

TALKING WITH CHEF RICK BAYLESS

WINDY CITY TIMES

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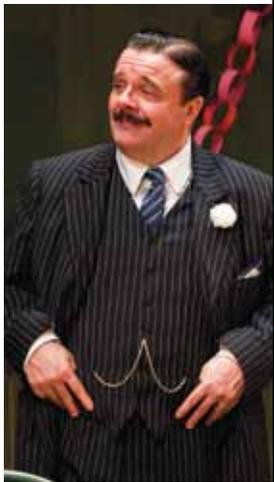
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Church decides to keep anti-gay policy

BY CHUCK COLBERT

Delegates to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church refused to remove from the denomination's law-book language, which states the church "does not condone the practice of homosexuality" and considers it "incompatible with Christian teaching."

However, a progressive coalition of pro-LGBT advocates and allies—despite their pain—is pushing for church reform and renewal.

"We are holding onto hope through resistance," said the Rev. Lois McCullen Parr, pastor of Chicago's Broadway United Methodist Church.

She was referring to several examples of push back. First, on May 3, Methodist pro-LGBT activists brought conference proceedings to all stop by staging a protest demonstration.

The conference-floor demonstration came after several votes taken that morning to soften church doctrine on homosexuality failed.

Additionally, through the protest and subsequent negotiations with conference leaders to end the demonstration, pro-LGBT advocates succeed in ensuring no further measures on human sexuality would come up for consideration.

Consequently, petitions concerning bans on non-celibate clergy and same-sex marriage never came up for discussion by the nearly 1,000 delegates.

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INTERVIEWS: SEEING STARS

Windy City Times is featuring interviews with several celebrities, including (from left) comedian/Oscar winner Mo'Nique; Bravo exec/show host Andy Cohen; and actor Jack Black, who inhabits a (possibly) gay character in the movie Bernie, which co-stars the indomitable Shirley MacLaine. Image of Mo'Nique by Darnel Williams Photography; photo of Cohen courtesy of Bravo; and pic of Black courtesy of Millennium Entertainment



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We can't afford to dismiss any new options in the quest to **end AIDS.**

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FENWAY HEALTH



this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

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Photos on cover (left, from top): PR pic of Chef Rick Bayless; photo of Jeanne Sparrow by Jerry Nunn; photo of Zach Wahls from Wahls; photo of Nathan Lane in The Iceman Cometh by Liz Lauren; and photo of Mara Keisling by Kate Sosin

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BYRNE THIS
Read about Kevin Byrne (left), a gay man who spent a month in Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry.
Photo from Kevin Byrne



Read a travel article about five extraordinary people Jeff Guaracino met in Mexico.
Photo by Jeff Guaracino



See photos from Steppenwolf's annual gala.
Photo of actor/musician Gary Sinise by Jerry Nunn

HIDE AND SEEK
Financial expert Phil Sitar exposes the truth behind hidden taxes.

GLYNN AND OUT
See photos from the IVI-IPO's Independent Gay & Lesbian Caucus' Glynn Sudberry Awards.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT
Read entertainment news about Chaz Bono, Anna Paquin and Larry Kramer.

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CHURCH from cover

In other action, on conference closing day, May 4, a group of active and retired bishops called on Methodist clergy to marry same-sex couples "in the normal course of their pastoral duties."

In an affirmation of marriage equality, retired Bishop Melvin Talbert said the call to action was "biblical obedience."

"I stand before you here this afternoon, and I declare that God has already settled the matter: All human beings are created in his image. There are no exceptions and no exclusions. We all belong to the family of God," he said.

"At the same time, I declare to you that the derogatory language and restrictive laws in the Book of Discipline are immoral and unjust and no longer deserve our loyalty and obedience," said Talbert, according to news report published in "Neighbor News," the official publication of the Love Your Neighbor Common Witness Coalition, a coalition of seven caucuses that supports full inclusion of LGBT United Methodists.

The Book of Discipline is the United Methodist Church's law book.

It was a feeling of being dismissed that prompted the occupy conference demonstration. "We disrupted the proceedings of the General Conference and shut it down because of the perception is that we were not heard," said Parr.

"Our pain could be ignored no longer," she added, speaking by cell phone from the conference.

Parr was referring to a hurtful comment from an African delegate who compared God's creation of a homosexual person to "God creat[ing] [him] to live with animals," according to a live stream from the United Methodist Church Web page.

Made during a conference plenary session, the bestiality comparison, said Parr, was not the only hurt.

As another Methodist pastor explained, during small group conversations, earlier in the week, one LGBT delegate was told by a fellow delegate that he "really deserved to be stoned," said the Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto, pastor of San Francisco's Glide Memorial United Methodist Church.

Worse yet, the delegate who called for stoning, she said, "got so animated that the gay delegate got hit a couple of times."

"People came out of those holy conferences weeping and wailing," said Oliveto, also speaking from conference by cell phone.

Parr was not a delegate but assisted the media team of the Common Witness Coalition, which included at least half a dozen United Methodist advocacy groups that work toward a more LGBT-inclusive church within a broad justice context on issues of race, gender, global partnerships, peace, stewardship of creation, and economic justice.

Oliveto was a reserve delegate.

Every four years United Methodists gather for a meeting of the church's governing body, called General Conference, where the denomination—



Delegate Jo Ann Carlotto reacts to the UMC vote. Photo by Mike DuBose

mainline Protestantism largest—sets church policy.

Held April 23-May 4 in Tampa, Fla., General Conference delegates defeated several petitions attempting to soften church doctrine through "agree-to-disagree" petitions (or proposals). One petition, for example, called for a change in the church's law book that if passed, would have said gays and lesbians are "people of sacred worth" and the faithful differ on "whether homosexual practices [are] contrary to the will of God."

The measure failed by vote of 507 to 441—or a margin of 54 to 46 percent.

In another vote, delegates defeated a compromise petition acknowledging a "limited understanding" of human sexuality at the same time calling on the church to "refrain from judgment regarding homosexual persons and practices until the Spirit leads us to new insight."

That measure also failed by a vote of 572 to 368—an even wider margin of 61 to 39 percent.

General Conference plenary sessions were live streamed from Tampa, along with Facebook and Twitter feeds and other social-networking media.

The debate over homosexuality lasted about an hour.

Although denominations like the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ and The Episcopal Church have lifted bans on out clergy, the United Methodist Church has not.

Over the last four decades, moreover, United Methodists' General Conference gatherings, have become increasingly conservative, primarily because of its growth overseas in Africa.

One estimate puts United Methodist Church membership in the United States at short of 8 million members, with membership in Africa, Europe and Asia at 4.4 million.

In fact, 40 percent of delegates to 2012 Gen-

eral Conference were from outside the United States.

The push for LGBT inclusion, said Oliveto, resulted in "fascinating" conversations with African delegates.

"One thing we learned is that the United Methodist Church, in evangelizing Africa, told whole groups of people their culture was wrong," she said, referring to the practice of polygamy.

"The imposing western culture said polygamy was wrong," explained Oliveto. "So now the Africans say, 'You came and taught us it was sinful but here it is in the Bible.'"

The Old Testament, or Hebrew Bible, refers to the common practice of polygamy among patriarchs.

"But now you are telling us homosexuality is okay, but here the Bible says it's sinful," she explained.

"That was a really helpful conversation," said Oliveto. "But what is lacking is an honest discussion of sexuality."

Meanwhile, in previous United Methodist general conferences, "whole coalitions would sit there as vote after vote was taken on homosexuality," she said.

"This time we shut it down," said Oliveto referring to this year's protest.

"It was very empowering, she explained. "That's how we are framing it. We will no longer allow any more harm to be done."

For her part, Broadway's pastor Parr intends to keep the congregation safe for LGBT persons. "Our Broadway witness is crucial and it can save lives," she said, reading from a letter to her congregation.

"The ministry we do together is more vital than ever," she continued. "I suspect we will once again debate whether or not we stay affiliated with the United Methodist Church, and I understand that feeling. I ask you to breathe with me, pray with me, to hold one another in the love we know to be of God and listen to where God is leading us these days."

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SIDEBAR Local Methodists not heeding anti-LGBT vote

BY KATE SOSIN

The United Methodist Church (UMC) may have recently voted to uphold an old rule that homosexuality is "incompatible with Christian teaching," but for some local Methodist churches, the vote changes little.

Northern Illinois encompasses at least 30 "reconciling" congregations, or UMC congregations that welcome LGBT people. Among them are churches in heavily LGBT neighborhoods like Andersonville and Lakeview.

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—Drag/gaming venue opens in Vegas (left)

—Gay men are finalists in PETA contest

—Colo. House committee OKs civil-unions bill

Representatives from reconciling churches attended the recent two-week convening of Methodist Churches in Tampa, Fla., where delegates voted against removing the anti-gay language from the Book of Discipline.

Among those in attendance was Rev. Lois Parr, Pastor at Broadway United Methodist Church in Lakeview.

Parr, like others who minister to reconciling congregations, hoped that this was the year at UMC would do-away with its anti-gay stance after other denominations have made similar strides. Reconciling ministries had been eying progress among other religious groups and within the U.S. political landscape.

"We thought, 'Okay, we'll be next,'" Parr said.

At last count, 503 UMC congregations in the U.S. welcome LGBT people, a divergence from the general rule, which bans UMC clergy from performing same-sex marriages or unions or allowing such ceremonies to occur in UMC buildings.

UMC holds its conference every four years, and Parr and other LGBT advocates believed that the political climate was right for change. They returned home May 7 disappointed but not deterred, she said.

"We are staying in the United Methodist Church as resisters," Parr said. "Some people would interpret what we're doing as a path to schism and other people would see it as an act of resistance."

Resistance, however, could come at a price.

"We are officially breaking the rules, and someone could file a complaint against us," said Parr. "It's a risk I'm willing to take because the gospel is calling for me into ministry with all people."

Similarly undeterred by the vote is Pastor Bonnie Beckonchrist of First United Methodist Church in Arlington Heights. Beckonchrist co-chairs the board of the Reconciling Ministries Network, an umbrella organization for welcoming UMC congregations.

Beckonchrist said that while the vote changes little for her church, she wants to send a message to the general public that many UMC churches embrace LGBT people.

"The challenge now, of course, is to be clear that we disagree with our own denomination," she said.

According to Beckonchrist, the number of UMC reconciling churches is steadily growing, especially in Northern Illinois, which saw a 25 percent jump in the last year.

At least three churches became reconciling ministries at the conference alone, and Beckonchrist said more could follow in the coming weeks.

Urban Village Church, which holds services in Andersonville, is also a reconciling ministry. Others include Euclid Avenue UMC in Oak Park, United Church of Rogers Park and Grace UMC. A full list of reconciling UMC churches in Illinois and Chicago is available at www.rmnetwork.org/get-connected/find-a-church.



Pro-LGBT demonstrators at General Conference before the vote.

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Biden's marriage remarks put pressure on Obama

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Responding earnestly to a question, Vice President Joe Biden has hoisted personal and legal support for same-sex marriages back into the presidential campaign.

Biden said on the nationally televised news show Meet the Press May 6 that he is "absolutely comfortable" with the existence of same-sex marriage, adding that "men marrying men, women marrying women and heterosexual men and women marrying one another are entitled to the same exact rights, all the civil rights, all the civil liberties."

The comment, which drew quick praise from LGBT leaders, who uniformly also expressed their desire to hear President Obama make similar remarks. And it turned a metaphorical spotlight back on Obama's tightrope walk between support for repealing the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and support for full legal marriage equality. While Obama has vigorously supported the repeal of DOMA and has spoken in opposition to bans on same-sex marriage in California and North Carolina, he and his administration have not made any explicit statements in support of legal marriage equality in the states. And, the president has eschewed opportunities to share what his personal comfort level is with same-sex marriage. And his hesitancy on these latter two points has become a lingering rough spot between the president and the LGBT community, despite a record that clearly outshines all other presidents.

By the morning of May 7, many political talking heads were weighing in on when they thought Obama would make a statement of comfort with the idea of same-sex partners marrying, most speculating it would not come until after the November presidential election.

On one of those May 7 news shows, Obama's secretary of education, Arne Duncan, was asked not whether he was comfortable with same-sex marriages but whether he thinks same-sex

couples should be able to marry as a matter of law. Duncan responded, "Yes, I do," taking essentially the same position as Biden.

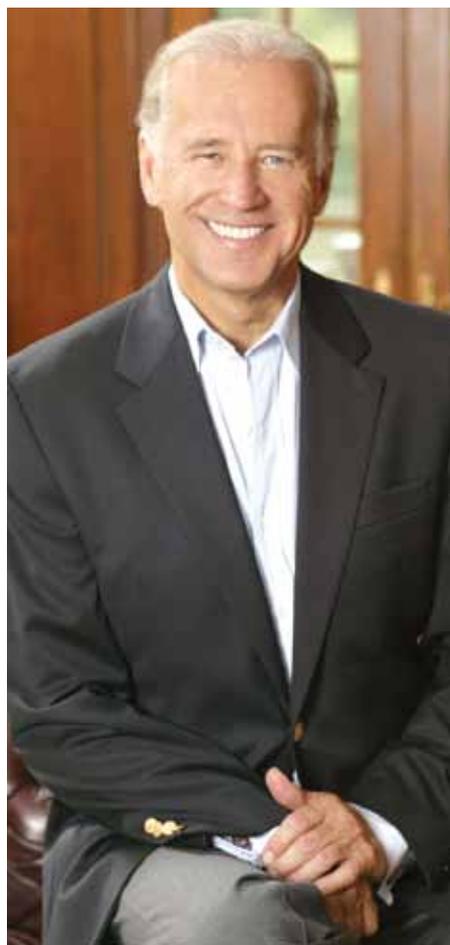
Joe Scarborough, host of MSNBC's Morning Joe, and Mark Halperin, a frequent commentator, speculated the president is hesitating to announce support for marriage equality or comfort with same-sex marriage. They, and others, think Obama needs to stay silent on those matters in order to hold onto his tenuous support in some important southern states, such as Virginia and North Carolina, as well as big electoral states, such as Ohio.

Following Biden's remarks, the mainstream media immediately began trying to determine whether Biden was paving the way for more supportive statements on marriage from Obama or whether Biden was simply "veering off script" (as NBC speculated).

CNN media commentator Howard Kurtz wrote, in a DailyBeast.com blog, "There is absolutely no question that Biden's response was cleared by the White House. Vice presidents are not allowed to freelance on talk shows, especially on such a sensitive issue. So Obama was sending out Biden to further mollify the gay community without having to actually take a stand himself."

But the New York Daily News suggested that "Gaffe-prone Vice President Joe Biden may have struck again by saying he was 'absolutely comfortable' with gay marriage, a position his boss has not publicly supported."

The New York Times pointed out that the White House scrambled "to clarify that Mr. Biden was not articulating an official change in policy, a reaction that highlighted the administration's unease over the subject." But it also noted that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had called the rights of gays "human rights" and that Obama then later "enthusiastically endorsed" that idea. Biden's statement on Sunday, said the Times, is "raising the possibility that Mr. Obama is relying on aides to telegraph his intentions to avoid the political consequences of articulating them himself."



Joe Biden.

The Times noted that "The White House denied that Mr. Biden was acting as a surrogate for the president on Sunday, saying that Mr. Biden's views, influenced by gay friends and fund-raisers, had changed and that, with characteristic candor, he was willing to volunteer them at length."

The vice president's office issued a statement following Biden's remarks Sunday that did almost nothing to really clear the confusion.

"The vice president was saying what the president has said previously—that committed and loving same-sex couples deserve the same rights and protections enjoyed by all Americans, and that we oppose any effort to roll back those rights," said the statement.

But, in fact, Obama has not previously expressed pro-active legal support for same-sex marriage equality. Gay legal experts Mary Bonauto, Kate Kendall and Jon Davidson said he and his administration have made no such statements in person or in court documents. Evan Wolfson of the Freedom to Marry group said Obama and his administration have made "not explicitly" stated support for marriage equality. But Wolfson said the administration's "refutation of the opposition's proffered rationales for DOMA; acknowledging the existence, strengths, and needs of same-sex couples and their families, etc.—certainly also makes the case for the freedom to marry."

And it's worth noting that, although Obama has famously held that his personal feelings on same-sex marriage were "evolving," he has stood up for equal treatment of LGBT people under the law.

The latest political dust-up began on Meet the Press, when host David Gregory noted the Obama "has said his views on gay marriage, on same-sex marriage, have evolved, but he's opposed to it.

You're opposed to it. Have your views evolved?"

Biden voted for DOMA when he was in the U.S. Senate in 1996, but during his brief presidential campaign in 2008, his website indicated he supported same-sex marriages.

"Look," said Biden, "I just think that the good news is that, as more and more Americans have come to understand, that what this is is a simple proposition: Who do you love? Who do you love? And will you be loyal to the person you love? And that's what people are finding out that all marriages at their root are all about. Whether they are marriages of lesbians, or gay men, or heterosexuals."

"Is that what you believe now?" asked Gregory.

"That's what I believe."

"And you're comfortable with same-sex marriage now?"

"Look, I am vice president of the United States of America. The president sets the policy. I am absolutely comfortable with ... men marrying men, women marrying women, and heterosexual men and women marrying another are entitled to the same exact rights, all the civil rights, all the civil liberties. And quite frankly, I don't see much of a distinction beyond that."

"In a second term, will this administration come out behind same-sex marriage—the institution of marriage?" asked Gregory.

"Well, I can't speak to that," said Biden. "I don't know the answer to that. But I can tell you..."

Gregory interrupted, "It sounds like you'd like to see it happen if the president gets—"

"The president continues to fight," interrupted Biden, "whether it's 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' or whether it is making sure across the board that you cannot discriminate. Look at the executive orders he's put in place. Any hospital that gets federal funding, which is almost all of them, they can't deny a partner from being able to have access to their partner's who's ill, or making a call on whether or not they, you know—this is evolving."

(Biden mischaracterized a memorandum Obama signed to prohibit federally funded hospitals from denying visitation to gay partners. It was not an executive order.)

"And by the way," continued Biden, "my measure, David, and I take a look at when things really begin to change, is when the social culture changes. I think Will & Grace probably did more to educate the American public than almost anything anybody's ever done so far. And I think people fear that which is different. Now, they're beginning to understand, they're beginning to understand that this, at it's base..."

Biden then jumped to an anecdote.

"I was speaking to a group of gay leaders in Los Angeles two weeks ago and one gentleman looked at me in the question period, and said, 'Let me ask you: How do you feel about us?' And I had just walked in the back door of this gay couple and their two adopted children. And I turned to the man who owned the house, and I said, 'What did I do when I walked in?' He said, 'You walked right to my children, they were seven and five, giving you flowers... And I said I wish every American could see the look in those eyes and they wouldn't have any doubt what this is about.'"

Chad Griffin, who becomes president of the

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Iowa justices on why they didn't campaign to retain seats

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

BOSTON—Three Iowa state supreme court justices ousted by voters in 2010 for ruling that same-sex couples were due the same rights as other couples under the state constitution were honored May 7 with the prestigious JFK Profiles in Courage Award.

Caroline Kennedy—daughter of the late President John F. Kennedy, for whom the award is named—presented the awards to the justices in a ceremony at the JFK Library in Boston. In doing so, she noted, “There are few things in life more important than being able to marry and build a family with the person you love. This fundamental right should be available to all Americans, including gay and lesbian couples.”

Kennedy said the three former justices—Chief Justice Marsha Ternus and Justices David Baker and Michael Streit—were selected for the award because “they were aware they might pay a price” for rendering the decision they did, “but they did not waiver.”

“They will say they were just doing their job,” said Kennedy. But in their case, she said, “just doing their job required a special kind of courage.”

The ruling came in 2009 in *Varnum v. Brien*, a lawsuit filed by Lambda Legal Defense on behalf of six same-sex couples who had been denied marriage licenses.

“The decision,” noted the JFK Library, “was the first unanimous high court opinion on mar-

riage for same-sex couples, and it made Iowa the third state to legalize same-sex marriage. The justices were aware that their opinion might not enjoy support from a majority of the public, but the Court stressed in its opinion that its responsibility was ‘to protect constitutional rights of individuals from legislative enactments that have denied those rights, even when the rights have not yet been broadly accepted, were at one time unimagined, or challenge a deeply ingrained practice or law viewed to be impervious to the passage of time.’”

The decision triggered a fierce political push-back from right-wing conservatives in the state and attracted Republican presidential hopefuls, such as Rick Santorum, to actively campaign for the ouster of the justices when an otherwise routine vote came up for renewal of the tenure on the bench, in November 2010. The result of that vote was the ouster of the three justices and a victory for those opposing equal rights for gays.

In accepting his award, Streit noted that, five days after the court issued the *Varnum* decision, it received a letter from a former U.S. soldier, a veteran of World War II. The veteran said the decision convinced him that he had fought on the wrong side during World War II. And, in a sentence that provoked a gasp from the audience, the letter said, “Hitler treated homosexuals the way they should have been treated—in the gas chambers.”

The letter, said Streit, “satisfied me we were right” in the *Varnum* decision.

Baker, the first to receive the award, told the audience that elected justices in some other states told him that they believed the court’s decision in *Varnum* was legally correct, “but that they could never have voted that way because they would lose their re-elections.”

Baker also explained why the three justices did not mount political campaigns during the retention vote to try and explain their decision and hold onto their seats. He said they chose not to defend themselves because to do so would have politicized the judiciary.

“We were not going to endorse such a system for Iowa,” said Baker. Baker said he knew the retention vote was also aimed, not just at those three justices.

“It was meant to intimidate judges in courts across the nation,” said Baker.

Ternus echoed Baker’s remark that the justices knew before they issued the decision that they knew they could lose their jobs over it.

“But our only allegiance,” she said, “was a commitment to the rule of law.”

She expressed dismay about the trend toward

“demonizing” of judges over various political issue.

“Calling judges ‘activists’ or ‘elite,’” she said, amounts to “bullying” and “adds nothing substantive to the debate about the important concerns of our time.”

Ternus, Baker and Streit joined in the unanimous decision of the seven-member bench in April 2009, ruling that the Iowa constitution’s guarantee of equal protection applied to same-sex couples seeking marriage licenses.

In the audience were three of the other four justices who joined in the *Varnum* decision: Current Chief Justice Mark Cady and Justices David Wiggins and Daryl Hecht.

In an interview following the ceremony, Streit said the justices received “a pretty good share” of hate mail after issuing the *Varnum* decision and the court removed personal information about the justices from the court’s website for their protection.

Chuck Colbert contributed to this report.

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BIDEN from page 6

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) next month, told the Washington Post that it was he who posed the question to Biden in Los Angeles.

Current HRC President Joe Solmonese said his group is encouraged by Biden’s remarks, but added, “Now is the time for Obama to speak out for full marriage equality for same-sex couples.”

Jerame Davis, head of National Stonewall Democrats, suggested Biden’s remarks were “not a direct endorsement of marriage equality” but said they were “promising.”

“What we really need now,” said Davis, “is for Obama to take a stand in support of the freedom to marry and bring to bear the full weight of his Administration to make it reality.”

Freedom to Marry’s Wolfson, who interned for Biden in the U.S. Senate in 1976, said, “The personal and thoughtful way he has spoken about his coming to support the freedom to marry reflects the same journey that a majority of Americans have now made as they’ve gotten to know gay families, opened their hearts and changed their minds.”

“Obama,” said Wolfson, “should join the vice president, former Presidents Clinton and Carter, former Vice Presidents Gore and Cheney, Laura Bush, and so many others in forthright support for the freedom to marry.”

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Romney's gay spokesman quits, citing 'personal issues'

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's openly gay advisor on foreign policy resigned May 1, just two weeks after the campaign announced his role.

According to the Washington Post, which broke the story, Richard Grenell "resigned in the wake of a full-court press by anti-gay conservatives." But Grenell, in a statement to the Post, said only that his ability to "speak clearly and forcefully on the issues has been greatly diminished by the hyper-partisan discussion of personal issues that sometimes comes from a presidential campaign." Grenell's statement also thanked Romney for his confidence in Grenell's ability to serve the campaign on national security and foreign policy issues and for Romney's "clear message to me that being openly gay was a non-issue for him and his team."

The Post quoted Romney campaign manager Matt Rhoades as saying the campaign is "disappointed that Ric decided to resign from the campaign for his own personal reasons."

"We wanted him to stay," said Rhoades, "because he had superior qualifications for the position he was hired to fill."

Most gay activists see Grenell as a victim of the Republican Party's strong right-wing base.

R. Clarke Cooper, head of Log Cabin Republicans, echoing Grenell's statement, blamed Grenell's departure on "hyper-partisan discussion of issues unrelated to" Grenell's national security qualifications. Cooper said Grenell "was essentially hounded by the far right and far left."

Stonewall Democrats' National Executive Director Jerame Davis said Grenell was "mercilessly hounded by religious conservatives." To Davis, Romney's appointment of Grenell was never serious, but just a "crassly cynical political move by Romney to fool LGBT voters into believing he's not as anti-gay as his statements would have you believe."

Davis criticized Romney for "silently [letting] the bigoted wing of his party control his personnel choices."

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese also criticized Romney for his silence.

"The fact that Grenell is gone so quickly after a right-wing uproar," said Solmonese, "is a troubling harbinger of the kind of power that anti-gay forces would have in a Romney White House."

Jimmy LaSalvia, head of the national gay conservative group GOProud, said, "I still can't believe that in 2012 there are still people like Bryan Fischer and Tony Perkins, who would rather keep a gay person from having a job on a presidential campaign than have Mitt Romney



Richard Grenell.

assemble the best foreign policy team possible. On a day when foreign affairs and national security are at the forefront, it's too bad that Gov. Romney doesn't have the best spokesman possible speaking on his behalf."

