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NAACP supports marriage equality

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Saying that the NAACP has “always stood against laws that demean, dehumanize, and discriminate against people,” NAACP Board Chairman Roslyn Brock formally announced May 21 the board’s vote in favor of a resolution supporting marriage equality.

Joining Brock at a press conference at the group’s headquarters in Baltimore, NAACP President Ben Jealous noted that this is the first time the organization has taken a position on same-sex marriage generally, and not in the context of opposing a specific law, such as Proposition 8.

LGBT groups were understandably excited to hear the news because the announcement can be considered a major advancement in the general population’s support for marriage equality. Anti-gay activists have tried hard for years to drive a wedge between the Black and gay movements for civil rights, and many polls have shown African Americans generally have shown less support for

allowing gay couples to marry.

“We could not be more pleased with the NAACP’s history-making vote today,” said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. “It’s time the shameful myth that the African-American community is somehow out of lockstep with the rest of the country on marriage equality is retired, once and for all.”

HRC recently released copies of internal memos it discovered from court documents, illustrating that the anti-gay National Organization for Marriage was deliberately trying to organize African American opposition to same-sex marriage.

Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), called the NAACP board vote “a truly historic moment,” adding that NGLTF “couldn’t be more thrilled.”

Carey said her group is not surprised by the vote. NAACP National President Ben Jealous had delivered a keynote address to NGLTF’s national conference in January, reminding attendees that famed civil-rights activist Bayard Rustin, who was gay, helped planned the historic

1963 civil-rights march on Washington.

In his keynote, Jealous told the audience at NGLTF’s annual Creating Change conference, held last in January in Baltimore, of a close friend he had since the age of four. The friend has been like a brother to him. Jealous shared how he and his friend—the only other Black child his age in his Carmel, Calif., neighborhood—stuck together when being discriminated against because they were Black. Also, Jealous stood together with his friend when his friend was being bullied because he was gay.

The announcement comes just 10 days after President Obama made headlines by affirming that he believes same-sex couples should be allowed to marry—a statement he has been reluctant to make since running for the White House.

The board of the 103-year-old civil rights group passed a resolution stating: “The NAACP Constitution affirmatively states our objective to ensure the ‘political, educational, social and economic equality’ of all people.

Turn to page 6

Queer contingent protests NATO



A queer contingent was involved in protesting the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) conference that took place May 20-21 in Chicago. Read more and see photos on page 8. Photo by Tracy Baim



Leather leanings

Memorial Day weekend unleashes International Mr. Leather (IML) and Bear Pride upon the Windy City. See calendar on page 39 for more info. Photo of 2011 IML contest by Dave Ouano.

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Photo of Jason Mraz by Emily Shur; Martha Shelley press photo; photo of Maher Alhaj by Andrew Davis; photo of Rahm Emanuel from Caroline Weisser; Donna Summer album cover

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SHOWTIME

Read about and see pics from Fantabuloso, a concert that featured Enrique Iglesias and Adam Lambert (left), among others.

Photo from Ross



In the latest "Ask Lambda Legal," Kenneth Upton talks about being out at wok.

Photo from Lambda Legal



Pageant winners and ex-Real Housewife Dina Manzo were at the Ladybug Bash.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

DEBT AND TAXES

Financial expert Phil Sitar talks about personal-liability insurance and paying off debts.

SLIM JIM

Celebrity personal trainer Jim Karas talks with Windy City Times about Hugh Jackman and banning marathons.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Read entertainment news about 50 Cent, Janice Dickinson and Ellen DeGeneres.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

AD GIRL



See photos of Annie Leibovitz (above) and Anthony Bourdain getting honorary CLIO Awards, which honor achievements in advertising.

Pic by Vero Image

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'11 Nissan Altima 2.5S	Automatic, Air, Full Power, Silver, P4034	\$17,995	'07 Subaru Forester	Automatic, Air, Full Power, White, 8085A	\$12,995
'08 Mazda CX-7 AWD	Automatic, Sunroof, Turbo, 58K, Red, P3988A	\$17,495	SUBARU LEGACY / OUTBACKS		
'10 Mazda5 Sport	2-to-Pick, Auto., Air, Full Power, Silver/Grey, P4038/39	\$15,995	'11 Outback 3.6R Ltd./Nav	Moonroof, Leather, Bluetooth, Red, P4049	\$29,995
'06 Honda CRV SE AWD	Leather, Sunroof, 6CD, XM, 66K, Grey 8368A	\$15,495	'11 Legacy 3.6R Ltd./Nav	Leather, Sunroof, Bluetooth, Silver, P4051	\$26,995
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'05 Toyota RAV-4 AWD	Automatic, Air, Full Power, 37K, Silver, P4041	\$14,995	'11 Outback Prem.	Power Seat, Alloys, All Weather, Auto., Silver, P4029	\$22,495
'10 Toyota Corolla LE	Automatic, Air, Full Power, Black, P4037	\$14,995	'11 Outback Prem.	Power Seat, Alloys, Automatic, Fogs, White, P4000	\$21,995
'08 Honda Accord EX	Automatic, Sunroof, 4-Door, 54K, Silver, 7709A	\$14,495	'10 Outback Prem.	Power Seat, Alloys, All Weather, Auto., Gold, 8532A	\$21,495
'10 Toyota Corolla LE	Automatic, Full Power, Air, Grey, P4061	\$13,995	'11 Subaru Legacy Ltd.	Leather, Sunroof, Bluetooth, All Weather, P3937	\$20,995
'11 Nissan Versa 1.8S	Automatic, Air, Full Power, Black, P4035	\$13,995	'11 Legacy Prem.	Power Seat, All Weather, Auto., Alloys, Silver P4046	\$19,995
'01 Honda CRV EX AWD	Full Power, 5-Speed, Silver, 8391A	\$9,995	'09 Legacy SE	2 to Pick, Moonroof, Auto., Power Seat, Grey/Silver P4052/54	\$17,495
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'10 Forester Prem.	Moonroof, All Weather, Auto., Pwr. Seat, 33K, Blue, 8511A	\$20,995	SUBARU IMPREZAS		
'11 Subaru Forester	Automatic, Air, Alloys, Roof Rack, Silver, P4057	\$19,995	'11 Subaru Impreza 5-Dr.	Automatic, Air, Full Power, White, P4056	\$17,995
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'09 Forester Ltd.	Leather, Sunroof, Auto., 6CD, 37K, Gold, 7611A	\$19,495	'11 Impreza Prem. 4-Dr.	Sunroof, Auto., All Weather, Bluetooth, 26K, P4044	\$17,495
'09 Forester Prem.	Moonroof, All Weather, Automatic, 26K Grey, 8513A	\$18,995	'11 Impreza Prem. 5-Dr.	Just Arrived, 2-to Pick, Sunroof, Auto., Bluetooth,	\$Call
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GOP proposals seek to upend DADT

BY CHUCK COLBERT

The U.S. House of Representatives has approved two anti-gay provisions as part of the defense department budget in an apparent effort to undermine the successful implementation of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) repeal—a move advocates and defenders of openly gay military service say is unnecessary and unprecedented.

On May 18, the House approved the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act by a vote of 299-120.

The bill, which now goes to the Senate, includes one provision that provides religious liberty protections to military chaplains and service members who disapprove of homosexuality on the basis of morality and religion.

Introduced by U.S. Rep. Todd Akin, R-Mo., the measure states, "The armed forces shall accommodate the conscience and sincerely held moral principles and religious beliefs" of service members "concerning the appropriate and inappropriate expression of human sexuality and may not use such conscience, principles, or beliefs as the basis of any adverse personnel action, discrimination, or denial of promotion, schooling, training, or assignment."

