



SHANNEN DOHERTY DISHES

PAGE 36

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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RED DRESS PARTY PICS

PAGE 36

Survey of local non-profits

BY ERICA DEMAREST

To document federal compliance and provide status updates for some of the city's largest LGBT and AIDS non-profit organizations, Windy City Times (WCT) launched a survey of non-government organizations [NGOs] in November 2011.

The newspaper requested financial, staff and board data from more than 20 local organizations.

As tax-exempt organizations, almost all nonprofits are required to file annual information returns with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS); those with annual budgets

of \$25,000 or less are exempt. These returns, called Form 990, include data on revenue, expense, director compensation and salaries for the five highest-paid employees.

All IRS returns are due on the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of an organization's fiscal year. In layman's terms: A 2011 return for an organization whose fiscal year ends June 30, 2012, will not be filed until November 15, 2012.

As such, Windy City Times requested that participating organizations complete a questionnaire we titled "Survey of LGBT and AIDS non-profit agencies 2011." The document requested data similar to that found on Form 990;

it was meant to bridge the gap between recent filings (available on GuideStar.org) and most up-to-date information, as well as provide insight into board and staff demographics.

Members of the public have a right to access the annual Form 990 returns and accompanying documentation. Organizations may charge reasonable fees to cover copying and mailing costs, but must share data publicly.

Most groups, including the Center on Halsted, AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC), Chicago House, the Heart-

Turn to page 5



EQIL-TCRA FALLOUT OVER TRANS MEASURE

PAGE 12



page 34

Transgender woman found murdered in Chicago

BY KATE SOSIN

Paige Clay, a transgender woman who many believed to be a rising luminary in Chicago's ball scene, was found apparently murdered in West Garfield Park.

Clay, 23, was found in an alley on the 4500 block of West Jackson Boulevard on Monday, April 16 at 3:52 a.m. According to police, Clay suffered a gunshot wound to the head. No one is custody. Area North Detectives are investigating.

Police did not identify Clay. Rather, several community members confirmed her identity to Windy City Times. Clay received services at local LGBT agencies and was known in Chicago's ball scene.

Clay grew up on Chicago's West Side. At age 9 or 10, she became a ward of the state. The whereabouts of her parents are unknown to those who knew her. According to Ivory Mays, a close friend of Clay, lived for a time at Lawrence Hall Youth Services.

Clay found Chicago's LGBT community at a young age, and she formed a large chosen queer family.

Among them was Mina Ross, who was Clay's "ballroom mother" in the House of Evisu.

Ross, who provided a home for Clay for a period of time, described Clay as "rambunctious."

She was hard to get to know, said friends. She was fiercely protective and tough. But those who got close enough discovered a passionate and kind person, they said.



Paige Clay. Photo courtesy of Brian Turner

Turn to page 14



KATY PERRY IN 'POP'

PAGE 37

Talk, talk

The irreverent Kathy Griffin chats with Windy City Times about her upcoming performance in Joliet, Hollywood and her new talk show. See page 34. PR photo

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this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

NEWS

Church within a Church	4
NGO analysis	5
Romney names gay advisor	11
Fallout from transgender ordinance	12
Against Equality; global march	13
Trans housing; passages; Clay	14
LGBT health conference	15
Ann Sather; CTA; Night of Noise	16
Gay in the Life; T in the Life	17
AIDS @ 30	18
Viewpoints: Carey; letters	22

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

Scottish Play Scott	23
Harvey Milk book	31
Movies: ...Translation; The Raven	32
Director Elliot London	33
Kathy Griffin interview	34
Shannen Doherty; Red Dress Party	36
Dish: Taxim's chef; Elate	38
Billy Masters	45
OUTLINES	
Real estate; classifieds	42
Calendar Q	44
Sports: Force win, Coady classic	46

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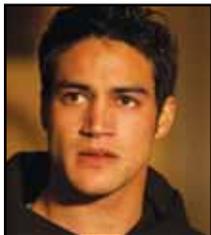
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KARDASHIAN KAOS

Kim and Khloe Kardashian (and mom Kris Jenner) popped into Sears last week. See photos from the event.

Photo by Jerry Nunn



Read a review of the New Zealand gay-themed movie Kawa.

Photo from Liza Nedelman

Find out Vern Hester's views on shows by The White Rabbits and Xina Xurner (above) in his Bent Nights column.

Photo by Vern Hester

CLOSE CALL

Financial wiz Phil Sitar looks at e-closings.

BEING SOCIAL

See photos from the NQAPIA/Chicago i2i social and Steppenwolf's "Red or White" gala. Also, see pics from an Ugandan activist's Chicago visit.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Read entertainment news about Tyra Banks, Cher and Chris Evans.

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Chicago-based religious movement shows progressive colors

BY CHUCK COLBERT

As Methodists gather in Tampa, Fla., for their general conference this week, the director of a progressive religious movement associated with the denomination is calling for a coming together around several issues, including LGBT rights.

"People need community," says Cathy Knight, executive director of a Chicago-based progressive religious movement that grew out of the nation's largest mainline Protestant denomination's exclusionary policies towards gay and lesbian persons.

For more than seven years, knight (who spells her name all in small letters) has served the Church Within A Church Movement (CWACM) that is all about "inclusion and just ministry."

Inclusion means affirming LGBT persons, she said.

Justice is about fighting racism and white privilege.

Perhaps more important, justice ministry requires ordaining women and men who are still barred by The United Methodist Church's prohibition on openly gay ministers.

The United Methodist Church may also deny ordination on the basis of gender identity or expression and/or because a candidate for ministry's progressive or inclusive theology, said knight.

The spiritual home of former President George W. Bush and current Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, The United Methodist Church has an estimated 8 million members nationwide and in Canada. That number includes larger concentrations in the South and Midwest of the United States.

The United Methodist Church is also a global church with an additional 3.5 million members in Europe, Africa and Asia.

The denomination, like other branches in mainline Protestantism, has seen its numbers drop in North America, but membership has risen in Africa and Asia.

Meanwhile, CWACM is growing "exponentially," said knight, readily acknowledging in the same breath it is a small movement, with hundreds of members and a listserv of a couple thousand. The "presumed risk," knight said, of CWACM membership keeps many supporters from joining.

"We are non-hierarchical, very open to how the spirit informs this justice ministry," she said. "It's a very liberating place for people who have been harmed in the name of church."

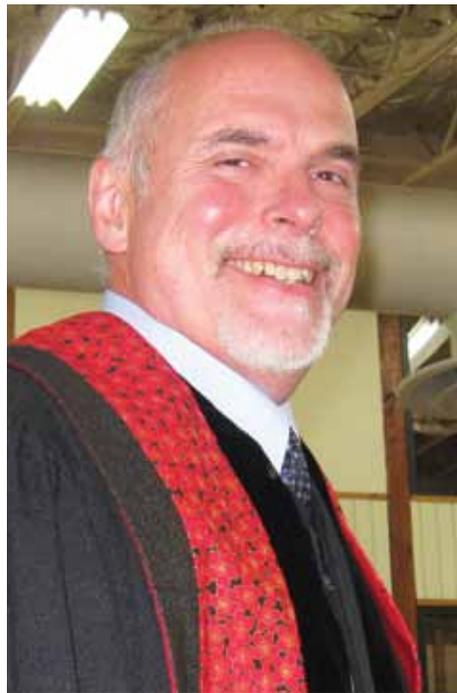
"When people can find wholeness and healing and a loving community," knight added, "that is what I think is church. And when people remember who they are, who God has made them to be, then they, we, can in turn, transform and liberate our communities and the world."

While other mainline Protestant churches—Evangelical Lutherans, Presbyterians, the United Church of Christ, and Episcopalians with roots in the English Reformation—all have lifted bans on out clergy and have become increasingly welcoming of LGBT persons, the United Methodists have not. That, in large part, is what draws progressive Methodists to CWACM.

In fact, since 1972, United Methodist Church doctrine has become increasingly explicit in firming anti-gay policy.

The United Methodist Church does "not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching," states the Book of Discipline, the denomination's law book, which includes its Constitution, history, mission, and doctrinal standards.

Sure enough, "homosexual persons no less



Rev. Kevin Johnson. Photo from Johnson

than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth," according to the law book.

And while "We insist that all persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured," the Discipline adds, The United Methodist Church advocates "laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman."

Not only are "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" unsuitable for ordination, but also pastors who celebrate same-sex unions or marriages can be put on church trial and defrocked. The high-profile 1999 trial of the Rev. Jimmy Creech is a case in point.

And yet, The United Methodist Church (UMC) "implore[s] families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends" and commits itself "to be in ministry with all persons, affirming that God's grace love, and forgiveness is available to all," according to the Discipline.

The last 40 years have been "extremely painful," said Rev. Kevin Johnson, co-founder and pastor of Bloom in the Desert Ministries, a United Church of Christ (UCC) and Reconciling Methodist congregation that is the first new church start affiliated with CWACM.

Johnson was referring to "the injustice and misinformation and intransigence," what he referred to over the telephone as "the march toward greater exclusion of gay and lesbian people," which, he added, "is consistent and documentable" in The United Methodist Church.

Bloom in the Desert Ministries is located in Palm Springs, Calif.

However, the congregation with 105 members has ties to Chicago. As Johnson explained the connection, "I remain a UMC minister on 'honorable location,' serving a UCC congregation, commissioned by [Chicago's] Broadway United Methodist Church."

Every four years, The United Methodist Church gathers in General Conference, a convening of clergy and laity, to determine denominational polity.

Over the last four decades, The United Methodist Church, meeting in General Conference, has become increasingly conservative, primarily because of its growth globally, overseas.

Nearly 1,000 delegates from all over the world will gather in Tampa, Fla., April 23-May 4. There, delegates will grapple with petitions and resolu-

tions, among other matters.

General Conference is significant insofar as it the only body that can set official policy and speak for the denomination.

CWACM's knight said that she expects any number of LGBT-related proposals to come up at General Conference. Some directly aim at "striking 'the homosexuality-is-incompatible-with-Christian-teaching' line while others—unbelievably, in 2012 when the acceptance of lesbian and gay folks is on the rise—seek to bolster that exclusion," she said.

Yet, other resolutions may seek "to include transgender clergy in the list of people who cannot be ordained in The United Methodist Church," said knight.

The Church Within A Church Movement plans a visible presence in Tampa, to give what knight calls a "justice ministry witness of hope and equality."

Joining knight will be the Rev. Annie Britton and her wife Terry Schwennessen, along with the Rev. DeLyn Celec and her wife Sarah Celec. CWACM ordained Britton in 2008 and last year ordained Celec.

A former United Methodist clergyperson, Dave Lafary, who gave up his clergy credentials two years ago when he chose no longer to remain closeted, will also attend General Conference with CWACM.

Over dinner, CWACM will give conference attendees a chance to learn more about the movement.

"Because we were born out of the exclusion of The United Methodist Church, there will be great interest in our presence at General Conference," said knight.

"Simply in our being there," she added, "people think we are having an impact."

However, "some people think we are irritants. We've been called 'renegades' by one bishop in the United Methodist Church," said knight, adding, "We are renegades—so was Jesus."

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SIDEBAR

Two very different people following UMC

BY CHUCK COLBERT

When the nearly 1,000 Methodist delegates converge in Tampa, Fla., this week for their quadrennial gathering, one church insider and one outsider—both with deep ties to the mainline Protestant denomination—won't be there.

However, that doesn't mean the Rev. Gil Caldwell and Marilyn Bennett are indifferent to



Rev. Gil Caldwell and Marilyn Bennett. Photo courtesy of Bennett

what happens at the United Methodist Church's (UMC) 2012 General Conference.

They are calling for a change in the anti-gay policies of a church that has rattled and sustained their spirituality and faith journey for decades.

The insider, Caldwell, 78, is a married (wedded for 54 years), straight African-American Methodist minister, retired and in good standing, now based in Asbury Park, N.J.

The outsider, Bennett, 50, is a single, white, lesbian author and video biographer who said, "As my roots grew deeper and deeper, ironically the teachings of Jesus led me farther and farther

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NATIONAL NEWS

- CIA hosts LGBT summit
- Middle Tenn. State Univ. may get gay fraternity
- Cher surprises Chaz Bono at GLAAD event (left)

from the church."

Now, "I feel that I have been liberated from the church, and my heart has opened more and more," she said.

Bennett's exodus out of Methodism is a story of being driven out, even though she was baptized and confirmed in the Methodist tradition, going on to serve in campus and youth ministry. Bennett even earned a master of divinity degree from Southern Methodist University and worked as an administrator at a UMC seminary.

From 1999 to 2003, Bennett was executive director of Reconciling Ministries Network, "a growing movement of United Methodist individuals, congregations, campus ministries, and other groups working for full participation of all people in the [UMC]," according to its mission statement.

However, after a lifetime in the denomination, she felt that she could no longer be a part of a church that sanctioned discrimination—inside and outside the church. Having relocated from Chicago in 2004, Bennett now lives in Helena, Mont., and is no longer affiliated with the UMC. She left the church at the age of 42.

Looking back, she said, a defining moment came at the 2000 General Conference in Cleveland. As delegates prepared to maintain UMC anti-gay policy and doctrine, a "woman in the balcony stood on a railing and cried out in despair about how she had been raised in the church and was now rejected," Bennett explained. Delegates feared she would jump, but the woman was persuaded not to do so.

After a "two-week multi-layered campaign" for progressive church reform, Bennett went on to say, and after "demonstrations" and "arrests" on

the conference floor, and the "woman's shared pain," delegates voted to uphold LGBT exclusion.

Stories like that rattle Caldwell, who still dearly loves the UMC, despite anti-LGBT policies that hurt good people like Bennett, driving them away.

Caldwell said he wonders, "Why do any of us feel that authentic faith means that we screen some people out, while we screen others in?"

"At one time we screened out women, Blacks, divorced clergy, clergy who drank alcohol, and

Turn to page 5

now we screen out clergy who are open about their committed same-sex relationships," Caldwell added.

"When will the UMC cease requiring that its gay clergy continue to compromise their integrity?" he said.

Meanwhile, the former Methodist and the retired minister are staking out common ground at the intersection of race, sexuality, and religion, which they see as key to making headway in the church.

The issues of race and sexual orientation are particularly vexing as the United Methodist Church is growing in Africa where resistance to gay rights is strong.

Through an interactive Web site, over the telephone, and sometimes in person, Bennett and Caldwell facilitate Truth in Progress (www.TruthinProgress.com), a multimedia project taking "a special look at the similar yet difference experiences and histories" of the black civil-rights and LGBT-rights movements.

They hope to produce a documentary from their work.

Theirs is a ministry of connecting the dots among the "big three" — race, sexual orientation, and religion. It's a lot to explore in one project, Bennett and Caldwell readily acknowledge.

However, they remain confident that in examining crossover threads that often intertwine and become entangled, the truth about the sacred worth of LGBT persons will over time progress into the heart of the UMC.

Bennett is not sure when that may happen. "Frankly, I think society is way ahead of the church, and the church's anti-LGBT stance only makes the church seem more irrelevant and out of touch," she said. "A lot has changed in our country since 1972, but the UMC had held onto its '[homosexuality]-is-incompatible-with-Christianity' language all that time."

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NON-PROFITS from cover

land Alliance, Association for Latino Men of Action (ALMA), Affinity and TPAN, responded quickly to the WCT survey.

Others experienced delays for several reasons. The South Side Help Center prioritized budget cuts, difficult staff layoffs and 25th anniversary preparations while The Civil Rights Agenda, which had not yet organized 2011 data, needed time to compile and provide a response.

Howard Brown Health Center did not provide the requested 2011 data, which it said was still being prepared. The healthcare organization, instead, promised to release a press announcement when its Form 990 is submitted.

The organization did say it is currently shifting funding methods, moving toward "a more sustainable model where more than 50 percent of revenue is derived from earned income and social enterprise operations," according to Alonzo Brown, senior communications director.

Equality Illinois did not provide salary information for its five highest-paid employees. The organization said the data was "publicly available" and submitted to WCT copies of its 2010 Form 990. Windy City Times was unable to procure 2011 salary data.

For various financial and organizational reasons, several nonprofits were unable to partake in the survey.

Lambda Legal, a Chicago outpost of a national organization, offered to provide data; however, the group's organizational structure would make it difficult to isolate Chicago data. For instance, the five highest-paid employees are not based

in Chicago, and board members are part of the national organization (as opposed to a local branch). National data is available on Lambda Legal's Website, www.lambdalegal.org.

Since Gerber/Hart is currently undergoing board transitions and readying for a move, it was not possible to garner clear, up-to-date financial data.

Smaller organizations, such as Soy Quien Soy (a newly minted empowerment group) and GenderJUST, are not registered 501c3 or 501c4 organizations.

"We have never been a registered non-profit and ran only on grants that could fund our basic operations," said GenderJUST Policy Director Yasmin Nair (full Nair is a senior writer at WCT). "In 2011, we lost a considerable amount of funding due to the economic downturn, and we no longer have any paid staff.... We are a volunteer-run and -driven grassroots organization."

WCT sent requests to Amigas Latinas and the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus, but did not receive responses.

Executive directors' salaries have become a national hot-button issue in recent years, as private citizens have complained about excessive incomes, perks and bonuses.

The IRS requires that executives and top staffers be paid "fair and reasonable" compensation; however, no universal standard or formula exists. Ultimately, determining whether a salary is "fair and reasonable" is a fairly subjective practice.

The IRS suggests that executive director compensation should be comparable to salaries

found at nonprofits with similar budget and scope. The nonprofit Foundation Group said several factors are taken into account: job description, level of education and experience, compensation averages in your area, number of hours worked and overall budget.

Some have suggested standardized formulas (e.g. executive directors' salaries should never exceed 20 percent of an organization's total revenue). It is difficult to implement such streamlined criteria, however. A nonprofit with a \$100,000 budget will have vastly different capabilities than a nonprofit bringing in \$100 million. Twenty percent of those budgets is \$20,000 and \$20 million, respectively.

If salaries exceed "fair and reasonable" amounts, the IRS penalizes an organization with fines, or in extreme cases, revocation of tax-exempt status. Fines are more likely.

Windy City Times isolated executive directors' salaries and linked them to overall budget, for comparison's sake.

On the next four pages, you'll find detailed charts highlighting budget, salary, staff and board information for each participating nonprofit. Rather than try to compare the various service and advocacy organizations apples-to-apples, which would yield superficial results, Windy City Times has opted to present raw data for our readers.

All data, unless otherwise noted, was provided by the organization in question.

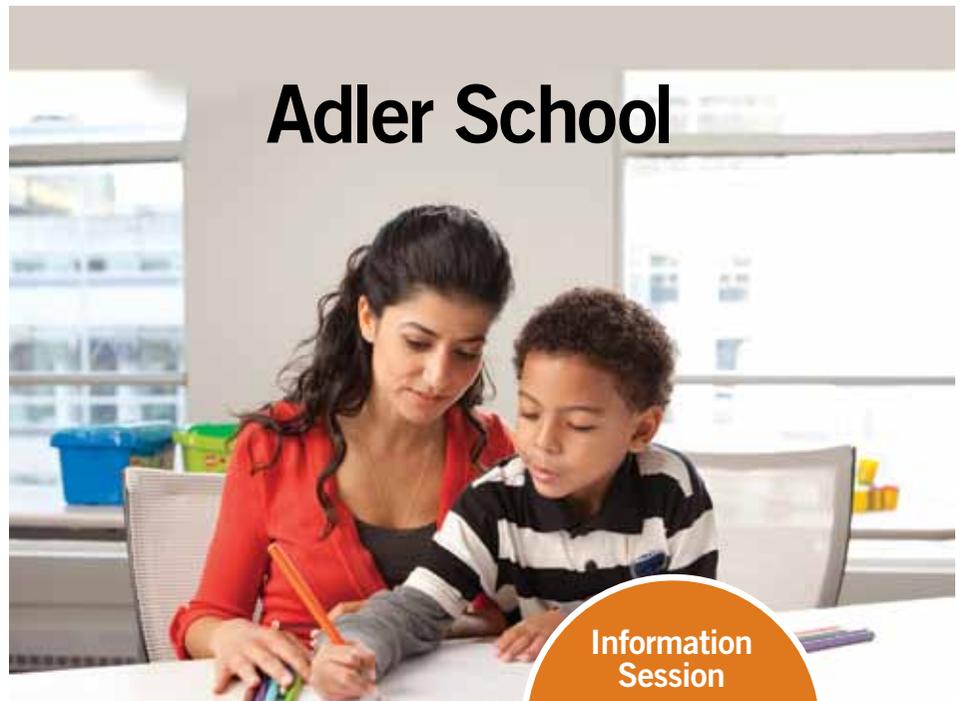
The non-profit charts in the print edition of Windy City Times continue on the next four pages.

SEE COMPREHENSIVE NON-PROFITS CHARTS OVER THE NEXT FOUR PAGES

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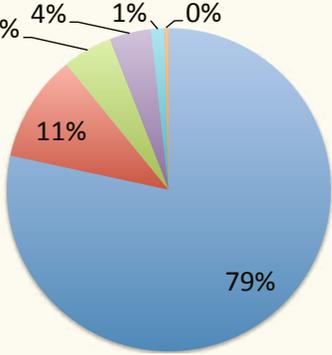
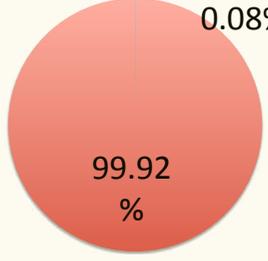
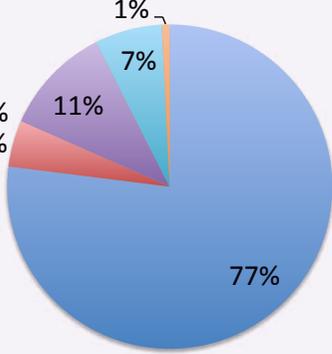
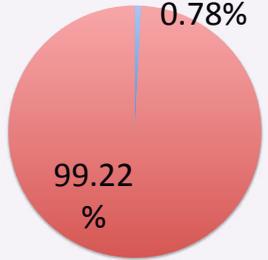
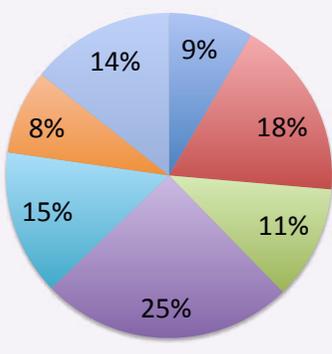
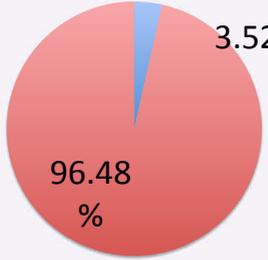
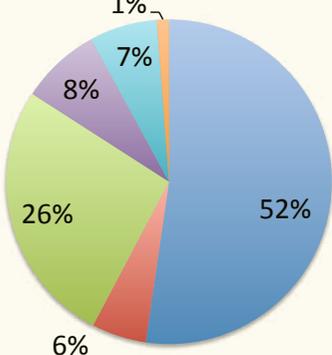
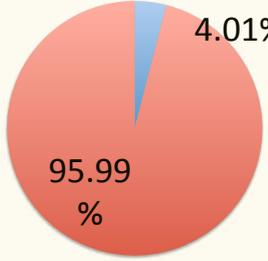
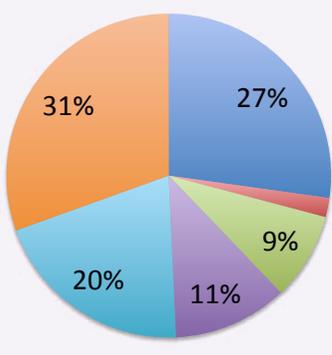
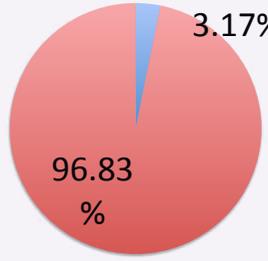
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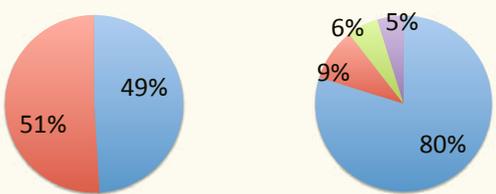
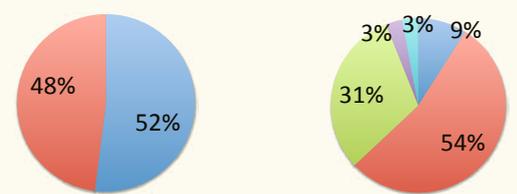
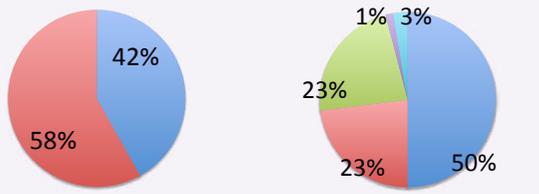
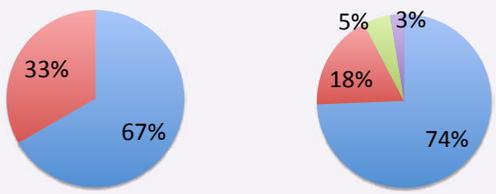
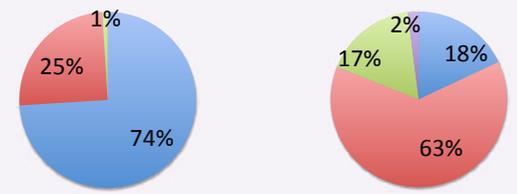
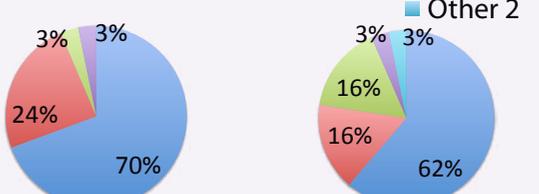
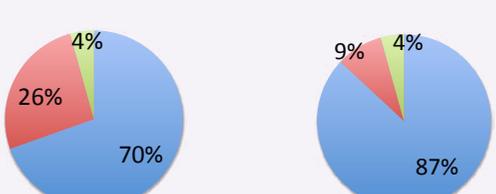
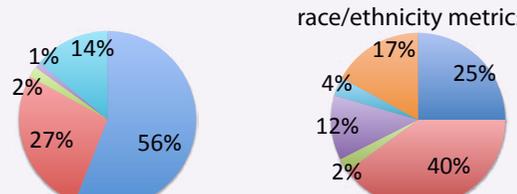
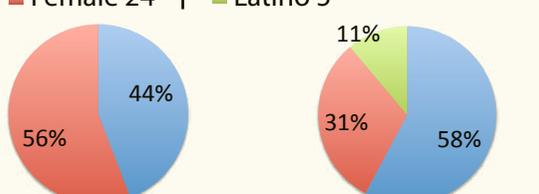
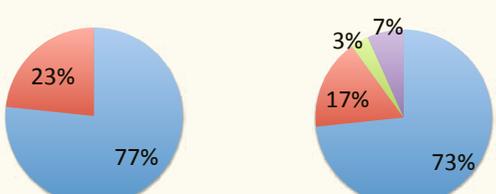
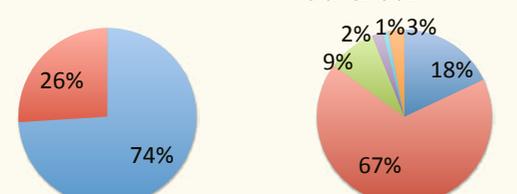
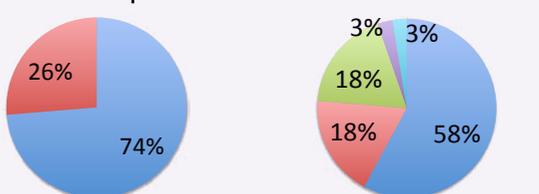
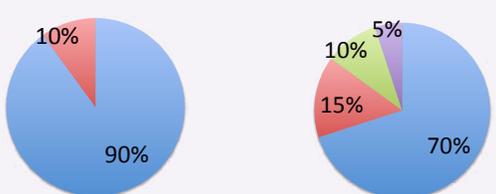
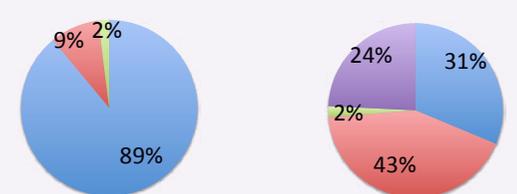
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ORGANIZATION	BUDGET BREAKDOWN	SALARY
<p>Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights Incorporated 1914 Fiscal Year: July 1-June 30 Provides a variety of programming for those seeking safety, including people who are homeless, LGBT or HIV-positive. 2011 Income: \$322,837,238 2011 Expense: \$307,679,279</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Grants and contracts ■ Contributions ■ Rental and related ■ Program services ■ Miscellaneous ■ United Way 	<p>■ Executive Director: \$260,493 ■ Total NGO Income: \$322,837,238</p>  <p>Top Five Salaries: \$260,493 \$195,830 \$160,407 \$137,931 \$136,090</p>
<p>AIDS Foundation of Chicago Incorporated 1985 Fiscal Year: July 1-June 30 Develops and improves HIV/AIDS services; funds and coordinates prevention, care and advocacy projects; lobbies for legislative change. 2011 Income: \$21,110,711 2011 Expense: \$21,110,711</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Federal grants ■ State grants ■ City grants ■ Private donations ■ Fundraising ■ Other 	<p>■ Executive Director: \$166,521 ■ Total NGO Income: \$21,110,711</p>  <p>Top Five Salaries: \$166,521 \$140,000 \$109,200 \$98,183 \$92,700</p>
<p>Howard Brown Health Center Incorporated 1985 Fiscal Year: July 1-June 30 The LGBT health organization conducts research and provides primary care, prevention & youth services. 2011 Income: Not provided. 2011 Expense: Not provided. 2012 Budget: \$18,000,000</p>	<p>"The FY2011 990 is currently being prepared. Howard Brown Health Center is looking forward to sharing the positive financial state of the organization in the coming weeks and will share the announcement once it is complete." -Alonzo E. Brown Senior Director, Communications</p>	<p>■ Estimated* Executive Director: \$265,000 2011 NGO Income not provided</p> <p>Top Five Salaries: Not provided.</p> <p>*HBHC did not provide salary data. Estimates based on WCT reporting.</p>
<p>Center on Halsted Incorporated 1973 (Gay Horizons) Fiscal Year: July 1-June 30 The LGBT social service agency hosts speakers and social events. It provides advocacy, support & educational services. 2011 Income: \$4,500,000 ** 2011 Expense: \$4,600,000</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Federal grants ■ State grants ■ City grants ■ Private donations ■ Corp., Foundations ■ Fundraising ■ Earned revenue 	<p>■ Executive Director: \$163,960 ■ Total NGO Income: \$4,500,000</p>  <p>Top Five Salaries: \$163,960 \$100,000 \$95,000 \$90,000 \$82,660</p>
<p>Chicago House Incorporated 1985 Fiscal Year: July 1-June 30 Provides permanent & community-based housing, supportive services, basic life skills and employment assistance to those impacted by HIV/AIDS. 2011 Income: \$4,442,699 2011 Expense: \$5,009,104 ***</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Federal grants ■ State grants ■ Private donations ■ Fundraising ■ Other ■ United Way 	<p>■ Executive Director: \$185,400 ■ Total NGO Income: \$4,442,699</p>  <p>Top Five Salaries: \$185,400 \$100,785 \$100,785 \$95,481 \$60,500</p>
<p>Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) Incorporated 1988 Fiscal Year: Oct 1-Sept 30 Empowers those with HIV/AIDS to live healthy, productive lives; promotes testing; publishes Positively Aware magazine. 2011 Income: \$3,247,385 2011 Expense: \$3,233,931****</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Federal grants ■ State grants ■ City grants ■ Private donations ■ Fundraising ■ Positively Aware 	<p>■ Executive Director: \$106,307 ■ Total NGO Income: \$3,247,385</p>  <p>Top Five Salaries: \$106,307 \$77,250 \$66,989 \$63,860 \$60,975</p>

**Center on Halsted: 77% of every dollar raised went to programs (\$3,594,815), and 23% of every dollar raised went to administration and fundraising (\$858,382).

