

NEIL
GIULIANO
TALKS
WITH WCT

PAGE 8

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

SEPT. 14, 2011
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'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' will end on Sept. 20

BY CHUCK COLBERT

Within a week's time, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT)," the ban on openly gay military service, will officially end, closing an ugly and costly chapter of blatant governmentally sanctioned discrimination against gay Americans.

Repeal of the nearly 18-year old federal law Sept. 20, means that gay, lesbian and bisexual troops can no longer be discharged from the armed forces solely on the basis of sexual orientation.

Repeal "is an important milestone along the journey to achieving LGBT equality," said Army veteran Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), an advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C., that provides legal assistance and information to LGBT troops.

"Sept. 20 will be an historic day for our service members and, indeed, our nation," Sarvis said. "Through the events taking place across the country, we will pay

tribute to their service and sacrifice as we look forward to this new era of military service—an era that honors the contributions of all qualified Americans who wish to serve."

SLDN alone has more than 50 repeal-day celebrations scheduled nationwide and around the world, everywhere from one planned at the legendary Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City, to another set for Philadelphia where former U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy, a Pennsylvania Democrat, a leading proponent of lifting the ban while in Congress, will be the headliner. Other celebratory events are scheduled from Boston to Atlanta to San Diego to West Hollywood to Honolulu to Germany.

Here in Chicago, at least two events are planned. Chad Singer serves as host for an SLDN-sponsored night out at Sidetrack at 8-11 p.m. In another event, Navy veteran Jim Darby, president of the local chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER), is pulling together a traditional memorial service, complete with a giant 50-

foot flag raising, the singing of the national anthem, and the playing of "Taps."

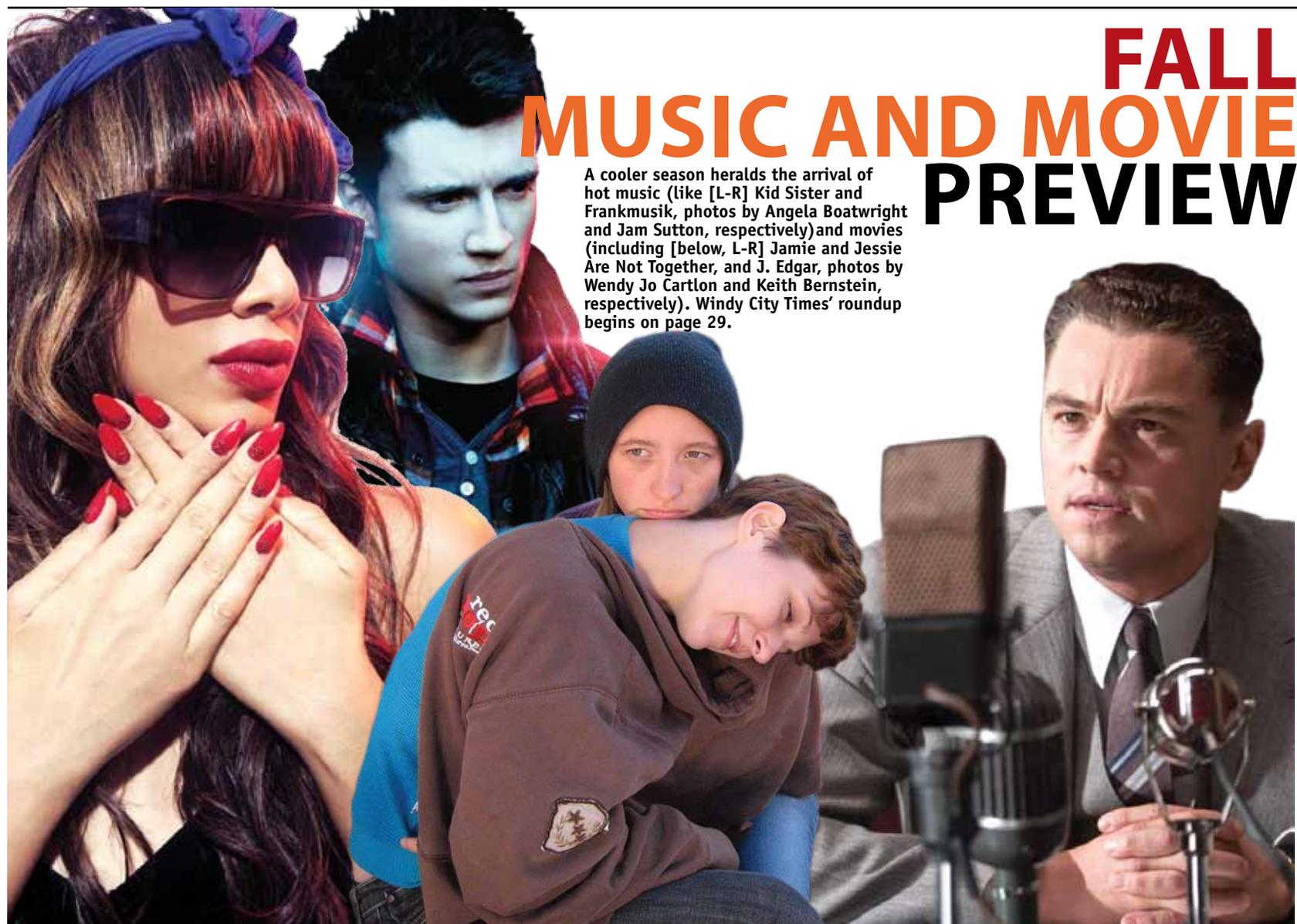
Darby said the event, scheduled 6-7 p.m. in the Baran Library at the Center on Halsted, would also include a couple of speakers giving five-minute talks on how the end of DADT and new era of open service will affect people now and in the future.

During a telephone interview Darby, a Korean War veteran, said the end of DADT feels like "somebody gave you a birthday present and said don't open it until whenever."

"You know you are going to get it," said Darby. "So some of the oomph of the celebration is gone." Still, "I am completely relieved and happy," he added.

President Obama, delivering on a campaign pledge to the LGBT community, signed repeal legislation into law

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FALL MUSIC AND MOVIE PREVIEW

A cooler season heralds the arrival of hot music (like [L-R] Kid Sister and Frankmusik, photos by Angela Boatwright and Jam Sutton, respectively) and movies (including [below, L-R] Jamie and Jessie Are Not Together, and J. Edgar, photos by Wendy Jo Carlton and Keith Bernstein, respectively). Windy City Times' roundup begins on page 29.

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Photo of Neil Giuliano courtesy of Giuliano; image of program from Christina Santiago's memorial; photo from RJ Chaffin's memorial by Ed Negrón; photo of Mike Quigley by Ross Forman; Chris Fawcett photo courtesy of Fawcett

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A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN
WCT talked with Joanne Catherall of the longtime music act The Human League (left).
PR photo



See photos from this past weekend's Lakeview East Festival of the Arts.
Steve Starr photo



Read a mini-review of Blondie's recent show at House of Blues.
Photo by Jerry Nunn

STAR POWER
Design Star's Leslie Ezelle—a lesbian ex-cheerleader—chatted with WCT.

EAT FREAKS
Get the latest news on restaurant openings and trendy gastronomic events.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT
This week's entertainment round-up includes items on Cyndi Lauper, Kate Winslet and John Galliano.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

PASSION FOR FASHION



Read about Kelly Osbourne (above) being in Chicago for Fashion's Night Out as well as actress Mena Suvari attending a gay designer's show in L.A. Also, Saks opens a new shoe salon.
Photo by Jerry Nunn

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Sue Fulton makes history at the U.S. Military Academy

BY SARAH TOCE

On July 5, Brenda S. ("Sue") Fulton became the first openly gay veteran appointed by President Barack Obama to the board of visitors of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The appointment followed a career in and surrounding the military spanning an impressive 31 years.

A graduate of West Point herself (1980), Fulton did not share the fact that she was gay until well after her graduation—13 years later—in 1993. The culprit hindering her from complete self-acceptance and peer group support was "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT). Fulton adhered to the rules as they were enforced. With the repeal of DADT scheduled for Sept. 20, 2011, Fulton is right where she belongs—speaking her truth.

Windy City Times: You were a graduate of West Point in 1980—the first class to admit women to the prestigious institution. What must that have felt like for you? Do you remember your thoughts the day you graduated?

Sue Fulton: Needless to say, there was a great deal of resistance to women at West Point in those early years. Some were treated worse than others—the smallest and most feminine women were treated the worst, so at 5'11" (and arguably pretty butch) I was often left alone. I think that West Point didn't know what they didn't know, and stumbled through those times, so I am extremely proud of the class of '80—men and women alike—for weathering the storms.

WCT: It wasn't until 1993 that you came out of the closet while working on the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) campaign. How did you rectify serving in the Army where you could not be "out" and living the life that was personal to you with your friends and family?

SF: I left the Army in 1986, shortly after my obligation was complete, because I was afraid to be found to be gay. For the next few years, I was out to my family, and to some friends, but the Army had taught me to be terrified of being "discovered" to be gay, that I would lose everything.

WCT: Did you ever feel pressured to come out of the closet while serving in the Army? Was there anyone there you could trust with the knowledge that you were in fact a gay soldier?

SF: I was out to a number of people I trusted while I was active-duty, even when I was a company commander. When I told my first sergeant—a crusty Irishman who served in Special Forces in Vietnam—he shrugged and said, "Well, that's a first time for me. A'ight." And we drove on, working very well together!

WCT: Thirty-one years later in 2011, you have become the first openly gay veteran appointed by President Barack Obama to the board of visitors of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. How did you first hear about the news?

SF: I heard that I was under consideration when Brian Bond notified me, earlier in the year. The vetting process is very thorough, so I knew for quite some time that it was in the works, but had no idea if or when it might come to fruition until the very day of the announcement.

WCT: What was your initial reaction while contemplating the historical decision of returning to West Point in this new capacity? Did you even have to consider it?

SF: West Point holds a special place in the hearts of Americans, but particularly with graduates. I have always seen the Academy as a vic-



Sue Fulton. Photo courtesy of Fulton

tim, not a perpetrator of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," a policy that corrupts the idea of the honor code and the ideals of respect and integrity; so my love for West Point has been undiminished (though it is not without faults!). I also have many friends at West Point, cadets as well as staff, faculty, and family members—gay and straight. Finally, in my capacity as Executive Director of Knights Out, the organization of LGBT West Point grads and allies, I have built strong relationships with leaders at West Point in anticipation of DADT repeal and the potential for us to be a valued resource.

All of which to say, I didn't think twice about being part of the board of visitors. It is an honor, a privilege, and an immense responsibility.

WCT: How do you plan to balance your new role with your existing duties as executive director at Knights Out, (an organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered West Point graduates and their supporters) and OutServe (which represents actively-serving LGBT military personnel who cannot reveal their sexual identity)?

SF: In my role on the board of visitors, I am working in collaboration with other people who want the best for West Point. We all have an interest in educating, training, and inspiring leaders of character for the Army... And Knights Out and OutServe support that interest. Diversity has long been a "force multiplier" for the U.S. military, and both Knights Out and OutServe are looking to provide any assistance we can to enhance our military readiness.

WCT: Do you believe the repeal of DADT will stick once and for all, or do we have more work to do before receiving a satisfactory and fair outcome for our military sisters and brothers in this country?

SF: Of course DADT repeal will "stick." Despite a few shrill (and increasingly desperate) opponents, Americans overwhelmingly recognize that when you volunteer to serve this country, you shouldn't be required to lie about your family or your life. They understand that gays, lesbians, and bisexuals have long served in our nation's military, and it's time we treated them with equity.

That said, there is work to do. The families of our gay and lesbian service members get no support, in part due to DOMA [the Defense of Marriage Act], and I suspect that military leaders may be taking a hard look at that.

WCT: Do you any have thoughts on why America is so far behind other countries in

the world in regards to serving openly?

SF: The United States has a powerful right-wing anti-gay, anti-abortion lobby that purports to represent Christians. While their views are shared by only a small minority of Americans, they are very smart at politics and manipulating the media, and wield power out of proportion to their numbers. These radicals—I can't bring myself to call them Christians, since their language and actions hold no resemblance to the Jesus I know from the Bible—have succeeded in gaining essential veto power over any political action. They demonize their political opponents, then cry "discrimination! bigotry!" when they incur the slightest criticism.

It's astonishing, really, how much power they have gained, and how they have succeeded in painting a remarkably centrist and even-handed President as some kind of leftist radical.

WCT: What can civilians reading this interview do to help ensure inclusive treatment of our LGBT soldiers in hiding?

SF: Coming out is the most powerful statement and lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender person can do, and it helps everyone, soldiers and civilians, gay and straight, believers and non-believers. There is power in numbers.

As far as supporting our LGBT troops, we have at least two major unresolved issues:

—We need to take a hard look at how we are supporting their families. Do the partners of gay and lesbian soldiers (and sailors, Marines, airmen, Coast Guard members) deserve support? What about using the commissary and PX while their partner is deployed and they are taking care of kids? What about healthcare, mental and physical? What about relocation?

—Are transgender veterans being treated with dignity and respect for the service they have rendered? Do we know what sacrifices they've made to serve our country? What about transgender people who are currently serving? What kinds of unnecessary burdens are we putting on them, and can we stop hounding people for things that have nothing to do with the quality of their service?

NCAA's policy on trans student athletes

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has announced that it has approved a policy that clarifies opportunities for transgender student athletes to participate on college athletic teams in accordance with their gender identity, according to a press release from the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR).

The NCAA—which governs sports for more than 1,200 colleges and institutions—worked closely with the NCLR's Sports Project and Griffin Educational Consulting to develop the policy, which "will allow a transgender student athlete to participate in sex-separated sports activities so long as the athlete's use of hormone therapy is consistent with the NCAA policies and current medical standards."

Under the policy:

—A transgender male student-athlete who has a medical exception for testosterone hormone therapy may compete on a men's team, but is no longer eligible to compete on a women's team without changing the team status to a mixed team.

—A transgender female student-athlete who has taken medication to suppress testosterone for a year may compete on a women's team.

Also, transgender student athletes who are not undergoing hormone therapy remain eligible to play on teams based on the gender of their birth sex and may socially transition by dressing and using the appropriate pronouns that match their gender identity.

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NATIONAL NEWS

- San Francisco deals with nudity issues
- Gay NBA CEO (left) leaves position
- Anti-gay church moves into liberal section of Portland

These issues may be controversial, but I hope that we will take them up sooner rather than later.

WCT: You have been on the receiving end of history, that's for sure. Do you feel like you are meant to be right where you are and have been throughout the years? Seems like you have been there at every equality-driven turn—we love that!

SF: I've certainly been lucky—or blessed, depending on your viewpoint—and I am grateful for being able to be part of this effort. But there have been more people than I can count who have been part of this with me, and I wish each of them their fifteen minutes of fame! If you'd like to learn about a few of them, check out the OutHeroes Project at www.outserve.org/outheroes/!

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has been in effect since 1993 when then-President Bill Clinton introduced it as a compromise measure. It is scheduled for repeal on Sept. 20.

Organizations can apply for anti-crime initiative

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Chicago Police Department (CPD) Superintendent Garry McCarthy announced the launch of A Force For Good, a new initiative that aims to strengthen community- and faith-based organizations' ability to enhance safety and reduce violent crime in communities across Chicago.

A Force For Good is a two-year program that will provide 25 community- and faith-based organizations with skill development classes, technical assistance and mentorship to increase their capacity to identify, obtain and manage grants and resources.

To be eligible for the program, a community-based organization must be Chicago-based and serve areas with higher-than-average rates of violent crime; must have existed for at least three years; provide services that address violent crime; have an annual budget of \$500K or less; and have the capacity to commit to a two-year period.

Applications for participation in this initiative will be accepted through Sept. 15; see <http://www.chicagopolice.org>.

SAGE wellness fair Sept. 16

SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) Center on Halsted will hold a wellness fair Friday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at 3656 N. Halsted.

There will be various activities, workshops and vendors. Among said activities are raffles; free health screenings; and more.

Call 773-472-6469, ext. 245, or email pkethley@centeronhalsted.org.

Baldwin: Ready for the fight

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin said Sept. 7 that her campaign for a U.S. Senate seat from Wisconsin "will not be about me," but she's "prepared to respond to any number of likely attacks in this political age," including ones based on her being gay.

Baldwin, one of only four openly gay members of the U.S. House, announced Tuesday that she will seek the Democratic nomination to replace Senator Herb Kohl, a Democrat who announced in May that he would not seek re-election in 2012.

Although Baldwin is not the first openly gay person to run for a U.S. Senate seat, her campaign has ignited considerable enthusiasm in the LGBT political community.



U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin.

Chuck Wolfe—head of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, which supports openly gay candidates for elective office—said in a telephone conference call with LGBT media Sept. 7 that the Victory Fund "believes this will be an important race for our community." He predicted the community would "rally around" Baldwin, whom he called a "stellar" representative of the community.

Baldwin, who participated in that call and took questions from the media, said she expects the campaign to be "hotly, hotly contested," as are all Senate races in recent years. The partisan balance has been closely divided for years. Democrats currently have 51 seats plus two independents who caucus with them; Republicans have 47.

It takes a majority of 60 to break a filibuster staged by a minority party, and the Republican Party has made filibuster an almost routine maneuver since 2008, in hopes of thwarting a second term for Democratic President Barack Obama. Following Obama's election in 2008, Democrats and independents held 60 seats.

Baldwin said her first challenge will be to introduce herself to parts of Wisconsin outside her district of Madison, the state capital. She said currently polling suggests between 52 percent and 55 percent of voters in the state recognize her name. And given the potential "in this political age" for a hotly contested Senate race to include an anti-gay attack, said Baldwin, she's eager to introduce herself to voters around the state before an attacker does.

Baldwin does not necessarily believe an anti-gay attack will be particularly effective in Wisconsin. She noted that the western part of the state has also elected an openly gay member of Congress before—U.S. Rep. Steve Gunderson.

Gunderson ran for re-election twice after he was ousted in 1991.

Baldwin noted that she has been openly gay "all my adult life" and she thinks the voters of Wisconsin "appreciate values of honesty and integrity."

"And I have a lifetime commitment to equality for all," said Baldwin. But "this campaign," said Baldwin, "will not be about me, it will be about the middle class, the threats they're facing, and which candidate is the best fighter for them."

Meanwhile, two state representatives in Wisconsin announced Sept. 7 that they will seek the Democratic nomination to run for Baldwin's seat. One is openly gay Rep. Mark Pocan, who filled in Baldwin's state assembly seat when she was elected to Congress. The other is state Rep. Kelda Roys, the youngest member of the Wisconsin assembly and former head of the Wisconsin chapter of the pro-choice organization NARAL.

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Gay-managed financial-services firm in Chicago

McDonald Partners, a full-service brokerage and investment advisory firm headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, has opened a new office in Chicago, according to a press release.

The firm also has offices in Ann Arbor, Mich., and Maumee, Ohio.

Commenting on the opening of the Chicago office, Thomas McDonald, Founder, President and CEO, said, "We are extremely proud to be launching in Chicago. We see this as a logical next best location for our brand of hi-touch customer service and open architecture investment practices."

Openly gay Senior Managing Director Charles H. Garrido Jr. is heading the Chicago office. Garrido has almost 30 years of experience in the insurance and financial industry.

The new office is at 3900 N. Lake Shore. See <http://www.mcdonald-partners.com> or call 866-899-2997.

StreetWise's 'A Hand Up' gala Sept. 15

StreetWise—which aims to assist Chicago area men and women, who are facing homelessness to achieve personal stability—will hold its "A Hand Up" fundraising gala Thursday, Sept. 15, 5:30-10:30 p.m., at the Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson.

Guests will be served dinner and singer Charlene Brooks will provide the evening's entertainment. Entrepreneur, technology venture capitalist and philanthropist J.B. Pritzker will be the keynote speaker; and the honorees are Bruce Crane, Jerry Roper and James W. Mabie.

Individuals tickets are \$150, and a table of 10 is \$1,500.

See <http://www.streetwise.org/events/streetwise-gala-2011>. To become a gala sponsor, contact Executive Director Jim LoBianco at 312-829-2526, ext. 18, or jlobianco@streetwise.org.

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New guidelines for same-sex parenting and custody

BY DANA RUDOLPH
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Some of the most contentious lawsuits involving the rights of LGBT people have occurred when the biological parent of a child uses anti-LGBT laws to try and deny the child's non-biological parent custody or visitation. But several LGBT legal organizations have published a revised set of standards aimed at stopping such behavior, and they're hoping parents and attorneys will take a pledge to abide by them.

The publication is *Protecting Families: Standards for LGBT Families*, produced by Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) and NCLR's National Family Law Advisory Council. It encourages lawyers to support and respect LGBT parents even when legal rights do not, and advises parents and lawyers to honor children's relationships with both parents, seek custody resolutions that minimize conflict, and use litigation only as a last resort.

Mary Bonauto, the director of GLAD's Civil Rights Project, authored the original version of the standards in 1999. She said the intent of the document is to urge same-sex parents to use whatever parental protections are available in their states, "for the sake of your children."

These protections may assist with issues such as medical decision-making, but may also help maintain both parents' relationships with the children when the couple breaks up.

The revised document is updated to reflect new laws in several states recognizing the relationships of same-sex couples, whether through marriage, civil unions, or domestic partnerships. But it cautions that same-sex parents should not rely on such laws to protect their parental relationships with their children.

"[W]e still have a huge architecture of discrimination" against same-sex relationships," said Bonauto. Many states do not recognize them at all or may not treat them in the same way as opposite-sex relationships. This may jeopardize the relationships of non-biological, non-adoptive parents to their children.

Even in Massachusetts, the first state to allow same-sex couples to marry, courts may not look favorably upon a non-biological parent who has not also done a "second-parent adoption" of a spouse's biological child, she said.

"There are still very parent-specific protections you should try to avail yourself of," said Bonauto. Some protections may be available even in states that have constitutional bans against marriage for same-sex couples.

If parents do break up, she said, going to



Mary Bonauto. Photo from GLAD

court is damaging financially and emotionally. And it can destroy the couple's ability to work together as parents.

There have been a number of recent cases across the country in which a biological or adoptive parent tries to claim the other parent has no parental rights. Best known among them is the case of Janet Jenkins and Lisa Miller, which has grabbed headlines nationally. Miller, the biological mother, asked courts in both Virginia and Vermont to deny Jenkins visitation and custody, and has taken issues to the U.S. Supreme Court five times, without success each time.

Miller was eventually ruled in contempt of court for defying a Vermont court order that she allow Jenkins visitation. The court then granted legal custody to Jenkins. But Miller went hiding with the girl at the end of 2009, and a man accused of helping her leave the U.S. was arraigned in a federal court in April.

Many similar cases exist, and the outcomes

have been mixed.

The Delaware Supreme Court issued a ruling in March upholding the right of a woman to be identified as a *de facto* parent of a child she had been raising with her former same-sex partner—a child the partner adopted but that the woman herself did not.

In August, the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled that a non-biological mother has a right, under the doctrine of *in loco parentis*—which recognizes a person who acts as a parent—to a custody and visitation hearing regarding the child she and her former partner were raising together.

However, the North Carolina Supreme Court in December 2010 voided a lesbian mother's second-parent adoption. The majority on the court said state statutes permit adoptions only if the existing parent gives up all parental rights or is married to the person seeking to adopt, as in the case of a stepparent.

Other cases with biological mothers trying to deny parental rights to non-biological mothers have reached the appellate or state supreme court levels in the past few years in states including Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin—again with mixed results.

In several of these cases, notably *Miller v. Jenkins*, attorneys from conservative legal organizations such as Liberty Counsel and the Alliance Defense Fund have represented the biological mothers.

"They are making an industry of it," Bonauto noted of the groups. But many individual, private attorneys, including ones in the LGBT community, are also representing biological mothers against non-biological mothers in such cases.

GLAD will soon be launching an online pledge where attorneys can promise not to take these cases and to endorse the revised standards. Parents, too, can pledge to uphold them.

New Jersey attorney William Singer, a member of the Family Law Advisory Council, said he hopes attorneys will discuss the standards with parents, not just at the time of breakups, but also at the time of family creation, "to try and impress upon both parents why it's so important to maintain continuity of relationships for their children."

The standards are available via GLAD's website, <http://www.glad.org>.

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WAYNE JOHNSON OF NBC5 CHICAGO, DAVID BOYER & VELICITY METROPOLIS

A special auction item this year is a 18"x24" bronze framed mock-up of Sergeant Leonard Matlovich's bronze plaque from the Legacy Project. The plaque will be on Halsted Street. This coordinates with the end of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Other items include a variety of dining, video & entertainment packages, personal services, gift baskets, art & treasures, the opportunity to host a unique party at Sidetrack & much more!

Proceeds from the auction fund the 2011 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Reception on Wednesday, November 9 at the Chicago History Museum at 1601 North Clark Street. Attendees will have an opportunity to view the exhibit "Out In Chicago". For more information visit www.GLHofFame.org.

'Garden of Eve' Sept. 16

"Garden of Eve"—an annual gala benefiting the Lesbian Community Care Project at Howard Brown Health Center—will take place Friday, Sept. 16, 8-11 p.m., at Carnivale, 702 W. Fulton St.

The Jeannie Tanner Quartet, Katie Todd, Diva Kai, Christina Kent, Daniela Sloan and Eileen Censotti will entertain, with DJ Gloria Alers and DJ Teri Bristol spinning dance music. The event also features a raffle, a silent auction, light hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

Tickets purchased before Aug. 31 start at \$100; see <http://www.lccp.org/events.php?ID=228>.

Hall of Fame benefit auction Sept. 20 at Sidetrack

The 19th Annual Hall of Fame Celebrity Auction, benefiting the 2011 Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, will take place Tuesday, Sept. 20, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

The registration reception, silent auction and raffle begin at 7 p.m., and the bidding starts at 8 p.m. David Boyer, NBC-5's Chicago Wayne Johnson and Velicity Metropolis will auction off donations during the evening.

The registration fee of \$10 includes one cocktail, hors d'oeuvres from J&L Catering,

raffle tickets and an auction paddle.

The 2011 Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held 6 p.m. Wed., Nov. 9, at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St.

Individuals, businesses and organizations that wish to donate or need additional information may contact Israel Wright at 312-401-8893 or isaiahwrite@yahoo.com, or the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame at 773-281-5077. Contributions may be sent to Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, 3712 N. Broadway, Box 637, Chicago, Ill., 60613-4235.

End-of-DADT event Sept. 20 at Center

The Chicago chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) will hold an event to mark the end of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Tuesday, Sept. 20, 6-7 p.m., at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted.