Bryan Fischer, a policy official with the American Family Association, criticized Grenell's appointment, characterizing Grenell as a "gay activist" and suggesting he would be trying to promote a "homosexual agenda." Tony Perkins, head of the Family Research Council, noted that Grenell publicly criticized President Bush for opposing the U.S. endorsement of a pro-gay statement by the United Nations.

Another right-wing anti-gay activist, Gary Bauer, criticized the appointment of Grenell, saying that it showed unwillingness by the Romney campaign to reassure conservatives in the Republican Party.

"Conservative pro-family leaders," said Bauer, in an April 25 email to supporters of his current organization, Campaign for Working Families, "are disappointed because Grenell has been an outspoken advocate of redefining normal marriage." He noted that Grenell "once caused a controversy by trying to have his partner listed as his spouse when he worked at the U.N." Grenell asked to have his partner listed, the same as the spouses of other U.S. delegation employees, in a United Nations directory.

However, Bauer's criticism of Grenell's appointment was somewhat tempered by his acknowledgement that "homosexuals" worked in the administrations of President Reagan and the two Bush presidents.

And Grenell's own cryptic explanation — citing "hyperpartisan discussion of personal issues that sometimes comes from a presidential campaign" — left room for uncertainty about what was really behind his abrupt resignation.

Grenell, 45, lives in Los Angeles and was due

to start work at Romney's national headquarters in Boston May 1. Such a move would have enabled Grenell to marry his longtime partner, Matthew Lashey.

Personal issues were also a focus of early criticism of Grenell's appointment, as media reports gave considerable attention to Grenell's Twitter posts making unflattering observations about GOP presidential long-shot Newt Gingrich's current wife, Callista, openly gay Pulitzer Prize-winning commentator Jonathan Capehart and MSNBC's openly gay political commentator Rachel Maddow, among others. Those posts came to light just as the clamor was subsiding over a remark from openly gay Democratic strategist Hilary Rosen that Romney's wife, Ann, had "never worked a day in her life."

Grenell's qualifications to serve as a national security and foreign policy advisor to Romney seemed unquestioned. Grenell served the ad-

ministration 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. In addition, he served numerous other prominent Republicans, including New York Gov. George Pataki, former South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford and San Diego Mayor Susan Golding.

The Romney campaign's willingness to appoint an openly gay man to such a prominent position also seemed to indicate that the campaign was prepared to go after the one in four gay voters who tend to vote Republican. Grenell's departure could make that task more difficult.

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Lambda adds Chicagoan to board of directors

Lambda Legal has announced a recently elected member to its board of directors: Chicagoan Stephen R. Winters.

Winters was born in Wichita, Kan., and received his J.D. degree from Kansas University in 1975. From 1989 through his retirement in 2008, Winters held U.S. and international management positions, and from 2004 was the general counsel for BP America.

WCT partners with CAN TV

Cable subscribers across Chicago can now get the latest updates from the Windy City Times by picking up their remote instead of their mouse. Chicago Access Network Television (CAN TV) is now featuring bite-sized posts from Windy City Media Group on its FYI Channel 27.

Windy City Media's Publisher Tracy Baim said this new partnership with CAN TV provides a unique opportunity to share their content with more people.

"By bringing our stories to cable television we can provide even more Chicagoans interested in LGBT issues with the latest news and insights," Baim said.

The short, slideshow-like presentations of the news are featured alongside other community news organizations and "news you can use" content produced by Chicago nonprofits. Nonprofit Services Coordinator Tiffany Bosley said CAN TV is working with Windy City Media Group and other community news organizations to share the valuable information they provide across the digital divide.

"Around 40 percent of Chicago residents don't have Internet access, and many other cable viewers may not even know these resources are available," Bosley said. "We hope

to change that."

Windy City Media Group (WCMG) produces Windy City Times, Nightspots, OUT! Resource Guide, and WindyCityQueercast.com. WCMG is the producer of these events: Windy City Gay Idol, Gays Got Talent, 30 Under 30 and the Windy City Times Theater Series. To download all of our products visit www.windycitymediagroup.com. Send questions to publisher@windycitymediagroup.com or call 773-871-7610.

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Dignity/Chicago marking 40th

Dignity/Chicago will celebrate its 40 years of ministry in the LGBT Catholic community with an anniversary dinner Saturday, May 19, at Francesca's on Taylor, 1400 W. Taylor St., at 6 p.m., followed the next day by an anniversary Mass at 5 p.m. at Broadway United Methodist Church, 3338 N. Broadway.

The anniversary dinner guest speaker will be Jamie Manson, columnist for National Catholic Reporter. Marianne Duddy-Burke, executive director of DignityUSA, will offer the homily at the anniversary Mass.

At the dinner, Dignity/Chicago's John Michie Award for community service will be presented to the Lakeview Clergy Association. Michie, a member of Dignity/Chicago, passed away in the 1980s.

Tickets start at \$60 and up and can be ordered at www.dignity-chicago.org.

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Joshua H. Ehrlich, DMD

Paige Clay's murder spurs forum, action

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

Community members and chosen family members gathered April 30 at Taskforce Community and Prevention Services to remember murdered transgender woman Paige Clay and to create a community forum on violence against transgender women, particularly those of color.

Clay, 23, was found shot in the head April 12 in an alley on the 4500 block of West Jackson Boulevard in the West Garfield Park neighborhood of Chicago. Clay's chosen family members feel like the case is being ignored by Chicago Police, who were invited to the forum to answer questions regarding the case, but did not attend.

"It saddens me that Paige was brutally murdered and no one cares," said Chayntell Jones, an outreach worker at Taskforce Community and Prevention Services, an HIV prevention and education agency serving the Westside.

Employees of Taskforce Community and Prevention Services opened the event by welcoming attendees. Many people associated with the organization knew Clay because she attended a weekly transgender women's group at the agency.

"If life is about pursuit of happiness, what opportunities do transgender people have to actualize?" said Wanda Oziera, agency coordinator at Taskforce Community and Prevention Services. "We are coming together as a community and making today an event that creates change, a catalyst for change."

In solidarity with the gathering for Clay, the National Center For Transgender Equality (NCTE) cancelled a reception scheduled for the same



KOKUMO at the Paige Clay event. Photo by Kate Sosin

time at the Center on Halsted, with NCTE Executive Director Mara Keisling speaking at the forum instead.

"It's been a really tough month for transgender people around the country. We know of four murders across the country this spring," said Keisling. "We're really trying to prop up Paige

and draw attention to this tragedy. We need to figure out how to stop it."

The murders Keisling mentioned included Clay, Coko Williams of Detroit, Brandy Martell of Oakland, Calif., and Deoni Jones of Washington, D.C.

Aides at the White House reached out to NCTE about these murders, Keisling said.

"Everyone from all over the country is hearing about Paige and Paige's life from the great work here," Keisling said. "Just know that NCTE really wants to help in anyway we can ... Please contact us for anything at all."

Attendees took a moment of silence to reflect on Clay's life, which led to individuals sharing memories of Clay and what she meant to them and the community.

Brian Turner, an outreach coordinator at Taskforce Community and Prevention Services, knew Clay since 2004 when she was doing runway in balls, underground competitions in which different houses battle for prizes and trophies with a fusion of cat walking, dancing, voguing and drag. The ball houses, composed primarily of transgender women and same-gender-loving Black men, are similar to families or fraternities, each one cheering on its members as they compete.

"She wasn't a person out on the street. She was trying to do something with her life. She wasn't a nobody," said Turner. "I didn't want her life to go unnoticed. I'm crying because people came out to show support."

The gathering then turned to a forum for discussing violence against transgender women, including the issues of gender identity and race.

In 2010, 44 percent of LGBT murder victims were transgender women, and 70 percent of LGBT murder victims were people of color, according to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. Transgender people, as a whole, are only about 1 percent of the LGBT population.

"Being transgender should not be a death sentence," said Precious Davis, youth outreach coordinator at the Center on Halsted. "We've seen

enough as a community. It's time to start making demands."

The discussion turned to racism and transphobia within the LGBT community, particularly in Boystown, with several speakers pointing out the Take Back Boystown movement and the Tumblr blog, When in Boystown.

"We just need to stop being close-minded to things. It starts in our community it starts with us," said Turner.

Many speakers noted the sizeable turnout, approximately 75 people, and expressed sentiments of hope and change for the future.

"It's amazing that we all came together, but it's sad that it has to be on an occasion such as this," said Davis.

"I hope you're inspired. I hope you're inspired to leave here with a plan. Change won't happen if we sit on our hands and wait for someone else to do it," said Oziera.

A funeral service for Clay was held May 4 at Acklin Funeral Home.



Mara Keisling at the Paige Clay event. Photo by Kate Sosin

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guest homilist: Marianne Duddy-Burke, DignityUSA
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Seeking justice and equality for LGBT people in the Catholic Church and Society.

New Boystown blog stirs controversy

BY KATE SOSIN

It has been nearly a year since a debate about racial profiling and youth rocked Lakeview last summer, but after months of relative quiet on the issue, a new blog may be refueling old controversy.

"When in Boystown" is a stream of soundless video images with captions that poke fun at Lakeview and gay nightlife. In one post, a group of muscular white guys in briefs has been labeled as "Spin bartenders." In another, a woman is shown texting, the caption says, to avoid talking to "that annoying guy you always see out."

The site's following has grown significantly since it launched in late April—but so has criticism of it.

In addition to jabbing at the everyday, the blog is full of images and captions that appear to play on racial and gender stereotypes. One post labeled with the location of Broadway Youth Center appears to be mocking trans youth of color with an image of a person in a purple wig shouting. Another post, labeled "Miss Ann Sather" (Ann Sather is a local restaurant), depicts a chair collapsing under a large woman. A number of posts depict women of color and gender non-conforming people dancing, gesturing or making obvious facial expressions.

While some argue that the site is funny for its play on common stereotypes, others say it is perpetuating negative images of the community's most marginalized.

Nico Lang, the co-founder of the LGBT In Our Words blog, falls into the latter category.

"I really thought that everyone would see this

as problematic, that everyone would see it and say, 'this is really racist,'" said Lang.

In a piece on the Huffington Post, Lang argues that When In Boystown perpetuates racism, transphobia and other shaming images of the LGBTQ community. (Disclosure: Lang's piece referenced old comments made by this reporter on an unrelated issue.)

However, a number of When in Boystown readers have also written to show their support.

Wrote one reader: "You can't make everyone happy, but your [sic] making a straight guy, a trans man, a black lesbian, a gay white man, and a drag queen pee their pants. I believe we cover a good amount of the queer spectrum. It's really sad so many people can't find humor in our actions and the true circus that Boystown could be at times, but we all love it."

Another person commented: "As a gay male I find your site HILARIOUS. This is the sort of thing Boystown needs. We need to learn to laugh at ourselves and not take ourselves so seriously."

The identities of the site's authors are not known, and an interview request was not answered. But the authors have not been entirely unresponsive to complaints.

One person wrote that there was "no denying some of [the posts] are flatly racist" and that Lang's piece made valid points.

The authors responded that they agreed. "We've removed some of the posts that were ruffling the most feathers," they wrote. "However, we don't plan on halting our right to share what we find funny in our community. Have a blessed day."

Lang said they (Lang's preferred pronoun) are

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LUCKY HORSESHOE HIRES A STRIPPER THAT WEIGHS MORE THAN 150 LBS



Part of a page of the "When In Boystown" blog.

realistic about their inability to stop one blog, but feel the blog highlights a widespread issue in Lakeview.

"The realities of racism in the LGBT community and the queer community are the focal point on the conversation," they said. "This website disappears but this racism goes unquestioned."

Lang references a recent Jezebel article in which writer Lindy West argues that jokes only work if they're aimed "up." It's the reason why, West notes, CEOs don't roast janitors at company parties.

Lang believes that the same holds true for Chicago's LGBT community. They point to last sum-

mer's controversies as an example.

Following chaos and fighting at Chicago's Pride Parade last year, a group of residents created a Facebook page called "Take Back Boystown." Residents reported that they were experiencing a rise in violent crime. Queer youth of color complained that they were unfairly scapegoated by residents.

Lang said that rather than reviving the argument, they want to use the blog to start a conversation about race in the neighborhood. Lang and others are organizing an event at for that reason in late May, the details of which have yet to be announced.

Dead body found in old Gerber/Hart site

BY KATE SOSIN

Just one day after Chicago's LGBT library vacated its former Edgewater home, a dead body has been discovered inside the now-former site of Gerber/Hart Library and Archives.

The body is not that of anyone associated with the library.

Rae Ann Cecrle, the building's landlord, confirmed that the deceased is Marcus Smith, a maintenance worker.

According to Chicago Police News Affairs, a police received a call of a body inside the site, 1127 W. Granville, at 8:16 p.m. May 1. No description of the deceased was available. A death investigation is pending, with natural cause a possible reason for death.

Spike King, an employee at Gino's North Pizzeria on the same block, said he believed the body was that of a male. King said he saw a body on the floor towards the back of the library. A ladder and some tools sat at the front of the building, suggesting that maintenance work on the building had been in process.

Cecrle said that Smith had gone home earlier in the day because he was feeling unwell. Smith returned later that evening to do work

and apparently suffered a heart attack, she said.

Smith was removed from the library just after 9 p.m.

According to Cecrle, Smith had been active in several Edgewater projects. He had installed many of the art pieces for "Edgewater Artists in Motion," a community initiative features local artwork in vacant storefronts.

Gerber/Hart library completed its move out of the space April 30. The library is moving to Rogers Park.

Occupy Festival May 12-13

The first ever Occupy Festival will take place May 12-13 at Union Park, at Ashland Avenue and Lake Street, according to a press release.

The focus of the event is to highlight the struggle of social and economic inequality through artistic performance.

SolidClarity, in conjunction with Occupy Chicago, is presenting this green event, which the City of Chicago and Chicago Park District are permitting. Special Events Management is producing it.

Fest hours are 2-10 p.m. both days. Admission is \$35 for one day, and \$55 for both. See www.occupyfestival.com.

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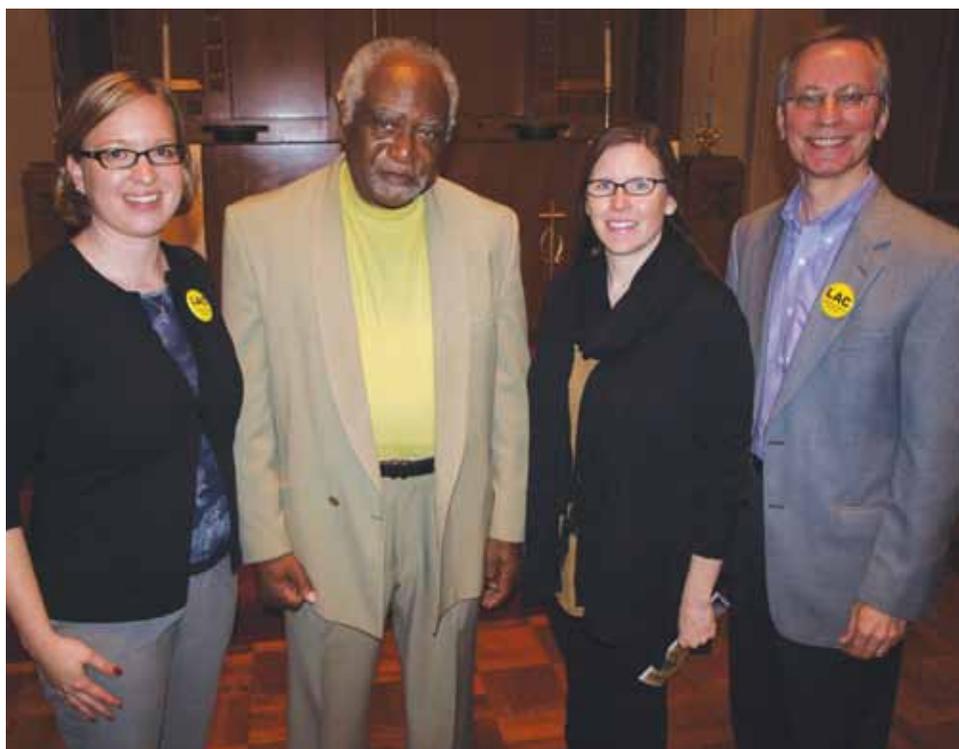
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From left: Erin Ryan, president of the LAC board; Congressman Danny Davis; state Rep. Ann Williams; and Allen Wesolowski, LAC board member. Photo by Jamie Anne Royce

Lakeview coalition discusses homeless, trans rights at meeting

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

Community members gathered at Lakeview Action Coalition (LAC) meeting May 6 at St. Paul's UCC Church, focusing on homelessness, affordable housing and access to health care.

LAC is a nonprofit community organization composed of 49 institutional members, including religious congregations, nonprofit agencies, banks, business associations, a credit union and a senior citizens' caucus.

Transgender people spoke out against mistreatment by police, calling for the passage of the Chicago Police Treatment of Transgender Individuals ordinance.

In its current form, the proposed ordinance would require the Chicago Police Department to adopt a policy for handling transgender detainees with supervision by the city's Human Relations and Public Safety committees.

Many formerly and currently homeless youth shared their experiences at the meeting. Some highlighted the issue of homelessness among LGBT youth, many of whom were turned away from their homes when they came out.

There are nearly 2,000 homeless youths in Cook County, of which 20-40 percent self-identify as LGBT, according to a University of Illinois at Chicago survey.

Currently, there are approximately 200 shelter beds designated for youth in Chicago, and LAC is currently working to increase that number.

One formerly homeless youth, Cassie Sailor, highlighted the need for health care for the homeless, uninsured and underinsured.

Under current Illinois statutes, nonprofit hospitals receive tax breaks for providing free and reduced care, known as charity care, to uninsured people and others who need care but cannot afford it.

But Sailor, among many other speakers, said that these safety net hospitals were not following through with charity care.

"I fight for charity care because so many of my friends are uninsured," said Sailor.

LAC is working with the Fair Care Coalition on the state level to find a solution to gaps in charity care. Toni Preckwinkle, president of the Cook County board of commissioners, committed to put pressure on the Illinois General Assembly to

pass a standardized and streamlined charity care initiative.

"Health care is a human right. We all deserve access to health care. People who are uninsured should have the same access to health care as people who are insured," said Curtis Smith of Second Unitarian Church of Chicago.

Ald. Michele Smith committed to support an increase in the currently required 10 percent affordable units in new or rezoned housing property. She also said she would propose that the developer planning to take over the Children's Memorial Hospital site in Lincoln Park build more than the required 10 percent affordable-housing units.

Ald. James Cappleman, Scott Waguespack and Tom Tunney also expressed support for affordable housing.

"Our vision of Lincoln Park that welcomes a diversity of families is not only possible, it's going to happen," said Kathy Moore of St. Clement Church.

Members of LAC also spoke on income inequality, demanding an end to corporate tax breaks and other budget loopholes in lieu of cutting social services.

"LAC cannot and will not stand quietly by while cuts to our social services go on," said Sue Gries of Deborah's Place. "Cuts and threats to both state and federal programs are continuing."

State Sen. President John Cullerton announced the Corporate Tax Transparency Bill, legislation that he would be introducing this week in Springfield. Under the proposed legislation, a public corporation would have to make tax forms public, and if the corporation does not pay any taxes, a reason would have to be disclosed.

State Reps. Sara Feigenholtz and Ann Williams pledged to support this measure.

Congressmen Danny Davis and Mike Quigley pledged to strengthen programs of tax reform and committed to meet with members of LAC over the summer to continue to discuss these issues.

"There's nothing I like better than citizens in action," said Davis. "I commend all of the elected officials who are here today ... I absolutely support your agenda 100 percent."

PASSAGES

Rodney L. Baker

Rodney L. Baker died at Season's Hospice Nov. 20, 2011. He was 59.

Baker was born May 15, 1952, to Harold and Margaret (Taul) Baker in McCook, Neb. He lived on the homestead outside Stratton, Neb., and was active in 4-H, once winning a purple ribbon for his angel food cake. Graduating from Stratton High School in 1970 he then attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where he received a degree in architecture.

In 1974, immediately after graduation, he traveled on his own to Paris, Rome and Egypt; he then stayed with the parents of college friends in Iran and Lebanon. Upon returning home he worked for Stetson Building Supply in Des Moines, Iowa, working in estimating and sales until 1980, when he moved to Chicago to join his partner, James Krueger.

Baker worked as a waiter in several places, finally getting a job as a waiter and later a captain at the four-star Dining Room in the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. For 25 years he was proud to provide service to local and international patrons such as Oprah Winfrey, Milton Berle, Bob Newhart, Betty White, The Rolling Stones and former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley—oh, for an ear at some of those tables. He was employee of the month on numerous occasions and picked up many cooking tips from Chef Sarah Stegner.

He loved to cook and was well-known for his own recipe for lasagna. Rod had a passion for gardening. He inherited his Grandmother Baker's green thumb and created a beautiful garden in Chicago. He also loved to travel; although illness in the last 20 years of his life kept him returning to more local venues such as Hawaii or Florida, before that he traveled to Guatemala, Peru, Mexico, Costa Rico, Cam-



Rodney L. Baker. Photo courtesy of Jim Krueger

bodia, China, Thailand, Viet Nam, Laos, Hong Kong and Singapore.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Margaret, and an infant brother, James Dale Baker.

Survivors include Krueger, his partner of 33 years; his brothers Joe Baker (Sharlene) of Brighton, Colo., and Gene Baker (Barbara) of McCook, Neb. He leaves behind numerous loving nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

A remembrance will be held in Chicago Saturday, May 12, in his garden on Bosworth Avenue at his Chicago apartment, 12-3 p.m.; a memorial service will take place Saturday, May 26, at 11 a.m. at the Baker Homestead outside Stratton, Neb. There, his ashes will be returned to the homestead he loved.

Email Krueger at KATSDADDIES@aol.com for more information.

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United Latino/a Pride members. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

United Latino/a Pride holds pre-launch event

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

United Latino/a Pride (ULP) held its first pre-launch celebration at the Rumble Arts Center in Humboldt Park May 3.

Founded two years ago, ULP is, according to their mission statement, "a community of Latino/Latina LGBTQ community members, organizations and businesses whose purpose is to work together to create awareness and support as well as celebrate the plurality of our identity regardless of religion, politics, organization affiliation or individual statuses by organizing cultural, educational and social events throughout the year and during ULP week."

The group's vision is, according to its website, "to create an environment where we come together as Latino/Latina LGBTQ community members and celebrate our individual lives, families and organizations, by participating in events that educate, and celebrate in public who we are and who we love."

Approximately 20 people attended the event, including Julio Rodriguez, board president of Association for Latino Men for Action (ALMA). Attendees noshed on food provided by Victor Carrillo of Kaleidoscope ahead of a presentation by co-founders Jessica Carrillo and Kara Carrell.

The presentation featured a preview of the events that ULP will be holding during its pride week June 4-10 as well as details about the organization.

Carillo explained that she and Carrell formed ULP since there are at least 30,000 people who

fall somewhere in the LGBTQ spectrum out of more than 1 million Latinos in the Chicagoland area and they wanted to have a way to celebrate who they are.

Carrillo said, "With this event we wanted to start a buzz about our upcoming pride week. We also wanted to celebrate both the Latino/Latina and LGBTQ parts of our identity and build a bridge between our two identities so we don't have to choose between the two."

"Our pride week will consist of a wide range of events for people of all age groups in multiple locations around the city which will show the rich diversity of the LGBTQ Latino/Latina community," said Carrell.

All pride week events will be free with the exception of the Unite41Nite closing party, which will be held June 10 at the Excalibur nightclub. Other events include a kick-off celebration, a business mixer, a guys-only mixer, a film screening, a youth mixer, a game night called Loteria Joteria!, a community summit, a dance at Harrison Park and a doggie day at the beach.

The collective of individuals, organizations, businesses and community groups that are involved with United Latino/a Pride includes Amigas Latinas, ALMA, Lambda Legal, vida/SIDA, Accion Chicago, Project Vida, xQsi magazine, Pantera Radio, Gozamos.com and unidos, along with many others.

See www.unitedlatinopride.org, www.facebook.com/UnitedLatinoPride or www.twitter.com/ULPchicago for more information.

Friends, family search for missing queer youth

BY KATE SOSIN

Friends and family are organizing a search party for a queer youth who went missing from his South Side home almost two weeks ago.

Maurice "JacJac" Blandin, 21, left his house at 76th Ave. and Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, April 28 and has not returned since.

Friends planned to launch a search party May 5 in hopes of finding him.

According to Charles Adams, a friend of Blandin's, friends heard Blandin leave home at 4:40 a.m. Blandin's cell phone was last tracked to Navy Pier before it lost a signal. Blandin has not been to work or communicated with family members since.

Blandin lived with his boyfriend, and several friends often stayed during the weekends at his house. Friends were staying at the home on April 26, when friends said they heard the front door close in the middle of the night.

Adams said that the only place Blandin was likely to have left for was his parents' house, but he did not arrive there.

Chicago Police News Affairs Officer Laura Kubiak said that Area South detectives are investigating.

Blandin was last seen wearing a black leather mechanic's jacket, a turquoise Aeropostale hoodie, a black T-shirt, black vest, blue jeans and black Air Force One shoes. He



Maurice "JacJac" Blandin. Photo from Charles Adams

has a cell phone (Sidekick), an iPod with blue cover, his ID, debit card and bus card.

Blandin is 6'1" and 150 lbs. He is Black with black hair and brown eyes. He was born Jan. 8, 1991.

More information on Blandin and the search party is available on Facebook at www.facebook.com/events/400510723305487.