The other anti-gay provision, offered by U.S. Rep. Steve Palazzo, R-Miss., would ban the use



U.S. Rep. Todd Akin. Official headshot

disagree" would be open to criticism, explained Sarvis.

For example, he said, "A service member might say, 'It's against my moral beliefs or principles to be serving with people of color.'"

For his part, Akin said in a statement, "We have heard stories of military chaplains facing censorship for their opposition to the liberal agenda. Liberals may have successfully ended 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' but they should not be allowed to force members of our military to give up their religious beliefs. That is simply unacceptable and unconstitutional."

However, Sarvis countered, Akin's "alleged cases have not been documented and have not been investigated."

Individual service members are "entitled to their personal, private beliefs and are perfectly free to hold them," said Sarvis. "But they are not entitled to express publicly an objection or lobby against a policy" that has been "articulated" either by "Congress or the president or secretary of defense or company commander or first sergeant."

Altogether, "Implementation [of DADT repeal] is working well, including on the religious front with chaplains," Sarvis added.

Akin's proposed amendment also addresses specifically the issue of a chaplain being forced "to perform any duty, rite, ritual, ceremony, service or function that is contrary" to his or her "conscience, moral principles, or religious beliefs, or contrary to the moral principles and religious beliefs of the endorsing faith group of the chaplain."

That provision is unnecessary, said Sarvis.

"No chaplain is being required to perform any ceremony anywhere on or off base that he or she does not believe in or is inconsistent with the principles or teaching of his or her sponsoring agency," Sarvis said. "It's simply not happening."

"Adequate protections are in place today to protect chaplains" in the performance of their duties in serving the spiritual needs of troops, added Sarvis.

During the press call Sarvis said that SLDN was not aware yet of any military chaplains who have performed same-sex marriages on military base facilities.

"We have heard from some service members who are in discussions with their chaplains about getting married this summer on military installations by military chaplains," said Sarvis. "Stay tuned."

Meanwhile, "The Department of Defense has already made it clear—and appropriately so—that decisions about the use of facilities should be made on a sexual orientation neutral basis," Sarvis said.

A May 8 Army Times piece on Akin's amendment prompted an online response from Sue Fulton, communications director of OutServe, an organization for active LGBT military members.

"You can preach to your own congregation that Judaism, Islam, Wicca, atheism is not the path to salvation—but as a chaplain you shouldn't be preaching to your units that Jews, Muslims, Wiccans, or atheists should be kicked out of the military," Fulton wrote. "Chaplains are sworn to support all soldiers; and if you can't do that, it's a violation of your oath."

In his response, Army chaplain candidate Greg Brown wrote, "What this guy [Akin] is asking for is always the case. We are not required to do anything for anyone that our endorsing bodies wouldn't approve of."

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ONLINE AT
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NATIONAL NEWS

—Wendy Williams (left), others at AIDS Walk New York

—Ex-priest hires hit man to kill abuse accuser

—Lesbian NYC City Council Speaker weds

Former Rutgers student gets 30 days in jail

Former Rutgers student Dharun Ravi was sentenced May 21 to 30 days in jail for using a Web cam to spy on roommate Tyler Clementi, who had a tryst with another man, according to the New York Post.

Days after finding out he was taped, Clementi committed suicide by jumping off the George Washington Bridge.

Judge Glenn Berman angrily lashed out at Ravi, 20, saying, "I heard this jury say guilty 288 times, 24 questions, 12 jurors, that's the multiplication—and I haven't heard you apologize once."

Ravi also received three years probation, 300 hours of community service, a \$10,000 fine and counseling on cyberbullying and "alternate lifestyles." He had convicted in March on 15 criminal counts, including bias intimidation, had could have gotten up to 10 years behind bars.

Ravi actually had the backing of some gay activists before sentencing. According to the Chicago Tribune, Aaron Hicklin, editor of Out magazine, has suggested that Ravi be set free, saying "the verdict ... left a bitter aftertaste, as if what was being satisfied was not justice, but revenge." In addition, gay Daily Beast blogger Andrew Sullivan wrote that the hate-crime charges against Ravi were "tenuous" and "repellent." Former N.J. Gov. Jim McGreevey and writer/activist Dan Savage have also made similar statements.

The Post reported that the unidentified man who was caught with Clementi also supports Ravi in his fight to remain on U.S. soil. Defense attorneys had worried that Ravi could be deported as a result of his conviction.

Transgender pageant contestant loses

Jenna Talackova—the first-ever transgender contestant to compete in the Miss Universe Canada pageant—lost the contest, according to the New York Daily News.

Talackova, 23, competed with 61 contestants; she was among the final 12 contestants before failing to make the final five. She was one of four contestants named Miss Congeniality.

She was initially denied entry to the pageant because she was not born female. The decision was overturned last month.

Sahar Biniiaz, 26, won the crown and advances to the international Miss Universe competition in December.

Gay men more likely victims of hate crimes

According to a new study from the Williams Institute, gay men face higher rates of hate-motivated physical violence than lesbians, bisexuals or other federally protected groups with high rates of hate crimes, a press release noted.

Among the research findings, 26 in 100,000 gay men reported being victims of hate-motivated crimes against persons, compared to 10 in 100,000 lesbians, five in 100,000 African Americans and five in 100,000 Jewish Americans. Gay men also face the second highest risk of being victims of hate-motivated property crime.

The full report is at <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/violence-crime/comparison-hate-crime-rates-update>.

First Ogletree scholar graduates from college

The first recipient of funds from the Renae Ogletree Black LGBT Youth Scholarship Fund has graduated from Tennessee's Vanderbilt University.

Travis Westbrook, from Chicago, graduated with a double major in psychology and neuroscience.

According to an email from Youth Pride Services (YPS), Westbrook sneaked into the Youth Pride Center drop-ins initially because he was not yet out to his family. Now, he is a YPS donor and has worked on suicide hotlines.

The fund is named after Ogletree, a local Black lesbian who passed away in 2010. She was an honorary board chair for YPS and was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 1998. Youth-related issues were close to Ogletree's heart.

Currently, four youths are receiving funding/resources through the scholarship fund, which is entirely community-based.

Effective Jan. 1, 2013, YPS will change its name to National Youth Pride Services.

LGBT Narcotics Anon. meetings at Haymarket

Narcotics Anonymous meetings for LGBT individuals take place Mondays 8-9 p.m. at Haymarket Center, 20 N. Sangamon St.

For more info, call Anthony Oltean at 312-208-4021.



Aubrey Sarvis.

of Department of Defense military properties to "officiate, solemnize, or perform a marriage or marriage-like ceremony involving anything other than the union of one man and one woman."

The two congressmen offered their amendments within hours of President Barack Obama's May 9 embrace of equal marriage rights for same-sex couples.

"At the end of the day, Mr. Akin is talking about a problem that does not exist," said Army veteran Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, during a May 10 telephone press availability.

"What is new here and unprecedented is that he's seeking an exemption for individual service members and chaplains who may have a problem with gay men and lesbians serving openly in the military," said Sarvis.

"[Akin] wants an exemption, or in his words protections, for that individual service member or chaplain to be able to express his opposition publicly to [military] policy as long as he wraps the expression of that policy [objection] to a moral principle or sincerely held religious belief," Sarvis added.

"That would be a very dangerous precedent to set" insofar as "any number of policies or directives" with which a service member "might

YPS releases stunning results of Black gay youth survey

BY KATE SOSIN

According to new preliminary survey findings, 43 percent of Black gay youth have thought about or attempted suicide as a result of issues related to being LGBT.