The AVER Honor Guard will post the colors; Travis will sing the national anthem; and several speakers will give first-hand accounts of serving under this policy including Jose Zuniga, a member of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

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

QUOTELINES

COMPILED BY KATE SOSIN

"I never told Rick Perry to run for anything. I did suggest he stop harassing gays, Mexicans, and Muslims, however, -God."—*sign by Texas Baptist Church, posted to The Bilerico Project, Aug. 22*

"Drawing a parallel between homosexuality and alcoholism is offensive enough, but I'm especially impressed by Perry's assertion that gays should choose abstinence... If, on the Crazy-0-Meter, Michele Bachmann calling homosexuality "part of Satan" registers as a 10, Perry's published argument has to be at least a 9.5."—*Steve Benen, commenting on Perry's 2008 book "On My Honor," on his blog, Aug. 24*

"Oh my God, literally I almost passed out every night. What is my life? Running around backstage dropping leotards! I'd run off stage as soon as 'Loser Like Me' was over, run into the changing booth and strap the leotard on. It was never a glamorous sight to see. And then I would run around the arena, perform, and as soon as 'Single Ladies' was over and I waved to the crowd, I'd get to where the crowd could not see me I would fall on the floor every night."—*Glee's Chris Colfer, on his costume changes on tour, to the Huffington Post, Aug. 22*

"Stereotypes, misconceptions, bigotry and fear of lesbians, gays and their families abound. There is, for example, a widespread belief held by many opponents of gay rights that homosexual men are more likely to molest children than heterosexuals... Is it possible that Judge Prine believes that the children's step-father or another gay man is more likely than a heterosexual to molest the kids or turn them into brainwashed zombie drag queens?"—*Blogger Geoff Berg on chron.com, speaking of a Texas judge's denial of child custody to a gay dad, Aug. 22*

"There are still many gay and lesbian people at high levels of the corporate world who are afraid to come out. Cook's appointment will help open the corporate closet."—*Rodney Croome, the spokesman for Australian Marriage Equality, speaks about new Apple CEO Tim Cook to the Atlantic, Aug. 25*

"Whatever my problems with Glee have nothing to do with the incredibly talented cast itself. Have tastelessly bashed the show not the actors ... And no the producers of the script I wrote (Downers Grove) which Darren Criss might (or might not) star in didn't make me write that tweet."—*writer Bret Easton Ellis on his Twitter, four months after a tirade about how watching Glee was like stepping "into a puddle of HIV," Aug. 21.*

"In New York City, a very disproportionate number (up to 40%), of homeless youth identify as LGBT. Even more disturbing are reports that these young people often face discrimination and at times physical assault in some of the very places they have to for help. This is shocking and inexcusable!"—*Cyndi Lauper, announcing the True Colors Residence housing program for LGBT youth on the West End Intergenerational Residence website*

"I almost went bankrupt when I said I love everybody. You know, this wasn't a popularity contest. This was just me following a deep conviction. And it all came from understanding god's Grace and god's love, you know... They say—I've always had people say, you know, Jay, too much grace, it's a slippery slope. And it is a slippery slope to loving everybody. I'm glad I got to slide on down it."—*pastor Jay Bakker, son of televangelists Jim*

Bakker and Tammy Faye Bakker, on the Joy Behar Show, Aug. 23

"It's official, after 11 years together, Zora's no longer a bastard. Married the best man I've ever known." — *Glee Actor Cheyenne Jackson tweeting on his marriage to Monte Lapka and on his dog, Sept. 5.*



Cheyenne Jackson. Photo courtesy of Monte Lapka

"In January the IRD [Institute of Religion & Democracy] slammed the U.S. State Department for working to prevent the abuse and executions of LGBT people in foreign countries. Everybody got that? If the United States tries to help foreign gays, that is anti-Christian meddling in the affairs of sovereign nations. But if the IRD can propagandize the very murders the State Department is working to stop? WAHOO. What filthy, transparent, hypocritical motherfuckers." — *Blogger "Joe.My.God" responds to an IRD post that asserts that "liberal activists" are silent on Iran executions, posted to his blog, Sept. 8.*

"Joe [her son] turns to me the other day and says, 'One day, I will have a girlfriend. But I might have a boyfriend. If I'm gay.' He's 7! And I said, 'You might have a girlfriend or a boyfriend, darling.' And he said, 'Which would you prefer?' And I said, 'My love, that would be entirely up to you, and it doesn't make any difference to me.' But that he knows! It's a real privilege. Talk about the best education." — *Kate Winslet talks about her son in V Magazine's September issue.*

"I think this is likely the start of a trend globally that I'd rather we be leading than following. This is a very close ally who sees the same information we do, and they've determined that gay donors pose no risk to the blood supply." — *U.S. Sen. John Kerry responds to partial lifting of the lifetime gay blood ban in the UK, in a statement to The Advocate, Sept. 9.*

"Jane Lynch will be nicer than Sue Sylvester. Sue Sylvester would make the show explosive. You would walk away with a show you would never forget, if it were Sue Sylvester. But it might be kind of war—like and angry and violent. I think a show with Jane Lynch would be a lot nicer and easier to digest."—*Jane Lynch imagines what it would be like to host the Emmy's as her scheming character on "Glee" with AfterElton.com, Sept. 1.*



When Jackie Bross, a World War II machinist, was arrested for dressing like a man, ensuing protests pressured the City Council to reform the 1851 dress law.

Discover the city through the lens of gender, sexuality and nonconformity at *Out in Chicago*—a groundbreaking exhibition that explores 150 years of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Chicagoans and their quests for self-identity, family, community and political action.

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Neil Giuliano on helping LGBT teens

BY KATE SOSIN

LGBT nonprofit Live Out Loud is asking LGBT adults to do something that might truly terrify them: return to high school for a day.

In an effort that predates Dan Savage's "It Gets Better Video Project," Live Out Loud sends LGBT adults back to their high schools to talk about their experiences growing up and coming out for the "Homecoming Project."

The organization is calling on LGBT Chicagoans to participate. Those who do will join the ranks of "Milk" screenwriter Dustin Lance Black, who returned to his Salinas, Calif., school last year.

In early January 2009, Neil Giuliano returned to his high school for the first time in more than 30 years. A past president of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; a former four-term mayor of Tempe, Ariz.; and the current CEO of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Giuliano told students that he lost every election he ran for in high school only to succeed later in life.

Windy City Times caught up with Giuliano to talk about why he thinks the Homecoming Project is important, why going back to his high school gave him jitters and why he believes he was a geek in high school.

Windy City Times: Honestly, the thought of going back to my high school really terrifies me. What made you decide to go back to your high school after such a long time?

Neil Giuliano: The invitation from Live Out Loud gave me a valuable purpose for returning, to help educate and perhaps even motivate young people to be themselves, live openly and serve others in life.

WCT: What has changed in the 30-plus years since you have been there?

NG: Well, for starters, physically it was different. There had been a huge addition to the school. But you know, it still felt the same, and the auditorium was the same as when I sat in there for assemblies 30-some years prior.

WCT: Were you nervous to go back?

NG: Of course! I wasn't sure how I would be received. But it felt right, and everyone was wonderful and welcoming.

WCT: Did you know you were gay when you were in high school?

NG: I knew I was different, but I never defined that aspect of myself back then. I had little sense of my sexuality either way in high school. I was a classic leadership geek, over-involved, and my relationships were with clubs and such more so than other students. I had friends and all, but no love connections, so to speak, one way or the other. I just thought I was a late bloomer.

WCT: What did you take away from being able to go to your high school as a successful out gay man?

NG: It felt good. I was an average student—did not really stand out in my class of over 700 students, involved but not super-high-profile, and since I lost every student office I ever ran for, not super-popular either.

WCT: Did you encounter any resistance from your high school when you approached them to do this?

NG: Live Out Loud took care of everything and I think the school's gay straight alliance, key club and student government were all involved with the event.

WCT: What has changed at your high school in the last few years since you did the Homecoming Project? Is the school more LGBT-friendly as a result?

NG: I'm not sure, but hopefully the school is more and more welcoming for all students.

WCT: Have you kept in touch with any of the students there?



Neil Giuliano. Photo courtesy of Giuliano

NG: Only via Facebook.

WCT: I imagine other gay people might say, "Oh well, he's famous so it's different for him to go back." How do you think average LGBT people can make a difference by going back to their schools?

NG: Listen: I am far from famous. No one knew who I was before I got there, other than I had graduated from the school. We all have a story to share, and the more we share them, the more we can change hearts and minds and have an influence for good.

WCT: For people who are on the fence about going back to their high school for this project, what do you have to say?

NG: Do it. You'll have a big impact on the young people, and the staff and feel great about the experience.

WCT: Any plans to return and do this again for a fresh set of students in a year or two?

NG: Sure, if I am invited!

To see a video on Giuliano's project as well as that of Dustin Lance Black's or to learn about doing the project at your high school, check out <http://www.liveoutloud.info/wp>.

Third GOP candidate OKs marriage equality

Republican presidential candidate Gary Johnson's campaign staff announced Sept. 3 that he is considering supporting marriage for same-sex couples. Former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson joined former Louisiana Gov. Buddy Roemer, another Republican presidential candidate who said two weeks ago that he, too, now is considering supporting same-sex marriage. A third Republican candidate, longtime political strategist and gay activist Fred Karger, has endorsed full marriage rights since his campaign began in March.

Johnson changed his positions on four out of 12 issues after studying a table that recently went online that compares all 13 candidates (<http://www.MarriageEquality.org/Election2012>). The table has been revised to show Roemer's and Johnson's policy changes.

Nine other Republican candidates all firmly oppose full marriage rights for same-sex couples: Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Thaddeus McCotter, Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Mitt Romney, and Rick Santorum.

—Ned Flaherty

Cappleman, residents 'frustrated' over Uptown violence

BY KATE SOSIN

A string of shootings in the Uptown neighborhood have riled residents there, who crowded into a Sept. 6 CAPS (Community Alternative Policing Strategy) meeting to voice their concerns.

The violence comes after a summer of controversy in neighboring Lakeview where residents fear that crime rates are on the rise in the heart of Boystown, the community's gay entertainment district. The concerns have resulted in added pressure on 23rd District police, who patrol both neighborhoods.

Approximately 80 residents filled the cafeteria at Harry S. Truman College in Uptown. Residents challenged police and 46th Ward Alderman James Cappleman to weed out gangs that they say are bringing trouble to the neighborhood.

"We need to stand up as a community to these boys," said one mother.

Three were wounded and one killed in recent days as alleged gang members exchanged fire on Aug. 28 and Aug. 30 in three separate incidents.

The shootings were thought to be gang-related, as gang recruitment picks up at the start of each new school year, according to Cappleman.

According to police, the last four shootings in the neighborhood occurred within 75 feet of a police officer. Still, police said, crime rates are steadily dropping in Uptown.

"This is just a continuation of an ongoing gang dispute that's been going on for years," said Lieutenant Bob Stasch. "Right now things have stabilized over the last week with the increased presence."

Truman College President Reagan Romali was on hand to assure the community that the college was also responding to safety concerns and launching a security task force.

Residents expressed a desire for more police and better lighting around the school, where residents say the school's parking garage is casting dark shadows on the street.

Police added that EL stops have been hit hard by crime as commuters zone out on their cell phones, making them easy targets for grab-and-dash thieves. Such has been true of the Wilson stop, which sits at Wilson and Broadway, an ongoing trouble area in the neighborhood.

Stasch called the problem "victimology," meaning that people who fail to take precautions leave themselves vulnerable to crime. He urged residents to make sure their windows and doors were locked and that they remained alert when commuting.

Cappleman wrapped up the meeting and announced his master plan on public safety in the ward. The alderman has been working on the plan with a task force of residents, he said. That plan includes looking at five "hot spots" for crime, talking to property owners at 13 "problem" buildings and identifying residents who have more than 20 arrests.

"We have some people in this community with over 300 arrests," Cappleman said.

While Cappleman took heat from some frustrated residents, he urged constituents to focus on solutions that involved the entire community, not just police.

"I'm angry and frustrated as well," he said. "...but we know the real big secret is eyes on the street."

Lakeview tensions decline with decrease in crime

BY KATE SOSIN

With the summer winding down, so, too, appear to be tensions in Lakeview, where just over 30 people turned out to a Sept. 7 CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meeting.

After months of controversy due to a perceived increase in crime, the battle between youth who say they are targeted by anti-crime efforts and residents who say that those conversations have distracted from their efforts to make a safe neighborhood seem to have quieted.

The September CAPS meeting for beats 2324 and 2331, which encompass Boystown, focused less on less on current crime and more on solutions that had been found.

"My sense is some people are feeling some progress," Captain Thomas Lemmur told Windy City Times, adding that dropping temperatures will also mean a drop in crime.

Police confirmed that additional officers had been put along Halsted Street earlier in the summer, but a string of shootings in neighboring Uptown in late August diverted some resources back to that part of the 23rd police district.

"We've had serious incidents earlier in the year [in Lakeview], and we have not had them since," Lemmur said.

Many residents said that they felt the new weekend parking ban had much to do with a



Lakeview CAPS meeting. Photo by Ed Negron

decrease in problems along Halsted.

A pilot project of the 44th Ward alderman's office, the ban restricts weekend parking on Halsted from Belmont to Buckingham and on Belmont from Clark to Halsted from midnight to 5 a.m. Residents who advocated for the ban said that visitors to the neighborhood often used their cars along Halsted as a home base to party and drink, keeping residents awake at night and blocking the sidewalk from view of police.

Despite some protest over the ban, residents at the meeting reported that they felt the ban was working.

"There is a very different feel...with the parking ban," said one Halsted resident. "I was walking home and was like 'wow, this is great.'"

Another young person said he felt the parking ban was complimenting efforts to make the neighborhood safe. "We [youth] fully support the parking ban," he said.

Finally, residents inquired about the recent Halsted fire that destroyed the home and office of Stacy Bridges, publisher of GRAB magazine.

The fire, said Lemmur, is "believed to have been an accident," not arson.

The meeting wrapped up in just 20 minutes.

Residents of the 44th Ward are encouraged to submit their feedback on the parking ban to the alderman's office by emailing ward44@cityofchicago.org.



Gilead's Truvada for Prevention: JUST THE FACTS

- The IPrex study of MSMs (men who have sex with men) showed that giving Truvada to HIV- men was only 42% effective in reducing HIV new infections, because more than half of the men didn't take the drug. Among men below 25, only 28% took the medicine. Whereas, HPTN052, a study that treated the positive partner, was 96% effective in protecting the negative partner.
- Other studies conducted in Africa, in sero-discordant married couples were considerably more effective, but these relationships were an average of seven years and both parties knew their status and participated in the study.
- The IPrex study did not resemble a real world situation. All study subjects were tested monthly and received intensive adherence counseling. In addition, participants were paid to participate and all services were free without co-pays or deductibles.
- In a survey of 822 men conducted by AHF, 59% of respondents said they would not take the drug if it required a co-pay of \$60 a month for lab and doctors visits; 66% said no to the pill once they heard about possible side effects; and 71% said no when they heard about the possibility of future drug resistance.
- Ten of the 131 IPrex participants who tested positive at the start of the study were already infected, but in the window period. As a result, there was an increased risk of them developing drug resistance and two of them actually did.
- Study participants self-reported that they continued to use condoms. Self-reporting is highly unreliable, as can be seen by the fact that most study subjects said they were taking their medication, even though blood and hair samples indicated that the majority did not.

All of the questions raised by these studies must be carefully studied and answered prior to the granting of FDA approval of Truvada for PrEP. It is Gilead Sciences' obligation, as the manufacturer of Truvada, to make certain that their drug when used for prevention does no harm to the individual or the overall public health. AHF support further research, paid for by Gilead, to answer these questions.

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Please visit nomagicpills.org**

DNC's LGBT caucus meets in Chicago

BY ERICA DEMAREST

The Democratic National Committee (DNC)'s LGBT Caucus met Sept. 10 in downtown Chicago for its fall meeting. Members discussed past successes and laid out 2012 election strategies.

"I can't think of anything more important we have on our plates right now than getting [Obama] elected; we cannot afford to go back-

in the LGBT caucus as an African American."

Walker will tour the country this fall with the DNC to fundraise for the 2012 election and increase LGBT visibility. Possible names for the tour, he joked, included "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" or "The Dream Girls Tour."

Caucus Chair Rick Stafford moderated the meeting, which roughly 40 people attended. States represented included: Maine, New Jersey,



The DNC LGBT caucus that recently convened in Chicago. Photo by Erica Demarest

wards," said Brian Bond, director of constituency outreach at the DNC. "I firsthand know that there has been frustration out there. Trust me. But I can also tell you... This president and his administration are truly making our lives better as human beings and LGBT Americans."

The LGBT Caucus assembly was part of the DNC's larger fall festivities hosted at the JW Marriott Chicago Hotel. The two-day event featured appearances from Steve Kerrigan, CEO of the 2012 Democratic National Convention; Michael Madigan, Democratic Party of Illinois chair; U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin; Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel; and DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

The LGBT meeting started with a call for celebration. Earlier that morning, New Jersey Democrat Barbra "Babs" Casbar Siperstein became the first transgender person elected to the DNC's executive committee.

When a caucus member encouraged her to be good at her first meeting, Siperstein quipped, "I don't know about good. I'll be careful."

Most of the gathering focused on maintaining and increasing LGBT representation. Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Debra Shore, one of the first openly gay people elected countywide, told the room how she'd procured domestic partner benefits in her office: She asked for them. Benefits were swiftly voted on and passed unanimously, she said.

"I asked [the executive director] why this agency hadn't done that sooner, and he said to me, 'Well, nobody asked,'" Shore said. "So, at a minimum the one reason it's important for us to be in elected office is that we ask."

Arkansas state Rep. Kathy Webb then detailed how she helped pass that state's anti-bullying bill earlier this year. Arkansas is the 11th state in the country to offer both sexual orientation and gender identity protection, and Webb was voted the most effective lawmaker in the Arkansas legislature.

DNC Deputy Political Director Steve Walker urged the caucus to recruit more members of color. "It's important for me to identify myself as a gay man in the Black caucus," he said. "It's also just as important for me to identify myself

Wisconsin, Minnesota, California and Arkansas. A member of Democrats Abroad even flew in from Paris, France.

Stafford presented awards to two allies of the community "who watch over for us, help us, and guide us," and encouraged caucus members to focus on reelecting Obama so that we don't revert to "prehistoric times" under GOP leadership.

Representatives from Obama's 2012 campaign team detailed a re-election plan that involves identifying and mobilizing key communities. Chief among them: LGBT voters. The representatives' PowerPoint presentation illustrated how partnering with LGBT leaders in different regions could have a powerful trickle-down effect throughout queer communities.

The campaign team will soon launch <http://lgbt.barackobama.com>.



Rick Stafford. Photo by Erica Demarest

LGBT Chicagoans, Victory Fund set sights on elections

BY KATE SOSIN

With political campaigns gearing up across the country, the Gay and Lesbian Victory rolled into Chicago Sept. 8-11 to talk LGBT politics with local leaders and potential candidates across the nation.

The organization held its first-ever Chicago roundtable discussion on LGBT politics Sept. 8 and then convened its candidate and campaign training over the weekend, bringing in political hopefuls from all over the nation.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Debra Shore hosted the roundtable discussion. Shore also sits on the Victory Fund's Gay and Lesbian Leadership Institute board.

The strategy for upcoming elections, said Shore, is to increase the number of openly gay legislators in states where a small increase could make the difference between passing LGBT protections and seeing them fail.

"In every state that has been able to achieve marriage [equality] by legislative means, they've had at least five openly gay members in the state legislature," Shore said.

For Chicago specifically, Shore said, LGBT leaders are working on diversifying both their candidate and voter base.

"We need to be west of Halsted and be seen as that," she said. "We live in lots of districts and need to become more active in being well-known all over the city, the country and state."

The Victory Fund is also working to teach candidates how to balance being openly LGBT with running a mainstream political campaign, without getting pigeonholed as a gay candidate. The idea, said Shore, is to use questions about sexual orientation to "pivot" the conversation back to the reasons why they're running.

Approximately 15 LGBT leaders attended the roundtable discussion while 40 people filled the limited number of slots at the candidate and campaign training.

The next step is to get more local LGBT people to consider candidacy, said Shore: "Folks need to think about it and step and run."

ASK LAMBDA LEGAL

Faith-based foster care agencies

BY SUSAN SOMMER

Dear Ask Lambda Legal,

My partner and I live in Illinois and are in a civil union. We are thinking about becoming foster parents, but have heard about problems with certain child welfare agencies. Should we be concerned?

Congratulations! This year saw advances for same-sex couples in Illinois, as well as in New York, Hawaii, Delaware and Rhode Island. Marriage equality prevailed in New York, while civil unions were signed into law in the other four states—each new law provides hundreds of rights and responsibilities for same-sex couples. For those of you who are hoping to raise children, these laws can provide important legal protections as your family grows.

Illinois has recently received national attention because of a case brought by Catholic Charities, a faith-based social service organization which, until recently, received state funds to provide foster care and adoption services for children. When the civil union law went into effect, Catholic Charities asserted that, on religious grounds, it would not provide foster care placement services to couples in civil unions, or to other unmarried or same-sex couples.

State and federal law prohibits an organization that receives government funds and contracts to provide government services from using religious beliefs to dictate to whom it will provide those services. Illinois rightly declined to provide tax dollars to an agency that denies loving homes to children in government foster care based on the agency's discriminatory policies. An Illinois court upheld the government's decision, in a case in which Lambda Legal and child welfare organizations filed a friend-of-the-court brief.

In recent years, Catholic Charities agencies in Boston and the District of Columbia decided to stop providing foster care and adoption services rather than comply with non-discrimination laws and professional child welfare standards by making placements with same-sex couples. However, these examples were the exception, not the rule. Most social service agencies—whether faith-based or not—in states that accord legal recognition to same-sex couples' relationships, follow state non-discrimination requirements.



Susan Sommer. Photo courtesy of Lambda Legal

When the state removes children from their original homes and places them in foster care, it's often because of situations involving abuse or neglect. These children can then languish for years in state care, in group or foster homes. The overwhelming consensus among social science and child welfare experts is that lesbian and gay adults make fit parents and are an important resource for children in foster care.

When an agency charged with finding children stable homes shrinks the pool of prospective foster and adoptive parents based on false beliefs that same-sex couples aren't good parents, it does unnecessary harm to these children. It also sends a dangerous, stigmatizing message to the many LGBT young people in foster care, that these youth will never be fit to parent children of their own. Children in the foster care system deserve every chance of finding stable, loving homes.

In Illinois, and across the country, a number of social service agencies have a history of working with same-sex couples looking to become foster parents. If you have a legal question or need legal assistance, please visit <http://www.lambdalegal.org/help>.

Susan Sommer is senior counsel and director of constitutional litigation for Lambda Legal.

Ask Lambda Legal is a new monthly feature in Windy City Times.

Friends and family celebrate Santiago's life

BY KATE SOSIN

Approximately 400 people filled the auditorium at the Chicago History Museum to honor the life of LGBT community activist Christina Santiago Sept. 10.

Santiago's friends, family, co-workers, fellow activists and her wife, Alisha Brennon, were among those present.

"It never ceases to amaze us how much Christina was capable of giving," Aaron Stielstra, a close friend of Santiago's from New York, remembered. "For a person so small in build, she truly had one of the biggest shoulders to cry on."

Emotions were still raw nearly a month after Santiago was killed in the Indiana State Fair stage collapse Aug. 13.

Santiago was well-known in Chicago's LGBT community as the manager of programming for Howard Brown Health Center's Lesbian Community Care Project (LCCP). She was also the board programming chair of Amigas Latinas.

She was buried in her home state of New York last month next to her mother. Friends and family waited to hold the Chicago memorial service until Brennon, who is still recovering from the accident, could attend.

Brennon approached the stage with help from Santiago's aunt, Lydia Matos. She recalled how nervous she was when she asked Santiago on a first date in March 2009.

"I didn't think I had a chance with her," Brennon joked, remembering that when Santiago agreed to the date, Brennon questioned if she was serious.

On June 13, 2009, Brennon said, Santiago agreed to be her girlfriend. Two years later to the day, the couple obtained a civil-union license in Illinois, just two weeks after such unions became legal in the state. One month later, on July 13, the two had their civil union.

It was exactly another month before Santiago was killed at the concert.

Brennon said she planned to live her life in pursuit of the goals she shared with Santiago.

Mona Noriega, a founder of Amigas Latinas and the current commissioner of the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations, read a message from Mayor Emanuel to Brennon.

"I extend my deepest sympathies to all who called her their own and especially to you," the

message said.

According to Kimberly Marks, a friend of the couple, meeting Santiago changed Brennon as a person. Marks said it was the happiest she had seen Brennon.

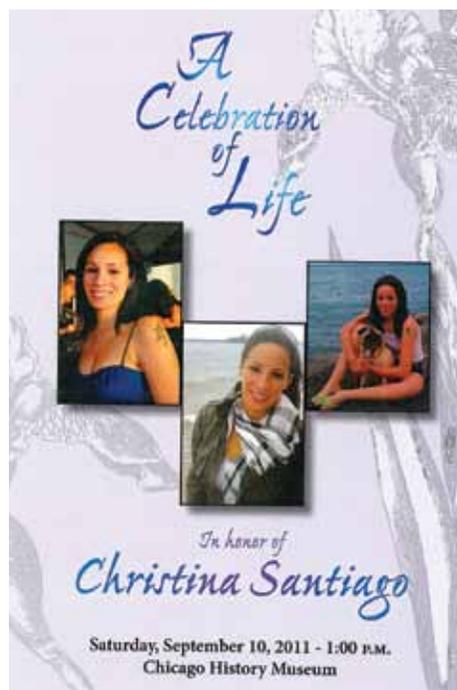
Friends played a slideshow of Santiago and Brennon. Pictures included shots with their dogs, the two with their civil union certificate, their new rings and their travels together.

On display in front of the stage were pictures of Santiago and her Chicago Force football jersey. Santiago's family from New York came to the memorial, as did friends from her home city.

Santiago's friends remembered the 29-year-old as fiercely intelligent, unstoppable as an advocate and often hilarious as a friend.

Santiago's childhood best friend from New York, Gabrielle Rivera, recalled that Santiago befriended her "right away, even though I was the weird girl with thick glasses and one eyebrow."

Her friend Stielstra laughed about how Santiago explained that her reason for going skydiving with Brennon was "because there was a Groupon for it."



Program from the Santiago memorial.

"More than one person has said to me that they knew she was special but it didn't dawn on them how special until she left us," said Alma Izquierdo, who was friends with Santiago and also worked with her in Amigas Latinas. "She rekindled my faith in the goodness of humanity."

"She wore her identity with pride and made it look like fun," said Lisa Katona, who worked with Santiago through LCCP.

Amigas Latinos Board Chair Rosa Yadira Ortiz also fondly remembered her "go-to" buddy Santiago, and said how much she misses Santiago every day.

Those who spoke of Santiago urged mourners to celebrate her short life.

"Tomorrow is promised to no one, so we must live as she lived," said Lydia Matos, Santiago's aunt.

Despite the upbeat messages, most who remembered Santiago appeared teary-eyed as they recalled a person that they said lived unencumbered by hesitation or hope.

"You did not wait for life to become what you wanted it to," said Rivera of Santiago. "You dove in heart first."

The ceremony ended with a poem, "Her Journey," read by Kim Duffey. It ended: "And think of her as living / in the hearts of those she touched / for nothing loved is ever lost / and she was loved so much."

Chaffin's life remembered



Community activist, businessman and promoter RJ Chaffin was remembered by friends and family during a memorial celebration Sept. 10 at the Center on Halsted.

Hundreds of photos and personal awards and mementos were displayed for the memorial tribute, each giving a look into the unique passions of this long-time gay activist. Chaffin had worked at GayLife newspaper in the 1970s and for International Mr. Leather for many years. He also owned RJ's Video on Halsted, and volunteered and donated to dozens of AIDS and LGBT charities.

Bill Greaves and Chaffin's sister Mary Kay Lyons presented a tribute from Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Gary Chichester, Chaffin's best friend and colleague for decades, also spoke about Chaffin.

There were many photos projected on the screen, and there were musical tributes to some of Chaffin's favorite characters from Disney and from Wicked. Other speakers and performers scheduled were Cyon Flare, Shelley Rosenbaum, Paul Sullenger, Dean Ogren, Rita McConville, Jeffrey Roscoe, Jason Krumbiede and Michael Favreau. Photos by Ed Negron; more online at <http://windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=33709>

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Lee Reinhart reflects on impact of DADT

BY CHUCK COLBERT

Lee Reinhart, a veteran of both the Navy and Coast Guard, is well aware of the insidious and arbitrary nature of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." The Navy handed him an honorable discharge, while the Coast Guard fired him for being gay under the soon-to-be-repealed federal law and military policy.

During the mid-1990s, Reinhart served in the Navy aboard the U.S.S. Cowpens (CG-63), a guided missile cruiser. There, he was an openly gay operations specialist. His two years on the Cowpens were "the greatest time of my life," said Reinhart recently during a telephone interview. "Everyone knew I was gay. The commanding officer and I never had a discussion about it, but he obviously knew."

"Our ship was the lead ship in the 1998 missile strike against Afghanistan," Reinhart said. Consequently, "Our captain made admiral com-



Lee Reinhart. Photo courtesy of Reinhart

ing out of that mission. And I was asked to be on the admiral's staff, as well as cook, who was also gay."

However, after four years of service, Reinhart returned to Chicago and civilian life. The events of 9/11, however, prompted the sailor to re-enlist in 2002. "I looked at my options," he said. "I was almost 30, and the only branches that would take me back [at my former rate, second class petty officer, E-5] were the Navy and Coast Guard."

Reinhart opted for the latter, hoping to get orders to Key West, Fla. Instead he was sent back again to San Diego, this time for service on a Coast Guard ship but was discharged under "don't ask, don't tell" for being gay.

How did Reinhart's firing come about? "We took some female crew members out to a gay bar in Portland, Ore.," he explained, referring to a shipmate who was gay. "And they went back and talked about the great night they had with Josh and Lee at the gay bar. That started an investigation."

Reinhart's executive officer "couldn't believe that I had such a positive experience in the Navy," he said.

The Coast Guard pulled his top-secret clearance.

During a seven-day transit to Hawaii "was the first time I ever feared for my life," Reinhart said. "I didn't know what was happening. They locked me up in medical because they thought I would commit suicide, which I never was going to do."

In Hawaii, however, military lawyers "were furious over how the case was handled," Reinhart said, telling him: "It was botched from day one."

"They have no proof on you," he recalled lawyers saying: "You have prior service. There's never been an incident about you or this issue. You can stay on. We will take you off this command immediately. All we need you to do is tell us you are not gay. No more questions."

"But I couldn't do it," said Reinhart.

Shipboard on the Cowpens, however, tells an entirely different story of gay life in the Navy. Initially, Reinhart told only a few close friends that he was gay. For his first six-month deployment, they kept his secret.

"But before we left on a second six-month tour, I knew that I didn't want to deploy and not be comfortable," Reinhart said. "The friends who knew—it was wearing on them, keeping the secret for me."

He continued, "So I packed my sea bag, put it on my rack, went up to see the operations officer, and turned myself in for being gay, knowing once I did that, he would put me off the ship."