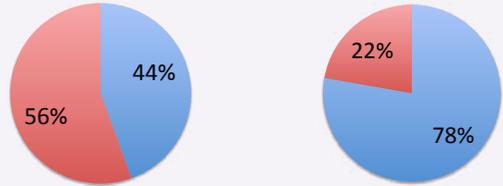
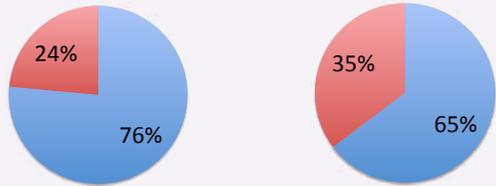
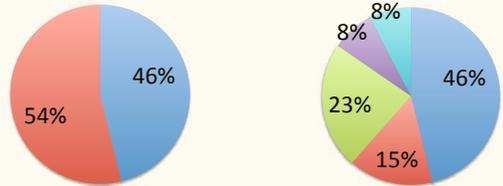
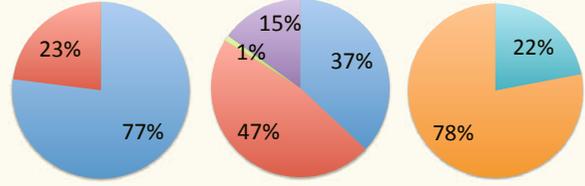
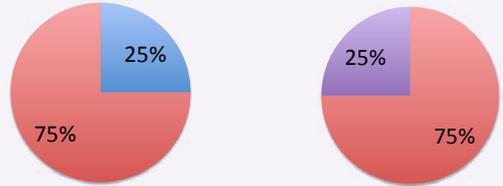
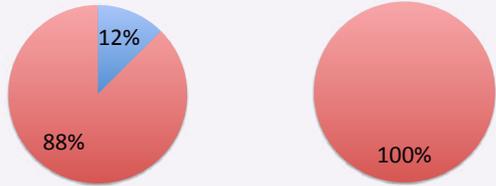
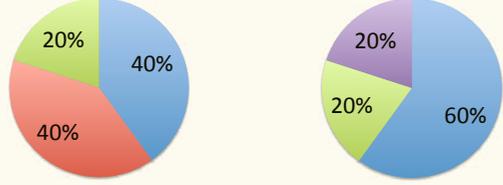
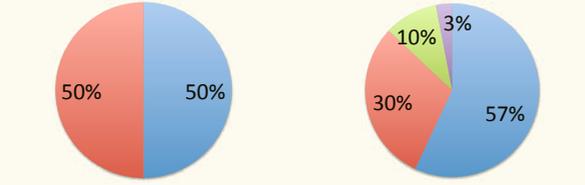
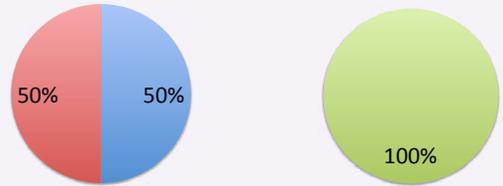
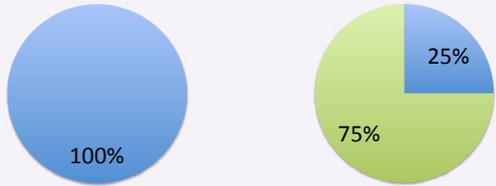
***Chicago House: "We had budget surpluses for many years that we tucked away for hard times. We covered this deficit with some of those reserves because we did not want to have to cut any of our desperately needed services to our clients."

STAFF	BOARD	CLIENTS
<p>Heartland Alliance (cont.)</p> <p>900 full-time employees (No further breakdown provided.)</p>	<p>104 board members, across four bodies</p> <p>Male 51 White 83 Black 10 Female 53 Latino 6 Asian 5</p> 	<p>Heartland assists 1 million clients in 18 countries.</p> <p>Male 52% White 9% Black 54% Latino 31% Female 48% Asian 3% Multiracial 3%</p> 
<p>AIDS Foundation of Chicago (cont.)</p> <p>74 full-time employees</p> <p>Male 31 White 37 Black 17 Latino 17 Female 43 Asian 1 Other 2</p> 	<p>39 board members</p> <p>Male 26 White 29 Black 7 Female 13 Latino 2 Other 1</p> 	<p>More than 6,800 clients annually in Chicago, suburbs.</p> <p>Male 74% White 18% Black 63% Female 25% Latino 17% Other 2%</p> 
<p>Howard Brown (cont.)</p> <p>187 full- and part-time employees across all business organizations.</p> <p>Employees are male, female and trans; white, Black and Latino. (No further breakdown provided.)</p>	<p>18 board members</p> <p>Board members are male and female; white and Black. (No further breakdown provided.)</p>	<p>Health Center: 40,000 clients annually. Brown Elephant: 100,000 clients annually.</p> <p>Visitors come from 30 states and 1 Canadian province. (No further breakdown provided.)</p>
<p>Center on Halsted (cont.)</p> <p>62 full-time employees</p> <p>Male 43 Trans 2 White 38 Black 10 Female 15 Other 2 Asian 2 Latino 10 Other 2</p> 	<p>23 board members</p> <p>Male 16 Trans 1 White 20 Black 2 Female 6 Asian 1</p> 	<p>35,000 clients; 350,000 visitors</p> <p>Male 56% Female 27% American 25% Latino 12% Trans 2% Unknown 14% European 40% Asian 2.5% Questioning 1% Multiracial 3.5% Unknown 17% (The Center maintains unique race/ethnicity metrics.)</p> 
<p>Chicago House (cont.)</p> <p>45 full-time employees</p> <p>Male 19 White 26 Black 14 Female 24 Latino 5</p> 	<p>30 board members*</p> <p>Male 23 White 22 Black 5 Female 7 Latino 1 Asian 2</p>  <p>*LGBT 22 (73%)</p>	<p>Chicago House assists 1,400 clients citywide.</p> <p>Male 74% White 18% Black 67% Latino 9% Female 26% Asian 2% Native American 1% Other 3%</p>  <p>*LGBT and/or MSM 68%</p>
<p>TPAN (cont.)</p> <p>32 full-time and 6 part-time employees*</p> <p>Male 28 White 22 Black 7 Latino 7 Female 10 Mixed Race 1 Unknown 1</p>  <p>*LGBT 27 (73 %); HIV-Pos 33%</p>	<p>20 board members*</p> <p>Male 18 White 14 Black 3 Female 2 Asian 2 Native American 1</p>  <p>*LGBT 80%; HIV-Pos 50%</p>	<p>TPAN: 24,500 clients; <i>Positively Aware</i> 100,000</p> <p>Male 89% Trans 2% White 31% Black 43% Female 9% Multiracial 2% Other 24%</p> 

****TPAN: Percent of expense by program: 76 percent to programs; 14 percent to fundraising; 10 percent to administration.

ORGANIZATION	BUDGET BREAKDOWN	SALARY
<p>South Side Help Center Incorporated 1987 Fiscal Year: Jan 1-Dec 31 The community organization provides prevention, counseling and support services; assists fellow nonprofits. 2011 Income: \$2,135,324 2011 Expense: \$2,135,324</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Federal grants ■ State grants ■ City grants ■ Private foundations ■ Fundraising ■ Foundation grants 	<p>■ Executive Director: \$78,000 ■ Total NGO Income: \$2,135,324</p> <p>Top Five Salaries: \$78,000 \$65,000 \$62,000 \$55,000 \$54,000</p>
<p>Equality Illinois Incorporated 1991 Fiscal Year: July 1-June 30 Promotes LGBT-friendly legislation in the Illinois General Assembly; works for LGBT equality statewide. 2011 Income: \$1,012,422 2011 Expense: \$963,446</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Private foundations ■ Fundraising 	<p>■ Executive Director: \$118,000 ■ Total NGO Income: \$1,012,422</p> <p>Top Five Salaries: Not provided.</p>
<p>AIDS Legal Council of Chicago Incorporated 1987 Fiscal Year: July 1-June 30 Preserves, promotes and protects the rights of those living with HIV/AIDS. Provides direct legal service, education. 2011 Income: \$886,829 2011 Expense: \$922,755</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Federal grants ■ State grants ■ Private foundations ■ Fundraising ■ Other 	<p>■ Executive Director: \$103,204 ■ Total NGO Income: \$886,829</p> <p>Top Five Salaries: \$103,204 \$87,750 \$63,860 \$60,610 \$52,874</p>
<p>Affinity Incorporated 1996 Fiscal Year: Jan 1-Dec 31 Social justice organization that works with LGBT communities of color. Creates safe spaces; organizes leadership training. 2011 Income: \$214,035 2011 Expense: \$169,829</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Private foundations ■ Fundraising ■ Other 	<p>■ Executive Director: \$46,334 ■ Total NGO Income: \$214,035</p> <p>Top Five Salaries: \$46,334 \$29,000 \$26,000 \$9,600 N/A (4 paid staffers)</p>
<p>The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA) Incorporated 2010 Fiscal Year: Jan 1-Dec 31 Works for LGBT equality through state-wide education, advocacy and community and organizational coalition-building. 2011 Income: \$20,001 2011 Expense: \$18,458</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Private foundations ■ Fundraising 	<p>■ Executive Director: \$0 (Volunteer)** Budgeted for 2012: \$48,500</p> <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>Top Five Salaries: N/A*</p> <p>*TCRA's 2011 staff is all-volunteer.</p>
<p>Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA) Founded early 1990s; Incorporated 2003 Fiscal Year: Jan 1-Dec 31 Empowers Latino LGBT men through support, advocacy, cultural programming and leadership opportunities. 2011 Income: \$81,000 2011 Expense: Not provided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fundraising and foundation grants 	<p>■ Executive Director: \$0 (Volunteer)</p> <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>Top Five Salaries: One paid employee (grant position) earned \$51,000 in 2011. Other staffers were volunteers.</p>

**TCRA: "Reasonable expenses incurred by the director are reimbursed, but we do not allow nor budget a discretionary expense fund for any employee or Governing Board member."

STAFF	BOARD	CLIENTS
<p>South Side Help Center (cont.) 30 full-time employees Male 12 Female 18 White 1 Black 29</p> 	<p>12 board members Male 6 Female 6 White 1 Black 11</p> 	<p>South Side Help Center serves 4,000-5,000 clients in Chicago and the southern suburbs annually.</p> <p>Clients are male and female. Most clients are Black. (No further breakdown provided).</p>
<p>Equality Illinois (cont.) 9 full-time employees Male 4 Female 5 White 7 People of color 2</p> 	<p>17 board members Male 13 Female 4 White 11 People of color 6</p> 	<p>Equality Illinois has statewide impact. It does not track race or gender. (No further breakdown provided).</p>
<p>AIDS Legal Council of Chicago (cont.) 9 full and 4 part-time employees Male 6 Female 7 White 6 Black 2 Latino 3 Asian 1 Biracial 1</p> 	<p>16 board members Male 13 Female 3 White 12 Black 2 Latino 2</p> 	<p>860 unduplicated clients; 1,500 legal cases</p> 
<p>Affinity (cont.) 3 full- and 1 part-time employees Male (trans) 1 Female 3 Black 3 Asian 1</p> 	<p>8 board members Male 1 Female 7 Black 8</p> 	<p>Affinity reaches 2,695 clients in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs.</p> <p>Clients are mostly female and Black. (No further breakdown provided).</p>
<p>The Civil Rights Agenda*** (cont.) 5 full- and part-time employees in 2011 Male 2 Female 2 White 3 Latino 1 Other 1</p> 	<p>12 board members Male 7 Female 3 White 5 Black 2 Latino 1 Other 2 Queer 1 Mixed Race 2 Unidentified 1</p> 	<p>208 clients in Workplace Project (TCRA also reaches thousands through advocacy.)</p> 
<p>Association of Latino Men for Action (cont.) 1 full-time and 1 part-time employee Male 1 Female 1 Latino 2</p> 	<p>8 board members Male 8 White 2 Latino 6</p> 	<p>ALMA is primarily an advocacy organization. It does not provide direct service. (No further breakdown provided.)</p>

***TCRA: "The Civil Rights Agenda does not believe in identifying racial or gender categories as a way to measure or qualify an organization or any social institution. We will reluctantly answer these questions for reasons of transparency, and based on stated self-identification from each individual."

Center on Halsted marks 5 years

Five years ago on June 1, Center on Halsted opened its doors to the public. The Center, which was founded in the 1970s as Gay Horizons, has grown to become a model for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community centers across the nation. The Center on Halsted will host its annual Human First gala May 12, featuring a performance by k.d. lang and The Siss Boom Bang. The event is in Harris Theater in Millennium Park and will be hosted by Bravo's Andy Cohen, host of "Watch What Happens Live."

In recognition of the 5-year anniversary, Windy City Times photographer Hal Baim took this photo of the staff.



Front row, from left:

Veronica Lozano, Health Educator; Jason Yamashita, Finance and Benefits Manager; Brian Richardson, Director, Public Affairs; Lewis Warrick, Director, Finance; Jim Klein, Chief Operating Officer; Julie Walther, Sr. Director, Programs; Barb Vicory, Chief Development Officer; Modesto Tico Valle, Chief Executive Officer; Maura Ross, Community and Cultural Program Coordinator; Britta Larson, Director of Senior Services; Brian Minka, Community Technology Center Director; Gayle Thompson, Community Technology Center Instructor; Philomise Keithley, Senior Services Coordinator; Lex Lawson, Homeless Youth Case Manager.

2nd row:

Jill Dispenza, Director HIV Services; Matthew Frahm, Health Educator; David Hunt, Graphic Designer; John Garver, Anti-Violence Project Therapist & Training Delivery Manager; Lisa Gilmore, Director of Education and Victim Advocacy; Anne Huffman, Manager, Anti-Violence Project; Kristine Chapman, Program Administration Intern; Kyle Kaufman, Culinary Arts Vocational Specialist; Megan Sieberg, Culinary Arts Vocational Specialist; Ju-Luen Jeng, Youth Program Clinician; Reri Barrett, Career Training Specialist; Rayna Moore, Youth Advocacy Manager; Kevin Strowder, Youth Program Public Ally.

3rd row:

Kimberly Fisher, Health Educator; Robert Mitchell, Health Educator; John Gerschutz, Operations Coordinator/Health Educator; Zack Freedman, Director, Operations and Rentals; Michael Chikko, Receptionist; Julian Romano, Receptionist; Leia Butler, Intern, Mental Health; Scott Harms Rose, Director, Mental Health & Clinical Training; Caleb Collins, Intern, Mental Health; David Klein, Director, Youth Leadership; Lynnea Kartic, Youth Program Vocational Manager.

4th row:

Kevin Nichols, Health Educator; Melvin Laureano, Health Educator; Sawyer Laehr, Receptionist; Juan Valle, Operations Coordinator; Vicky Stein, Grants Director; Kyle Hennings, Program Administration Intern; Lucas Swenink, Client Services Coordinator; Stacy Agosto, Intern, Mental Health; Nicole Lapin, Intern, Mental Health; Nathan "Precious" Davis, Youth Outreach Coordinator; Tim'm West, Manager, Youth Empowerment; James Mason, Health Educator.

5th row

Jorge Gonzalez, Health Educator; Patrick Gehrich, Health Educator; Mark Petroelje, Health Educator; Ron Wittman, Director of Individual Giving and Corporate Partnerships; Michael Will, Manager, Development Services; Jacob Kosior, Director of Special Events and Volunteers; William Campbell, Project Manager; Ashley Molin, Intern, Mental Health; Rachel Gershenson-Gates, Post-Doctoral Fellow; Enrique Zaragoza, Intern, Mental Health; Candice Moran, Intern, Mental Health; Edwin Corbin-Gutierrez, Director, Youth Empowerment; Anthony Singleton, Health Educator.

For more information on the event and honorees, please visit www.centeronhalsted.org.

Romney names gay man to advisory team

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Republican presidential nominee apparent Mitt Romney has begun his run toward the political middle, and one aspect of that shift appears to have involved adding an openly gay man to his team of campaign advisors.

The advisor is Richard Grenell, 45, who also served the administration of President George W. Bush, as a spokesman for the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. He was also appointed by Ambassador John Danforth in 2004 to serve as an alternative representative of the United States to the U.N. Security Council.

The campaign's announcement on April 19 did not identify Grenell as gay, only that he was joining the campaign to serve as its spokesman on national security and foreign policy issues.

Grenell has served a long line of prominent Republicans in various capacities, including New York Gov. George Pataki, former South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford and San Diego Mayor Susan Golding.

The fact that the Romney campaign announced Grenell's appointment suggests the campaign intends to go after those one in four gay voters who tends to vote Republican.

But one blogger—Doug Wead, a senior advisor to the Ron Paul campaign—noted that the Romney campaign also announced, on that same day, Romney's plan to speak at Jerry Falwell's Liberty University. He called the same-day announcements "a clumsy attempt to show respect to both the evangelical and gay communities."

"Instead," wrote Wead on DougWead.com, "it shows that the Romney campaign understands neither one."

However, Grenell may turn out to be a little too abrasive to attract any but the hardcore Republicans in the LGBT community. Just last month, he penned an op-ed piece for the Washington Blade that derided gay Pulitzer Prize winner Jonathan Capehart for defending President Obama's evolving position on same-sex marriage.

MetroWeekly in Washington, D.C. reported that Grenell and his longtime partner live in California. Other media reported Grenell is expected to be working out of Romney headquarters in Boston.

Grenell is a member of Log Cabin Republicans, the national gay Republican group, and spoke about foreign policy issues at its national conference last year.

Jimmy LaSalvia, head of the national gay conservative group GOProud, said he feels sure Grenell "will be an outstanding addition" to Romney's foreign policy and national security team.

"Mitt Romney has a record, throughout his entire career, of assembling top notch teams to



Richard Grenell. Photo courtesy of Grenell's office

execute the tasks at hand," said LaSalvia, "and I think this choice shows that he'll attract the top talent to help him bring America back. And that's good for all Americans—gay or straight."

Politico.com columnist Alexander Burns reported April 20 on Grenell's passion for tweeting, especially crass observations about GOP presidential long-shot Newt Gingrich's current wife, Callista. According to Burns, Grenell has tweeted cutting remarks about Mrs. Gingrich's hair, her quiet demeanor and the fact that she is Gingrich's third wife.

Presumably, that sort of tweeting will stop, given that the Romney campaign, just one week ago, criticized lesbian Democratic strategist Hillary Rosen for commenting on the fact that Ann Romney has not held a paying job while raising her five sons.

The Advocate magazine reported in September 2008 that Grenell, while at the U.N., sought to have the name of his partner, Matthew Lashey, listed in the U.N. directory that lists diplomatic personnel and their spouses. Grenell said that he and Lashey considered themselves married even though, at the time, it was not possible for them to obtain a marriage license in New York. A U.S. State Department official said the Defense of Marriage Act prevented the United States from submitting Lashey's name for inclusion.

Grenell is currently a partner with a communication and public relations firm, Capitol Media Partners, based in Los Angeles. Grenell's biography on the firm's website indicates Grenell served as a delegate to a wide variety of U.N. conferences, including the "High Level Event on HIV/AIDS" in May 2006. The bio notes that Grenell teaches at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Communication and is a regular commentator for Al-Jazeera TV.

Grenell has a master's in public administration from the Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government.

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Bullied gay Iowa teen commits suicide

BY KATE SOSIN

A 14-year-old Iowa student took his own life April 15, after he came out as a gay only to be targeted by bullies at school, according to multiple reports.

Kenneth James Weishuhn Jr., a student at South O'Brien High School in Paulina, came out last month, according to the Associated Press, and faced taunts and threats as a result.

KTIV reported that the high school freshman masked his pain with smiles, but that his sister Kayla saw her peers picking on her brother.

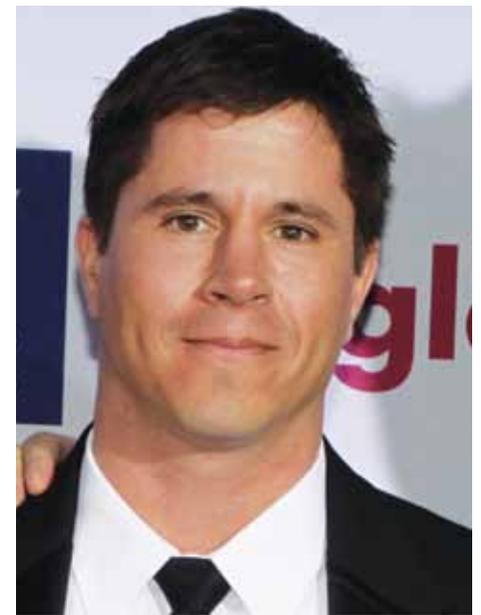
The teen's death has provoked mass response in Weishuhn's community and from LGBT groups across the country. A Facebook page dedicated to his memory had more than 5,000 followers as of April 23.

The Sioux City Journal dedicated an entire front page to an editorial against bullying in the wake of Weishuhn's death. Editor Mitch Pugh told the Des Moines Register that it is the first time in the paper's history that an entire front-page had been given to an editorial.

GLAAD chooses new president

The national board of directors of GLAAD has selected Herndon Graddick as its new president, according to a press release.

Graddick was currently GLAAD's vice president of programs and communications, a position he



Herndon Graddick. Photo from GLAAD

assumed in 2010. Prior to his work at GLAAD, Graddick was executive producer of the Global Observatory, which aimed to bring public awareness to climate change. Graddick was formally introduced at the 23rd Annual GLAAD Media Awards in Los Angeles April 21.

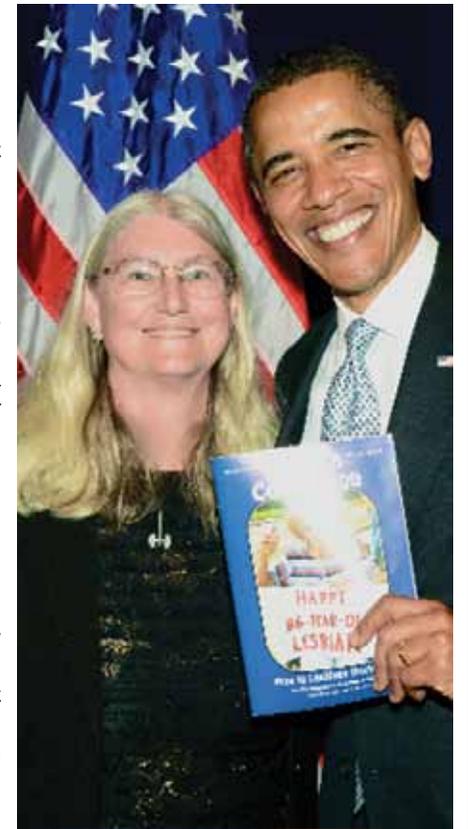
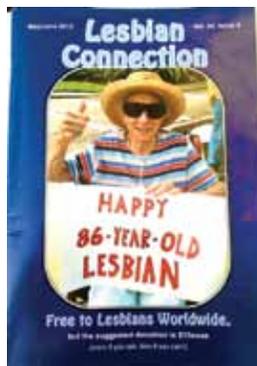
Sheri Fults, national co-chair of the board of directors, said in a statement, "Herndon Graddick is already a well-respected leader within the LGBT movement, and we believe will be a visionary and strategic leader for GLAAD's culture-changing work."

Former Chicagoan poses with Obama, lesbian magazine

Former Chicago (now Florida-based) activist Toni Armstrong Jr. met President Barack Obama at an LGBT Leadership Forum in Hollywood, Fla., April 10.

In addition to Obama's public speech, small-group briefings were given by Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chair Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz; DNC National Political Director Jeffrey Lerner; Obama For America National LGBT Vote Directory Jamie Citron; Obama For America National Finance Director Rufus Gifford; and Obama For America Florida State Director Ashley Walker.

In the photo, Obama is holding the current copy of Lesbian Connection magazine that features Toni Armstrong Sr., Toni's mother, on the cover.



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Transgender ordinance sets off EQIL-TCRA fallout

BY KATE SOSIN

A transgender ordinance introduced to the City Council more than a month ago has set off a sparring match between local LGBT organizations, after some groups announced they were pulling support for the ordinance.

Equality Illinois announced April 17 that it was ceasing support for a long-anticipated ordinance that would have created protocol for police in handling transgender detainees.

The ordinance was introduced to City Council in March by Ald. Proco Joe Moreno, after talks with LGBT organization The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA).

Some say the ordinance, backed by an LGBT coalition of more than 30 groups, was not the same document that groups had agreed upon, and that it lacked the teeth to make it enforceable.

"The proposed ordinance that was introduced in March removed all major enforcement and accountability components that we had previously discussed were essential to include," said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois, in a statement.

The statement also notes that Center on Halsted and Lambda Legal withdrew support for the ordinance.

The ordinance has seen several drafts over the past few months. It was originally inspired by the efforts of Lakeview Action Coalition (LAC), which has been working for two years to create a general order within the Chicago Police Department (CPD) for transgender issues. LAC lost some ground on the initiative when the Mayor's office turned over, but the organization has continued to work internally on the policy. (Disclosure: This reporter attended one early meeting on the LAC order in a non-reporter capacity.)

At the same time, other groups like TCRA and Illinois Gender Advocates (IGA) began talks about introducing an ordinance that would mandate the general order that LAC had been trying to push through.

Chicago activists looked to a pre-existing Washington, D.C. police policy for help. The D.C. policy largely failed, said activists, because it lacked oversight from the community. The policy was implemented, but D.C. advocates alleged that it was not followed.

In Chicago, activists sought to solve that issue by proposing a city commission of 11 volunteers, five police officers and six transgender advocates, to oversee CPD's implementation of the policy.

However, the ordinance that was introduced March 14 was not the same ordinance that groups had agreed to. Most significantly, it replaced the commission with oversight from the City Council's Human Relations and Public Safety committees.

Moreno told Windy City Times that the change represented a compromise among aldermen that would cut down on cost and bureaucracy.

Anthony Martinez, executive director of TCRA, issued a press release that day praising the ordinance and thanking Moreno.

"This ordinance will ensure that when a transgender individual is at their most vulnerable, in the custody of police, that they are treated with the same respect as any other person, and are not victimized because they are living their life authentically," Martinez said in the statement.