The National Strategy for Black Gay Youth in America, a collaborative effort of organizations around the country, launched the survey in mid January with the expectation that it will conclude late this year. But surveying organizations were so stunned by initial responses that they have released the first wave of findings.

Just over half of those surveyed said they had experienced or believed they would experience family disownment for coming out.

Eleven percent of respondents reported being HIV-positive while 7 percent said they did not know their status.

Twenty-two percent of young people said they experienced mental abuse as a result of being LGBT, while 26 percent reported anti-gay bullying. Eight percent said that being LGBT had resulted in them being homeless. Nine percent reported sexual abuse as a result of their sexual orientation, and ten percent reported physical abuse.

Frank Walker, director of Youth Pride Services in Chicago said that many of the results shocked him.

"Other people should see these numbers," he said. "It really does show what it is like to grow up Black and gay in the U.S."

Walker wants parents who have struggled to

accept their LGBTQ children to see the report.

"If they could take a look at their own child and look at all the issues that this survey reveals and put their own child in their minds... I think it would allow some Black parents to look at it from a different angle," he said.

In addition to analyzing data from multiple choice questions, the report compiles a list of 22 items listed by youth themselves that they said would make life as a Black gay youth more bearable. At the top of that list was family acceptance, with 90 percent of young people listing that item.

Walker said that Illinois youth also prioritized family acceptance, but second on the list, he said was "race related issues." Nationally, youth prioritized race issues at number eight, suggesting that youth in Illinois might be struggling with racism more than their peers in other parts of the country.

Many Illinois youth also reported that they tended to avoid social service agencies because the organizations appeared to be competing with each other, Walker said. Instead, many youth noted that they received support through ball houses, large chosen LGBTQ families formed around ballroom culture.

The preliminary report analyzes data from 578 young Black LGBT respondents between the ages of 12-25. Organizations hope to get 2,500 responses by year's end.

According to Walker, it was youth who had the idea for the survey, largely a response to an epidemic of bullying reported about gay youth that

focused on young white people alone.

The findings at the conclusion of the survey will be used to draft a "Bill of Rights" for Black gay youth and sent to service providers and other agencies.

Survey results are being released in three

groups. The second will come out this summer, and the final analysis will be released at the end of the year.

Black gay youth under the age of 25 can take the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/GL5DQN2.

HBHC announces Pride Challenge

Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) announced its 2012 Pride Challenge today as part of its Health Access Fund.

The Pride Challenge is being inaugurated with a generous new gift of \$315,000 from the estate of a supporter of HBHC. An additional matching challenge was pledged immediately in response to the Pride Challenge—raising the total challenge to \$350,000, with a goal of meeting or exceeding the challenge by the end of LGBT Pride Month on June 30.

According to a press release, donations of any size will be matched by this challenge and go directly to assisting patients. Donations can be mailed to Howard Brown Health Center, Attn. Development, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60613 or made online at www.howardbrown.org/pridechallenge.

Sharon McNight to headline IML

International Mr. Leather has announced the return of Sharon McNight. Her return engagement is several years in the making and she is better than ever. "We believe it because she said so," organizers said.

McNight has six solo albums to her credit and has won many awards, including six San Francisco Cabaret Gold awards, a MAC award and a New York Nightlife Award for Musical Comedy.

"Sharon lights up any stage she takes command of and is a favorite among cabaret audiences from California to Provincetown," IML stated. For updates on her schedule, please visit her website at www.sharonmcnight.com.

She will be performing at the 34th Annual International Mr. Leather Contest Sunday, May 27, in the Grand Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 E. Wacker Dr. She will also be making some surprise appearances around IML during the weekend.

See www.imrl.com for details, ticketing, hotel reservation information and frequent updates.

Transgender conference May 29-June 2

The transgender conference known as Be-All will take place May 29-June 2 at the Downers Grove Double Tree Hotel and Conference Center.

Among the scheduled activities are a reception/dinner for new attendees; a golf outing; a hospitality suite; and a 30th-anniversary gala with live bands and fireworks.

There will also be seminars, such as "Veterans' Benefits Basics," "Changing male voice to female voice: Feminization Laryngoscopy" and "Finding Your Inner Beauty," among others.

See www.be-all.org.

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Emanuel proposes Human Relations appointments

BY KATE SOSIN

Mayor Rahm Emanuel has proposed 10 appointments to the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, and at least one of them is from the LGBT community.

The commission, which works to prevent hate crimes, adjudicates in cases of discrimination and oversees the city's identity-based advisory councils, is currently operating with 10 commissioners instead of its usual 15.

All of those commissioners are expected to be replaced by year's end, with the exception of Director Mona Noriega, a veteran lesbian activist whom Emanuel appointed last year. In addition to the 10 proposed replacements awaiting City Council approval, four remaining seats on the commission come due in July. Proposals for those positions have not yet been announced.

Of the 10 awaiting approval currently, at least one is a well-known LGBT advocate. Attorney Ray Koenig, who is active in several LGBT organizations, is on the list.

"It's an honor, is what it is," Koenig said. "For me, it's a great opportunity to help the city protect equal rights."

Koenig currently sits on the boards for Chicago House and Heartland Alliance and is a member of Congressman Mike Quigley's LGBT Advisory Council, the State's Attorney's LGBT Advisory Council and openly gay Ald. Tom Tunney's Senior Advisory Council, among other groups.

Koenig and others still need to be approved by City Council vote. Candidates were selected through an application process.

"These individuals are dedicated to bringing together communities across Chicago, and are especially committed to eliminating discrimination," Emanuel said in a statement. "I'm confident these appointees will help educate and intervene when discrimination takes place."

Yet to be appointed, however, are members of the new advisory councils, which Emanuel con-



Ray Koenig.

solidated into three councils from eight at the end of last year, despite protest from some community groups.

The all-volunteer council on LGBT Issues was combined with a council on women's issues, and members of both groups were let go to make way for new appointments. A new equity council also replaced councils on African affairs, Arab affairs, Asian affairs, Latino affairs, and immigration and refugee affairs. The remaining council on veteran affairs was left intact.

Both the new councils on Equity and Women and LGBT issues have yet to reconvene. Noriega said the hold-up is with the appointment process as the city needs more applicants.

"I would have liked to have completed it sooner," she said.

The applicant pool for the commission itself has been strong, however, according to Noriega.

"I'm excited," she said. "This is a group of applicants that bring a lot of experience to the table."

The proposed commissioners as announced by the City of Chicago are Rochelle Grimbau, Law Offices of Rochelle Grimbau; Salvador A. Cicero, Cicero Law Firm; Ray J. Koenig, III, Clark Hill PLC; Juan Carlos Linares, Institute for the International Education of Students Abroad; Andrew S. Kang, Asian American Institute; Joanna Borowiec, Allied Health Career Network; Leisa Y. Mosley, most recently with Jane Addams Hull House; David J. Mussatt, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; Majdel S. Musa, Consumer Bankruptcy Center, P.C.; and Tiffany M. Ferguson, Pugh, Jones & Johnson, P.C.

Additional information on the commission and

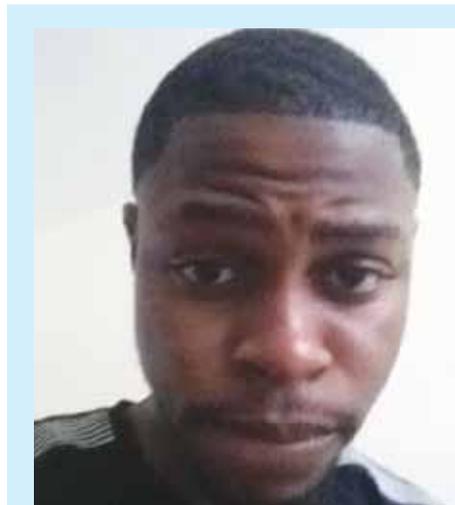
application details can be found on the commission website: www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cchr.html.