"To my wonderful surprise," said Reinhart, "the operations officer said, 'Nice try. You are not going anywhere. If anyone bothers you, let me know.'"

Looking back on Navy days, "I was blessed," Reinhart said. "At quarters, I freely talked about what I did the night before. There were three or four openly gay people on my ship."

Recently, Reinhart met up with a former shipmate who is straight. One thing his friend says that he misses is the weekly brunches when the straight men went to gay bars in San Diego for brunch," Reinhart said. "That was their way of showing support. They always went to gay bars for Sunday brunch."

When asked how he felt about the end of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," Reinhart said, "It feels pretty damn good."

Also, the Navy man turned gay-rights/repeal activist has a sense of accomplishment in lobbying U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk, an Illinois Republican, to change his vote in favor of lifting the ban. "I feel I was part of making that happen," said Reinhart.

With the day of celebration fast approaching, Reinhart offered an observation. "It is important for history to remember our straight brothers and sisters who stood beside us when it wasn't safe," he said. "They knew it was important for us to serve."

Meanwhile, Reinhart continues to work with a local recruiter. "I want to re-enlist. I want to have the opportunity to put the uniform back on in the reserves," he said. "I fought a long time for this and did not get paid for those trips to D.C. meeting with congressional leaders, telling my story."

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Historic cover

Heralding the upcoming dismissal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the Marine Corps Times features on its cover a message from gay Marines their straight colleagues: "We're gay. Get over it."



DADT from cover

Dec. 22, 2010. However, a provision of the measure required the president, Defense secretary, and Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman to "certify" military readiness for DADT repeal. After months of training to implement open service, the top three defense officials sent written notification to Congress July 22 of troop preparedness to lift the ban. For repeal to take effect, however, a 60-day waiting period (until Sept. 20) was required.

Meanwhile, historian Nathaniel Frank, author of the 2009 book *Unfriendly Fire: How the Gay Ban Undermines the Military and Weakens America*, offered an historical perspective on dawn of a new era.

"This is a big win politically for the LGBT community and for advocates of equality and civil rights," he said in a telephone interview. "In one sense, a major shame for the country



Jim Darby. Photo by Tracy Baim

will be wiped away although its legacy and heritage will always be there," he added.

"This was a unique form of discrimination because the policy was not on its face value about excluding people," Frank explained, adding, "It was about denying [gay service members] existed and forcing them not to talk about themselves. This was a policy of institutionalized denial and ignorance, and prejudice."

Indeed, the end DADT holds personal significant for the Navy-vet-turned-activist Darby. Lifting the ban "removes a big road block," he said, because the country's "largest employer," the U.S. military "is not going to be discriminating" against gays any more.

"We are fortunate to be living in a time when this is happening," he added.

Over the years, the now 80-year-old Darby, who served as an enlisted communications technician and held a top secret clearance, has been an ardent advocate of repealing "don't ask, don't tell." In 1991 he founded the Chicago chapter of AVER then known as the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Veterans of America. Since then, Darby has served as president five times.

In 1993, when then-President Bill Clinton tried to lift the military's ban on gay service, Darby traveled to the nation's capital five times that year. At one White House sit-in demonstration, police carried him away. Darby remembers a police officer asking, "Are you going to get up or are we going to have to pick you up?"

"Oh, honey, you can pick me up anytime," said Darby, recalling his reply.

After four years of service, which included duty stateside and overseas, Darby received an honorable discharge in 1956. Relying on the GI Education Bill, he went on to earn a bachelor's and master's degree and taught English, Spanish, and French in the Chicago public schools for 30 years.

While in the service, however, Darby was encouraged to make a career of the Navy. His

commanding officer (CO) suggested he re-enlist, even offering Darby two years at Monterey language school to study any language he wanted.

However, citing "personal problems" Darby declined the offer. "I just knew I could not last 20 years," he said. Darby was sure, he added, the CO knew the "personal problem he had to work out" was all about being gay.

Like many sailors, Darby landed assignments that he liked. "I was very fortunate because I went from radio school in Seattle to Teletype school in Washington, D.C., to Russian language school—all things I loved to do."

Nevertheless, the Navy four-year navy man also came close to being discharged for homosexuality. "I was investigated in Seattle while waiting for a top secret clearance," he said, recalling a dark room with five men sitting around a table. "Their very first question," he recalled: "Do you know what a homosexual is?"

"I was terrified that I had been found out" said Darby, fearing this was the end of his career.

What prompted this investigation? Darby had gone on liberty with a friend suspected of being gay. Somehow Navy authorities thought he was involved. Investigator asked "crazy questions," Darby said, recalling a few of them: "Did I hear any sounds coming from a nearby bed? Who slept with whom? And finally, what do you think of homosexuality?"

"I said it was against my religion," said Darby who got the top-secret clearance.

DADT dates back to Nov. 30, 1993, when Bill Clinton signed the policy into federal law, although drumming gay soldiers out of the military dates back 233 years to the American Revolutionary War when the first gay soldier got the boot. As early as March 11, 1778, the Continental Army kicked out Lieutenant Frederick Gotthold Enslin, who is "the first known soldier to be dismissed from the U.S. military for homosexuality," according to the late Randy Shilts in his 1995 book *Conduct Unbecoming*. Enslin's offenses were sodomy and perjury.

The current ban on openly gay service members was a compromise measure between the president and Congress. Clinton had campaigned on a promise to end sexual orientation discrimination in the armed forces but once in office bumped up against strong opposition from Congress and Pentagon top brass.

DADT was supposed to mean that gay, lesbian and bisexual persons could serve, but only by staying closeted. In reality it was a nightmare even for those who stayed quiet. Some were outed by fellow service members; some commanders interpreted "telling" as being on a gay dating website, or other personal acts; and some gays were pursued and persecuted by commanders who decided their own interpretation of the policy.

The compromise policy has also been deemed by many to be a failure. Altogether, more than 14,300 military personnel have been fired at an estimated overall taxpayer cost of \$555 million, according to 2010 report by the Williams Institute, a think tank at the UCLA School of Law. Moreover, thousands of men and women lost careers, the military lost people with valuable skills, like Arabic linguists. Even Clinton and former Secretary of Defense Colin Powell, who is also a former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, said the law was a mistake.

Accordingly, Sept. 20 will be "a day of huge celebration," said SLDN's Sarvis. "Once we get beyond the long overdue celebration, I think things will be different, but not that dramatic a change."

"Some [gay troops] will come out in the first week or so and month. Others will think a while about whether they want to come out or not," Sarvis added. "They will be free to come out without fear of being fired. And that is what is important. Whether they elect to come out is their choice."

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a
GAY *in the*
LIFE

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN



Deputy chief of staff
TyJuan J. Cratic



He was 10 years old back in 1995 and excited for then-President Clinton's State of the Union address, even past his bedtime.

TyJuan Cratic was, and still is, hooked on politics, particularly, "how it changes people's lives for the better," he said.

Cratic moved into his current position as deputy chief of staff for Ald. Jason C. Ervin in mid-May.

"It's a great honor to just run for [political] office, but I haven't really thought of [running myself]," Cratic said.

He has, though, had a quick taste of the political world first-hand.

He had a stint as the 2010 District canvass director in Ohio's 13th Congressional District for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) on behalf of Congresswoman Betty Sutton. Ohio's 13th Congressional District was the only competitive congressional race that a Democrat won in the state. Before Ohio, he was the field director in the successful primary campaign in Georgia's 12th congressional district for Democratic Congressman John Barrow.

Also on the political front, Cratic:

—Was the only high school intern during Lisa Madigan's run for attorney general in 2002;

—Was the president of the Southern Illinois University College Democrats, which included his involvement in the 2004 multi-person U.S. Senate debate, including Barack Obama. "He was a very cool person, with a very cool, calm demeanor," Cratic said. "I never truly took the time to appreciate that first meeting [with Obama] until it was over;" and

—Was an intern in 2005 for Sen. Dick Durbin and again met Obama. "He said something to me at that time that, to this day, truly changed the way I perceived myself in politics," Cratic said.



Cratic pictured with Ald. Jason Ervin (left).

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the stats

Name
TyJuan J. Cratic

Age
26

Neighborhood
Maple Park

Relationship status
Newly single

Job title
Deputy chief of staff, communications and community relations for 28th Ward Ald. Jason C. Ervin

Favorite politicians
Harold Washington, Paul Simon and Lisa Madigan

Hooked on
Movies

The quote
"I am a hopeless romantic. I love to love."

PR world
Has been running a public relations firm since November, 2010, focusing on politics

All-time favorite movies
Soldier's Girl, The Candidate and Boy Culture

Ex this...

VIEWPOINT BY KIM FLOWERS

This article is an account of someone who was forced to undergo the Exodus International "ex-gay" program at age 18 as well as that of a friend of hers who underwent a different program.

As politicians speak out on whether they support or condemn the ex-gay ministry in order to get votes, those of us who have experienced this horror should let others in on the details. When I was 18 I attempted to go through the Exodus International program. The encounter didn't last long, but it left burning scars.

I came out in 1999, the summer I graduated high school. I'd grown up going to church and had kept my secret since I was 10. When my Marine ship-out date was changed from October to March, I decided a semester of college would be best because I needed to get out of town. I had applied to one school: Kentucky Christian College (now a University). I wanted to study religion and learn whether God and my sexuality were really at odds with each other. I loved the place at first—it was like living at church camp. Then I made the mistake of paying a visit to the campus counselor.

"Where does it say in the Bible that homosexuality is wrong?" I asked. "Because I'm a lesbian!" Well, the counselor showed me the clobber passages right away. He told me that if I acted on my homosexual impulses I would be expelled and that we should meet once a week. He asked how I felt about God.

"Sometimes I'm happy and believe in God, and sometimes I'm mad and don't think he exists," I answered.

The counselor jumped to his bookshelf and pulled down a DSM-IV. He flipped through the pages and told me he thought I had bipolar disorder. I reluctantly went to a psychiatrist at the counselor's urging. Soon after, some people from Exodus International came to the college and spoke about their organization. The campus counselor recommended I go through the program online.

I consented and was assigned a female accountability partner who was supposed to e-mail me regularly and support my effort to turn straight. I also received a packet in the mail containing the testimonies of 6 or 7 "ex-lesbians" which can only

be described as depressing. All but one of these women had become celibate. I almost threw the papers out the window, but with eternal damnation hanging over my head I decided to give the program a try. One problem: I didn't know what I was supposed to do. I e-mailed my accountability partner a couple times, and then she disappeared. I e-mailed someone else in the program to ask what had happened, and was told she had fallen back into a relationship with another woman and that I would get a new accountability partner soon. I never did get one.

By winter I realized if I went to the military I'd just get kicked out so I stayed in college. I informed my recruiter that I'd been put on medication and couldn't go to boot camp. I continued trying to change myself without knowing how. In February I told the campus counselor I'd been having suicidal thoughts, so he dropped me off at a psych ward for a few days. I kept struggling to conform, and I wasn't the only one. A lesbian in the grade above me got expelled just before Spring Break for inappropriate conduct with another student. The other student had snitched and was given a warning, but her identity was not revealed. Several people suspected me, and I announced that I wouldn't have told on her if it had been.

On summer vacation I did a lot of partying, but I went back to school in the fall to try again. I resumed weekly counseling sessions on campus and monthly psychiatric appointments. In October I got caught writing a suicide note in my dorm room. I tried to escape from my friends and kill myself, but they wouldn't let me out of their sight and called for help. (I'm still sorry about what I put them through.) After another few days in a psych ward, the campus counselor summoned me to his office, where I was asked to withdraw from school to save myself the shame of being kicked out. He told me I was "a danger to myself and others" and a "liability". And then my mom walked through the door! The counselor had called her hours before and timed her approximate arrival with our meeting. He had lied to her, claiming I wanted to go home. I returned to Indiana after two weeks of unsuccessful lobbying to stay at school. When I eventually gave up my efforts to turn straight and renounced all organized religion I knew happiness. The ex-gay ministry is a waste of time, and I'm not the only one who thinks so:

Brent Walsh, 38, attended a program eight years ago called Love in Action—a division of Exodus International. Brent is an FTM transgender man who identified as lesbian during that time. Raised in the church, he felt he must turn straight



Kim Flowers (front) with wife Malissa Flowers and their son. Photo courtesy of Kim Flowers

to be right with God. Brent explained the details of the organization to me since my experience with reparative therapy had been so confusing: "Love in Action is a residential twelve-step program that works on the same principles as Alcoholics Anonymous. The idea is to admit we are powerless over our homosexual desires and that because of our sexual addiction our lives have spun out of control.

"We were told that our homosexual desires might never go away, but like alcoholics, the feelings could be controlled and overcome with prayer and determination to live the perfect plan that God had for our lives. We also had counseling sessions with a staff member in order to dig deeper into our pasts. We needed to acknowledge all the pain we had caused our families, friends and fellow church members by living out our homosexual hedonism with utter disregard for all that our loved ones had done to try to keep us healthy and whole.

"The men and women were separated into two different houses and assigned two different churches. I didn't completely understand the reasoning for this, since our attractions were to members of the same sex. On a regular basis the men and women would have their own group Bible studies, and on occasion we would all have a joint gathering."

Brent learned that many rules were set in place to discourage homosexual urges. Residents were not allowed to do anything considered gender-inappropriate. This included every aspect of life from clothing to hobbies and, eventually, their careers. Brent's toolbox was confiscated and he was told to ask a man for help if his vehicle needed maintenance. His guitar was not permitted for fear he might seduce a housemate. No one was allowed to wear perfume, cologne, scented deodorant or shampoo. Brent's previous jobs had been as a correctional officer and a truck driver. These were considered too masculine by Love in Action, and even Brent's proposal to work as a dispatcher in the office of a trucking company was denied. Residents were not allowed to view any media, and for a time could not even contact their families. As a final deterrent from impure thoughts, no one was allowed to be alone, with the exception of a 15-minute shower.

Brent complied with all of this: "At first I felt a certain amount of hope that this kind of intense program could help me go straight and develop a closer relationship with God. I was willing to jump through all the hoops and follow all the rules if it would make me straight. But two weeks into the program, I realized my hopes were built on a shaky foundation. When I went through the

one-on-one counseling sessions, I was grilled about my life as a lesbian and it was said that I was a predator, seeking to lure young women into my clutches so I could have my selfish way with them.

"As much as I wanted to get help, I knew that my own nature was not predatory and that this kind of brain-washing was not 'washing' anything. I also realized that I would not be allowed to have a sense of humor. The group of women went to a card shop together and I picked one up that had a cartoon picture of the backside of a donkey. When I opened it up, it said, 'Nice ass!' I laughed and showed it to one of the other women in the group, who also laughed. The next day I was rebuked in my counseling session because one of the women complained about me. She had said that I used a greeting card to surreptitiously make a pass at her. These kinds of things made me realize that this environment was not healthy for me. I wasn't being cured of anything, just humiliated and mentally manipulated."

Brent's rehabilitation ended on his own terms: "There was a pool in the back yard of the residence where the women liked to swim and visit before turning in for the night. I sat beside the pool one evening after everyone went inside and evaluated my experience. I'd been so traumatized by my individual counseling sessions and with my inability to have contact with the outside world or with anyone I knew and loved. The other women in the program were in the same boat I was, but there was no chance for any camaraderie with them because of all the ridiculous rules and prohibitions.

I didn't feel myself going straight or developing a healthy relationship with God. The God I was getting to know here was fierce and judgmental; disappointed with my entire life up to that point. I detested the church I was forced to go to and I didn't want to work at a strange place where I didn't fit. I needed to leave and I didn't want anyone to try to talk me out of it.

"I walked into the house, past the women who were visiting in the living room before bed, and into the bedroom that I shared with another resident. I got my car keys and wallet from my bedside table and went back out to the pool. Some of the women had seen me go out, so they followed me. I sat down on one of the lawn chairs and visited half-heartedly for a while. When the other women said they were going inside again, I said I wanted to just sit outside alone for a while. After about five minutes, when I decided no one was looking, I opened the privacy fence gate and slipped out to the street where my car waited. I started it up and drove away. I never looked back.

"For most things in my life, even negative, I can look back and see how they helped me grow. In most cases, I'd say that I wouldn't change anything because it's made me who I am today. This experience at Love in Action might be the closest I come to an exception to that rule. I see the damage it did to me personally and to my ability to trust God's plan for my life. I have to say that it did make me a stronger person, but the credit can't go to the program. The credit goes to the strength it took to leave the program and embark on a journey in the opposite direction. That was where I found God and that was when my relationship with God took a brand new turn. Maybe without the traumatic experience of LiA I wouldn't have known that true peace and fulfillment in God's will for my life meant living authentically in my own skin."

Brent's faith is intact despite his experience; the faith of my childhood is gone. In both cases, the conversion program did not work at all. Perhaps if more of us speak out we can silence those who claim that conversion therapy is effective.

Kim Flowers is a freelance writer from Fishers, Ind. To watch Brent speak about his experience at Love in Action and his transition, go to <http://lifejourneychurch.cc/video/2010/2010-07-25/SupportingFiles/ViewerWM64Lite.html>.

People can also visit Brent's and his wife Julie Walsh's web site at <http://transformationministry.org> or find them on Facebook and Twitter.



Left: Brent Walsh. Right: Brent Walsh, when he was known as Brenda and going through the Love In Action program. Both photos from Walsh

A special series in partnership with the
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A WINDY CITY
TIMES
SPECIAL PROJECT

AIDS@30

Obama team works on AIDS strategy

BY SARAH TOCE

The White House released the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) on July 13, 2010 to address the diverse growing needs of people with AIDS in the United States. Since the start of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, an estimated 575,000 Americans have lost their lives to AIDS and more than 56,000 people in the United States become infected with HIV each year.

President Barack Obama, together with the Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP), committed to developing NHAS with three major goals in mind: reducing HIV incidence, increasing access to care and optimizing health outcomes, and reducing HIV-related health disparities.

Senior Policy Advisor at ONAP, Greg Millett, took a few moments to chat with Windy City Times about NHAS and ONAP while in Washington, D.C.

Windy City Times: There are an estimated 56,000 new HIV infections in the United States each year. What provisions does the Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) seek to implement to prevent the number from rising even more in the next five years?

Greg Millett: That's a good question. You know ... you're correct that there are about 56,000, or 50,000 or so, new cases that take place each year, per CDC's estimates, and CDC's going to be coming out with newer estimates a little later this year. In terms of trying to prevent the number of infections from rising, you know, a lot of it is, actually, if we just keep the status quo, the number of infections is pretty much going to stay the same, because they've been staying the same for the last 10 years, but where they might rise, though, it won't be in the next five years, but perhaps in the next 10 years, is the fact that there are more people who are living with HIV because there's more effective medications. People are living longer, and they're living more productive lives. Though, with more people living with HIV, it also means that there are more opportunities for HIV transmission. So there've been other individuals at CDC and others who've been modeling out that over the next 10 years and longer, that if things remain the status quo, it means that we're going to see a rise in new infections, something we haven't seen over the past 10 years.

WCT: How does the organization seek to minimize the potential rise in infections?

GM: In order to really try to minimize that, what ONAP has proposed in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, is to do several things that we haven't necessarily always done in our prevention response. One of them is to target the populations at greatest risk for HIV infection. Over the last 30 years, we have done a good job, but not necessarily the best job. In some ways, we democratized risk for HIV, and we know that not everybody is at equal risk of becoming HIV-positive in the U.S. and men who have sex with men, African-Americans, Latinos, and drug users are more likely to become infected. But we haven't always prioritized those populations. And without doing that, it's made it easier for us to lose focus in terms of the epidemic, and for some of the infections and epidemics that are taking place in those populations to continue.

Another thing we haven't done is that we haven't really utilized those interventions that we know work. In many ways, there's been an emergency response to the HIV epidemic from the '80s, where we're really trying to do everything possible to minimize the number of infections and to take care of people who are infect-



Jeffrey S. Crowley, director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, meets with President Obama. Courtesy of Greg Millett

ed with HIV. But we really haven't slowed down and taken a collective deep breath to evaluate, "Okay, among all of these tools that we have, what actually works in preventing HIV?" And that is something that we tried to do with the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, by taking a look at all the accumulated scientific evidence, and saying, "Well, this part of our prevention response are things that we know work at preventing new infections." And then there are other things that we're doing that don't work. And if they don't work, why, in a resource-limited environment, are we spending time on those interventions, when we could actually be placing that money in those things that do work?

And then the last thing that we were looking at in terms of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy to prevent the number of infections from rising, is that for those things that work, we wanted to make sure that there's actually a population-level effect. So there are some things that work, but the effect is really just preventing HIV among one individual. And then there are other things that work, but the effect is preventing HIV among multiple individuals or even a larger population. And what we're looking for is the small number of things that we can do that work in populations at highest risk for HIV, but would produce mass effect, and not just in preventing one infection. Preventing one infection is important. That's something that is laudable. But that's not going to meaningfully impact the epidemic. We need to prevent multiple infections in a population. So that's a third thing we're looking for it to do.

WCT: The National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) has three major goals in place: reducing HIV incidence, increasing access to care and optimizing health outcomes, and reducing HIV-related health disparities. How will the new healthcare law affect these three major outlined initiatives?

GM: Honestly, I think it will affect it in dramatic ways. One thing that's become very clear in the HIV/AIDS world, particularly over the last year, year and a half, is that HIV care is also HIV prevention. So, when people who are living with HIV are in care and they have access to medications that improve their health outcomes, those medications also make them 92% less likely to transmit HIV to someone who is uninfected during unprotected sex. That's huge. Care is prevention.

And in terms of people living with HIV, what the new healthcare reform law will do, the ACA will do, is quite a few things that are incredibly

important. People living with HIV are likely to be underinsured, or to have no insurance, compared to other populations. And some of that is due to pre-existing conditions that we have with insurance companies. And what the ACA healthcare reform law will do, or already has done, is that it's really prevented insurance companies from preventing those who are the sickest of the sick from getting insurance. So now, people living with HIV can get insurance, whereas beforehand they would have been prevented from doing so because of pre-existing conditions.

The other thing that's very important in terms of the healthcare reform law is the fact that it expands the number of people living with HIV who do not have resources who have the ability to enroll to receive care. So previously, people who had very low resources would be able to use the Ryan White Care Act (Ryan White), which was really the care of last resort. But there were still individuals who were not necessarily getting the care that they needed who might have been marginally above the requirements, income requirements, for Ryan White. What the new Medicaid law does is that it dramatically expands the number of low-income individuals who will be able to access care, by actually going beyond the income requirements where they currently are. And we know, as I mentioned beforehand, getting all those individuals into care not only has meaningful outcomes for their quality of life, but also outcomes in terms of reducing the possibility of infection to others.

WCT: ONAP hosted 14 HIV/AIDS community discussions throughout the United States beginning in 2009. How were those initial 14 cities chosen (for instance, we notice that Atlanta, Los Angeles and New York were cities visited but Seattle and Chicago were not)?

GM: One thing that became very clear when Jeffrey S. Crowley, Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, came into office was that there seemed to be this recognition from the domestic HIV community that their voices needed to be heard. They felt in some ways that their voices hadn't been heard in some of the preceding years, where the focus really went from domestic HIV to international HIV. And it was important to work on international HIV, because there's a lot of need that's there, and there have been some fantastic things that have taken place, but there were some people who were affected domestically who believed that in some ways their needs were ignored or their voices weren't heard.

So what was very clear was that we wanted to

pull together 14 community discussions where we were able to actually get as much meaningful input on what people would like to see in a National HIV/AIDS Strategy as possible. And we really wanted to make sure that there was going to be geographic representation, and representation of different epidemics. For example, in parts of New York City, it used to be primarily an injection drug using epidemic. In Atlanta, you have an epidemic primarily among African-Americans. In Los Angeles, you have an epidemic primarily among Latinos. In Minnesota, you have an epidemic among immigrants, you know, immigrants from various parts of Africa. And then in the Southwest, there are all sorts of needs in terms of an epidemic among Native Americans. And then on the West Coast and San Francisco, there is an epidemic among gay and bisexual men.

We didn't only want the regional diversity, but we also wanted to get the diversity of the various epidemics that are taking place in the United States, and to hear the voices of people who are representing each one of those epidemics. And we also wanted to hear, just as importantly, epidemics that are taking place in rural areas of the United States, as well as urban areas, and epidemics that are taking place in the South, as well as other different parts of the U.S. Because usually, you might find some things that might be taking place a little bit different. And we did. There were some places where, you know, living with HIV wasn't as heavily stigmatized, and people were very eager to come out about their HIV status in front of us, in front of hundreds of people during these community discussions. And then we would go to other places where HIV was incredibly stigmatized, and no one would ever mention that they were HIV-positive, even though we knew that there were people living with HIV in the room. So, you know, that in and of itself told us a lot about some of the regional differences that are taking place in the U.S. But the thing that was amazing about the community discussions is that, even though we went to different places, we heard a lot of the same themes across each one of these different communities and different regions. And that really helped us in pulling together the National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

And for those regions that we weren't able to get to, we actually hosted a place on the White House website, where people could submit to us their recommendations to add to the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. And even when we looked at those recommendations, we saw a lot of striking similarities with many of the things that we heard while we were on the road during the community discussions. And we ended up publishing all of this in a report, summarizing what we've heard, in April of last year.

WCT: When Ryan White was diagnosed with AIDS at age 13, his family turned to the CDC for guidance during multiple court trials because so little was known about the disease at that time in 1984. Is the CDC still intricately involved in court battles surrounding AIDS or has that become less the case with more studies being released over time surrounding the disease?

GM: You know, I'm not aware of CDC being involved in any court cases dealing with HIV, though CDC of course is still heavily involved in really trying to make sure that the American public is educated about HIV. Which is extremely important because there are actually data com-

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ing out from the Kaiser Family Foundation, they ask a question every year from the very beginning of the epidemic until the last few years, asking people how HIV is transmitted. And one of the striking things was that about a third of Americans in 1987 thought that HIV was transmitted through a mosquito, through swimming in a pool, through sharing a glass with someone who's HIV-positive, or even from a toilet seat. And the sad thing about that is that, when they looked at that poll again from 2009, they found that that statistic actually hadn't changed. It was still about 30% of Americans who believe that. So there's still a lot of work that we have to do in terms of really clarifying how HIV is and is not transmitted among the American public.

But in terms of some of the discrimination cases [such as in the case of Ryan White], there's certainly a lot of efforts that are taking place within the Department of Justice, the EEOC and the Department of Labor working on job discrimination cases for people living with HIV. The Department of Justice is working with HIV-positive prisoners who were wrongly segregated in a few state prisons and actually winning the cases. We're working on nursing home discrimination for elderly people living with HIV and really battling some of those cases and winning those cases, so there's a lot that's still taking place. It doesn't mean that discrimination is no longer with us; it is. But it's going to see a more ... a broader response from other federal agencies, such as Department of Justice and EEOC and Department of Labor, who are really actively working on these cases. And the other thing that's changed, too, since the days of Ryan White is that we have the Americans with Disabilities Act, which we celebrated having for the past 20 years just last year, which of course includes people living with HIV. And having HIV is a disability, so we are covered under that act as well.

WCT: Where does ONAP see the future of the Ryan White Care Act and has it become increasingly more beneficial with the recent rising numbers of infections?

GM: I think that ONAP is very clear that Ryan White will always have a future. We're going to need Ryan White. As incredible as the health-care reform law is, there still may be some gaps in serving people living with HIV, and I know that ONAP and others are encouraging the community to start thinking about, well, what will Ryan White become in the future, for some of those gaps that there might be in the healthcare reform law for people living with HIV. ONAP has been very clear that there's certainly going to be a future for Ryan White. The only question is, what exactly will that future be?

WCT: Do you feel that Ryan White's case was one of the turning points from it being considered a gay disease in the HIV/AIDS epidemic?

GM: Oh, absolutely. I think, you know, there were a couple of turning points: what was taking place with Ryan White, the way that Haitian immigrants were stigmatized about having HIV, and people realizing it's not just gay men who are becoming infected, but one of the biggest things as well was the expanded definition of HIV and AIDS that took place in the late '80s and early '90s to include critical manifestations that only occur among women. Up until that point, people didn't realize what the symptoms were necessarily for women who are infected with HIV. So that did quite a bit to really help broaden the epidemic and what was taking place in the United States.

But that said, in many ways, unfortunately, the epidemic is still a gay disease in the U.S.

because the number of men who are becoming infected is astronomical. Gay men are 40 times more likely to become infected with HIV than heterosexuals in this country. They represent most new infections each year, 57% of the new infections each year. And they're the leading group affected by HIV across each racial and ethnic community. So whether it's among whites, African-Americans, or Latinos, the group where you find the most infections is among gay men.