Community members grumbled that the ordinance had been gutted, but it was not until EQIL put out a press release on its dissatisfaction that such concerns came to light publicly.

Cherkasov argued that such an ordinance would not provide the protections sought for the



Equality Illinois CEO Bernard Cherkasov. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

transgender community.

"You don't start with a weaker position and compromise to a stronger position," he said. "That's never worked."

Equality Illinois went further in its statement, however, to note that "[f]ollowing the City Council meeting, Anthony Martinez, Executive Director of coalition member The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA), offered public praise and validation for the proposed ordinance to the press. Equality Illinois underscored that this praise for the proposed ordinance was offered by TCRA alone and did not reflect the views of Equality Illinois or its coalition partners."

Tensions between EQIL and TCRA

For some, the release magnified a seemingly bitter relationship growing between Equality Illinois and TCRA, the state's two most visible policy-focused LGBT organizations. TCRA Policy Advisor Rick Garcia was a founder of Equality Illinois, and was fired from his position at Equality Illinois in late 2010 amid community protest. Garcia has been an ardent critic of the organization and Cherkasov since.

Most close to the two organizations have noted that the relationship has not been amicable, even before Garcia took on a policy role at TCRA last month.

"Equality Illinois is threatened by The Civil Rights Agenda," Garcia said. "Because the Civil Rights Agenda is doing the work and they just sit around trying to make money off the work of other organizations."

Cherkasov has been quiet about the fallout with Garcia and would not respond directly to criticisms from TCRA, but said that Equality Illinois' work speaks for itself.

Asked why Equality Illinois specifically mentioned Martinez in its press release, Cherkasov said that the organization was simply referring to information offered in a TCRA press release.

"TCRA is best-known for issuing press releases," Cherkasov said to Windy City Times. Asked about the biting nature of such a comment, Cherkasov said that it was not the worst thing he could say.

"I bite my tongue almost every single time," he said.

However, Cherkasov said the important issue is not tension between the two organizations but the ordinance itself.

TCRA talks about the ordinance

Martinez was, in fact, unhappy with the proposed ordinance, and TCRA has considered pulling its support for it.



The Civil Rights Agenda Executive Director Anthony Martinez. Photo from Martinez

"[The aldermen] introduced the ordinance without double-checking with us," Martinez said. But he felt the introduction of the ordinance signaled progress, and that it could later be amended before vote.

Still, Martinez and Garcia knew the altered ordinance was on the table and could be introduced, they said.

Moreno was set to introduce the original ordinance in February, but openly gay Ald. Tom Tunney still had concerns, confirmed Tunney's deputy alderman, Bennett Lawson.

Knowing that such an ordinance needed support for both gay aldermen (openly gay 46th Ward Ald. James Cappleman backed the ordinance already), Moreno held off a month on introducing it.

Lawson called the original idea to establish a commission "unprecedented."

"We didn't want to introduce an ordinance that couldn't pass," he said.

The sticking point was that the proposed commission added another layer of government at a time when Mayor Emanuel was cutting back on such layers. Late last year, Emanuel axed the city's advisory councils, including the one on LGBT issues (a new council that combines the women's issues council and LGBT council replaced it).

Martinez said that after the ordinance was introduced, TCRA began talks with Moreno and others in an attempt to amend it.

Disagreements over strategy

The possibility of amending the ordinance did not satisfy all the coalition groups, however, who met on April 17 and pulled their support in anticipation of the April 18 City Council meeting.

Center on Halsted and Lambda Legal both withdrew their support of the ordinance, and LAC released a letter to Tunney and other aldermen, amending their position of support to one of non-support for the current proposal.

"We want it to be an ordinance that is going to work the first time," said Lisa Gilmore, who does policy work for Center on Halsted.

Christopher Clark, an attorney at Lambda Legal, said that his organization had not withdrawn support for the ordinance altogether. Rather, he said, Lambda does not support the document in its present form.

But neither group consented to the EQIL press release, and the fact that they were named within it seemed to come as a surprise to those involved.

"No one from our office saw the press release

that they issued before they issued it," said Clark.

Gilmore also confirmed that the release was EQIL's and not the Center's.

Cherkasov acknowledged EQIL had not consulted with either group before sending the release, but said that the release was not on the position of other groups.

"We just wanted to cite that we weren't the only ones [withdrawing support]," he said.

One group not named in any of the back-and-forth was Illinois Gender Advocates (IGA), which focuses solely on transgender issues.

June LaTrobe, policy director for IGA, had been present throughout the process and worked with TCRA on the original ordinance that groups agreed upon.

LaTrobe said that IGA was "saddened" by the changes made to the ordinance, but that the organization offered "qualified support" for it.

"If anyone is really aware of the legislative process, they understand that things don't always look the same at the end of the process as when they came in," she said.

In the end, Martinez and Garcia said that TCRA might have also withdrawn its support for the ordinance if asked. However, they contend that EQIL unfairly targeted Martinez in withdrawing support.

"I was personally offended by this press release—specifically, that I was thrown under the bus," Martinez said. "This is the type of political crap that puts our community in danger."

Garcia argued that the process was open to all LGBT groups but that Martinez did a bulk of the "heavy lifting" on the ordinance, only to be scapegoated for its shortcomings later.

The fallout over the ordinance comes at a sensitive time for Chicago's transgender community. News of the withdrawal was released the same day that the community got word that a transgender woman in Chicago had been murdered.

LaTrobe said she found that timing troubling. "We've got this [ordinance debate] going on, and we've got people being shot to death," she said.

Gay student claims attack was hate crime

Eric Unger, a gay Illinois State University student, claims he was the victim of a hate-motivated attack April 21 near campus, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

Unger, 23, said he had just left a party and was walking home alone about 2:30 a.m. when one of a group of men knocked Unger's phone out of his hand. After he asked the men "what their problem was," the group of five to eight men surrounded Unger and beat him while yelling gay slurs.

Authorities could not confirm that the beating was a hate crime.

In most cases in Illinois, a "hate crime" is a Class 4 felony for a first offense and a Class 2 felony for a second or subsequent offense," according to a state statute.

Immigration Services revises transgender policies

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has issued a policy memorandum revising the treatment of gender designations for transgender people on their immigration documents, according to a press release from the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE).

The revision also makes clear that if a couple has married as a different-sex couple under state law, the federal government will continue to recognize the marriage for immigration purposes—even in the case of a person's subsequent gender transition.



From left: Noa Francis Shayden and Andy Thayer speak at the rally. Photo by Alex Lubischer

Chicagoans march for worldwide LGBTQIA rights

BY ALEX LUBISCHER

Approximately 50 queer activists and allies gathered in Chicago's Pritzker Park April 21 and marched two miles through the heart of downtown in solidarity with the 2012 Worldwide LGBTQIA Human/Civil Rights March.

Marriage equality, LGBTQ-affirming education and the importance of grassroots organization in the fight for queer rights were among the main issues vocalized by marchers. While a majority of protesters were Chicagoans, some traveled from as far Milwaukee to demonstrate.

Planning for Chicago's participation in the worldwide march began last fall. Lead Organizer



Marcher at the April 21 event. Photo by Alex Lubischer

Noa Francis Shayden orchestrated the grassroots event with the assistance of Gay Liberation Network co-founder Andy Thayer and Occupy Chicago.

"I wanted to go with a more personal touch to it," said Shayden of his goals for the Chicago march. "We don't have a set list of guest speakers. So anybody who wants to can talk about

their experiences as a queer person, or things that they feel need to be changed. We can put a personal touch on this and help make a difference, as well."

Shayden attributed the impetus for this day of protest to the Facebook group "LET'S REACH 1 MILLION PEOPLE CAMPAIGN... It's a start! LGBT EQUALITY." The group was created by gay rights advocate Joe C. Knudson of Oklahoma City, who also acted as International Committee Chairman for the global event. Knudson estimated the march had 6,000 to 8,000 worldwide participants.

In a statement issued to all who participated, Knudson called the event "a day to go down in the history books as the day thousands of people united together in 32 different countries and states throughout the world, along with individuals from many unofficial site locations too numerous to mention, to make their voices heard."

Roosevelt extends Middleton's contract

The board of trustees of Roosevelt University has extended the contract of openly gay President Chuck Middleton for another five years, until June 30, 2017.

"Roosevelt has undergone a dramatic transformation since the appointment of President Middleton in 2002," said James J. Mitchell III, chairman of the Board.

Middleton, among other things, serves on the boards of directors of the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), Center on Halsted (where he is board vice chair), the Point Foundation Board of Governors, the Chicago Central Area Committee, the Near South Planning Board and the Chicago History Museum Community Advisory Council.

He is also co-chair of the LGBTQ Presidents in Higher Education and a fellow of Great Britain's Royal Historical Society.

Lagooners meeting, election night April 28

The LGBT social organization Lincoln Park Lagooners (LPL) will hold its annual membership meeting and election night Saturday, April 28, 7-10 p.m., at Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.

Active members have participated in at least two separate LPL-sponsored event in the past year. Nine people will be elected board members.

See www.LPLChicago.com for more information.

Against Equality launches new book on DADT

BY KATE SOSIN

Months after "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) was tossed to the history books, one group of queer thinkers is still engaged in a debate over the policy, which banned gay and lesbian soldiers from serving openly.

Against Equality, a queer publishing collective and archive, released its new book, *Against Equality: Don't Fight Their Wars*, with a special panel by collective members and contributors at Mess Hall in Rogers Park April 21.

The book is a glossy pocket-sized critique of the movement to repeal DADT, which writers argue undermined the anti-war movement by rallying progressive communities around the military.

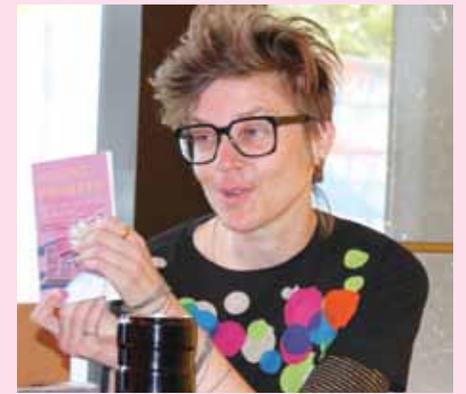
The thrust of the book—and Against Equality's mission—is to work toward a world that queer people desire, rather than toward inclusion in one that is deeply flawed, said Ryan Conrad, a co-founder of Against Equality and editor of the book.

"There is still this question of militarism that is happening in every facet of our lives," said Conrad, adding that the impact of the movement to repeal DADT lives on.

Yasmin Nair, who also co-founded the collective and contributed to the book, points to Lt. Dan Choi as an example. (Disclosure: Nair is longtime writer for Windy City Times.) Nair argues that anti-war activists like Democracy Now's Amy Goodman abandoned their peaceful values to support Choi and others who were ejected from the military because they are gay.

The result, said Nair, was "demand for fair treatment in an institution that is unfair to the rest of the world."

Karma Chávez, an Against Equality member, said that the underlying issue is that involvement in the U.S. military has become synonymous with national belonging, both for LGBT



Erica Meiners speaking at the Against Equality event. Photo by Kate Sosin

people and non-citizens.

Chávez pointed to the timing of the "Dream Act," which would have allowed some who immigrated to the U.S. as minors legal residency by either going to college or giving two years service to the military.

One function of DADT, said Chávez, was "to provide more credence to the 'Dream Act' military component."

Erica Meiners, professor at Northeastern Illinois University, spoke against the militarization of high schools, which increasingly offer ROTC (Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps) programs.

Meiners believed such programs often target schools with high numbers of students of color and immigrants, providing the only alternative to students who cannot get into restricted enrollment schools in Chicago.

"This is kind of the choice of no choice," said Meiners.

Approximately 15 people attended the book release discussion, which ended with a question-and-answer session.

The DADT book is the second of three books to be released by Against Equality, published by the collective itself. Their first book, *Against Equality: Queer Critiques of Gay Marriage*, was published in 2010. The collective is currently working on a book on prisons.

More information on Against Equality and book purchase is available at www.againstequality.org.



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Rev. Stan Sloan and Candace Hart at the unveiling of Chicago House's domicile for transgender individuals. Photo by Kate Sosin

Chicago House unveils new transgender housing

BY KATE SOSIN

In an unprecedented move for the organization, Chicago House has unveiled a new nine-bedroom facility to house transgender people on Chicago's North Side.

The organization opened up the building for tours at a special meeting of Chicago's Transgender Coalition April 18.

"We plan for this to be a safe haven and residential facility for transgender persons," said Rev. Stan Sloan, CEO of Chicago House.

Nine transgender people will live in the four-story house before year's end.

Chicago House formerly used the building for hospice services, but as HIV-related deaths have slowed, the need for the site diminished. What has not diminished, said Sloan, is the need for affirming housing and support for transgender people. The location of the building is not being made public, due to concerns that doing so might make it a target for anti-trans violence.

The building will house transgender people regardless of their HIV status and connect them to case management, job training, healthcare, workshops and other services. Dr. Robert Garofalo, an HIV expert at Children's Memorial Hospital, and others from his department will administer health services at the site weekly.

The announcement represents an expansion of services and cultural competency for Chicago House, an organization that has served HIV-positive for more than 25 years. According to Sloan, all Chicago House staff members have received a day-long transgender training.

The idea for the project was inspired by Trisha Holloway, a young transgender woman who was kicked out her house at age 18 when she came out as trans. At age 21, Holloway got connected with Chicago House and began working at Sweet Miss Giving's, the organization's transitional job bakery.

Sloan said that Holloway said she felt unsupported as a trans person at the bakery.

"She educated us more than we educated her," said Sloan.

Chicago House staff also reported that many transgender people arrive for Chicago House services dressed as their birth-assigned gender because they are afraid to be out. The organization is hoping to curb some of that fear in directly taking up transgender issues.

In addition to launching the housing project, Chicago House will begin a job placement and training program for transgender people similar to its current employment program.

Sloan said that program as a 40-percent success rate of placing people with HIV into jobs. That number jumps to 70 percent for Chicago

House clients in supportive housing, he added.

Job workshops will deal specifically with issues facing transgender people, such as when to come out as trans to an employer and what rights trans employees have. Clients will also be paired with mentors in the community who will help train them in specific careers.

Finally, Chicago House will do outreach and education to employers about transgender people in an effort combat the job discrimination that faces trans people at alarming rates.

Chicago House will also be hiring transgender people to staff the new house and programs, Sloan said.

Sloan emphasized the role of other organizations in making the project happen. Chicago House will be teaming up with agencies like Center on Halsted to make the project a reality. Pete Subkoviak of AIDS Foundation of Chicago has also been instrumental in the process, Sloan said.

All told, the new housing will cost an estimated \$250,000 a year. Sloan hopes to get that money through a grant. The building is ready for occupancy, he said, and the program can launch almost immediately after the funds are secured.

Quigley honors Center's fifth anniversary

U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley, D-Chicago, honored Center on Halsted and its fifth anniversary April 17 from the floor of the U.S. Capitol.

In part, Quigley said, "On June 1, 2007, I was proud to join residents from my district and across Illinois on the corner of Halsted and Waveland as Chicago's first permanent LGBT community center opened its doors.

"Since that time, Center on Halsted has become the Midwest's largest LGBT community center and a model for similar organizations across our nation.

"Under the leadership of CEO Modesto Tico Valle and the great efforts of so many people, Center on Halsted has grown into the phenomenal organization that it is today, welcoming the LGBT community and making our entire community a better place."



U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley. Photo by Erica Demarest



Ernie Kramer.

PASSAGES

Ernie Kramer

Ernest "Ernie" T. Kramer, R.N., a retired longtime rehab nurse at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago; deacon at Lakeview Presbyterian Church; and a member of Center on Halsted's SAGE group and Lakeview AARP, passed away peacefully April 14. He was 74.

Kramer was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph Krzyzaniak and Florence Sochowski Krzyzaniak of Cudahy, Wis.

A memorial service is being held Tuesday, May 1, 1 p.m., at Lake View Presbyterian Church, 716 W. Addison St.; call 773-281-2655 or visit www.lakeviewpresbyterian.org

Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois (773-281-5058 or www.cremation-society.com)

PASSAGES

David Hopkins

David Wellington Hopkins of Edgewater—a native of Albany, N.Y.—passed away peacefully April 18 after a long illness. He was 56.

Hopkins served as Lincoln Park Lagoons' chairman of the board for several terms, during which time the organization was inducted into Chicago's Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. A former IT Director, he also loved cars, trains, camping and boating. He was an accom-

plished pianist in his youth, loved to cook and enjoyed throwing a great party.

Hopkins was the beloved partner of 25 years to Randy Scott Rozler; cherished son of Grace Rossi Hopkins and the late Wellington "Bill" Hopkins of Albany and Englewood, Fla.; dear brother of Grayce Waldbillig of Albany and Donna Marie (William Renner) Merchant of Syracuse, N.Y.; and preceded in death by his beloved fat cat of 16 years, "Schmooties."

He leaves behind a loving family of "in-laws" in Buffalo, N.Y., as well as a large Chicago "family" of cherished friends, including but certainly not limited to Bert, Brian, Daniel, Dean, George, Jonathan, Keith and Ralph.

"David darling, enjoy the adventure of our 'Wellscott Island' and know that you will always be in all of our hearts."

All are welcome to attend a celebration of his life Saturday, May 5, 6-9 p.m. (sharing memories at 7 p.m.) at Service Is Us, 5459 N. Broadway.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to the Illinois Eye Bank (800-548-4703 or www.illinoiseyebank.org).

Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or www.cremation-society.com.



David Hopkins.

MURDER from cover

"To love her soft spots, you had to get to know her hard spots," said Marlo Moss, a friend of Clay.

"It's a big community of people that loved her," said Mays. "She was a very creative person, very diligent."

Clay walked Runway in the ball scene, and despite her inexperience, friends say she was fast making a name for herself. In part, they say, it was her ingenuity. Clay crafted her outfits with little money, borrowing when necessary, but always creating something unique.

"In the ball scene, there wasn't anyone with that kind of passion," said Moss.

Clay traveled from state to state with Ross and won several competitions.

Clay had come into her own in the past few years. She came out as transgender, became emancipated from the state and moved out into her own apartment, a great point of pride for her. She held jobs at McDonald's, Wendy's and Forever 21 clothing store, among other places.

However, she also faced challenges. Like many young trans women of color, Clay was subjected to violence and discrimination, friends say.

In addition to working in the service industry, Clay was occasionally involved in sex work, said Ross, noting that she had been subject to violence before.

Friends do not agree on whether or not

Clay's involvement in sex work should be talked about publicly. Some believe that people will not see the complexities of her life, while others, like Ross, believe it is simply a part of her story, a thing that should be discussed without shame or reservation.

Regardless, friends say she lived the life she wanted, and carried an attitude that touched the community around her.

Ross said that Clay had just begun to find herself.

"She grew into a beautiful, beautiful young woman," Ross said. "I was so devastated by this [loss]."

Moss summed up Clay's legacy by recalling a phrase Clay often used.

"If you're quiet as a mouse, no one will hear you," she said.

Clay does not have many known family members in Chicago. Initially, friends worried that Clay had no family to make funeral arrangements. According to the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office, however, a next-of-kin has been located. Clay's remains will be released once funeral arrangements are made.

Brian Turner of TaskForce Prevention and Community Services, who knew Clay well, will be holding a community meeting Thursday, April 26, to discuss information on Clay's murder and to strategize on her memorial. That meeting will be held at TaskForce, 9 N. Cicero Ave., 7-9 p.m.

Windy City Times will update as details become available.

HBHC, Center part of LGBT health conference

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

Medical, nursing and social-work students from around the country gathered in Chicago for the third annual LGBT Health Student Symposium April 20-22, organized by Howard Brown Health Center, Center on Halsted and the University of Chicago School of Medicine.

The symposium kicked off with a networking reception at Howard Brown Health Center April 20, featuring a differential diagnosis challenge and spoken word. At the reception Dr. Magda Houlberg, chief medical officer of Howard Brown Health Center, was awarded the conference's LGBT Health Achievement Award for 2012. The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association spring mixer followed the reception.

National experts in LGBT health lead workshops, presentations and discussions to help medical and allied health students close the gaps in LGBT health disparities.

Dr. Harvey J. Makadon, a clinical professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and director of the National LGBT Health Education Center at the Fenway Institute in Boston, was the conference's keynote speaker. His report for the Institute of Medicine indicates LGBT youth have an elevated risk for attempted suicide and depression, and sexual minority youth may have higher rates of substance use than heterosexual youth. The report also found that LGBT people fear discrimination in health care settings, which prevents them from seeking routine care.

"Always ask about sexual orientation and gender identity to best care for the patient," said Makadon.

Makadon also spoke in depth on transgender healthcare, defining transgender and related vo-

cabulary, as well as explaining the importance of transition related care.

"Someone once said, 'The source of identity is in your soul,'" said Makadon. "It's not so much a transition, but an affirmation of what has always been."

"Transgender people often have to teach doctors because it's hard to find a physician in the area who knows anything about transgender people," said Makadon.

There is very little research on LGBT-specific healthcare over the long term, so no doctor has all the answers on treating LGBT patients; however, Makadon explained that creating a respectful, culturally competent environment during exams can foster a dialogue on uncomfortable or unknown topics.

"There's oppression everywhere; it will impact us. We have to recognize it impacts mental health and the ability to access healthcare when people need it," he said.

Houlberg presented on Howard Brown Health Center's patient-centered care that focuses on informed consent and harm reduction. Currently, 65 percent of the clinic's primary care patients are LGBT, and many patients live in poverty and have no health insurance.

"[Howard Brown Health Center] actually serves patients from 30 states and one Canadian province. People travel very far for our services," said Houlberg. "This illustrates the great need for LGBT health centers ... We have a high percentage of folks who don't have access to care outside our center or county services."

Houlberg also addressed the normalization of HIV-related care, something that has traditionally been a specialization but has become so much more manageable with medication that it



Keith Green (left) and Craig Johnson of the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus. Photo by Jamie Anne Royce

will begin to fall under primary care.

"Doctors are going to have to get over it. It can be learned. It will be learned," she said.

Representatives from Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus (CBGMC) discussed the HIV epidemic regarding Black men who have sex with men (MSM), who account for 52 percent of new infections nationally—approximately twice that of their white and Latino counterparts.

"When 2 percent of the population makes up 52 percent of infections, hello, we've got some issues," said Craig Johnson of CBGMC.

Stigma around HIV was identified as an issue for Black gay men. Said stigma affects a person's decision to get tested for HIV, maintain treatment if they test positive and disclose HIV status to sex partners.

"We are unapologetically Black and gay. We want to mobilize everyone who identifies that way while recognizing not everyone identifies that way," said CBGMC's Keith Green.

Stigma around sexual orientation, gender identity, race and social class can also affect access to medical care, according to Piper Coutinho-Sledge, a sociology doctoral candidate at the University of Chicago.

"Medical professionals have to be a fierce advocate for people who may not want to walk through your door," said Coutinho-Sledge.

John Stryker, a clinician at Howard Brown Health Center, led an introduction to transgender health, defining sex, gender identity and preferred gender pronouns, and explained feminizing and masculinizing transition services.

"I don't think any of us [at Howard Brown Health Center] had any idea how many people are seeking trans healthcare," said Stryker. "Since the beginning of the year, of 150 new patients ... 40 were transgender."

Howard Brown Health Center uses an informed consent treatment model for hormone replacement therapy, explaining the benefits and risks of taking hormones and allowing transgender patients to decide what is right for them.

Other speakers tackled LGBT inclusion in medical school curriculum, the sociology of healthcare and LGBT mental health.

"Changing medical care for LGBT people will positively impact many people's lives," said Nathan West, a second year at the University of Chicago and an organizer of the symposium. "LGBT stigma interferes with patient care. Engaging medical students on these issues early in their training helps integrate critical LGBT health concepts into clinical practice, allowing for more comprehensive patient care for this patient population."



The Bananas Foster space that will soon be home to an Ann Sather in Edgewater—down the street from the spot Gerber/Hart Library is leaving. Photo by Ross Forman

Ann Sather expanding into Edgewater

BY ROSS FORMAN

Ann Sather Swedish Cuisine and Catering is expanding into the Edgewater neighborhood, as small signs are now posted in the windows at the former Bananas Foster Café at the corner of Broadway and Granville Avenue indicate—but Ann Sather also might be closing one of its current locations.

"We have the confidence that [the Edgewater location] will be an exciting store for us. I think it's a great location that will do a substantial amount of business, otherwise I wouldn't have taken the risk," said Ald. Tom Tunney (46th Ward), the restaurant chain owner.

"It's a tough decision to open a restaurant in today's [economic] environment, but we think it's a great corner, in a great neighborhood—and [yet] I wouldn't have thought that 10 years ago. It's close to an El stop, similar to the Belmont [location], with nice foot traffic and a very visible corner location."

Tunney said he is "contemplating" closing the Southport store, 3416 N. Southport Ave., which is currently on a month-to-month lease, although no final decision has been made yet.

The other Ann Sather locations in Chicago are 5207 N. Clark St., 909 W. Belmont Ave. and 3411 N. Broadway.

"As many times as I have looked at the [Edgewater] space, and saw so many people [around that area] who used to live in Lakeview, I think there are a lot of our patrons who live in that area now, so we'll be happy to serve them closer to their homes," Tunney told Windy City Times. "I think it's far enough away from our Andersonville store that it's a different market, different neighborhood."

Tunney said he hopes to open the Edgewater restaurant within the next two months.

"We're thrilled at the prospect of having Ann Sather's part of the Edgewater business community," said Brian Koester, executive vice chair of the Edgewater Chamber of Commerce board of directors. "[Ann Sather] is a fantastic business [with] great cinnamon rolls."

Ald. Harry Osterman (48th Ward) echoed Koester. "Ann Sather is a longtime, neighborhood business on Clark Street [in Andersonville, among other locations], with a great following," Osterman said.

"Granville is a street specifically that is moving in the right direction, a lot of progress. So, having Ann Sather's right on the corner of Granville and Broadway is really going to help the neighborhood. We're all very, very excited about it, and I think it's going to be there for a long, long time. It's really exciting, and hopefully it's going to help generate additional businesses coming to our neighborhood.

"I think a lot of people are joining health clubs, myself included, so they can work out,

lose some weight and get our calories back with the cinnamon rolls."

Tunney said the Edgewater location will have indoor seating for 40, along with 25 outdoor seats. The inside will be about 1,200 square feet, which is larger than the Southport location but smaller than the Broadway site, Tunney said.

The Edgewater location will not be a full-service restaurant "nor is it attempting to be," Tunney said. Instead, it will be Ann Sather's café concept, serving breakfast and lunch daily, and a bakery to go.

The Edgewater location will open daily at 7 a.m. and close at 3 p.m. during the week—4 p.m. on weekends.

"The Bananas Foster [restaurant] had attempted to expand; we do not anticipate expanding at this point," Tunney said.

The Bananas Foster Café closed early 2012, "which was a pity; it was a wonderful business as well," Koester said.

Koester said the new Ann Sather location adds to a "nice synergy along Granville, helping turn the area into a very walkable [area for] breakfast and lunch, especially on the weekend."

Added Osterman: "There are a lot of positive things happening over there, and I think Ann Sather's is going to be the frosting on the cinnamon roll on that street."

Tunney said the Edgewater restaurant will generate 10 or 12 new jobs, or at least five or seven if the Southport location closes and its employees move to other restaurants.

"Adding jobs in this economy is very good," Tunney said.



Sign at the Bananas Foster site. Photo by Ross Forman

CTA fined for lack of LGBT training

BY KATE SOSIN

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR) has slapped the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) with fines related to a failure to provide employees sexual-orientation training, among other things. The training has been overdue since November, following a 2010 sexual-orientation harassment suit that CTA lost.

In a March 16 order, CCHR found that CTA had failed to provide the mandated trainings to management staff and had confused the meaning of "sexual orientation" with "sexual harassment."

In 2010, a CTA worker sued CTA, alleging that his supervisors had harassed him for being gay and that CTA had failed to intervene. The employee, whose identity has been published with the pseudonym Richard Roe, won the case. As a result, CCHR ruled that CTA was required to train every one of its employees in sexual orientation harassment, starting with its managers. The ruling gave CTA six months to train its managers and one year to train all employees.

According to CCHR, however, CTA has failed to complete the first round of trainings. As a result, CCHR referred the case to the City of Chicago Department of Law and fined CTA.

Jacob Meister, an LGBT attorney who represented Roe, said that CTA had been "non-responsive" on the ruling.

Meister said that he offered resources to CTA, including at-cost trainings with The Civil Rights Agenda, which Meister founded. He said CTA declined the offer and opted to work on materials independently.

"They have just been very resistant across the board to diversity training," he said.

According to CCHR documents, CTA was to file a report on its trainings in December 2011.

CTA, however, argued that it had calculated a different deadline and therefore did not intend to file proof of the trainings until July.

The reasoning came from a request that Roe had filed earlier to have his name scrubbed from public documents on the case. To protect his privacy, Roe requested that CTA and CCHR agree to replace his name with a pseudonym. The parties agreed, and the protective order went into effect in November 2011.

Because CTA was given six months from the conclusion of the case to complete the first round of trainings and another month to file its report, CTA argued the deadline was, in fact, July.