Windy City Times' Lisagor Award. Photo by Erica Demarest

WCT wins Lisagor Award

The Chicago Headline Club honored Windy City Times by selecting the publication for its "AIDS @ 30" series. More than two dozen writers took part in that series (coordinated by WCT Publisher Tracy Baim), which began in April 2011 and concluded with the May 2, 2012, issue.

Since 1977, the Chicago Headline Club has distributed Lisagor awards to honor exemplary Chicago-area news media. The 2011 winners were announced May 4 at the Union League Club.

More than two dozen staff and freelance writers contributed to the series, which will be collected into a book available later this year.

The "AIDS @ 30" series was a finalist for the national Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) media awards in the newspaper article category earlier this year, but lost to the Boston Globe. The New York Times was also a finalist in that category.

WCT was nominated for two awards, both for in-depth reporting for a non-daily publication. The second Peter Lisagor nomination was for the Windy City Times series, "Lakeview crime: The numbers," an investigation of crime statistics in the Lakeview neighborhood. The series was written by Erica Demarest, Kate Sosin and Andrew Davis.

Demarest accepted the award on WCT's behalf. The Chicago Tribune won 13 awards, while the Chicago Sun-Times won nine.

Chicago 'Instagreeter' site now at Center

Chicago visitors can experience the communities of Lakeview, Wrigleyville and Boystown this summer when a new "InstaGreeter" neighborhood location opens Saturday, May 26, at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

This free visitor service offered by the Chicago Greeter program at the Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture (COTC) provides one-hour guided walks led by locals.

InstaGreeter returns this summer to the Pilsen neighborhood at the National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St.; to Old Town at The Second City, 1616 N. Wells St.; and to Hyde Park, departing from a new location: Smart Museum of Art, 5550 S. Greenwood Ave.

Neighborhood locations are open 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on alternating Saturdays May 26-Oct. 6. Walks are given on a first-come, first-served basis and are limited to six people or less with no pre-registration required.

The neighborhood InstaGreeter locations are an offshoot of the popular, year-round Loop InstaGreeter service, which offers visitors an opportunity to see the downtown area on a one-hour guided walk with a volunteer Greeter. Located at the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph Street, Loop InstaGreeter is available on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lesbian activist new director at Childcare Network

Andrea Densham has been selected as the executive of Childcare Network of Evanston (CNE) effective July 2, according to a press release.

Densham will replace retiring Executive Director Martha Arntson.

"I am thrilled to be joining CNE at this pivotal point in its growth," Densham said. "Never before has there been such a pressing need to work together in service of our community's children. As a parent, I know how important it is to create a fabric of support with parents, teachers, community partners, and leaders to transform the lives of children and our neighborhoods."

Densham has almost 20 years of experience in community-driven public policy and

advocacy, non-profit management and the building of strategic alliances. She has been involved with nonprofits and campaigns that are involved with, among other issues, LGBT health and public policy (the latter as the principal of Densham Consulting).

Correction

In last week's AIDS @ 30 article on Dr. Grady Garner, it should have been stated that Garner currently works at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology and will teach at the Adler School of Professional Psychology starting in August.

Also, an article on a panel on violence regarding gay males misinterpreted the remarks of various panelists. The item has since been removed.

Windy City Times regrets the errors.

Talking with out TV reporter Sean Lewis

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Sean Lewis is familiar to anyone who's watched WGN and CLTV, as he's been part of the former's news team since 2008 and the latter's since the 2007.

However, what some may not know is that Lewis is openly gay—and he was out long before he stepped foot in the Windy City, having worked everywhere from Fargo, N.D., to Richmond, Va. Windy City Times talked with Lewis about his background and his efforts to revive the local chapter of the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA).

Windy City Times: Tell me about your background.

Sean Lewis: I was an intern in Minneapolis, which is where I first heard about NLGJA. I've been out since my very first job in Fargo.

WCT: And is Fargo pretty conservative?

SL: I would call Fargo more libertarian: "Do what you need to do. Don't get in my way."

And I worked in a lot of places; I went from Fargo to Madison, Wis., to Rockford [Ill.] to Richmond to here.

WCT: Out of curiosity: Does working in a more conservative atmosphere affect how you report the news?

SL: No. It affects how I feel about going in to work sometimes. I've been on pig farms where I had to clean my shoes afterwards, and I've been to movie premieres where you meet stars. You run the gamut on this job; that's what I love about it.

The reason I'm in this profession is because my aunt was in TV news. When I was 7, I went to North Platte, Neb.; it was my very first trip on a plane by myself. My aunt would take me to work with her on stories. We met Gene Autry one time; I didn't know who he was until my aunt said, "He [sang] Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer." I thought he was a god.

At the time, former Sen. Bob Kerrey was governor then. He was in North Platte for something, and I got to meet with him as well.

I came away from this experience thinking you get to meet cool people and be on TV. That's changed now; I really love writing now. I've rewritten stories even though I did have to.

WCT: So what's your dream job?

SL: After that summer vacation when I was 7, my second-grade teacher asked what we wanted to be when we grew up. My friends wanted to be doctors, lawyers and teachers; I wrote that I wanted to be a TV reporter. So I'm living my dream—and I have been since my early 20s. How many people get to do that? [Smiles.]

WCT: And are the news teams like family? Some people say that...

SL: It really is. I'd say that 95 percent of the time I get along with my co-workers. Because you're part of the team, you're working toward a goal—and you snip back and forth sometimes. Personalities get in the way sometimes, and I'm the one at fault sometimes. But at the end of the day, you're working toward the same goal so you get it together enough. I've never had an issue balloon into something more.

Anybody in this size market will tell you this: Once you get to this level (a major market), you're bound to run into personalities that are challenging. And I'll bet you anything people will say that about me sometimes—I can be a handful. I can be goofy.

WCT: Watching the WGN morning news with Robin [Baumgarten], Paul [Konrad] and Larry [Potash], I hope they like each other, because I can see it going off the tracks very quickly.

SL: [Laughs] I only see them every so often because I work there at night and on weekend mornings. I've always had pleasant interactions with them. I think that show works because



Sean Lewis. Photo courtesy of Lewis

people do like each other; there's an underlying level of love and respect for each other.

However, in the '90s, it was a much different show. Now, you have a huge team there, with people who have backgrounds in comedy.

WCT: Readers may not be aware of this, but there are some who feel there is a schism of sorts between the worlds of print and TV journalism—that TV journalists look down on those in print.

SL: Oh, my God—that's what we think about print journalists! [Laughs] We think that print journalists feel we're not serious journalists.

WCT: When you report stories that are LGBT-related, do you have an heightened awareness of it, or do you report it like any other story? For me, it's different at an LGBT publication.

SL: I come to it with a different set of eyes, definitely. It's like a Black journalist reporting on a Black issue, or a female reporter [talking about] a women's issue. I think what you have to do is keep in mind that you're a journalist first, and a gay man second.

But you do come in with a better understanding. For example, when Christina Santiago was killed [in the Indiana State Fair stage collapse last year], because I know people in the community I was able to find her friends—and her friends trusted me with her story.

No matter what the story, I try to treat everyone with respect, because I know they're trying to talk with me. But when you have stories like that, they can affect me. I started thinking, "What if that happened to my partner?" I did bring certain issues to my news director—legal issues—and he found that very interesting.

Eventually, though, journalists become good at compartmentalizing feelings. There was a young soldier who was killed overseas; we found out 24 hours of them finding out. We knock on the door, and find the mom is beside herself. I felt horrible. I said, "We'll just take a picture and we'll be out of your hair." Well, while the photographer is setting up, she and I were talking, and there was a connection there. I just wanted to go home and go to bed after that.

WCT: I'm curious about your thoughts regarding outing. Are there certain instances where you approve of it, as with anti-gay politicians?

SL: The one thing I do not like is hypocrisy but you're walking a fine line, because you are

talking about someone's life. I am not in favor of outing for outing's sake. If someone is doing harm while living a life that is totally opposite to what is portrayed publicly, then it is a journalist's prerogative to call that out. However, there should always be a debate; it's never a clear-cut issue. What are the ramifications of doing that?

I remember Steve Gunderson [Republican Congressman from Wisconsin]. He was gay and had a partner, but the Republican party pushed him out [of the closet, in 1994] when Newt Gingrich was coming to power. Steve, I believe, was a moderate and would sometimes break party lines. He was a gay Republican, and there are many of them.

I think it's more of a commentary about society that some people feel they have to lie about who they are in order to gain acceptance. I think some people are elected [thinking one way], and they realize in Washington that there's a different way to get things done.

WCT: Let's talk about NLGJA a little. You're looking to revive it?

SL: Well, it used to be one of the biggest chapters in the country. Chicago hosted the national convention in '97 and '05. Maybe we'll be big enough one of these days to do that again.

I think there are more gay journalists now, but there are so many other clubs to be in. There are still Chicago chapter members, but the [branch] kind of went away. The last event I remember going to was with UNITY, and that was about two years ago.

It was interesting how I got into that. I just happened to say, "It would be interesting to have a Chicago chapter again." Then I became the guy.

WCT: I know what you're thinking: "That's the last time I suggest something."

SL: [Laughs] I know, right?

For more information on the Chicago chapter of NLGJA, visit the "NLGJA Chicago" page on Facebook.

Guzzardi concedes to Berrios

BY KATE SOSIN

In one of the most-watched races this spring, 39th Dist. State Rep. hopeful Will Guzzardi has conceded to Maria Antonia "Toni" Berrios after more than a month-long recount.

Guzzardi, a young transplant from North Carolina and former Huffington Post editor, came within votes of unseating Berrios, who some have argued is connected to the political machine of her father, Cook County Assessor Joe Berrios.

Both candidates had strong LGBT support. Guzzardi, whose brother is gay, is a strong believer in marriage equality and other LGBT protections. Berrios won the endorsement of Equality Illinois PAC, and has a longstanding relationship with Humboldt Park-based LGBT advocates.

Varying vote counts put Guzzardi within 111 votes of Berrios. Guzzardi had vowed to recount and suggested that his campaign had seen "inconsistencies" in precincts with strong "machine" presence.

But on May 1, a day after the deadline to file a court challenge, Guzzardi emailed constituents and called off the race.

"I hope the result of this election serves as a reminder to all of us that no matter how dysfunctional our government may seem, it is never immune to the will of the people," he wrote.

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Happy Mother's Day!

Windy City Times, with Photographer Kat Fitzgerald, is putting the final touches on a special photo tribute book to mothers of LGBTs. The book will be out by Pride.

In the meantime, with Mother's Day this Sunday, we are featuring three of the moms in this issue.



First up are the Mandolini sisters with their mom, pictured top: Jenna Mandolini and Alexi Mandolini, Below, Maureen (Mama Mandos) Mandolini and Aimee Mandolini. Aimee and Alexi nominated their mom in honor of her support of them after they came out to her.

Second we have John and his mom Char Cepek, who is a long-time PFLAG leader in the Chicago area.



And third are Barbara Smith and her daughter Chris Smith. They are a fun pair: both are lesbians, and both are strong advocates of LGBT rights.



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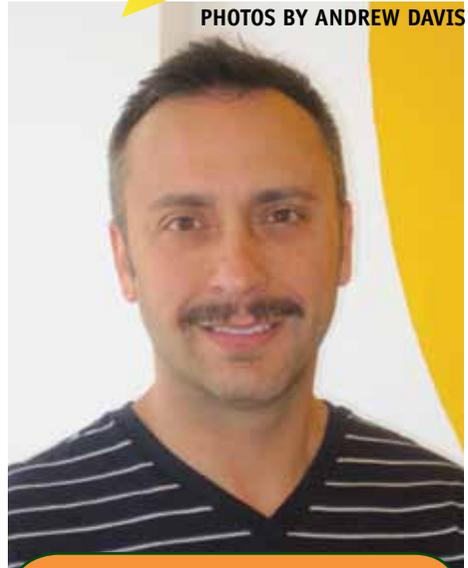
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GAY *in the* **LIFE**
Kenny Moore
 TEXT BY NATASHA HEMLEY
 PHOTOS BY ANDREW DAVIS



Age
44

Neighborhood
Andersonville

Job title
Owner of Pop Hair

Current studies
DePaul University, working on BA in sociology.

Relationship status
Single

Favorite junk food
Potato chips

Favorite local restaurant
Calo

Favorite soft drink
Diet Coke



Pop Hair, a new salon in Andersonville, is a one-chair salon. Its owner, Kenny Moore, is the salon's only hairdresser.

Moore got inspiration for his salon's catchy name from the pop-art movement, which first started in the 1950s.

"I always liked the colorfulness of pop art [and artists] like Warhol and especially Roy Lichtenstein that I decided to go with that sort of theme for my space," said Moore.

Moore first got into the hair industry in 1992 when he moved to Chicago and has been in working in it ever since.

"I've always wanted to own my own salon. Last year I was let go from a place where I was making pretty good money and couldn't find a good fit anywhere," said Moore.

Pop Hair, which first opened its door Valentine's Day 2012, was once a barber shop. "I was at Taste of Heaven on [a] cold afternoon in January, when I look over [and] see a 'For Rent' sign on this existing barber shop. I had my eye on [it] for a while," said Moore.

Moore had never owned his own business—much less a hair salon—before, and was afraid of the unknown.

"I was scared that the neighborhood wouldn't embrace me, and I would be left broke," said Moore.

Moore knew that he needed to find a home for his existing clients, as well as a place to build up new clientele. He put his fears of starting a new business aside and plunged in head first.

Pop Hair serves both men and women clients. Moore does everything from cut to color.

"I specialize in straight edge-razor cutting and natural sun-kissed highlights as men's clipper cutting. I lived on the West Coast for [some] time, and my color inspiration comes from the sun-kissed hair of California," said Moore.

Men's haircuts run around \$25, while a women's haircut costs \$40 and an all-over color starts at \$60.

Moore wanted to come up with a unique way to attract new clients to his salon. He enlisted the help of Graunk Enzenberger, one of the owners of a local design firm called Orange Skin, who came up with the brilliant idea of painting a simple smiley face on the salon's wall.

"It has been the best form of advertising I have yet to have. The smiley face is what draws so many people in. You can see it from Clark Street," said Moore.

Next time you want to try a new hair salon and you're in the Andersonville area, just look for the big smiley sign and chances are you'll end up at Pop Hair.



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Hobbies
Strategy games, crossword and Jumble puzzles, reading, sports, nature, travel, science, economics, geography, history, trivia.

Life's work:
 "Computer programmer. Toastmaster where I sometimes talk about transgender issues such as insurance coverage for transsexual procedures. Getting my company to regain [a Human Rights Campaign Corporate Equality Index] rating of 100 or leave to company that covers trans procedures."

Do you consider yourself an activist?
 "Yes, I like to think I caused my company Pride group to form a GLBT health committee where we are trying to make our concerns known to management."

Do you have a coming out story?
 "There have been several funny incidents where people thought I was female when dressed male, or I had to convince train conductor I was legally male while dressed female and using male ticket. I have been lucky that people have treat-

ed me well wherever I've been, even when my legal male status becomes obvious such as when I present ID."

What is the best thing about being trans/gender-variant?
 "Women can wear anything!"

How do you explain the way you feel about gender to others?
 "I talk about it often, though I don't raise issue before strangers except in groups such as Toastmasters. At a recent conference, the international president went in crowd asking for what Toastmasters has meant to them. I said though I had confidence already, Toastmasters gave me even more confidence to appear before my club as Linda. I didn't state my status except to one person later, but that certainly made some wonder! I mentioned my male name, but later an audience member and I went to the same session and she called me Linda several times!"

What do you think are the most important issues facing the trans/gender-variant community?
 "Passing anti-discrimination laws such as ENDA. Getting inclusive health insurance covering all TS procedures... Being able to use restrooms that match gender identity without fear. Defeating bigots and haters by continuing education. Younger people are much more tolerant of different gender and sexual orientation, so [they] should eventually overwhelm older bigots and improve social, legal and political climate."

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

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VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY
TIMES

VOL. 27, No. 29, May 9, 2012

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 Community Marketing, Inc.



**CHARLENE
STRONG**

There is help for the homophobic

The Seattle Lesbian would like to take the time to write a personal response to Mr. Fuckyouidikes who took offense to a recent story published in our online magazine titled Cleveland's WMMS Radio Issues Apology Following Rover's Morning Glory Lesbian Rape Comment:

Fuckyouidikes April 30, 2012 - 2:47 pm Are you fucking kidding me? You complain about a best of segment that has ran multiple times before. So on behalf of all the fans I would like to say fuck you, you god damn dike bitches, and I hope you all get fucking raped in the ass and get beat to within an inch of your life!

Dear Mr. Fuckyouidikes,

Your spelling and grammar are atrocious and points to the ignorance of your vulgar and juvenile homophobic comments. It's fascinating that those who desperately want to articulate how angry they are appear to rarely have the mental capacity to write a cohesive sentence that makes any sense!

How does one come to this conclusion, Mr. Fuckyouidikes? I would like to give you some concrete solutions for your hatred, so I did some

research for you. According to a website called All About Counseling, I thought this little excerpt might help you understand your condition. Yes, I said "condition." Unlike homosexuality, homophobia is considered a mental-health issue.

Homophobia

Though homosexuality was seen as mental disorder until the late 1970s, the majority of people have grown to understand the plight of LGBT people. Unfortunately, though, there is still some fear of them in our communities. This fear of a person's own sexual preference and lifestyle is nearly always irrational and usually due to an inexperience around these different groups of people. Homophobia is an exaggerated, irrational or extreme fear of gay men or lesbian women, and will usually lead them to fear and sometimes hate these groups and subsequently avoid most people they envision as homosexual.

What causes homophobia

In contrast to most phobias, it is widely believed that homophobia is primarily caused by a person's direct environment rather than an inherent view held within them or any series of traumatic events.

Here are the most common demographics that have reported the highest levels of homophobia:

- Older men
 - Low levels of education
 - Religious
 - Supportive of traditional gender roles
 - Politically conservative
 - Residing in a geographic area where tolerance of same-sex marriages are incredibly low
- Homophobia cannot only hold you back in your life; it can also hold back others around

you. This condition is not only an extreme or irrational fear of gay or lesbian people, it is also usually coupled with a hatred or outspoken disapproval of their homosexual relationships. This has recently become a large issue in our society and especially in LGBT communities. Making the effort for change will make a huge difference in your personal life, usually resulting in a more calm and collected composure in previously perceived stressful situations. If you are ready to make this change, which will result in positive changes on both a personal and social level, do some early Internet research to find the best treatment options available near you.

Mr. Fuckyouidikes, you are not alone in your delusional pursuit. The Anti-Defamation League website states:

Many conservative religious leaders have, at some point, spoken out against the gay community and warned of the danger they supposedly pose to America. 700 Club television host Pat Robertson said that, "Many of those people involved in Adolf Hitler were Satanists, many of them were homosexuals—the two things seem to go together." Former Congressman William Dannemeyer also compared homosexuals to Nazis when he wrote that "the homosexual blitzkrieg has been better planned than Hitler's..." Clearly, it is ridiculous to compare homosexuals in America to Germany's Nazi government which believed in warfare and mass murder as a means for taking over the world.

I do hope this shines some light on your condition and hopefully you will find your way to a mental health establishment that might help you find some relief for your outbursts of hatred and ignorance.

Peace...



**REV. IRENE
MONROE**

Richard Grenell: Mitt Romney's gay fall guy

The presumptive Republican presidential nominee, Mitt Romney, likes to play it safe. Romney avoids controversy by any means necessary—even if he has to lie, flip-flop or somersault.

When the news hit April 29 that Richard Grenell, an openly gay Republican, was appointed to be Romney's national security and foreign policy spokesman, anti-gay GOP criticism erupted.

The elephant that sits neither quietly nor invisibly in the GOP's room is that the Republican Party is just as gay as the Democratic Party—just more closeted.

Grenell would have been the party's first out presidential campaign spokesman, signaling a shift in broadening its appeal to Republican moderates and LGBTQ voters. Instead, we witnessed the continued anti-gay stronghold of the GOP's social conservatives. Less than a fortnight after his appointment to the campaign, Grenell abruptly resigned May 1, embarrassing not only the Romney camp but also the party's growing anti-homophobic contingent.

In a statement obtained by Right Turn, Jennifer Rubin's commentary from a conservative perspective in The Washington Post, Grenell stated, "I have decided to resign from the Romney campaign as the Foreign Policy and National Security Spokesman. While I welcomed the challenge to confront President Obama's foreign policy failures and weak leadership on the world stage, my ability to speak clearly and forcefully on the

issues has been greatly diminished by the hyper-partisan discussion of personal issues that sometimes comes from a presidential campaign. I want to thank Governor Romney for his belief in me and my abilities and his clear message to me that being openly gay was a non-issue for him and his team."

Grenell was a veteran Republican communications strategist when President George W. Bush, in 2001, appointed him as his director of communications and public diplomacy for the U.S. permanent representative to the U.N. Before coming to the U.N., Grenell served as a spokesman for several Republican officials, including N.Y. Gov. George Pataki, San Diego Mayor Susan Golding, Michigan Rep. Dave Camp and then-South Carolina Rep. Mark Sanford. Considering Grenell is a party loyalist who has been on the Republican scene for decades, no one would have fathomed a party backlash against him.

"Romney picks out & loud gay as a spokesman. If personnel is policy, his message to the pro-family community: drop dead," Bryan J. Fischer, director of issues analysis for the American Family Association and conservative radio talk show host, tweeted.

Contrary to Fischer's beliefs, Grenell is very much a family man. He and his partner have been together for nearly a decade. Fischer's fear is that Grenell's a proponent for marriage equality, but Grenell's only publicly critical of LGBTQ Democratic leaders' and Obama's lukewarm strategy toward winning it.

For example, in a March 16 op-ed titled "Gay Dems excuse Obama's failings for party invitations" in the LGBTQ D.C. newspaper the Washington Blade, Grenell challenged LGBTQ leaders for not taking a no-holds-barred stance with Obama.

"Last summer, President Obama reiterated his opposition to gay marriage in New York City one day before New York politicians passed marriage equality for their state...The president and his political advisers surely must have calculated the consequences for taking such a timely

stand. And they must have decided there was more benefit to opposing gay marriage than supporting it. ... There are Republicans and other Democrats more supportive of gay equality issues than Obama—and some just as tepid—so why are gay leaders putting all their trust into a man that isn't performing?"

Hard-nosed social conservatives, like Fischer, are worried about Grenell's public endorsement of same-sex marriage—the very antithesis of Romney's and the Republican platforms.

And with a right-wing organization like National Organization for Marriage (NOM) endorsing Romney, and whose key objective is courting Black churches for their strategic 2012 election game plan to drive a wedge between LGBTQ voters and African-American voters, Grenell can be perceived by some Republican homophobes as a potential and future flip-flopper.

For example, in The National Review online, Matthew J. Franck wrote, "Suppose Barack Obama comes out—as Grenell wishes he would—in favor of same-sex marriage in his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention. How fast and how publicly will Richard Grenell decamp from Romney to Obama?"

While the Romney camp attempted to do damage control concerning Grenell's resignation, it did nothing in terms of a public statement supporting its appointment of Grenell during the political dust-up.

During the two weeks of Grenell's position in the post, Grenell was neither publicly put out to comment on national security matters nor was he used on press foreign policy conference calls.

It has always been clear that Romney is neither a friend nor an ally to the LGBTQ community. However, it is also evident that Romney is neither a friend nor ally to those LGBTQ Republicans who would work on his behalf to get him elected.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Photo by
Todd
Rosenberg

HAND JIVE

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago is part of this month's dance round-up. See below.

DISH

Chop to it.
Page 32.PR photo of the burger
at Benny's Chop House

SPORTS

Wheel love.
Page 38.Photo of Michael Reyes
courtesy of Reyes

THEATER

Along for the 'Pride.'
Page 18.Photo from *Pride and Prejudice*
by Suzanne PlunkettDancin' up a
'joy storm'

BY VICKI CRAIN

Critically acclaimed contemporary dance company **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago** closes its 34th season later this month with three works from internationally renowned choreographers in the summer series at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance. Known for pushing the envelope by commissioning work from emerging choreographers as well as obtaining the rights to perform well-known work from master choreographers, Hubbard Street pushes the audiences to grow and learn as much as it does the dancers. The series features three compelling, yet distinctly different dances to showcase the talents of this elite group of dancers.

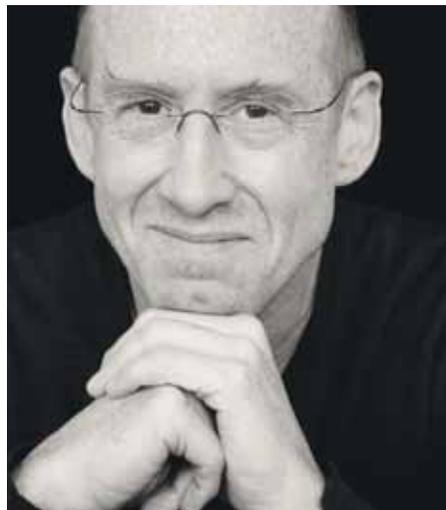
Hubbard Street's resident choreographer, Spanish-born Alejandro Cerrudo, created *Maltidos* in 2010 collaborating with Nederlands Dans Theater of Holland. Traveling back and forth from The Hague, Cerrudo pieced together movement phrases from both groups of dancers, eventually combining them into a cohesive, stunning work.

"When I look at this work, it feels like a bridge between his earlier works like *Off Screen* and *Deep Down Dos* and his recent world premiere *Little Mortal Jump*," said Glenn Edgerton, Hubbard Street's artistic director. (Edgerton appointed Cerrudo as the company's first-ever resident choreographer in 2009.) "*Maltidos* is very sensitive. The final duets where a woman dances with three different men as they interchange in the dark is an interesting expression of how different people come into your life and affect you and then they're gone."