DIFFA gala June 9

DIFFA (The Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS)/Chicago is holding its Believe 2012 GardenGala Saturday, June 9, 6:30 p.m.-2 a.m., at the Marriott Downtown Chicago, 541 N. Rush St.

GardenGala will feature an organic farm-to-table dining experience and live auction book-ended by a cocktail reception and the dancing/desserts segment.

Tickets are \$500 each; see www.DIFFAChicago.org.



Maurice "JacJac" Blandin Jr. Photo from Charles Adams

PASSAGES

Maurice 'JacJac' Blandin Jr.

BY KATE SOSIN

Maurice "JacJac" Blandin Jr., a young gay man who went missing in late April has been

found dead, according to his father. He was 21 years old.

Blandin was active in Chicago's ball scene and had a large community of friends, many of whom stayed at his South Side home on weekends.

Blandin was reported missing April 28 after he left his home in the middle of the night and did not return.

He was last heard from at Navy Pier, where police traced his last phone calls. Friends, family and LGBT community members had been searching for Blandin for nearly three weeks.

According to the Cook County Medical Examiner, Blandin's cause of death was drowning. The reason for his drowning has not been officially determined.

Services will be held Saturday, May 26, at Leak & Sons Funeral Home, 18400 S. Pulaski Rd., Country Club Hills, at 6 p.m. In lieu of flowers and family donations, Blandin's family has asked that donations be made to an account in his name (USAA Federal Savings Bank, routing #3140742269 account # 41017692). Money collected will be donated in Blandin's name to an organization that deals with suicide prevention.



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NAACP from cover

Therefore, the NAACP has opposed and will continue to oppose any national, state, local policy or legislative initiative that seeks to codify discrimination or hatred into the law or to remove the Constitutional rights of LGBT citizens. We support marriage equality consistent with equal protection under the law provided under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. Further, we strongly affirm the religious freedoms of all people as protected by the First Amendment."

In releasing the statement, NAACP board Chair Roslyn Brock said that the NAACP's mission "has always been to ensure the political, social and economic equality of all people." And she promised the NAACP would "oppose efforts to codify discrimination into law."

The New York Times reported that its sources indicated only two board members failed to support the resolution. The board includes 69 people.

The organization's press release about the board's vote explained that its support for marriage equality was "deeply rooted" in the constitutional guarantee of equal protection of the law. At the May 21 press conference, Jealous said the NAACP would "firmly oppose all efforts to restrict marriage equality," including attempts to amend budgetary bills in Congress with language intended to exclude gay couples.

Asked whether he was concerned there might be a backlash against the NAACP by Black churches, Jealous gave an emphatic response. He said some clergy might feel differently than the board, but that the NAACP does this work "because of our faith, not despite it."

"This will not," he said, "be used as a wedge issue in our own community."

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Rachel Miller.

Queer contingent protests NATO summit

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

Thousands of protesters took to the streets May 20 in opposition of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit in Chicago, including a contingent of queer people. Rainbow flags and numerous queer-inclusive signs were visible along the protest route.

Member countries of the NATO defense collective agree to an allied response to an attack against a member nation by any external party. Twenty-eight countries across North America and Europe are members of the organization.

Protestors gathered in Grant Park, marching toward East Cermak Road and South Michigan Avenue, as close to the NATO summit at McCormick Place as protestors were allowed. Civil-rights activist Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., led the march alongside war veterans.

Many demonstrators held signs or recited chants calling for an end to NATO and all war, specifically calling out United States involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. Others expressed displeasure toward the amount of money spent on defense over other programs.

"We're here to protest the NATO summit because Chicago has spent absurd amounts of money to host the summit in this city and NATO has spent absurd amounts of money on war at the expense of human rights and dignity," said Rachel Miller, one of the people marching with the queer contingent.

The anti-war movement and the queer movement are allied, according to the queer protestors, because queer people are affected by militarization. "Last year alone NATO spent \$1 trillion on arms expenditures and that's completely ridiculous considering the austerity measures being taken in this country," said Judy Heithmar, one of the people marching with the queer contingent. "Queer people are here demanding equality, education, healthcare and safe and affirming housing. The \$1 trillion on war NATO spends could go toward advancing queer causes."

At the rally after the march, members of Iraq Veterans Against the War threw medals, awarded to them for their service in the military, toward the McCormick Center to symbolically return them.

As the rally ended, police asked protestors to disperse because the permit for the march had expired. Andy Thayer, co-founder of the Gay Liberation Network and one of the lead organizers of the march, addressed the crowd on his bullhorn, urging protestors to comply with police orders and to keep the demonstration peaceful.

While many people left the rally, some refused to disperse and ultimately clashed with police. By Sunday at 9 p.m., 45 people were arrested and four police officers were treated for minor injuries, according to the Chicago Police Department.

Photos by Jamie Anne Royce



March organizer Andy Thayer. Photo by Tracy Baim



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Gerber/Hart permits OK'd

BY KATE SOSIN

The Gerber/Hart Library and Archives is one step closer to opening as it appears that the library's building permits have been approved. The LGBT library moved from Edgewater to an unfinished building in Rogers Park April 30.

A previous round of permits had been denied, causing some to worry that the library would remain closed for a long time. All permits on the City of Chicago website now appear to have been approved, allowing construction to begin.

Gerber/Hart Board President Karen Sendziak has said that the library's build out is expected to move quickly once permits are obtained but has declined to give a reopening date.

The organization released additional details about the library in an email blast to supporters. Gerber/Hart Library has been under community scrutiny since January when questions about the organization's health arose after its old home went up for rent. Some members have argued that too much power rests with Sendziak, and that the library has become secretive about its operations.

The library has put some questions to rest, however. The email blast spoke back to criticisms that the library was closed off to researchers, stating that the library does continue to assist researchers and is available at its same phone number, website and email address.

Additionally, the mailing announced the departure of Stan Huntington from the board, effective May 1. According to the library, Huntington has been replaced by former Board President Brad Tucker.

Windy City Times has posed additional questions to the organization that include updates on the number volunteers and board members but has not yet received a response.

In the meantime, Friends of Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, a group of past board members and volunteers, continues to challenge Sendziak. The group has revealed that it is working with lesbian attorney Gail Morse, but they have not said why they have enlisted an attorney.

Morse is a well-known longtime LGBT activist. She also declined to comment on the group's plans.



Sign at the new Gerber/Hart site. Photo by Kate Sosin



From left: Anna Gallios, Angela D'Agostino, Ald. James Cappleman and Vincenzo D'Agostino. Photo by Jamie Anne Royce

Cappleman announces theater renovation, wedding plans

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

To celebrate his first year in office, openly gay Ald. James Cappleman hosted a fundraiser May 17.

Supporters of Cappleman and members of the 46th Ward gathered at Fat Cat bar in Uptown for refreshments, followed by a tour of historic Uptown Theater down the street.

Cappleman spoke of his plans to restore Uptown Theater, which has fallen into disrepair since it closed during the 1980s, to the condition it was when it first opened in

the 1920s. Cappleman said he is getting the funding together—nearly \$63 million—to restore the theater over two years, with the support of Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

"The renovation is going to be beyond your imagination," said Cappleman. "This is going to happen."

Other revitalization projects are also on Cappleman's agenda, like cleaning up the Lawrence Red Line stop.