However, CCHR slammed this logic in its 10-page order, stating that the deadline was clearly seven months after the conclusion of the ruling, not Roe's request to partially seal the case.

The order stated, "There is no reasonable basis for CTA to have believed that the injunctive order was not in effect as of May 9, 2011. Nor is there any reason CTA should have believed that the later filing or granting of the motion to partially seal the record from public access had any tolling effect on the compliance deadlines established in the Final Order and Ruling on Liability and Relief entered October 20, 2010."

According to the order, CTA also failed to differentiate between "sexual harassment" training and "sexual orientation" training, reporting that its management-level staff had received sexual harassment training. CCHR called it "troubling that the document does not even correctly identify the subject-matter focus of the mandated training."

CCHR fined CTA \$100 for failing to file the report and additional \$500 for failing to pay out a past fine violation. It also fined Angela Crumpton, Roe's former supervisor, \$250 for failing to pay her overdue fine from the case.

CTA has until May 9 to complete the trainings, a deadline originally set for all staff, managers included. CTA is permitted to seek a short extension with reasonable cause, the order said.

CTA said it is complying and is on track to meet the deadline.

"CTA is committed to a workplace free of harassment," Lambrini Lukidis, a spokesperson from CTA, wrote to Windy City Times. "Per the CCHR's order, on March 30 the CTA filed with the CCHR a compliance report setting forth steps CTA has taken to date to comply with the requirement that all employees receive training on sexual orientation harassment (including a list of training scripts and other materials used for the filming of the training video). CTA is committed to meeting the deadlines set by the CCHR."

Meister said he too is hopeful that the trainings will be completed. He said he believes CTA is taking the order seriously.

LGBTQ youth break silence at Night of Noise

BY KATE SOSIN

Hundreds of young people attended the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance's "Night of Noise" rally April 20 outside the James R. Thompson Center downtown. The event capped off this year's Day of Silence, a national day observed by LGBTQ students in protest of bullying and discrimination facing queer youth in schools.

Youth across Chicago spent the school day in silence April 20 and broke that silence with a dance party and speak out at 6 p.m. that night.

For some young people who have few out friends in their high schools, the event was the first time they were surrounded by other LGBTQ peers.

"I figured it would be pretty awesome, but it's more than that," said Amanda Adaszaka, a student at Reavis High School in Burbank. Adaszaka, who identifies as pansexual, was one of 15 students at her school to observe the Day of Silence.

"There were so many haters in the hallway," she said.

Other students reported more positive experiences.

Manuel Gutierrez, a bisexual senior at Curie Metro High School, observed the day of



Student at Night of Noise. Photo by Kate Sosin

silence with many of his peers. The hardest thing, he said, was not the bullying.

"It was pretty hard since I talk a lot now, but it was fun," he said.

Youth paid extra attention to transgender issues this year, with a skit and speech about the exclusion of transgender people from the mainstream gay movement.

The students encouraged gay-straight alliances to become "queer-straight alliances" in an effort to include trans people and to advocate for gender-neutral bathrooms in schools.

"We need to stop letting the 'T' be forgotten," said Thomas Watkins-Hoskins, also a student at Curie.

This was the 16th year the Day of Silence has been observed nationally. See more photos at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

GAY *in the* **LIFE**
Anne Burnett
 TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN



Age
34

Neighborhood
Humboldt Park

Job title
Supportive services manager, AIDS Foundation of Chicago

Hobbies
Camping, baking, travel, and exploring all Chicago has to offer.

Relationship status
Engaged to Renee Lehocky. They are planning a civil union in June.

Education
Graduated from St Teresa's Academy (Kansas City, Mo.), earned her bachelor's degree at Loyola University and her masters in social work at the University of Illinois-Chicago

Favorite restaurant
Tweet in Uptown

Little-known fact
"I'm not really a sports fan; I just enjoy the trash-talking, hootin' and hollerin'," she said.



Before enrolling in graduate school, Anne Burnett considered enrolling in a nine-month program at the Siebel Institute of Technology—for a top-notch brewing education.

"It would have been a lot of fun," Burnett said. Instead, she chose social work. "I love to brew my own beer," Burnett said. "It's an art form that is not only a fun way to pass the day, but also leaves you with a delicious finished product." She has worked at AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) for more than a year. "Every day I get to work with the some of the most dedicated and driven people I've ever met," Burnett said. "I love working for an organization that is dedicated to social justice. I get to see how the coordinated effort of AFC is helping to house the most vulnerable and chronically-ill Chicagoans. "Housing is a basic human right. I wanted to work at AFC because the supportive housing department has been at the forefront of harm reduction housing first. "I leave [the office] satisfied everyday that the work we've done has contributed to my community."

Burnett participated in AFC's endurance-training program, the Team to End AIDS (T2), in 2011. She completed the Honolulu Marathon this past December, her first marathon ever. "With some amazing coaching and encouragement, I was able to complete a full marathon, [and] I had never even run before," Burnett said. "I was initially nervous about the fundraising, but, in the end, I raised over \$5,000 [for AFC]. I was blown away by the generous donations and had a great time throwing a fundraising party. If anyone is even remotely considering an endurance event, I highly recommend T2. It was a ton of fun and they structured the training so that even a total couch-potato like me was able to finish a marathon."



T *in the* **LIFE**
 COMPILED BY KATE SOSIN



Nikk Selik

Pronouns
Masculine

Identifies as
Trans man

Neighborhood
Lakeview

Life's work:
"In a broad sense, it would be trans activism/education. For now what that looks like is that I've been talking to a couple of colleges around the city, different classes giving them presentations that I made called 'Transcending Anatomy. It's basically a Trans 101 for people that don't know anything about it. My goal is to eventually be able to travel around with it and go to different states and different schools and expand that beyond schools."

Do you consider yourself an activist?
"It's interesting because the trans education, I consider that activism. For some people, they find it effective to protest or have rallies. For me, the route that I wanted to take was of teaching them before I get angry at them for not understanding, or not angry but at least give them a chance to learn about what is this whole thing about being trans and what are the words that you should use."

What is the best thing about being trans/gender-variant?
"It's that I'm unique in some way, I guess. I

can never go back to being just a cisgender person... not that I'd want to, but I think it's empowering honestly that I've explored my gender. Being gender-variant makes life amusing. I feel like it would be a lot more different if I were more visibly queer. I still kind of like that aspect of nobody knowing, but I know, and it just makes life more interesting."

How do you explain the way you feel about gender to others?
"I explain to them that it's not about what's in your pants. It's very much a personal thing. I'm not one of those people who think it's all socially constructed. I think it's a lot of different things and it's hard to say exactly where it comes from. I don't like when people say 'trans people are born in the wrong body.' I know some people feel that way, but I think that's really a negative way to put it. I think I was born trans for a reason. I don't know what that reason is exactly. It's a very spiritual matter. I guess you could say the sex I was born didn't match my true gender."

What do you think are the most important issues facing the trans/ gender-variant community?
"First, it would be healthcare, just the fact that so many medical professionals have no clue how to treat trans people... or what language to use, or that whole binary stuff with the health system. It just makes it really stressful even just to go to the doctor and have something simple."

To nominate a person for T in the life, email: Kate Sosin sosin@windycitytimes.com

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AIDS Quilt returns to D.C.

BY SARAH TOCE

The 2012 Smithsonian Folklife Festival will host the AIDS Memorial Quilt as it is presented on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. June 27–July 1, and July 4–8, 2012.

Additionally, The Quilt will blanket Washington D.C. from July 21–24, 2012 during the International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2012). The Quilt will fill the available sections of the National Mall (from 8th to 14th streets) and be on display in more than 40 locations throughout the metropolitan D.C. area.

One thousand 12x12 blocks of The Quilt will be on presentation at the Folk Life Festival. Another 1,500 blocks will be displayed on the National Mall over the course of four days. The Quilt will also rotate to 55 locations throughout the city.

"There's a lot to talk about when it comes to D.C. in July 2012. We have a longstanding history in placing The Quilt in all sorts of sites. When the circumstances and the stars align, it makes more than great sense for us to take The Quilt back to D.C.," said Julie Rhoad, president and CEO of The NAMES Project Foundation.

"Science has begun to articulate a new AIDS narrative that says if we test and treat enough people globally, the trajectory of the AIDS epidemic will change and we will see the beginning of the end of AIDS," said Rhoad in a press release. "It's time to re-double our efforts—join us as volunteers and sponsors and, together, let us call on The Quilt to do what it does best: affirm our humanity, make clear our connections to and responsibility for one another, and garner a new era of support and advocacy for the AIDS cause."

An impressive undertaking, the Quilt requires an effort of time and dedication to be brought back to life in every city it travels to. "[The Quilt] is mostly driven by volunteer support. The Quilt has always relied upon the strength and commitment of volunteers," said Rhoad.

Gay-rights activist, author, public speaker, and Quilt founder, Cleve Jones, told me in a May 2011 interview for Windy City Times (see <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/AIDS-Interview-with-Cleve-Jones/31711.html>):

"Harvey Milk and George Moscone were assassinated on Nov. 27, 1978 and every year since on Nov. 27, folks have gathered and walked with candles to remember Harvey and George. In 1985, I was one of the organizers of the commemoration and in the days leading up to Nov. 27, a headline appeared in the San Francisco daily newspaper—The Chronicle—that 1,000 people had already died of AIDS in our neighborhood. That number would soon grow to about 1,500 per year in our little tiny neighborhood, which was only six or eight blocks. So, I was really devastated by that figure..."

"I remember standing at the corner of Castro and Market and looking at that headline and understanding that of those thousands who had gone, almost every one of them lived and died within just a few blocks of where I was standing and there was no evidence. The neighborhood looks much the same today—beautiful restored Victorians, cafes, restaurants, etc. There is just really no hint of the incredible loss that we've experienced here. So, that added to what was already an ongoing theme of discussion for me and my friends. Our inability to communicate to the rest of the world what was really happening was very present."

So we marched as we always do, but in the hours before the March Nov. 27, 1985, my friends and I had stacks of poster board and magic markers and I had Harvey's old bullhorn and I talked to the crowd. I asked them to write down the names of their friends and lovers who had died of this disease—AIDS. At first people were ashamed to do it!

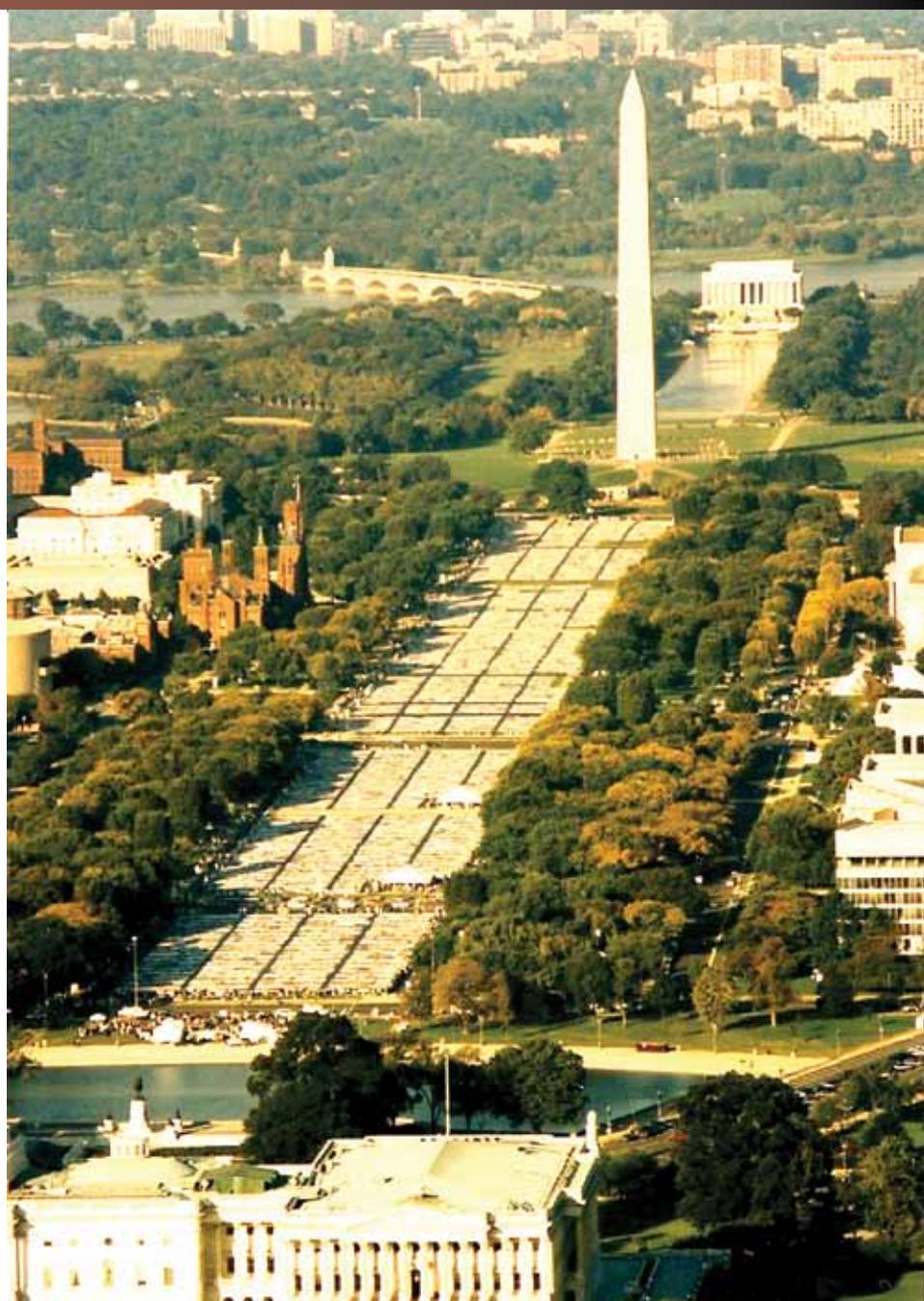
"The stigma associated with the disease was so overwhelming that people were just putting down initials or first names only. Gradually people began to write down the first and last names of their friends, lovers and roommates who had died of AIDS. It was painful, being so young [and experiencing such loss]."

"We marched as we always do down to City Hall and then made everybody walk a couple more blocks to the old federal building at the United Nations Plaza. We had extension ladders and climbed the front of the building and taped the names of our dead friends to the wall. When I got off my ladder and looked around at this weird patchwork, I thought, "This looks like some kind of peculiar quilt." When I said the word 'quilt,' I thought of my grandmothers and great-grandmothers and it seemed to me to be one of those middle-America, traditional-values symbols. I believe in traditional family values as I understand them [laughs]. Love, loyalty, respect ... I got it right then. A quilt."

Jones is no longer involved with running The Quilt and we asked Rhoad to touch on the controversial subject. She replied, "Cleve is a remarkable man who had a remarkable idea that the world embraced and it helped change the world—and he is our founder," declining to elaborate.

Rhoad did, however, have a popular view of President Obama's cabinet.

"The [Obama] administration lifted the ban on HIV-positive people being allowed to enter the country. Here we are beginning to frame an idea around the beginning the end of AIDS—it's about mobilizing all of us and that we all have a role to play in ending this epidemic," she said.



The NAMES Project Quilt on the National Mall in 1996. Photo by Bruce Barnes

Interested parties seeking to host panels of The Quilt may inquire, but Rhoad said the process for selection is pretty simple. "A lot of people ask to use the Quilt to help fundraise so we ship a panel of the Quilt out to them to use for their fundraising and they pay for shipping."

According to Rhoad, the most important thing to remember this summer is not the controversy and pain surrounding the impetus of The Quilt, but living life to its full potential. She said, "It's impossible to be in front of the Quilt and not want to do something. This Quilt is about life and love."

See www.aidsquilt.org for more information.

Names Project Quilting in Chicago

The Names Project Foundation visits Chicago's TPAN to create new panels for The AIDS Memorial Quilt, "Call My Name" Campaign April 28, 12-4 p.m., 5537 N. Broadway in Chicago.

aChurch4Me MCC is a Community liaison with TPAN providing volunteers to assist with the panel making. All materials are provided.

The award-nominated 13-month-long

AIDS@30 SERIES

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ends next week,
with a look at the
CORE Center

See past articles at www.windycitymediagroup.com

AIDS Legal Council: Trench warfare for those with HIV/AIDS

BY JOE FRANCO

Chicago attorney James Monroe Smith founded the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago (ALCC) in 1987 during the height of American fear and hysteria surrounding AIDS.

The ALCC's mission, according to their Website, is to "preserve, promote and protect the legal rights of men, women and children in the metropolitan Chicago area impacted by HIV. The Council provides direct legal services to people in need, educates the public about HIV-related legal issues, and advocates for social policies that ensure fair treatment for all people affected by HIV/AIDS."

The future of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) has become a very important discussion among AIDS service agencies. The U.S. Supreme Court has finished hearing oral arguments on a case seeking to overturn the law, and the American public could hear the fate of the ACA by the beginning of this summer.

"The ALCC did not file an amicus brief but we did join another group who did," said Ann Hilton Fisher, the group's executive director. "There is no crystal ball but the consensus is that the ACA will be validated—at least most of it. If the Supreme Court undoes the ACA, then they'll have to do the entire New Deal packet of legislation," added Fisher.

The ALCC like other HIV and AIDS advocacy groups have been working on the ACA and its impact on their ability to both find and provide care for their clients as well as the legal repercussions the ACA will ultimately have.

"We are moving full steam ahead on this," Fisher said. "We cannot act as if the ACA will be struck down. Our policies just have to be in line with the language of the Act. There is also the

possibility of Ryan White [funding bill] reauthorization. In any event, it could get pretty ugly."

For the state of Illinois, Fisher felt that the administrative hurdles that must be confronted would be the biggest challenges locally. "Illinois has some great plans," she said. "The possibility of a complete online registration for insurance coverage is in the works. Also, management of what category an individual falls under will be addressed. Are they Medicaid? Insurance with a subsidy or insurance without a subsidy?"

But the ALCC has been in operation for decades prior to the ACA and they have stayed true to their mission. "We're still primarily providing legal services to those with HIV and AIDS," said ALCC case manager Justin Hayford. We just had an employment discrimination suit involving a woman who worked at O'Hare [airport] pushing people around in wheelchairs. When it was discovered that she was HIV-positive she was actually terminated from her position. Can you believe that in 2012?"

The ALCC handled more than 1,500 cases in 2011 and that is no small feat considering the staff is comprised of three attorneys, an attorney intern and five paralegals.

"Our vast majority of cases involve Social Security Disability claims and Medicare/Medicaid," said Fisher. "Still, we also deal with the direct client contact for estate planning, insurance issues and HIV confidentiality consultation."

The ALCC provides immediate access to phone counseling when the issues of HIV confidentiality and state and federal law are dealt with by the public-at-large.

"Oftentimes we get calls from individuals filling out applications for insurance and they want to know whether they should list particular medications they may be taking for HIV manage-



AIDS Legal Council founder James Monroe Smith (center) with Maurice Weigle, Jr. and his wife Helen Weigle, presenting Smith with the 1989 Weigle Award at the Chicago Bar Association annual luncheon, June 15, 1989. From the Outlines/WCT archives

ment. We make sure they're counseled on that issue," said Fisher. "We also get calls from other organizations asking for advice on when it is appropriate to ask about HIV and when it is not. In other words, when is disclosure legal?"

Another large portion of the ALCC's workload is comprised of immigration and the issues stemming from it. The ALCC does more than 100 consultations a year on this issue. They provide a bilingual center for Spanish-speakers. "Until fairly recently, there was a ban on immigration of those with HIV. That's really how we started tackling the issue," said Fisher. The group also handles the more routine immigration problems such as lost Green Cards.

"We're here on the ground doing the grunt work. We are always looking at the big picture but the day-to-day representation of our clients must be kept in focus," added Hayford. "This is a combination—individualized and systemic. Our legal services must be to the person with the other in mind."

For more information on the mission and history of the ALCC or to inquire further about their services, please visit the group's website at www.aidslegal.com or call them at (312) 427-8990.



Ann Hilton Fisher. Courtesy of AIDS Legal Council

AIDS groups criticize planned Illinois budget cuts

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago responded to news that Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn has proposed Medicaid service cuts designed to reduce the budget by \$1.3 billion. One of these proposals would make it far more difficult for people with HIV to access once-a-day combination pills that have simplified and vastly improved HIV treatment.

AFC strongly opposes this recommendation, which likely will create a barrier to continuous adherence to lifesaving HIV medications that can also prevent HIV transmission.

"The \$3 million in projected savings from this policy change, in a \$2.7 billion Medicaid budget deficit, will be far eclipsed by the cost of additional hospitalizations, worse health outcomes, and more people living with HIV in the community," said David Ernesto Munar, AFC's President/CEO. "The cost will far outweigh the initial savings."

Howard Brown Health Center also opposes the cuts.

AIDS2012 reunion in D.C.

AIDS2012 Reunion, the source for community events before, during and after the XIX International AIDS Conference July 22-27 in Washington, D.C., has announced its launch with the unveiling of its Website, www.AIDS2012Reunion.org. This is the first time in 22 years that the U.S. has hosted the program.

An estimated 30,000 delegates from nearly 200 countries and more than 3,000 members of the media are expected to attend.

'Rent' returns to Chicago

American Theater Company (ATC), together with About Face Theatre, presents a co-production of Jonathan Larson's *Rent*, directed by David Cromer. *Rent* will run April 27, 2012–June 17, 2012 at ATC, 1909 W. Byron.

At the end of the 1980s, a group of Bohemian artists struggle to find life, love and art in a brutal economy and the height of the AIDS crisis.

Call 773-409-4125; www.atcweb.org.

Rectal Microbicides priority in Africa AIDS battle

A strategic initiative to promote the research and advocacy of rectal microbicides as a method of preventing HIV/AIDS in Africa has taken an important step forward. International Rectal Microbicide Advocates (IRMA)—a global advocacy network headquartered at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago—released *On the Map: Ensuring Africa's Place in Rectal Microbicide Research and Advocacy* at the international Microbicides 2012 conference in Sydney, Australia.

The document will be critical to the efforts of IRMA's Project ARM (Africa for Rectal Microbicides) and outlines priority actions to ensure Africa fully engages in rectal microbicide research and advocacy activities, including the integration of safe anal-sex messaging into HIV prevention programs.

HRC brief on HIV/AIDS and the LGBT community

The Human Rights Campaign has released an issue brief as prepared for a White House briefing on HIV/AIDS.

"HIV/AIDS affects all Americans, but continues to disproportionately impact the LGBT community, particularly people of color," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. See <http://www.hrc.org/resources/entry/hrc-issue-brief-hiv-aids-and-the-lgbt-community> for details.

AIDS doc 'We Were Here' on PBS this June

Both inspiring and devastating, David Weissman's *We Were Here* revisits the arrival in San Francisco of what was called the "Gay Plague" in the early 1980s. It illuminates the profound personal and community issues raised by the AIDS epidemic as well as the broad political and social upheavals it unleashed.

A powerful story of bravery, compassion and love in the worst of times, *We Were Here* will premiere on the Emmy Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*, hosted by Mary Louise Parker, on Thursday, June 7, 2012.

Dining Out for Life April 26

The annual nationwide Dining Out for Life is April 26, including at Chicago-area restaurants. A varying portion of proceeds from participating businesses goes to AIDS charities.

See diningoutforlife.com for a list of Dining Out for Life partners.

Partner pushes to remember those lost to AIDS

BY ROSS FORMAN

In lieu of a gravesite and headstone, Philip D. Luig now has a permanent memorial marker honoring the life of his former partner, Jeff Lalonde, who died of AIDS complications in 1994.

Luig, 54, who lives in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood, published *From Particles and Disputations: Writings for Jeff*, a compilation of notes and letters he wrote to Lalonde during their 12-year relationship.

"Jeff and I both specified in our wills that we didn't want to have a funeral and be buried; rather, we wished to be cremated, be remembered at a memorial gathering, then have our ashes scattered on the coast of Oregon, where we'd hoped to retire. About [seven] years [after Lalonde's death], as a part of my Master's thesis project at Columbia College of Chicago, I made hand-bound copies of the book and gave them to Jeff's two sisters, who were the only surviving members of his immediate family. Both of his parents died shortly after he passed away."

The book was released this year and is available at online bookstores. It is Luig's "proper memorial" to Lalonde.

"I'd always wanted [the letters] published, so it could be Jeff's memorial, but after many years of sending out many, many query letters to publishers, it became clear that wasn't likely to happen," Luig said. "For one thing, it's too short: only 98 pages. Plus, it's not an easy fit into any genre for marketing. It's not a collection of poetry, and it's not what one would expect of a memoir or diary."

"Eventually I decided against publishing it and instead just posted it on a Website until recently. However, the site wasn't widely visited, nor was its permanence assured since the site would only last as long as I was around to maintain it."

"As the topic of same-sex marriage and the value of same-sex relationships has grown into a national discussion among the general public,

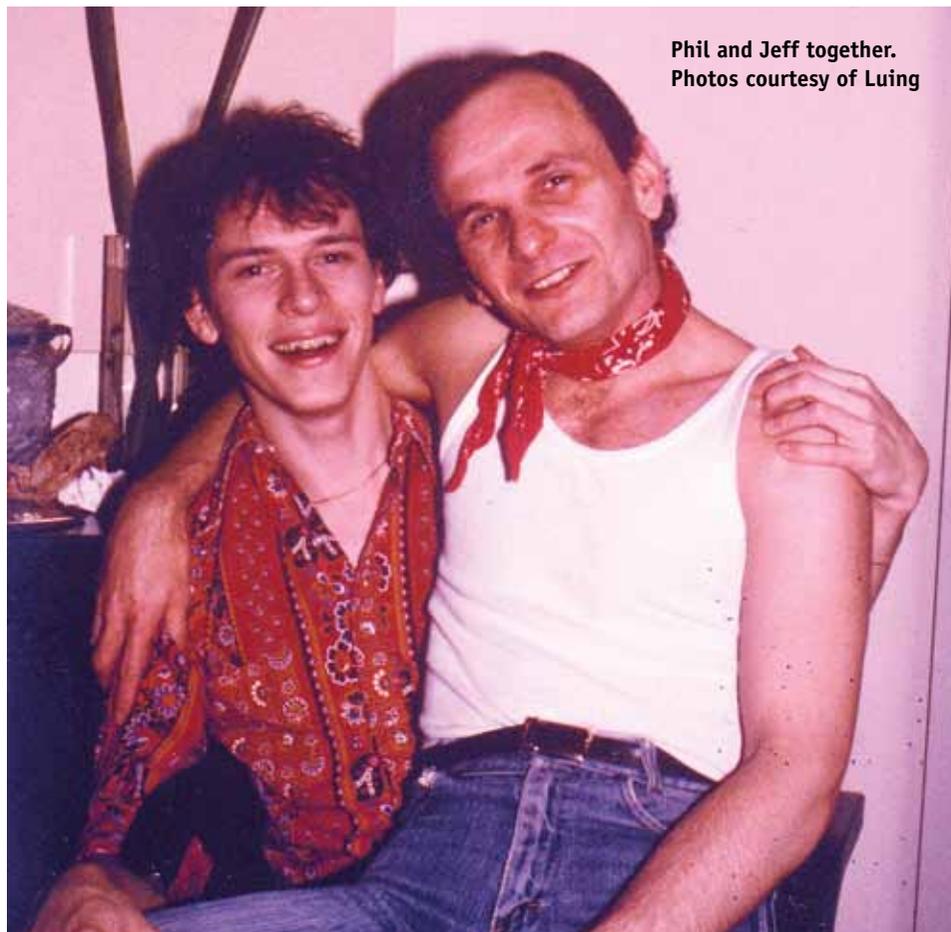


Philip D. Luig today.

I've sorely wanted to contribute my experience with Jeff to that conversation, to show why these relationships command recognition. The advent of e-books has opened up opportunities for non-traditional books, such as mine, to get out, be seen and perhaps build enough of an audience for a publisher to risk a hard copy book. I had an opportunity to publish it as an e-book, and now it's out there taking part in the conversation."

Luig said organizing the writings into a cohesive book was, for him, a way of working through his bereavement. "I was off kilter for almost a decade after Jeff's death," he admits.

Luig didn't start dating again until four years after Lalonde died, and his dating career was short-lived as he soon found his present partner: singer/songwriter Charles Stephen Hughes. The two have been together since Nov. 14, 1998. "He's been incredibly generous and understand-


 Phil and Jeff together.
 Photos courtesy of Luig

ing of my need to memorialize Jeff while building a life with him," Luig said.

Luig, a research administrator at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine (Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences) said he truly wants the book to be published and distributed as a traditional hard copy.

"I'd like for it to be passed down to future generations," he said. "The initial responses [to the e-book] have been very appreciative. For me, of course, the words are so informed by memories that I can't read it the way other people do. I

do I respond? My response to having survived longer than Jeff is to memorialize him properly and to demand recognition, honor and respect for the love that we shared and the relationship that we built."

Incidentally, the letters HIV/AIDS don't appear in the book, except in the chronology at the end.

"Except for the first few years we weren't in denial," Luig said. "We were active in a couples support group at Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN), educated ourselves about medications, etc. It's present in the book in that we adapt our relationship to its effects on our lives, our physical beings, but I wanted my writing to be about the two of us, the connection of our spirits, and I didn't conceptualize HIV as having infected our spirits."