And then, worse still, although HIV infections have been declining among injection drug users, and staying the same among heterosexuals in the United States, new infections are actually increasing among gay men. So they're the only group in the U.S. where new infections are actually increasing. So there are other groups that are becoming infected with HIV, absolutely, and we have to do as much as possible for those groups. And in some places we had some great successes, like reducing the number of infections among injection drug users by 80% since the '90s, or even reducing dramatically the number of children who are born with HIV. But we haven't done a great job in reducing the number of infections among gay men, where the number of infections unfortunately is still increasing.

WCT: Now that we have these drugs that

that homelessness is associated with all sorts of behaviors that can lead to HIV infection. So the list of issues is just endless in terms of why we're seeing a rise in infections among gay men. But what's clear is that gay men represent most of the U.S. epidemic, and unless we put a curb on the epidemic among gay men, we will always have an epidemic in the U.S. So we have to get finally serious about dealing with the epidemic among gay men.

WCT: In many cultures and religions, discussing sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases are taboo and have been for centuries. In your opinion, has this hindered the administration's efforts to provide education of the disease over time?

GM: No, I don't think it's hindered this administration's efforts. I can't speak for past administrations, but through this administration, you know, for the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, there's actually a bit in there about encouraging states to adopt comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education for youth. Which is extremely important, and especially for gay and lesbian youth, as well as youth of color, because women of color are also becoming infected with HIV.

I think that there's really been a strong record of discussing sexuality within this administration. Frankly, I've never seen a White House as

administration, making sure that we could get people who are living with HIV to travel to the U.S. without being harassed, or even being able to live here in the U.S. It's beyond my purview.

WCT: Children and young adults learn about slavery and civil-rights movements that have occurred in world history but they do not hear about the early days of HIV/AIDS in their health classes or become educated in public schools about gay civil rights. Does ONAP seek to provide legislation in the future to change this fact and teach gay history and HIV/AIDS history in the U.S. school system?

GM: I think that actually what we have as part of the Strategy is to really make sure that we have comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education, which definitely includes teaching sexuality. And that is something that we'd like to do. The hard part about that, though, is that the executive branch can't require states to do these things. That's something that has to come through legislation and something that needs to take place through Congress. But the White House can put these issues on the radar, which they have done with the Strategy, signaling some of the things that we think are priorities, or that they think are priorities, and then from there, really hope that Congress is able to take up the mantle and move forward with that.

WCT: Straight women and lesbians held a very pivotal role in the '80s when they helped during the height of the AIDS crisis. Why, in your opinion, is so little known about this time in history?

GM: People do talk about it, but where I haven't seen as much of it told was in some of the documentaries involving HIV. There's a fantastic new documentary that won a lot of accolades at the Tribeca Film Festival, and is being shown in different places. It's called *We Were Here*, by David Weissman. It talks about the epidemic among gay men in San Francisco. And it's just an incredibly moving documentary about what took place during the early years of the epidemic there, and the number of individuals who lost their lives, who lost partners, and just how decimated the community was.

But another part of it was just how incredible the community response was, and the documentary spends quite a bit of time talking about lesbian women and straight women. In fact, one of the main interviews is a straight woman who tended to gay men in the San Francisco ... one of the wards for San Francisco General, the AIDS unit. And it finds this incredibly moving account—I mean, honestly, there's not a dry eye left in the room when they talk about the response of lesbians and young heterosexual women, for taking care of these young gay men, especially when their families had turned their backs on them.

So I really hope that you and others are able to take a look at this documentary, because it's just so fantastic, and really, in many ways, shows what took place, the devastation, but also just this incredible rallying and community response. And I mean community not just in terms of the GLBT community, but people who really cared, the communities that were just there. And it shows what took place in San Francisco, but knowing that a lot of this took place in many different places across the United States. I'm hoping that people are able to see the documentary.

In addition to his work at ONAP, Greg Millett is also a detailee from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Prior to his position with ONAP, Millett was a Senior Behavioral Scientist in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP) at CDC in Atlanta.

“One of the most significant ... was actually seeing the White House seal on a document that talks about transgender individuals, who are at disproportionate risk associated with HIV, as mentioned in the [National AIDS] Strategy. I had never seen another administration ever talk about transgender communities, who have been just virtually invisible, even though we know that they're part of the landscape of the epidemic. So it's wonderful to see this administration just being as straightforward and frank and fact-based about who's becoming infected with HIV, and then also taking the same approach to make sure that we actually address HIV within these populations.”

— Greg Millett

help sustain lives, we can last longer, we can live longer if you do end up having HIV and AIDS. So I'm wondering if maybe just that knowledge of, “Oh, if I get it, there's a pill,” or something. Do you think that has something to do with the rise among gay men?

GM: Absolutely. I mean, some of it is the pill, and people knowing that this is a chronic infection now, it's not a death sentence. A lot of it, too, I think is also chronic under-funding for gay men's programs. You know, CDC, the Department of Health and Human Services, and others have looked at the types of programs that are being funded for these populations. And even though gay men are at a higher risk, you find that they're under-funded in a lot of prevention programs, which certainly has ramifications.

There are a lot of issues in terms of education and youth, with young gay men, and particularly young gay men of color. They are not necessarily receiving the prevention messages that they need. The prevention messages are going to other communities that are at comparably lower risk than these young gay men. There are issues of homophobia, and the fact that some of these men, when they're coming out, are kicked out of their homes by their families. And we know

straightforward and as grounded in science as the current administration. And there are many achievements in the Strategy that really point to that. Honestly, one of the most significant to me, and one of the ones I felt the most proud of, was actually seeing the White House seal on a document that talks about transgender individuals, who are at disproportionate risk associated with HIV, as mentioned in the Strategy. I had never seen another administration ever talk about transgender communities, who have been just virtually invisible, even though we know that they're part of the landscape of the epidemic. So it's wonderful to see this administration just being as straightforward and frank and fact-based about who's becoming infected with HIV, and then also taking the same approach to make sure that we actually address HIV within these populations.

WCT: Gay men have been banned from donating blood in the United States since 1983. Do you foresee this ban being overturned in the near future?

GM: I don't know, because I don't work with the part of the administration that's working on this. I did work with the group that was overturning the HIV travel ban as part of the admin-

Dr. Phair: A warrior fighting HIV/AIDS

BY TULLY SATRE

In the field of HIV/AIDS, Chicago-based Dr. John Phair is a familiar name.

He spearheaded research with the National Institute of Health/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) in 1983. MACS provided groundbreaking contributions to understanding HIV/AIDS through studying the natural and treated history of the HIV infection.

He applied for and received funding from the NIAID to establish the Chicago Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Unit in 1987. Phair served as the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Group, overseeing the scientific, administrative, and fiscal decisions of the network during the early stages of therapy.

He was the Chair for the AIDS Research Advisory Committee for the NIAID from 2000 to 2002.

In 2005, Phair was honored by the American College of Physicians with the John Phillips Memorial Award for Outstanding Work in Clinical Medicine. It was certainly not the first time Phair was recognized for his extraordinary impact on HIV/AIDS treatment and research, and would surely not be the last. In the Spring of 2010 Phair became the first recipient of the International AIDS Society-USA Lifetime Leadership Award.

"My interests were focused mainly on complications of HIV infection," said Phair about when he first became involved in treating HIV/AIDS patients. "When HIV infects and you can't treat it, it destroys the ability of the body to resist other infections."

Much of Phair's work was not directly with the virus, but with the complications that resulted from infection.

After graduating from Yale University, Phair attended medical school in his hometown at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Upon completing his studies in 1960, Phair returned to Connecticut to do his residency at the Yale New Haven Hospital where he first began training in internal medicine and infectious disease.

"This was a part of medicine in which we had treatment," Phair explained of the work he started during his residency. "So people basically did well. We could manage to make people better."

In 1967, he joined the faculty at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, where he remained for just under a decade before accepting the position of Chair of the Division of Infectious Disease and Director of the Samuel J. Sackett Laboratories at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University.

"My research prior to my involvement with HIV was focused upon the immunology of infections," Phair said. "David Ostrow [who helped form the Howard Brown Health Center] approached me and asked whether I knew anything about this disease that was killing gay men. I had seen a couple of cases at Northwestern, but because of my immunology research, I was interested."

Before encountering HIV/AIDS, most of the infectious diseases Phair worked with were easily treated with antibiotics or other medicines. "AIDS came along and it became apparent that there was no longer treatment," Phair recalled. "In that period because of fear and the novelty of [HIV/AIDS], infectious diseases at Northwestern became the group who managed patients who came to Northwestern with what we came to know as AIDS."

Initially, Phair helped carry out a small study at the Howard Brown Health Center (then known as Howard Brown Memorial Clinic), which did not yield substantial results. However, it led to an application to the National Institute of Health, and in 1983, with Dr. Ostrow spearheading the move, the NIH started the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS). Dr. Phair was appointed principal investigator of the Chicago part of the study, which worked in collaboration with other researchers and investigators around the country.

"AIDS was basically a change in the whole focus of infectious disease," Phair said, recalling the shift in thought that AIDS had on the medical field. "Before [HIV/AIDS] we had been consultants; we saw patients and we would recommend therapy and they would get better. Now we became the primary care physicians for a group of people who we could not really do anything for."

"We had to care for people, rather than treat people," said Phair. "It was a shock in the 1980s not to be able to do something for somebody ... it was a very tough time." Phair said that most patients with AIDS at Northwestern were gay

AIDS Clinical Trials Group, a network of more than 30 universities, which was established by the NIH. The Chicago Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Unit was established on the horizon of successful treatments for people living with HIV/AIDS. The introduction of AZT to the pharmaceutical market was a breakthrough, "but not perfect," Phair emphasized.

AZT alone did not make much of an impact and it often came with many side effects. It was not until 1995 that new drugs were introduced, which combined with existing drugs at the time provided a treatment that controlled the virus, if taken religiously.

"The initial cocktails were very difficult to take," said Phair. "Drugs today are better, with less side effects. And they're easier to take: one pill, once a day as opposed to the 15 to 20 pills a day in 1995."

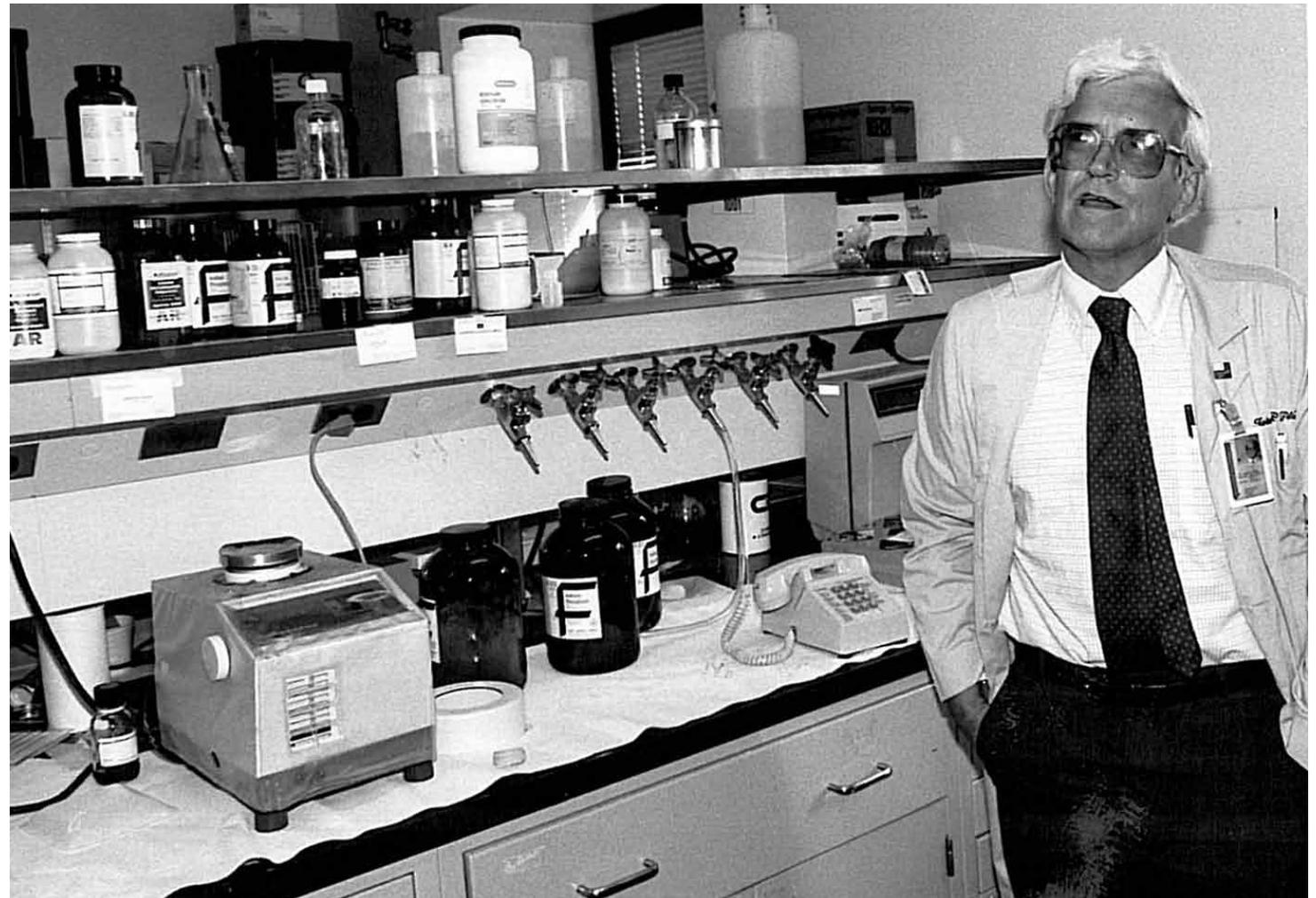
But even the safer drugs still have side effects, Phair warns. As HIV infections continue to rise, particularly among a young MSM (men-who-have-sex-with-men) demographic, Phair stressed the importance of being safe. "Even though life expectancy is closer to what you'd expect if you weren't infected ... life is still

and survived those early days are older and the younger men [today] don't have that experience. They're not seeing their friends die, so they sometimes don't buy into the message of the necessity of safe-sex and safe behaviors in general. They also think the drugs [used to treat HIV] solve things ... and people get tired of being careful. There has been some slippage of safe behavior. I think we still have a great number of people with new infections who are gay men."

After 30 years, the response to the disease once dubbed "gay cancer" has seen great progress due to the efforts of people such as Dr. Phair. But the responsibility for the disease has shifted on a different generation.

Demonstrating numerous accomplishments and contributions to HIV/AIDS research, Phair officially stepped down in 2000 as head of the Division of Infectious Disease, and the Samuel J. Sackett Laboratories at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University. Dr. Phair continues to work with MACS, but no longer takes responsibility for the treatment center.

Still active today, MACS, which moved to Northwestern after funding controversies at Howard



Dr. John Phair in 1988. Photo by Bill Burks for Outlines newspaper

men. "All of us were impressed by their grace, and courage," Phair said of his early patients, "and altruism ... wanting to participate in research to respond to this epidemic."

For the first six to seven years, there was very little that could be done to help patients with AIDS. "All we could really do was hold their hand," said Phair.

In 1987, Dr. Phair applied for funding from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (a division of the NIH) to open a center for experimental treatment in Chicago. The center was setup at Northwestern in relationship with Rush Medical and was a part of the larger

shortened a little bit," said Phair. Additionally there are several complications that result from side effects of drugs used today to treat HIV including heart, kidney and liver diseases. "While the drugs suppress the virus," Phair explained, "some of the deleterious effects of HIV infection continue [and] chronic infection can lead to complications."

Recent studies across the board have continued to show a dramatic increase in HIV infections for men who have sex with men, particularly among men their 20s. "I think in the '80s when men saw their friends dying it made an impact," Phair said. "The men who were alive

Brown Health Center in 2010 (HBHC is now a subcontractor), is the longest running study of people living with HIV/AIDS. With nearly 7,000 initial participants, MACS studied the long-term effects of HIV and treatment in gay men. As of 2009, the study enrolled just above 2,500 participants, with several of the participants having passed away from AIDS-related illnesses, or having dropped out altogether.

MACS boasts a number of contributions to the fight against HIV/AIDS including more than 1100 peer reviewed publications, which have greatly increased awareness and understanding of HIV/AIDS.

Jim Sullivan:

From med student to HIV/AIDS specialist

BY ROSS FORMAN

In 1987, as a 23-year-old medical student at the University of Michigan, openly gay Jim Sullivan already knew that he wanted to do HIV work. It was easy to identify with the patients, most of whom were young gay men, and the experience resonated with his coming-out process.

"When I was in the closet at [age] 19, I thought mostly of escape ... of maybe going into the priesthood, or of running off to California where my family wouldn't see who I was," Sullivan said. "By the time I was 23, I knew that there was no such thing as escape, and that there didn't need to be. I could be myself, and still have a good, meaningful life. As horribly afraid as I was of HIV as it unfolded around me, I knew that facing it head-on all day was the answer."

Though the disease was exploding in New York, California and elsewhere, there were only a limited number of cases in Michigan at the time. So, as a senior, Sullivan went west, to work an elective rotation at San Francisco General Hospital.

"It was incredible, emotional and very intense," Sullivan said. "When I came back [to the Midwest] from San Francisco, I knew that this path would be right for me for the rest of my life."

During the day in San Francisco, he saw young men dying horribly, by the dozens, "and the best we could do was give them another year or two."

Sullivan also found a freedom in San Francisco, and friends, and role models ... and "a calling" to the field of HIV medicine, he said.

"I was very afraid that I would catch HIV myself ... hey, I was gay and 23. I knew the statistics," said Sullivan, who went out to bars in Detroit and Ann Arbor, and to gay student group activities at Michigan. "As I dated and accumulated [gay] friends, I always kept in my mind a sense that something awful was enveloping us."

None of his friends during those years knew they had HIV/AIDS, but within a few years after leaving medical school, "the calls began coming," Sullivan recalled.

First was a fraternity brother, who was dead at 24. Then an ex-boyfriend. Then a close bar-hopping buddy.

"The scope of the problem was under-estimated in the early-1980s by the people who were at-risk of contracting it," Sullivan said. "I guess that hasn't changed much, has it?"

As a medical student, Sullivan got his first true, up-close exposure to the disease—through his patients. Longer term follow-up of patients began in 1992, when he returned to Rush Medical Center in Chicago to start his infectious disease fellowship. "Those were grim years, the patients died ... in crops," he said. "They were so sick. They would hobble along, accumulating complication after complication, as their last few T cells evaporated."

In 1996, Sullivan left his initial post at University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center, and entered clinical practice at St. Joseph Hospital in Lakeview. That's where he began developing relationships with patients that have endured in many cases to this day. And 1996 also was the year that protease inhibitors came into use, allowing for three-drug highly active regimens which could fully suppress HIV to undetectable levels.

"That was a momentous change, such a mira-



Jim writes: This is me at 23, standing on a hill at 28th and Castro, with my friend Dan Berkowitz. He took me in to stay at his place when I was doing my rotation at San Francisco General Hospital. I didn't know anyone there. He and his boyfriend came to the Ward 87 clinic because they were worried. But they didn't want to get tested because there was nothing that could be done. Dan remains one of my best friends, and is well. Dan and Danilo had a commitment ceremony at 10 years, then soon after Danilo died a horrible death from AIDS in 1995 (aspergillus in his sinuses ate into the base of his brain ... it was painful and gruesome and it still makes me cry).

cle," he said. "All of a sudden, these people who should have been dead, well, they were alive. It was an incredible thing to see. So much hope, [things were] so much better. I remember that time very well."

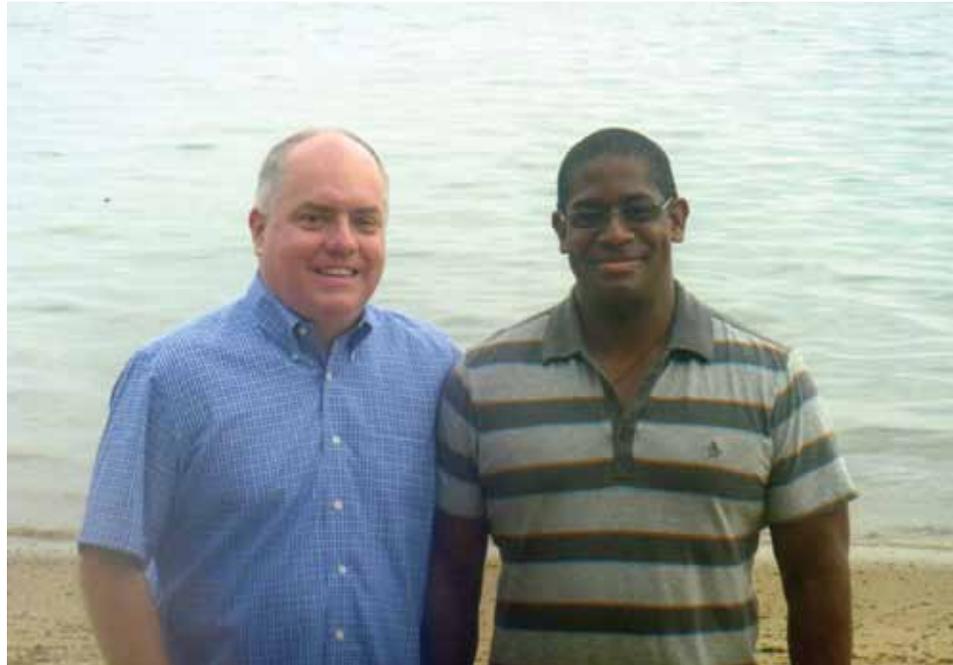
Sullivan now does HIV/AIDS work from four- to seven-hours per day, every day, often more. Most of the work is done at a private practice where, four days a week, he treats 300 to 350 patients. He also spends a half day per week at Laboure Clinic, which serves indigent patients at St Joseph Hospital. There, he mentors medical students and residents while seeing the patients.

"One of the things I really like about my current practice, where there are five doctors in my group, is ... we have stuck to a policy where,

when one of our patients is admitted to the hospital [due to HIV/AIDS], the doctor who knew him in the office goes to see him in the hospital. That has become very rare as clinics grow larger, and as hospitalists stand in for the outpatient doctors who knew the patients as people before they got so sick," Sullivan said.

Now 48 and living in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood, Sullivan is the Director of Laboure HIV Clinic at St. Joseph's Hospital. He has been working in the HIV/AIDS world for about 25 years. He performed research while he trained at Rush, and worked on studies at UIC and through the CPCRA at St Joseph.

"I am very proud to say that I enrolled several patients in the SMART study, which was such a turning point in our understanding of HIV man-



Jim is pictured with his partner Kyron McAllister. They met 18 years ago and have lived together for 16 years. Images courtesy of Jim Sullivan



Jim Sullivan in 2011.

agement," Sullivan said.

His role now is purely clinical.

"There's no question that the therapies [for treating HIV/AIDS patients] are much, much more effective. Over the past 10 years or so, it has mostly been about refining them, about finding out which are the least toxic," Sullivan said. "Most people diagnosed today easily can live 20 years or more on the medicines now available. It's so much better than medicines of years ago. And, it is utterly foolish to avoid testing and not know you have it, if you have it. Young men who wait too long still die ... and that just should not happen any more."

But still advances need to be made, he added.

"I think there are still some questions open about what to do for patients with a very high, stable T-cell count, and those low viral load patients," he said. "Also, one of the biggest problems is keeping people on medicines and keeping them adherent to the medicines." Many change providers and change locations of care, thus, many end up off their treatment.

"The most common reason people stop their medicine is: they lose their job, lose their insurance, and some cannot figure out what to do, so they fall out of care. Frankly, the whole system is sick. There are so many programs to keep people on track, and yet, so many go off track every year.

"Another really exciting thing [over] the last two years has been the dawning realization that treatment is prevention. Undetectable patients basically don't transmit. If we could find everyone with HIV and successfully treat them soon after they catch it, the epidemic would stop claiming new people. That's a big IF, though."

Despite the medical advances that continue, Sullivan is not convinced medical marvels will ever find a cure for HIV/AIDS.

"I know that everyone hopes for a cure, but I don't think there will be a cure at all," he said. "After all these years and all we know, I don't think that we'll ever be able to cure people."

It's frustrating, yes, Sullivan said, but not the end of the world, so to speak.

"Your future can be bright, but with HIV, it is still always there, absolutely," he said. "Sure, you may be doing wonderfully and have an undetectable viral load and be taking your pills. But stop your pills and you'll lose all that. It's different from other diseases in that ... you're never really free of it.

"But we do have a really good solution for almost everyone now. Patients now will, or can, live for a long time. But, they will have to see the doctor four- to six-times annually, and take pills daily, for the rest of their life. If they can become the master of that [regimen], then they can pretty much live a normal life."

Dance For Life sparks reflections on HIV anniversary

BY A CHICAGOAN LIVING WITH HIV

The writer, who chooses to be anonymous, is a staff member at a Chicago-area AIDS housing agency. He is a Hispanic male in his 50s and enjoys the movies, time with friends, and politics. This item was originally published on the Chicago gay men's health blog LifeLube.

This last week in August marked the one-year anniversary of my infection with HIV. I have given some thought and prayer on how I should mark this anniversary.

Should I even celebrate the anniversary?

Should I not think the marking of it as a celebration at all—especially since it includes feelings of sadness, loss, anger, but then there are also feelings of much gratitude and hope ... ?

Should I celebrate alone or with others?

I attended the 20th Anniversary Performance of Chicago's "Dance for Life" event. It was a beautiful and powerful performance by committed artists and dancers who believe in and support our fight to end AIDS. As the celebration began, the CEO of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago announced that it was not only the 20th anniversary of the "Dance for Life," but also the six-month anniversary of his becoming the CEO and more importantly the 17th year of his being infected and living with the virus. People applauded wildly after he announced the 20th year for the event; but it came obvious that many did not know how to respond to the announcement of the anniversary of his infection 17 years ago. A few in the large audience applauded but many remained silent with most of them, I am sure, pondering how to respond to such an announcement—the anniversary of someone's infection with HIV/AIDS.

How should I mark MY one-year anniversary and should I identify it as a celebration? Should I mark it alone or with others, at least with one or two who know and offer me much support in my life with HIV? As I lay awake on my bed at 4 a.m. Sunday morning, those questions entered the deeper part of my heart, mind and spirit.

I certainly experience much, much gratitude for the medication and medical attention I have been able to receive over the past year. I take daily medication that is keeping my viral load undetectable and CD4 count at a very normal and healthy level. It is very expensive medication and medical treatment, yet my work health insurance plan makes it possible. I am also especially grateful that our health insurance companies in this country can no longer deny me coverage for having a "pre-existing" illness in case I were to switch employment.

The gratitude, however, is mixed with much sorrow, sadness and often anger since there are so many of my fellow life travelers living with HIV/AIDS who do not have this access to medication and healthcare. In our country, which is the wealthiest in the world, many go without medications or easy access to care, and in the world many are still dying of a disease that is no longer fatal if one is provided with medications and medical attention.

My anger especially flares up when I hear so many people, mostly out of ignorance and close-mindedness, oppose expanding health insurance for infected individuals living with the virus (and all others who need it) through our recently adopted healthcare reform. I am glad "Obama cares" enough for us and millions others in our country who need to know they will now be able see a doctor and get needed medications, especially when they are in pain or worried about their health.

I have always tried to take good care of my body through a healthy diet, sufficient exercise and adequate sleep. During the past year this approach to taking care of my body took special significance. The medications and treatment cannot on their own keep me healthy as my body fights the virus on a daily basis. And so this week I am also grateful for the opportunities I have to keep my body fit and healthy. I have access to a gym, nutritious food, and a decent and safe house where I can rest and take care of myself. I have them because I have a good job that allows me such opportunities.

But again anger flares up in my heart and gut when I consider the many who do not have these opportunities today, especially a home or a job that allows them to take care of themselves and their chronic illnesses. As the rich keep getting richer in our nation and the poor and middle class lose more and more income on a yearly basis, homes and jobs seem to become much less available to many among us.

Finally, should I celebrate the experience that I nowadays have of having somewhat befriended the virus that lives within my body? I wish with all my heart it did not live there or in the bodies of any human being in this world. Yet it is there. And until researchers find the cure for HIV/AIDS, it will continue to be an intimate part of my body and life. I am reminded of that every day

as I take my \$50-a-day pill to keep the virus undetectable in my blood stream.

In a year's time I have learned how to accept that I am HIV positive and to see opportunities for growth as a person, especially in hospitality and compassion.

I have worked for a number of years in the field that fights against AIDS and supports those living with the virus. But nowadays I have much more solidarity in heart and mind with them. I am one of them and with them today.

I have always tried to practice hospitality and compassion because of my spiritual faith. When persons are hospitable, they "make room" in their lives for others. And there are so many ways to do so with persons living with the virus: by sharing our resources for the fight against AIDS like so many did last night at the 2011 Dance for Life event; or supporting directly infected individuals and families with much personal care and love; or not judging or stigmatizing them out of ignorance; or by working actively and politically for the resources and opportunities sick people need to remain healthy.