Cappleman thanked the people who also ran for his position of aldermen, saying, "The neat thing is there was 11 of us in this race and we all became great friends. That's how it should be in Ward 46."

Cappleman closed by announcing plans to marry his partner of 20 years, Richard Thale, Sept. 8 at Lakeview Presbyterian Church. The couple plans to make the ceremony legally binding in Illinois as a civil union.

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Gay Black pastors talk LGBT issues and churches

BY KATE SOSIN

Two gay Black Chicago pastors explored a largely invisible "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that they said affects LGBT people at a May 21 discussion at the Alder School of Professional Psychology. The conversation focused on Black churches, not the military.

Rev. Kevin Tindell, founder of Center Ministries, and Rev. Benjamin Reynolds, interim pastor for the First Church of the Brethren, Chicago, explored the realities facing Black LGBTQ people in faith communities during a discussion titled "Religion: The Black LGBTQ Experience."

"It's very complicated," Reynolds said of the church's role in Black communities.

Tindell later added that "complicated" was the theme of the discussion.

Black LGBTQ people are sometimes willing to overlook homophobia within their churches, said Reynolds, because the church is often integral to a sense of community.

But Tindell and Reynolds reject assertions that homophobia and faith go hand in hand.

"Those scriptures are pretty much always taken out of context," said Tindell of Bible passages often used to denigrate LGBT life. "We all put our own interpretation and spin on it... It also says we shouldn't wear wool and cotton."

"I am absolutely not in love with the Bible," said Reynolds, who added that his loyalty was to God, not to the book.

But within Black churches, they said, LGBTQ people often go silent. Their faithful peers might

know they are LGBTQ but their identities are rarely acknowledged outright. Others simply find "church" or worship in other ways—by watching services on TV or listening to them on the radio, or by having conversations about faith at coffee shops.

Reynolds and Tindell point out that while homophobia within Black churches impacts LGBT people of color, so too does racism among LGBT-affirming people of faith.

"When I walk in certain circles, it is easier for some white folks to see me as gay than as Black," said Reynolds.

Both Tindell and Reynolds are among a handful of out gay Black pastors in Chicago. Asked to discuss why Black churches may be reticent to embrace LGBTQ people, Tindell and Reynolds speculated that it may be part of a legacy of racism within the United States.

Being LGBT is still taboo, said Reynolds, and coming out as LGBT-affirming can feel like a concession of power for communities that have been forced to fight for a more equitable place in the world.

"It's complicated in the structures of us being accepted in the country club," said Tindell.

Tim Brown, accounting coordinator at Adler, moderated the discussion which was presented by Adler's LGBTQ Mental Health and Inclusion Center and Institute on Social Exclusion.

The discussion was the second in a series of conversations expected to be held on the intersections of LGBTQ issues and race by the LGBTQ Mental Health and Inclusion Center.



Rev. Benjamin Reynolds (left) and Rev. Kevin Tindell. Photo by Kate Sosin



Dignity/Chicago's 40th-anniversary Mass. Photo by Kate Sosin

Dignity/Chicago celebrates 40 years

BY KATE SOSIN

More than 50 people crowded into Broadway United Methodist Church May 21 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of LGBT Catholic organization Dignity/Chicago.

The joyful evening Mass reflected on the hurdles overcome by LGBT Catholics and renewed affirmations that being LGBT is not inconsistent with the Catholic faith.

"We became the first large Catholic group ever not to surrender to hierarchical bullying," said Marianne Duddy-Burke, executive director of Dignity/USA, who came to Chicago to deliver the 40th-anniversary homily.

"When the official church did not respond in love, you ministered to each other," Duddy-Burke said.

The mass was both jubilant and pained, as Duddy-Burke recalled a history of exclusion by church leadership, of the impact of AIDS on Dignity members and the continued resilience of Dignity chapters throughout the U.S.

Dignity/Chicago was disallowed from holding mass in Catholic churches after the organization refused to renounce its affirmation of LGBT people in 1988. It currently holds Sunday evening services at Broadway United Methodist Church.

Dignity has crossed church leadership in other ways. The organization recognizes women priests.

Rev. Barbara Zeman presided over the mass while Joanna Mochalski served as the lay minister of prayer.

Chris Pett, president of Dignity/Chicago, provided the closing and opening remarks.

"It's one of the proudest moments of my life to be with you," Pett said.

Dignity/Chicago also celebrated its anniversary with a dinner May 20. Jamie Manson, writer for the National Catholic reporter, gave the keynote address. Singer-songwriter Jeffrey Altermatt provided the evening's entertainment.

The Lakeview Clergy Association received this year's John Michie award. The Spirit of Dignity award went to Rev. Mary Ramsden, who ministers to Dignity/Chicago. Daniel Bender and Steve Forst both received special anniversary recognition.

Pantoja tribute June 1

A tribute to Dr. Antonia Pantoja will take place Friday, June 1, at the Institute for Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, 3015 W. Division St., 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Pantoja was an educator and social-justice advocate who founded Aspira, "the only national Hispanic organization dedicated exclusively to developing the educational and leadership capacity of Hispanic youth," according to its website. In 1996, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 2002, she came out as lesbian in her autobiography. She passed away that same year.

The Legacy Walk will recognize Pantoja and her contributions Oct. 11.

Tickets to the June 1 event are \$10-\$20; see http://legacyprojectchicago.org/Antonia_Pantoja_Tribute_Tickets.html.

Sponsors of the event include The Legacy Project, Aspira, the Association of Latino Men for Action, Amigas Latinas, Unidos, La Casa Norte, Puerto Rican Agenda, VIDA/SIDA and Primera Iglesia Congregacional de Chicago.

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Martha Shelley reflects on Stonewall, writing and activism

BY SARAH TOCE

Martha Shelley was in Greenwich Village the night of the Stonewall Riots in New York City on June 28, 1969. The event would not only change the course of her life forever, but that of the entire LGBT community.

"It was a hot, clear night and I was taking two women from Boston on a tour of the Village and the lesbian bars. They had come to New York City to meet with Daughters of Bilitis (DOB) members because they wanted to form a DOB chapter in Boston," Shelley said. "We passed by the Stonewall and noticed some young men throwing things at cops. The Boston women were taken aback. 'That's just a riot,' I told them. 'We have them in New York all the time.'"

Shelley added, "I wasn't trying to be cavalier—this was the height of the anti-war movement. Martin Luther King had been killed the year before and Harlem (where I was working at the time) went up in flames. A few months later there were riots in Chicago at the Democratic Convention. I didn't go to that, but I was at a lot of anti-war demonstrations and sometimes there was violence. So I assumed this was more anti-war stuff. I escorted the women back to the apartment where they were staying, and went to my lover's house. I only found out that it was gays rioting about 48 hours later."

Members of DOB were encouraged to take new surnames in an effort to evade possible FBI surveillance. She would change her last name from Altman to Shelley at this time.

Immediately following Stonewall, Shelley became one of the founding members of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF)—a direct response to the Christopher Street riots that would catapult the gay-rights movement into the mainstream and ignite a new generation of gay and lesbian political activists to take action against the perceived anti-gay government holding them captive in a variety of ways—emotionally, physically, sexually, and otherwise.

Shelley remembered, "As soon as I found out that gays were rioting against the police, I called



Martha Shelley.

Joan Kent, who was running our local DOB chapter, and said, 'We need to have a protest march.' She said that if the Mattachine Society agreed, the two organizations could co-sponsor it. So I called Dick Leitch, the head of NY Mattachine, and he said to come to a meeting at Town Hall and propose the march idea to the membership."