Also on the program is a work by Israeli choreographer and director of Batsheva Dance Company (which performed to much acclaim at the Auditorium Theatre in March); Ohad Naharin made *THREE TO MAX* for Hubbard Street in 2011. By combining excerpts of past works spanning a decade, he created a collage of movement for Hubbard Street to make its own. After premiering on the groundbreaking all-Israeli program, the company took the work to New York for the Fall for Dance festival prompting Dance Magazine editor-in-chief Wendy Perron to place *THREE TO MAX* on her "Best of 2011."

The centerpiece of the series is the company premiere of William Forsythe's *Quintett*. Although Forsythe won't be in Chicago for this show, he will meet with the dancers this summer when he receives the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival for Lifetime Achievement at the American Dance Festival in North Carolina. Hubbard Street is performing *Quintett* at the festival, and is the first U.S. company to perform this work. Another of his works is in the company's repertory from 2005, but local audiences recently got a taste of his style when Joffrey Ballet performed *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated* in February. *Where In the Middle* (made in 1987) is strong, sharp and angular, *Quintett* is more rounded, warm and lush.

Three of the five members of the original 1993 *Quintett* cast are in Chicago setting the piece: Dana Casperson (Forsythe's wife), Thomas McManus and Stephen Galloway. Watching a rehearsal progress, it becomes obvious they are longtime friends. While teaching the same movement sequence, each breaks off helping the dancers



William Forsythe. Photo by Stephan Floss

master a different nuance or minute gesture in a work Casperson calls "gently specific." "We were talking about how the piece took 10 years to make," she said. "We'd all been in the [Forsythe] company a long time and had a strong relationship."

The music created by British composer Gavin Bryar brings a haunting touch with a repetitive chant recorded live from a man he passed frequently on the street. "Jesus' blood never failed me yet" is looped and repeated over and over as Bryar adds in an increasingly orchestral score. "I find it very meditative. You melt into it and sink into an abyss," said Edgerton. "It's really beautiful and knowing that it's a homeless person's voice, it has a weight and substance to it."

Another haunting quality comes from the fact that as these five friends came together to create this work, Forsythe's first wife was losing her battle with cancer. "I feel like this is the most personal piece of his, but not because of the context. It's not about the woman that passed away, but this is the result. There isn't any reference to death, but you can see the connection in the people and can tell there is more going on

than just your average dance piece," Edgerton said. Rather than creating a somber tone, the work is meant to be uplifting. Forsythe said (via Casperson), "It's about how fiercely we want to live and to live fully." Casperson added, "It has a very fierce, joyful energy to it—a joy storm, but in a fierce way."

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago performs at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St. Performances are Thursday, May 31-Sunday, June 3. Show times vary. Tickets are \$25-\$94; call 312-850-9744 or the Harris Theater box office at 312-334-7777. For more information, visit www.hubbardstreetdance.com.

Also performing in May:

Chicago Human Rhythm Project celebrates National Tap Dance Day at the DuSable Museum, 740 E. 56th Pl. Thursday, May 10, at 10:30 a.m. and Friday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$25; call 773-281-1825 or visit www.chicagotap.org.

Elements Contemporary Ballet celebrates its five-year anniversary with a program of three world premieres, a company premiere and an encore work Saturday, May 12, at 8 p.m. at the Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave. Tickets are \$25-\$30; call 773-935-6860 or visit www.athenaeumtheatre.com.

DanceWorks Chicago and African dance company **Muntu Dance Theatre** take the stage together at the Northshore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie at 9501 Skokie Blvd. Friday, May 11, at 12 p.m. (\$5) ; or Saturday, May 12, at 2:30 p.m. (\$10) and 8 p.m. (\$30-\$38); call 847-673-6300 or visit www.northshorecenter.org.

The Dance COLlective performs *COLlective Notions* for three shows Friday and Saturday, May 18-19 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 20 at 7 p.m. at Fassaes White Box Theatre in The Drucker Center, 1535 N. Dayton St. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for students and seniors; call 312-664-4631 or visit www.fanfueled.com/Venue/Details/509-fasseas-whitebox-theater.



Timon of Athens.
Photo by Liz Lauren

THEATER REVIEW

Timon of Athens

Playwright: William Shakespeare
At: Chicago Shakespeare Theatre at Navy Pier, 800 E. Grand Ave.
Tickets: 312-595-5600;
www.chicagoshakes.com; \$44-\$75
Runs through: June 10

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The real-life Timon's legacy is to be a synonym for misanthropy. Even his grave, its epitaph exhorting the curious to stay away, is located on unstable ground in danger of collapsing under the weight of too many onlookers. What turned this once-cheerful and prosperous Athenian so sour? The tale is as old as it is universal: He loved those he thought were his friends, only to have them spurn him when he needed their friendship most.

This is why, despite its being one of Shakespeare's shortest plays, the tragedy bearing his name is so rarely performed. Its first two acts establish Timon's generosity, its third ends in his betrayal and the final two are almost wholly

given over to his denunciation of all mankind. However juicy his invective, when spread out over an hour or more, it cannot help but grow tedious.

So how does director Barbara Gaines forestall audiences suffering a surfeit of vituperation? She dresses Timon's profligacy in the familiar fat-cat accouterments of our own society—the chrome-and-brushed-steel corporate offices of “Timon Capital,” well-fed men in expensive suits, the latest electronic gadgets and, for party entertainment, we get a ballet troupe that abruptly morphs into a squad of strippers. Then there are the spectacular technical effects that have become Chicago Shakespeare's stock-in-trade: war planes buzzing overhead in stereophonic sound, a CEO's portrait shattering in a crash of broken glass, Kevin Depinet's lonely seashore complete with sand dunes and low-lying fog, Lindsay Jones' low-down-dirty blues bridging the scenes.

Gaines also wisely casts, in the role of Timon, Ian McDiarmid, who renders our deluded hero a scrappy self-made magnate as extreme in his celebration of wealth as in his later rejection of it, and whose English vocal range—along with such AARP stuntwork as leaping off tables and stripping down to the buff for his final walk into the sunset—endows his lengthier diatribes with a delivery sufficiently varied to ensure our attention for the duration.

He is ably supported by James Newcomb's Apeantant—as capable a sparring partner as he was in *The Madness of George III*—and an ensemble featuring Chicago's best character actors but, ultimately, it's McDiarmid's Timon who makes us long for spectral assistance (Christmas ghosts, perhaps?) to steer our bitter pilgrim back onto the path of reason.

CRITICS' PICKS

After the Revolution, Next Theatre, through May 19. Amy Herzog's intelligent play is less the political tale it seems and more a family “dramedy” of how we react when our idols turn out to have feet of clay. It's a top-notch cast with a delicious steely turn by veteran Mary Ann Thebus. JA

The Butcher of Baraboo, A Red Orchid Theatre, through June 3. One crazy lady is handy with a cleaver, another with a .44 police special, a third packs a ready supply of mind-bending drugs and Marisa Wegrzyn just keeps pulling one rug after another out from under us. MSB

Girl You Know it's True, Pavement Group at Chopin Theatre, through May 13. The Milli Vanilli scandal is told in reverse while Bixby Elliot's gay playwright concocts a phony persona to get his work produced in this dark and funny new comedy. It's an incisive examination at what is real and phony in the entertainment world and how far people will lie to become rich and famous. SCM

Sixty Miles to Silver Lake, Collaboration at Flat Iron Arts Building, through May 27. Fans of Dan LeFranc's acclaimed 2011 play *The Big Meal* won't want to miss the Chicago premiere of his earlier work that is an emotionally time-condensed drama exploring the evolving relationship between a divorced dad and his teenage son. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

'Marvin Gaye Story' starts 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.

Some of his greatest hits include “I Heard It Through The Grapevine” and “What's Going On,” as well as hits from his partnership with Tammi Terrell.

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.

THEATER REVIEW

Pride and Prejudice

Playwright: adapted by Christina Calvit
from the novel by Jane Austen
At: Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave.
Tickets: 773-761-4477;
www.lifelinetheatre.com; \$32-\$35
Runs through: June 10

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Decades before *Bluestockings* and *Steampunk Lolitas* made Jane Austen and her literary sisters into the icons they are today, Christina Calvit was forging her reputation on meticulously-crafted page-to-stage adaptations of classics from the age of romanticism (along with its latter-day descendants—Georgette Heyer, et al.), spawning a series of lucrative productions for Lifeline Theatre, many of which have since enjoyed international exposure.

The reasons for this acclaim are immediately apparent in this revival—its second since premiering in the company's third season—of Austen's most popular novel. The first words uttered onstage locate us firmly in the society preoccupied with money and matrimony that was fashionable England in 1813. Once we are apprised that the financial solvency of whole families could depend on their offspring marrying well, we comprehend fully why Mrs. Bennet calculates her five daughters' courtship potential with the ruthless concentration of a general plotting strategic maneuvers. Since such schemes never succeed—not in literature, anyway—the four damsels destined for the altar discover their matches, after much deliberation, in suitors of similar values and temperament, rather than mercenary considerations (though the strictures of this literary genre dictate that nobody finish destitute).

What most distinguishes this Lifeline production is not the dazzling repartee swapped by a cast of shining new faces, augmented by seasoned troupers boasting gravitas to spare, nor

is it Melania Lancy's boat-in-the-bottle scenic design or Bill Morey's scrumptious costumes, but the attention bestowed by director Elise Kauzlaric on environmental ambience, down to the smallest details of acceptable decorum. At the social gatherings where most of the plot development occurs, auxiliary personnel are not left to ruminate in corners like grazing cattle, but instead are assigned activities—writing letters, playing cards, or dancing exuberantly to Christopher Kriz and Natalie Turner-Jones' museum-accurate period quadrilles, cotillions and reels.

Increasing the kinetic element places fresh emphasis on the impetuosity associated with an ethos elevating intuition over reason. Even our level-headed heroine—played with wholesome candor by Laura McClain—frequently confides coy asides to her audience (at one point, beseeching a spectator's assistance in repelling an unwanted advance). In a theater season rife with squalid sprawl, the results make for two hours of giddy merriment that never exceeds the boundaries of civilized protocol.



Pride and Prejudice. Photo by Suzanne Plunkett

THEATER REVIEW

When the Rain Stops Falling

Playwright: Andrew Bovell
At: Circle Theatre, 1010 W. Madison St., Oak Park
Tickets: 708-660-9540;
www.circle-theatre.org; \$24-\$28
Runs through: June 17

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Kudos to Circle Theatre for presenting a new (2008) Australian play, a bastion of English-speaking theater all but ignored by Chicago (and American) directors. This award-winning play by Andrew Bovell also is a highly literate piece of work, the type of play I'd expect to see at Writers' Theatre, City Lit or Eclipse Theatre. Although facing financial challenges, Circle Theatre has eschewed the appeal of a popular musical or comedy and stepped up to the plate of art with an unknown and risky work, although one that is more than worthy.

When the *Rain Stops Falling* offers domestic snapshots of four generations of an English family and an Australian family, 1960s through 2039, a mystical year in which fish have disappeared from Australia. With scenes set in London and various Oz locales, the play relates how the unmarried relationship of Gabriel Law and Gabrielle York (both of the second generation) produces the next two generations, and sharply hints that the two families may have unknowingly connected years earlier under dark and terrible circumstances.

The language of the play is poetic, image-

rich and often elegiac in tone but it doesn't make the work easy to understand. When the *Rain Stops Falling* jumps back and forth in time, and presents younger and older versions of its two women, all of which make it something of a jigsaw puzzle. Bovell's use of repetitive phrases and actions—something of a cyclical structure—feed into the puzzle. You need to pay some attention as the lovely language flows, and in time the relationships will become clear, maybe too clear for comfort.

The themes, too, will become clear, and they are fundamental Judeo-Christian ideas: Is life random or pre-ordained? Are the sins of the fathers visited upon the sons? What are our personal responsibilities? The play's women become hard and bitter in their losses, and their husbands and sons do not always understand why or, sadly, do understand.

OK, yes, this is a serious play about serious things but it's far from an overbearing tragedy or a beat-you-on-the-head message play. It definitely could use some comedy (it has very little) and probably could be 12 minutes shorter if several monologues were edited just a bit. Nonetheless, there is beauty in its unfolding and great ability in the production. Director John Gawlik has coaxed lovely and poignant performances, across a wide emotional range, from all nine members of his ensemble. Even at a final preview, they didn't sound a single false note. And the projection-based design concept by Bob Knuth (set) and Kevin Bellie (projections) is visual poetry perfectly pitched to the play, with vast landscapes and smoky cityscapes.

See this one, a touch of real beauty at Circle Theatre.

THEATER REVIEW

The Iceman Cometh

Playwright: Eugene O'Neill

At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.

Tickets: 312-443-3800;

www.goodmantheatre.org; \$61-\$133

Runs through: June 17

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Tony Award-winning star Nathan Lane's previous association with *The Iceman Cometh* was delivering Eugene O'Neill's suggestively named 1939 play as part of a punchline. That's when Lane played the unscrupulous producer Max Bialystock in the smash hit 2001 Broadway musical *The Producers*.

Who knew that 11 years later Lane would be headlining an incandescent and heartbreaking revival of *The Iceman Cometh* at the Goodman Theatre alongside acclaimed O'Neill interpreters and Tony Award-winners Brian Dennehy and director Robert Falls?

In tackling the challenging role of Theodore Hickman (aka "Hickey"), Lane definitely has all of the prerequisite charisma and chutzpah needed to be O'Neill's gregarious salesman on a tragic mission. Lane's perfectly honed sense of comic timing is a major boon, and he more than exceeds all of the anticipatory exposition that precedes Hickey's first clamorous entrance near the end of Act I.

Here, Lane is clearly stretching himself in exploring the darker aspects of Hickey's character. Hickey goes from being the perpetual life of the party to the harbinger of bitter truths to shatter the pipe dreams and self-perceptions of his friends who are mostly a den of drunken disillutes who layabout a bottom-rung boarding house and bar in 1912 New York.

Initially it seems Hickey is a newly converted temperance talker helping his unmotivated friends. But it soon becomes clear that it's a much harsher cleansing that Hickey is after for his friends and for himself.

There's no question that Lane commands the stage every moment he steps out from the wings. But you wonder if there might be a wee bit more dramatic depth to his portrayal of Hickey, particularly when he makes his shouted and exposed confession to his friends and the world at large in the final act. Yet it's early on in the run, and Lane is such an artistic professional that one suspects he'll dig deeper night after night.

Director Falls previously directed *The Iceman Cometh* for the Goodman with Dennehy as Hickey back in the early 1990s, and one can only assume that the passage of time has only deepened the two artists' insight into the play (I wasn't living in Chicago at that time, so I can't say). This time around Dennehy plays the former anarchist Larry Slade, whose own drunken routine of sitting on the sidelines is interrupted by the arrival of the young man Don Parritt (another impressive turn by Patrick Andrews). Dennehy's chiseled and world-weary stillness as Slade speaks volumes, and he and Andrews make this potential father-son subplot of absolution into a regretful tragedy on par with Hickey's own downfall.

Falls has also astutely cast the rest of *Iceman Cometh* with a large wonderful ensemble of character actors who garner all the laughs, sympathy and repulsion necessary to make their portrayals real and believable. Though the play is epic length (nearly five hours with three intermissions), these skilled actors are so effective that they more than make the long haul worthwhile and enriching.

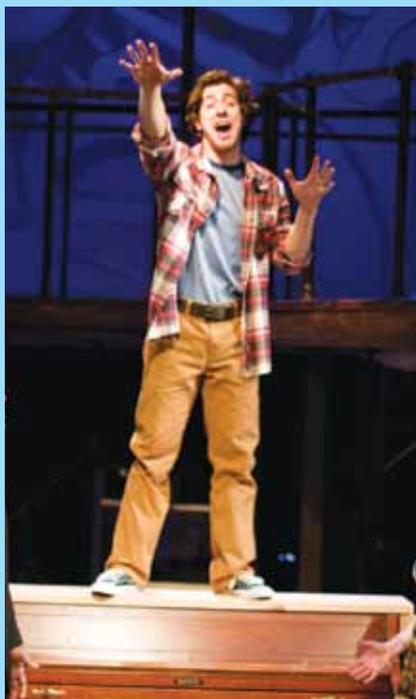
Stephen Ouimette (*Slings and Arrows*) is masterful as the grieving bar owner Harry Hope who hasn't exited his establishment in 20 years, while John Douglas Thompson is both fiery and pitiful as Joe Mott, the African-American former gambling den owner who has carved out an uneasy friendship with these white lowlifes.

Salvatore Inzerillo is both funny and menacing as the tough-guy bartender Rocky Pioggi (who's really a pimp despite all of his denials), and his interactions with the prostitutes Cora (Kate Arrington), Pearl (Tara Sissom) and Margie (Lee Stark) teem with misogynistic humor that can make you ashamed for laughing.

Director Falls creates some great stage tableaux, like the suggestion of *The Last Supper* for a less than happy final birthday party, or the almost cemetery placement of characters at their own bar tables in the final act. His guiding hand more than makes this Goodman Theatre revival of *The Iceman Cometh* vital and timely, particularly for anyone who has put off dreams or never even made the effort.

Although Lane and Dennehy's names deservedly receive top billing for this Goodman Theatre revival of *The Iceman Cometh*, the all-around performance quality is so high that people will be definitely talking about this production for years to come.

SPOTLIGHT



Fans of the late composer/lyricist Jonathan Larson are sure to get their fix now in Chicago. The About Face Theatre and American Theater Company's production of Larson's Pulitzer Prize-winning musical *Rent* is up and running, as is Porchlight Music Theatre's production of *tick, tick... BOOM!*, a much more personal and semi-autobiographical musical exploring an artist's concerns and fears as he approaches his 30th birthday.

Porchlight Music Theatre's *tick, tick... BOOM!* continues through Sunday, June 10, at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 8 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. An extra performance is at 10 p.m. Friday, June 1. Tickets are \$38 with student and group discounts available; call 773-327-5252 or visit www.porchlightmusictheatre.org. Photo by Jeremy Rill



"GALATI AND A FORMIDABLE CAST LET DOCTOROW'S OWN LANGUAGE RING POWERFULLY FROM THE STAGE"

—Chicago Tribune

"THE WHOLE SHEBANG—FROM THE BEAUTIFULLY GREY, MALLEABLE SET TO THE UNIVERSALLY SUPERLATIVE PERFORMANCES—IS IMPRESSIVE."

—New City

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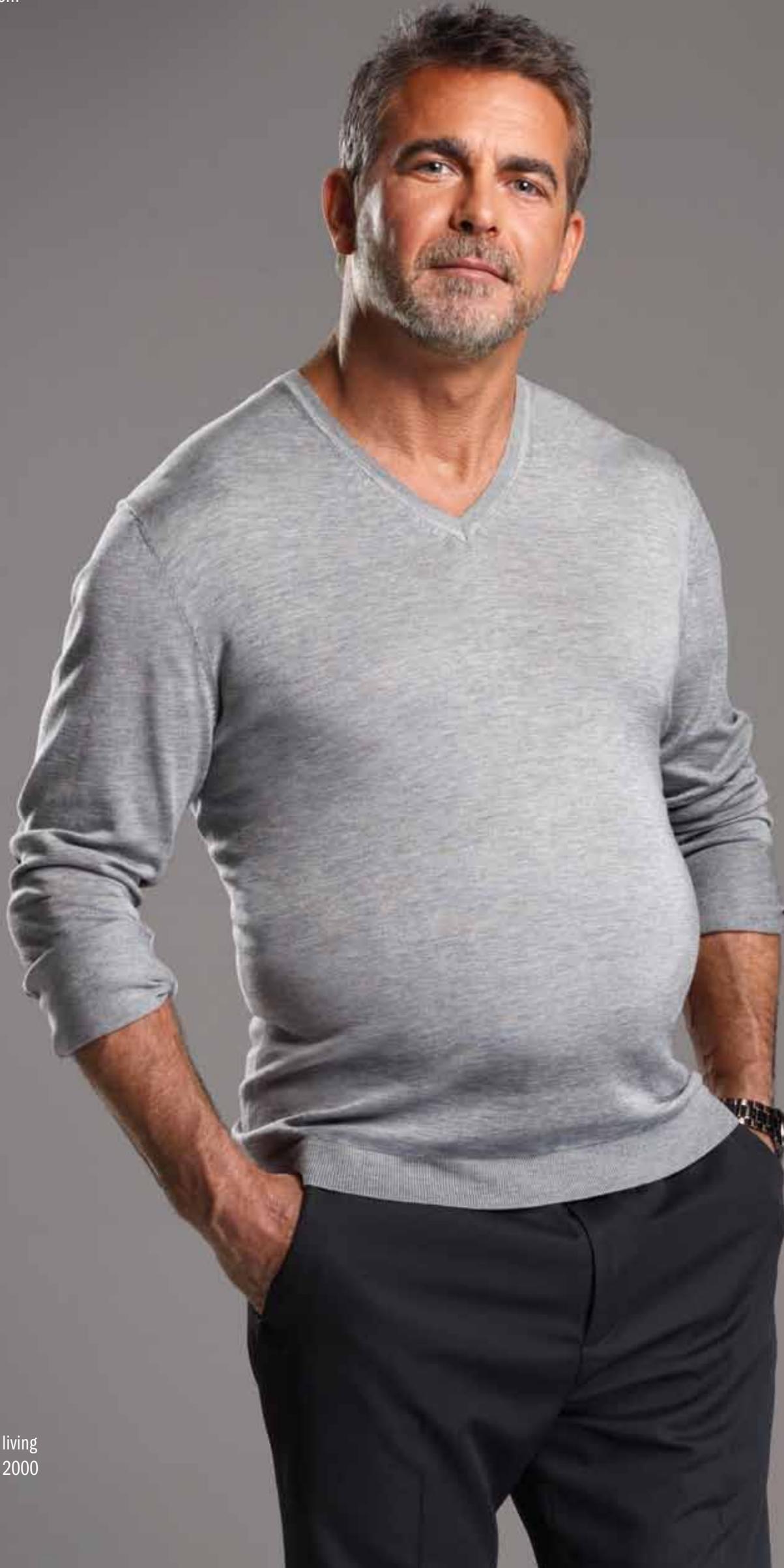
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EGRIFTA[®] is believed to work with your own body to produce natural growth hormone to reduce your excess belly fat.

Indication:

EGRIFTA[®] is a daily injectable prescription medicine to reduce the excess abdominal fat in HIV-infected patients with lipodystrophy.

Limitations of use:

- The impact and safety of *EGRIFTA*[®] on cardiovascular health has not been studied
- *EGRIFTA*[®] is not indicated for weight-loss management
- It's not known whether taking *EGRIFTA*[®] helps improve compliance with antiretroviral medications
- *EGRIFTA*[®] is not recommended to be used in children

Important Risk Information

Do not use *EGRIFTA*[®] if you:

- Have pituitary gland tumor, pituitary gland surgery, or other problems related to your pituitary gland
- Have active cancer (either newly diagnosed or recurrent) or are receiving treatment for cancer
- Are allergic to tesamorelin or any of the ingredients in *EGRIFTA*[®], including mannitol or sterile water
- Are pregnant or become pregnant

Before using *EGRIFTA*[®], tell your healthcare provider if you:

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- Have diabetes
- Are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed
- Have kidney or liver problems
- Have any other medical condition
- Take prescription or non-prescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements

EGRIFTA[®] may cause serious side effects, including:

- Serious allergic reaction. Stop using *EGRIFTA*[®] and get emergency help right away if you have any of the following symptoms: rash over your body, hives, swelling of your face or throat, shortness of breath or trouble breathing, 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

- Injection-site reactions, such as redness, itching, pain, irritation, bleeding, rash, and swelling. Change (rotate) your injection site to help lower your risk for injection-site reactions

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

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

EGRIFTA[®] will NOT cure HIV or lower your chance of passing HIV to others.

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

Please see Consumer Brief Summary of *EGRIFTA*[®] on following page.

Ask your healthcare provider if *EGRIFTA*[®], the first and only FDA-approved medicine for HIV-related excess belly fat, may be right for you. For more information, visit www.egrifta.com or call the AXIS Center at 1-877-714-AXIS (2947).



Consumer Brief Summary for *EGRIFTA*[®] (tesamorelin for injection)

EGRIFTA[®] (eh-GRIF-tuh)

(tesamorelin for injection) for subcutaneous use

Read the Patient Information that comes with *EGRIFTA*[®] before you start to take it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or your treatment.

What is *EGRIFTA*[®]?

- *EGRIFTA*[®] is an injectable prescription medicine to reduce the excess in abdominal fat in HIV-infected patients with lipodystrophy. *EGRIFTA*[®] contains a growth hormone-releasing factor (GRF)
- The impact and safety of *EGRIFTA*[®] on cardiovascular health has not been studied
- *EGRIFTA*[®] is not indicated for weight-loss management
- It is not known whether taking *EGRIFTA*[®] helps improve compliance with antiretroviral medications
- It is not known if *EGRIFTA*[®] is safe and effective in children. *EGRIFTA*[®] is not recommended to be used in children

Who should not use *EGRIFTA*[®]?

Do not use *EGRIFTA*[®] if you:

- have pituitary gland tumor, pituitary gland surgery, or other problems related to your pituitary gland
- have active cancer (either newly diagnosed or recurrent) or are receiving treatment for cancer
- are allergic to tesamorelin or any of the ingredients in *EGRIFTA*[®]. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in *EGRIFTA*[®]
- are pregnant or become pregnant. If you become pregnant, stop using *EGRIFTA*[®] and talk with your healthcare provider. See "What should I tell my healthcare provider before using *EGRIFTA*[®]?"