I have always tried to practice hospitality in my life; but now that the virus lives within me, I am all the more committed to "making room" in my life for those who travel through this life with the virus in their bodies.

I learned a long time ago that truly compas-

sionate persons are those that know how to suffer with others. The very word compassion comes from the Latin words to "suffer" (passus) and "with" (cum).

My spiritual faith has allowed and supported me to suffer with others in my life over the years. But now that the virus lives within me, I can accompany those infected by HIV/AIDS in a much stronger and closer way. I have and I am dealing with the fear, the anxiety, and the worries that this virus could one day compromise my immune system that keeps us humans alive and healthy. But I also share much more closely the hope and the dreams with other persons living with HIV/AIDS. Nowadays we may be able to live until an old age and enjoy life to its fullest. After the one year, I am all the more compassionate since I can suffer and hope much more closely with my fellow HIV-positive life travelers.

Maybe one day before I die, the virus will leave my body through some type of cure. But until it does, I am learning to live with it. It is an unwelcome friend. But it is a friend since it is making me a more hospitable and compassionate person in this life.

I guess I can celebrate the one-year anniversary of my infection.



Image from the 2011 20th anniversary Dance for Life in August. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY TIMES



**LAUREN
BLITZER-
WRIGHT**

The American dream: An interfaith, same-sex wedding

It has taken me about a week to get this note together, not because of the hurricane, earthquake or any other natural disaster that has swept the east coast, but because I'm afraid I will not be able to do the content justice. On Saturday, Aug. 20, I was walked down the aisle by both of my parents, in front of 200 family members and friends to meet my bride-to-be, Chely Wright; our reverend, Welton Gaddy; and my Aunt Ellen, who was our rabbi for the day. We were living our own American Dream, an interfaith, same-sex wedding on a sunny Saturday in Connecticut.

But little did the crowd of family and friends know—we were already legally married.

With the luck of the draw (and pre-registering for a N.Y. state marriage license), Chely and I were picked to be one of the first couples to be married in New York City. Not wanting to take away from the specialness of our Connecticut wedding, we told no one. But the pull to make history was too great. We wanted in. This was our day. At 8 a.m. on Sunday, July 24, we lined up at City Hall in Manhattan in the extreme heat, with approximately 600 other same-sex couples smiling ear to ear. No one complained about the heat or the five-hour wait to just get into the building. What we experienced on that line was the community that had been fighting for this and other rights for decades.

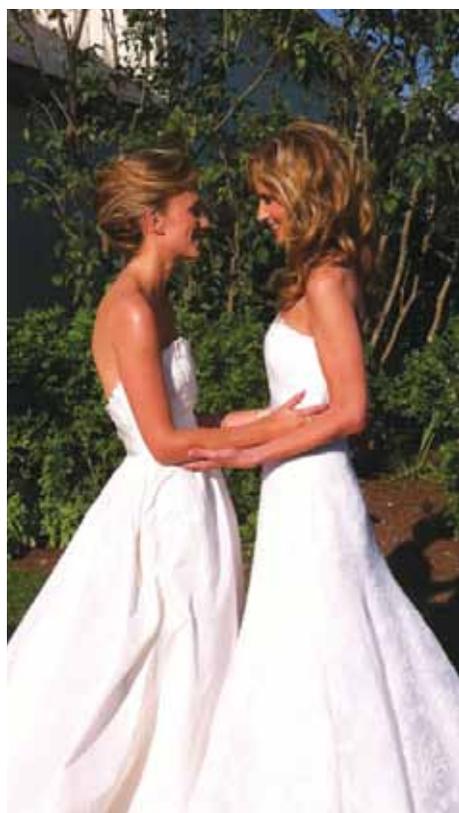
Chely and I had only been planning our wedding for less than a year—but the handsome couple behind us had been waiting for this for 22 years. A schoolteacher and firefighter from New Jersey, these two gentlemen had stood by each other since the late eighties, seeing friends perish from the AIDS epidemic, experiencing work place discrimination and staying together through it all. They wore purple flowers on their shirts and brought their witnesses, a straight couple who have been their best friends for years. We were surrounded by history.

The overwhelming sense of pride, togetherness, joy and genuine love was beyond what I could have imagined. City Hall employees who

were overworked with these new Sunday hours and a crowd bigger than Valentine's Day, didn't seem to mind. Police officers, ordered there for safety, were congratulating couples as they walked by. ONE protester stood with a sign that say "God hates Gays," toting a Bible and screaming from the top of his lungs. He was quickly interrupted by the crowd of supporters clapping and an even larger sign that read "God Loves Gays." In a matter of seconds he was muffled by the homemade sign and outpouring of support.

From the line, to the waiting room, to the Judge who took care in every second of our time together, the day was as it should be, magical. As we exited the courthouse, with our marriage license in my hand, we were welcomed by at least 200 people clapping and screaming for every couple that walked out married. Even writing it now swells my eyes with tears.

The day was not just about us, it was about all the LGBT couples that shared their wedding, stories and sense of community that day. That resonated with us in a deep way. We were married 600 times, we were the couple behind us, we were the oldest couple to get married, we



Lauren Blitzer and Chely Wright on their wedding day. Photo courtesy of Blitzer-Wright

were the youngest—we were all the same.

When it came time to share the day in Connecticut with our friends and family, we wanted to make sure they knew just how important every person there was. How their support and love for us and the LGBT community, is why we move one step closer to full equality everyday. As our traditional "first dance" was about to begin, Chely took the microphone and thanked the crowd for coming. Prior to that day I had suggested that we take some of the tradition out of our wedding and add some of our own new traditions. So began one of the most meaningful moments of our life so far. Chely continued, "Lauren and I have been so inspired by the family and friends who have come here today, and nothing will ever change that. We've also been deeply inspired by so many of the same-sex couples who have joined us, and we would like to not only dedicate our first dance to all of you, but also invite all of the same-sex couples to the dance floor to share our first dance with us."

We did not realize until after that moment, that most of the same-sex couples who were there had never felt comfortable enough to actually dance together at a wedding. That they never felt a sense of comfort or acceptance at a wedding.

It was a sad realization, but one that is about to change drastically.

While Faith in America is not a religious organization and many of us share different beliefs, Chely and I consider spirituality an important part of our lives. I've recently heard some ridiculous theories from religious people—like suggesting gays elicit God's wrath through natural disasters (a hurricane and earthquake in one week). This is what I know—acts of God are unique and beautiful and I experienced two; July 24 and Aug. 20.

Lots of friends have asked us where we are registered and "what can we get you." We have everything we need (or all that can fit in NYC apartment), so we've asked kindly that they show their support for us by supporting Faith in America, by supporting LGBT people everywhere and helping prevent that religious and moral stamp of disapproval being placed on all our friends, supporters and LGBT community members, particularly in North Carolina where the anti-gay marriage amendment is being considered by lawmakers this week.

Lauren Blitzer-Wright is the development director of Faith in America. To make a gift, visit <https://www.faithinamerica.org/donate>.

LETTERS

Here's the rub

Dear Editor:

With these statistics about HIV/AIDS among young Black gay/bisexual men, a radical solution ought to be implemented. It is simple, free and effective: frottage—non-penetrating, face-to-face, male body-to-male body friction of penis to partner's belly to orgasm.

This simple, free and effective way of same-gender lovemaking ought to be mantra #1 in the prevention effort. "Wear a condom, get tested, wear a condom, get tested" is not working as a primary message.

It is extremely frustrating to be 57 years old, to have tested negative for HIV in July 2011 and to be a man who has been very sexual with both negative and positive partners since 1972 witness this very effective method of HIV-infection prevention be kept off the table by prevention specialists.

Success in using frottage as a primary or ex-

clusive means of sexual expression during this deadly epidemic can greatly improve these dismal statistics. An appropriate boundary for men to stay negative for HIV is: no anal sex in any position, no exceptions.

Sincerely yours,
Max Smith
Chicago

Send letters and viewpoints to
Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.
Items may be edited
for length or clarity.

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Community Marketing, Inc.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Photo by
Johnny
Knight

LABOR DAY

Waiting for Lefty—which features vignettes inspired by the New York cab strike of 1934—is reviewed on page 27.

THEATER

'North' face.
Page 26.

Brian Plocharczyk in *Farragut North*.
Photo by Johnny Knight



DISH

Ashley's 'Foodgasm.'
Page 36.

Photo of Ashley Simone
by Michelle Kaffko



SPORTS

The puck stops here.
Page 42.

Photo of Mike Quigley
by Ross Forman



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Talking with
Robert Patrick

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Gay playwright/poet/lyricist/novelist Robert Patrick is set to receive the 2011 Artistic Achievement Award from The New York Innovative Theatre Awards, an organization founded in 2004 to honor great work in New York City's off-off-Broadway scene, Sept. 19.

However, Patrick, a 74-year-old retiree living in Los Angeles, won't be on hand to pick up the award. Actress Shirley Knight, who won a Tony Award after starring in the 1975 Broadway production of Patrick's drama *Kennedy's Children*, is set to accept the award on Patrick's behalf.

When asked during a telephone interview why he couldn't accept the award in person, Patrick matter-of-factly said, "Money." As much as Patrick would love to attend the ceremony, he can't afford the New York transportation and hotel costs.

Patrick joins the ranks of previous winners of the Artistic Achievement Award like playwrights Lanford Wilson and Maria Irene Fornes as well as avant-garde director Tom O'Horgan. Patrick also got his artistic start by chance when he walked into Greenwich Village's Caffe Cino (generally considered to be New York's first off-off-Broadway theatre) Sept. 14, 1961.

Patrick, a native Texan, started working behind the scenes at the Caffe Cino before the theater produced his first play, a gay drama called *The Haunted Host*, in 1964.

"That play has been presented to open so many gay theaters around the world—from Alaska to South Africa," Patrick said, though he surmises it's because it economically calls for only two actors. Patrick is also noted that is was

in a 1974 production of *The Haunted Host* that multi-Tony Award-winner Harvey Fierstein first performed as a male instead of in drag.

However, Patrick is arguably best known for *Kennedy's Children*, which looks at a generation's disillusionment with the American Dream following the tumultuous 1960s. First produced in London in 1973, *Kennedy's Children* has been produced worldwide and still sees the occasional revival. (Chicago's Promethean Theatre Ensemble produced it in 2010.)

However, Patrick said he would never have had any success with the play if it weren't for the long-gone gay Chicago theater company At the Drama Shelter. (The theater had the "At the" in its name so it could be first in the Chicago Reader's listings.)

Patrick said he was about to be evicted and homeless while living in Los Angeles when At the Drama Shelter's Ron Hitchcock and Daryl Hale provided him with an influx of unpaid royalty fees from *The Haunted Host* (the cash allowed Patrick to journey to London, where *Kennedy's Children* soon became a solid hit). As thanks, Patrick worked with At the Drama Shelter for about a year in 1974, happy spending his time largely within a five-block span near the theater's location at 2020 N. Halsted St.

Although Patrick would go on to write several other plays (often with gay themes like the seminal 1983 teenage drama *Blue is for Boys* and the 1988 historical cycle *Untold Decades*), he said he didn't handle success and fame very well. In 1980, Patrick admitted to making a horrible business decision to sell off the rights of his Samuel French-published plays, in large part to rid himself of an aggressive agent who was



Robert
Patrick.
Photo
courtesy
of Patrick

contractually tied to those works. (Patrick declined to name his former agent.)

"Even Samuel French advised me against it," Patrick said, adding that royalties from *Kennedy's Children* alone would have acted like an annuity. "I said that I'll just write other plays and some of them will be hits. And a lot of them were hits, but nowhere on the scale of *Kennedy's Children*."

Patrick said that he officially retired from theater in 1990, although some later plays have slipped through now and then (*The People's Theater of Chicago* produced Patrick's 1994 gays-working-in-show-business drama *Hollywood at Sunset* in 2007). Nowadays, Patrick makes no bones about living off of Social Security and freelancing reviews gay male porn films for a variety of outlets.

When asked what he'd like to be most remembered for, Patrick mentioned his rarely produced play *Judas* (a Jesus Christ drama seen from Pontius Pilate's perspective) and a children's production called *The Golden Circle* that is based upon the signs of the Zodiac. "They're all online to read, so don't take my word for it," Patrick said.

Patrick sadly noted that artistic associates who were previous Artistic Achievement Award recipients from The New York Innovative Theatre Awards have passed away not long after winning. However, he added that he's still going on strong thanks to a recent walking-as-exercise routine.

Also, though Patrick is sad he can't afford to pick up his New York award in person, he's greatly honored for what it symbolizes in terms of his life and career.

"It means the most important thing to any artist—it means that someone remembers my work," Patrick said of the award. "It is, after all, the be-all and end-all of doing it."

'Mormon' to proselytize in Chicago

Broadway in Chicago recently announced its 2012 seasonal lineup, and the big news is that a Chicago company of *The Book of Mormon* will play a 12-week engagement at the Bank of America Theatre starting December 2012.

The Chicago company will be separate from a *Book of Mormon* national touring company launching in Denver next August, which means that this wildly irreverent and nine-time Tony Award-winning musical by South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone with Avenue Q composer Robert Lopez might become a long-running Windy City hit on the scale of *Wicked* or *Jersey Boys* (providing that ticket sales prompt an extension or two).

Other shows in the 2012 lineup include *American Idiot*, *Fela!* and a new musical based upon the film *Bring it On*, plus several return engagements of shows like *Mamma Mia!*, *In the Heights*, *Jersey Boys*, *Cats* and more. Visit <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com> for more information.

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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.

If you or someone you know needs help paying for medicine, call 1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669). Or go to www.pparx.org



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

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

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

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† Wolters Kluwer. SDI Product Brand Report. Total Patient Tracker; November 2010.

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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), PRILOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole),** talk to your healthcare provider.
- **Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider.** It is important to stay under a healthcare provider’s care while taking REYATAZ.
- **When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low,** get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- **If you miss a dose of REYATAZ,** take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.**
- **If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ,** call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

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 ADAIR® (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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Rev February 2011



Cyrano. Photo by Michael Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW

Cyrano

Playwright: adapted by Matt Hawkins
from the play by Edmund Rostand

At: House Theatre of Chicago
at the Chopin, 1543 W. Division St.
Phone: 773-769-3832; \$25
Runs through: Oct. 16

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The rock 'n' roll score that welcomes us into the auditorium could herald any House production, but when a covey of courtiers clad in quasi-cavalier drag saunter into the room, greeting audience members in unmistakably midwestern accents, we suspect that this will not be the traditional Cyrano de Bergerac. Our premonitions are confirmed when an effete Josh Grobin-like Cyrano sits down at a piano to croon a "Who am I?" soliloquy, before being joined onstage by a football-jock Christian and a gushy Roxane wearing what appears to be a prom gown.

The premise of the nerdy swain who woos fair lady for his faint-hearted comrade can be—indeed, often has been—inclined toward a variety of dramatic genres with its resiliency undiminished. Matt Hawkins' abridged text cuts to the essence of Edmund Rostand's conflicted hero: "I wanted to be the best at everything," confesses our beaky protagonist. "It's not your nose, it's how you feel about it," best-buddy LeBret consoles him. "I—I can't find my—my mouth-words!" stammers the inarticulate Christian. Fortunately, the venerable Brian Hooker translation makes a few cameo appearances when heavy lifting is needed for the more emotive episodes.

Flowery eloquence is particularly exigent for the balcony scene, since Kevin O'Donnell's curiously insipid original songs are unlikely to inspire paroxysms of ecstasy. The sole moment justifying music's live performance is when Roxane, after hearing of her beloved Christian's death in the line of duty, comes upon Cyrano at the piano playing a dirge. Without a word, she sits next to him, taking up the melody for a four-handed serenade to their sorrow. Hawkins' choreography for Cyrano and Christian's final stand against the Spanish foe likewise reflects the fraternal bond engendered by their shared affection, the latter holding off the enemy charge, a saber in each hand, in order to guarantee the former's safe re-

turn to the woman they both love.

This parable of sacrifice loses none of its power for being reduced to a Classics Illustrated graphic novel. The actors deliver uniformly vigorous portrayals of their plot-mandated personalities, while the technical team takes full advantage of the expansive playing area provided by a gallery surrounding the stage's perimeter. The results may not be the definitive Cyrano de Bergerac, but its two-hour running time makes this an interpretation tailor-made for youthful attention spans.

CRITICS' PICKS

The Double, Babes With Blades at Lincoln Square, through Sept. 24. Its church-basement quarters may be shabby, but both the dialogue and the shiny rapiers dazzle in Barbara Lhota's gender-flexing homage to the proto-feminist screwball comedies of the 1930s and '40s. MSB

Sky's the Limit (Weather Permitting), Second City e.t.c., in an open run. American aspirations get spoofed with sarcastic pessimism in this great new comedy revue that unabashedly leans left with its wit and humor. SCM

Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, Drury Lane Theatre Oakbrook, through Oct. 9. It's simple: this is the best Sweeney Todd you ever are likely to see. Don't miss it. Greg Edelman and Liz McCartney are Sweeney and Mrs. Lovett. The ensemble, band and designs are astonishing. JA

A Walk In The Woods, Timeline Theatre at Theater Wit, through Nov. 20. The cold war may be over, but Lee Blessing's Reagan-era speculations on the arms race acquire fresh meaning when the diplomats taking a stroll for a private word or two are played by David Parkes and Janet Ulrich Brooks. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge
and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

Farragut North

Playwright: Beau Willimon
At: Stage Left Theatre at
Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont
Phone: 773-975-8150; \$25
Runs through: Oct. 9

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

A film adapted from the play Farragut North will soon be showing in a multiplex near you, but under the new title of *The Ides of March*. (Undoubtedly, that symbolic date drawn from Shakespeare's political-backstabber Julius Caesar is more accessible than the play's moniker, drawn from a Metro station name that leads to a district full of lobbyists in Washington, D.C.)

However, for those who want to take a gander at Beau Willimon's original 2008 play that inspired the forthcoming George Clooney/Ryan Gosling film, head over to Theater Wit to see how Stage Left Theatre interprets Farragut North in its Chicago premiere.

Willimon, a political campaign veteran and a former speechwriter for President Bill Clinton, creates a tension-filled drama about a savvy and ambitious 25-year-old press secretary named Stephen Bellamy (Brian Plocharczyk) who is the mastermind behind the Democratic presidential campaign for an unseen Gov. Mike Morris. Bellamy makes an uncharacteristic slip-up by meeting with rival campaign manager Tom Duffy (Sandy Elias) in the lead-up to the Iowa Caucuses, and then

spends the rest of the play desperately trying to cajole his way back into the good graces of campaign manager (and mentor) Paul Zara (Michael Dailey).

Bellamy's egotistical machinations and scrambling make Farragut North into a gripping drama questioning where true loyalty lies amid the backroom wrangling among political workers and the press.

Director Vance Smith does a good job of staging Farragut North for Stage Left Theatre, but there is room for improvement.

As the overconfident Bellamy, Plocharczyk should be more of an arrogant and power-hungry prick in the early scenes (think of a young Charlie Sheen). At the opening night performance, Plocharczyk came off as too much of a decent and nice guy, making Bellamy's monstrously revengeful actions at the end of the play feel uncharacteristically extreme.

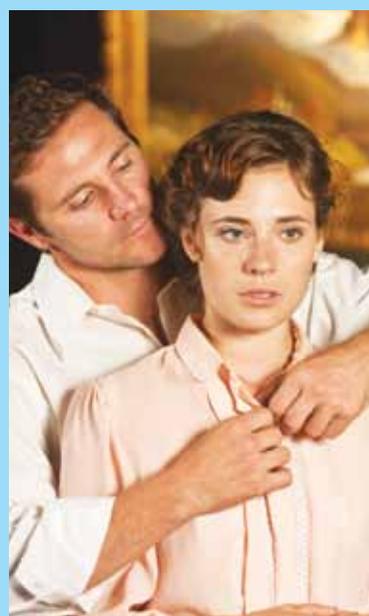
In fact, all of the performances could have been turned up an emotional notch, especially considering all the high-stakes conflicts and outcomes. Smith's pacing of the show could also have been more taught, what with some of the scenic changes slowing down the flow on Roger Wykes' otherwise functional multiple-location set.

However, in the grand scheme of things, Stage Left Theatre's Farragut North ultimately succeeds since it sheds some light on the frequently ugly underside of American politicking. Farragut North shows how sometimes a dose of jolting reality can be just as insightful and compelling as a serving of uplifting optimism.



Brian Plocharczyk
and Melanie Derleth
in Stage Left Theatre's
Farragut North.
Photo by Johnny Knight.

SPOTLIGHT



After making a splash with a hyper-intimate production of *Bus Stop*, The Den Theatre turns its attentions to gay playwright Tennessee Williams' lesser-known 1952 drama **Summer and Smoke**. The production features a cast that includes Eve Rydberg as a minister's daughter named Alma, who falls for a wayward medical school graduate played by Josh Odor (very memorable in *The Artistic Home's Sweet Bird of Youth*). *Summer and Smoke* continues in previews before its official opening night Sept. 16. Performances then continue through Oct. 29 at 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays at The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave. (second floor). Tickets are \$15-\$20. Call 773-609-2336 or visit <http://www.thedentheatre.com> for more information. Photo of Josh Odor and Eve Rydberg in *Summer and Smoke* courtesy of The Den Theatre

THEATER REVIEW

Waiting for Lefty

Playwright: Clifford Odets
 At: American Blues Theater
 at the Biograph, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.
 Phone: 773-871-3000; \$25
 Runs through: Oct. 2

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

We are at a union meeting, ostensibly of the New York City taxicab drivers, circa 1935. The gathering of the employed and formerly employed are drawn from a variety of occupations, and as they wait for their tardy chairman—the “Lefty” of the title—we hear their reasons for being there: the sweethearts who postpone marriage and family for want of a secure future. The husband whose wife upbraids him for their hungry children. The Jewish surgeon fired from her hospital job, replaced by an incompetent (but well-connected) quack. The lab assistant offered lucrative benefits in exchange for working on biological weapons—and informing on her supervisor. The actor whose regional experience (including Chicago’s Goodman Theatre) can’t land him a role on Broadway (“Even Jesus Christ couldn’t play [this part]—with all his talent,” grumbles the producer).

With such a record of injustice—did I mention the corporate-friendly union boss and the strike-breaking saboteur?—is it any wonder that citizens on the verge of despair turn to the promise of Communism? If that threat seems as quaint in 2011 as catch-phrases like “coffee-and” or “stalled like a flivver in the snow,” substitute the word “Socialism.” See how familiar it suddenly sounds?

The American Blues Theater company is well-practiced in conveying the dignity inherent in plays celebrating the proletarian diversity of our nation’s populace. Under Kimberly Senior’s meticulous direction, the 25 actors immerse themselves in their disparate roles so wholly

that even those stationed in the audience, as in the premiere production by the legendary Group Theatre, are distinguishable from playgoers only by their period clothing. The technical design is likewise first-rate, but Victoria DeIorio’s stirring sound design is worthy of special note.

Don’t fool yourself: This is not a docudrama, flaunting an academic veneer of “historical accuracy.” Clifford Odets’ approach to his material is undeniably romantic. In an age, however, when “truth” is the property of whomever has the most agile wordbenders on staff, sometimes a shot of old-fashioned agitprop is what’s needed to cut through the persiflage. Opinions, goes the saying, are like armpits (or assholes, depending on who’s listening) in that everybody’s got one and the other guy’s always stinks. American Blues’ 60-minute symposium offers you an opportunity to make up your own mind, and isn’t that a luxury nowadays?



Waiting for Lefty. Photo by Johnny Knight

THEATER REVIEW

The Kid Thing

Playwright: Sarah Gubbins
 At: Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago Ave.
 Tickets: www.chicagodramatists.org; \$32
 Runs through: Oct. 16

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Sarah Gubbins paid her playwriting dues assisting other playwrights in the development of their new pieces. Now she’s emerged with a voice of her own, and the intelligence of that voice is apparent in every word she writes and every moment she creates that goes from her page to a stage.

This new play, in a Chicago Dramatists and About Face world premiere, focuses on Darcy and Leigh, a young professional lesbian couple. When their best friends Nate and Margot, also a female couple, announce they are having a baby, Darcy and Leigh quickly begin wrestling with “the kid thing” themselves. Many of the pros and cons of having children are the same for all couples, gay or straight, but for lesbian couples their are additional factors to consider, among them adoption vs. birthing; selection of a sperm donor; and the role of the non-birth parent.

You probably will take sides fairly quickly as Darcy appears far more manipulative than Leigh, whose intensity emerges more slowly. The balance tips when Gubbins ramps things up by introducing a sperm donor who’s an old college friend of Leigh’s. Jacob quickly becomes a catalyst for the philosophical and emotional divides between Darcy and Leigh as each woman goes behind her partner’s back.

The Kid Thing is character-driven rather than plot-driven, a play of talk rather than action and a nice balance of sharp comedy and (mostly) drama. Especially in Act I, the dialogue—much of it over drinks and around the table—is witty and ultra-naturalistic, tumbling out of peoples’



The Kid Thing. Photo by Michael Brosilow

mouths quickly and overlapping, as directed by Joanie Schultz. Although it takes most of Act I for the actual storyline to emerge, you come to know the characters and their sometimes-unspoken attitudes very well. Gubbins’s play isn’t very complicated, yet it’s far from simplistic. Ultimately, considering a kid becomes a wedge issue for Darcy and Leigh as it has been for countless other couples both hetero and homo.

Schultz extracts maximum value from the play with a clean and sharply-focused staging. Kelli Simpkins, who seems to thrive on playing edgy characters, is Darcy to Park Krausen’s not-so-innocent Leigh. Rebekah Ward-Hays is voluptuous as Margot, who is pregnant but not showing yet, and perhaps not quite as keen on parenting as her butch partner, Nate, sweetly played by Halena Kays. The four are a wonderful mix of bodies, looks and heights and completely convincing in their roles. As Jacob, Steve O’Connell underplays to great effect, especially in his first comical scene with Leigh.

Scenic designer Chelsea M. Warren provides a detail-perfect vintage condo apartment stylishly decorated with tasteful furniture and interesting objects. Sarah Hughey’s lighting and Izumi Inaba’s in-character costumes warmly complete the play’s contemporary look.

THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE PRESENTS
ON STAGE WITH... SUSAN WERNER
 Saturday
 September 24, 2011
 8:00pm

4 EASY WAYS TO PURCHASE TICKETS
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 Joe Kinosian and
 Kellen Blair

**ACTOR,
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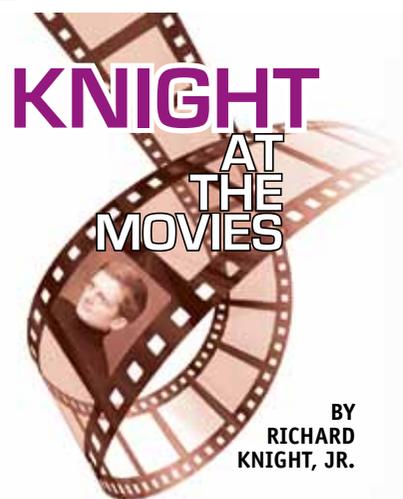
SOUND DESIGN
 James Savage

TICKETS \$25-30

JOE KINOSIAN ALAN SCHMUCKLER
 -IN-
MURDER FOR TWO
 book & music by JOE KINOSIAN
 book & lyrics by KELLEN BLAIR
 directed by DAVID H. BELL

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BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

Gun Hill Road; I Don't Know How She Does It; film note

It's been three years since Enrique has been in prison and away from wife Angela and teenage son Michael. However, Enrique, a stereotypically macho Latino who has spent the last part of his prison sentence in solitary after beating up a gay prisoner, is coming home. What awaits him are a wife who has taken up with another man and a son who is transitioning from male to female. You'd better believe big trouble looms in **Gun Hill Road**, writer/director Rashaad Ernesto Green's moving portrait of a fractured family trying to find a way to hang onto their love.

Unlike *La Mission*, a movie with a similar plot that focused primarily on the father's attempt to come to terms with his son's coming out, *Gun Hill Road*—which takes its title from the tough Bronx neighborhood in which it is set—pulls off the neat trick of giving us the viewpoint of each of its lead characters. We alternately feel contempt and sympathy for Enrique, who is played with finesse by Esai Morales (who also executive-produced) as he struggles with inbred prejudices in contending with both his cultural and familial issues. Judy Reyes, as Angela, is a marvel of complexity—cautiously optimistic, angry, protective, vulnerable and sexy. She is truly the tie that tries to bind this fragile trio together. Lastly, Harmony Santana, a transgender actress in her debut as Michael/Vanessa, ably brings off the difficult role that requires just as much bravado (albeit from a very different place) as the father displays and just as much sweetness, spirit and, above all, toughness as the mother's. Mostly, we're aware of the character's innate courage and determination despite the challenges.