Luig said his favorite part of the book is the chapter titled "Sext—At the Apex of Life."

"The book is structured as a 'book of hours,' which traditionally is the litanies that monks and nuns would recite as the day progressed," Luig said. "When I organized the writings after Jeff's death, I found they fit with the metaphor of the passing day. It starts with 'Matins—Young and Silly in Love,' and then comes 'Lauds—First Reflections' when we started thinking about the relationship and asking ourselves what exactly it meant to us."

"After that stage, we got hit with a double-whammy. The next couple of chapters represent two stages of significant strains placed on the relationship. First, as with all relationships of any length, the initial sense of euphoria and infatuation gives way and we begin asking ourselves who are we in this relationship, and how does our re-emerging sense of self fit into this new arrangement, this existence as a couple. That's a time of challenges that all couples have to struggle through and resolve if they are to grow into a steady, mature relationship. The strains inherent to this stage were exacerbated for us by our testing HIV-positive at a time when the life expectancy for HIV was thought to be six months to two years. We knew we'd been in a monogamous relationship for over three years, so we were getting tested just to

get the official word that we were out of danger. Instead we were told we had basically outlived our life expectancy. We didn't get counseling; instead, we tried to reassure each other while at the same time sliding into a pattern of acting out our unspoken anxiety by numbing ourselves with pot, alcohol and cigarettes.

"After a couple of years of that roller coaster ride, we did pull ourselves together between one Christmas and Valentine's Day, quit the cigarettes, pot and alcohol, and commenced the chapter 'Sext—At the Apex of Life.' It was a wonderful time of mature commitment, positive outlook, good health and general happiness. That period was followed by [the period] when Jeff started showing symptoms of HIV progression, entering the chapters that truly called on all we'd learned of commitment and the resilience of love."

The Luig-Lalonde love affair clearly still lives, some 30 years after it was formed.

"It's been a time of incredible change—technologically and socially," Luig said. "I remember when my electric typewriter at work was replaced with the first wave of PCs. I remember when what was to become the LGBT community began pulling off its cloak of invisibility and making itself known, how incredibly liberating that was to start to find books and plays about our lives, even to have our own newspapers. I [also] remember falling in love—but that, I think, has not changed all that much. It still pretty much happens the way it always has."

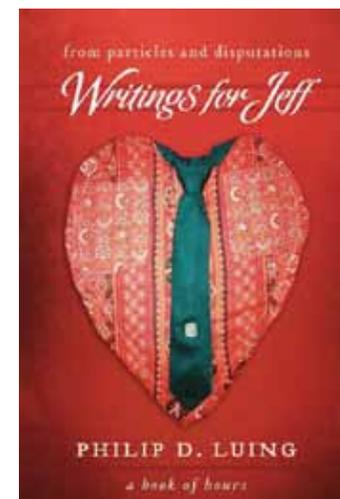
"I learned a lot about how to make a relationship work [from Lalonde], and it's certainly made my present relationship much easier to navigate. It also helps that I'm generally much more at ease with myself; that happened somewhere around age 50."

The heart on the cover of the book is a valentine Luig made for Lalonde of shirts. "If you unbutton the shirt and look inside you'll find the poem from Feb. 14, 1988, that starts out, 'My love, may you find my love, even if this Valentine's Day you find me hidden in the tatters of my old, most favorite shirt, serious behind one of my serious faces ...'"

So what would Lalonde say if he knew the writings were turned into a book?

"I know he'd be pleased," Luig said. "I was a member of the writing group NewTown Writers for almost 20 years. When Jeff was alive, I fashioned some of my writings into a spoken cantata for synchronized voices, which told an imagined story. It was entitled 'Elements of Love' and was produced by NewTown Writers in 1992 for Pride Week. Theater critic Larry Bommer reviewed it for the Chicago Tribune and also, at the end of the year, named it one of the best theater events of 1992. Jeff was very pleased to have those writings for him presented publicly."

See <http://www.philipdluig.com> more information on the book.



Ride for AIDS inspires beyond Chicago area

BY ROSS FORMAN

The donation came last year from an acquaintance in New York City who Christopher Thomas Hongosh had only previously met twice while country line-dancing. It was, ultimately, the largest donation Hongosh received in his Ride For AIDS Chicago (RFAC) fundraising campaign, but it was the message—not just the money—that truly meant the most to Hongosh.

The donor wrote about his life, about contracting HIV 24 years earlier, at a time when many diagnosed as HIV-positive were dying, and how he thought his days were numbered.

He simply thanked Hongosh for his efforts. Hongosh, 27, who lives in East Lakeview, is back for his second RFAC this summer.

"[The Ride] is challenging for everyone," Hongosh said. "You ride at your level, no pressure—15 miles, rest, 15 miles, rest, 15 miles, [continuing] for two days and [a total of] 200 miles. You have all day and the support of [hundreds of] people on the road with you, plus all your friends and family cheering you on. It's cool to look at a map and think I rode that on my bike."

Hongosh has been living in Chicago for about two years. He is dating Jason Heideloff.

"The [2011] Ride was amazing," Hongosh said. "From the first time meeting [the other] riders to the post-ride celebrations, it's a great experience with amazing people. I was particularly shocked by how many riders participated in 2011 and the various skill levels."

The RFAC is a two-day, 200-mile bicycling event produced by the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) of Chicago to raise needed monies for TPAN and select community partners. Riders are required to raise a minimum of \$1,000 and crew members are encouraged to raise \$500, but are not required to. The Ride For AIDS Chicago returns 100 percent of its pledges to the beneficiaries.

Hongosh said his favorite RFAC story last year was just hearing what people thought of him after joining the event, including those who had a crush on him, he said. "Everyone wants to know how far they have to ride to get an ass like mine," he added with a smile.

Hongosh said his goal for the 2012 RFAC is to raise \$3,333.

"Being a co-captain on Team TPAN, I've taken the lead with fundraising and I am aiming to get more of my generation involved with charitable giving through social events they partake in," Hongosh said. "I had [more than] 120 people come out to DS Tequila [in Lakeview] on March 29 [for a fundraiser when] DS [donated] 20 percent of sales to Team TPAN." The event featured three DJs, and raised about \$3,000.

"I have lost one friend to HIV complications; he was 24. I ride for everyone, especially those who live with the stigma," Hongosh said. "I think people respect you more and can justify donations when you put your heart into it and earn it. Climbing on [a] bike, or putting on running shoes, says I believe in something so much that I would give life and limb to do it. Everyone should give back. If you're blessed with riches, share; if you're blessed with two hands and free time, volunteer; and if you can only afford to be gracious; then say 'please' and 'thank you.'"

Hongosh said the RFAC is simply a way to help and, he admits, that's his nature. He is, after all, a life-long restaurant server.

"I would like to encourage people to get involved with a HIV vaccine study in our own backyard, at UIC, called Project WISH," Hongosh said. "Their funding has tripled since I started two years ago. I was 12th person to be eligible and receive the vaccine, and I just completed my last check-up in March after two years. You can check www.chicagoaids.org for more info.

"Also, think about National Institute of Health's campaign, [called,] Be The Generation. Be the generation when there is an end to HIV. Be educated [about HIV because] a lot of kids are contracting the disease in alarming rates. Know how it's transmitted, know your partner, and know one slip is all it takes. Have you ever asked someone positive how it really is?"



Photos of Christopher Hongosh, courtesy of BirkenheuerPhotography.com.

VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY
TIMES

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 Community Marketing, Inc.

REA
CAREYEnding racial
profiling in
America

The following is the testimony of National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund Executive Director Rea Carey before the Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights April 17

Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Graham and members of the Subcommittee: I am honored to submit testimony for the record on behalf of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund regarding the Subcommittee's hearing on racial profiling and S. 1670, the End Racial Profiling Act (ERPA). The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund is the oldest national organization advocating for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund and its sister organization the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force work to end all forms of discrimination in the United States, including discriminatory law enforcement policies that disparately impact racial minorities.

We thank you for holding this hearing on this critical issue. As research and data have shown, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people come from every walk of life—we are a geographically, economically, religiously and racially diverse community. We are also a community that faces many hurdles in life, including discriminatory treatment at the hands of law enforcement. Our recent study, *Injustice at*

Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, sheds light on shocking treatment of transgender people by law enforcement. The most extreme of this discriminatory treatment falls on transgender people of color.

While many transgender people, regardless of their race, suffer disrespectful and harmful treatment by law enforcement, the evidence shows that transgender people of color are impacted much more than their white counterparts regardless of their race.

Forty-seven percent of Black and Latino/a transgender people reported being treated disrespectfully by police. The disproportionate treatment impacts all racial minorities though; 44 percent of Asian transgender people; 35 percent of American Indian transgender people; and 42 percent of multiracial transgender people reported disrespectful treatment at the hands of law enforcement. These figures compare to 25 percent of white transgender people. Similar trends for disproportionate representation in police mistreatment of transgender people of color are also found in physical and sexual assaults. Shockingly, 41 percent of Black and 21 percent of Latino/a transgender people report being detained in a prison or jail cell because they are transgender compared to 4 percent of white transgender people.*

While we are outraged by the treatment of our transgender family and friends by law enforcement and the disproportionate impact on transgender people of color we are equally concerned about racial profiling in general in the United States. The very concept of racial profiling goes against the founding principles of our country and the basis of criminal law that each individual is innocent until proven otherwise. It is racial profiling whenever a law enforcement department or individual arbitrarily uses race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin as a factor in deciding who should be questioned or investigated. These are characteristics only relevant as part of a specific suspect description. Any law enforcement system focusing on characteristics to identify wrongdoers is both misguided and a waste of precious resources. Law enforcement should focus on policing techniques that identify potential wrongdoers using actions and behaviors instead of demographic characteristics.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community has a long history of heightened fear of law enforcement. Racial profiling compounds that problem for our community and causes communities of color to fear federal, state and local law enforcement instead of feeling safe to work with them to make all of our communities safer.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund is encouraged by the Subcommittee's leadership in holding a hearing on ending racial profiling. To be sure, this is not an easy conversation, but it is one that must be had to end misguided practices utilized by law enforcement departments across the country. We are grateful for the opportunity to submit our position on the unjust and ineffective practice of racial profiling in law enforcement. We urge the Subcommittee to move quickly to take concrete actions that will help put an end to these counterproductive practices.

—Pass the "End Racial Profiling Act" (S. 1670) out of Subcommittee and work towards its passage by Congress to institute a federal ban on profiling based on race, religion, ethnicity, and national origin at the federal, state and local levels;

—Urge the Department of Justice to amend the 2003 Guidance Regarding the Use of Race by Federal Law Enforcement Agencies to prohibit profiling based on religion and national origin, to remove national and border security loopholes, to cover law enforcement surveillance activities, to apply to state and local law enforcement agencies acting in partnership with federal agencies or receiving federal funds, and make the guidance enforceable.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to express our views on racial profiling by law enforcement. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund welcomes this and future opportunities to further the dialogue and bring an end to discriminatory racial profiling practices.

*Grant, Jaime M., Lisa A. Mottet, Justin Tanis, Jack Harrison, Jody L. Herman, and Mara Keisling. *Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey*. Washington: National Center for Transgender Equality and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 2011.

LETTERS

Wed-letter day

Dear Editor:

The time is now for same-sex marriage in Illinois.

Currently, discussion is under way among state Reps. Greg Harris, Deb Mell, Kelly Cassidy, Ann Williams, Sara Feigenholtz and state Sen. Heather Steans. While I think these individuals and those they are outreaching to concerning talks about strategy are prudent and necessary I think there is a whole group of gay men and lesbians who may be overlooked, and unheard in these partisan political discussions, and those are the individuals who would directly be affected by same-sex marriage.

The discussion and primary strategy for introducing the legislation, as I understand, appears to be based on the re-election of Democrats to both the state House and Senate. So the priority appears to be getting Democrats re-elected, and not getting same-sex marriage passed.

I understand that while the Defense of Marriage Act is in place, we will continue to be denied full marriage equality, even if it is passed here in Illinois. It is important that we do not link marriage equality to any single political party; indeed, if we are going to build a national

consensus around this issue, patrician politics should not be driving marriage-equality strategy.

Marriage equality in Illinois appears to have taken the back seat to the elections in 2012. Some politicians want safety when they stand up for same-sex marriage, and I understand that. However, is that type of leadership we need right now on the issue of marriage equality—or should we expect more?

I also understand the current gay political climate might not welcome voices that differ.

My authority to speak out on this issue does not come from a political role, but from my own authenticity as a gay man, and the relationship of trust and genuine concern that allows one to speak not only words of encouragement, but also words of challenge.

Joe Murray
 Executive Director
 Rainbow Sash Movement

Send letters and viewpoints to
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GOINGS-ON



WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

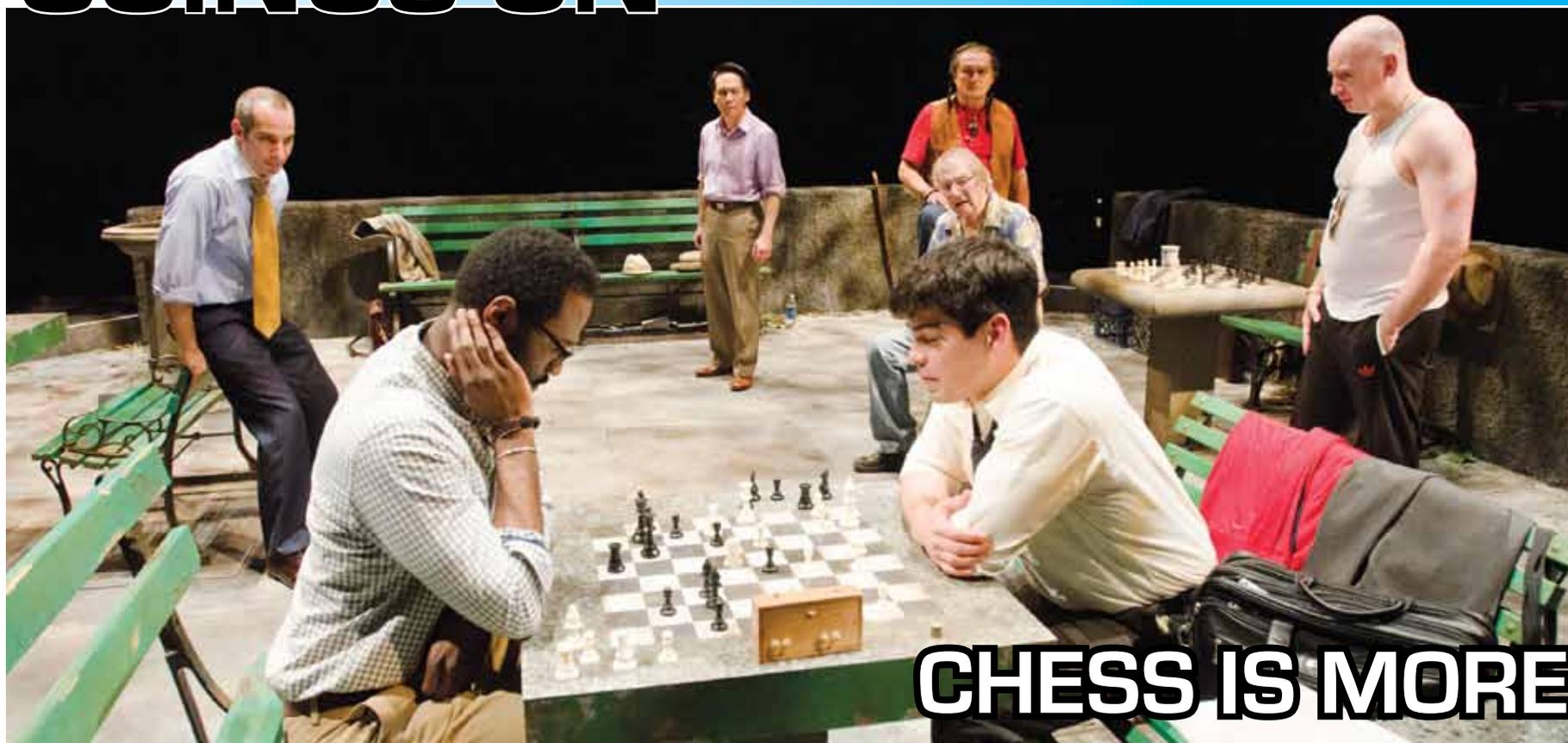


Photo by Dean La Prairie

CHESS IS MORE

Chess hustlers figure prominently in the theatrical production *Fish Men*. See page 27.

DISH

It's Greek to me.
Page 38.

Photo of chef David Schneider by Ed Negron



MUSIC

Perry good.
Page 37.

PR photo of Katy Perry



THEATER

'March' on.
Page 30.

Photo by Michael Brosilow



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Bailiwick and New Colony add up 'Numberless'

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Rise of the Numberless is a world-premiere musical co-produced by The New Colony and Bailiwick Chicago with an artistic collaborative process that stretches back more than two years.

The artistic staff of The New Colony were hankering to do an world premiere rock 'n' roll musical that would tie into the company's mission of producing original, company-generated work through their process of actor improv exercises, workshops and script conferences. So the folks of The New Colony started looking to collaborate with another theater company willing to work in their style and to also bring extra skills to the table.

"We approached Bailiwick Chicago because they obviously have a history of doing musicals," said Andrew Hobgood, the out artistic director of The New Colony. "They have the capacity to do really great rock 'n' roll productions, which was something that The New Colony was lacking in terms of resources and expertise."

As for Bailiwick Chicago, collaboration has been one of its main missions since artists from the former Bailiwick Repertory Theatre reconfigured and re-branded the company in 2010 to produce roving productions at different venues around town. Bailiwick Chicago notably teamed up with Deeply Rooted Dance Theater for an acclaimed 2010 production of Elton John and Tim

Rice's Broadway musical *Aida*. It also joined with the band JC Brooks & The Uptown Sound for a widely praised 2011 staging of the Broadway musical *Passing Strange*.

However, Bailiwick Chicago's artistic staff were also on the lookout to produce more world-premiere works rather than just finding new ways of staging recently produced shows from elsewhere. According to newly appointed Bailiwick Chicago artistic director Lili-Anne Brown, the company recently worked with Teatro Luna on a project that didn't come to fruition as an official co-production (though as an outgrowth of that collaborative process, Teatro Luna did yield its own 2011 world premiere production of *Crossed: How Going South Flipped Our Script*.)

"Just for us to go through that creative process with another company, even though we didn't get a show out it, I thought it was extremely instructive in what to do in creating something together," Brown said.

So far, Brown said Bailiwick Chicago's collaboration to create new material with The New Colony has been a lot of fun and great to learn from because "they are old hands at this."

The New Colony's Hobgood was equally effuse at collaborating with Bailiwick Chicago.

"While The New Colony is leading the artistic creation, Bailiwick has been leading the producing responsibilities," Hobgood said. "It has actually been probably the easiest process



Rise of the Numberless. Photo by Anne Petersen

I've ever gone through because there's such an equality of work spread around really nicely by people who have the talent in areas that The New Colony ensemble doesn't. It's just been a contribution that has been unimaginable to us."

Akin to previous productions by The New Colony like *Frat* and *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche*, *Rise of the Numberless* is meant to be an immersive audience experience. The musical is set in a dystopian version of America where a rigid "One Child, One Nation" government induced population control system is showing signs of strain after being enforced for 50 years. A whole mass of unaccounted-for and "numberless" siblings are struggling to come out of hiding, and their traveling protest and awareness-raising show, *Rise of the Numberless*, is supposedly being hosted by sympathetic groups in underground settings (in this case, the Collaboration Studio 300 at the Flat Iron Arts Building in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood.)

Rise of the Numberless comes with a rather large writing team, with the script credited to Patriac Coakley, Evan Linder and Hobgood, music by Chris Gingrich and Julie B. Nichols and lyrics by Hobgood and Gingrich. Hobgood also directs the overall production.

According to Hobgood, the creative team took

their artistic inspiration from glam rock and the sci-fi writings of Kurt Vonnegut, while their political approach was to imagine a futuristic America where resources are scare and rigid population controls are the norm.

"We started developing this piece before 2011 became the year of the protestor," Hobgood said. "And after we started developing it, the actual American political and cultural environment for some reason just kept kicking toward what was happening... we all actually started laughing one night when [Minnesota Republican Rep.] Michelle Bachmann went on the record to say that [President] Obama's healthcare policy will actually lead to requiring women to only have one child. At that point we were like, 'This is insane that these conversations are actually happening when we thought we were just writing this futuristic concept.'"

The New Colony and Bailiwick Chicago's *Rise of the Numberless* continues at 7:30 and 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through May 26 at Collaboration Studio 300, Flat Iron Arts Building, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave. Tickets are \$10 for previews and \$20-\$25 during the regular run; visit www.numberless.org for tickets and more information.

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- fast heartbeat
- feeling of faintness or fainting

- Swelling (fluid retention). **EGRIFTA**® can cause swelling in some parts of your body. Call your healthcare provider if you have an increase in joint pain, or pain or numbness in your hands or wrist (carpal tunnel syndrome)
- Increase in glucose (blood sugar) intolerance and diabetes. Your healthcare provider will measure your blood sugar periodically
- Injection-site reactions. Change (rotate) your injection site to help lower your risk for injection-site reactions. Call your healthcare provider for medical advice if you have the following symptoms around the area of the injection site:
 - redness
 - itching
 - pain
 - irritation
 - bleeding
 - rash
 - swelling

The most common side effects of **EGRIFTA**® include:

- joint pain
- pain in legs and arms
- swelling in your legs
- muscle soreness
- tingling, numbness, and pricking
- nausea
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- rash
- itching

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of **EGRIFTA**®. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. To report side effects, contact EMD Serono toll-free at 1-800-283-8088, ext. 5563. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

Keep **EGRIFTA**® and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about the safe and effective use of **EGRIFTA**®:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use **EGRIFTA**® for a condition for which it was not prescribed.

Do not give **EGRIFTA**® to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Do not share your **EGRIFTA**® syringe with another person, even if the needle is changed.

Do not share your **EGRIFTA**® needles with another person.

This Patient Information leaflet summarizes the most important information about **EGRIFTA**®. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about **EGRIFTA**® that is written for healthcare professionals.

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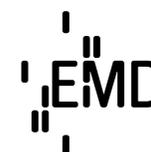
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THEATER REVIEW

Fish Men

Playwright: Candido Tirado
 At: Teatro Vista at the Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.
 Tickets: 312-443-3800;
 www.goodmantheatre.org; \$12-\$42
 Runs through: May 6

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

If the distinction between a “sport” and a “game” is its analogical applicability to war, then how do we define chess, that venerable training tool for safely sequestered generals preoccupied with strategic advantage? Just as we speculate on the innumerable motives for answering the martial call, so do we guess at what draws the eight men in Candido Tirado’s play to gather daily in New York City’s Washington Park for a scene of ostensibly orderly combat.

Like all soldiers, each has his own reason for seeking this fraternity: Cherokee Jerome, along with businessmen Stuart and Dr. Lee, have mostly left their enemies behind. Russian expat John comes for the company, and ex-jailbird Peewee, to profit from the “fish” gulled into wagering on the winners. Ah, but for grad school-drop-out Cash and new-guy-with-a-secret Rey, this ancient pastime constitutes war as ruthless and bloody as the carnage it symbolizes. In vain does the lone kibitzer—a holocaust survivor called only “Ninety-Two”—warn them of revenge’s indelible price. (“Genocide isn’t over when the dead are buried.”)

The formality with which Tirado sets up HIS game may nettle audiences accustomed to a more organic flow of dramatic action. The round-robin symposiums are easily spotted, the initiating attack obvious to Mamet devotees or, for that matter, playgoers recalling Tirado’s other plays, notably Mommas’s Boyz. Under the deftly-macho direction of Edward Torres, the backstories that these refugees bring to the—um, table



Fish Men. Photo by Dean La Prairie

engage first our curiosity, and then our sympathies, until we find ourselves choosing up sides in preparation for the inevitable showdown, executed with a speed and fury rendering it arguably the most thrilling duel not requiring a fight choreographer in the history of Chicago theater (Ben Chang and Mark Viafranco are the coaches for this production).

Chess being a close-up activity—closer even than the perimeter seating in the Owen allows—it’s up to the actors to keep us apprised of the battle’s tide down to the smallest detail. A cast of seasoned players, featuring Raúl Castillo and Cedric Mays as the young champions, carries out its duties with practiced skill, but when the dust settles and the wounded are tallied, the hero who emerges to etch himself firmly in our memories is Howard Witt’s Ninety-Two, whose every revelation heralds the reconciliation that Tirado benevolently bestows on his pilgrims.

Victory Gardens’ new playwrights

Artistic Director Chay Yew and Executive Director Jan Kallish announce the appointment of the new Victory Gardens (VG) Ensemble Playwrights: Philip Dawkins, Marcus Gardley, Samuel D. Hunter and Tanya Saracho.

During the seven-year residencies, VG aims to develop and produce the playwrights’ new

plays; the artists will be deeply involved in the everyday life and business of the organization. After the residencies, the playwrights will immediately join the alumni, whereby they will still maintain an artistic relationship with the theater.

Dawkins is a former Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree behind The Homosexuals, which premiered at About Face last summer.

See www.victorygardens.org.

SPOTLIGHT



Before it heads off to Ireland for the 2012 International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival, see a benefit farewell performance of Tim Paul’s hit 2011 solo show **No Fats, No Femmes** in its hometown of Chicago. In addition to Paul’s full show recounting his own personal stories of online dating and dalliances, there are also solo performances by Abby McEnany, Kate Duffy, Wes Perry, Jet Eveleth and more. The benefit for No Fats, No Femmes plays for one performance only at 8 p.m. Monday, April 30, at the Annoyance Theater, 4830 N. Broadway. Tickets are \$20; visit www.chicagoimprovfestival.org for tickets and more information.

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Angels in America.
Photo by Michael Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW

Angels in America

Playwright: Tony Kushner
At: Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Avenue
Tickets: 773-753-4472;
www.CourtTheatre.org; \$45-\$65
Runs through: June 3

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Of course, you must see *Angels in America* in this first local production in years by a large theater company. One of the great works of 20th-century U.S. theater, Tony Kushner's play is superbly acted by an intelligent eight-person ensemble dominated by Rob Lindley, as reluctant hero Prior Walter, and Larry Yando, as eager villain Roy Cohn. Director Charles Newell has guided them through their large and difficult roles with a sure—and mostly self-effacing—hand.

Still, there are some peculiarities, the main one being John Culbert's counterintuitive (to me) scenic design—a vast, dark, three-story mausoleum with a sarcophagus slab at the center and six telephones. I just didn't get it, especially the telephones.

CRITICS' PICKS

Chesapeake, Remy Bumpo Theatre Company at Greenhouse Theater, through April 29. Lee Blessing's one-man magical realism drama about a bisexual performance artist and his efforts to kidnap a bigoted and homophobic senator's dog offers lots of laughs and plenty to think about when it comes to judging just what constitutes "art." SCM

A Moon For The Misbegotten, Seanacháí Theatre at the Irish-American Heritage Center, through April 29. Chicago's favorite tough guy, Steve Pickering, plays a melancholy-romantic hero in love with a girl in this delicately intimate rendition of the Eugene O'Neill classic. MSB

The Pirates of Penzance, Marriott Theatre, Lincolnshire, through June 10. Gilbert and Sullivan's comic 1879 operetta gets a joyously silly and vigorously choreographed production courtesy of director Dominic Missimi and choreographer Matt Raftery. SCM

ReSpiced: A Silk Road Cabaret, Silk Road Rising at Chicago Temple, through May 6. Although it really needs a thesis statement to let the audience know its *modus operandi*, this musical revue presenting Western representations of Asia and Middle East in song is an entertaining and thought-provoking ride through the cultural labeling (or misidentification) of whole groups of people. SCM

—By Barnidge and Morgan

But the main reason I found it counterintuitive is that *Angels in America* absolutely is *not* about death, even though both Prior and Roy are dying of AIDS and death is discussed more than once. Even so, Kushner's epic is about life: about whom we will or won't allow to define our lives individually and collectively (as Jews, gays, immigrants, lawyers or whatever), and how we go about defining for ourselves precisely who and what we are. Kushner's greatest condemnation isn't for being Republican or conservative (Kushner himself is an outspoken leftist) but for those who cannot accept themselves. Roy Cohn burns in hell because he was both a self-loathing Jew and a self-loathing gay man—"bully, coward, victim," as his AIDS quilt panel so powerfully reads. In Kushner's cosmos, even the archangels are not allowed to dictate terms to a humanity that hungers for life (even if destructively so, on occasion).

Similarly, no matter what some people think, *Angels in America* is *not* a play about AIDS, although it uses two characters with AIDS as a framing device for the story. Kushner states his premise precisely in the play's opening words, a eulogy delivered by an old rabbi who says "There is no such place as America ... a melting pot where nothing melted." The play is "a gay fantasia on national themes", and AIDS is not a national theme—although it is a national issue, which isn't the same thing. But America and Americanism *are* national themes, as are enfranchisement and empowerment, and those are the true themes of the play.

Angels in America was first produced when those with HIV/AIDS were feared, denied, ostracized, demonized and disenfranchised. Among many plays dealing with the issue, *Angels* helped give voice to the AIDS community (patients, families, lovers, caregivers, scientists and their political supporters) by embracing the poetic dictate of Dylan Thomas: "Do not go gentle into that good night."