What should I tell my healthcare provider before using *EGRIFTA*[®]?

Before using *EGRIFTA*[®], tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have or have had cancer
- have diabetes
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if *EGRIFTA*[®] passes into your breast milk. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that HIV-infected mothers not breastfeed to avoid the risk of passing HIV infection to your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby if you are taking *EGRIFTA*[®]
- have kidney or liver problems
- have any other medical condition

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. *EGRIFTA*[®] may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how *EGRIFTA*[®] works. Know the medicines you take. Keep a list with you to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I use *EGRIFTA*[®]?

- **Read the detailed "Instructions for Use"** that comes with *EGRIFTA*[®] before you start using *EGRIFTA*[®]. Your healthcare provider will show you how to inject *EGRIFTA*[®]
- Use *EGRIFTA*[®] exactly as prescribed by your healthcare provider
- Inject *EGRIFTA*[®] under the skin (subcutaneously) of your stomach area (abdomen)
- Change (rotate) the injection site on your stomach area (abdomen) with each dose. Do not inject *EGRIFTA*[®] into scar tissue, bruises, or your navel
- Do not share needles or syringes with other people. Sharing of needles can result in the transmission of infectious diseases, such as HIV

What are the possible side effects of *EGRIFTA*[®]?

EGRIFTA[®] may cause serious side effects including:

- Serious allergic reaction. Some people taking *EGRIFTA*[®] may have an allergic reaction. Stop using *EGRIFTA*[®] and get emergency help right away if you have any of the following symptoms:
 - a rash over your body

- hives
- swelling of your face or throat
- shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- 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	- bleeding
- itching	- rash
- pain	- swelling
- irritation	

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

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

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.

For more information about *EGRIFTA*[®], go to www.EGRIFTA.com or contact the AXIS Center toll-free at 1-877-714-2947.

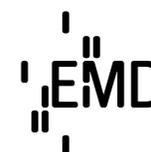
What are the ingredients in *EGRIFTA*[®]?

Active ingredient: tesamorelin

Inactive ingredients: mannitol and Sterile Water for Injection

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ART REVIEW

'Keith Haring: 1978-1982' at Brooklyn Museum

BY KELSY CHAUVIN

Seeing the origins of an artist is a fascinating privilege for those of us who have endured enough years to reflect on them. With the work of Keith Haring, whose early work (1978 to 1982) is now a large-scale exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum, it is an especially beguiling nostalgia trip. His was a well-documented life, whether it was his fellow School of Visual Arts students, Warhol devotees or himself recording it. In this exhibition, his art and his life are exposed in tandem.

Haring arrived in New York in 1978, at age 20, hungry for art. It's easy to see that his style was unique from the earliest sketches and notebooks, many on display here, along with a range of portraits of the artist as a young man. From the beginning, his work was meticulous, both in the visual and literal notes he crammed onto each page, taking the reader on a journey through his thought process.

One blue-lined page looks like an accountant's notebook. It is Haring's ciphers—his code lettering, numbering and symbol system that, once committed to paper, became his Rosetta Stone. He was establishing a scheme and style that were the building blocks of all that would follow. In a way, Haring's familiar broad ink strokes were his instant trademark, and the lines formed were his language.

He also was clearly having a lot of fun. With bold strokes come bold messages. Haring's abstractions let him simplify the religious, right-wing, TV culture that played in contrast to his underground art world.

Downtown Manhattan, at the time, was both grungy and rife with artists. They may have been starving, but their nightlives were full. At this exhibition, authenticity amps up with audio tracks from the era. At different galleries, we hear the music that would have been blasting at the Mudd Club or Paradise Garage—like Blondie, Kim Wilde, The Clash and so many more who have wound up on our favorite "greatest hits of the '80s" compilations.

Haring was in the middle of the social mix, hanging out with Jean-Michel Basquiat, Kenny Scharf and others who sprang from the lofts a then still-seedy SoHo. They influenced each other and shared media and concepts.

Haring gladly took on the role curator and organizer, putting on open-invitation, one-night-only art shows at random locations. Some of the

flyers and signs he painted are assembled here. In this exhibition, they are the gateway to a very cool multi-media room that loops some of Haring's experimental videos and show glimpses of Haring the party boy.

These galleries also are where we see how Haring applied his art to the canvas of the city—direct displays of art for the general public. Already, his style was notable. No one waiting for a train could ever mistake Haring's white-on-black subway-platform chalk drawings as graffiti worth dismissing. He would paper over advertisements, draw new works on them, then call his friend and photographer Tseng Kwong Chi, who would come shoot them. Posterity was not lost on these young artists.

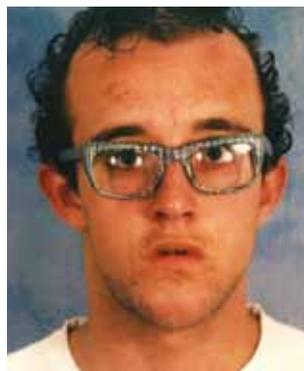
Collaborations like theirs were common, and encouraged Haring's irreverence. His unabashed homosexuality was one topic among many that inspired him to combine politics with art.

For a man who loved text and language, he made what fun he could from the dark cloud of Reaganism. His New York Post word collages and flyers feature reshuffled newspaper headlines that gave Haring his own media voice, shouting out headlines like "Reagan: Ready to Kill," and "Pope Killed for Freed Hostage." They were another way to recreate reality by regurgitating society's own words.

Recurring images are part of Haring's hieroglyphs, influenced by movies and books of his youth (he was an avid reader). Mysterious pyramids and flying saucers, familiar dogs and crawling babies, radios and nuclear reactors—visually they hold universal meaning that changes by context. It's incredibly fun to see the countless ways he adapts them. Their power fluctuates accordingly—in one "Untitled" 1980 piece, a dog floats godlike before a crowd; in another it gets sodomized.

For Haring, sexuality was another cause to expose. Sex held power and was inherently exciting, especially gay sex, the ultimate taboo. He used his own body for his art sometimes painting his own body. He also got into the physical process of his painting large-scale works à la Jackson Pollock. One of the exhibition's captivating videos is his first one, *Painting Myself into a Corner*, where he creates a full piece while moving to the beats of Devo.

Speaking of sex, the penis is another motif in his work, packing power as well as whimsy, as in the "World Trade Center" drawing of twin penis towers, part of the graphite collection Manhat-



Keith Haring self-portrait.

tan Penis Drawings for Ken Hicks, 1978.

It is a tremendous loss for his admirers to have lost Haring in 1990 at the young age of 32 from AIDS-related complications. Fortunately, he was prolific and created art for the masses—including public murals around the world—and he continues to influence generations of street

artists, fashion and product designers, muralists and others.

Large and small, intricate and broad, Haring's rapturous simplicity can't help but draw the eye. It's also easy to enjoy it aesthetically, making the search for meaning optional. An October 14, 1978, journal entry suggests that's exactly how Haring wanted it:

"I am interested in making art to be experienced and explored by as many individuals as possible with as many different individual ideas about the given piece with no final meaning attached," he wrote. "The viewer creates the reality, the meaning, the conception of the piece. I am merely a middleman trying to bring together ideas."

"Keith Haring: 1978-1982" will be on view through July 8 at the Brooklyn Museum. Call 718-638-5000 or visit www.brooklynmuseum.org.

CULTURE CLUB

"Catnip for show queens"
-NY TIMES

"Pretty BLEEPing good"
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Keith Haring artwork on display at the Brooklyn Museum.

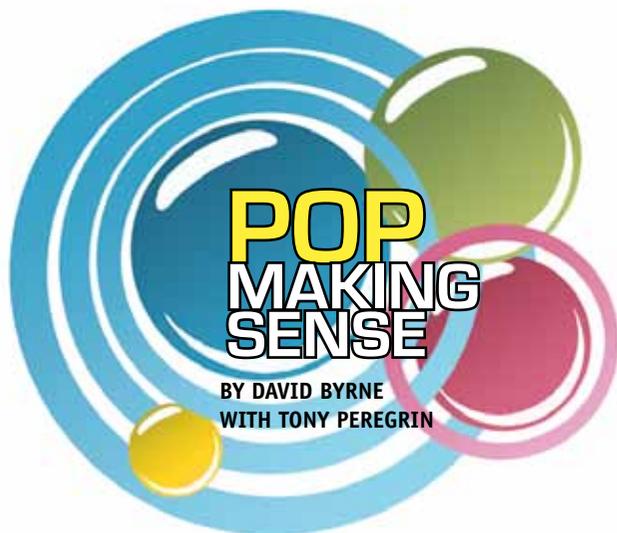
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POP MAKING SENSE

BY DAVID BYRNE
WITH TONY PEREGRIN

"I'm sick of always operating out of fear / I'm sick of being called a fag because I'm queer."

Glenn has a big voice and a theatrical presence. It is fitting that the quartet's breakthrough hit "Animal" has been re-done on Glee. The handsome Glenn resembles a young, waif Perry Farrell in dire need of some Chicago deep-dish pizza.

Legacy Recordings finds a treasure with the **Luther Vandross** collection *Hidden Gems*. The 15-track compilation showcases the late artist's smooth voice on romantic ballads like "When You Call on Me (Baby That's When I Come Runnin')" and his cover of "Goin' out of My Head." The highlight of the set is an overlooked duet from 1991, where Vandross is joined by Martha Wash on "I (Who Have Nothing)." The two were at their absolute best vocally when this was recorded. Throughout *Hidden Gems*, Vandross uses the word "girl." After his death Vandross' friends said he was in the closet, although it was somewhat known within the industry. *Hidden Gems* is out now.

Regarded as one of the top DJ acts in the world, **Above & Beyond** will perform at Congress Theater, 2135 N. Milwaukee Ave., on Saturday, May 12. Having remixed pop songs into trance masterpieces, such as Madonna's "What It Feels Like for a Girl" and Britney Spears' "Everytime," Above & Beyond has made its own new material as well. Last year's *Group Therapy* has the British trio reuniting with guest vocalist Zoe Johnston. Here, she adds a celestial sensibility, most notably on "Alchemy." Her angelic voice has graced tracks by Faithless and Delirium.

Let's celebrate Mother's Day with some fantastic works dedicated to the joys and labors behind motherhood. **Annie Lennox's** son, Daniel, was stillborn during the twilight of her '80s run with Eurythmics. She had her first daughter in 1990 and a second while promoting 1992's *Diva*. "Precious" has Lennox reveling in the wonders of parenthood. "Precious" dented the charts overseas with "Step by Step" as the B-side. Whitney Houston would turn "Step" into a minor hit on the soundtrack to *The Preacher's Wife*.

Throughout her career, **Sinead O'Connor** has translated her maternal ways into her works as heard on "3 Babies," "My Special Child" "This is to Mother You" and "Healing Room." Even when Britney Spears had her public meltdown,

to Whitney Houston, Chaka Khan, Minnie Riperton, Teena Marie and Etta James.

There will also be a VIP reception at 7 p.m. Illinois state Sen. Mattie Hunter and the What If...Carolyn Y. Adams Breast Cancer Foundation will be recognized for their efforts in the breast-cancer movement.

Advance tickets for the show are \$25 each; reception tickets are \$80. Call 708-533-6558 or email dmebain@aol.com.

released in conjunction with Autism Awareness Month, as her son Nicholas has been diagnosed with autism. "Too Soon" is available now and a full-length album is in the works.

Madonna received critical acclaim with 1998's *Ray of Light*. Here, she has a spiritual awakening, and her life finds new meaning thanks to her daughter, Lourdes. "Little Star" is one of the set's shining moments, dedicated to her newborn. Her latest, *MDNA*, features "I Don't Give A," which is a tale of the hardships of being a single working mom, although Madonna does not encounter the typical everyday worries.

As part of the entertainment for the Human First 2012 Gala, **kd lang & The Siss Boom Bang** will take to the stage at Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph St., on Saturday, May 12. The event will celebrate the first five years that The Center on Halsted has been opened and recognize individuals who have contributed to the LGBT community.

The 2011 effort *Sing It Loud* has lang accompanied by a backing band for the first time in decades. The result is remarkable. "I Confess" and "Perfect Word" show off lang's flawless vocals over mid-tempo Americana music. The remake of "Heaven" by The Talking Heads is simply exceptional. Tickets for the Human First 2012 Gala are available at www.harristheaterchicago.org.

HRC's Americans for Marriage Equality has a new ally, as **Jason Mraz** issued a video in which he speaks out in favor of same sex marriage.

The "I'm Yours" singer-songwriter has a new album, *Love Is a Four Letter Word*. "Living in the Moment" has a warm, tropical feel to it, while "Everything Is Sound" has a great horn section. Mraz insists he would help others if he had super powers on "Frank D. Fixer." Once a tour through Asia is completed, Mraz will make a trek state-side (with Christina Perri) with a stop at First Midwest Bank Amphitheater, 19100 S. Ridgeland Ave., Tinley Park, on Saturday, Sept. 15.

There is no sophomore slump with the superb *Picture Show* by **Neon Trees**. The set's first single, "Everybody Talks," is catchy as hell and the video captures the B-movie camp quality of the film *Psycho Beach Party*. Neon Trees shines on the somewhat slower "Trust." On "Teenage Sounds," primary songwriter and lead singer Tyler Glenn brings up his frustrations with those who just want fame. However, he sings of life in the spotlight during the number's second verse:



Neon Trees. PR photo

O'Connor offered sympathy for the pop star during an interview with Oprah Winfrey, saying that Spears is not perfect, just like every other parent.

The Celtic siren canceled the remaining dates of her scheduled tour to promote *How about I B Me (And You Be You)* so she can focus on treating her bipolar disorder. O'Connor's terrific take of Cole Porter's "You Do Something to Me" was featured on a recent episode of *Vampire Diaries*.

Dee Hilligoss' debut single "Too Soon" demonstrates a mother's never-ending encouragement to her child. The country-flavored cut was



Artemis Singers. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

Artemis Singers show June 2

To celebrate Pride Month, Artemis Singers will present a concert and dance spotlighting the music of 20th-century girl groups Saturday, June 2.

The show, "Girls' Night Out," begins at 7:30 p.m. at Broadway United Methodist Church, 3338 N. Broadway. Spotlighting the music of 20th century girl groups, the lesbian feminist chorus will perform "Boogie Woogie Bugle Gal," "One Fine Day," "Lollipop," "(S)he's So Fine," "The Loco-Motion" and other hits.

In advance, suggested donation is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children. At the door, suggested donation is \$20 for adults, \$10 for children. Price includes admission to both events.

Visit www.artemissingers.org for information.

ALT Q Music Festival May 19 at Old Town

Scott Free will present the 12th Annual ALT Q Music Festival Saturday, May 19, at Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave., at 7 p.m.

The event will feature Daphne Willis, JC Brooks, Alix Dobkin, Nhojji, E. Nina Jay and Band Practice.

Tickets are available at 773-728-6000, www.oldtownschool.org or the Old Town School of Folk Music box office.

Singer to pay tribute to Whitney, Chaka June 2

Vanessa Holmes—who, among other things, was musical director of "Chicago's Tribute to the Motown Greats" concert—will perform her first one-woman show, "Lovin' You."

The show will take place Saturday, June 2, at Illinois Institute of Technology's McCormick Auditorium, 3241 S. Federal St., at 8 p.m. During the show, Holmes will pay tribute

to Whitney Houston, Chaka Khan, Minnie Riperton, Teena Marie and Etta James.

There will also be a VIP reception at 7 p.m. Illinois state Sen. Mattie Hunter and the What If...Carolyn Y. Adams Breast Cancer Foundation will be recognized for their efforts in the breast-cancer movement.

Advance tickets for the show are \$25 each; reception tickets are \$80. Call 708-533-6558 or email dmebain@aol.com.

Lang Lang at Civic Opera House May 12

Internationally acclaimed pianist Lang Lang will play at the Civic Opera House—20 N. Wacker Dr., home to Lyric Opera of Chicago—for his only Chicago-area concert in 2012.

Lang's May 12 solo recital will include Bach's Partita No. 1 in B-flat Major, Schubert's Sonata in B-Flat Major, D. 960, and Chopin's 12 Études, Op. 25.

Tickets are \$25-\$125 (with a \$500 ticket including a post-concert reception with Lang); visit www.LyricOpera.org or call 312-332-2244, ext. 5600.

'Rigoletto' opera event May 13

DFO Productions will present "Rigoletto and Friends, a Tribute to Zinka Milanov" Sunday, May 13, at 3 p.m. at the Second Presbyterian Church, 1936 S. Michigan Ave.

The event will be in memory of voice teacher and opera lover Mario Rossi.

Soloists include performers such as Susan Nelson, Clara Salomom and Sasha Rashidee (sopranos); Sidni Kiely (contralto); Luis Galvez and Peder Reiff (tenors); Thomas Hall (baritone); and Vince Wallace (bass).

Tickets are \$20 at the door (with a 10-percent discount online, at www.RigolettoAndFriends.weebly.com). Call 773-458-3172 or see <http://2ndpresbyterian.org/2012/05/rigoletto-and-friends/>.

Artist expresses himself regarding marriage equality

BY DAVID-ELIJAH NAHMOD

"Art is not made to decorate apartments. Art is an offensive and defensive weapon against the enemy."—Pablo Picasso

The quote above, from one of the most legendary artists of all time. It's the first thing you see as you enter the website of California-based artist Scott Terry. It's a creed that Terry lives by.

Terry, who says he's in a new relationship, has no interest in getting married. "Other than when I thought I might marry a woman, it never occurred to me that I would get married," he stated in a phone interview with WCT.

And yet, marriage was very much on his mind when he created his eye-opening, simply titled Proposition 8 Project. Proposition 8 is, of course, the voter-approved amendment to the California State Constitution banning same-sex marriage.

"This art piece is comprised of 250 wooden blocks, some wrapped in Yes on 8 Propaganda and others wrapped in biblical text," explained the artist. "They are arranged in a chronological order and topographical order, beginning with a miniature Bible in the center and yellow blocks rising out of the chaos and winding their way through a sea of scripture."

Through photos on his website, ScottTerry-Projects.com, as well as on a recently posted YouTube video, people can see some of the powerful images that Terry has created. "All homosexuals should be castrated" is a quote attributed to the Rev. Billy Graham. "Keep Califor-

nia White" was the disturbing campaign slogan used by US Senator James D. Phelan for his re-election campaign in 1920.

The Prop 8 piece also offers numerous amusing factoids, such as "Brigham Young had 56 wives, and "Britney Spears was married for 55 hours, just for fun."

The piece has not altered Terry's personal decision on his own marital status. "I've not changed my views," he said. "I made the piece due to my extreme disgust with what people do with religion. When you come from a fundamentalist upbringing, the Bible is used for so many abuses



Scott Terry. Photo from Terry

in the world. It's patently unfair for people to take their religion and apply it to others."

Reactions to the piece have been mixed, including from within the LGBT community. The Prop 8 piece was included in an art show at San Francisco's GLBT Community Center, where Terry met with unexpected censorship. "They



Part of Scott Terry's Prop 8 artwork. Photo from Terry

were afraid that religious members of the center would be offended, so they put me on the third floor, and didn't include me in the press releases. No one saw it there," he said.

Things went better for the piece in the state Capitol. "I love watching people's reactions," Terry said. "At Sacramento (Calif.) Pride, people thought it was an anti-gay piece. You could watch the wheels turning in their heads. It took them a few minutes to realize what the piece is really about. I wish the people who need to see it would, but they don't."

The artist was raised by people who might most need to see his Prop 8 piece. He's a contributor to Freeminds.org, a website for ex-Jehovah's Witnesses. He's also writing a book about his early years. The yet to be titled tome is scheduled to be published in September 2012.

"I had the kind of life that people write books about," Terry said with a laugh. "The book is about growing up as a gay cowboy/bull rider/Jehovah's Witness. I have lots of crazy stories to share."

Currently, his Prop 8 piece is sitting in his garage, waiting to see the light of day again, which is why he produced the YouTube video. "I got a buzz to show it again," he said.

Terry continues to dedicate his life to creating art. His website has a section devoted to his exquisite watercolors. There's no doubt that he'll be making additional statements about religion in the future.

"I don't have a problem with people practicing their belief," he concluded. "Just don't encode them in the constitution."

Visit www.ScottTerryProjects.com.

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MOVIE REVIEWS

The Perfect Family; Dark Shadows; The Dictator; film notes

BY SAWYER J. LAHR

In **The Perfect Family**, gay icon Kathleen Turner is hilarious as Eileen Clearly, an obsequious Irish mother vying for the honor of Catholic Woman of the Year. This family-oriented, gay-friendly film is director Anne Renton's debut feature following her short film *Love is Love*, starring Emmy winner Jane Lynch (*Glee*).

Turner memorably starred in John Water's *Serial Mom*. Here, she plays a quirky, nervous nelly type whose joyous devotion to the church is tested when she must come clean to the nominating committee and the Monsignor—veteran gay actor, Michael Chamberlain, once the heart-throb Dr. Kildare in the 60s and also featured in *Will and Grace*). Turner's talent for physical comedy reaches its full potential as she selfishly tries to conceal her wayward son Frank, Jr. (Jason Ritter) and lesbian daughter Shannon (Emily Deschanel) in the hope of winning the title.

Squaring off against her primary-school rival, Agnes (Sharon Lawrence, *Desperate Housewives*), Eileen does a very un-Christian thing by telling a cockamamie story about her model family, all in order to receive the prayer of absolution from the bishop of Dublin, who's visiting the small town to honor the chosen woman.

When her daughter breaks the news that she's a lesbian and carrying a child, Eileen denies it outright. "It's not funny," she says. Despite Eileen's refusal to discuss the matter, the story does lay some guilt on Shannon for holding back the truth for so long. Mothers like Eileen should be given medals just for trying to understand. Turner plays out the traumatizing coming-out dinner with incredible fortitude. She portrays a complex Christian woman trying to hold onto the moral convictions conflicting with her motherly love.

This inspired screenplay, by Claire V. Riley and Paula Goldberg (*Out at the Wedding*, *Traveling Companion*, MTV's *Undressed*), is one of the most affirming stories of a mother's transformation when faced with the opportunity to accept or deny her daughter's homosexuality. Eileen's true test comes when she is asked to sign a church petition to lobby against gay adoption in the state. Only one parishioner speaks out against wasting the Church's time on these issues. Eileen looks around at the women at the

table who have signed the petition. Here's where the filmmakers rip your heart out, yet maintain our sympathy for Eileen's tangible dilemma. I could feel her heart and mine crushing at the sound of the pen signing her name to a piece of paper making a political denouncement of her daughter's right to raise a child.

Renton and the writers take the plot in a rosy direction that is not always a reality for many LGBTQIA people, but it is the case for some. I tend to think that life-affirming stories about family acceptance in this regard are cheesy, but this one isn't. It's not fair to mislead audiences that all parents accept their queer children wholeheartedly. Turner carries herself with constant trepidation, especially at her daughter's commitment ceremony—where she squirms in her seat before bursting down the aisle and crashing into a tray of champagne. As if the hijinks weren't enough, Angela's mother lends Eileen a blinged-out burgundy tracksuit with "HOT" sewn in sequins across the butt of the pants. Opens May 11 at AMC River East 21

Previews:

From the all-star producers and designers behind the Tim Burton legacy and the Johnny Depp empire comes Burton's next ambitious project, **Dark Shadows**, bringing together Oscar winner Richard D. Zanuck (*Alice in Wonderland*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Jaws*), Oscar winner Graham King, (*Rango*, *The Departed*), Johnny Depp, Christi Dembrowski (*Rum Diary*) and David Kennedy, a partner of Dan Curtis, creator of the *Dark Shadows* TV series on ABC from 1966-1971.

A fan of the original vampire mystery, producer Johnny Depp eagerly took the role of Barnabas Collins, the young playboy heir to a fishing empire on the coast of Maine in the 1770s. His business savvy fails to save him from falling in love with Josette DuPres (Bella Heathcote) and breaking the heart of Angelique Bouchard (Eva Green), a witch who turns Collins into a vampire and buries him alive for two centuries. Collins wakes up in 1972 to a very changed world and his family estate, Collinwood Manor, in shambles. He goes about restoring the failing family business, entrusting his true identity only to Elizabeth Collins Stoddard (Michelle Pfeiffer) under the auspices of live-in psychiatrist, Dr. Julia Hoffman (Helena Bonham Carter). The lat-



Kathleen Turner in *The Perfect Family*.

ter must be a hilarious interaction considering psychoanalysis had its birth in the late 1800s. The revered four-time Oscar nominated Danny Elfman rejoined Burton evoke the spirit of the original TV series and '70s horror flicks. Elfman has scored for *Milk* and *Good Will Hunting*, two films by gay director Gus Van Sant. Christopher Lee (*The Hobbit*, *Hugo*, *Star Wars*), Jonny Lee Miller (*Trainspotting*) and musician Alice Cooper make appearances. Opens May 11

The Dictator is Sacha Baron Cohen's third major anthropological experiment in offending everyone, once again, after playing the scandalous gay Austrian television host Bruno. During a Bruno publicity stunt at a Prop 8 rally in Los Angeles, Cohen's crew assaulted gay director Mike Stiff (*Kink Crusaders*), who is now making a film about unethical filmmaking entitled *The Bruno Project*. This time, Cohen plays a Col. Gaddafi-like dictator who does everything in his power to suppress the demand for democracy in his country. Few details have been released about the film prior to the release on May 16.