The response was overwhelming, according to Shelley. "Town Hall held 400 people, and it was jam-packed with 398 men, one female member of Mattachine, and me. When I proposed the march, Dick asked how many were in favor. Everyone's hand went up. So he said, 'Whoever wants to organize it, go to that corner after the meeting.' A few of us formed a march committee. We subsequently met at the Mattachine Society office to work out the details. It was another hot day. We were tremendously excited, and we were drinking beer. People say that I first suggested the name Gay Liberation Front, but I don't remember that. All I remember is pounding my

hand on the table and shouting, 'That's it! That's it! We're the Gay Liberation Front!'"

Not everyone was immediately sold on the idea, however. Shelley said, "Dick got very upset, because he thought we were forming another organization right there in his office, and might take away membership from him. So we hastened to reassure him that this was just the name of our march committee, but we were lying through our teeth.

"Next, someone called a meeting at Alternate University, otherwise known as Alternate U (or alternate you). It was a warehouse-office kind of space where leftist anti-war people taught classes in Marxism, karate, printing, Spanish and so on. We leftists who were in the more traditional gay organizations like DOB and Mattachine met with gays who were in leftist organizations, and that fusion became the GLF.

"For me this was the place where everything I believed in came together—anti-war, economic justice, feminism, the cultural changes spearheaded by the hippie movement, and what I believe to be the basis for all our liberation struggles: the right to control your own body, because if you have control of your own body, the government doesn't have the right to draft you and ship you off to kill or be killed. You can smoke dope or not smoke it, sleep with your own or the opposite sex, and so on. You can't be forced to bear a child against your will—a right we're still fighting about now."

The Gay Liberation Front formed *Come Out!* magazine during this time. The publication ran from 1969-1972 and carried with it a voice of passion and inclusion.

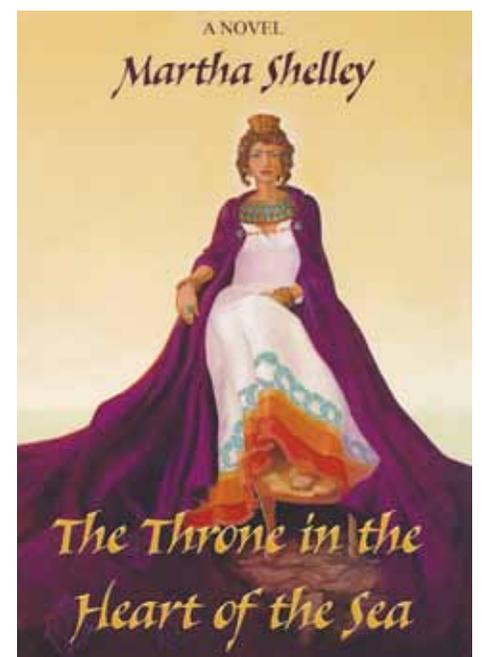
"Every leftist group at that time had a newspaper or magazine to express its ideas," Shelley said. "*Come Out!* was ours. We sold it on the streets of New York. Some newsstands carried it. And it went to other cities as well. It was the voice of people who'd been silenced; it reported on events in our community, events that never made it into the *New York Times*. You didn't need [to have] a degree in journalism from an Ivy League university in order to write for *Come Out!* so the quality was uneven, to say the least, but the passion behind it was heartfelt.

"And, unlike the *New York Times*, we didn't have to worry about losing advertisers or losing access to the halls of power. On the other hand, we didn't always hold ourselves up to high standards in terms of rigorous inquiry, and I regret that."

Shelley's commitment to the feminist movement was growing and expanding as she gleaned more of an insight in regards to the economy and women in the workforce. Her loyalty toward equality for women was ever-present as she worked overtime to distribute *Come Out!* to the masses.

"I had two jobs on the paper aside from writing for it," she said. "I worked part-time in a typesetting shop (that was before everyone had computers), and the owner was an old radical who [type]set stuff for the Black Panthers in her spare time. So I could go in there after hours and set copy for *Come Out!* Then I'd turn the copy over to the layout people, and they'd lay out the paper and send it to the printer.

"When the paper came back, I'd grab a bunch of copies and go out onto the streets of Greenwich Village and hawk them. One cold day, after selling out the paper, I went into a coffee shop to warm up. A professor from New York University was there talking with a student. He was an



economic determinist. I overheard him saying that the women's movement wasn't succeeding because of its ideas, but because the economy needed women in the workforce."

Although infuriated at first, Shelley later realized that the professor had a valid point. "That made me angry," she said. "I was one of the people generating feminist ideas, and those ideas were having a huge impact on women. But years later, I developed a broader perspective. Now I've come to believe that it is the interaction between economic, technological, cultural, and ideological factors that gave rise to modern feminism. Some technological examples might be machinery that obviates the need for heavy manual labor, and reliable birth control. And once a woman is in the labor force, not dependent on a man for income or forced to bear more children than she can support, she can divorce Mr. Wrong or even live as a lesbian if she wants. She can do this as an ordinary, working-class person instead of having to be an heiress like Gertrude Stein."

The urgency to report the news regarding the feminist movement is still valid in 2012—possibly more than ever, Shelley believes. "I think that urgency is even more valid, given the attacks on women and gays coming from the right wing. We have different organizations now and different means of communication, due to the Internet. We need to make use of every available avenue, because our adversaries aren't going to stop. It should be obvious by now that their economic aim is to suck up every cent from the 99 percent, and to take back control of our reproductive organs. I think it was Rick Santorum who said that a pregnancy resulting from rape is a 'gift from God.' So I suppose the rapist is God's holy instrument. We made a few gains in the 1970s but ever since then the right has been trying to roll us back to the 19th century."

In 1970, Shelley entered the radio field with Lesbian Nation on New York's WBAI radio station—a move that seemed natural to her since she was used to organizing marches and creating change from within the community. "I was a public speaker for DOB and the Gay Liberation Front, so I was comfortable being in front of a microphone. It was just a matter of learning the technology—how to use a tape recorder and how to edit tape," she said.

The inspired activist moved to Oakland, Calif., in 1974 and became involved with the Women's Press Collective. There she released *Crossing the DMZ* and other works. Her poetry also appeared in *Ms. Magazine*.

Her advice to the up-and-coming new generation of journalists is simple: Follow your heart, your gut, your passion.

She shared, "Many years ago, when I was really, really broke, a woman suggested that I get a job writing advertising copy in order to pay the bills. I looked at her as though she'd suggested I go to Times Square and sell pussy. Once

Turn to page 13



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Teen from stun gun incident attacked at mall

BY KATE SOSIN

An Indianapolis teen who made headlines after he brought a stun gun to school to ward off his anti-gay bullies was attacked in shopping mall by a man who recognized him from news reports, according to court records.

Darnell "Dynasty" Young, 17, was walking through the food court at Circle Center Mall May 11 when Khyran Delay, 34, allegedly called him a "faggot" and then hit him in the face.

According to a police affidavit, Delay recognized Young from media reports. Delay allegedly asked young if he had his "taser" and said he knew his family. When Young began to walk away, the affidavit says, Delay began cursing at Young, waving his finger in his face and then pushing him. Young's face was red after the incident, but he told police that he felt fine, the affidavit says.

Young grabbed national attention after he was expelled for bringing the stun gun to Arsenal Technical High School in April. He told multiple media outlets that he brought the device to school because officials had failed to protect him from anti-gay bullies, and he feared for his safety.

A mall custodian witnessed the alleged battery and radioed for security, at which point Delay allegedly pursued the custodian until security intervened.

Young was at the mall because he works at the Hot Topic store there. According to the Indianapolis Star, mall security has offered to escort him to and from work following the incident.