Though the story follows a familiar trajectory (gender-reassignment movies having seemingly replaced the coming-out story as the plot of choice for LGBT-themed films), *Gun Hill Road* offers a lot of fresh insight into the day-to-day ex-



Sarah Jessica Parker in **I Don't Know How She Does It**. Photo by Craig Blankenhorn and The Weinstein Company

perience that Michael encounters as he balances school and his overwhelming urge to become a woman. Surprisingly, although he endures the typical homophobic reaction at school, he's also provided both a lot more support and blithe indifference regarding his trans status than stereotypes would imagine.

Green also doesn't shy away from scenes in which Michael/Vanessa deals with the usual teenage sexual urges. After Vanessa, performing stand-up poetry, hooks up with a male fan (who doesn't care that she's still partially male as long as she's willing to offer sex) the teen, infatuated with a first love, willingly complies with his sexual demands. These scenes are punctuated by moments in which Vanessa visits a female transgender neighbor who offers illegal hormone injections and the like. Robin DeJesus (who played a central character in the delightful *Camp*) plays Michael's sassy best friend who accompanies him on these eye-opening visits.

The complexity of the emotions that run through Enrique's head as he tries to deal with Michael's desire to transition is perhaps the film's freshest triumph. Although Enrique does some truly appalling things, Green gets at the deep love and connection that exists between father and child.

At one point, the two warily watch a television show together on the couch and later, when Michael falls asleep on dad's shoulder, the visual is quite touching. Just at that point Angela walks in. The exchange of looks between her and Enrique is a moving, telling moment.

In spite of all their differences and the uncertainty of what lies ahead (and, yes, there's a lot more trouble in store at this point in the movie), that look tells us that these three are inextricably bound together despite the odds.

It's a poignant moment in a heartfelt, illuminating film filled with them.

Sarah Jessica Parker warms up for *Sex and the City 3* by taking the lead in **I Don't Know How She Does It**—the story of Kate Reddy, a harried (to say the least) urbanite juggling motherhood and a big-time career. The movie, based on Allison Pearson's best-selling novel, is a modern-day variation on movies like *Baby Boom* and *Mr. Mom*. It draws its tepid humor from stuff like

Kate passing off a store-bought pie as home-made for the bake sale to fool other competitive, perfect moms; itching from a head lice outbreak during a corporate meeting; and, of course, vomit.

Not surprisingly, our *Girl Friday* is surrounded by barracudas at the office (SNL's Seth Meyers and Olivia Munn as her cool-as-ice number two), and a demanding boss (Kelsey Grammer) versus a teddy bear of a husband coming to the rescue on the home front (the adorable Greg Kinnear, wasted). There's also a supportive best friend to hold her hand and listen to her rants (Christina Hendricks of *Mad Men*, also wasted) and a good-looking lothario (Pierce Brosnan) trying to steal her affections.

Director Douglas McGrath does what he can with this not particularly funny and awfully familiar material. A few of the characters directly address the audience, discussing the pros and cons of Kate's plight. Aline Brosh McKenna's script wrestles with the age-old battle-of-the-sexes questions but doesn't really have any answers to offer (no surprise there) and keeps Parker's character fidgeting like mad and talking a mile a minute.

Late in the movie, when the husband has the inevitable freak-out and tells Kate he just wants five minutes of peace, you can feel the audience nodding in agreement—some in the audience identifying with the situations facing Kate and the rest just wishing the movie itself would take a chill pill.

Film note:

—Patty Duke, longtime friend of the LGBT community who delighted fans when she appeared last fall in conjunction with a screening of the camp classic *Valley of the Dolls* at the Music Box, returns to the Chicago area for another must-see screening.

This time the dynamic actress will be on hand for a screening of 1962's **The Miracle Worker**, the film which won Duke an Oscar at the ripe old age of 16. The movie will be shown at 2 p.m. at the historic Arcada Theater, 105 E. Main St., St. Charles, followed by a Q&A onstage with Duke that Daily Herald film critic and Chicago Film Critics Association President Dann Gire will conduct. Although VIP tickets for the event are

sold out, plenty of \$15 general-admission tickets remain. Autographed Patty Duke books and photos will be available for purchase in the theater lobby.

The event is a benefit for the Open Door Clinic in Aurora. Open Door is an HIV clinic that specializes in testing and support services. <http://www.opendoorclinic.org>

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



Harmony Santana in *Gun Hill Road*.

'Stitched' at museum Sept. 18

A screening of *Stitched*—a 72-minute documentary about three quilters racing to complete their entries for the International Quilt Festival, the largest quilt show in the nation—will take place Sunday, Sept. 18, at the National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St., 2-4 p.m.

One of the quilters who is profiled is gay man Randall Cook, who sparked controversy with his quilt of a male nude.

DVDs will be available at this free event. See <http://www.stitchedfilm.com>.



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FALL MOVIE AND MUSIC ROUNDUP

Fall queer movie preview

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Fall officially arrives in a few weeks but as usual movies are ahead of Mother Nature—pushing the awards season envelope with festival buzz and laying odds on their heavyweight contenders. It's seemingly the one time of year that pictures with riskier content have a chance of a) actually getting booked in a theatre and b) getting seen and appreciated by more than the coveted teenage fanboy crowd. In other words, get ready for a fair amount of films with LGBT themes. Locally, queer film audiences have much to anticipate between now and the end of the year.

September

Circumstance, the story of a budding and extremely forbidden lesbian romance set in Iran from bisexual filmmaker Maryam Keshavarz, is currently in theaters and shouldn't be missed. Neither should **Gun Hill Road**, the story of a Latino ex-con returning home to the Bronx after a three year absence to find that his teenage son is in the process of transitioning to female. (See my review in this week's edition of WCT.)

The Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., has been building its LGBT-themed movie programming and they'll have the Chicago premiere beginning Sept. 23 of **A Good Man**, a documentary about out dancer/choreographer Bill T. Jones' creation of an historic work about Abraham Lincoln. The following week the Siskel screens the documentary **Women Art Revolution**, a concurrent portrait of a group of women artists including queer film historian B. Ruby Rich and sculptor Judy Chicago.

That same weekend, on Sept. 28, the Music

first in town to see the eagerly anticipated Tilda Swinton drama **We Need to Talk About Kevin**.

Dirty Girl, a road-trip comedy in which an overweight gay twentysomething hooks up with a sluttish party girl, is in theatres Oct. 7. That same weekend the Music Box screens the first Halloween event of the season on Sunday, Oct. 9 at 2 p.m. when Camp Midnight gives the camp-tacular matinee treatment to the 1976 horror classic **Carrie**. It's a partial benefit for Handbag Productions and Dick O'Day, the alter ego of yours truly will be on hand as host. The Music Box will also host a return of film writer Rob Elder's "Movie that Changed My Life" series with a screening of **The Godfather** Oct. 16 featuring **Boys Don't Cry/Stop Loss** director Kimberly Peirce in attendance.

The big-budget costume drama **The Three Musketeers**, starring up-and-coming Welsh actor Luke Evans, arrives in theatres Oct. 21 (and premieres here earlier in the month at the Chicago International Film Festival). Evans, who also stars in the forthcoming big-budget fantasy epic **The Immortals** (Nov. 11), has been the subject of intense Internet buzz of late—for apparently heading back into the closet after outing himself years ago. When the dust settles, could we finally have the first openly queer A-list movie star?

Queer Spanish writer-director Pedro Almodovar's latest film, **The Skin I Live In**, in which he reunites with Antonio Banderas, arrives in Chicago on Oct. 21 as well. **Martha Marcy May Marlene**—which stars the Olsen twins younger sister, Elizabeth as a young woman suffering from the psychological fallout after escaping a cult—premieres here that same date. The film has absolutely no queer content, other than your out film critic has seen it and is touting it as one of the year's best films.

Roland Emmerich, the gay writer-producer-director of a batch of blockbusters, goes the liter-



Reeling promises to showcase many high-quality LGBT-themed films. Photo from the 2009 opening gala by Kat Fitzgerald

Box, 3733 N. Southport Ave., opens what promises to be one of the sexiest gay-themed movies of the year. The aptly titled **Weekend** focuses on an extended one-night stand that's being described as a "Before Sunrise for gay men" and promises to warm up the chill as fall officially arrives.

October

The 47th **Chicago International Film Festival** runs Oct. 6-20. Each year the fest screens hundreds of films from around the world, mixing all styles and genres, all making their Chicago debuts. Only 25 of the fest's titles were announced at press time but they include several prominent LGBT-related titles, including **Leave It On the Floor**, **Carol Channing: Larger Than Life**, and **Madame X**. Fest audiences will also be the

ary route with **Anonymous**, the story that asks the question, "Was Shakespeare a fraud?" Rhys Ifans and Vanessa Redgrave star in the costume epic that is in theatres Oct. 28.

October concludes with the Chicago premiere of lesbian director Wendy Jo Carlton's follow up to 2009's lesbian drama **Hannah Free**. **Jamie and Jessie are Not Together**, a romantic comedy with music, begins a weeklong run at the Siskel Oct. 28 with a gala premiere featuring Carlton, with cast and crew members (most from Chicago) in attendance. Carlton wrote and directed the feature. (See my interview with her in this issue.)

Turn to page 31

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FALL MOVIE PREVIEW

Wendy Jo Carlton: From 'Hannah' to 'Jamie and Jessie'

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

It's been three years since Wendy Jo Carlton directed Sharon Gless playing a lesbian (a dream of the lady queer community for decades) in *Hannah Free*, the movie adaptation of the award-winning play by Claudia Allen. Windy City Media Group Publisher Tracy Baim was an executive producer of the film.

However, after the critical success of *Hannah Free*, a lesbian romantic drama with an emphasis on the drama, Carlton decided to work on something much lighter in tone. To that end, she penned a romantic comedy—complete with songs (written in collaboration with Stephanie Vlcek). The result, which like *Hannah Free*, was shot here with Chicago actors and crewmembers, is the charming *Jamie and Jessie Are Not Together*.

The movie tracks the period in which Jamie announces to roommate Jessie (who harbors a secret crush on her) that she's leaving Chicago and moving to New York to try her luck on the Broadway stage. Before she leaves should Jessie let Jamie know her true feelings? As friends and lovers weigh in with their observant, sometimes hilarious opinions (often in song), the possibility of a new love interest for Jessie also begins to cloud the picture as the moving deadline approaches.

Jamie and Jessie has been touring the festival circuit to responsive audiences and good reviews (*AfterEllen* dubbed it "A pop confection with surprising depth") since June and now the movie will have its hometown premiere at the

Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State, on Oct. 28. The openly queer Carlton enthusiastically chatted about her latest "baby" in an exclusive interview with *Windy City Times*.

Windy City Times: I'm going to guess that the movie is slightly autobiographical?

Wendy Jo Carlton: I think the genesis for the story comes from several different worlds. One would be my own experience falling in love with a good friend when I was younger—it being an ill-fated love affair; something that wasn't going to work out.

Also, I think being a lesbian woman in our culture was interesting to examine. You can see two women together in our heteronormative culture and you could assume what's actually a lesbian couple are just close friends as much as in the queer community, the subculture, you might think two women together are lovers but they're actually just friends. It goes both ways, depending on whose eyes are looking at you. I think that's inherent in the queer culture I traffic in and I wanted to tell a story about that moving, gray line of intimacy versus lust versus romance versus the kind of love that lasts for years and potentially forever if you're just close friends.

I think especially in the queer girl community, in my experience, there can be a lot of emotional and political problems because of that gray, moving line of intimacy and love versus lust. For example, many lesbians are friends with their ex-lovers—not everybody and not all lovers—but it's pretty common. And I think that's less so in mainstream, straight culture.

WCT: And in queer male culture. You know

when I came to that early test screening and I was the honorary lesbian [laughs] in that screening room I went through that entire movie thinking that Jamie and Jessie were lovers who were breaking up because that's how I saw it from my "guy" perspective. You remember how all the women were like, "What planet are you from?" [Laughs] when I was shocked to find that they were just friends?

WJC: [Laughing hard] Yes, I remember.

WCT: It just is hard for guys to "get that," I think—gay or straight. Guys jump the bones and move on. [Laughs] They don't stick around to be friends afterwards. Oh, I can't believe I said that. I'm going to get hell for that.

WJC: [Laughs] Yes—and the fact is, you're not always jumping the bones. Often, it's that you used to jump the bones and now the relationship has moved into a deeper, more relaxed friendship and for whatever reason, the romance or sex affair didn't last. I'm interested in those stories; I'm interested in the complexity of love affairs and I'm interested in telling this story which is one of confusion.

WCT: In addition to playing out this delightful story you add this cool, unpredictable twist with songs which come out of the blue—starting with the song in the coffee



Wendy Jo Carlton.

the higher, transcendent love that everyone's looking for. They're like angels that can't get too involved.

WCT: Was there a film that inspired you to do this kind of hybrid? I don't know that I've seen a lesbian romantic comedy with musical numbers before.

WJC: I honestly haven't seen one either—in all the 20 years I've been making films and shorts and I do feel, arguably, that this is the first lesbian musical. But I put a caveat to that because I see it as a love story comedy with musical numbers. I didn't set out to make a feature length musical per se. It's a hybrid for sure.



Jamie and Jesse Are Not Together.

shop in which Jessie starts singing to her co-worker soliciting advice and ends up getting some from all her regulars. It's a *Glee*-like moment.

WJC: I think for me, incorporating musical numbers into this romantic comedy, this drama, this love story, was something I've always wanted to do in a feature film and I think they serve to entertain on a superficial level but on a deeper level, it gives both the characters and the audience a chance to "cleanse their palates" with these songs in a more creative, honest way. You can be more honest when you're singing often. That's why music is obviously such a universal thing in the world in general. So I just wanted to incorporate that tone into the movie. People really get a kick out of the gay Greek chorus that I put in.

WCT: Yes—they're fun. The Luden's Cough Drops brothers, with their long beards...

WJC: Yes! [Laughs] They're the onlookers who comment on the action—our gay bear Greek chorus. In my mind those two characters know

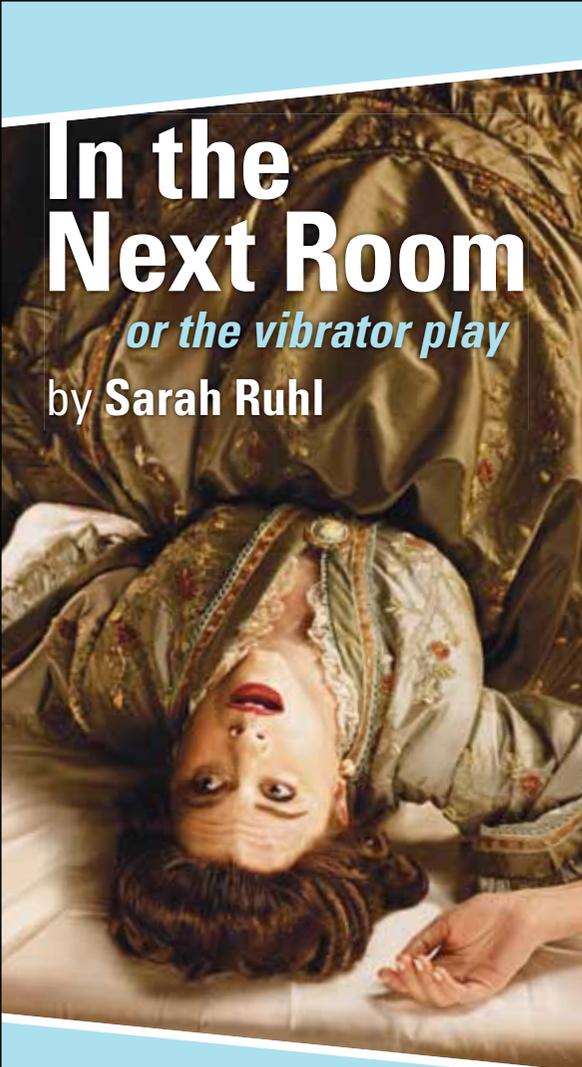
WCT: What's been the reaction to your combining these disparate movie genres from screening audiences?

WJC: When people haven't seen it there might be some resistance if an audience doesn't quote unquote care for musicals and they're seeing that word used. But it's not a typical musical by any means.

WCT: The approach reminded me a bit of *Once*, where it's more of a dramedy with musical numbers. The songs seemed to function more as musical interior monologues in a sense. Does that resonate with you at all?

WJC: That's a great comparison—especially because I love that movie and think it's very original with great characters so, thanks, I don't mind that reference at all [Laughs].

WCT: This movie was shot with a Chicago cast and in and around Chicago. So, for nascent local filmmakers, can you talk about the nuts and bolts of putting something like this



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WENDY JO from page 30

together? Is it creatively and financially viable? Can you make a living doing this?

WJC: Boy that's a lot. [Laughs] I've been making films for 20-some years so I'm not new at this. This being my second feature-length film as a director, having learned a lot from the Hannah Free experience and then, I've made 20 short films in different genres so I'm used to playing with different approaches; different lengths; so I'm used to following the muse and I trust my gut and my creative attractions and interests.

A film is a collaborative experience and you need to get the right people around you who share in your vision and hopefully, you like each other as people so you can have a rapport. With this film I was anxious to make a film with lesbians and women characters as protagonists that was not about death, not about coming out, not about the melodrama of someone cheating on someone. I wanted to go further into my own experience and things I'm interested in. Unrequited love for example. This is something that will resonate far beyond the lesbian audience.

WJC: Yes—the movie certainly touches on universal themes. I'm glad you mention that because there's a movie playing around town called *Circumstance* that is very clearly a budding lesbian romance and that element has been downplayed in both the trailer and synopses for the film—it's been very "coded" and I'm guessing that's in an effort to get mainstream audiences to give the movie a try.

This is, I would imagine from a bottom line point, a tough conundrum when it comes to marketing a movie. Did you hesitate about tagging your film with the "lesbian" label? Was that thought about; discussed?

WJC: Yes, I've thought about the branding, so to speak, of the movie and the impression

it makes when someone watches the trailer or reads the synopsis on the website or whatnot or in a film festival catalogue. I don't have control over the latter—how they tend to segregate. Some go as far as using little icons that designate the movies "for women" and "for men" and I feel like that's pretty condescending and so limiting and also, ironic. We can all read the synopsis; I don't need an icon to tell me that segregation within my own queer community.

WJC: It's that opening scene from *Yentl*—"Sacred books for men, storybooks for women."

WJC: [Laughs] Yes, that's it, exactly. I mean, we're already queer; not part of the mainstream. I don't need the queer film festival to make suggestions for me.

WJC: But the flip side of that is that audiences often want to be told; they—we—do seem to crave that in culture these days.

WJC: Also true—but that's a bigger subject, isn't it? [Laughs]

WJC: Which we'll save for another day. May I just finish by saying that there are characters and themes in *Jamie and Jessie are Not Together* that will appeal to audiences of all sexes?

WJC: Absolutely. I would just like to add that I have a lot of thoughts, insights and opinions and, to be honest, uncertainties around labeling and the marketing of queer films and in particular my film, now that it's done and going to be seen. The primary audience is obviously a niche audience—queer women and men, but I want it to also be entertaining and universal enough to, as you said, appeal to audiences of all genders. I certainly want to encourage everyone to come out and support our Chicago premiere (at the Gene Siskel Film Center Friday, Oct. 28). I'll be there along with a lot of my cast and crew.

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

QUEER from page 29

November

Reeling 30, Chicago's LGBT international film fest, runs Nov. 3-12. The fest, the country's second oldest, celebrates 30 years of annually presenting the best in LGBT cinema to Chicago audiences. This year promises to be particularly exciting with debut screenings of the highly anticipated lesbian-themed drama *Pariah* (produced by Spike Lee) and two compelling documentaries: *We Are Here*, a personal history of the AIDS crisis related by five San Francisco residents who lived to tell the tale. The film, which David Weismann (*The Cockettes*) directed, has been receiving critical acclaim and was recently the subject of a laudatory piece in the *New York Times*. *Windy City Times* is co-sponsoring the movie's presentation at *Reeling*. *Vito*—the latest movie from documentary filmmaker Jeffrey Schwarz that is a portrait of Celluloid Closet writer and AIDS activist Vito Russo—will also be screened during *Reeling* (both docs co-presented by the Queer Film Society).

In a *Windy City Times* exclusive, *Reeling 30* has also announced *The Wise Kids*, a coming-of-age drama that filmmaker Stephen Cone shot in Chicago, as its opening-night presentation Nov. 3 at the Music Box. Other titles in the fest include *August*, *Cho Dependent*, *CoDependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same*, *Going Down in La-La Land* (the latest from writer-director Casper Andreas), *Hit So Hard: The Life and Near-Death Story of Patty Schemel*, *Longhorns*, *Private Romeo* and *Wish Me Away*.

My Week with Marilyn—based on writer Colin Clark's memoir as gopher to Laurence Olivier on the film set of *The Prince and the Showgirl*, which co-starred Marilyn Monroe—is in theatres Nov. 2. Vengeful FBI director J. Edgar Hoover gets the biopic treatment (with script by Milk Oscar winner, out screenwriter Dustin Lance Black) in **J. Edgar**. Leonardo DiCaprio plays Hoover while Armie Hammer takes on the part of Hoover's purported lover, Clyde Tolson. Clint Eastwood directs the movie, out Nov. 11.

Neil Patrick Harris is back and having fun playing off his image in yet another edition of the wacky comedy *Harold & Kumar* series, this one titled **A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas** (Nov. 4). Fans of homoeroticism will surely get plenty of that when the *Twilight* series continues and features more shirtless Taylor Lautner scenes. This penultimate installment, **The Twi-**

light Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part I, is in theatres Nov. 16. Out director Bill Condon (*Gods & Monsters*; *Kinsey*) helms this film.

I'm particularly excited about **The Artist**, the French silent movie that's winning critical and audience raves from festival audiences wherever it plays. It's the tale of a silent age film star (Jean Dujardin, who won Best Actor at Cannes) on the way down in love with a lovely starlet whose career is on the rise—a sort of silent *Star Is Born* as it were (and it's, of course, in glorious black and white). It's in theatres Nov. 25.

December

Now the award contests really heat up and expect the one between Meryl Streep (starring in **The Iron Lady** (Dec. 16), the biopic of England's dragon lady ruler, Margaret Thatcher) and Glenn Close (playing the title role in **Albert Nobbs** (Chicago release date TBD), as a Dublin woman who lives as a man and works as a butler to fulfill her financial dreams in the 1880s) to be particularly intense.

Also in theatres this month are **Pariah** (first screening at *Reeling 30*, December release date TBD); Polanski's **Carnage** (Dec. 16) whose cast includes Jodie Foster; the U.S. remake of **The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo** (no word on whether the bisexual character's girlfriend will be in the first installment) (Dec. 23). December also features a slew of mainstream, big-budget releases—**World War Z**, **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows**, **The Darkest Hour**, **Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol**, **The Adventures of Tintin** and **War Horse**.



Nikohl Boosheri and Sarah Kazemy star in *Circumstance*.

FALL MUSIC: SIDEBAR

Upcoming shows, releases and more

Upcoming Concerts

- Melissa Ferrick at Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, Friday, Sept. 16
- Erasure and Frankmusik at Congress Theater, 2135 N. Milwaukee Ave., Friday, Sept. 16 and Saturday, Sept. 17
- Ani DiFranco at Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave., Wed., Sept. 21
- Star Anna at The Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, Saturday, Sept. 24
- Dar Williams and Joan Osborne at Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave., Thursday, Sept. 29
- Cake: Five Year Anniversary LGBT Showcase at The Red Line Tap, 7000 N. Glenwood, Saturday, Oct. 1
- The Pack a.d. at Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave., Thursday, Oct. 6
- Sara Bareilles at Riviera Theatre, 4746 N. Racine Ave., Tuesday, Oct. 11
- The Keep a Breast Tour featuring Uh Huh Her at House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St., Wed., Oct. 19
- The Sounds with Natalia Kills at Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave., Saturday, Oct. 22

Upcoming releases

- Ivy: All Hours, Sept. 20
- Miguel Migs: Outside the Skyline, Sept. 20
- Frankmusik: Do It in the AM, Sept. 27
- Gloria Estefan: Little Miss Havana, Sept. 27
- Bangles: Sweetheart of the Sun, Sept. 27
- Erasure: Tomorrow's World, Oct. 4
- Sneaky Sound System: From Here to Anywhere, Oct. 18
- Dev: The Night the Sun Came Up, Nov. 1
- Camille Bloom: Never out of Time, Nov. 8
- Florence and the Machine: Untitled, November

Must-see videos

- "All in This Together" by Star Anna
- "Breakin' Up" by Friend Slash Lover
- "Can You See Me Now" by Benni Cinkle
- "Collide" by Leona Lewis
- "Diamond Crowned Queen" by Raja
- "Excuse" by The Ettes
- "Invisible" by Skylar Grey
- "Jealousy" by Will Young
- "No ID" by Frankmusik featuring Colette Carr
- "Where Have I Been All My Life" by Friend Slash Lover



The Bangles. Photo by Jerry Nunn

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MUSIC

Frankmusik mixes it up

Pop music-maker on 'restricted' straight guys, teaming with Erasure and getting naked for the gays

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Frankmusik goes where no straight man's gone before. Just look at what he did in 2008, when he disrobed—and bared his bum—for a spread in one of the U.K.'s gay magazines. Then, recently, he got naked again—on a massage table, for a promo that has a bunch of bears giving him a rubdown.

Clearly the guy's an original, which isn't just evident in his friendliness with the gays—but his music, too. With that, he's proved that pop isn't just a woman's world, mixing music for Lady Gaga and Pet Shop Boys and releasing his first album, *Complete Me*, two years ago.



Frankmusik. Photo by Jam Sutton

The 25-year-old follows up his electro-pop debut with *Do It in the AM*, but it's not the only project with his name attached to it—he also produced Erasure's new album, *Tomorrow's World*.

On the road with the synth-pop legends during their first U.S. tour in five years, Frankmusik chatted about how working with Erasure was his "calling," being an anomaly in the music business and why he wishes more straight men would let go of their inhibitions.

Windy City Times: Hey, Frank, how are you?

Frankmusik: Hot. Not hot in a physical sense. Like, it's actually hot.

WCT: I already know you're hot physically, anyway.

F: Thank you, sir. Compliments will get you everywhere. [Laughs]

WCT: Where does mine get me?

F: This is a recorded conversation. I'll tell you off the record some other time.

WCT: How did the title track, "Do It in the AM," come about?

F: It's about losing it in my mind. I've never really spoken about this in an interview properly because I don't really think anyone's really been highbrow enough to engage with it but, being creative, I like having the creative freedom at night, because it's like my little secret. I'm making the party in my studio, and I'm making the songs that people want to party to.

WCT: So do you keep an alcohol stash in the studio?

F: No, no. I don't drink. Well, hardly. It just doesn't agree with me. I used to drink like a fish, but I just get heartburn. I'm getting old, man. And the hangovers—I actually cannot stand the concept of a hangover.

WCT: What's your a.m. routine?

F: Shower, shit, shave. No, wait—shit, shower, shave. You don't want to shit after you've already had a shower. The three S's. Sometimes you can do four S's if you're lucky, which is sex, shit, shower, shave. That is much more likely to happen these days since my missus has moved in.

WCT: How did your move from London to L.A. influence the album?

F: Just not being in London, being in a new city. I haven't got any really massive circle of friends or anything. I came here to experience emptiness. European culture is very clustered, very pedestrianized, and everyone is very closely knit. I love L.A. for its vastness. It's devoid of any real sort of social integration because it's so spread out, and I love that. I love the fact that I can be really anti-social and obnoxious in my studio and just concentrate on work.

WCT: You've gotten naked for the gays on a couple occasions. Do your gay friends call you a tease? Because I think you might be.

F: I could be a tease; it depends on if you fancy me or not. The main thing is, I'm having fun. That's such a shit thing to say, but it is actually that. Straight male artists are restricting themselves through their sexuality, and I think you should just be open to anything, especially in press. If someone has an idea and it's tasteful, yeah, I'll do it. Fuck it. When I did the nude photo shoot, that was for male eating disorders. I wanted to support that cause, and if it meant a few famous guys getting their clothes off and talking about their own experiences with eating and their health, then fuck—any day dude, any day.

WCT: Why is it such an issue for straight guys to open up like that?

F: You have to ask them, because I'm definitely not one of them. I think it was because I was brought up by my mom; I didn't have a dad, so I didn't have, like, this tenacious male figure in my life that was trying to make me fit a certain mold or anything. My mom sent me to ballet school and poetry recital classes. I mean, I was dancing around in a fucking leotard! I didn't know any different. If you don't know anything different, it doesn't mean anything. It's imposed on you, this kind of straightness.

I feel so bad for guys, because you have this culture where people's gender has to fit into a demographic, which is just stupid. Men are just as expressive as women. I was just lucky enough that somebody as intelligent as my mother brought me up that way. It's a combination of common sense and not sort of digesting the bullshit that's fed to you in culture. I wish

more men were expressive because, I'll tell you, there'd be a lot less trouble in the world.