Film notes:

Husband to Judy Garland and father to Liza Minnelli, gay director Vincent Minnelli's **Lust for Life** (1956) plays twice at Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., as part of a tribute to the late Anthony Quinn, who was an Oscar-winning actor, former School of the Art Institute of Chicago student and apprentice to Frank Lloyd Wright. Shows Saturday, May 19, 3 p.m. and Thursday, May 24, 6 p.m.

—**Almost There**, a film by gay professor,

scholar and writer Dan Rybicky will be screened as a work in progress for the annual Kartemquin Films' Spring Showcase at Gene Siskel Film Center Tuesday, May 15, at 8 p.m. Rybicky will be present for audience discussion.

—**Diana Ross, Live in Central Park** was a night to remember. "It was one of the peak experiences of my career," says the former Supremes member. The diva superstar sings some of her best hits and gay favorites, "I'm Coming Out," "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," as well as standards from her Supremes glory days such as "Baby Love" and "Stop in the Name of Love." The 1983 broadcast concert has never been available for individual consumption until now. On DVD May 15 at shoutfactorystore.com

—From the director of *Is it Just Me?*, JC Calcianno, comes **eCupid**, a sweet dramedy about long-term gay couple Marshall and Gabe, split apart by a relationship phone app that becomes one half's obsession. Golden Globe-nominated actress Morgan Fairchild (*Dallas*, *Flamingo Road*) is the voice of the eCupid app, which you can download yourself on iTunes. The movie arrives on DVD May 15 at www.tlareleasing.com.

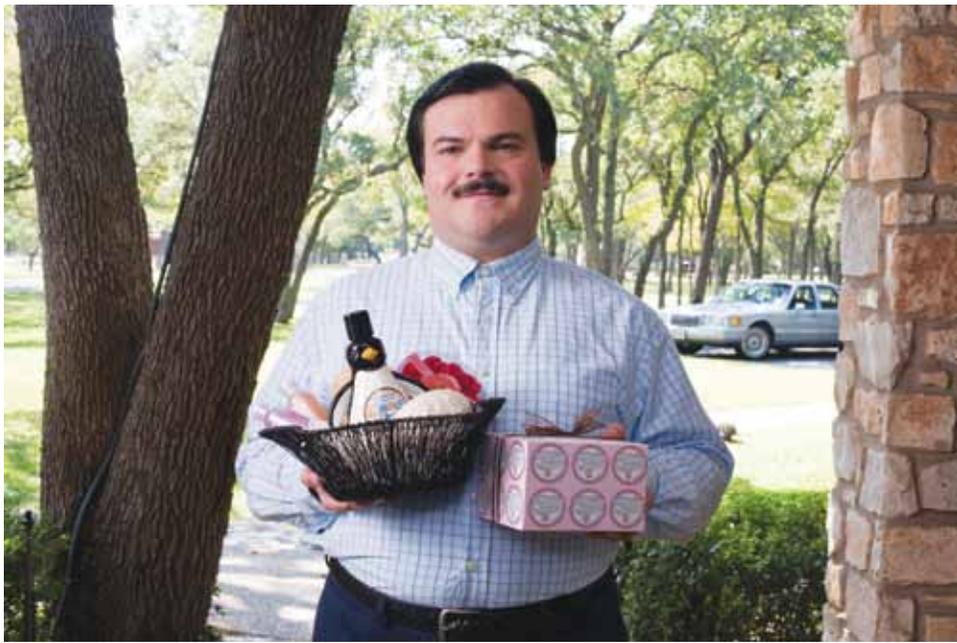
—Also new from TLA Releasing, **This is What Love in Action Looks Like** is a documentary that traces the true story of a teenage boy, Zach Stark, who blogged his way out of an ex-gay rehabilitation program that his parents sent him to after coming out. The controversial practices exposed in Stark's accounts inspired a nationwide protest to rescue him. It's on DVD May 8 at www.tlareleasing.com.



Johnny Depp in *Dark Shadows*. Photo from Warner Bros. Pictures



Sacha Baron Cohen in *The Dictator*.



Jack Black. Photo courtesy of Millennium Entertainment

Jack Black (maybe) goes gay

Actor talks playing a real-life man who might be gay—and the pedicure he gave Shirley MacLaine
BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Is this Jack Black's first gay role? As a small-town Texan teddy bear who goes off the deep end, it might be. But, because the real-life man he's playing isn't out, we may never truly know.

Enter Bernie, an offbeat black comedy based on a true story of a flamboyant people-pleaser who befriends the local she-devil, and then turns on her. As the titular mortician who is, as one townie calls him, "light in the loafers," Jack—known for fun-loving roles in *School of Rock* and *Tropic Thunder*, and a hilarious kidnapping cameo in last year's *The Muppets*—is totally non-Black, playing Bernie Tiede with understated finesse, an effeminate lisp and an endearing touch.

We got Black on the phone for an exclusive chat about his maybe-gay turn, what he has in common with Bernie and how LGBT rights is a "no-brainer" issue for him.

Windy City Times: Was giving Shirley MacLaine a pedicure the gayest thing you've done in your career?

Jack Black: Yeah, that was pretty gay. I wasn't really thinking gay or straight while I was doing it. I was really just thinking about giving the best pedicure that I could. I thought that I was damn good. Were you shocked at my proficiency?

WCT: Very much so.

Black: Key is blowing off the excess. That was just instinct. I think maybe I did pedicures in a past life.

WCT: Does your wife make you give her pedicures now?

Black: No. My wife gave me a pedicure the other day. That's true love, man.

WCT: The music in the movie isn't exactly anything like your hardcore comedy band, *Tenacious D*. What was it like to go into flamboyant musical-theater mode for those?

Black: It didn't feel that much of a departure for me, actually. Those songs, I loved singing them. It was a blast. I think they're actually pretty catchy tunes. [*Sings*] "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!" I loved singing that, I got into it. There's something really joyous about singing about our savior.

WCT: You're biased. You were Jesus in *Funny or Die's Prop 8: The Musical*. Speaking of

which, how did that come about?

Black: I had worked with Marc Shaiman on the Oscars; we did a thing with me and Will Ferrell where we were presenting for Best Original Song. Anyway, I knew Marc Shaiman so he called me up, I believe, and said, "Hey, we're doing this thing on Prop 8," and I was like, "Let's do it."

WCT: Why was this important for you to be a part of?

Black: It's a rights issue. I've got a lot of gay and lesbian friends and family, so it's personal to me when people and the government start talking about them as less than. It just seems like one of the no-brainers in our society. There are not a lot of no-brainers where you're like, "This is right and that is wrong and I'm definitely on this side," where you want to go out and sing about it and do things. But it feels good to be on the right side of history.

WCT: The community Bernie lived in speculated that he might be gay. Do you feel, despite how adored he was, they would've turned on him if he were out?

Black: I don't know. It's hard to say. But it's not a town that had, at the time anyway, a lot of people out of the closet just being who they really were. But the love was pretty intense, so I think he would've remained popular if he had just come out. I mean, there would definitely be some haters; there is lots of homophobia in that neck of the woods.

WCT: Did you shoot in the actual town of Carthage, Texas?

Black: We shot it near Austin. We never went to east Texas, to the actual place. It's a lot different, actually. If you're in and around Austin, that's sort of a blue oasis in a sea of red—that's where I would live if I lived in Texas. I actually would love to live in Austin. It's pretty groovy, pretty open.

WCT: What did you make of Shirley MacLaine's character, Marge?

Black: They were just friends. [Bernie] volunteered that they had never had any sexual relations, that they were just friends and travel companions. He was her servant; that was their relationship. It was more of a master/slave relationship than a true friendship, but there was an element of love and friendship there, too, and there was a codependency.

One of his character flaws is that he has to be loved; he was the most popular in this small town for a reason—because he wanted to be. He wanted everyone to like him, and she was a tough nut to crack. She didn't really want to like

him, and he had to work on her. If you didn't like him, he'd make it his life's mission to get you to like him. I think he was truly afraid that if he ever left her that she would hate him, and he couldn't live with that—so he stayed for an unhealthy amount of time until he just snapped.

WCT: What's your take on Bernie's homosexuality, as it's implied in the film?

Black: You know, I met him and I talked to him and that is a question I probably should've asked. But I didn't want to. It just felt personal, like none of my business. I don't want to ask someone their [sexual orientation]; that's for him to say. I mean, I've got my feelings—obviously I felt like I was playing him accurately—but he never came out himself, so I wouldn't be bringing him out if he didn't want to come out.

It's such a big part of who he is, and the character of Bernie, I feel like he's got a secret he's been living with his whole life. In a small town in east Texas, you're not gonna come out and

be all open. That speaks to the secrets that we carry.

WCT: Well, do you know of any straight men who would get pedicures and listen to show tunes and make curtains?

Black: Let me think about this. Wait a second. I've got two out of three there. I've got a big musical-theater background from high school. I was a big musical-theater nerd; Ben Vereen was my hero. And pedicures—I love a pedicure. Someone's gotta scrape off the cement down there on the heel. It's like the surface of Mars down there. As for curtain-making, that's where I draw the line. I just have no interest in that. But I am sure there are straight dudes who have the trifecta under their belts. I'm certain of it.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of *Q Syndicate*, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com.



Jack Black and Shirley MacLaine. Photo courtesy of Millennium Entertainment

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Mo'Nique gets personal

BY ANDREW DAVIS

If anyone would seem entitled to be a high-maintenance diva, it would be Mo'Nique. After all, she's had sold-out comedy shows, had television programs and has won numerous awards (including an Academy Award, a Golden Globe and other honors for her fearsome turn in the movie *Precious: Based on the Novel Push* by Sapphire).

However, talking with the multifaceted performer was almost a Zen-like experience. Tackling issues ranging from marriage equality to Jessica Simpson to yoga to her upcoming Chicago show, she was candid, calm—and refreshingly low-key.

Windy City Times: I know I'm a little late to the party, but congratulations on the Oscar.

Mo'Nique: I appreciate that, Andrew—and it's never too late. *[Both laugh.]*

WCT: I know how some Oscar winners talk about doors opening for them after they win. Was that the case with you?

Mo'Nique: The best way I can answer that is to say that there's a difference [between] white America winning an Oscar and Black America winning an Oscar. And it wasn't that doors didn't open—the calls happened, the scripts came in—but the offers had me [saying], "Didn't I win this Oscar?"

I've been in this business for 20 years. So by the grace of the universe, I've had a very successful journey, and I'm very grateful for that. But did my life change? When I win any award, I'm very grateful. But when I won the Oscar, it wasn't the same as when Reese Witherspoon won. That's the most honest way I can say that.

WCT: I was going through the news just before you called—but it seemed like every other article was about Jessica Simpson and her post-baby body. What's the deal with all the scrutiny, do you think?

Mo'Nique: Unfortunately, we live in a society that says "judgement." We live in a society where my gay brothers and sisters are fighting for the right to love each other. If we still have to fight for the right to love, do you think people are not going to talk what you look like? I say to Jessica, "Baby, be happy. Live life to the fullest. Enjoy your man, your baby, your curves—just be happy."

We're going to put it out to the universe that she'll be happy.

WCT: When I told some of my friends that I was going to interview you, they said to thank you for your support of marriage equality.

Mo'Nique: Mmmm. See, I have an Uncle Tina and I had an Aunt Donald. As a little girl, I watched the mistreatment of these people inside my own family, and I didn't understand that. As a child, you don't know what homosexuality is. I know that my Uncle Tina had a beard. I thought, "OK, that's a little different, but that's it." I made a decision that I would never treat anybody unfairly for who they were made to be. When the community thanks me for support, I thank the community for the support you've given me.

I really do believe that inside of me is a white gay man and a Black gay man. I was going to the [club Paradise] Garage in New York when I was 16. It was the club of life; you'd get there at 12 o'clock and leave at about 6. I saw some of the most beautiful people—and it was a gay club. They all treated me with so much love. They saw this little chubby girl walking in and they were like, "Alright, you little chubby diva!" I just fell in love with that!

And you all tell me how to dress, honey. I know when it's hittin' and when it's missin'. My children are like, "You can't wear that to the parade."

WCT: For some reason, you brought me to a



Mo'Nique. Pic by Darnel Williams Photography

conversation I had earlier this morning with a young man whose father threw him out of the house because he came out as bisexual and transgender. It just saddened me so much.

I do understand needing to process things. I don't get throwing out someone, though.

Mo'Nique: Were you sad for him or for his father?

WCT: Interesting question. My heart went out to the son.

Mo'Nique: See, I view it differently. Did you congratulate the son?

WCT: I certainly did. I congratulated him on having the courage to come out.

Mo'Nique: Yes! Oftentimes, we get caught up in the word "family," and we get caught up in "That's your mother" or "That's your father." We don't understand that they're just ignorant as to who we're made to be. When you have those individuals, the universe may be saying to you, "You need to let them go before you can move forward." If it happens to be [a family member], guess what? Sometimes, those things happen.

But you can look in mirror and say, "I'm grateful that the universe made me who I am and, to show my appreciation, I will not have a pity party and I will not be sad for someone's opinion and will keep going forward. Why would I want someone in my life who would offend or hurt me just because of the way I was meant to be?" Baby, I'm gonna find a silver lining!

My husband said to me one day, "I want you to count how many times you say the word 'I.'"

WCT: Hmmm....

Mo'Nique: That's what I said: "Hmmm." *[Interviewer laughs.]* He said, "That's what you want, and sometimes it's not about what you want. Be grateful about how things [are]; nothing happens by chance."

WCT: Switching gears, I was looking at your website [www.moniqueworldwide.com] and you were doing yoga—at six in the morning, no less. What is it about yoga that appeals to you?

Mo'Nique: Yoga, for me, is very relaxing. It al-

lows you to meditate, and the little girl inside me says, "We can do this." It gives you a different type of appreciation. When I do yoga, I'm not thinking about "stuff," foolishness or negativity. You focus on positivity.

Get out of your head—and don't judge it. At first, my fat ass was all over the place.

WCT: So was mine. [Mo'Nique laughs.] Maybe I'll try it again.

Mo'Nique: Just think about love, a waterfall—whatever your dream is. Just focus on yourself; it's about you and your space, even if you're in a room full of people.

I also do Pilates and work with a personal trainer five days a week. You'll live longer. Now, if you get hit by a bus, ain't shit we can do about that.

WCT: Control what you can control.

Mo'Nique: There you go.

WCT: Let's talk about your upcoming show. What can people expect?

Mo'Nique: It's been a minute; I have not been on stage in over a year. I have a lot to say. *[Laughs]* I always tell people, "If you really want to get to know me, come to a stand-up show." It's very honest. I'm not a joke-teller; I just say what's happening in my life and what my take is on things.

And it's Mother's Day—such a precious day. People ask me, "How can you perform on Mother's Day? Aren't you a mother, too?" But every

day for me is Mother's Day. I have these 6-year-old twins who are just little miracles. So I'm going to say, "Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers and the mother—." *[Both laugh.]*

By the way, I do perform weddings.

WCT: What? I did not know that.

Mo'Nique: Yes! I got ordained by the universe, so I can marry folks. I do weddings all around the country. I did a Gay Pride Week [recently]; baby, I think I had about 10 ceremonies.

WCT: With Mother's Day coming, though, what do you hope your four children have learned or will learn about life?

Mo'Nique: *[Pauses.]* That's a great question, Andrew. I hope my children learn to have no judgement and to know that they can have anything they want, or be anything they want to be with no shame, guilt or embarrassment.

One of my babies likes to put on dresses. You know what? We buy him the prettiest dresses we can find. We don't him to feel ashamed or embarrassed about who he is. It's funny because last night he said, "My girlfriend might not like me." My husband said, "That's because your dresses may be prettier than hers." *[Interviewer laughs.]*

I want my babies to know that they can be who they are—with no apologies.

The "Mo'Nique and Friends: Mother's Day Comedy Show" will take place Sunday, May 13, at The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St., at 7 p.m. (Rodney Perry and Tone-X will open.) Tickets are \$62-\$72; see www.thechicagotheatre.com and www.ticketmaster.com.

Also, read about Mo'Nique www.MoniqueWorldwide.com and follow her on Twitter (@MoWorldwide).



One Direction. PR photo

One Direction in Chicago June 2

The British band One Direction will be hitting the road for its first-ever headlining North American tour in support of its debut album, *Up All Night*. Among the stops is a show at Chicago's Allstate Arena June 2.

The band—made up for five men aged 18-20—recently made history as the first British group to debut at number one on the Billboard charts.

One Direction is known for the single "What Makes You Beautiful." On April 7, the band was the musical guest on Saturday Night Live; the host was actress Sofia Vergara.

In addition, Live Nation has announced that the band will perform at First Midwest Bank Amphitheatre in Tinley Park July 13, 2013. (Tickets are on sale April 21, 2012.)

See www.LiveNation.com for tickets.

Carol Burnett in Joliet May 9

Legendary comedian/actress Carol Burnett will appear in "Laughter and Reflection with Carol Burnett: A Conversation with Carol Where the Audience Asks the Questions."

This event will take place at the Rialto Square Theatre, 102 N. Chicago St., Joliet, on Wed., May 9, at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$39.50-\$125; contact the Rialto box office, Ticketmaster.com, all Ticketmaster outlets or Rialtosquare.com, or charge at 815-726-6600 and 800-982-2787.

Flower & Garden Show reveals '13 theme

Tony Abruscato, director and owner of Flower Show Productions, has revealed the the Chicago Flower & Garden Show's theme for 2013.

Next year, the show will present "The Art of Gardening" in Navy Pier's Festival Hall March 9-17. The show's preview event, "Evening in Bloom," will be held Friday, March 8.

"From painting and sculpture to music and dance, several of the Chicago area's best garden and landscape professionals will create gardens that interpret the theme, while Garden Gourmet, the Teaching Garden and seminars will inspire, educate and motivate gardeners of all ages and skill levels," Abruscato said in a press release.

To book group tours now and for information about year-round activities and information, visit www.chicagoflower.com.

Wilson Phillips has new CD, show

In celebration of its 20th year as recording artists, the trio Wilson Phillips has released the CD *Dedicated* on Sony Masterworks.

The CD is a tribute to the '60s groups The Beach Boys and The Mamas and The Papas. Among the songs the group covers are "California Dreamin'" "Monday Monday" and "Good Vibrations."

The lifelong friends also star in Wilson Phillips: Still Holding On, a reality show documenting the group's adventures in and out of the recording studio. The show is on the TV Guide Network.

NUNN ON ONE

Chef Rick Bayless: On theater, TV and eating insects



BY JERRY NUNN

Rick Bayless has turned a niche market into an empire with his Mexican cuisine. Being chef of Frontera Grill and Topolobampo in Chicago has led him into writing cookbooks as well as hosting One Plate at a Time on PBS. Recently he even tackled the world of theater with Lookingglass Theatre Company's Rick Bayless in Cascabel.

Bayless is bringing many of his Top Chef friends to join him this week for Chicago Academy for the Arts' "A Taste for the Arts: 30th Anniversary Gala."

WCT talked to Bayless to see what's frying in his pan these days.

Windy City Times: *Hola, Rick. I heard you are from Oklahoma City.*

Rick Bayless: I grew up there.

WCT: *I was born in Oklahoma, also.*

RB: Is that right?

WCT: *There are tons of restaurants there. That must have been a big influence on you growing up.*

RB: That is for sure.

WCT: *Why are you drawn to Mexican cuisine?*

RB: I went to Mexico when I was 14 for the first time and just fell in love with the culture, first. I come from a family of restaurant people. I went back there every year after high school and studied Spanish and Latin America culture in college. I was really fascinated with the culture then just decided to focus on the culinary side of it.

WCT: *Your specialty is upscale Mexican food, correct?*

RB: In Mexico people eat the kind of food that we serve in our restaurants all the time. It is only upscale to the people in the United States. They are used to the Americanized fast-food versions of things. Everything has melted cheese on it. That is created for the American audience.

WCT: *What do you think about eating crickets, like in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca?*

RB: Eating insects is part of cultures all over the world. In Mexico since time immemorial, there have been dishes that focused on certain kinds of insects. It is mostly in the United States that people "ew" and "ah" and think that people that do it are less than human. I don't talk about it because it is an American obsession with people making themselves seem better than other people. Once you see what role it plays in a culture it is just another thing you eat. As they say, "One man's meat is another man's poison!"

WCT: *Is there any part of Mexico that you have not been to?*

RB: I have been to every state in the republic.

WCT: *Your Spanish must be amazing.*

RB: I speak it fluently and all the time here, too. It is the language of our kitchen.

WCT: *How did you become involved with the Taste for the Arts Gala?*

RB: It is for the CAA [Chicago Academy for

the Arts] and my daughter went to the school. Her high schooling was at the academy. I knew about the academy before that, but when she was ready for high school she auditioned and got in there. It is an intense passionate learning experience. While it is not for everybody, for the kids that go there it is everything. It is a conservatory high school so you audition and get into one department and that is the department that you stay in for four years. It is almost like going to college and high school at the same time.

My daughter mostly had 10-hour school days—five hours of academics then five hours in theater. It was really an amazing experience for her.

WCT: *She studied theater?*

RB: Yes, she did her degree in musical theater at the academy, then moved to NYU.

WCT: *This must be very rewarding to get to support her past school.*

RB: I dreamed this whole thing up. I was the



Rick Bayless. PR photo

first one to do it and we have been doing this for about five years now. I think the world of the school. They really prepare kids incredibly well.

WCT: *You have lots of Top Chef contestants from the past involved.*

RB: That is one of the things I can contribute since I know a lot of chefs in town. It will be a really amazing experience in the sense that I have never before had all of these people that participated in Top Chef all in the same place.

WCT: *It was great seeing my friend Sarah Grueneberg compete this last season, and Dale Levitski is opening a new restaurant in Chicago now.*

RB: Yes, he is. They will both be at the event.

WCT: *Tell me about the Lookingglass show [Cascabel].*

RB: That was amazing. It just closed on Sunday night—from top to bottom, what an amazing experience. I collaborated with people that are at the top of their games. It not only was a rewarding experience but it was fun.

WCT: *I met you briefly at the Food for*

Chocolate event at the Merchandise Mart and everyone wanted a picture with you. You seemed very gracious with it, but doesn't it get old?

RB: Those are the people that make it happen. Sometimes I have tons of work to do but I still do it. Without those people supporting me then I am nothing. I try to make time for people.

WCT: *There is another new Bravo food show called Around the World in 80 Plates that debuts this month.*

RB: I think that will be a great one to watch.

WCT: *There is a gay contestant that I spoke to this week, Gary Walker from that show. Chefs have now come out of the kitchen and the closet at the same time!*

RB: In all of the arts the doors have been opened and people accept people for who they are.

WCT: *Would you do any more reality television?*

RB: I am not interested. My show is in its eighth season on public television and about to go into production for the ninth season. It does really well.

WCT: *Congrats on that.*

RB: I am super-happy about that. I also have a new cookbook coming out in the fall. It just keeps moving...

WCT: *Will the book be about Mexican cuisine, like in the past?*

RB: Yes, that is really my focus. The book blends in modern turning towards mixology. It is all about margaritas, different kinds of guacamole, and snacks.

WCT: *People can purchase that on your website?*

RB: Rickbayless.com with tons of recipes on there and stuff like that.

WCT: *I look forward to seeing you at the event.*

RB: It is going to be really wonderful and this year [it will be] especially nice. Since we are celebrating our 30th year of the academy, we were

able to pull off this event at the Harris Theater and open it up to the public.

When you see the students and the alumni perform, you will just be blown away by the talent that is in this school. It is a small school, but the talent is just incredible that comes out of there. We are going to have big performance for the general public then we will have our own quick-fire challenge between Takashi Yagihashi and Tony Mantuano, two Top Chef masters. Afterwards, all the Top Chefs will be cooking it up for everybody!

The gala will take place Thursday, May 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph St., with a performance by openly gay singer Justin Tranter from Semi Precious Weapons along with the alumni.

Then head over to a gala at Millennium Park Terrace at 7:45 p.m. for Top Chef madness where tickets begin at \$350 with table reservations for \$5,000—all to support the academy. Visit www.atasteforthearts.org or call 312-421-0202 for more information.

'Emerging Theater' nominees announced

The League of Chicago Theatres has announced the five finalists for the 2012 Broadway In Chicago Emerging Theater Award.

The 2012 finalists are 16th Street Theater, Red Tape Theatre, Sideshow Theatre Company, the Music Theatre Company and Theatre Seven of Chicago.

This is the sixth year of the award, which provides \$5,000, consultation with Broadway In Chicago staff members, and a marketing package that includes advertising support.

The award will be presented at the League of Chicago Theatres Annual Gala, which will take place Monday, May 14, at 5:30 p.m. at the JW Marriott Chicago, 151 W. Adams St. Tickets are \$300 each; see www.ChicagoPlays.com or call 312-554-9800.

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NUNN ON ONE: TV

Andy Cohen: Talks celebrities, plays 'Plead the Fifth'

BY JERRY NUNN

Emmy Award winner Andy Cohen has taken the *Real Housewives* all the way to the bank on Bravo TV. He turned a then-struggling network into a *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* success story. He has had the Midas touch, producing such highly rated shows as *Top Chef*, *The Millionaire Matchmaker* and *Flipping Out*.

Cohen is the first openly gay late-night talk show host with *Watch What Happens Live*, where he plays drinking games, talks current events and has two random celebrities "plead the fifth" where they can pass on one difficult question.

His first book, *Most Talkative: Stories From the Front Line of Pop Culture*, chronicles his journey into the spotlight. He will be in Chicago this weekend hosting *Center on Halsted's Human First* gala.

Windy City Times: Hi, Andy. First off, we are excited you are coming to Chicago.

Andy Cohen: Me, too. I love Chicago.

WCT: You are coming with kd lang. Have you met her before?

AC: I have never met her. I am such a fan of hers.

WCT: She has an incredible voice.