Young told the Star that he feels the incidents extend beyond his own situation.

"We're fighting for other children that lost

their lives," he said. "We're fighting for people that's going through stuff that I'm going through."

City readying for Pride Parade

BY KATE SOSIN

The Pride Guide booklets have gone to press and the final parade route is viewable online as Chicago readies for the 43rd Annual Pride Parade, scheduled for June 24.

According to Parade Coordinator Rich Pfeiffer, there are more than 100 events scheduled for this year's pride month in June.

The stakes are high for this year's parade after last year's parade brought in nearly double the expected attendees, overwhelming parade security and resulting in chaos along the route.

The route has been redone for the first time in more than two decades to ease the potential for overcrowding. Organizers announced the new route last October.

Rumors have circulated that the route changed recently. According to Pfeiffer, no changes have been made to the event in recent months.

The parade kicks off at noon at Montrose and Broadway and heads south. It continues south on Halsted at Grace, turning east on Belmont and then south on Broadway, finishing up east-bound on Diversey to Cannon Drive.

Pfeiffer said he believes that the change in route answers concerns raised after last year's parade.

"We're confident," he said. "Everything has been proceeding very smoothly."

Pride guides will be distributed throughout the city in the coming weeks. A calendar of events and information on the parade is available online at www.chicagopridecalendar.org.

SHELLEY from page 12

you've sold the most precious part of yourself—your writing soul—you'll have a very hard time getting it back again. I think about the journalists who beat the drums for the Iraq War, the ones who were 'embedded' with the military and reported whatever they were told to say, and the ones who still faithfully regurgitate press releases from the government as though this was real news.

"I don't think too many young LGBT journalists are going to break into those circles, where they are getting paid handsomely to do public relations and propaganda for the 1 percent. So we are free to say what we believe. The major pressures might be from within the community. For example, I am very much against transgender surgery and taking hormones, and this is strictly for medical reasons. I'm also opposed to cosmetic surgery, for similar reasons. This is not the same as being opposed to transgender people, though I'm sure it will be taken that way. I doubt if any gay newspapers would print my thoughts on the issue—and if they did, the response

would be furious.

"A young journalist is going to be influenced, as I was, by the culture and ideology of the time. When I look back at my earlier writing on *Come Out!* I can see times when I went along with the crowd and censored myself. So it's important to look at your day's work and think about what you didn't say, as well as what you did say.

Although completely immersed in the journalism field, it was never a full-time venture for Shelley. "I never had a normal career. I've mostly had part-time jobs that allowed me to write and be a political activist," she said.

Her day job is medical/legal research. After hours, she works closely with Code Pink, a women's anti-war group. "I am also involved with an anti-foreclosure committee of We Are Oregon—an organization fighting for economic justice," she said. "My most recent book is *The Throne in the Heart of the Sea*, a historical novel with a major lesbian character [available at www.ebisupublications.com]."

Note: It should be noted that Shelley's views on transgender people and medical care are, in fact, very controversial. While the medical consequences of gender-related care continue to be studied and debated, it is has also been argued that gender-related medical interventions can help gender-variant people in feeling affirmed in their true selves and can also save lives. Shelley's views do not necessarily reflect the views of Windy City Times or its staff.



Undated photo of Martha Shelley. Pic by Steven Dansky

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National Asian/Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Day observed in Chicago

BY ANDREW DAVIS

In observance of the National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, Uniting America—a project of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), in partnership with Lambda Legal—organized an HIV Health Fair at the Vietnamese Association of Illinois May 18.

Event co-sponsors included AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, Howard Brown Health Center, Center on Halsted, Northside Community Resources, Asian Human Services, Emmaus Ministries, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, the Social Security Administration and Invisible 2 Invincible, among others.

Attendees were able to get tested, participate in workshops and obtain educational materials.

During a forum, individuals from various organizations talked about the services they provide.

However, one of the most stirring talks was given by one attendee who talked about his own background. (He told Windy City Times he wished to remain anonymous, as there are some family members who do not know about him.)

"I actually defy all the stereotypes, I guess, of being Filipino-American, immigrant, Catholic. I'm openly HIV-positive, I'm queer and I'm very sex-positive. I encompass these elements that aren't spoken about in my own community and [others]. I'm also in a recovery for crystal-meth

abuse, so I have all these elements that are so against my family's tradition."

Talking about his experiences of being HIV-positive, he said, "I guess what I'm trying to do is 'normalize' HIV and not talk about it in such a way that there's this 'otherness.' It's hard to normalize it in the Asian community. We need to be less silent.

"We need to talk more about sex and sexuality. Being someone who's really sex-positive, I think people in the Asian-American community ... need to talk more about sexuality. I went to a predominantly Asian-American high school in the suburbs of Chicago, but we discovered sex on our own. We had parents that we never talked about this with—and when you intersect that with drug abuse, it becomes pretty insane.

"There is this stereotype that Asian-Americans don't have sex, but I know a lot of Asian-Americans who are HIV-positive—[and] no one ever speaks about that. When I go to an event for African-Americans or Latinos, I don't hear my voice and that's really sad. When I think about someone who's 17 or 18—whether they're HIV-positive, queer, intersex or transgender—they don't have a voice, especially in Chicago, a city that's very segregated. You don't have that voice for queer Asian youth.

"What I'm trying to do is to figure out a way to get the community to talk on a daily basis about sexual health and HIV and drug abuse.

It's about talking [to others] that changes the world. ... When you have this traditionalism and lack of dialogue, it creates this toxic environment. I don't have role models in their 40s or 50s to speak with. [However,] I'm at the point where I feel empowered as a human being."

After he spoke, Maher Alhaj of ICIRR and Lambda Legal said, "This is exactly why we're here—to try to communicate with each other to build those bridges. Hopefully, the Asian community will be more open-minded when it comes to HIV. If we keep saying someone else is going

to do it, then no one's going to do it."

The Asian Health Coalition recently conducted a three-year comprehensive needs-assessment survey for three Asian immigrant communities (Chinese, Vietnamese and Cambodian) in the Chicagoland area. The results underscored the need for more HIV-related programming targeted at local Asian subgroups, as the low response rate—coupled with other factors—suggests the disease remains a source of embarrassment and fear for Asian immigrants.

Creating Change looks to Chicago for '16 confab

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) is considering Chicago as the host city for the 2016 Creating Change conference.

Staff members were in town last week scouting potential locations for the conference, including the Marriot Downtown Magnificent Mile and the Hilton Downtown Chicago.

Members of Invisible 2 Invincible, the Center on Halsted, Affinity Community Services, Equality Illinois and other community members attended a forum on May 15, at the Hilton to discuss potentially hosting Creating Change in Chicago.

"We wanted to meet with the community to see if you would enjoy Creating Change in your city ... and to measure the capacity of the LGBT community to support this conference," said Sue Hyde, director of the Creating Change Conference for the NGLTF.

NGLTF has not previously held the conference in Chicago because a large packaging industry conference was scheduled at the same time. When Creating Change was moved from November to late January or early February, Chicago became a potential site for the conference.

If NGLTF decides on Chicago, a host committee composed of 60 to 100 people would do the bulk of the planning, with four devoted co-chairs coordinating the group.

"I want those four co-chairs to be not like me. If there were four 60-year-old white lesbians, we would not get the diversity we want," said Hyde. "We'd be looking for four people representing different sectors and organizations within the LGBT community."

NGLTF will look at two other cities in June for the 2016 conference, but these other cities are not yet determined.

"I would say we're quite enthusiastic about Chicago, and I would say it would be hard for another city to compete," said Hyde.

