the city. We're very excited about having Ben Cohen involved, and having Leslie Jordan here will be entertaining."

The opening ceremony will carry a \$10 suggested donation at the door that will benefit the Ben Cohen "Stand Up" foundation.

"This event is about more than just softball; it's about community, it's about building partnerships and relationships for the LGBT community," Cappas said.

The organizing committee is filled with experience, many of whom, such as Cappas and Joe Cappelletti, had key roles in the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago.

"We don't want this to be just six days of softball and no lasting legacy. We want this World Series to leave a lasting legacy, without question," said Cappas, who will be commuting between the three complexes during the event, making sure things are running smoothly.

Cappas said his biggest worry at this point is the unknown, "and that's the case with any event, regardless of how prepared you are."

He ran the annual Coady Classic for years, the nation's largest annual LGBT basketball tournament, held in Chicago.

Cappas said the pre-Pride vandalism to parade floats, coupled with recent attacks in the Boyston neighborhood, also are a concern. "The last thing you want is, someone to come to our city and have a bad experience," he said.

To that, Cappas confirmed that board members have been meeting with aldermen in Lakeview, Andersonville and Rogers Park, as well as representatives from the mayor's office and police officials. There will be security at all three venues, Cappas said.

The World Series also might be a legal battleground, as it was after the 2008 Series in Seattle.

A federal judge in late May refused to dismiss a lawsuit filed by three men who claim they were disqualified from the 2008 Series for not being gay enough.

The men, members of a San Francisco team, say they were questioned in front of a room full of strangers about their sexual preferences after a protest was lodged alleging their team had violated a rule that limited to two the number of heterosexuals on any team.

The three men, who are bisexual, say the questioning was intrusive and allege in the lawsuit that the event's sponsor and its rule violate state anti-discrimination laws. The State of Illinois has similar laws.

U.S. District Judge John Coughenour found that the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association (NAGAAA), which sponsors the yearly event, can keep its rule. However, the case is scheduled to go to trial Aug. 1.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco, which had framed it as a push for bisexual rights, backed the lawsuit.

"That is completely a NAGAAA issue. We have nothing to do with that. Chicago and [the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association] will not ask," [about a] player's sexuality, Cappas said.

NAGAAA officials have been unavailable for comment, despite repeated attempts to contact them.



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Force playoff game July 9 vs. Boston

The Chicago Force women's pro tackle football team continues its playoff run this Saturday, July 9. The team plays Boston Militia at 6 p.m. at Evanston Township High School, on the corner of Church and Hartley. There is free parking at the high school.

There will also be a live webcast of the game.

Visit <http://www.chicagoforcefootball.com> for more information.

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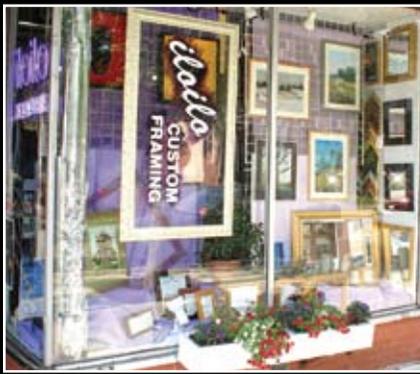


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Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved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

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