AC: Yes, she really does.

WCT: We appreciate you coming out for a good cause and human rights. If you get a chance you should check out the *Center on Halsted* while you are here.

AC: I hear it is great.

WCT: It is very impressive. So let's talk about the book. You had me at hello with your first interview with Susan Lucci at the beginning.

AC: Oh, good. It is a fun story, right?

WCT: Definitely; then it was full circle when you had her on *Watch What Happens Live* last night.

AC: Isn't it crazy? I got a little choked up at the beginning of the show. I don't know if you could tell.

WCT: You hid it well.

AC: Good. It was total full circle. Here is this woman who took me to lunch and changed my life in 1987. Here she is appearing on my show years later. It was very cool and life is so funny and amazing like that.

WCT: When did you first fall in love with celebrities?

AC: Well, I really fell in love with TV from as far as I can remember. With the *Brady Bunch* I just got hooked. I grew up two inches from the television, and I always wanted to be on TV somehow. The idea that I have gotten to do this for 23 years is amazing. The way it happened is a great story and it was one of the reasons that I wanted to write the book. I have so many funny stories about my life in TV. I also talk about my own coming out story, which I think is important for anybody to share and pass on.

WCT: I loved the Tammy Faye story and that mention of *Queerdonna*! Whatever happened to her?

AC: I am so glad. You are the first person to pick up on the *Queerdonna* reference.

WCT: My family is from Oklahoma and you mentioned covering [news there] in the book. Is it hard to switch and cover heavy topics?

AC: Yes, it was hard. I ultimately wound up getting burned out on the news business. It is pretty clear in the book how that happened. It was a wild time. I am glad I was in my twenties pretty much the whole time in the '90s, since I didn't get much sleep. Come to think of it, I



Andy Cohen. Photo courtesy of Bravo

haven't gotten much sleep since I was 18.

WCT: You must have a grueling schedule doing a live show five days a week.

AC: Doing that and the day job is a lot.

WCT: How long did it take you to write the book?

AC: Four and half months. I had a very hard deadline of Jan. 1. I started writing it in the middle of August. I did not have much time at all. I am very deadline oriented and good with them. I just had to jam it out. I spent every weekend as a shut in. It was pretty fun though. I think it was the most fulfilling thing writing a book. It is tangible proof of something that you did.

WCT: Have your family and friends read the book?

AC: Yeah; they are all amused.

WCT: It reads just like you. That Eddie Murphy part sounded so traumatizing...

AC: It really was. People forget that Eddie Murphy's whole act was built around dropping the F-bomb. That was a hard thing for me going to that show, and being on mushrooms didn't help matters. That was upsetting. There were no gay people on TV then. I felt like there were no gay people anywhere. That was a really hard time in my life. It is funny how far we have all come.

WCT: It still happens today. I went to see the comedian Jo Koy and he called an audience member a faggot and I wrote about it. Chelsea Handler even addressed the issue and the story blew up. It is not funny to me.

AC: People can't do that anymore.

WCT: Alright, before we get too heavy. It's time to play "Plead the fifth!" First question, I need the dramatic music but... Are you single?

AC: Yes.

Andy Cohen and Susan Lucci on *Watch What Happens Live*. Photo from Bravo

WCT: Okay, who is your favorite or least favorite *Housewife*?

AC: Plead the fifth!

WCT: What celebrity disappointed you after meeting them?

AC: Oh, god...

WCT: You mentioned Diana Ross in the book.

AC: She was really nice but if you build something up in your mind that it is going to be the most profound experience ever there is almost no way that you won't be disappointed in some way. She was lovely. In my mind, I thought she was a superhero.

WCT: I met her last week, actually. I didn't know what to say to her. What do you say to someone like that, who hasn't heard it all a million times before?

AC: Exactly. What do you say to this woman: "Ain't No Mountain High Enough?"

WCT: I just said, "Thanks for a great show." Is there a dream guest you would like to have on your show *Watch What Happens Live*?

AC: Michelle Obama! How cool would that be? *The Real First Housewife*...

WCT: Hey, you had a Kardashian recently on your show so that is big.

AC: I also got Ralph Fiennes, Liam Neeson and Jerry Seinfeld. Some would argue that it is harder to get them than a Kardashian.

WCT: I have really enjoyed watching the show. I think it is important that we have an

openly gay host on a nighttime talk show.

AC: I think it is fun that there is an out gay late night host. I like that.

WCT: I wanted to say congrats on *Million Dollar Listing New York* getting renewed.

AC: Oh my God! Isn't that great?

WCT: What about *Shahs of Sunset*?

AC: We picked that up, too.

WCT: I hadn't heard. Looks like there is a whole new batch of shows on the way.

AC: *Around the World in 80 Plates* starts this week and I love it so much.

WCT: I just talked to Cat, Curtis and Gary from the show. John is from local restaurant *Seasons 52*. Are you getting to try some restaurants while you are here?

AC: I haven't thought that far ahead.

WCT: Well, we are looking forward to you being here. Have a safe flight and I will see you at the gala.

AC: See you there!

Keep up with all of Andy's shows at www.bravotv.com and purchase *Most Talkative* where all books are sold such as www.amazon.com.

Andy hosts the *Human First* gala Saturday, May 12, at 7:00 p.m. at the Harris Theater at Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph St. Visit www.centeronhalsted.org for tickets on how you can join him and watch an unforgettable performance by k.d. lang that night.

ALT Q Music Festival May 19 at Old Town

Scott Free will present the 12th Annual ALT Q Music Festival Saturday, May 19, at Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave., at 7 p.m.

The event will feature Daphne Willis, JC Brooks, Alix Dobkin, Nhojji, E. Nina Jay and Band Practice.

Tickets are available at 773-728-6000, www.oldtownschool.org or the Old Town School of Folk Music box office.

Guthrie tribute show to feature Holly Near, Toshi Reagon

The non-profit arts organization portoluz is producing a concert honoring the legendary American folk hero Woody Guthrie.

On Saturday, May 19, portoluz will present "This Land Is Our Land," a centennial concert celebration of Guthrie. The concert will take place at the Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., at 7 p.m.

Headlining the three-hour show is Tom

Morello, known as part of Rage Against the Machine. There will also be the blues of Toshi Reagon, the 1970s-era anthems of Holly Near and the indie-rock phrasings of Jon Langford and friends, among other performances. The Illinois Labor History Society is a primary co-sponsor of this event. Tickets are \$26-\$56. See www.metrochicago.com.



Holly Near. Photo by Susan Wilson

BOOKS

Zach Wahls: Talks about 'My Two Moms'

BY THOMAS BATEMAN

Zach Wahls went from Iowan teenager to YouTube sensation in early 2011 after giving a simple but powerful speech to the Iowa House Judiciary Committee in favor of marriage equality.

Although surprised by his sudden fame, Wahls gamely embraced the subsequent opportunities, such as consulting for civil-rights organizations and eventually writing *My Two Moms* with Bruce Littlefield. Just in time for Mother's Day, *My Two Moms* tells stories from Wahls' life, as well as the lives of his moms, Terry and Jackie, in their journey as a family.

Perhaps the most widely known child of same-sex parents in the country, Wahls' story is thoughtful and compelling. Last week, he took some time to talk with *Windy City Times* about *My Two Moms*, his position in relation to LGBT

for that second audience, those people who are on the fence. [It's about those] who say, "It's a free country and maybe these people should be able to live their lives, but how does that affect the kids? Should they be able to be parents—what is that going to do?" And I think in the book these are things that I question, in a powerful way.

WCT: A friend who read this book after I had read it for the review described it as meat-and-potatoes gay activism, which I actually thought was a pretty apt description, because I think you're in a really great position to own your Iowan-ness, your American-ness, your gay moms, just all of that. I'm really curious as to how you see yourself as personally positioned to help the LGBTQ-rights movement in America and where you're going to go with that.



Zach Wahls.

activism; and how he hopes to convey the love and values he learned, growing up in a household headed by a strong, same-sex couple.

Windy City Times: How has the reception to *My Two Moms* been so far?

Zach Wahls: It's been overwhelmingly positive. The book is selling incredibly well; I've gotten some really great reviews. Actually, we got an amazing endorsement from Jon Stewart, who hosts *The Daily Show*. Just earlier this week, he gave a really powerful endorsement and I talked to him backstage and he taken the time and he really read the book and it was incredible, pretty humbling experience.

WCT: Very nice. Reading this book, I noticed that at various different points in the story that it seemed to be targeted at very different audiences. I wondered if you could speak a little bit to who your intended audiences for the book were and who has been responding to it thus far?

ZW: There are definitely two target audiences: the first audience—and this is the reason I dedicated the book to my sister, both personally and also a little bit more metaphorically to other kids—[is those] who you know have an LGBT parent or parents. I'm trying to speak to them and share my own story.

I'm also trying to answer a lot of the questions

ZW: I mean, Thomas, I think it's important to be clear that I'm not a spokesperson for [LGBT] people. I'm speaking mostly to the experience that I've had growing up and a little bit more broadly to the experience that other kids gay or straight have growing up with LGBT parents.

I do not consider myself a spokesperson for the movement or anything like that—just a kid from Iowa who had a speech go viral on the Internet. I'm a passionate believer and will defend those rights if it's important for me to do so, but as far as me actually representing the actual LGBT community itself as somebody who is not LGBT-identified; I'm certainly in no position to do that myself.

WCT: That's very thoughtful of you. Nonetheless, the LGBTQ movement, since the beginning, has needed really strong allies, so I think that in telling your moms' story you're in a unique position to be a very effective ally.

ZW: There's a fine line, an interesting dichotomy really, on that front. I'm in this weird position where I'm not LGBT-identified myself, but in some ways—and this is contradictory to what I just said—I do feel I'm part of the LGBT community insofar as I was born into this, too. I didn't choose to have lesbian mothers, and issues that affect LGBT people affect me in a very intimate

way. I'm in a position where I feel like I'm not an ally, in my mind, but I'm not actually LGBT. So I am a part of the community, but I speak specifically to the children of LGBT people, or of the community.

WCT: And how do Jackie and Terry feel about the work you're doing now?

ZW: I think they're both incredibly proud is really the overwhelming emotion. It's funny, they laugh and joke that they're more than happy for me to come home once a week for dinner, never mind writing a book.

WCT: And what you said about dedicating the book to your sister and, more broadly, children of other gay parents: What, in brief, would be your message to them?

ZW: Good question, Thomas. I think the overwhelming message I'm trying to send is twofold. One, to explain the various messages that are out there. You're alright, you're fine. This may sound like something you don't need to hear, but you're told so many times by people that you aren't OK and they just presume away your normalcy and that will have an effect on you. It's something most of us are already aware of, but it bears repeating.

The second point is that it gets better. Even though it's a message that we've heard a lot in the past year and a half we still are in a place it can be repeated. In a very real sense, I think the book is a reminder of things we know are true already but I think that as a peer, as opposed to an adult or parental figure, the message has

a little bit more weight to that audience in particular.

And to the audience that might be on the fence, my message is that love is love. My hope would be that by showing that the values we hold, responsibility, love, are similar, we can start to build that bridge and really them understand the perhaps, despite some of the surface aesthetic differences, that at the end of the day we are more alike than we are different.

More information about Zach Wahls and *My Two Moms* can be found at www.zachwahls.com.

Julie Andrews/Carol Burnett CDs out

Julie Andrews and Carol Burnett joined musical and comedic forces on the New York stage for a few nights during the golden age of prime time television.

Masterworks Broadway has released *Julie & Carol: Live at Carnegie Hall* and *Julie & Carol: Live at Lincoln Center* in a new, specially priced 2-CD set, with the Lincoln Center recording available for the first time in the digital era.

"Live at Carnegie Hall" was filmed in 1962, and CBS reunited Andrews and Burnett for 1971's "Lincoln Center."

See www.MasterworksBroadway.com. The double set is now available from all retailers and digital service providers.

BOOK REVIEW

Gay-rights activist Zach Wahls writes compelling memoir

BY THOMAS BATEMAN

In early 2011, Zach Wahls' testimony in front of the Iowa House Judiciary Committee about why his moms should be able to be married made its way onto computer screens throughout the country. Thoughtful and articulate, Wahls was a perfect spokesperson for children of gay couples working to assert their love for their families. Since then, he has been busy with speaking engagements and consulting for various gay-rights groups in addition to being a college student.

Wahls' latest step in his mission to normalize gay families and gay marriage is publishing a memoir, *My Two Moms: Lessons of Love, Strength, and What Makes a Family*. With the help of Bruce Littlefield, Wahls weaves a story that is thoughtful mix of his family's personal experiences and general musings on LGBT rights.

It may seem, at first glance, that the memoirs of a 20-year-old would be a bit premature. Wahls surprises, though, delivering a remarkably engaging, moving story of his experiences, both normal and out of the ordinary. *My Two Moms* is perfectly timely and, because of his youth, Wahls is in a unique position to make a compelling case for gay families.

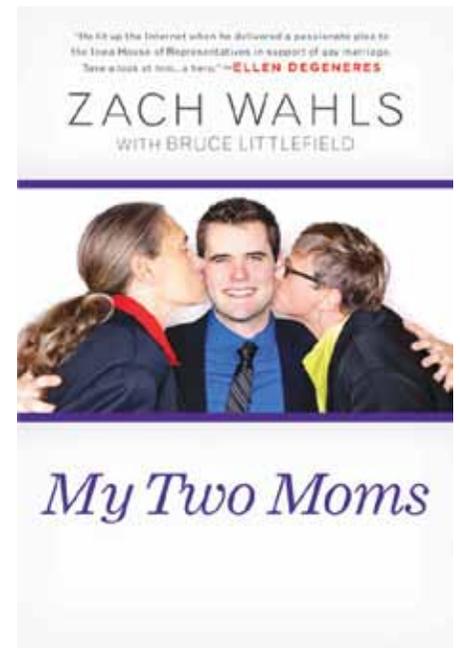
Wahls is in the first generation of children of gay parents who have seen legal recognition of their families become an issue of fiery national debate. Although he espouses a point of view many would consider radical, Wahls clearly and persuasively presents himself as normal, well adjusted; he is the product of a family with distinctly American values, simply headed by two women. His reflections on his own coming of age experiences appeal to both emotion and logic. Of his own childhood, Wahls states that, "I was normal until society told me they didn't think I was normal."

Initially, Wahls' self presentation may seem like someone trying too hard to assimilate,

not giving his moms enough credit for raising a remarkable person in sometimes difficult circumstances. Wahls addresses this directly, saying, "My moms' ... decision to foster values of acceptance and tolerance in my sister and me—were not rooted in the fact that they were both gay; they were rooted in the fact that they were both good people who had good influences in their own lives growing up." In essence, Wahls presents gay families as simply families that many people view as distinct because the parents are gay.

Wahls' ability to address multiple audiences in a seamless narrative is notable. He writes to many readers, sometimes speaking to a general audience, sometimes speaking to gay-rights supporters, sometimes directly addressing gay-rights opponents. Just in time for Mother's Day, Wahls' story is one of a family that is at once new and normal. *My Two Moms* gives us a compelling book that has something for all audiences. All things considered, any reader would be hard-pressed to deny that, if the outcome is any indication, his moms transcended normalcy and did an extraordinary job raising him.

My Two Moms is available in bookstores everywhere. More information about the book and its author can be found at www.zachwahls.com.





WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Greektown's Athena: The classics reprieved

BY JOE FRANCO

I am convinced that the Greeks invented their exceedingly complex language for one reason only—to make English speakers sound silly when ordering from their menus. “Yes, I’ll have the *spanakopi* ... er, the *spanakapita* ...the mini-spinach pies.” But no matter how difficult it may be getting the words out, shoveling the food in is far easier, especially when prepared the way Athena does it.

Athena is not nouvelle or however one says “new” in Greek. It’s a classic Greek menu with classic Greek ingredients served by classic Greek men. Nick Tsoukalas, the restaurant’s manager, has embarked on a redesign and reinvention of the Greektown eatery. With a new dining atrium with soaring views of the Loop, private party rooms and a subdued interior Athena whispers “We’re Greek” rather than screaming “LOOK AT ALL THIS GREEK STUFF!” You will find no replicas of the Parthenon friezes. Sorry—there are no



Kolokithakia (sliced zucchini with skordalia spread) at Athena. PR photo

mosaics of Alexander the Great. The new focus is now on the cuisine and, frankly, it shows. (Note: There are also retractable doors surrounding the spacious patio—and heated floors.)

Our server, Sam (and that is not his real name and, yes, he’s from Greece), suggested the *piperies florines* to start. These are roasted red peppers stuffed with herbed feta cheese. What could possibly be wrong with this dish? Nothing at all. I usually do not like peppers. I find their skins chewy, their flesh gas-inducing and their flavor nothing special. I’m not sure what the chef at Athena did, but these were tender and full of flavor. It must be a Greek thing. My dining companion order the *spanakopitakia* or the miniature spinach pies with a side of Greek pita also recommended by Sam. He said the bread was amazing. You know if he took it home and fought off Persians with a Hello Kitty pencil for the right to do so, he was serious about the pita.

I have a theory about lamb. Those who raise them cook them best. The Greeks have been raising lamb for millennia. According to Sam, the Greeks invented sheep, so who better to prepare them than the Greeks? I ordered the *paidakia*—five medium-rare lamb chops piled into the air on a platter. I honestly believed Sam after eating this dish, because the lamb chops were remarkable. I was actually disappointed when I finished them. I just didn’t want them to end! Had I actually eaten more I would have ruptured my Marc Jacobs skinny jeans, so one serving probably was enough.

My dining companion ordered the Athenian chicken. While a staple at the eatery for more than 15 years, the chicken was juicy (as were some of the waiters), bursting at their beaks with flavor. (They didn’t really serve them with beaks but it’s a good literary effect, no?) When going Greek always order something char-grilled. The chef at Athena has a way with seasoning.

I was expecting mediocre but what I got was much more than that.

Dessert really wound down the taste-bud extravaganza we had going on. If my tongue could sashay and work a runway while lip-synching Nina Simone, that’s what was going on at this point. So dessert for me had to be simple. The *crema caramale* was good but not great. I was a little disenchanted with the caramel glaze, which was a tad bit thin. Baked custard needs something more substantial, and the rather wilted caramel glaze did not provide any.

However, the Greek coffee sure did! I’d never had Greek coffee. It’s exactly like Turkish coffee but lighter in color and, well, Greek. If I were able to get this every day, I would. It was wonderful and the perfect end to a near perfect meal. My dining companion ordered the *ek mek*, a traditional Greek dessert with shredded *kadaifi* (shredded wheat pastry), custard and cream. He was torn between that and the *baklava* cheese-cake. (Aren’t we all, though?) He was completely satisfied with his choice and was determined to return in a month for his 78th birthday for more *mek*.

Athena is a Greek restaurant, with Greek roots and a sampling of Greek cuisine in a very non-Greek setting. There is no *bouzouki*. There are no Grecian urns depicting the ancient Olympiads. What abounds is great Greek food with great Greek hospitality.

For more information in Athena, visit www.athenarestaurantchicago.com.

Chop, chop

One of the undiscovered jewels on the restaurant scene, Benny’s Chop House (444 N. Wabash Ave.; www.bennyschophouse.com) is refreshingly low-key despite its sophisticated atmosphere.

During a media visit, Director of Operations Mitchell Schmieding talked about one of the

more popular aspects of the restaurant: “Whenever we do a reception, we remove all the furniture and, of course, what are the most requested tables in a restaurant? Booths, by a window. Since we have large window spaces, we decided to turn [the front area] into a mini-dining room/bar, and it’s been outrageously successful.”

Benny’s (the third reiteration of a restaurant at this address, which is where the Jazz Record Mart used to be) is like many steakhouses, with warm woods and muted lighting—almost giving the feel that practically any table in the back dining-room area (divided into three sections to cut down on traffic and noise, Schmieding said) feels like a private getaway. However, one thing that distinguishes the restaurant from similar ones is the lack of a dress code—a surprising aspect of this elegant eatery. In fact, said Schmieding, one could wear cutoffs and flip-flops (although this writer would never do that, natch). “[What you wear] doesn’t matter—as long as you have cash to spend,” said Schmieding.

As for the food, the quality matches the ambience. The jumbo lump crab cake was flavorful and the dish called Benny’s Bone Marrow was out of this world.

Even though it seemed that every item I tasted was a high point, the wild mushroom and truffle flatbread was, hands down, the best flatbread I’ve ever tasted. (I plan on going back just to have that again.) However, Executive Chef Jonathan Lane definitely knows his meats—and if his homemade cured maple bacon is wrong, I don’t want to be right.

Benny’s is one of the few steakhouses with its own pastry chef, and Aaron Lindgren doesn’t disappoint. I tried a dessert trio of a Meyer lemon cloud with honey gold tangerine sorbet; chocolate pudding cake with toffee ice cream; and milk chocolate s’mores with graham-cracker “mud”—and each item was more phenomenal than the previous one.

So run (don’t walk) to Benny’s. You will be more than satisfied.

There is entertainment Wednesdays through Sundays. Past performers include vocalist Joan Collaso; pianist Larry Hanks; and duo Cécile Savage and Calvin “Koco” Brunson.

—Andrew Davis

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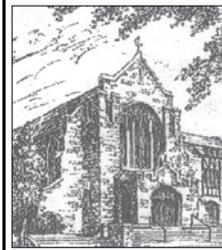
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NEED LEGAL HELP? Pride Law, Andersonville's legal aid clinic for the LGBT community can help. Clinic hours every Wednesday, 5-8:00 p.m. by appointment only. **Call 1-866-703-5509 or send us an email at prideslaw@tsamislaw.com.**

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TENTH ANNUAL

**TOUCHE
WED., MAY 2**



Another tense round of competition at Touche began with 12 singers and ended with two new finalists: Tex and Tim. Photos by Dave Ouano. More photos at facebook.com/windycitygayidol. Look for photos from Windy City Gay Idol at DS Tequila Co. in next week's Windy City Times.

TELEVISION

Cat Cora, Curtis Stone: Taking culinary viewers 'Around the World'

BY JERRY NUNN

Food experts Curtis Stone and Cat Cora have a new recipe cooking for a weekly series on Bravo television entitled *Around The World In 80 Plates*. Twelve chefs will compete on the show in two groups as they travel around the world running local restaurants. The losing team has to vote off a teammate, stirring up drama in the process.

Stone is not only a chef but a best-selling author and television personality, leading him now to be a permanent advisor on the hit show *The Biggest Loser*. He took over for the third season as host on Bravo's *Top Chef Masters* and will do it again this year.

Out and proud lesbian chef Cora made television history by being the first and only female to land on *Iron Chef America*. She has authored three top-selling cookbooks and raises four sons with her partner, Jennifer.

They talked about the show that mixes *Top Chef*, *Survivor* and *The Amazing Race* all together to make a new dish for television viewers.

Windy City Times: I just watched the first episode and I was hoping you both could talk about the Chicago contestants John Vermiglio and Gary Walker, who I just spoke with yesterday.

Curtis Stone: Well, you might have lost one of your locals there because when I saw Gary just the other day at the press tour he had men-

tioned he was thinking about a move out to L.A.

WCT: I know; he told me he just moved there.

CS: Gary might be jumping around. But, look: John worked with [chef] Art Smith for a long time there and, you know, Art's a dear friend of both Cat's and mine and an incredible cook. When you have somebody that comes from such a staple of that beautiful comfort food that Art's known for—and Chicago's such a great foodie city, too—you're sort of immersed in that culture. They were really strong contestants, both Gary and John. They're a lot of fun, too.

Cat Cora: Oh, yeah. Both of them were great and so different in so many ways. Just in the fact that Gary has this just incredible personality and can speak all of these languages and I think to me and Curtis, you might agree, just one of the sweetest of the contestants on the whole show. John is very talented, very strategic, has a really good mind for this kind of competition. Both were just a joy to work with and really, really fun to watch.

CS: Yeah, they sure were. A great example of the diversity of talent that we have on the show because Gary, you know, his last job I think was working at a sorority house. He's the first to say that he doesn't have the chops of some of the other chefs in terms of their culinary expertise. But as Cat mentioned, he speaks four or five languages and he's traveled the world and extremely street smart. He can get by on his smile.



Curtis Stone and Cat Cora of *Around the World in 80 Plates*. Photo courtesy of Bravo

We saw great skills come from Gary, but John is a self-proclaimed Midwestern boy who hasn't done a whole lot of travel, doesn't know much outside of America but is a really good cook and comes from a really great background of chefs. It's really fascinating to watch these episodes unfold, through the drama that the contestants have to live with within their own family, constantly voting each other off and then being put into a team with someone that they were just fighting with the day before and having to work all that out. [There's] also the fun just of being in different parts of the world.

WCT: Curtis, can you talk about how chefs worked with certain ingredients?

CS: Do you know what? When I'm asked to develop recipes, which we do on a daily basis, it's almost so much easier for us when someone says, "We want you to do a recipe with sea bass." Your mind goes straight away to sea bass

and you start playing. I actually found it really interesting watching the contestants be told [what to use].

Sometimes they got this exceptional ingredient, which made it much more obvious for them in terms of their thinking. Other times they were told they couldn't use an ingredient. Like in London, the contestant that didn't win the exceptional ingredient couldn't use potatoes in their recipe. That makes cooking fish and chips and steak and kidney pie with mash pretty difficult.

WCT: With different levels of chefs, what was a big challenge with them adapting to different cultures?

CC: Well, I mean I definitely think they did come with so many varied ranges of skill and I think it was really just really trying to figure out who was going to lead.

There were language barriers in a lot of countries. There were a few that could speak multiple languages, although some of the street-smart chefs had skills to get through the cities a little quicker.