WCT: Do people ever think you're gay?

F: I hope so, because that means I'm surrounded by stupid people that I can manipulate. That'd be nice.

WCT: Who are your boy crushes?

F: George Clooney. He's an absolute gentleman and a brilliant, brilliant human being and very good at what he does. And he's just really classy about it. I love classy guys. Not being a gentleman drives me crazy. I think being respectful and well-mannered is one of the most attractive things that any human can be.

WCT: You're an anomaly in pop music, because the genre is so dominated by young females—and you're a straight white guy. Why do you think there are so few like you in pop music?

F: Once again, it goes back to that culture of what it's like to be a man these days. Why is it that we feel that the only type of males that should succeed in this market are ones that come from a boy band? Or they've got to be a rapper, or they've got to be some bearded guy holding an acoustic guitar. Apparently dancing around and singing pop songs is only reserved for people like Usher and black culture, which I think is bullshit. White guys can do it, too, but I think we're having a huge identity crisis.

I'm not a heavily political person, but I think there are some real plain facts staring us in the face that need to be dealt with—why can't a guy dance and sing without being seen as queer? Does that say anything bad about me, or does that say something really bad about the culture?

WCT: Tell me about your relationship with

Erasure's Andy Bell. Has he ever tried to get into your pants?

F: No, no—not at all. The closest we got was when we were doing the new single and he enjoyed what I was making so much he said something like, "I could fall in love with you," but I think he was referring more to the music that we were creating. [Laughs] He's a wonderful human being and incredible to work with. I see Andy more as a family member than a sexual stranger.

WCT: When did your relationship with Erasure start?

F: Beginning of this year, I think. I met Vince [Clarke] at his house in Maine and I met Andy in London. I met them both separately—and I've yet to actually meet all three of them at the same time, so that will happen when I'm on tour with them.

WCT: How would you compare the sound of their album and yours?

F: I mean, it's Andy Bell. The vocals are incomparable. His male tenor is like a freight train running through a China shop. I mean, the power! You believe every word he says, because he lives what he says. He is in the song. It's not some cookie-cutter bullshit, and that's what I love about him.

They stand for actually creating so many things that have been imitated blandly since they first made it. They're incredible, incredible pioneers. And I'm glad I could celebrate their originality once again.

WCT: Was it intimidating working with them?

F: No, no. It felt like my calling, it really did. I felt like I needed to make that album—for me and for them.

Susan Werner in Chicago Sept. 24

The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University (ATRU), 50 E. Congress Pkwy., will present "On Stage with ... Susan Werner" Saturday, Sept. 24, at 8 p.m.

Werner's concert will feature songs spanning her nine-album career, including her latest album, *Kicking the Beehive*, an 11-song collection of original work that combines roots of American folk, blues and country music. In addition, she will perform her classic song, "Give Me Chicago Any Day."

Tickets are \$50-\$75 and are available online at <http://www.ticketmaster.com>, by calling 800-982-2787 or by visiting ATRU's box office.



Susan Werner. PR photo

DADT documentary on HBO Sept. 19

This September, at the moment the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) goes into effect, HBO will show *The Strange History of Don't Ask, Don't Tell*, a strange-but-true tale of the U.S. military's ban on gays and lesbians from its implementation, through passionate protests and debates and, finally, to its 2011 repeal.

It will have a sneak preview Tuesday, Sept. 19 (12 midnight ET) on HBO, followed by the documentary's first prime-time play Wed., Sept. 20, at 8 p.m. (ET/PT).

Among the featured subjects are: Mass. Rep. Barney Frank; Ct. Sen. Joe Lieberman; former Pa. Rep. Patrick Murphy, an Iraqi war veteran who played a leading role in the Don't Ask, Don't Tell repeal; Lt. Col. Victor Fehrenbach; Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer; Jeh C. Johnson, general counsel of the Department of Defense; and Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN).

'All My Children' stars at Sidetrack Sept. 23

Several current and former stars of the daytime serial *All My Children* will be at a tribute party for the show Friday, Sept. 23—the last day the soap opera will air on TV—at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

The event will benefit Season of Concern, the Chicagoland theatre community's fundraising effort in the fight against AIDS.

Co-Hosted by Jason Spitzer and ABC 7 Chicago's "Windy City Live's" Val Warner, scheduled to attend are Chrishell Stause (Amanda Martin), Terri Ivens (ex-Simone Torres), Jeffrey Carlson (ex-Zarf/Zoey), Brian Gaskill (ex-Bobby Warner), Matt Borlenghi (ex-Brian Bodine) and Chris Bruno (ex-Michael Delaney).

Doors open at 11 a.m. General-admission tickets are \$25 (\$35 at the door), and come with a drink ticket; VIP tickets are \$100 each. See <http://www.seasonofconcern.org>.

FALL MUSIC

Hunter Valentine frontwoman talks travels, coming out

BY ERICA DEMAREST

All-girl queer rock trio Hunter Valentine is slated to perform in Chicago Sept. 16 at The Abbey Pub. Known for their gritty, honest sound (think The Runaways meets pop melodies) and their in-your-face high-energy live shows, the Toronto natives have amassed a loyal fan base across the United States and Canada since coming together in 2004.

With two albums under their belt and a third in the works, the ladies recently kicked off their first bicoastal U.S. tour. We caught up with lead singer Kiyomi McCloskey as the group made its way through North Carolina.

Windy City Times: Hi, Kiyomi.

Kiyomi McCloskey: Hey. Can you hold on for a second? [Pause] OK. We're just driving. I'm trying to help navigate at the same time.

WCT: You're in North Carolina today, right?

KM: Yeah, we're on our way to Greensboro. First time.

WCT: And how's everything going so far?

KM: We're about a week into it, and we're having the times of our lives out here, to be honest with you. We became really good friends with [bands] Vanity Theft and Sick of Sarah on other tours, so we were put all together. It's kind of like our dream tour. It's called the Lady Killer tour—it's an all-girl tour. We're all having such a good time, and you can see it on stage.

WCT: Any fun stories so far?

KM: The other day in Washington D.C., all three bands were in the green room, which was this dingy basement. Some of us may have had a few drinks, and we decided that Sunday would be official band wrestling day, so there was a giant mat that we put down on the floor. People

paired up, and we did different wrestling matches. Somebody got a bloody nose. Another girl was put in a chokehold by her drummer.

Last night a bunch of them all broke into a pool and went skinny-dipping. It's just an insane tour. We're having a great time. Oh! And before we left New York, we kidnapped a fan and renamed her Snowflake. We're trying to make her come on the entire tour.

WCT: Who did you kidnap?

KM: Just a random fan. She's coming along for the ride.

WCT: Are you still trekking around in your beat-up minivan?

KM: [Laughs] No. We've upgraded in life. We have a much larger van now.

WCT: Are you focusing on one particular album for this tour?

KM: We're playing mostly from Lessons from the Late Night [the group's 2010 album]. But then we're throwing in some new stuff because after this tour, we're getting ready to go back into the studio.

WCT: Lessons from the Late Night was harder than your first album [2007's The Impatient Romantic]. Will you keep going that direction?

KM: There's definitely a certain level of aggression that will be on this record, but we always carry a pop sensibility to our music. I think it's going to be a good mixture of punk rock and melodic Motown references. You never know until you get into the studio, but we're really excited to get back into that creative mode again.

WCT: I have to ask: I hear you have a really great coming-out story.

KM: [Laughs] So, I was 16, and I went to my first dyke march with my first girlfriend ever. We



Hunter Valentine.

were marching away—you know, full mohawk, Ani Difranco tank-top craziness. I had a great time that night. When I woke up the next morning, I had like 40 voicemails on my answering machine. People kept calling me. I answered the phone, and it was one of my good friends like, "Have you seen the newspaper yet? You better go check it out."

So I ran downstairs in my PJs to the store and there was—on the cover of the most widely circulated newspaper in Canada—my face about to lean in and kiss my girlfriend. And it said, "A quiet moment kicks off Pride: Young lesbians embrace." After that happened, there was really no going back. It was kind of a blessing in disguise because I had no choice. I have a really supportive family and community around me. It was a good thing for me.

WCT: That's hilarious.

KM: I wish I had the cover. I think my mom might have a copy. It's pretty funny.

WCT: You're playing Chicago Sept. 16 at The Abbey Pub. What can our readers look forward to?

KM: They can expect a high-energy rock show that they won't forget. It'll burn in their minds until the next time we come to town. Is that cocky enough for you? [Laughs] Everyone can have a really good time. They can come meet all the bands. It's just us.

To learn more about Hunter Valentine, visit <http://www.huntervalentine.com>. For more info on the Lady Killer Tour, visit <http://ladykillertour.com>. For more on the Sept. 16 show at The Abbey Pub, where they're performing with Sick of Sarah and others, see <http://www.abbeypub.com>.

Garden of Eve

Benefitting the Lesbian Community Care Project at Howard Brown Health Center

Friday, September 16, 2011, 8 - 11 p.m.
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 773-562-3311 or 773-387-2394

BUSINESS

Focus on Rogers Park

Windy City Times, in conjunction with QponChicago.com, is profiling neighborhood businesses in a series of features over the coming months.

Articles by Ross Forman. See <http://www.qponchicago.com> for offers this week on Rogers Park LGBT-friendly companies and services.

Bark Place

1775 W. Greenleaf Ave., 773-761-4444



If you ask Fido, you can bet he'd wag his tail in joy at Bark Place in Rogers Park, where a safe, healthy and comfortable environment is ever-present for the facility's furry, four-legged friends.

"All guests are treated as though they were our own pets and the individuality of each guest is recognized and respected," said Anthony Mesok, who founded Bark Place in 2007. "We strongly believe that all guests are entitled to our complete professionalism, competency, concern, and affection."

Mesok's personal joy comes from dogs Ted and Sela as well as Sprinkles, his 13-year-old cat. Mesok's professional pride comes from satisfied customers—and, of course, their happy "parents." Mesok also has a strong commitment to his community and has been successful working with other Rogers Park citizens to create a new dog park, which is scheduled to open in October. Bark Place—where pets play and stay, as the logo says—offers reasonably-priced day-care, overnight boarding and professional grooming services. In addition, they carry an excellent selection of Natural Dog and Cat food and treats.

"We have several distinct [day-care] areas to accommodate the varying needs of each guest, from the quiet and reserved to the gregarious social hounds," Mesok said. "Whether needing a comfortable hideaway, party atmosphere, or a place to work on your physique, Bark Place has what you need."

Those who board their loved ones at Bark Place can rest assured, just as the animals do, because guests have a big fluffy blanket, and soft classical music.

"Our hope and goal is to accommodate any guest request," Mesok said. "Just ask us and we will find a way to accommodate your special needs."

The grooming services at Bark Place range from a luxurious bath and blow dry, to a stylish new look. Full grooming services are currently available by appointment only, and it includes clipping, bathing, drying, brushing, massage, ear cleaning, nail trimming and anal-gland cleaning.

Mesok and the staff at Bark Place have a keen understanding of dog behavior and training, knowledgeable in nutrition and supplements, and are certified in pet first-aid by the American Red Cross.

Sweet Attila's Bake Shop

312-835-8444, Laura@sweetattilas.com

Need to satisfy that sweet tooth?

Then look no further than Sweet Attila's.

Building off the success from its time at the Glenwood Sunday Market, Sweet Attila's, a bake shop, is now a permanent fixture in the Rogers Park neighborhood, along with its new sister company, The Growling Rabbit, a café. Both are located in the former Café Ennuï space at the corner of Sheridan Road and Lunt Avenue. The bake shop and the café now offer a new, vibrant destination for the Rogers Park neighborhood.

With its distinct lime green wall color, The Growling Rabbit serves an assortment of sandwiches, soups, salads, and other items, such as quiche and vegetable pot pie, while Sweet Attila's supplies its ever-expanding menu of baked goods including muffins, scones, tarts, brownies and cookies for the café and neighborhood.

With advanced notice, the bake shop can accommodate large and special orders. The Growling Rabbit and Sweet Attila's are open seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

All bakery goods are flavorful, made with high quality ingredients, said founder Laura Soncrant, who operates on the principle that everyone should be able to enjoy amazing cookies and more.

After being diagnosed with a number of food allergies in 2006, Soncrant has learned to bake with alternate ingredients out of necessity and has spent the last four years perfecting all of her favorite cookie recipes.

"Whether you order cookies made with traditional ingredients, [with] alternative ingredients, or whether you order cookies as a gift or for yourself, Sweet Attila's guarantees you will enjoy a remarkable treat," Soncrant said.

There are multiple savory options at Sweet Attila's, as expected. Such as numerous shortbread cookies and biscottis in a multitude of flavors. Don't skip jen-love's sandwich cookies, which come in many flavors.

Cookies are \$15 per dozen, plus \$2.25 percent tax for Illinois residents. Bulk order and wholesale pricing is available, and minimum orders may apply.

Sweet Attila's is proud of its two charity programs—one that aides the Donald P. Sparks Educational Fund, and the other that donates cookies to U.S. soldiers.

Northside Dance Theater

7015-17 N. Glenwood Ave., 773-754-0192

So you think you can dance?

Well, it's not just a TV show, but a lifestyle at the NorthSide Dance Theater in Rogers Park, where a warm, comfortable, well-managed place is home to Chicago dancers of all ages and multiple styles. The NorthSide Dance Theater offers dance classes in the areas of ballet, jazz, hip-hop, tap, Zumba, Pilates and modern for students of all ages and levels.

Their goal is simple: provide a warm and friendly environment for learning, performing and enjoying dance.

NorthSide Dance Theater is Classical Dance Education for the 21st Century. "We believe in teaching dancers at their age and ability while keeping in mind their future growth," said NorthSide co-owner Jennifer Gage. The other NorthSide owners are Steve House and Amy Russell.

The NorthSide Dance Theater has been a hit among its customers, such as, Elizabeth R, of

Chicago, who posted a glowing review on yelp.com. She wrote: "My daughter has taken the 4-5 year-old ballet class and loves it! Miss Jennifer, her dance instructor, makes sure to teach the classes in a fun, age-appropriate manner. The class is comprised of four other girls and Miss Jennifer. The small teacher-to-student ratio is a rare find. And the class fees are fairly reasonable. After many conversations with other parents [who] sent their children to other dance schools, NorthSide Dance Theater seems to meet our needs. She truly does look forward to the classes every week. On a side note, the NDT is a new dance school and is always receptive to input from their clients."

Meanwhile, Tiana K., of Chicago has taken adult intermediate and advance jazz and ballet classes, and also beginning hip-hop. Tiana, on yelp.com, said the staff and teachers have been "fantastic ... encouraging and positive about my ability to rejoin the dance community." Tiana added: "They push you to try new moves, or old moves with a new approach. Their major concern is that you are doing things in a way that will keep you healthy and dancing for a long time. Everyone at the studio is friendly and welcoming."

They also have showcases at the studio at the end of every session. Each class gives a demo of what they do in class for their friends and family. They are completely optional, but are a nice way to dip your toes into performing."

The NorthSide Dance Theater offers classes for the "tiny dancers," including Mommy and Me! for both parent and child. There are options for juniors and teens as well as adults. "Even if you've never danced before, you are welcome in our beginner-level classes," Gage said.

Shambhala Center Of Chicago

7331 N. Sheridan Rd., 773-743-8147, info@chicagoshambhala.org

The Shambhala Meditation Center of Chicago is part of an international community of over 200 centers. The center offers programs and classes in mindfulness meditation and the contemplative arts, free individual meditation instruction, and a vibrant, diverse community of members and friends who study and practice together. On Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m., the center offers Queer Dharma, a free meditation open house that caters to Chicago's LGBTI group.

"Queer Dharma was established more than 10 years ago so that LGBTI persons feel comfortable coming to a meditation center and being open about themselves in discussions with others," said Jon Feller, Queer Dharma coordinator. "It is important to recognize the basic goodness of everyone, no matter their sexual, gender or racial identity, their present state of mind, or their own particular history. We are here every Sunday night from 6:30 until 8:30 and we welcome everyone who has felt out of place in society. We offer a place to meditate together and readings and discussions to find out what the nature of our mind is, how to work with it, and how to bring sanity and gentleness into our lives. Occasionally we have special programs, including our annual Queer Dharma meditation retreat in August."

The center's mission is to help people recognize that everyone has a fundamental nature of goodness, warmth and intelligence. This nature can be cultivated through mindfulness meditation and can be further developed in daily life, so that it radiates out to family, friends, community and the world as a whole. In the course of our lives, this goodness, warmth and intelligence can easily become obscured by doubt, fear and egotism. The journey of becoming fully human means seeing through fear and egotism and waking up to our natural intelligence. It takes kindness to ourselves and others, and courage, to wake up in this world and to help others.

Queer Dharma begins with an hour of sitting and walking meditation, followed by a reading or a talk, discussion, and ends with time to socialize. Free meditation instruction is provided

at the beginning of each session.

In addition to Queer dharma, the center offers many other open sessions and classes. Information about these programs and free sessions can be found at www.chicago.shambhala.org.

Pilates Chicago

1220 W. Morse Ave., 773-274-2673, info@pilateschicago.net



"[Instructors] Jennifer and Matthew Zumann and Pilates Chicago have, quite simply, changed my life over the past 4 1/2 years. I stand taller because of them. I feel better because of them. I'm stronger, more fit, and healthier in body and mind. I was in pretty bad shape when I started Pilates [with] lower back problems that kept me off my feet too often. They started slowly, tailoring a program to my individual and even daily needs, and now I can't believe how far I've come. My posture has immeasurably improved and I am strong and flexible enough to do things I used to think I'd never achieve. Now I've seen what they've done for friends and coworkers I've referred; people can't say enough good things about them." — Sara B.

Pilates Chicago is internationally recognized by the Pilates Method Alliance and meets the highest standards of pilates training. The Rogers Park location offers private, semi-private, and group pilates sessions with well-trained instructors—and they can customize a program to meet the needs of each individual.

Pilates Chicago is committed to a healthy, flourishing environment, driven by health and happiness in hopes of making the community strong, vibrant, and fit in body, mind, and spirit. Its open level class will be taught by one of Pilates Chicago's apprentices or staff members and is free to all.

Pilates Chicago also offers numerous private and semi-private sessions, driven to develop long, flexible muscles, improve posture, and alleviate many common aches and pains. Pilates Chicago is equipped with reformers, a Cadillac, Wunda chairs, barrels, and numerous props and auxiliary items.

The Next Pilates Anytime Instructor Competition is a worldwide contest to find an inspiring and creative instructor to be featured in a full-length Pilates video on PilatesAnytime.com and Pilates Style Magazine.

One of the entrants is none other than Pilates Chicago's Jen.

"I am hoping to win the opportunity to share my unique perspective with a larger audience," she said. "Joseph Pilates envisioned his method restoring people to vibrant health; physically, physiologically, and mentally. In the fitness craze, this method is often reduced to a means to improved physique. This work can provide SO MUCH MORE. I want to spread the word and reinvigorate the Pilates Method as a means to holistic well-being."

To view Jen's profile and watch her sample video, go to: <http://www.pilatesanytime.com/next/vote.cfm?cid=2#Jennifer-Golden-Zumann>.

After you submit your vote, remember to click the link in the confirmation email so your vote will be counted.

NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Kid Sister: Chicago rap artist on Kanye, Perez



BY JERRY NUNN

Melisa Young—more popularly known as Kid Sister—blew up with such singles as “Right Hand Hi” and “Pro Nails” featuring Kanye West off her debut album Ultraviolet. She has deep roots in Chicago and returns the nightlife scene with an appearance in Spin Nightclub this week. She talked new music, nails and the South Side Nunn on One.

Windy City Times: Hi, Kid! You are currently busy working on new music.

Kid Sister: Yes, this is album number two. I am tying up the loose ends and stuff. I am also working on an EP that will proceed the album and another EP with another artist that is top secret so I can't say anything about it. I am really excited!

WCT: You have been working with Scoop Deville.

KS: He is one of the producers on the new album.

WCT: Who are some of the other producers?

KS: The list is so long well not as long as the last album. The Neptunes, DJ Mehdi, and XXX-Change who did “Control,” maybe Nadaström, I am not sure.

WCT: Guest appearances?

KS: There are some but I can't say yet. There are some from the rap world and some from the R&B world.

WCT: Do you know when it will be released?

KS: We are getting things mixed now. There is not a due date. We are getting things done and I am touring. I have three new videos coming out. Two of them are shot and one we still need to shoot. One is being edited. One is super DIY with this mystery musician. We shot the video the day we recorded our first song together so the video is more finished than the song. You gotta be quick these days.

WCT: You are from Markham, Ill. Where is that?

KS: No one knows the South Side unless you from there. The south suburbs are very blue collar. There is not a lot to do around there, which is why many people don't know these towns. There are steel mills or nothing. That is where I grew up and why I did music—because it didn't require anything. To do music you have to just like to sing or play an instrument. Boredom started it off!

WCT: You moved to the North Side eventually, correct?



Kid Sister. Photo by Angela Boatwright

KS: The last neighborhood I lived in was Albany Park. Now I live in LA.

WCT: Where do you get your nails done in Chicago?

KS: I do them myself in Chicago. There are certain cities where I can't find what I need. Unfortunately, Chicago is one of them. Even in L.A., there was a lady in Koreatown who had ill nail designs but she was a bitch. She was really overpriced. She had her homey prices and then the American prices. [Laughs] I stole designs from her and eventually did it myself. Marie Nails is nice in L.A. It is fancy.

WCT: Do you hang out with Perez Hilton out there in L.A.?

KS: We run in very different social circles. He is very Hollywood and I am very not Hollywood! We have mutual friends for sure and sometimes talk on the Internet.

WCT: I know he is a supporter of your work because I was at the Hard Rock for an after-party during Lollapalooza and you both were there.

KS: Oh, yeah. The Perez Night Out was fun. He always puts a new track up on his website of mine. He is a powerful figure in the gay community. We like to stick together.

WCT: Where did you meet Kanye West in the first place?

KS: My ex boyfriend was his tour DJ. He has always been a friend of my ex.

WCT: I read you studied filmmaking at Columbia College in Chicago.

KS: Yes, I interned in New York on a couple of bigger indies. I thought that was what I wanted to do because it seemed so interesting. After those internships I noticed I don't get paid much more than nothing, which was what I was paid. It is 14-hour days on the set on average. I had gray hair after those two years.

WCT: You did a film about 9/11 that is timely now.

KS: I have been listening to NPR. It has been pulling on my heartstrings, boo. It was so poignant some of the stories I was listening to today.

WCT: I heard the last time you were at Spin it was really packed.

KS: It was really fun but last time it wasn't publicized enough that it was a mini-set. People didn't think it was long enough.

WCT: So you want people to know it is a smaller set.

KS: Yes, I will sing a few songs and hang out to have a good time in my hometown. It is always good to come home and see old friends. I also like to look at shirtless men. It is gonna be dope!

Catch Kid Sister at Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., Sept. 17 when she takes the stage at midnight. Visit <http://www.spin-nightclub.com> for tickets and details.

Photo finish: Gay male supermodel Chris Fawcett on his success

BY SHAWN SCHIKORA

Former Navy serviceman Chris Fawcett, 25, is fast becoming the “it” boy of the moment. Sexy in a sweet, wholesome way, the openly gay Fawcett is different from the dark, buff, brooding male models of the last decade.

Moving from Denver, Colo., to New York several years ago to pursue a modeling career, Fawcett quickly gained success, getting exposure in publications such as Man, Genre and MetroPop, and modeling for such high-profile designers as DKNY and Calvin Klein as well as ad campaigns for Anson's SS11. Aside from modeling, Fawcett hopes to pursue both acting and writing careers. He recently spoke to WCT about his career as a model and his future ambitions.

Windy City Times: Your career is gaining momentum quickly. Any thoughts on perhaps becoming the next male supermodel?

Chris Fawcett: [Laughs] As far as being the next male supermodel, right now I have my niche, and I do what I need to do [professionally]. But yeah, it's a dream, I'd love to have the next fragrance campaign and that prestige. It's about how much work you put into it, so hopefully, with time.

WCT: If you weren't modeling, what would you be doing professionally?

CF: Acting has always been a big dream of mine, and as I grow older, I find whatever I do has to be creative. For the last two years I've [also] been focusing on writing, it's been a passion of mine since I was a kid. I never thought of writing as something I could turn into a career until recently. I'm about seven or eight chapters into [writing] an urban fantasy novel. I definitely think writing is going to be one of my next ventures.

WCT: You recently did a fun, sexy photo shoot with Brooke Shields. What was she like to work with?

CF: She's amazing, she's such a trouper! First of all, she's one of the sweetest women, or celebrities [for that matter], that I've ever met. She's so down-to-earth, and really open. She loved talking about her kids, she's so in love with them. And, she's still got it! She is so sexy. We did some pretty risky scenes but she is a really great woman, and she's very professional.

WCT: You're openly gay professionally; even today, many models are not. Yet, you get regular work for hetero-oriented ads and photo shoots. Do you feel being out significantly affects, or limits, your fan base, with either men or women?

CF: I didn't mean to be openly gay in the industry; it just kind of happened. I have trouble with holding things back, or trying to hide things that I don't feel like I should have to. Regarding the industry, I think sometimes people are quick to label you, and it's sad that it's like that.

In this day and age, as much ground that we've seen breaking when it comes to equal rights, I feel in some cases [discrimination exists]. I know there are plenty of photographers who won't shoot gay models, and I think it's sad because they're passing on models who are truly talented and have a great gift. I see it happen a lot. But I have gotten work for hetero-oriented jobs, like you said, and actually those are my favorite, because I enjoy being free like that. It's exciting to kind of play that role, because I'm very comfortable with women.

WCT: Your looks are quite different from the brooding, heavily muscled models from the past decade or so. Do you feel having a boyish, lean appearance has helped set you apart from many other male models?

CF: I think it has. But, I'd like to believe I'm sort of a chameleon, and can fit into many images. I do think I have an interesting and different

look that is moldable, and I think it has helped me.

WCT: Do you prefer print or runway work?

CF: Well, with runway there's this rush—it's a high, and that's really fun. But, for me, I'm really strongest in front of the camera. I really love creating a little world ... while I'm at the shoot, evoking emotions and letting the photographer capture those feelings.

WCT: You seem comfortable modeling semi-nude. Have you ever gotten advice against appearing in erotic ad campaigns or photo shoots?

CF: At times, I feel I should have gotten advice when I didn't. Being such a young, new model when I first moved to New York, I did some shoots which I feel are sexy and which I'm proud of, but for those photos to be what I was coming out of the gate with, I now feel like maybe I should have had some advice against it.

I've definitely learned how to govern myself and, these days, if I'm doing something that I'm not comfortable with I'm not going to do it. In this industry, you get put into a niche. I was doing a lot of body [photography] when I first emerged on the scene and, for a time, that became my role. But lately, I've been focusing on getting more into the fashion [side] of modeling. I'm very comfortable with my body, and I'm sort of an exhibitionist! [Laughs] But as far as my career, I'd like to continue to book more fashion.

WCT: What do you feel are the elements that create a good working relationship between a model and a photographer?

CF: I think when the model is completely comfortable with himself and he's able to listen to what the photographer has to say. It's also important for the photographer to be able to convey what he wants to get across. I think that when both parties can find the understanding of what needs to be produced, from there it becomes a very pleasurable experience. Ego needs to be checked at the door as soon as you walk into a job, on both parties.

WCT: Lastly, you've achieved success quickly, at a young age. What's the philosophy, attitude



Chris Fawcett. Photo courtesy of Sandra Wee Tom

or belief behind your early success?

CF: You know, I've given everything that I can. There are plenty of times in every model's career when it seems like a struggle. But perseverance is key in anything that you do. I was never ready to give up—I have too much to prove to myself. So, I persevered and I think perseverance is key to my success.

For more info on Fawcett, visit <http://www.chosenmodels.com>.

For more photos of Fawcett, see <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>

the **DISH** WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN **WINDY CITY TIMES**

Have what she's having: Ashley Simone talks 'Foodgasm'

BY JERRY NUNN

What happens when sexy chef Ashley Simone cooks up a show full of food and recipes with her lesbian director mother? You have a Foodgasm!

Simone is rooted in Chicago studying at Columbia College dancing her way into the Ringling Brothers circus. She is currently finishing up her degree in the culinary arts at the Illinois Institute of Art while filming her Foodgasm web series. Windy City Times visited the set to see what is stewing with Simone.

Windy City Times: Hi, Ashley. This must be difficult working in an outdoor shoot today, with all the bugs and dogs barking.

Ashley Simone: Yes, and the later it gets the darker so I have to go faster!

WCT: So you not only the host but you produce Foodgasm as well?

AS: I am one of the producers. There is Etta Worthington, the director, as well and David Strzepeck. So there are three of us. So I wear many hats. I am the chef, creator of recipes, performer and producer.

WCT: Do you write your spiel?