AIDS remains with us, although its landscape has vastly altered in 20 years, at least among developed nations. However, the primary themes of *Angels in America* have not altered. Indeed, conservatism today is darker than during the Reagan years, with deeply bigoted, hateful and narrow-minded people attempting to define what it means to be an American, and we must not let them.

This is what *Angels in America* is about. Its AIDS-impelled storyline is less sensational and revolutionary today because it's tied to a specific year (Roy Cohn died in 1986; you can't fudge that), but that allows Kushner's primary political themes to shine through as the times demand. There are new Roy Cohns out there, and there always are lost boys like Joe Pitt (played by Geoff Packard) and Louis Ironson (Eddie Bennett) wrestling with emotions and guilt (to acknowledge the important non-political side of *Angels*). Charles Newell and company give us an *Angels in America* for today.

THEATER REVIEW

Hairspray

Book: Mark O'Donnell & Thomas Meehan; **Score:** Marc Shaiman & Scott Wittman
At: Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace
Tickets: 630-530-0111 or www.drurylaneoakbrook.com; \$35-\$46
Runs through: June 17

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

When Drury Lane Theatre produced the Chicago-area regional theater premiere of *Spamalot* starting in late 2010, one criticism I leveled at the production was that it hewed so closely to Mike Nichols' original 2005 Broadway staging instead of offering its own distinct take on the material. So now that Drury Lane is tackling the 2002 hit Broadway musical *Hairspray*, I really shouldn't criticize its new approach for not living up to the fluidity of the original staging.

Yet when you spot the modern-day stagehands moving scenery on and off in director/choreographer Tammy Mader's *Hairspray* for Drury Lane, it does take you out of the colorful 1960s desegregationist onstage fantasy world. Mader and set designer Marcus Stephens' new approach to *Hairspray* with multiple levels and pop out scenery is an interesting approach, but in execution it's rather halting to the flow.

But other than this staging quibble, Drury Lane definitely delivers a handsome *Hairspray* that should please both die-hard fans and newcomers alike. *Hairspray* dazzles with its infectiously catchy 1960s-styled score by gay songwriting duo Scott Wittman and Mark Shaiman,

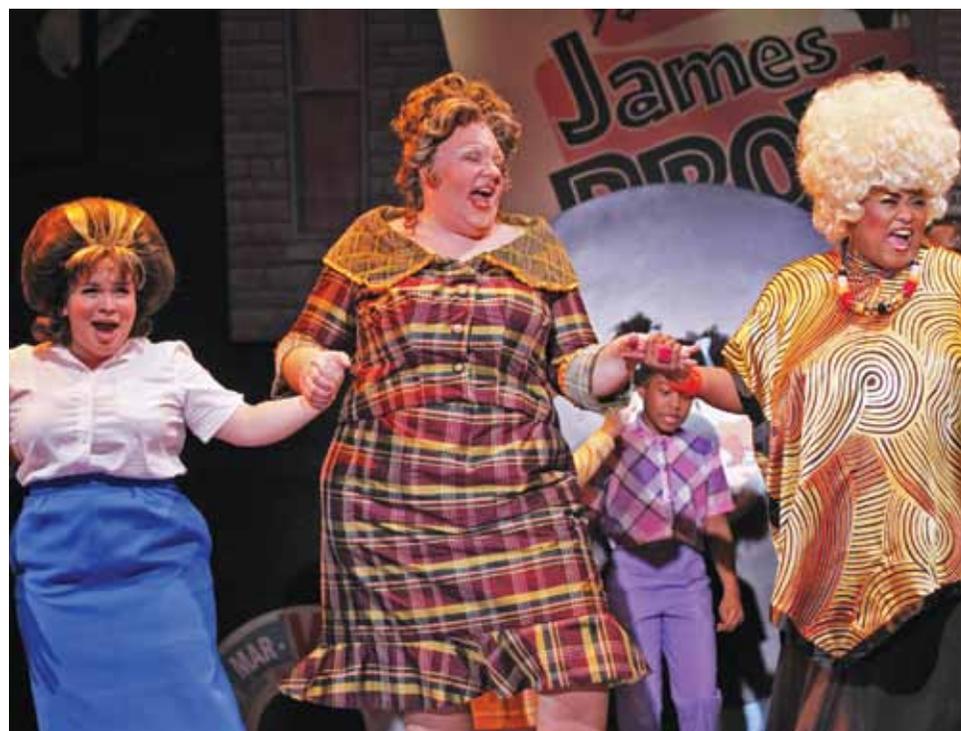
plus it still retains much of the irreverent and subversive humor of out director John Waters' surprisingly family-friendly 1988 film of the same name.

As the plus-sized heroine Tracy Turnblad, Lilian Castillo is a bundle of malice-free joy who carries the show to its happy conclusion by helping to integrate the Baltimore-based teenage dance TV program *The Corny Collins Show*. (Too bad the real-life *The Buddy Deane Show* that inspired Waters' *Hairspray* was cancelled when white parents refused to let their kids dance on a desegregated show.)

As Tracy's oversized mother, Michael Aaron Lindner certainly gets plenty of laughs playing things basically straight as the agoraphobic housewife Edna Turnblad, who's married to the jokester Wilbur (a zippy Tim Kazurinsky). Lindner's drag appearance certainly makes you think of the late Divine, who originated the film role, although a touch of comic winking to the audience might have been welcome.

The rest of the cast is also top-notch, with appropriately villainous turns by the respectively bullying and bigoted Amber and Velma Von Tussle of Holly Laurent and Keely Vasquez, and a dreamy take on the heartthrob Link Larkin by Erik Altemus. Felicia Fields also milks as much humor as she can out of the dusky voiced DJ Mortormouth Maybelle, who is mother to the supremely confident Little Inez of Joshlyn Lomax.

The secondary romantic coupling of the characters Seaweed J. Stubbs and Penny Pingleton is also loads of fun thanks to the elastically danced turn of Jon-Michael Reese and the scatterbrained performance of Rebecca Pink. Though Drury Lane's *Hairspray* won't obliterate treasured memories of the original staging, it's effective enough on its own terms.



Hairspray. Pic by Brett Beiner Photography

Joffrey Ballet's 'Spring Desire' April 25-May 6

The Joffrey Ballet's season will conclude with 10 performances of the program "Spring Desire" April 25-May 6 at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy.

"Desire" will include three works, including Edwaard Liang's 2008 world premiere, *Age of Innocence*. Jerome Robbins' 1970 classic *In the Night* and a world premiere by San Francisco-based Val Caniparoli will also be featured.

The complete performance schedule is as follows: Wed., April 25, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 28, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 29, 2 p.m.; Thursday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, May 4,

7:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 5, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, May 6, 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$25-\$149; visit the box office at 10 E. Randolph St., call 800-982-2787 or go to www.ticketmaster.com.

Show on Turing at Vittum May 2

"The Encyclopedia Show—Series 4, Volume 10: Alan Turing!" will run Wed., May 2, at Vittum Theater, 1012 N. Noble St., at 7:30 p.m.

There will be live music, comedy, monologues, spoken word and experts in what is being promoted as "a show about the invention of computing, Nazi code-breaking, artificial intelligence, love, the criminalization of sexual preference and suicide by cyanide-poisoned apples."

Tickets are \$5 (students)-\$8; see www.EncyclopediaShow.com.

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Girl You Know It's True. Photo by Ben Chandler

DOUBLE REVIEW

Girl You Know It's True

Book: Mark O'Donnell & Thomas

Playwright: Bixby Elliot

At: Pavement Group at

Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division St.

www.pavementgroup.org; \$25

Runs through: May 13

Liberal Arts: The Musical!

Playwrights: Alex Higgin-Houser,

Brendan Siegfried, Laura Stratford;

Composer: David Kornfeld

At: Underscore Theatre Company at

The Second Stage, 3408 N. Sheffield Ave.

www.liberalartsthemusical.com; \$20

Runs through: May 13

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

It's always a pleasant surprise for this reviewer to discover LGBT characters in shows that aren't necessarily publicized or billed as "gay plays." This is the case with two current world premieres in Chicago: Pavement Group's *Girl You Know It's True* by Bixby Elliot and Underscore Theatre Company's *Liberal Arts: The Musical!* by Alex Higgin-Houser, Brendan Siegfried, Laura Stratford and composer David Kornfeld.

As suggested by its title, *Girl...* deals with the early 1990s Milli Vanilli scandal when the duo of Fabrice Morvan and Rob Pilatus (hilariously and touchingly played here by Armand Fields and Sentell Harper) was exposed as lip-syncing dancers who didn't actually sing the hit songs that propelled them to become pop stars. However, Elliot skillfully depicts the Milli Vanilli incident in reverse to ponder larger issues of fame and phoniness by questioning how far people (himself, presumably

included) would be willing to lie in order to achieve success and stardom.

Hence, *Girl...* also features an embittered and catty gay Caucasian playwright character also named Bixby (John Zinn), who creates a fictional persona of a Black, lesbian and disabled writer to help make his submitted plays strand out in the theater world. Things go awry when Bixby has to hire an actress (Sam Bailey) to play this fabricated persona, causing him to lie to even his longtime boyfriend, Paul (Keith Neagle).

Director David Perez and his super talented cast have a field day in Eliot's skillfully Pirandello-styled comedy that acidly revels in playing with manufactured constructs of what is "real" in entertainment. *Girl...* is loads of campy fun, but it also harbors an incisive serious side that keeps this hip and up-to-date play grounded with humility amid its mischievous vivisections of modern-day celebrity and political correctness.

The gay characters in *Liberal Arts: The Musical!* aren't tortured with bullying or trying to find acceptance. They're just regular guys struggling with the new stresses of college life at the fictional Secular Liberal Arts College (SLAC).

So this matter-of-fact existence of gay characters is something to commend the creators of *Liberal Arts*, though the inclusion of the over-booked character of Neil (Wesley Dean Tucker) feels a tad token-ish since he doesn't have any dating dilemmas like the other main freshmen characters discovering dorm life in this new musical.

There's a lot of talent on display in the writing and performing of *Liberal Arts*, though it's not always channeled in the most effective ways in this often hard-to-hear staging by Alex Higgin-Houser. The characters are frequently stereotypical, making you wonder whether *Liberal Arts* might have succeeded better as a song-and-sketch revue rather than a through-line musical with so many shallow people and so-so plot threads.

THEATER REVIEW

The March

Playwright: adapted by Frank

Galati from the novel by E.L. Doctorow

At: Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St.

Tickets: 312-335-1650;

www.steppenwolf.org; \$20-\$78

Runs through: June 10

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

For decades, the formula for historical novels was to recount the great events of the past through the eyes of an observer on the fringes of the action. E.L. Doctorow's conceit is to reverse the telescope, instead focusing on the humble witnesses, with the documented facts of the era under scrutiny serving simply as background for their progress—an approach demanding that otherwise-unremarkable personalities be immediately engaging, sparking in us a desire to share in their painfully short-sighted universe. The Steppenwolf Theater mainstage is a large room, however, and Frank Galati is a director given to sweeping landscapes.

So whether the victory in this adaptation goes to the myopic or the panoramic depends—as in actual war—chiefly on where the individual spectator is seated. Audiences near the stage are likely to become involved in the adventures of our displaced protagonists—refugee plantation-mistresses Emily and Mattie, battlefield

drifters Arly and Will, emancipated slave Pearl (whose light complexion makes for unforeseen opportunities)—while those in the back rows enjoy the spectacle of booming artillery fire, bloody hospital tables, foot-soldiers emerging from our very midst to charge onstage, and officers in dress uniforms replete with shiny sabers and gold braid. At the center of the chaos (and the downstage quadrant of the stage picture) is the fire-eyed General William Tecumseh Sherman, the only character whom we never imagine being called by any but his full name.

These widely disparate vantages, unfortunately, cannot help but cancel each other out. Seen at a distance, 26 actors playing 33 roles tend to be distinguishable more by their costumes than their faces, mandating frequent repetition of names to apprise us of the personnel currently on parade. By contrast, lighting-based technical effects—the locating titles projected atop the proscenium arch, for example, or the flash of exploding shells—all but disappear at close range.

This latest entry in a season of mega-productions features an assembly of decorated thespians, led by Harry Groener as the leader of the most brutal military campaign ever fought on U.S. soil, and if many of the supporting players are dwarfed by the breadth of their material, their tale nevertheless reminds us that the "do," in the not-to-reason-why-but-to-do-or-die homily, means unquestioning destruction—"us" remorselessly slaughtering "them" and letting the historians (and novelists) argue the rest.



The March. Photo by Michael Brosilow

'Marvin Gaye Story' at Black Ensemble May 11

Black Ensemble Theater has announced the world premiere of *The Marvin Gaye Story* (Don't Talk About My Father Because God Is My Friend), written, produced and directed by Black Ensemble Theater Founder and CEO Jackie Taylor.

Gaye's sound began with doo-wop in the '50s, and moved to rhythm and blues in the '60s, political awareness in the '70s and sophisticated soul in the '80s. Some of his greatest hits include "I Heard It Through The Grapevine," "What's Going On," and "Inner City Blues," as well as numerous hits from his partnership with Tammi Terrell such as "All I Need To Get By," "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and "If This World Were Mine." Gaye also won two Grammys for his 1983 smash "Sexual Healing."

The *Marvin Gaye Story* will be presented at the new Black Ensemble Theater Cultural Center, 4450 N. Clark St., May 11-July 29. It will run Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$55 on Wednesdays, Thursdays

and Saturday matinees; and \$65 on Fridays, Saturday evenings and Sunday matinees. See www.ticketmaster.com or call 773-769-4451.

Phylicia Rashad to direct 'Family'

Paul Boskind, Ruth Hendel and Stephen Hendel—by special arrangement with the Goodman Theatre, and in association with About Face Theatre—announce *Immediate Family*, a new American play by Paul Oakley Stovall. Two-time Emmy nominee and Tony Award winner Phylicia Rashad (*The Cosby Show*) will direct.

Immediate Family features an all-Chicago cast, including Shane'sia Davis (Evy), J. Nicole Brooks (Nina), Patrick Sarb (Kristian), Phillip James Brannon (Jesse), Kamal Angelo Bolden (Tony), and Cynda Williams (Ronnie).

The production begins previews at Goodman Theatre's Owen Bruner Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St., on June 2. *Immediate Family* will run through July 8 (no performances July 2-4).

Preview tickets are \$20-\$39; regular-run tickets are \$20-\$54. Purchase them at the Goodman box office, by phone at 312-443-3800 or at www.GoodmanTheatre.org.

'My Asian Mom' at Stage 773 May 4

A-Squared Theatre Workshop, Chicago's only pan-Asian dramatic theater company, presents *My Asian Mom*, an evening of eight 10-minute, one-act plays.

Performances will be held Fridays and Saturdays, May 4-26, at 8 p.m. at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.

Tickets are \$15 general admission, and \$13 for students; call 773-327-5252 or visit www.stage773.com.

See www.a-stw.org for more info on the company.

'All Girl Moby Dick' at Zoo Studios

The Chicago Mammals are presenting *All Girl Moby Dick*, an adaptation of Herman Melville's classic performed with an ensemble composed entirely of Chicago actresses.

The cast includes Erin Orr, Liz Chase and Christy Arington, among others.

The production will run at Zoo Studios, 4001 N. Ravenswood Ave., Suite 205, on April 28 as well as May 4-5, 11-12, 13-14 and 25-26. See themammals.blogspot.com or www.chicagomammals.com.

BOOKS

Harvey Milk's life illuminated in 'Interviews'

BY ALEX LUBISCHER

In *The Harvey Milk Interviews: In His Own Words*, editor Vince Emery has compiled a book that chronicles the gay rights pioneer's life, struggles and strategies, primarily as told by Milk himself. The 39 interviews, which have never before been published in a book, span Milk's political career from his first days as a candidate for San Francisco's board of supervisors in 1973 until mere weeks before his assassination in 1978.

When asked what inspired him to compile and edit "Interviews," Emery said, "In this book, Milk explains his strategies and also his plans—what he hoped to do before he was assassinated. ... I'm hoping that people who don't know more about Milk will be inspired to take action by reading the book." Emery then laughed and added, "And it's gratifying because it took a heck of a lot of work to put it together."

Emery, a resident of San Francisco, was aided in his mission to unearth new information about Milk by his proximity to the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center in San Francisco's Public Library. The center, described on its website as "the gateway to collections documenting

have removed gay teachers from public schools. After Emery acquired the recording, he had to "hunt down" the owner to obtain the rights to publish it. Fortunately, Dan Nicoletto, a former employee of Milk's store, Castro Camera, aided him in his quest.

The Briggs debate portion of "Interviews" is as exciting as it is informative. In one televised interview, in which no formalized debate structure was established, the verbal sparring between Briggs and Milk reads like a teleplay. These and other passages are marked by Milk's superb wit. "Here is a man who loved to talk and did it well," said Emery.

Emery had originally considered editing Briggs' lengthy speeches out of the debates before he decided to publish them in full. "It's really important for people to see these arguments," said Emery. "I was surprised that some of these same arguments, even though they're not valid, people are still using exactly the same arguments



Vince Emery. Photo courtesy of Emery

today. I think it's good that they are in here because you can see Harvey's countermeasures to Briggs' arguments."

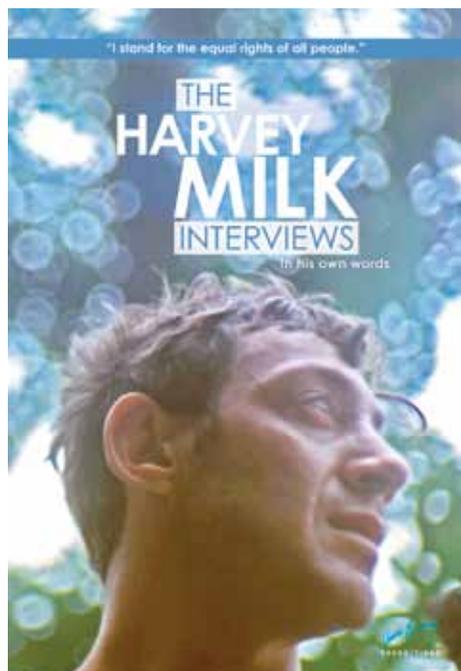
In another of the book's noteworthy interviews from 1978, Milk spoke on Los Angeles-based radio reporter Greg Gordon's program *This Way Out*, now the oldest LGBT-focused radio pro-

gram in the United States. Milk cautioned that stamping out gay rights was often a precursor to the oppression of other minorities. Milk cited pre-Nazi Germany's prominent gay movement, which was "more advanced than the gay movement of San Francisco in 1978," as an example.

"Milk did see himself as very active for LGBT rights but he saw that in the spectrum of all minorities," said Emery. "He saw that if any minority was having its rights taken away, that would lead to rights being removed for everyone. That's why I put the quote that I did on the front cover of the book: 'I stand for the equal rights of all people.'"

In the wake of Proposition 8 being passed in California, Emery stressed his hope that this book will inspire people to keep involved and take action. "Milk saw that you can't have freedom, you can't have human rights, for one group of people if you're cutting them off for other groups of people," said Emery. "So gay rights do protect rights for everyone. I firmly believe he was absolutely right in that. ... And, hopefully, that's something that people will read."

The Harvey Milk Interviews: In His Own Words by Harvey Milk will be available for purchase May 1. For additional info, visit www.emerybooks.com.



lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender history and culture," is home to many of Milk's papers as well as the archives of The Mayor of Castro Street author Randy Shiltz. Emery conducted more investigative work at San Francisco's GLBT Historical Society. Additionally, he scoured the Bay Area's television archives for interviews on Milk.

"Interviews," took Emery nearly three years to complete, and was originally intended to be finished by 2010. "I actually started it thinking, 'Well, this will be a valuable book and it won't take that long to do,'" said Emery. "I was wrong about the second half."

Emery noted that obtaining the rights to various interviews was one of the more difficult parts of the process. Whoever originally recorded various radio interviews and televised debates owned the rights to those recordings, and most of the contents obtained for the book were not public interviews. Emery said the compilation of "Interviews" required a lot of "detective work" and some Indiana Jones-esque moments of discovery.

One anecdote Emery recounted was his discovery of a recording of the longest "Briggs vs. Milk" debate on eBay. In the recording, Milk and California State Senator John Briggs debated the infamous Proposition 6 Briggs Initiative, a 1978 California proposition that, had it passed, would

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MOVIES

American Translation on DVD; The Raven; Darling Companion; film notes

BY SAWYER J. LAHR

Like Tom Kalin's homoerotic *Swoon*, based on the murderous American male duo Leopold and Loeb, **American Translation** (now on DVD from TLA releasing) is terrifying for many reasons besides being based on the true stories of a serial killer whose victims were gay escorts. In this film loosely inspired by these accounts, a handsome psychopathic French twink named Chris (Pierre Perrier) goes on the run with a wealthy French-American woman, Aurore (Lizzie Brocheré), whose father (also the film's director) is a businessman struggling with the world recession.

It is love at first sight after a tryst in the bathroom of The Bristol hotel in Paris—that is, until Aurore uncovers that Chris' sadism may be monstrous. Chris makes passive-aggressive comments that their love is dangerous because it will not last. Aurore must either become a willing participant or return to another kind of isolation with her father. This nihilistic thriller overtly tries to not judge Chris, but, rather, questions whether it was same-sex childhood trauma that caused his illness or if it's just his nature.

In a string of events akin to *Bonnie and Clyde* and its Depression-era setting, Chris attempts to draw out Aurore's sympathy for his killer instinct while lassoing her with steamy sex in the back of his hippie wagon, even stripteasing in Aurore's living room—complete with strobe lights. The couple ventures to his hometown to get married by the priest who solicited sexual favors from Chris as a child; then, they honeymoon at the inn where his childhood best friend committed suicide. Chris knowingly but savagely takes Aurore on this sick and vengeful road trip across France, naively thinking he'll never get caught as long as his sex appeal stays fully erect. Pascal Arnold directed from his own screenplay and Jean-Marc Barr co-directs, acts, and shoots this high-style, low-budget queer thriller.

Previews:

In **The Raven**, gay British actor Luke Evans (*Clash of the Titans*; *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*), plays Detective Fields, a version of Auguste Dupin, the first private eye in fiction invented by Edgar Allen Poe, played here



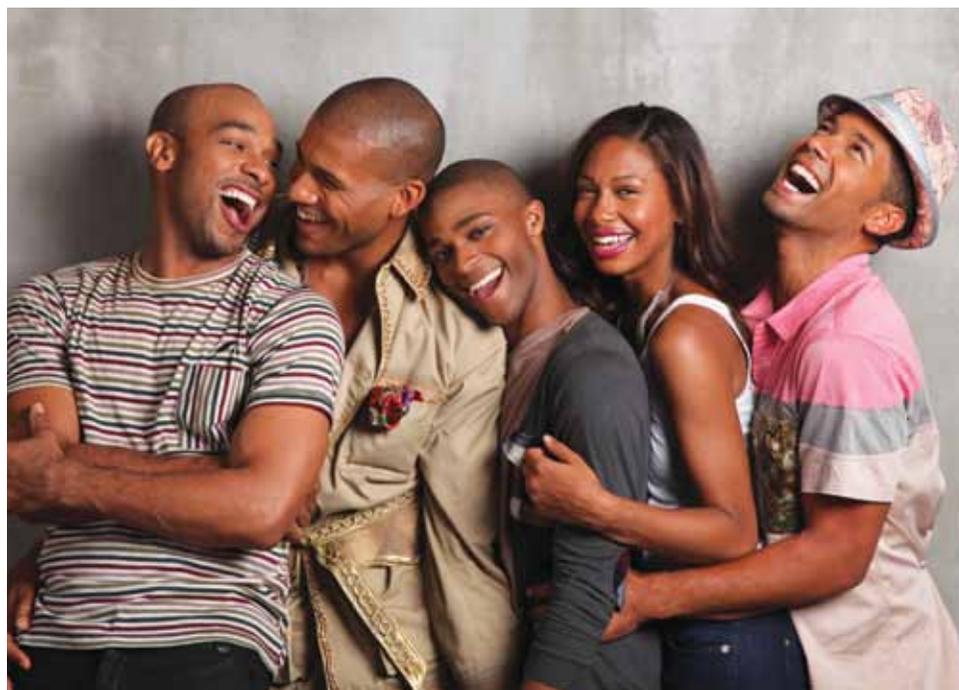
American Translation.

by John Cusack (*High Fidelity*). In the movie, Poe is called to solve a series of crimes in Baltimore, Md., where he lived in the 1830s before he wrote the poem after which the film is named. Poe must draw on his own instincts of deduction as he teams with Fields to stop a madman from turning every one of Poe's stories into reality.

Dupin first appeared in 1841 in *The Murder in the Rue Morgue*. Dupin, who had a secret life with a dandy poet known only as "D," is often compared to Sherlock Holmes, once portrayed as gay in *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* (1970). *The Raven* co-stars Alice Eve (*She's Out of My League*; *Sex and the City 2*) as Poe's love interest, Emily Hamilton, and Brendan Gleeson (*Albert Nobbs*—coming to DVD May 15). The ruggedly handsome Oliver Jackson-Cohen (*Faster, Going the Distance*) also co-stars. James McTeigue (*V for Vendetta*, *Ninja Assassin*) directs from a script by Ben Livingston and Hannah Shakespeare (*Loverboy*).



John Cusack in *The Raven*. Photo courtesy of Relativity Media



The Skinny.

Fans of *On Golden Pond* will likely appreciate the simple premise of **Darling Companion**, the first film by director Lawrence Kasdan (*The Accidental Tourist*, *Big Chill*) in more than a decade and his first independent film. With 11 films to his credit and three Academy Award nominations, Kasdan rejoined his wife and Academy Award nominated co-writer, Meg (*Grand Canyon*), to script *Darling Companion*, which is based on their experience searching for their lost cherished mutt, Mac, in the Rockies in Colorado. The movie is described as a comedy about many forms of companionship, the love between species, young human love, mid-life love and the recently wed.

Darling Companion is a gay affair about more than just a mixed-breed stray dog. It stars Diane Keaton, who once played Sybil Stone, a stubborn advocate for her gay son and his blind Black partner in *The Family Stone*. Kevin Kline, who famously played a gay teacher in the 1997 film *In and Out*, reunites with Kasdan after his roles in *Grand Canyon* and *Big Chill*. Two-time Oscar winner Dianne Wiest played the mother-in-law to gay parents Nathan Lane and Robin Williams in *The Birdcage*. Co-starring in *Darling Companion* is the awkwardly handsome mumblecore actor/director Mark Duplass (*Greenburg*, *Cyrus*), featured in the homoerotic dramedy *Humpday*, directed by Lynn Shelton.

Film notes:

—An ensemble comedy with a heavily African-American cast, **The Skinny**—the latest feature film by gay African-American writer/director Patrick-Ian Polk (*Punks*; *Noah's Arc*)—reunites many of the actors from the *Noah's Arc* TV series and features transgender Internet celebrity

B. Scott. The story follows four young, Black, gay men (Magnus, Sebastian, Kyle and Joey) and their lesbian best friend (Langston). The friends arrange to meet in New York City one year after their graduation from Brown University. Polk was awarded the 2012 Fusion: LGBT People of Color Film Festival Achievement Award by Lee Daniels (*Precious*). See the film during its one-week engagement in Chicago starting Friday, April 27, at Landmark Century Theatre, 2828 N. Clark St.

—**Jamie and Jessie Are Not Together** is the latest feature by Wendy Jo Carlton (director of the lesbian-themed film *Hannah Free*, produced by WCT Publisher/Executive Editor Tracy Baim). Jamie and Jessie will screen Thursday, April 26, at 8 p.m. at Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave. Tickets are \$18 and include the film and after-party at Blue Bayou, 3734 N. Southport Ave. Sales benefit the Lesbian Community Cancer Project of Howard Brown Health Center.

—**Lost Bohemia** (2010), by Josef Astor, is about the Carnegie Hall Studios, a Manhattan haven for artists such as purportedly gay composer Leonard Bernstein (*West Side Story*) and modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan (played by Vanessa Redgrave in *Isadora*). The film plays April 27-May 3 at Gene Siskel Film Center.

—On April 19, the Chicago International Film Festival honored **Kelsey Grammer** with the Career Achievement Award at the 48th Annual Hugo Television Awards. The actor recently won a Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Drama Series for his role as Mayor Tom Kane in the Starz drama *Boss*. Its memorable pilot episode was led by gay director Gus Van Sant (*Milk*, *Elephant*, *My Own Private Idaho*), also credited as an executive producer of the first eight episodes.

Physique films being shown May 5-6

White Light Cinema will present "Naughty and Nice Boys: The Pioneering Physique Films of Bob Mizer" May 5-6 at the Nightingale Theatre, 1084 N. Milwaukee Ave., at 8 p.m.

The two nights will feature screenings and illustrated lectures. Curator/writer/publisher Billy Miller is slated to appear.

Mizer's earliest photographs appeared in 1942. However, five years later he was convicted of the unlawful distribution of obscene material through the U.S. mail for showing young bodybuilders in posing straps.

Admission is \$7-\$10 (sliding scale) each night. See www.WhiteLightCinema.com. To see more of Mizer's images, see www.BobMizer.com.