WCT: Did you have a favorite destination on the trip?

CC: That's a hard one. I'm in love with Thai people and the food from Thailand. I've said that over and over, although Morocco was pretty amazing as well.

CS: I loved Buenos Aires for the culture and the way they cook. These guys cook on grill pits for their entire life and are so skilled.

WCT: Cat, you are married and have four kids. How do you find time to travel and make a show?

CC: Well, you just have to come to agreement with your partner. This is a really great opportunity and we decided together that it was worth taking it on for us for our future.

Around The World In 80 Plates runs every Wednesday on Bravo. Visit www.bravotv.com for more information.



Chicago House marks 25th brunch/show

Chicago House held its 25th annual spring brunch and fashion show May 6.

Raising more than \$110,000 with a sold-out event and donations will bring assistance to then more than 1,400 people the agency helps each year. This is one of Chicago House's most popular annual fundraisers.

The Harold Washington Library provided the bright space that featured silent and live auctions; fashions by Mark Shale and Borris Powell; and a disco song by singer Linda Clifford. Jewell Events Catering provided seafood and yummy desserts while guests watched dancers and models strut down the runway. Former mayoral LGBT liaison Bill Greaves received the annual spirit award for his service in the community.

Chicago House began providing housing and support for individuals affected by HIV/AIDS and recently expanded to focus on transgender issues.

Look for more events, such as a One Night Stand at the Park West with Linda Clifford Sept. 15 and Kenneth Cole speaking Nov. 2. Visit www.chicagohouse.org. Text by Jerry Nunn; photos by Kat Fitzgerald

calendar

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WINDY CITY
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Wed., May 9

Kit Kat Kalamity and Farewell Extravaganza and COH Fundraiser LIVE MUSIC from the likes of (but not limited to) Jeff Brown, David Kav, Monica del Castillo, Ashleigh Ashton, Dawn Xiana Moon, Matt Ryd, Jeannie Tanner, Jeff Churchwell, Heather Styka, Jess Godwin and more to be announced; 5:30pm-9:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St.

Equality IL Spring Wine Tasting Join Equality IL and Sidetrack for their fabulous Spring Wine Tasting event. Tickets are available for just a \$20 donation to Equality Illinois PAC. You'll have access to over 100 wines from around the world and hors d'oeuvres provided by J&L Catering! This super-popular event caters to all palates and budgets. 6pm-9pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., Chicago, www.eqil.org

IFH Annual Gala: "Ain't We Got Fun" The board of Interfaith House invite you to the 2012 annual gala. LeeAnn Trotter of NBC-5 emcees this fabulous evening of food, drinks and dancing. Funds raised go to support the LGBT supporting work of Interfaith House in its reach to the Chicago homeless. 6pm-10pm, 773-533-5013, Germania Place, 108 W. Germania Pl., www.interfaithhouse.org

Jac Jemc, author My Only Wife When the narrator unlocks the door of his wrecked apartment, suddenly empty of any trace of his wife, he is so paralyzed by his idealized recollections of her that he is unable to search for her. 7:30pm, Women & Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark St., www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

HELLO GOODBYE Wed., May 9

Chicago will say "until later" to photographer **Kat Fitzgerald (right)** at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.



Thursday, May 10

A Taste for the Arts/30th Anniversary Gala

A Taste for the Arts/30th Anniversary Gala, hosted by Rick and Deann Bayless as well as Donna LaPietra and Bill Kurtis, will highlight student and alumni art and performance alongside the dazzling cuisine of Chicago's top chefs, including Rick Bayless, Stephanie Izard, Takashi Yagihashi and more. 6:30pm, 312-421-0202, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., www.chicagoartsacademy.org

AfterWork Karaoke Thursday AfterWork Karaoke every Thursday in Andersonville at The Call on Bryn Mawr. Singing starts at 7pm. Always a secret song for \$25 bar tab! Hosted By Karaoke by Creagh. 7pm-11:30pm, 773-334-2525, The Call (Chicago), 1547 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

Windy City Gay Idol Join the search for the next singing superstar with Chicago's favorite LGBT bar event. Signup begins at 9 pm; contest begins at 10. \$5 gets you your voting ballot; \$10 contestant signup

fee. Bring all your friends because audience votes decide the winner. The top two contestants move on to the semifinals in June. The top winner of the night receives \$100 cash. Lots of fun raffles and prizes. 9pm, DS Tequila Company, 3352 N. Halsted St., www.facebook.com/windycitygayidol

Friday, May 11

Andrea Martin: Final Days! Andrea Martin's Final Days! Everything Must GO!! 7pm-8:45pm, The Underground Chicago, 56 W. Illinois St., www.upcomedyclub.com

OPALGA May Potluck Bring a dish share and your own drinks. Call or email Oak Park Area Lesbian & Gay Association for info and invitation. empower@opalga.org- phone: 7pm-9pm, 708-848-0273, Private residence, www.opalga.org

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus: That '80s Show Relive the era of MTV and Solid Gold as CGMC celebrates the decade it was born and its 30th Anniversary beginning in December, with Pointer Sisters' "I'm So Excited," Sade's "Smooth Operator," plus "Let's Get Physical," "Rock Me Amadeus," and Cyndi Lauper's iconic "True Colors" and so many more! Meanwhile you can dance to "Whip It," "Thriller," "Flashdance," and a disco finale to "It's Raining Men." Also Saturday, May 12, at 3pm and 8pm; 8pm, Francis W. Parker Auditorium Theater, 330 W. Webster Ave, www.cgmc.org

Henry V by William Shakespeare William Shakespeare's popular history play brings to life the newly crowned prince who has left behind his reckless youth to emerge as a dynamic leader, discovering the hard choices that leadership requires. 8pm-10:30pm, 773-935-6875, Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N Southport Ave., www.atheneumtheatre.org

Alex In Wonderland Alex In Wonderland continues MidTangent's dedication to bringing original works with a familiar twist to the Chicago LGBTQ 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-11pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

Saturday, May 12

Battle the Pedal Cycling Competition Eight-hour, competitive cycling event to support the Never Coast for Cancer Foundation. Teams of up to four members commit to raising \$1,000; 8am, Lakeshore Sport and Fitness, 1320 W. Fullerton Ave., www.battlethepedal.org

2012 Human First Gala The Center on Halsted hosts its annual Human First Gala to recognize individuals, businesses and organizations who have contributed

to building and strengthening the LGBT community in Chicago. Featuring emcee Andy Cohen, of Bravo's, "Watch What Happens Live" with a musical performance by k.d. lang & the Siss Boom Bang. 1:45pm, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., www.centeronhalsted.org/1stv

Connecting Dots: Chicago Dyke March Collective Community Forum Discuss the connections between youth, race, and sexuality for a safer and more inclusive community, sponsored by Chicago Dyke March Collective, a grassroots mobilization and celebration of dyke, queer, bisexual, and transgender resilience. Learn more about CDMC online. 2pm, Chicago Public Library, Bezazian Branch, 1226 W. Ainslie St., www.chicagodykemarch.wordpress.com

Augie & C.K.'s Reunion Drink specials, guest DJ's, raffle proceeds to Breast Cancer Awareness. Rooms going fast due to other events, available at a discount at 312-225-7000 and mention Augie & C.K.'s. More info from Pickles, 773-507-6378 or martinez-victoria@sbcglobal.net; 7pm, 773-507-6378, L26, South Loop Hotel, 11 W. 26th

MISTER App Release Party and Model Search Celebrate this hot new gay app with music and hijinks by DJ Moose, photography by John Cotter and hosted by International Mr. Leather Jason Hendrix. Drink specials and giveaways all night. 9pm, The Sofo Tap, 4923 N Clark St., www.facebook.com/misterapp

Madame LaQueer & Phi Phi O'Hara RuPaul Drag Race superstars in two performances at midnight and 1 am. DJ Riley York, VJ Dominic. \$5 in advance; \$10 at the door; \$20 VIP meet and greet. 11pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., www.spin-nightclub.com

Sunday, May 13

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. 10:15am-11:30am, Urban Village Church, Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan Ave., www.urbanvillagechurch.org

Brunch at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar There will be brunch—three delicious courses for \$34.95 and \$12.95 for children's brunch, excluding tax and gratuity. www.flemingssteakhouse.com; 11:30am-3pm, 312-329-9463, 25 E. Ohio St.

Urban Village Church: Wicker Park evening service Wicker Park is a neighborhood full of passion, art, diversity, and eclectic energy, all which make Urban Village Church thrilled to be in the community! 5:30pm-7pm, 1502 N. Hoyne (At LeMoyn), www.newchicagochurch.com

Prime Timers Prime Timers are older gay or bisexual men (and younger men who admire mature men). Second Sunday of each month. 6pm, Ann Sather - Belmont, 909 W. Belmont Ave., www.primetimersww.org/chicago/

Desperate Housewives Finale Viewing Party Come watch the final episode of Desperate Housewives and sip a cocktail on 'National Cocktail Day'; 8pm-10pm, The Call (Chicago), 1547 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

Benefit Drag Show for TJLP For the Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois (TJLP), \$5 suggested donation. Featuring Kiky LaRou, Gia Gunn, Ariel Andrews, Elysse Giovanni, Felicity St. James, and hot male dancer Danny. Hosted by Angelique Munro. DJ Brian. \$2 well, \$8 Miller Lite pitchers. 8pm-11pm, @mosphere, 5355 N. Clark St., www.atmospherebar.com



TUNESTRUCK

Thursday, May 10

Windy City Gay Idol will take place at DS Tequila, 3352 N. Halsted St.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

Monday, May 14

Fk Yeah, Anxiety!** An autobiographical solo sketch comedy show dealing with crazy moms, musical theatre, bad dates, auditions, and lesbianism. Mondays at 7pm through May 14 with a different opening act every night. 7:30pm-8:30pm, Gorilla Tango Theatre Bucktown, www.facebook.com/pages/fya-erica-slutskys-one-woman-show/129493840465183

Windy City Gay Idol continues the search for the best amateur LGBT singers in the Windy City. 9pm singer signup. 10pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., www.windycitymediagroup.com

Tuesday, May 15

Gen Silent With Director Stu Maddux Screening of film that explores LGBTQ aging. What would you do to survive if you were old, disabled, and ill - afraid of discrimination or abuse? Six LGBT seniors talk about if they will hide their lives to survive, putting a face on what experts call an epidemic: LGBTQ seniors so afraid of discrimination, or worse, in long-term/health care that many go back into the closet. Refreshments. RSVP by May 14 to ce@adler.edu; 5:30pm-8pm, Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum, 1300 S. Lake Shore Dr.

Drag Race with Frida Lay Chicago's only amateur drag contest, hosted by Frida Lay! A hit at Roscoe's since its premier in 2000. 9pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted St, Chicago, www.roscoes.com

Wed., May 16

Superstar Karaoke This uber-fun and chill after work set is comprised of cool young professionals, great drinks, and a microphone for you to own up to your superstar destiny! Come out and network, get buzzed, & sing your heart out each and every Wednesday at this relaxed Wicker Park lounge. 7pm, 773-342-5282, Seven Ultra Lounge 1270 N. Milwaukee Ave., www.7ultralounge.com

Saturday, May 19

ALT Q music fest Daphne Willis, JC Brooks, Alix Dobkin, Niojj, E. Nina Jay, Band Practice, and MCs Aerin Tedesco and Marvin Astorga. ALT Q is celebrating its 12th year as a showcase for LGBT musicians and performers at the Old Town School of Folk Music. 7pm, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave., www.scottfree.net

2012 CMSA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony The pre-ceremony reception 6-7 pm, ceremony at 7 pm. Doors will close by 7. This year's inductees are Shawn Albritton, Jack Neilsen and Samantha Hamilton. ALL CMSA members are welcome to attend this ceremony. 6pm-9pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., www.chicagomsa.org



WHAT A FEELING

Friday-Saturday, May 11-12

The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus will put on "That '80s Show" at the Francis W. Parker Auditorium Theater, 330 W. Webster Ave.

Photo by Rick Aiello Photography

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ChicagoPride.com

BILLY MASTERS

"I was delighted to read about your interest in sharing the big screen with me. I am a little occupied at the moment, but perhaps someday... My only condition is that there be Muppets involved, and that is non-negotiable."—Hillary Clinton responds to Jason Segel's public pleas to play his mom on *How I Met Your Mother*. This is probably good news to Suzie Plakson, who has played the role since the show began in 2005.

I've been getting a kick out of these Blythe Danner commercials for Prolia. Please understand that I loves me some Blythe Danner, and if she can cash in on post-menopausal osteoporosis, more power to her. What makes me giggle is that she's backstage, getting ready to go on stage while an orchestra is tuning up. When



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says no to a possible Emmy—for now.

Blythe saunters out, she throws her arms in the air and dozens of people applaud. Because she's a star. But it begs the question, how many one-woman shows does Blythe do? Any? Ever?

Blythe would have fit in well at the 28th Annual Southland Theatre Artists Goodwill Event (aka STAGE). The theme for this year's concert was "Original Cast 3"—luminaries re-creating numbers they performed on the Great White Way. Without a doubt, Lillias White easily stole the show. Back in 1997 when she performed "The Oldest Profession" every night in *The Life*, she routinely stopped the show and got a standing ovation. This evening was no different. When she returned to open the second half as part of a *Dreamgirls* sequence, same thing. And what a treat to have the original Lorelle, Loretta Devine, tear into "Ain't No Party."

There were too many other exceptional performances to mention, but I'd be remiss if I didn't say it was magical to have the 96-year-old Patricia Morison sing "Getting To Know You" (with nary a Siamese child in sight), Constance Towers returning to *Showboat*, Adrienne Barbeau's heartfelt *Rizzo*, and David Burnham's glistening *Light in the Piazza*. Special kudos go to John McDaniel for providing far more than just accompaniment—his sense of balance and guidance carried the entire show to stupendous heights. And congrats to my buddy Leslie Jordan, who was honored at the event, which raised more than \$200,000 for Broadway Cares/Equity

Fights AIDS. Congrats!

The cast of *Murphy Brown* was honored at the TV Land Awards with the Impact Award. Creator Diane English chose this evening to share a bit of exciting news—Murphy might be headed back to the airwaves! Back in 2008, English tried to revive the character for a series of political commentaries to air during the presidential election. The network passed. This time around, she has a different idea—a handful of actual episodes that could take place over the election season (kinda like "AbFab" returning for a few specials—can't wait till the Olympics). While English admitted she hasn't gotten all of the kinks worked out, she said, "I'd love to have the show back on during this election year. We're having a little conversation with CBS about a few episodes and I think it's possible."

While one show might come back, another show is leaving ... and just in the nick of time. Rumor has it that the atmosphere on the set of *Desperate Housewives* has been less than genial. TV Guide recently did an article about the emotional series finale and disclosed some interesting details. First, when the cast assembled for the table reading of the last episode, there was one notable person absent—Teri Hatcher, who was in Las Vegas hosting an ABC event. When the magazine got the cast to discuss their feelings and reactions, the word "us" was used quite a lot. What follows is a direct quote from the article: "If you've picked up that 'us' seems to consistently exclude Hatcher a lot lately, there's a reason—just not one anyone wishes to discuss on the record. Suffice it to say, something went down two seasons ago that created a deep rift with Hatcher, who physically separates herself from the others during breaks in filming." They reached out to Hatcher, and she issued this cryptic comment: "I will never disclose the true and complicated journey of us all, but I wish everyone on this show well." If I may decipher, I believe that means Nicollette was the nice one!

Lance Bass brought 10 of his favorite people to St. Martin for his birthday—including a very handsome Michael Turchin, who he is reportedly dating. The twosome cut a sexy figure in the surf ... as you'll see when you check out the photos on BillyMasters.com.

Remember those rumors about designer Marc Jacobs dating Brazilian porn star Harry Louis? Apparently there's something to them. The couple was spotted on an Ipanema beach and cavorting inside a Rio nightclub. While Marc hasn't made any public declarations, Harry is constantly tweeting things like "Watching the sunset with my gorgeous bf" and has taken down his Rentboy ad—which, as you know, is always a sign of true love. I'll run some photos on my website. And, how fortuitous that Harry has a new porn scene with sexy Shane Frost on UKNakedMen.com. I'll run that, too.

Lastly, Mark Wahlberg is returning to his roots by flaunting his fantastic physique. First there were those photos of him in hip briefs with some little projectile poking straight out. Now we've got him prancing around wearing only an apron that says "Kiss the Cook." Apparently, this is for a scene in his new movie *Pain and Gain*, which is filming in Miami. Photos will follow on BillyMasters.com.

When Marky Mark is starting to show skin again, it's definitely time to end yet another column. For more delightful dish, head on over to www.BillyMasters.com—the site that always delivers. And if I can assist any of you, just drop a li'l ole note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Marc Jacobs finds his next boyfriend via *RentBoy*. So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Michael Reyes: One AIDS/LifeCycle participant's story

BY ROSS FORMAN

When Michael Reyes saw a documentary years ago about the annual AIDS/LifeCycle, a seven-day ride down the California coast from San Francisco to Los Angeles, he was moved, inspired and motivated. But he also was convinced he personally would never/ could never tackle the 545-mile journey.

Reyes weighed 305 pounds at the time.

Well, over the past few years, Reyes has changed his life—just as the California ride has done for literally tens of thousands of participants for the past 10 years. Reyes has lost 75 pounds, has been working with a personal trainer and joined Weight Watchers.

So, when he spotted at advertisement early last year for the two-day, 200-mile Ride For AIDS Chicago (RFAC), he decided to give it a ride, literally.

"The [2011] Ride For AIDS Chicago was life-challenging," Reyes said. "The community, the connection ... those are some of the biggest things I got out of it. The people, the relationships I made with the other riders and crew members ... that's what I enjoyed the most.

"And yeah, I was pretty proud of myself," for finishing the Ride.

Reyes, 27, who lives in Chicago's Old Irving neighborhood and has worked at a currency exchange for the past 13 years, has registered for the RFAC again this July—and that will be an encore bicycle ride for him, and a few other Chicagoans.

Reyes is among five who have formed the



Michael Reyes. Photo from Reyes

Windy City Rock Stars, which will be participating in the AIDS/LifeCycle June 3-9.

"I'm making this dream come true," Reyes said of the 545-mile journey. "Helping others is what the [AIDS/LifeCycle] is all about, and that's what drew me to want to do it, not just the [overall] experience."

Joining Reyes in San Francisco will be Chicagoans Brad Schneider, Teddy Greene, Jaime Arroyo and Keith Stryker.

Reyes raised about \$2,000 for the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN), which produces the annual RFAC. This year, between the two events,

he is shooting to raise \$5,000.

"I bought a 35-pound bicycle last year to commute to work. I wasn't expecting to see a flyer for the Ride For AIDS Chicago and then register to participate in it [when the bike was purchased,]" Reyes said. "In fact, I went back and forth for two months [after seeing the RFAC flyer] before contacting [RFAC organizers.] Then, even before signing up, I rode from my home to Waukegan on a cold day, [wearing] a winter coat and winter gloves.

"It was exhausting and challenging, but I did it—and then I signed up for the Ride.

"Now, a year later, I'm trying to make another dream come true."

The Rock Stars featured a sixth Chicagoan, Hugo Aguilera; however, he was forced out of the event due to health reasons. In 2010, Agu-

ilera was training for the RFAC, but had to have brain surgery. At the same time, Aguilera learned he was HIV-positive, Reyes said.

Aguilera was only able to complete 125 of last year's 200 RFAC miles.

Aguilera has since had to have a stent put in his liver and a drain bag, Reyes said.

"Not once has [Aguilera] lost his positive attitude," Reyes said. "He truly is what gives [the] Windy City Rock Stars the fight to complete this ride, and we definitely carry his spirit along the journey."

The AIDS/LifeCycle will be Reyes' first time to San Francisco and Los Angeles, "and I can't imagine a better way to see those cities," he said.

To support the Windy City Rock Stars, visit www.teamwindycityrockstars.com.

Gay Games- Outgames merger tanks

BY ROSS FORMAN

The much talked-about merger of the Gay Games and the Outgames for 2018 has ended without a deal, although negotiations will continue.

The boards of the Gay and Lesbian International Sport Association (GLISA), which oversees the Outgames, and the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) met May 5-6 in Montreal in an effort to come to an agreement on the creation of one quadrennial event (1QE). However, after over two years of discussions and negotiations, both organizations regret to announce that even though every attempt was made to do so, an agreement was not reached, it was announced in a joint release. GLISA posted the release on its website May 6, though the FGG does not have anything about the potential merger on its website as of May 7.

Kurt Dahl, who lives in the Chicago area and is the male co-president of the federation, was unavailable May 7 by phone for comment. He replied via text message: "Right now, I have no comment beyond what was in original press release. GLISA and FGG [will] continue talking. When there is more news, we will jointly communicate that."

Julia Applegate of GLISA, who lives in Ohio, was unavailable May 7 for comment by phone. She replied via email: "I can't give you any comment right now. We are not commenting at the moment. We will speak to the press if that changes. Thank you for respecting this decision."

The joint release read, "Both boards, with the support of their memberships, had every intention to re-unite the international LG-BTQIQ community around a new event based on three components: Sports, Culture and Human Rights. This 1QE would have combined the achievements and long standing history of both organizations and their events.

"The boards have decided that at this moment, both organizations are unable to reconcile their differences in time for the 2018 event cycle."

The FGG was represented in Montreal by Dennis Sneyers, Shamey Cramer, Klaus Husselslein and Dahl. Nelson Lee, Daniel Vaudrin, Wessel van Kampen and Applegate represented GLISA.

"The boards are disappointed, but hope remains that an agreement will be reached over the next few years to create a future joint event for the next cycle of 1QE and that the future discussions will be fruitful," the joint release said.

The third World Outgames will be held in 2013 in Antwerp, Belgium. Gay Games IV is scheduled for 2014 in Cleveland.

The World Outgames was launched in 2006, weeks after the Gay Games was held in Chicago.

The second World Outgames was held in 2009 in Copenhagen, while the last Gay Games was held in 2010 in Cologne, Germany.

Kelley Stevens of Seattle was the officer of communications as well as communications co-chair for the FGG for about four years, ending in September 2011. He served on the FGG committee for 1QE for more than a year. He said via phone May 7 that he "was not surprised" that the merger did not materialize.

"There is a lot of stuff that needs to happen, so much work to really do it, [such as], the finances, the sports, the control of issues, site selections," Stevens said. "In the back of my mind, I still think there's going to be some sort of collaboration of some kind.

"This whole process over the last two years to where we are right now has really done a lot of good things and a lot of relationship-building between GLISA and the federation, and I think more will be built upon now rather than a withdrawal and a battle over the next event."

Force roars past Slam

BY ROSS FORMAN

After the St. Louis Slam grabbed a one-point lead early in the second quarter, the roof caved in for the visitors—or the host Chicago Force finally heard the alarm clock. The Force then scored 43 straight points en route to a 57-14 win on Saturday, May 5, in Evanston. With the win, the Force improves to 4-0; the Slam drops to 2-2.

"This was a big win for the team, but definitely showed areas where we need improvement, such as, containing on defense," said Force owner Linda Bache. "We definitely have a lot of room for improvement, but it was a good overall team win."

Melissa Smith continued to be Chicago's offensive juggernaut. She scored rushing touchdowns of 21, 1, 1 and 9 yards—all in the first half.

Samantha Scurto had a 39-yard interception return touchdown in the third quarter, while defensive standout Darcy Leslie forced a third quarter fumble, recovered the loose ball, then scampered in for the 29-yard touchdown.

Albi Zhubi and Mary Choules also had touchdowns for the Force.

At halftime, the team celebrated its 10-year anniversary and inducted Bache and Pam Schaffrath as the inaugural members of the team's new Hall of Fame.

"It's a huge honor, especially going in with Pam," Bache said.

The Force plays host to the West Michigan Mayhem Saturday, May 12. Kickoff is at 5 p.m., at Lazier Field, located on the campus of Evanston Township High School.

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BURIED IN DEBT WITH SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS - PART II

Last week's article concerned the individual who was unable to pay his credit card bills and was using his social security to pay bills and groceries since he had not been able to find a job.

Many individuals who worry about debts are, in fact, judgment proof. If someone is unemployed and owns only personal property such as household furnishings, a car with a low market value and a small amount of money in the bank they are probably judgment proof. Same applies if they are receiving social security and social security disability benefits.

There are certain kinds of benefit payments which are exempt from garnishment (judgment proof) under state and federal law. State of Illinois law exempts Social Security benefits, unemployment compensation, public assistance benefits, veterans benefits, disability benefits, illness benefits, unemployment benefits, and certain alimony, support or separate maintenance. Federal law exempts Social Security payments along with Railroad Retirement Act and Veteran's benefits.

What if the benefit payments are deposited in a bank account, are they still exempt? The law says that public benefit payments remain exempt from garnishment procedures even after they are deposited in a bank account.

A federal court has previously ruled that veteran's benefits and social security payments deposited into a savings account retain their exempt status so long as the funds remained subject to the demand of the recipient to be used for his needs and were not converted to a "permanent investment." Needless to say, if you do deposit such benefits into a bank account maintain good records to be able to show a judge that the bank account was established with public benefits.

While the "do nothing" approach may be appropriate for judgment proof individuals it will not get rid of the underlying debts and could lead to severe credit problems. Furthermore, there might be implications in not paying certain creditors. For example, you might consider paying those creditors who are medical care providers in order to not prejudice future access to medical care.

Bankruptcy may be an appropriate option if you are not judgment proof but your debt is massive. Bankruptcy can also allow the reduction of payments on many secured debts, and provide a reasonable time to cure any back due debt on a secured asset allowing a debtor to retain a house, car or furniture that would otherwise be lost.

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

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