AS: We have an interesting format because the crew needs some sort of a script but this is more freestyle as you can kind of see. We have a general idea of what we are saying and where I am going to be so the camera can follow me but much of it is freestyle.

WCT: Where do the recipes come from?

AS: This is food that I love to cook. The show focuses on alternative food, such as vegetarian and gluten-free. I love cooking and I am just finishing up culinary school.

WCT: Where do you want to go after school?

AS: Pretty much this show. This is something that we just started in March with filming. We had the idea for a while but just started filming it. I would love to have the show on a cable network. I would like to have different segments with Foodgasm Travels or Foodgasm Lite. There are many ideas for the show to grow. I also plan to have a catering company in addition to the show. We could have Foodgasm parties!

WCT: Have you always performed in some way?

AS: I started out performing as an actress and dancer for the first parts of my life. I worked professionally as a dancer with the circus at Ringling Brothers. This is a great way to blend my two loves. I get to work with my mom, which is cool.

WCT: How is it being directed by your mother? Now that she just walked away!

AS: It can be a little trying but we try to work on being as professional as possible. There is still the mother/daughter thing but we are very good friends. We work well together. We step

back if it goes down the wrong path. We don't want the crew to say, "There go Ashley and Etta on their mother-daughter drama!"

WCT: Where did your look come from?

AS: I used to perform at the Green Mill with Alan Gresik's Swing Shift Orchestra on Thursdays. I love swing and got into that scene a while back. I started playing with the look. I didn't have the purpose in going out to look like Lucille Ball but now people say I look like a vamped up Lucy. I can be a little wacky or over the top sometimes.

WCT: You have a cooking blog to go with the show?

AS: Yes, I started my cooking blog when I was going to school and I changed it for the show to specifically show recipes that I do. They are on the website as well. We are trying to do more blogging about wine and the pleasure of food.

WCT: You are working on a cookbook?

AS: Yes, but first I want to work on cookbook calendar with a vintage pinup girl every month with a little recipe card. All of these recipes we will begin compiling into a cookbook as well.

WCT: Have you approached the Food Network?

AS: Not yet but we are still building this. I am not saying this is a rehearsal but in a way it is. Everybody is figuring out how we do this. We are lucky. Our crew has experience working with past cooking and reality shows. We are all figuring out how to do this and do it well. I don't want to do a competition because we are not about that. We are about the sensuality and the fun. Let's enjoy our food and the pleasure of it. We want to film a nice pilot and have them approach us not us approach them.

WCT: You say, "Food is love." How is food love?

AS: When I cook for people usually I like them and/or love them. Spending that time to really cook and not just give someone a Big Mac and fries. Taking the time is love. You feed the people you love. My grandmother was very into being hospitable and welcoming at her table. It has always been a way to love the people you are around in my family.

Fill up on Foodgasm at <http://www.afoodgasm.com>.



Ashley Simone. Press photo



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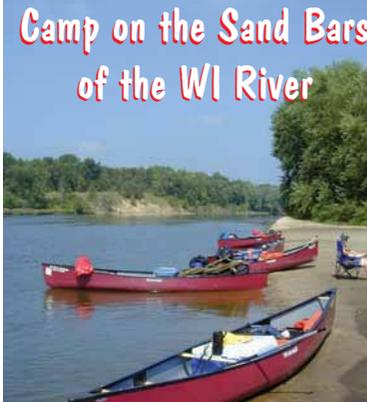
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Celebrations

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

Deborah Mell and Christin Baker wed

After their Aug. 24 legal marriage in Iowa, Chicago couple Deborah Mell, an Illinois state representative, and her partner of seven years, Christin Baker, held a "blessing of the marriage" ceremony Sept. 8 at All Saints Episcopal Church on Chicago's North Side.

The Rev. Kerith Harding and The Rev. Bonnie Perry were clergy for the ceremony, which was attended by family, friends and several politicians, including former Gov. Rod Blagojevich and his wife Patti, who is Deb's sister and was a matron of honor, and their father, Ald. Richard Mell, who was best man for the ceremony. Sami Grisafe, Beau Surratt, Joe Lill and Deborah Maddox performed musical selections.

Photos by Hal Baim



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Lilly Ledbetter Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network presents A Woman of Influence. Ledbetter challenged unequal pay, leading to the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act; 11am, Renaissance Blockstone Hotel, Chicago, <http://www.smallbusinessadvocacycouncil.org/blog/2011/8/12-0>

"All You Can Shove" Tonight is "All You Can Shove" pizza at Boystown favorite, Pie Hole Pizza Joint. That's unlimited slices and fountain drinks for only \$8.99! 5pm, Pie Hole Pizza Joint, 3477 N. Broadway, <http://www.pieholepizzajoint.com/index.html>

HIV-Positive Support Groups Wednesdays through Nov. 16; 6pm-7:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted

Gay Liberation Network Organizing Meeting Monthly organizing meeting of Chicago's direct-action LGBTQ group, focusing on how the activity of people in our community, not the politicians, is what brings about change. 7pm-9pm, 773-209-1187, Berger Park Fieldhouse, 6205 N. Sheridan Road, <http://www.gayliberation.net>

Asians and Friends Dining Club Ostrich and boar sliders ... and cheap. RSVP by Mon. Sept. 12 at our hotline; 7pm, 312-409-1573, Hop House Gourmet Burgers, 7545 N. Clark, <http://www.afchicago.org>

Only at Brunch Viewing Party Be the first to catch new episodes of Only at Brunch! From sex, dating, and relationships to news, politics, and bedroom etiquette, no topic is off limits. 7:30pm-8:30pm, Scarlet, 3320 N Halsted, <http://www.onlyat-brunch.com/>

AVANT-GARDEN Friday, Sept. 16

LCCP's "Garden of Eve" will take place at Carnivale, 702 W. Fulton.

Photo from 2009
by Mel Ferrand



Thursday, Sept. 15

Common Threads' Cook-Off Associate board hosts a cookoff targeting young professionals who support Common Threads' mission to education children on nutrition and physical well-being. 6:30pm-9:30pm, Fulton's on the River, 315 N. LaSalle Dr., Chicago, <http://www.commonthreads.org>

T Out Mic Open mic for both musical and spoken-word performances intended to be a safe and encouraging environment for members of the broad trans community, along with their significant others, family members, friends and allies. Hosts Jami Bantry and Lars Van Kite. Third Thursday of each month. 7pm-9pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Workout: Ballroom Dancing New beginner's ballroom dancing class, \$40/SAGE participants, free for youth participants. Email Lakshmi Nemani at lnemani@centeronhalsted.org to take advantage of SAGE and youth offers. 7pm-8pm, Center

on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Chi-Town Squares Free classes Chi-Town Squares is a modern square dance club for the LGBT community and their friends. Contact Chi-Town Squares at: chi-townsquares@sbcglobal.net or call 773-561-5691 for more information. www.chi-townsquares.org; 7:30pm-10pm, 773-561-5691, Ebenezer Comm Center, 2nd fl- 1650 W. Foster, <http://www.chi-townsquare.org>

Tori Amos Tribute Night Come join Chicago's best queer and queer friendly singer/songwriter and performers pay homage to Ms. Amos. Featuring Manny Capozzi, Stephen Leonard, Diva Kai, Jeff Brown, Valley Dolls and many more. \$5 cover. 9:30pm-11:30pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark, <http://www.hamburgermarys.com/chicago>

Friday, Sept. 16

LGBT-focused senior wellness fair There will be 40 vendors, a variety of workshops, complimentary lunch, wonderful raffle prizes, flu and pneumonia shots and free health screenings; 10am-3pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://centeronhalsted.org/images/sagefair.pdf>

Cocktails at Seven, God at Eight Join Congregation Or Chadash, Chicago's only GLBT founded Synagogue, at our annual Cocktails at Seven, God at Eight. Come schmooze over booze prior to Friday Night services at 7pm. The service itself kicks off at 8pm. This event is FREE to attend. For more in more information, please contact Laurie at orchadashchicago@gmail.com; 7pm-10pm, 773-715-6598, Congregation Emmanuel Building, 5959 N. Sheridan, <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=266648536692975>

Violet Bailiwick Chicago will stage the award-winning off-Broadway hit "Violet," a powerful and heartwarming story of a vulnerable young woman's challenges, loves and emotional journey on through Oct. 16. 7:30pm-10pm, 773-325-1700, Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport Ave., <http://www.bailiwickchicago.com>

Erasure Triumphant return to Chicago for "Tomorrow's World Tour" with two dates, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 17. 8pm, Congress Theatre, 2135 N. Milwaukee Ave., <http://www.clubtix.com>

LCCP's Garden of Eve Benefits Howard Brown Health Center's Lesbian Community Care Project, the women's program and includes a tribute to Christina Santiago, raffle, silent auction, live entertainment, dancing with DJs, light hors d'oeuvres and open bar, entertainment including garden pixies, live musicians and dancing—in the

festive and sexy setting of Carnivale. 8pm-11pm, Carnivale, 702 W. Fulton, <http://www.howardbrown.org>

Superstars of Burlesque Captivating entertainers who hold titles from the Burlesque Hall of Fame with sultry routines are bigger and bolder than ever. Second show 10pm. Tickets \$25 online. 8pm-10pm, Park West Chicago, 322 W. Armitage Ave., <http://www.superstarsofburlesque.com>

Melissa Ferrick promoting her latest, Still Right Here, with Ria Mae. \$25-\$40; 8pm, Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, <http://www.evanstonospace.com>

Hunter Valentine Queer female rock trio; 8pm, Abbey Pub, 3420 W Grace, <http://www.abbeypub.com>

HIV/AIDS Fundraiser Stonewall Inn will be raising funds for AIDS Walk Chicago. Benefiting University of Illinois HIV/AIDS Community Clinic Network.(UIC-HCCN); 9pm, Stonewall Inn 8143 W. 47th St. Lyons

Saturday, Sept. 17

Gerber/Hart Library and Archives book sale More than 50 categories of books, including LGBT, cookbooks, fine arts and social sciences. Fabulous selection of gift books; 12pm-4pm, Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W Granville Ave, <http://www.gerberhart.org>

Boystown Pub Crawl: Tight Ends and Wide Receivers Back by popular demand to celebrate the start of the two highlights of the Fall Season: Fall beer and COLLEGE FOOTBALL! Each bar will be featuring a unique seasonal beer and have a featured shot! 3:30pm-9pm, North End, 3733 N Halsted St

Hallelujah Broadway "Hallelujah Broadway" showcases some of The Great White Way's most uplifting songs that have inspired millions of theatergoers. 7:30pm-10pm, 800-982-2787, Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E Congress Pkwy, <http://www.ticketmaster.com/auditorium>

Erasure afterparty Bring your ticket stub for no cover all night long. DJ VOXBOX until 5am; 8pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

Nine to Twelve Suburban Bowling Longest running LGBT league in suburban Chicago meets on the third Saturday of the month. Additionally Nine to Twelve No Tap uses a different format for higher scores, faster games and another showcase for bowlers of all levels, first Saturday of the month. 9to12bowling@comcast.net. 9pm, River Rand Bowl. 191 S. River Rd., Des Plaines

Sunday, Sept. 18

Urban Village Church LGBT-welcoming worship services at Urban Village Church are eclectic and experiential, practical and intelligent, relevant and, hopefully, inspiring. 10:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Urban Village Church, Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan, <http://www.newchicagochurch.com>

Chicago Spirit Brigade Workshops & Try-outs If you're passionate about giving back to the community & love to perform, then the Chicago Spirit Brigade (CSB) invites you to tryout for their Drill, Dance or Cheer squad. No prior experience is necessary. 1 p.m.-5 p.m., East Lakeview Fitness Formula Club, <http://csbstars.com>

Urban Village Church Wicker Park Worship Services LGBT-welcoming worship services at Urban Village Church are eclectic and experiential, practical and intelligent, relevant and, hopefully, inspiring. 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m., 1502 N. Hoyne (at LeMoyne), <http://www.newchicagochurch.com>

Fleetwood Mac member Lindsey Buckingham Call for showtimes. 8pm, The Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield, <http://www.jamusa.com>

Patty Duke Live Benefit for Open Door Clinic. Come see Patty Duke Live, watch the film The Miracle Worker, with an interview with Patty and question and answer time. \$25.00 www.opendoorclinic.org; 2pm-



SPACE STATION Friday, Sept. 16

Singer Melissa Ferrick will perform at Evanston's Space, 1245 Chicago Ave.

PR photo

6pm, 847-695-1093 x19, Arcada Theater, 105 E. Main St., St. Charles, <http://www.opendoorclinic.org>

Monday, Sept. 19

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 Resident House DJ Semaj; 9 p.m., Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

"Light the Way to Find a Cure" with Goldie Hawn Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation and Presenting Sponsor Carson Pirie Scott will kick off October's National Breast Cancer Awareness Month with its 26th Annual Fall Benefit; \$250 per person or \$150 for those under the age of 30, and sponsorships from \$500 - \$20,000 are available; 11am, 312-926-4274, Ritz-Carlton Chicago, 160 E. Pearson St., Chicago, <http://www.lynnstage.org>

Tuesday, Sept. 20

Celebrate repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell with AVER The organization of GLBT veterans in Chicago and the Center on Halsted will celebrate the repeal of the military's anti-gay policy. Gay veterans will speak on the history of gays in the military, the DADT policy, and what lies ahead for gays in the military. 6pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.averchicago.org>

Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame Celebrity Auction \$10 registration fee includes one cocktail, hors d'oeuvres, raffle ticket and auction paddle. Reception begins at 7pm Bidding begins at 8 with celebrity guest auctioneer Wayne Johnson of NBC5 Chicago. 7pm-10pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St, <http://www.glhall-offame.org>

Wed., Sept. 21

LGBTQ Cancer Support Group A networking/support group for lesbian, gay, transgender, and questioning people who have cancer. The event is offered free of charge by Gilda's Club Chicago and Live Oak. 6pm-7:30pm, 312-464-9900, Gilda's Club Chicago, <http://www.gildasclubchicago.org>

Only at Brunch Viewing Party Be the first to catch new episodes of Only at Brunch! From sex, dating, and relationships to news, politics, and bedroom etiquette, no topic is off limits. 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Scarlet, 3320 N Halsted, <http://www.onlyatbrunch.com/>

Ani DiFranco Call for showtimes. 8pm, The Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield, <http://www.jamusa.com>

Hydrag Review Join Hydrate each and every Wednesday night for the best female impersonation show on Halsted Street! 9pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, http://www.hydratechicago.com/event-details/?event_id=120



FACE TIME

Friday-Saturday, Sept. 16-17

Erasure will perform at the Congress Theatre, 2135 N. Milwaukee Ave.

PR photo

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online

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ChicagoPride.com

BILLY MASTERS

"That's not to say I wouldn't like a penis. I really would like one and I hope that someday I will get one."—Chaz Bono discusses a goal for the future. Just what I need—someone else looking for a hot dick.

Since I've been embroiled in a spirited game of "I'll Show You," I had lots of free time during my lengthy stay in Florida. Therefore, I was able to accept the dinner invitation of a very handsome man. Like most things lately, it didn't go as planned. The man in question was some 10 to 15 years older than me—which, using Wikipedia and some rough conversions from the metric system, places him somewhere between 55 and death. Fine. But he acted a good 10 years older than that. As we all know, I've yet to act (or dress) my age. At some point, I became acutely aware of this 30-year gap. I believe it was when he picked me up for dinner at 4:30!

Sometimes we rush to get a story out and then something happens that I wish I could have included. Such is the case with a recent item that mentioned sexy Cheyenne Jackson. Within hours of filing my report, Cheyenne was in the Hamptons getting married to his longtime partner, Monte Lapka. Last summer, the couple had registered as domestic partners and had a commitment ceremony. But with gay marriage now legal in New York, there weren't any obstacles to a real wedding. He shared the news via Twitter (of course) by saying, "It's official, after 11 years together, Zora's no longer a bastard. Just married the best man I've ever known." By the way, Zora is the couple's dog ... who they often refer to as their daughter. She has Cheyenne's eyes.

Sometimes I'm psychic. I reported that Hugh Jackman was considering a limited Broadway run of his solo concert. Hours after my story hits the street, it was confirmed. From Oct. 25 through Dec. 20 (a date I'm sure is not cast in stone), Jackman will appear with an 18-piece orchestra at Broadway's Broadhurst Theater.

We previously told you about the upcoming production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, which is slated to star Blair Underwood this spring. Now we can tell you that Nicole Ari Parker will play Blanche and Daphne Rubin-Vega will play Stella. The revival is being produced by Front Row Productions, the same people who produced the all-Black version of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* in 2008. Next up, Kathleen Turner as Rosa Parks!

Creative casting is not limited to Broadway. Oh, no. The North Shore Music Theatre has announced its upcoming production of *The King and I* will star Lorenzo Lamas as the eponymous King (unless he's playing Mrs. Anna). When you call for tickets, be sure to also specify chicken or fish.

You all know that Darren Criss will take over the lead in *How To Succeed in Business* for three weeks once Daniel Radcliffe departs Jan. 1. But who will replace Criss? Nick Jonas, that's who—and he'll stick around till June. This marks Nick's return to the Great White Way after playing roles in *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Les Miserables*. I always had a feeling he was a thespian.

You all know that *Gay Days* at Disneyland will be happening Sept. 30-Oct. 2. I've already told you that Frenchie Davis will be singing her little heart out at the super-duper Kingdom party Oct. 1. But did you know that the next day I'll likely appear in a Speedo at the Plunge pool party? I'm sure that grabbed your attention. (I'm hoping for some grabbing) But say you want something a bit less ... risqué. Then you're in luck. The legendary Carol Channing will also be appearing Oct. 2 (most likely not in a bathing suit) for an "Intimate Conversation" at the Grand Californian Hotel. Proceeds will benefit her foundation which is working to get arts back into schools, a worthy cause if ever there was one. She'll also be

taking questions from the audience and plugging her upcoming CD—Carol Channing: True to the Red, White & Blue, which features patriotic ditties I believe she learned during the Civil War. All of this information can be found on <http://www.GayDaysAnaheim.com>.

Some people on the Fan Forum at BillyMasters.com were discussing Tom Hardy in the film *Bronson*. Hardy, best known for his role in *Inception*, really went out of his way to transform his body to portray one of Britain's most notorious prisoners. While it was an impressive acting job (which won him the British Independent Film Award for Best Actor), most of my readers were taken with his body—every inch of which is on display. One person quipped, "There's nothing like a naked muscular man being subdued by prison guards." Well, if that isn't a stellar recommendation, I don't know what is. I'll post pics and a clip of this subdued scene on BillyMasters.com.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Corey in London: "I just went to *West End Bares*—which is like *Broadway Bares* in the States. LOVED IT! What do you know about the hot guy from *Priscilla*? Amazing bod!!"

I had forgotten *West End Bares* was last week. This event was the brainchild of my dear friend, Darren Carnall. It started last year when he was



The legendary Carol Channing will be at *Gay Days* in Disneyland—but probably not in a bathing suit.

in the cast of the West End production of *Legally Blonde*—which was directed by Jerry Mitchell, who started *Broadway Bares*. This inspired Darren to organize *West End Bares* and raise money for the Make a Difference Trust (similar to *Broadway Cares*). Last year was such a huge hit, it returned this year to London's Café de Paris and raised in excess of \$70K. Amongst the hunky participants was Oliver Thornton—one of the sexy stars of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. He plays the same part Nick Adams is doing on Broadway and, with all due respect to the lovely Nicky, Oliver is indeed amazing. I'd caution you to crank up the air conditioner before heading over to BillyMasters.com—we'll be sharing some pretty steamy videos and photos from the event (focusing on the lovely Oliver and, of course, my dear Darren).

When Brits are showing off their West Ends, it's definitely time for me to end yet another column. It's been a while since I played "I'll Show You." These days, it seems you've won when you have to change your marital status on Facebook to "Single" and your partner's page is blocked. But that's OK because you can always see www.BillyMasters.com, the site that's always available. To take advantage of my availability, just send an e-mail to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before my dinner date with Carol Channing! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Congress Theater react presents RIOT FEST

Mayor, Quigley, Hawks at youth hockey clinic at the Center

BY ROSS FORMAN

U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley, D-Ill., ditched the formal attire Sept. 6 and, instead, sported a red Chicago Blackhawks jersey with No. 21 and MIKITA across the back.

Quigley, a hockey aficionado who even played ice hockey in the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago, sported the jersey of Hall of Famer Stan Mikita—for a work event, no less.

Quigley, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Ald. Tom Tunney and other dignitaries attended a youth hockey clinic at the Center on Halsted in Lakeview. Plus, Quigley and Blackhawk Charities donated \$2,000 in street hockey equipment for permanent use at the Center, including six boxes of street hockey sticks, balls, nets and goalie equipment.

"Hockey is for everyone, and we're trying to bring all sports to all kids, and not just limit

of public affairs for the Center. "Seeing the mayor, the congressman, the Blackhawks, including a Hall of Famer, all here together to support LGBT youth and provide safe space and athletic programs for all people, it's overwhelming to be part of a community where your elected officials and your sports heroes are standing shoulder to shoulder with the LGBT community, working to make a difference."

Richardson said the street hockey equipment will have a "huge impact on the Center. The more resources our community has, the more we're able to do together."

"The Chicago Blackhawks are proud to partner with U.S. Representative Mike Quigley, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Center on Halsted on this great initiative," Blackhawks team president and CEO John McDonough said in a statement. He did not attend the event, but several high-ranking team officials were present.



From left: Chicago Blackhawk Niklas Hjalmarsson, 44th Ward Ald. Tom Tunney, Congressman Mike Quigley and Chicago Cubs co-owner Tom Ricketts. Photo by Ross Forman

it to a few," Quigley said. "My goal is to bring some version of hockey to every kid in Chicago, if they want to play it."

Hockey Hall of Famer Denis Savard attended the event, along with current Blackhawks Niklas Hjalmarsson and Brett McLean. Chicago Cubs CEO Tom Ricketts was also present.

Members of the Chicago Gay Hockey Association (CGHA), including team president Andrew Sobotka and Tony Tiet, attended as well.

"I am committed to building a healthier Chicago which focuses on providing children more opportunities to be physically active," Emanuel said in a statement. "Thanks to the Chicago Blackhawks for investing in Chicago's communities and giving children in neighborhoods across the city the opportunity to play hockey and be active."

Emanuel talked of his push for all to be active and told of his participation in last month's Chicago Triathlon. Plus, Emanuel joked about Quigley's passion for hockey. Quigley also joked about his passion for the Hawks and hatred for their arch-rival Detroit Red Wings.

The mayor received a Blackhawks red jersey with No. 11 and EMANUEL on the back.

"Every once in a while you get to do something fun and still do something for a worthwhile cause. The Hawks have been just outstanding with this program," Quigley said. "The idea is to eventually make hockey available to every gym in Chicago that wants it, [including] every high school gym and every park district."

Blackhawk Charities donates equipment to about six youth centers annually, such as Boys & Girls Clubs and schools.

"It was great," said Brian Richardson, director

"We are appreciative of their support in growing the sport of hockey on a grassroots level while delivering such a positive effect on so many young people in our city."

"Athletics can help young people build confidence and leadership," Center on Halsted CEO Modesto "Tico" Valle said in a statement. "Unfortunately, too many LGBT youth are prevented from participating fully in team sports because of bullying or other obstacles. We're proud to work with Mayor Emanuel, Rep. Quigley and the Chicago Blackhawks to provide the equipment, the training and the safe environment necessary for LGBT youth to participate."

As for his casual attire, Quigley said with a laugh, "Just another day at the office."



Mayor Emanuel and Center on Halsted CEO Modesto "Tico" Valle. Photo by Ross Forman

Softball player Wesley remembered

BY ROSS FORMAN

They celebrated Chuck Wesley on the softball fields this past weekend, honoring his legacy by renaming a team for him that competed in the annual Senior Cup.

Wesley died this past Feb. 5, after a fight with leukemia. He was 52.

"Chuck Wesley was an amazing individual, loved by so many people from many different cities in which he lived, including Philadelphia, Washington D.C., New York and, most recently, Chicago," said Brian Harder, 46, who lives in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood. "Chuck had a bone marrow transplant in 2010 that we thought was successful, but when the disease returned early this year, it claimed [his life] within a week. It was a shock to everyone who knew him."

"Chuck played softball in each city he lived in and was always a team motivator and friend. When Chuck moved to Chicago, he organized the 'Battered Boys' team for the Senior Cup and filled it with friends from all over the country. 'Battered Boys' refers to being over 40 and through the ringer of life, but still going strong. These friends have all formed a tight bond together based on Chuck's leadership."

"This year we became 'Chuck's Battered Boys' in his honor and played the tournament with him watching over us."

Although the team didn't win the tournament championship, the memories were priceless, said Harder, a pitcher/outfielder. "It was more about enjoying each other's camaraderie that was brought about by [Wesley]," he said.

Harder said the tournament, naturally, was emotional, as was the post-event get-together at Sidetrack Bar.

"I found myself talking to Chuck at times while I was on the field," Harder said. "Chuck was too weak to play in 2010, but he still brought us all together. His presence was cer-

tainly felt and there were moments [this weekend] where I just felt like crying as I recalled seeing him in the dugout with a scorebook or cheering us on when we made good plays.

"The weekend highlight for his closest friends actually came after the tournament on Sunday night at Sidetrack. Three different friends went



From left: Brian Harder and Chuck Wesley. Photo courtesy of Harder

to three different bartenders at Sidetrack and purchased drinks. Each time drinks were ordered, the bartender bought a drink or two of the total order. It literally felt as if Chuck was with us buying us drinks at the bar and when we realized what was happening, it was a joyous feeling that brought tears to our eyes."

Harder put together a large collage of pictures that were collected from Wesley's friends. The photos were blown up, laminated and tied together with zip ties, and then hung on the fences and backstops at the field. "Not only were [the photos] appreciated by Chuck's friends, but many strangers came up to look at the pictures and it gave those of us who knew him a chance to tell them about the great guy that Chuck was," Harder said.

"Chuck's family lives on the East Coast, so there never was a real memorial service for him here in Chicago. This wasn't quite a memorial service, but it gave us a reason to celebrate and remember the person Chuck was, so that we could have a little closure with his passing."

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

Weather impacts ASANA World Series

BY ROSS FORMAN

The annual ASANA (Amateur Sports Alliance of North America) World Series, held Aug. 23-27 in Philadelphia, certainly was a memorable one—as much off the field as it was on it.

The event "started with a shake and ended with a blast," said Bob Lenahan, co-chairman of the annual women's softball extravaganza that featured five teams from Chicago. "Despite starting with an earthquake and ending with a hurricane, we were able to complete all of the championship games with the exception of the C-Division."

"The Philadelphia Sunday Hangovers and the Atlanta Gamma teams showed some great competition and great softball that forced the 'if game. Unfortunately, Mother Nature won out and Hurricane Irene caused the cancellation of the final game and the two teams were crowned co-champs."

The Philadelphia NJ Gems captured the B-Division title, defeating the Fort Lauderdale New Moon Pride in the championship game.

The Philadelphia Simon 369ers defeated the Philadelphia Foul Play to win the D-Division title.

"It was a Series that clearly will be remembered for the great times, great events and great competition," Lenahan said. "The Opening Ceremonies and Series were one of the largest to date, and everyone went home not only filled with cheesesteaks but great memories."

None of the Chicago teams advanced far in the tournament. In fact, all five Chicago teams lost their first pool-play games. The Chicago Nubians and the Chicago Moodswings each lost its first

game in the double-elimination portion of the B-Division of the Series.

The Chicago Breeze lost to the Los Angeles Nemesis in its first pool play game in C-Division.

The Chicago Raw Energy Minors and Chicago Raw Energy Majors also fell into the loser's bracket immediately.

—In other softball news, here are the results from the season-ending playoffs from the predominantly male open division of Sunday softball, run by the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA):

B-Division:

Champions: Spin Cougars
Runner-up: Downtown Bar & Lounge

C1-Division:

Champions: Sidetrack Blues
Runner-up: Halsted's Chargers

C2-Division:

Champions: Jackhammer Pamas
Runner-up: Crew Litening

C3-Division:

Champions: Roadhouse 66 Lucky Charmers
Runner-up: Downtown Wicked

D1 Division:

Champion: SoFo

D2 Division:

Champions: Blueberry Moon Salon
Runner-up: Hamburger Mary's Rec Room Wreckers

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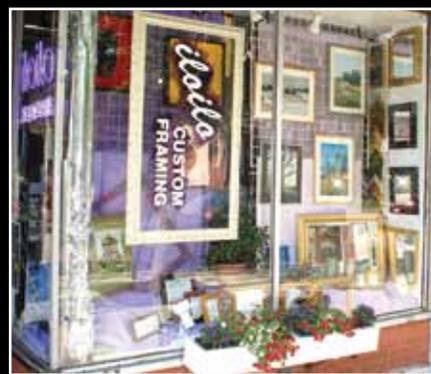
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Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved 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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