A Bob Mizer image. Item from Patrick Friel

MOVIES

Elliot London: Rockford gay boy makes good

BY JOE FRANCO

Elliot London was born in Australia but raised in Rockford, Ill. He attended Columbia Film School here in Chicago in 2002 but moved to Los Angeles in 2005 because of his sheer eagerness in getting behind a camera and making movies. Now six-years later and more the wiser, London has his own thoughts on his craft and on Chicago, his old hometown—sort of.

Windy City Times: So how did you end up in filmmaking?

Elliot London: That's a long story. Ultimately, I love it. I think my life in Chicago had a lot to do with it. I actually was a bartender at Hydrate in the early 2000s. I got the bug for filmmaking then. I made a pact with myself to be in L.A. I started at Columbia Film School when I was 24. I wouldn't get to sit behind a camera for over two years. So I left for L.A. I think filmmaking, like other creative pursuits is something either that's in you or it's not. You need to be able to tell a story—visually. Not everyone can do that. Just like not everyone can act, or write.

WCT: The Wedding Dance is your latest short film. Can you tell us anything about the film? Mum's been the word in your other interviews.

EL: It's a dance that occurs during a wedding reception and I'm shooting it on Wednesday. [Laughs]

WCT: That's ALL you can tell me? How about where you drew your inspirations?

EL: Gay film is very important to me. I really was exposed to it while living and working in Chicago. We need to create a culture in LGBT films. I think my greatest inspirations come from



Elliot London. Photo courtesy of London

the gay-themed films I saw when I was 18. Each director learns what his "thing" is. Mine is a good twist. [Laughs] But that's all you're getting from me on the film. It should be released by Valentine's Day so you'll have to wait.

WCT: You left Chicago for L.A. so you could make movies, but what did that move mean for you as a filmmaker, and does shooting your films in L.A. offer any benefit over shooting them in Chicago?

EL: Six years ago, Chicago was a different landscape for filmmakers. It was all big-budget, big-crew films and they were just flying in from L.A., shooting and then leaving for L.A. But the landscape is certainly changing. I would love to make more movies in Chicago. There is just so much personality there that you can actually take in.

WCT: You received a lot of acclaim for your short film, 306. How did that project come about?

EL: Ah, yes—306. I actually made that in Chicago. I just had to. I had to create a film about a life in this city. Chicago is really a film on its own.

WCT: Now when did you come out? Do you find any unique challenges being an "out" filmmaker?

EL: I was openly gay at 19. I left Rockford. I had to leave Rockford first then traveled to Australia to see where I was actually born. I then moved straight from Sydney to Chicago. As far as the challenges to a gay filmmaker, it really depends on which avenues you plan on going down. There are loads of gay filmmakers in L.A. You have a lot your run of the mill romantic comedies geared towards men in their late 30s and 40s. But I wanted to make something different and more palatable to one demographic. Young people are far savvier then they were even a decade ago.

WCT: Where do you find your inspiration?

EL: A lot of it comes from my travels. I make it a point to leave the country at least once a year.

Whether it be Cambodia or Barcelona, I need to go. My biggest problem is sensory overload. I see all of these people and need to find out their stories. Whether it be the man flipping through his newspaper on a train or someone else, I need to know. So I travel and I talk to people. You need that life experience.

WCT: I know its cliché, but where do you see yourself in the future?

EL: And, of course, my cliché answer is going to be "I see myself doing more work."

My dream is doing what I want to do—creating gay film. Once I make it there, I've got to help other people do what I did. It's just the way I feel it should work.

For more information on Elliot London's work or to find out more about his independent film, The Wedding Dance, visit www.londonproductionsonline.com/about-elliott/ or www.indiegogo.com/A-Gay-Wedding.

Lesbian-produced doc at Siskel May 5-7

The Chicago premiere of A Mind in Quicksand: Life with Huntington's—a documentary about photographer/script supervisor Kim Lile's experience living with Huntington's disease (HD) and its impact on her friends and family—will have a limited run of three showings only at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., May 5-7.

Sharon Zurek, a lesbian, is a producer of the film.

Showtimes for A Mind in Quicksand are Saturday, May 5 at 7:45 p.m.; Sunday, May 6, at 5 p.m.; and Mon., May 7, at 8:15 p.m. The film's creators—Lile, Zurek and executive producer Jesse Ewing—will appear for Q&As.

Tickets are \$6-\$11. General admission and Film Center member tickets are available through 800-982-2787, www.ticketmaster.com and all Ticketmaster outlets.

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NUNN ON ONE: COMEDY

Kathy Griffin:

On her new show and Hollywood



BY JERRY NUNN

Illinois native comedian Kathy Griffin is bringing her lip service to a new talk show on Bravo, entitled *Kathy*, airing on Thursday nights. She will discuss politicians, celebrities and friends. Her mother, Maggie, will be along for the ride toting her box of wine.

Griffin began hitting the public eye with a role on NBC's *Suddenly Susan* and hasn't stopped since. *Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List* earned her two Emmy Awards. The accolades continued with Grammy nominations for comedy albums and her autobiography topping the New York Times Best Sellers list.

Her outspoken support of the LGBT community has kept her in the hearts of many fans over the years. *Windy City Times* was excited to interview her again about her new projects.

Windy City Times: Hey, Kathy; great talking to you again.

Kathy Griffin: Great talking to you again, too.

WCT: What took you so long to do this project? You seem like a logical person to host a talk show.

KG: I'm just begging for my career to go in the crapper and saying, "Please, can't I go back to being a temp?" I was very happy making \$140 a week.

So, actually, you are correct; it was sort of the natural progression. I have appeared on so many shows and, in fact, co-hosted everything from week two of *Jimmy Kimmel Live* to, of course, rather infamously, *The View*, *The Talk*, to the old '90s *Rosie O'Donnell Show*.

Then Bravo finally came to me with the idea that I host a talk show. But, believe it or not, a couple of years ago I told them I felt I had more "D-List" left in me and I was able to go to Iraq and perform there in a maximum security prison and do the type of things outside the studio I still had a burning desire to do.

So when I felt that had really run its course in a good way, I did four stand-up specials last year, and then we started to have a serious talk about a talk show.

WCT: I heard there are no celebrity guests on the show.

KG: Why would I? How could I possibly say the things to celebrities that America wants to say? And when I say America, I mean also Canada and maybe a few Secret Service Agents in Cartagena.

WCT: What current obsessions will you be talking about?

KG: There's so many. First of all there is, of course, everything from actual genuine news items, and I am very into *The Celebrity Apprentice*, although I do not concur with Donald Trump—who I believe is a birther now—but I do like the cast of that show.

I went to my mom's apartment last night because she only stays at my house until she finds me annoying, and then basically she kicks herself out. She would really like me to just have a panel of Bill O'Reilly, Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham. So, unfortunately, I had to shoot that

one down.

I'm loving everything from the fact that the Wilson Phillips gals have their own reality show to the fact that they performed at a Loehmann's days ago. I just want to say Loehmann's is a clothing store where people sell clothing for women. It's not typically a concert arena.

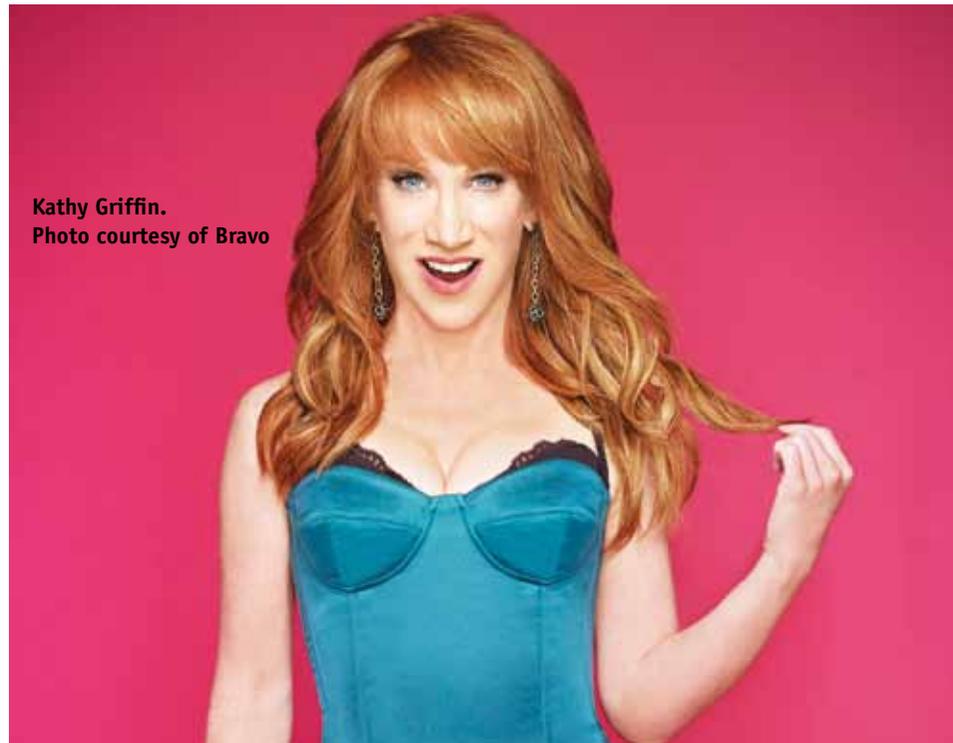
WCT: Is anything off limits?

KG: No, nothing is off limits and no person is off limits. And that's another reason I really kind of have to just surround myself with civilians. I know I'm kind of talking like Jack Nicholson in *A Few Good Men*, but I do need civilians because I feel that, unlike celebrities, they can probably speak freely.

WCT: Were you inspired by other talk shows?

KG: Kids Say the Darndest Things, and *Are you Smarter Than a 5th Grader*. No, to tell you the truth, I'm 51 years old, so truly my inspirations go back to even ... Jack Paar was before my time. Elements of Johnny Carson inspired me, [but] I'm not saying I'm Johnny Carson. But everything from when Joan Rivers took over and was outrageous, unlike anybody we'd seen on TV before, to the Mike Douglas Show.

And then, you know, all the shows that are currently on, I watched them. I love them. But I'm going to really have a lack of structure that'll be dazzling to you and will be a nightmare for the editing booth. I think it should have kind of a discussion feel, a chatty feel. More importantly, people should feel free to say whatever the fuck they want.



Kathy Griffin.
Photo courtesy of Bravo

WCT: Will there be box wine?

KG: Yes. There's going to be box wine. My mother, who has become a rather famous international superstar, is trying to pull some typical diva BS where now she wants wine in a bottle. It's going to be a little McLaughlin Group, but with a drunken 91-year-old.

WCT: Have you banned anyone from the show yet?

KG: I have not banned myself but that's up to the network's discretion. I guess I could try to be cool and act like I banned some dead people—like, Napoleon's totally banned, Elvis not invited, Tupac Shakur or Biggie or a hologram of any of those people. So, no, I haven't banned anybody. I haven't banned a fucking throw pillow. I haven't even started yet.

WCT: Are you scared of anyone in Hollywood?

KG: No; that's the problem. I'm trying to think of people I should be afraid of. I just think

that it is antithetical to all things comedy to be afraid of someone because I think that it's important that they're all fair game and that they're all on the table.

I mean, I guess I might be a little bit afraid of Lou Ferrigno because he did threaten to throw Lisa Lampanelli out a window on *The Celebrity Apprentice*. Okay, I admit it—I'm a little nervous around DMX when I watch him on *Couples Therapy*. But these aren't people that are really in my daily world.

WCT: I don't know if you noticed but you have a lot of gay fans.

KG: Thank God!

WCT: What do you have for that audience on the show?

KG: I have a little too much for them. Look, my struggle's going to be to get the straights. So this show is for women and gay men. It's for married men on the down low. It's for experimental men that have girlfriends that dress very well and have something to tell her but they can't find the right time. It's for guys who maybe just cheated on their girlfriends and now they need to make it up to her, so they will do fucking anything. It's for guys that fake it and act like they care about women's issues, but don't give a shit and they're trying to get laid. That's my demographic.

WCT: So you are expanding your fan base. What do you think of celebrities getting tattoos of their significant others, like Kelsey Grammer for example?

KG: Well, first of all, I'm fucked more than anybody. Because I don't know if you know this, but I have one tattoo on my whole body like an asshole and it's a fucking wedding ring and I'm divorced. So why you don't tell that to Kim Kardashian? She'll be thrilled.

So I got married. And I don't like to wear rings, so I got a ring tattooed on my finger. Now



Fawzia Mirza at the premiere. Photo by Jerry Nunn

'Promise Land' has red-carpet debut

The independent film *Promise Land* opened April 20 with a red-carpet premiere at the AMC River East along with an after-party at NV Penthouse Lounge. Kevin Dalvi (the director wearing the blue vest) was on hand as well as many of the cast, including Fawzia Mirza, who plays one half of a lesbian couple featured in the film. For more information on this feature dealing with immigration, visit www.promiseland-film.com. Text by Jerry Nunn; more photos online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

Out director Paris Barclay receives award

Social-change organization The Liberty Hill Foundation announced that out television director and creator Paris Barclay will receive its Upton Sinclair Award, which recognizes an individual who, like the muck-raking journalist Sinclair, has combined talents and beliefs to advance equality and justice.

Barclay will be honored May 9 at the Liberty Hill Fund's annual Upton Sinclair Awards Dinner in Los Angeles.

Born in Chicago Heights, Ill., Barclay earned a scholarship to attend The La Lumiere School in Indiana as its first African-American student, just one class behind future Chief Justice John Roberts. Accepted at Harvard University, he wrote 16 musicals before graduation.

On television, Barclay has directed episodes of shows such as *Monk*, *CSI*, *ER*, *Glee*, *Sons of Anarchy*, *Smash* and *The Good Wife*.

Past recipients of the award include Alfre Woodard, Susan Sarandon, Jane Fonda, Edward James Olmos, Bonnie Raitt and Harry Belafonte, among others.

I'm divorced and I tried to get it lasered off five times and it won't come off. And so I think I'm just going to put a freaking cigarette on it one day and just bite a piece of cloth like I'm a Civil War victim.

WCT: You are heading to Illinois soon on tour, I heard.

KG: Well, let me just say that I will be rocking Joliet, which as you know is a very short drive from Chicago. And I will be in Joliet at the—Jesus Christ, I don't know the name of the theater. I'm going to say the Joliet Prison Performing Arts Center.

WCT: [Laughs] It's called the Rialto.

KG: Oh, yes. I'm going to be at the Rialto Square May 20 in beautiful, scenic Joliet, Ill. You might want to mention that in your article to give you the edge.

Visit www.rialtosquare.com for ticket information and www.bravotv.com for listings on the new talk show.

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NUNN ON ONE: TV

Shannen Doherty: On her reality show and gay BFFs

BY JERRY NUNN

Actress Shannen Doherty grew up on television before our very eyes starting at age 11 on Little House on the Prairie then playing a breakout role as Brenda on Beverly Hills 90210. She was unforgettable as Heather Duke in the movie Heathers then made magic once again as Prue in Charmed.

She returns to her roots on WE tv's hour-long series Shannen Says, documenting her trip down the aisle with photographer Kurt Iswarienko.

This is what she had to say about it...

Windy City Times: Heyyy, Shannen. So this is not your first time at the reality-show rodeo.

Shannen Doherty: Yes, I've done reality shows, in a sense. I did Scare Tactics and Breaking Up with Shannen Doherty, but it was never about me. I was simply a host or I was guiding somebody else through their own real process.

I've never, ever opened my life up. So this is a whole new thing for me—and certainly a whole new thing for my now-husband.

WCT: Who's idea was it to do this show?

SD: It was mine, and it was shared with my husband as well. It was one of those moments where we were on vacation and maybe we had one too many margaritas and thought it would be kind of interesting to do something together and work together.

We're very, very big fans of Anthony Bourdain. We love his show, No Reservations; also, The Deadliest Catch is one of our favorite shows. I remember watching that show and thinking, "Wow, they do it right."

We were kind of intrigued by the idea of bringing that sort of different kind of a quality to celebrity reality TV. That's what first started the thought process behind doing it. We knew that we were getting married, it became even more evident that it was something that we should do just to sort of chronicle this time in our lives and let future brides and future grooms know that not [it's] just you that goes through the stress.

WCT: When did you first meet Kurt?

SD: I met Kurt on a photo shoot. I requested him to shoot me for a cover of a magazine. There was instant chemistry. I think we may have finally actually started dating two months after that. He said to me, "I've missed you since I was a child." And it was just sort of a very poetic thing—that we had, in another life, known each other. There was such a connection there that it was about time we finally got together.

WCT: Several cast members from Beverly Hills 90210 are working the reality-show circuit. Is everyone supportive of everyone else's projects?

SD: I think that you have to be supportive of each other and just in my opinion supportive of anybody who's in the same field of yours. I happen to watch Tori [Spelling]'s show. And I think it's incredibly charming and endearing. I did the new 90210 with Jennie [Garth] and there was something very different about our friendship. We were able to look at each other as grown women and really acknowledge that we liked who the other person was. So I think her show's going to be great. As far as the others, I speak to Brian [Austin Green] all the time. And I saw



Shannen Doherty. Photo courtesy of weTV

Ian [Ziering] a week ago and it was awesome.

WCT: Tori Spelling has the "gunkles" on her reality show.

SD: She does.

WCT: Do you have a gay BFF on yours?

SD: I have several gay best friends. One of them—Timmy, who is a fashion stylist in New York—is on the show and also there is my wedding coordinator, David Tutera, who is gay.

WCT: In one scene, David Tutera called you a "stubborn thing."

SD: He's a Taurus, and everybody knows Taurus are the most stubborn people there are. So that's a stubborn man being even more stubborn with me, which is interesting. I'm not stubborn. I do think that there's a clear difference between determined and stubborn, as Webster's English dictionary would point out as well. I think that's very telling. I love David and we had a great time. David was cautious in meeting me, too. And I think David's first reaction to me is everything that he had heard.

WCT: What is the biggest misconception about you?

SD: I guess the biggest misconception would be that I only have one side to me. [That] seems to be the biggest one. People don't ever consider how old I was when some of the crazier stuff happened, which, by today's standards, is pretty tame. I have grown up and that there is a softer more vulnerable side or they don't consider what was behind some of the antics when I was very young. I mean that doesn't really do them justice nor myself justice.

WCT: How is newlywed life treating you?

SD: Real-time things couldn't be better. I'm slightly exhausted. I'm in the middle of writing this very serious paper and quite stressed over it. So that's the current state. But married life is amazing and I can only say that because of my partner, Kurt.

It's the little things. It's when he comes home and the first thing he does is comes in my office and wraps his arms around me and says, "I love you. I missed you" even though he was only gone for two hours. It's a relationship I've dreamed about my entire life and it's the closest thing that I've ever had to what my parents had, which was so unbelievably beautiful and special. So, married life is phenomenal.

Shannen Says plays every Tuesday on We tv. Visit www.wetv.com for details and listings.



Party has people seeing 'Red'

A sea of red washed over the Joffrey Ballet Studios April 21 thanks to attendees adorned with a theme. "Red dress parties" began in the '90s after two partners who contracted HIV agreed to attend their funerals in a red dress inspiring the tradition to throw fundraisers annually afterwards.

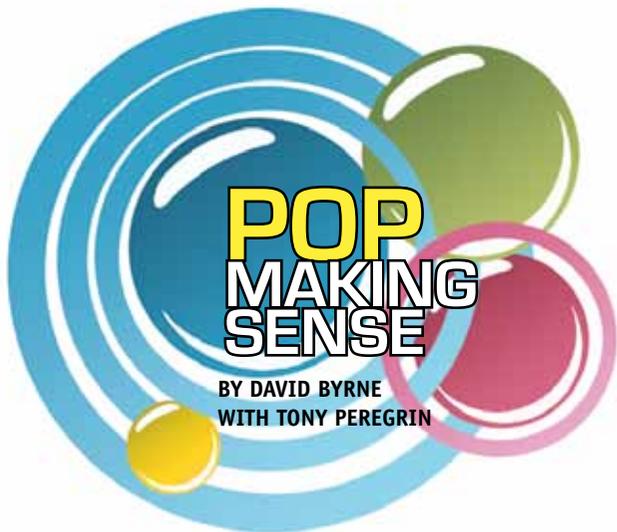
This was the second year for the event in Chicago with last year featuring a performance by Kristine W.; this year, NBC's The Voice contestant Beverly McClellan brought her strong vocals to the stage. Hosted by Ginger Zee and Christian

Carabias, the party started early with a red carpet hosted by Miss Foozie. Grey Goose Cherry Noir kept the crowd sipping cocktails while entertainment popped up throughout the evening including aerial gymnastics.

Red Dress Parties are now celebrated all over the United States and continue to bring attention to HIV/AIDS.

It's not too late to donate by visiting www.chicagoredressparty.org. Photos and text by Jerry Nunn





would be JC Brooks of **JC Brooks & the Uptown Sound**. The Chicago-based outfit finds its niche with a fantastic retro-vibe on tracks like "I Am Trying to Break Your Heart" and "To Love Someone (That Don't Love You)" from its latest offering, *Want More*. Fresh from multiple shows at South by Southwest, the band is currently on tour and will have a homecoming concert Friday, April 27, at The Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. Gold Motel, Blah Blah Blah and Soul Summit DJs will open.

Diana Ross has established herself as an enduring diva. Miss Ross has an array of hits to celebrate, ranging from her days with The Supremes to her solo endeavors. The icon returns with a concert at The Horseshoe Casino's The Venue, 777 Casino Center Dr., Hammond, Ind., Friday, April 27.

Her legendary 1983 concert, *Live in Central Park*, is due for the first time on DVD via Shout! Factory May 15. Here, she confirms she is a force to be reckoned with as she kept performing during a downpour, but ultimately had to cut her performance short. True to her promise, she came back the next day with her renowned big hair to sing staples like "I'm Coming Out," "You Can't Hurry Love," "Muscles" and covers of "God Bless the Child," "Maniac," "Ribbon in the Sky" and "Beat It."

Katy Perry keeps proving me wrong. When I first heard her double-platinum album *Teenage Dream*, I thought it might spawn two top 10 singles, at best. Five number-one hits later, Perry is issuing a deluxe package with remixes and new material. The highlight on *Teenage Dream*:



Katy Perry. PR pic

On his forthcoming album, *Out of the Game*, **Rufus Wainwright** teams with acclaimed British producer Mark Ronson (Amy Winehouse, Duran Duran). The end result is a solid, pop-driven effort, as witnessed on the timeless opening numbers "Out of the Game" and "Jericho." Guests on the set include the Dap-Kings, Wilco's Nels Cline, Nick Zinner of Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Andrew Wyatt from Miiike Snow, Sean Lennon and sister Martha Wainwright.

The out singer-songwriter has a masterpiece on his hands with the ballad "Montauk," where he masks a tale for his daughter beneath a story about the vacation town. "Bitter Tears" has the artist's signature gravelly vocals, but it has a beat that could have been pulled from Scissor Sisters' *Ta-Dah*.

Out of the Game is due May 1 via Decca. A deluxe edition with a DVD also will be available. Here's to hoping a Chicago-area date will be added to his tour itinerary.

If Prince and Tina Turner had a lovechild in the '80s and raised that kid of the great soul music from the '60s and early '70s, the offspring

The *Complete Confection* is the reworking of "E.T.," with Kanye West delivering his monotone rap. Although the new addition "Part of Me" was written two years ago, it eerily depicts the pop star's recent failed marriage to actor Russell Brand. Tommy Sunshine puts together a mash-up of the smashes from *Teenage Dream* that surely will summon summer.

Perry and I started off on the wrong foot. Her debut EP, *Ur So Gay*, irked me because she puts down her boyfriend for having stereotypical gay qualities. Then she hit the big time with the Cathy Dennis-penned "I Kissed a Girl." Here, I felt she was making light of bisexuality and playing up titillating same-sex experimentation. Then upon seeing her pitchy live performances, I was expecting to hear an umpire call the third strike. I honestly pegged her for being a flash in the pan who would come back in a comprising tabloid story just to garner one last headline.

On July 5, the 3-D concert film *Katy Perry: Part of Me* will be released. This should be a fun viewing, considering her whipped cream- and firework-launching bras. However, attendees should bring earplugs when she does not resort to pre-recorded vocals.

On its third full-length album, *School of Sev-*

en Bells finds itself operating as a duo instead of a trio. Don't let the focus on Claudia Deheza's absence discount the greatness of Ghostory. Sure, the otherworldly harmonies Alejandra Deheza had with her twin sister are gone, but they are fabricated with layered vocals on the gorgeous "White Wind." As done on 2010's *Disconnect* from *Desire*, "Scavenger" revisits the vibe from MTV's *120 Minutes*. "Reappear" and "Show Me Love" possess the group's trademark ethereally mystical feel. The standout "Low Times" has a superb sequencing with hints of those from Annie Lennox's "Little Bird." The closing track, "When You Sing," is epic and surely will translate well into a live setting. On Saturday, April 28, *School of Seven Bells* will be at Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave., with Exitmusic.

Fellow hipsters **M83** return with *Hurry Up, We're Dreaming*. The set's lead single, "Midnight City," has a captivating sound recalling *School of Seven Bells*' "Windstorm." The accompanying video focuses on a group of misfit youth with glowing eyes and preternatural powers. This theme ties nicely with the context behind *It Gets Better* and feeling like an outsider. M83 will be taking the stage Friday, May 4 at Riviera, 4746 N. Racine Ave.

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WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Taxim's David Schneider: Using the past to flavor the present

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Talking with Taxim Executive Chef David Schneider for just a few minutes, one figures out just how passionate he is about Greek cuisine. Schneider is basically a walking history book on Greece and Turkey—and that knowledge is reflected in his cuisine.

Schneider—who once worked for then-Ald. Helen Shiller—talked about the food at his atmospheric Wicker Park restaurant (named after a part of Istanbul, formerly known as Constantinople), his own background and more.

Windy City Times: You went to Northwestern University, and majored in engineering. You relied on that to redo this place, correct?

David Schneider: Yeah; I built it [and] I did the drawings. But it's not like... I was a civil engineer, so I was focused on things such as transportation planning. But we still have to do all the civil courses, so I was drafting, doing construction.

WCT: One thing I gathered about you is that you're [really knowledgeable] about the history of Greece and Greek food. [Schneider nods.]

DS: My mom's from Greece, and my dad's American. That being said, I was going to Greece every year of my life, staying for three months. So I had a social upbringing in Greece. That definitely created my identity. My relatives are still there—aunts, uncles and, now, my mom. I still go as often as I can.

My one neighbor was my grandmother's sister. Her husband is from Constantinople, which is, basically, our old capital. It was a very Greek city; [however,] there was a war and all the Greeks were ethnically cleansed out in 1922 and 1955. This place had the most elegant and sophisticated Greek food, going back a couple thousand years.

The main thing is that some people have forgotten that this is half of our history. We lived with the Turks for a few hundred years; we collaborated and had a culture. It was a diverse and cosmopolitan place, and I want to recall that memory of what we were doing for thousands of years—before everything was torn apart and we lost our history.

WCT: So you're trying to recapture that.

DS: Yes. So it's like, "What would it be like if we all still lived together? What would this place be like?" The Greeks and Armenians are like the "indigenous" people of that region, with the Turks coming in later. I've talked with a lot of Turkish friends, and they're like, "The old places cook the old way but the new places don't do that anymore." [Istanbul] is still a vibrant, cosmopolitan place, but it's a different mix. I'm trying to capture that period of time that was classic Istanbul.

Even today, I'll have Turkish customers come



David Schneider. Photo by Ed Negron

in and say, "Wow. This is how things used to be." So that's the aesthetic and frame of the place, but food fits in as well.

I'm not exclusive to that city, though. I'm doing foods from different regions. I'm working with foods from different parts of Asia Minor: Turkey, Cyprus, Crete and parts of modern-day Greece.

WCT: For the uninitiated—which includes me—could you give me an example of how food differ from region to region?

DS: Sure. There are a lot of microclimates and geographic variations in the area. There are places that are so wet it's like a temperate rainforest, and places so dry they're like deserts—all in a very small area. In the north—where there are mountains—they don't have olives, so they use more animal fats, cheese and yogurts. In the south, there are olive oils and fresh vegetables. Of course, near the coastline you'll see more seafood.

So, I'll put items on the menu that reflect different regions—but I use spices from different areas, for example, to make the foods more authentic. We make everything in house—our breads, our phyllos [dough].

[Serving] Greek food requires that re-education. You don't just put some Mediterranean ingredients on a plate and say, "Oh, it's got feta cheese and tomatoes and olive oil and oregano,

so it's a modern Greek dish." No! It's also the structure of the food and the method used.

I've seen people skewer and stuff things, and it has no relevance to a dish or method or flavor combinations. There are millions of ways to cook a short list of ingredients, and not all of those ways will do justice to what history and innovation took place over hundreds of years.

WCT: How would you say this restaurant is different from the places in Chicago's Greek-town?

DS: I don't like to compare; it's a different category. I wouldn't even compare [Taxim] to another Greek restaurant. I would compare it to another restaurant that's really trying to paint a place and time for their food as well. I've definitely drawn a lot of inspiration from [chef] Rick Bayless and what he's done with regional Mexican cuisine.

I have my own take on things, but I'm trying to do justice to what others have done—and then create from there. But it requires a solid handle on where things come from.

WCT: What other restaurants do you like to dine at?

DS: I love eating out, but I often don't have a lot of time so I just eat at home. I love, hands down, all three of Rick Bayless' restaurants. I'll just pop into XOCO and get a delicious soup or sandwich. If I'm downtown, I'll go to Arturo's and get great Mexican food.

Korean food is one of my favorite foods, too. There's one restaurant where they instruct you how to eat—they'll take the fork out of your hand and say, "This is how you should eat it." They care about the food that much.

Note: Items that Savor tasted included phyllo stuffed with leeks, *polítiki melítzanosaláta* (eggplant salad with sesame and house-made pita), a chickpea spread and *prassópita* (leeks, fresh dill, lemon, goat feta, house-made phyllo). You can practically taste the history in every delicious bite—and Schneider even made me a fan of octopus again.

Taxim is at 1558 N. Milwaukee Ave.; see www.taximchicago.com. By the way, get ready for rooftop parties there during the summer, Schneider said, complete with performances and cheaper fare.

Getting Elate-d

One of the things I enjoy about this column is letting readers know about places they should try. **Elate**, 111 W. Huron St., definitely falls in that category. (Note: Although it's next to the Hotel Felix, the restaurant is a separate entity.)

At a media event, co-proprietor Luke Johnson talked about the restaurant's decor, emphasizing how environmentally friendly it is. "All the tables are reclaimed oak from a church in Atlanta," he said. "All the paneling is recycled. A lot of the furniture is reclaimed. [There is a] cutting block [that] is over a hundred years old; it's from 1909."

He added with a laugh, "All the paint is low-viscosity, so it's a green paint—but we had to put on about five coats."



Elate is one of the very few restaurants in the city with a weekday brunch (served Monday through Friday 6:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.)—and, boy, is it incredible. My favorite item from Executive Chef Michael Noll (who's all of 27) was the breakfast pizza, adorned with smoked ham, truffle potato, gouda, caramelized onions and a sunny egg. There are also banana crusted French toast (with peanut streusel and malt crême anglaise), a vegetarian black bean burger and the signature Elate burger (topped with creamed leeks and applewood smoked bacon, with a side of hand-cut fries) are among the other savory items. Plus, you really can't go wrong with a bottomless mimosa.

However, Elate also serves lunch, dinner (everything from Amish chicken to cobia to Maya prawns) and weekend brunch.

Also, Elate has an industry night on Mondays with substantial discounts on some drinks. Wednesday is Dollar Oyster Night, with jazz being featured on Thursday ("Steampunk Thursday").



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VEHICLE REVIEW

2012 Toyota Prius c: Sex doesn't always sell

BY NICK KURCZEWSKI, GAYWHEELS.COM

I'm driving the Toyota Prius c in Florida and thinking about lunch, and the gorgeous stretch of beach off to my right, and also the fact I should hit the gym because beach season is almost here. Basically, I'm doing exactly what most owners of the Prius c will do—not think about the driving dynamics. The smallest member of the Prius family tree allows you to focus on other things, like its 53/46-mpg average during city and highway driving—or how to gain six-pack abs in time for summer.

The Prius c is approximately 18 inches shorter and 500 lbs. lighter than the standard Prius. While the styling is contemporary and kind of cute, this 4-door hatchback doesn't exactly stand out in a crowd. It's the hybrid for people who don't need the world to know they're driving a hybrid. It might not earn you green street-cred in the Whole Foods parking lot, but that's probably okay for most people. And apparently it is, since Prius c sales were red-hot in March, with 4,875 sold in only its first month on the market.

Room onboard is spacious for a car in this segment, and a split folding rear seat bumps the

cargo capacity when you need more than the 17.1 cubic feet on offer. Plastic—far too much of it from the cheap side of the automotive spectrum—is the dominant (and pretty much only) theme inside. Frankly, the Prius c materials feel a step below the competition. The gauge cluster, mounted in the middle of the dashboard, proved especially annoying; in particular, the miniscule screen that relays fuel economy and gas savings is way too small. I wear pretty thick glasses, granted, but at 33 years old, I shouldn't have to impersonate Mr. Magoo when checking my MPG.

Ride and handling are fine, the Prius c is reasonably nimble in town—although it did feel less planted during a short stretch of the highway. Other online reviews have labeled the car as feeling 'sporty.' Sorry folks, not sure what you've been driving lately, but I don't see it. The Prius c is fairly well-mannered and easy to park, that's pretty much par for the course in this segment. The 1.5-liter 4-cylinder gasoline engine and electric motor work seamlessly, earning the Prius c major points for powertrain refinement. But it sure isn't quick: the run from 0-60 mph takes about 11 seconds. Top speed is 105 mph, in case you really take top speed into consideration when buying a hybrid.



2012 Toyota Prius c. Photos courtesy of Gaywheels.com

The Prius c meets most driving expectations, drops the ball big time in terms of cabin appointments, and claws its way back with impressive fuel mileage. The starting price of \$19,710 is pretty steep, especially when the base price of the standard Prius is \$24,760. That's a savings of \$5-grand, however, a Chevrolet Sonic or Ford Fiesta hatchback both start around \$15,000, while averaging 35-mpg (Sonic) and 38-mpg (Fiesta) on the highway. It'll take a lot of mileage before your Prius c makes up that kind of price difference based on savings at the fuel pump.

For more, see www.Gaywheels.com.



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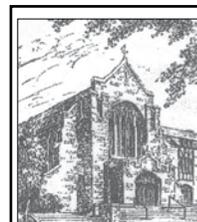
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REAL ESTATE cont. on page 47

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Wed., April 25

Equality Illinois' annual lobby day Lobby our legislators for passage of the Illinois Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act. 7am, Illinois State House, Springfield. Tickets: https://equalityfederation.salsalabs.com/o/35010/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_key=1602

The Wizard of Oz Through June 16. Special performances will feature breakfast buffets with The Wizard of Oz characters. Multi-Jeff Award winner Rachel Rockwell (The Sound of Music, Sweeney Todd, Ragtime, and Miss Saigon at Drury Lane Theatre) will direct. 10am-11:30am, 630-530-0111, Drury Lane Theater, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook, www.drurylaneoakbrook.com

A Modern Bon Foster - Presented by Northern Trust Annual Chicago gala, an evening that celebrates the progress of our modern civil-rights movement. 6:30pm program, 6:45 pm buffet reception, open bar. Tickets: \$150, VIP \$250, sponsorships at \$500+; 6pm, 312-663-4413, The Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave., Tickets: www.lambdalegal.org/bonfoster

Spring Fling at Vertigo See and be seen by Chicago's A-listers. Complimentary Absolut cocktails. AJX Armani Exchange and 2(X)ist giveaways. Circuit Mom will be spinning. RSVP to chip@bigdaddyproductionsinc.com; 6pm, Vertigo Sky Lounge, dana hotel & spa, 2 W. Erie St.

Coming Out Group Ten-week support group for individuals who are exploring their sexual orientation or wanting a safe space to discuss, explore, and gain support around the struggles related to coming out. Pre-registration is required. \$5 per week. To

GRAY EXPECTATIONS

Wed., April 25

Vernita Gray will take part in a fireside chat about her life at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Photo by Hal Baim



register or receive more information, contact Caleb Collins at 773-472-6469, ext. 424, or ccollins@centeronhalsted.org; 7pm-8:15pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

A Fireside Chat with Vernita Gray Live-on-stage interview with Vernita on her history, her community and her activism followed by audience questions. Hosted by Douglas O'Keefe. \$5 suggested donation. 7:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Thursday, April 26

Rainbows and Triangles: A Queer of Color Theology CTS and the LGBTQ Religious Studies Center welcome the Rev. Dr. Patrick Cheng, Assistant Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology, Episcopal Divinity School, an ordained minister with the Metropolitan Community Churches and author. His interests relate to the intersections of sexuality, race and theology. Reception, 5 pm, 4th Floor Dining Room. Lecture, 6 pm, 4th Floor Chapel. 773-

896-2400, Chicago Theological Seminary, 1407 E. 60th St., www.ctschicago.edu/castaneda

19th Annual Dining Out For Life Join EdgeAlliance to celebrate good food, great friends, and a worthy cause at the 19th Annual Dining Out For Life! 6pm-11pm, Taverna 750, 750 W. Cornelia Ave., www.edgealliance.org/pages/dining_out_for_life/93.php

OPALGA benefit: Love for Lydia, Dollars for Domingo benefit Tan Travel of Oak Park has been a long-time supporter of OPALGA and has donated travel packages. The husband of the proprietor now faces significant medical expenses beyond what insurance will cover. Or donate online. 6pm-10pm, Papaspiros Restaurant, 733 Lake St., Oak Park, <http://sotofamilyfundraiser.bbnow.org>

Housing Forum: LGBT Community and Emerging Fair Housing Rights The panel will include: Rob Breymaier, Oak Park Regional Housing Center; Susan Greenberg, Berwyn Community Relations Commission; and Donna Karpavicius, OPALGA member and Weichert Realtors. 7pm, Oak Park Public Library - Maze Branch, 845 Gunderson (at Harrison), Oak Park.

Jamie and Jessie are Not Together screening Queer feature film, one night only, benefit for LCCP of Howard Brown Health Center. \$18 includes one drink ticket for the afterparty at Blue Bayou, 3734 N. Southport; 8pm, Music Box Theatre, 3733 N Southport Ave., www.jamieandjessie.com

Steampunk Thursdays Elate is taking its eco-friendly philosophy to new heights, on Thursdays, by re-inventing itself as the Steampunk center of Chicago. 9:30pm, 312-202-9900, Elate, 111 W Huron St., www.elatechicago.com

Friday, April 27

Conference call to Stand Against Racism YWCA Metropolitan Chicago cordially invites you to take a Stand Against Racism, a free, city-wide conference call. Our Chicago call-in will run just 10 minutes. 9am-9:15am, 312-762-2740, Wherever you want!, www.ywca.org/site/pp.asp?c=eulri7ozh&b=8043737

International Antiques Fair The 15th annual Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair runs through April 30, featuring more than 120 of the world's best antiques and fine art dealers from the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy and Turkey. 11am-7pm, 800.677.MART, www.merchandisemartantiques.com

LGBT youth art showcase LGBT youth use art to explore issues of identity, sexuality and gender as part of the Center's art

therapy program. We also routinely host art classes and clinics, including a weekly Senior Art Lounge and an HIV+ Art Therapy class with Dan Anthon. The Center is home to two rotating galleries currently featuring Ethan Hutchinson and Lucas Blair. 12pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

CMSA Open Sunday Softball Kick Off Party Celebrate the kickoff of open Sunday softball with CMSA. Drink specials and a 50/50 raffle. 5pm-8pm, Downtown Bar, 440 N State St., www.chicagomsa.org

Women's Speed Dating 6-6:30: registration. 6:30-8:30 Speed date! 8:30-9 Mingle. Speed Dating for women interested in women. Casual, fun environment, open to everyone. Cash bar at this event. 6pm-9pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, Chicago, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Tom Goss, Jeffrey Altermatt and Stephen Leonard Three out performers offer a rockin' evening of music. 8pm-10pm, Teatro Luna, 3914 N Clark St. <http://tomgossmusic.net/wordpress/tour-dates>

Saturday, April 28

Call My Name AIDS Quilt Panel Making Workshop The Names Project Foundation visits Chicago's TPAN to create new panels for The AIDS Memorial Quilt, "Call My Name" Campaign. aChurch4Me MCC, TPAN, and the Names Project are hosting. Attendees are encouraged to arrive for orientation at 12 pm. 12pm-4pm, 773-951-4268, TPAN - Test Positive Aware Network, 5537 N. Broadway, www.aidsquilt.org

Equality IL Spring Women's Social Please join Equality Illinois for an afternoon of socializing, cocktails, light bites, and great giveaways! Tickets are just \$50 and include complimentary open bar, food, and great giveaways! 4pm-7pm, Mignonette 1747 W. Belmont Ave., www.eqil.org/events.html

Chicago Dragons Bachelor Auction Silent and live auction for scrummy rugby bachelors. \$20 entry includes two drink tickets and goes to benefit Chicago Dragons goal to attend the 6th Bingham Cup in Manchester, England. 5pm-8pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., www.sidetrackchicago.com

Lincoln Park Lagooners 2012 Annual Meeting and Election Night Casual night out with vote for new LPL board of directors. 7pm, Touche, 6412 N Clark St, Chicago, <http://www.lincolnparklagooners.org>

Welcome to the Land Chicago's 3rd annual Half-Way to Michfest Party. DJ All The Way Kay, DJ Narz Burlesque, Triangle Music Jam, other fest delights, CC Carter's line dance lessons. Win a SIX-Day Michfest Ticket and other great prizes. Arrive by 8pm and get a free raffle ticket. \$5 suggested donation, free admission to Festival-first timers. No one turned away for lack of funds. Questions to flybike7@gmail.com; 7pm-11pm, Holiday Club, 4000 N. Sheridan Rd., www.facebook.com/groups/chicagomichfest

Alex in Wonderland Alex In Wonderland continues MidTangent's dedication to bringing original works with a familiar twist to the Chicago GLBTQ community, providing once again the chance to relive your childhood with stories that are close to your heart, told the way you've always wanted. 9pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com/home/; Tickets: <http://midtangent.tix.com/event.asp?event=452247>

Sunday, April 29

Urban Village Church: Andersonville service Andersonville is a neighborhood full of passion, art, diversity, and eclectic energy, all which makes Urban Village Church thrilled to be joining the community! 10:30am-11:45am, 1602 W. Ainslie (at Ashland), www.newchicagochurch.com

Urban Village Church Spiritual worship is about coming together as community to make space for God to move in us.



'TOGETHER' AGAIN

Thursday, April 26

Jamie and Jessie Are Not Together will screen one night only at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave.

Photo from Wendy Jo Carlton

10:15am-11:30am, Urban Village Church, Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan Ave., www.urbanvillagechurch.org

Taverna 750 First Call Brunch Come sample the amazing food and drink of Taverna 750. Spruce up your Sunday as Taverna 750 unveils its tasty creations and wonderful libations. \$20 packages to meet your Sunday Brunch goals! 11am-2pm, Taverna 750, 750 W. Cornelia Ave.

Windy City Gay Idol Windy City Gay Idol continues the search for the best amateur LGBT singers in the Chicago area. 5pm singer sign up. 6pm, T's Restaurant and Bar, 5025 N Clark St.

Monday, April 30

Dancing in the Street: A benefit concert for Chicago House & Broadway Cares Kimpton's Hotel Allegro in partnership with the first national touring cast of the Tony and Grammy Award-winning musical Jersey Boys will hold a one-night only concert and auction to benefit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. 6pm-9pm, 212-840-0770, Hotel Allegro, 171 W. Randolph St., www.broadwaycares.org/jerseyboys

Rachel Dratch The Saturday Night Live and Second City alum performs from her memoir *Girl Walks Into a Bar...Comedy Calamities, Dating Disasters, and a Midlife Miracle*. Tickets free. Reservations necessary. 6pm, 312-662-4562, Up Comedy Club, 230 W. North Ave, 3rd floor, Piper's Alley, www.upcomedyclub.com

RuPaul's Drag Race Season finale Viewing Party The official LOGO party with free pizza, fierce drag performance and fun swag. \$4.50 Absolut cocktails. 8pm-10pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave.

Tuesday, May 1

GLBT Travel Expo 4pm-8pm, 718-622-5709, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.glbtravelexpo.com

Sondheim to be honored 5:30pm, 847.448.8327, Four Seasons, 120 E. Delaware Pl., www.musicinstituteofchicago.org

Transgender Equality Reception Join the National Center for Transgender Equality to learn about recent successes and latest news in the movement for federal trans equality. Free but donations welcome to support NCTE work. Beverages and vegan-friendly hors d'oeuvres will be served. 6:30pm-9pm, Center on Halsted St., transgenderequality.wordpress.com/2012/04/12/youre-invited-chicagoland-ncte-reception/

Wed., May 2

Windy City Gay Idol Windy City Gay Idol continues the search for the best amateur LGBT singers in the Chicago area. 9pm singer sign up. 10pm, Touche, 6412 N Clark St., www.windycitymediagroup.com



FOSTER THE PEOPLE

Wed., April 25

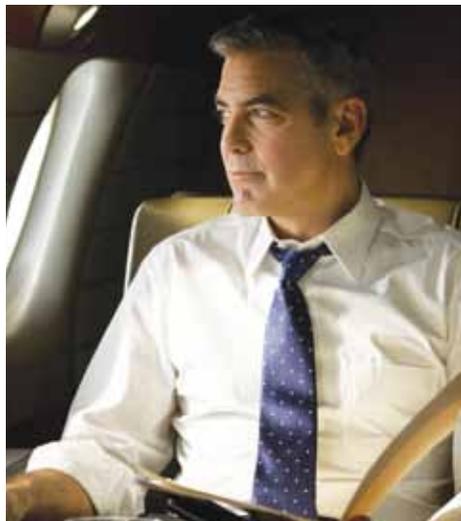
Bon Foster, Lambda Legal's annual gala, will take place at the Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave.

Photo from 2011 by Kat Fitzgerald

BILLY MASTERS

"I thought it was important to put that kind of in-your-face attitude across. One way of doing that was some explicit sex scenes. I know those scenes, like the blow job scene, would be the thing that the critics would use."—James Franco explains why his film *The Broken Tower* included scenes of him performing oral sex on another guy and then bottoming for him. Thank God you can see both scenes on BillyMasters.com.

And so ends a New Year's Eve tradition. No more betting on how many minutes he would get through on the live telecast. (Last year was a record low—five minutes.) Yes, Dick Clark is dead. I first learned the news not from the Internet, or the television, or even the radio. Far in the distance, I heard a voice that sounded



George Clooney wants a (possibly) cheap date. Photo by Saeed Adyani

remarkably like Ryan Seacrest squealing, "Mine! It's all mine!" Perhaps I was mistaken. Maybe it was Richard Simmons—I get them confused so often. If one believes what his people say, Dick was (relatively) functional till the end. He died of a heart attack while in a Santa Monica hospital having an outpatient procedure for a prostate condition, which is certainly not how I thought he'd go. I was sure his lifeless body would be found under Mrs. Clark, with Dick smothered by her bun. But maybe he's not dead at all. Maybe he's cryogenically preserved and will be thawed out for future New Year's Eve appearances—or perhaps a guest shot as narrator at Disney's "Hall of Presidents".

The rumors are true—Bradley Cooper is a thespian. That's no news to *moi*. I vividly remember him sitting up front on *Inside the Actor's Studio* when he was a student, sporting less stubble and his natural hair color. Still, I don't know how many of us are breathlessly awaiting his Hamlet or Uncle Vanya. And yet, he is returning to his first love. What's his name, you ask? The theater, that's who. This summer, Coop will be appearing at the Williamstown Theatre Festival for a two-week run as ... OK, get ready ... The Elephant Man! I don't mean to laugh, but I do find it kinda amusing—particularly because the press release says he is "returning to the role." Did I miss something? Apparently he played the part at the Actor's Studio as part of his senior thesis. Honey, if that's the criterion, then someday I will return to the title role in *Evita*—and I won't sleep with Lippy to do it!

I hope you all watched the debut of Kathy, Ms. Griffin's weekly talk show on Bravo. (Watch what happens.) But there was a very interesting portion of the show that the network edited from the version that aired. It was during the monologue. Kath talked about recently being banned from *Today*, which airs on NBC—the network which owns Bravo. No worries—Billy found the excised footage and will share it with you on BillyMasters.com.

have serious problems when so-called celebrities come out of the closet with some fanfare and yet not even I have ever heard of them. This isn't to say I respect them any less—but when Billy Masters has never heard of you, how famous are you? The latest in the revolving closet door is Paul Iacono, who says he's glad to "finally come out"—at the ripe old age of 23! I did some research on Iacono and learned he was discovered based on his impersonations of Frank Sinatra and Ethel Merman. And he's gay? Shocking! His coming-out interview was given to Michael Musto of *The Village Voice*—at least the kid's consistent. He feels like a "weight has been lifted" and he's doing this to help younger people who are struggling with their sexuality. I'm sure this news might also help the profile of the actor who headlined the brief and forgettable *The Hard Times of RJ Berger* for MTV. (He's playing gay in an upcoming MTV show.) If this third-tier acting thing doesn't work out for him, I'm sure he could get some work in gay porn. I can just see it now—"Chi Chi La Rue presents *The Hard Times of BJ Berger*"!

Remember the so-called "pregnant man," Thomas Beatie? Well, he's back in the news—for two reasons. After nine years together, he and his wife Nancy have separated. They're not divorced ... at least not yet. The second news is that he's completed his gender-reassignment surgery on his genitals. This means that he now has a penis and no longer has female reproductive organs—so I guess more kids are out. What's interesting is that he completed his surgery AFTER his split. "Nancy hasn't seen the new me yet," he said. I bet Chaz would like to see how that turned out, too.

How much would you pay to have dinner with George Clooney? What if I threw in Barack Obama? Would three dollars be too much? Clooney is throwing a fundraising dinner for President Obama at his Los Angeles home on May 10, and guests are paying a minimum of \$35,800 to go. But Georgie wants to open this up to real people, so you can buy a chance to attend. Actually, "buy" is the wrong word. The suggested minimum donation for a raffle ticket is \$3, but the rules state "no purchase, payment, or financial contribution of any kind is necessary to enter or win this promotion" (but I bet it helps your chances if you actually give them the three bucks). The winner will not only get two tickets to the dinner but also two round-trip airline tickets (coach) to Los Angeles and a hotel for one night. You'll also probably get the chance to go through all of Clooney's stuff—or is it just me who does that at dinner parties? Anyhoo, I'll post the link on BillyMasters.com. But act fast—the raffle closes April 30.

There will be no summer rerun of the Nicollette Sheridan vs. ABC trial. After the last go-round resulted in a hung jury (with more people in favor of the beleaguered actress), the network requested that the entire suit be dropped. The LA Superior Court judge ruled against the network—although the retrial date was changed from June 4 to Sept. 10, just in time for the fall season! The judge also made a pointed suggestion to ABC's lawyers: "I very, very strongly urge you to continue settlement discussions."

When Nicollette is still newsworthy, it's definitely time to end yet another column. I very, very strongly urge you to visit www.BillyMasters.com, the site with something for every prospective juror (hung or otherwise). If you've got a question that needs my attention, drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Dick Clark turns up in a remake of "Weekend at Bernie's"! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.




Saturday, May 5th Sábado, Cinco de Mayo

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Coady Classic all about fun—and broken glass

BY ROSS FORMAN

Disaster struck early in the 22nd annual Coady Roundball Classic, held April 21-22, at the University of Illinois-Chicago Gymnasium—from a basketball standpoint, that is.

An Atlanta player in B Division dunked the ball. It broke the rim and shattered the glass backboard.

"It was a legit dunk; it wasn't from hanging on the rim," Sam Coady said.

Tournament organizers quickly rescheduled games, and some games were moved to an adjacent court.

"It really was a fun weekend," Coady said.

The Coady Roundball Classic is the largest and longest annual gay basketball tournament, and this year featured 34 teams, 310 players and 83 games over two days.

"The event was great; everything went smooth ... beside the broken backboard," said co-director Steve Waldron of Chicago.

The event featured six teams in the top-tiered A-Division, 18 in B, and 10 in C.

"The competition was great," Coady said, "and it really was good to have 10 teams in C-Division, which included a bunch of new players."

Coady did not play in the event due to nagging injuries, but hopes to return to the court next year.

"It's been fun to see how the tournament has developed, with so many new players," said Mark Satre, 60, who lives in Sacramento, Calif., and

is the only one who has played in all 22 Coady Classics.

"HIV/AIDS took out a huge percent of the players, talented players from the [early] years. That's something I always reflect on."

Plus, years ago Satre won a gay volleyball national championship at the same UIC gym.

"The event was great," said Los Angeles' Mark Chambers, the founder and president of the National Gay Basketball Association (NGBA).

The Coady is about memories—on and off the court. For instance, Mike McRaith, the former Chicagoan now living in Washington D.C., was back playing—and winning a championship—for his Chicago team. This was his 20th Coady.

"My [2012 Coady] highlight was seeing a longtime friend who I had not seen in years," McRaith said. "He was back [in the tournament], playing with his partner, and their two children were here, too, as well as his parents. The Coady isn't just about basketball; it's about family."

That includes the gay Chicago player for McRaith's B-Division team who was joined by his straight twin brother.

"The Coady is just a great experience," McRaith said. "People come to the event from literally all over the country, and there's such a diverse age-range [of players], as well as all races and skill-levels. Everyone plays together, enjoying basketball, with good camaraderie and even better competition. And yes, the competition can be fierce out there."

"The event is still a lot of fun for me. ... I just



From left: Mark Chambers, Mark Satre and Sam Coady. Photo by Ross Forman

wish I was as good as I was a few years ago."

Like many others, McRaith said he plans to return to Chicago for the 2013 event "if my knees hold up," he said.

Championship games:

A-Division:

Winner: The Living Legends
Runner-up: Atlanta Trade

B-Upper Division:

Winner: New York Gay Basketball (NYCGBL)
Runner-up: Los Angeles Metro

B-Middle Division:

Winner: Chicago Has-Bens
Runner-up: MMG

B-Lower Division:

Winner: Los Angeles Dream
Runner-up: DC Sentinels

C-Upper Division:

Winner: Chicago Gotcha Covered
Runner-up: Chicago Rec Specs

C-Lower Division:

Winner: Salt Lake Hardwood
Runner-up: Milwaukee Woody's

Chicago Force routs Comets

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Chicago Force home opener on April 21, was all about showing that the team's season-opening win at Kansas City a week earlier was no fluke.

They proved it with an exclamation mark.

The Force never relented against the Columbus Comets at Evanston Township High School en route to a 47-0 win in front of about 400 fans.

"We played our hearts out," said Kim Marks, named the Spin Nightclub Defensive Player of the Game. "This game was very important for us after last week—to show that we are very serious about going all the way this season."

"The defense played amazing, the best it's played in quite some time. In fact, this win was about redemption for the defense because the last time we played at home, [in the 2011 playoffs], we struggled. So, to pitch a shutout is huge."

Melissa Smith earned Spin Nightclub Offensive Player of the Game honors, thanks to a touchdown run of 16-yards, and two of 6-yards. Two games into the season, Smith has four touchdowns and has rushed for about 400 yards.



Tricia Charbonneau of the Chicago Force kicks. Photo by Ross Forman

"It's so good to have Melissa back," Marks said of Smith, who retired from the Force after the 2008 championship game loss. "She's just a powerful running back."

Brandy Hatcher opened the scoring, rushing in from three yards out.

Quarterback Sami Grisafe connected with Elizabeth Strozinsky on a 37-yard pass play into the left corner of the end zone on the final play of the first half as the Force went into the locker room at halftime with a 21-0 edge.

Grisafe connected with Brandi Srda for an 8-yard completion with 4:00 remaining to play for the final points of the night.

"It's always fun when you win, especially when [the Comets] had been doing some trash-talking before the game," Marks said.

The Force travels to Indianapolis on April 28, then returns home to face the St. Louis Slam on Saturday, May 5. Game time is 5 p.m.

Israel Idonije of the Chicago Bears conducted the pre-game coin-toss and, after the game, members of the Chicago Spirit Brigade collected funds to donate to Idonije's charity foundation, IZZYz KIDz.

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TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY - TO OWN REAL ESTATE

Q. My lover and I bought our house together and hold title in joint tenancy. Our lawyer said that in case one of us should die the house would go to the survivor with or without a will. I put up all the money for the down payment for the house and am concerned that I won't be protected. My partner is in business for himself and is struggling in a downward economy. I am worried he will have creditors that may try to take away the house. Does owning the house in joint tenancy give me the protection I need?

A. Many couples own title to their homes as "joint tenants with right of survivorship" to ensure that title to the house will pass to the surviving lover if one should die. When one joint tenant dies the remaining joint tenant automatically owns the entire property, without the necessity of probate court proceedings.

When a joint tenant dies, all that is usually required to clear the title of the deceased joint tenant's interest is to submit to the title insurance company, which examines the status of title, an affidavit of survivorship and a certified copy of the deceased joint tenant's death certificate.

Tenancy by the entirety combines the survivorship attributes of joint tenancy with the bonus of limited protection against creditors. That is, a judgment creditor of just one of the homeowners cannot enforce its lien against the residence of the homeowners owned as tenants by the entirety.

Now this form of ownership is available to all couples who are partners in an Illinois Civil Union. If you enter into a civil union and sign and record a new deed conveying the title of your house, which has to be your residence, to yourselves, as tenants by the entirety, the creditors of one of you cannot take away the house. This is asset protection in its greatest form.

There are some rules and exceptions - a creditor may tear down the tenancy by the entirety protection when the property is conveyed with the sole intent to avoid the payment of debts existing at the time of the transfer. There is no protection if both owners are liable to the creditor for the debt. And the protection only applies to your main residence, homestead, and not to a vacation house or vacant real estate.

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REAL ESTATE

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Wednesday, May 9, 6:00 pm

Bucktown/Wicker Park Library
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Wednesday, May 16, 6:00 pm

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