NGLTF plans to announce later this summer the location of Creating Change 2016.

Deaf Lesbian Festival coming to Chicago

BY ROSS FORMAN

The seventh biennial Deaf Lesbian Festival is coming to the Midwest for the first time, featuring workshops, entertainment, socializing, sightseeing and more.

The four-day DLF is July 18-21 at the Center on Halsted in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood.

"The Deaf Lesbian Festival is a celebration of who we are," said Debby Sampson, DLF 2012 committee chairperson, who lives in suburban Glenview.

The DLF was last held two years ago in New York and four years ago in San Francisco—which is when Chicago was awarded the rights to host the 2012 event.

DLF will feature entertainment elements, an auction, a keynote speaker and more.

More than 100 are expected to attend, mainly from the United States; however, other countries such as Australia, Germany and Scotland will be represented, among others.

"We're very excited for the event," said Sampson, 50, who is deaf and works as an instructional specialist at Harper Community College and a certified deaf interpreter. "DLF is an event of learning, discovering, celebration and fun for deaf lesbian women of all ages.

"What I have enjoyed most at past [DLF] events was just socializing with other deaf lesbians, people just like me. It's very empowering to know that I'm not alone. We have a lot of similarities, shared experiences; we can really be open. It's a nice feeling that we can share the same experiences.

"The workshops are very empowering."

On the last night of the convention, there will be a Dyke Ball (open to the public) and keynote speaker Dr. Eileen Forestal from New York.

Sampson said the event's non-profit fiscal sponsor is the Windy City Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf (WCRAD).

Congressional candidate's reception at law firm

Dr. David Gill—who is is running for Congress in Illinois' newly re-drawn 13th District, which includes all or parts of Champaign/Urbana, Bloomington/Normal, Springfield, Decatur and Edwardsville—held a reception May 16 at Chicago law firm Clark Hill PLC.

Among other things, Gill says he supports the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act and backs full marriage equality. He also backs an all-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act as well as bullying-prevention programs. Photos by Ed Negron, with more at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



Participants at the HIV health fair. Photo by Andrew Davis

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David Gill. Photo by Ed Negron

GAY *in the* **LIFE**
Donnie Morey
 TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN
 PHOTOS FROM MOREY



Age
48

Neighborhood
Galewood

Job title
Floral designer

Favorite flower
Orchid

Relationship status
Partners with Eric Breckenridge, 46, a flight attendant. They have been together for 19 years.

Hobbies
Movies, music, and socializing with friends.

Pets
Two Wheaten terriers, named Sidney and Shane

Little-known fact
Is a part-time social worker and writes home studies for people who wish to adopt.



His business is blooming, literally.

Donnie Morey is a self-taught floral designer who has been in business for 20 years—and very serious about it for the past 10 years, he said.

He has his own floral studio near Oak Park. "I enjoy pairing unexpected materials together, [including] exotic flowers, feathers, etc. I like playing with color, texture, creating interest and drama," Morey said. "I have always had a creative side, have always felt need to create—be it art or floral design. I have always needed that outlet."

Morey won the 2009 People's Choice Award (for bouquet work), presented by the American Institute of Floral Designers.



"What I enjoy the most is, the process," he said. "What I really like to do is, take what the client wants, and then incorporate my own spin. They'll bring pictures of flowers or styles that they like, and then I'll add my touch."

His work is primarily for weddings, though he also has shined at galas, fundraisers, dinner parties and elsewhere. He also has done several civil unions, which definitely have increased his business, he said.

Morey and his partner, Eric Breckenridge, had a ring ceremony five years into their relationship and are now thinking about their 20th anniversary celebration. "We will do something to celebrate our commitment—with lots of flowers, of course," Morey said.

"One thing I love about my job is, helping people realize their dream, their vision. I enjoy taking simple elements and turning it into something that is dramatic, amazing. I get a lot of satisfaction from that 'Wow Factor.'"

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



Dee D. Newcum

Pronouns
She/her

Identifies as
"Pan genderfluid trans-dyke. Or just queer."

Life's work:
"My tombstone will probably say 'engineer'. I dabble in mechanical engineering and safety engineering, and software engineering pays the bills. I've been a geek for a long time — I was programming on my dad's lap at age six."

When did you start questioning gender?
"Five days before Halloween 2009. I was 32 years old. There might have been clues before that, but I hadn't recognized them as such."

Do you have a coming out story?
"Four days before Halloween, I started shopping for clothes in earnest. For Halloween, I wore a very genderfucky outfit— skirt, tie, combat boots, tights, makeup. But I realized it was more important to me than a one-day event. A week later, I started going to a trans support group. Shopping by myself on such a short deadline was very difficult, but it taught me a lot about getting over my fears, and about how some of society's rules are arbitrary."

Do you consider yourself an activist?
"Yes. As they say, you should walk a mile in someone else's shoes. When you live life in two

different pairs of shoes, you get a good idea of the differences in how others treat you despite the various genders being supposedly equal."

What issues, if any, outside of the queer community do you care about?

"It should be okay to say 'I am racist'. Not because racism doesn't cause severe problems, but because things like the Clark doll experiments show that racism is pervasive. Each one of us has personal soul-searching we need to do to fix this problem. I am racist. I am classist. I am ableist. And I am trying to fix these."

What is the best thing about being trans/gender-variant?

"The tiniest things, like walking out your door in the morning, are subversive."

How do you explain the way you feel about gender to others?

"Gender is like your favorite color. Some people feel pressured to wear one color their whole life and don't want to stand out from a single-hued crowd. Other folks have a different favorite color in their 20's and 30's. Some folks pick a different color every day. Some folks feel passionately that their favorite color is important to their identity, and some folks wish others would stop spending so much time worrying about what color they're wearing."

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

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Spinsters Ink
In Conversation with Achy Obejas

Saturday, June 16
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LETTERS

WINDY CITY
TIMES

VOL. 27, No. 31, May 23, 2012

The combined forces of Windy City Times,
founded Sept. 1985, and Outlines newspaper,
founded May 1987.

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DISTRIBUTION: Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Renee, Sue and Victor
WEB HOSTING: LoveYourWebsite.com (lead programmer: Martie Marro)

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

 Community Marketing, Inc.

Vital exchange

Dear Sens. Durbin and Kirk:

As members of the Illinois General Assembly, our voices in Congress, we urge you to prioritize the health and lives of Illinoisans and permit the use of federal funds to support life-saving syringe-exchange programs (SEPs).

As the appropriations process begins for FY 2013, we ask you to provide renewed leadership to repeal the federal ban on federal funding for SEPs. We are dismayed and disappointed that the Senate gave in to pressure from the House on this issue. This is not the time to take steps backward in the fight against HIV and viral hepatitis. Federal restrictions on SEP funding are an immediate threat to the health and safety of U.S. families, and will cost the nation's taxpayers money in medical expenses to treat preventable infections for years to come.

As the U.S. surgeon general determined in 2011, SEPs promote entry and retention in drug treatment, and reduce HIV, hepatitis and drug use. Under previous federal policy that your actions overturned, local communities, in consultation with law enforcement and public health officials, decided how to use federal funds for SEPs. This flexibility ensured that the funding was used to best meet local needs, priorities, and values.

Seven federally commissioned research reports demonstrate that SEPs are among the most effective strategies available to reduce injection-drug-related HIV and hepatitis infections. They promote health-seeking behaviors among high-risk individuals, keeping themselves and their partner's safe without increasing drug use. SEPs are proven to be highly effective and cost saving, and they need the financial resources necessary to continue in these successes.

We have much to be proud of in Illinois. Our state has made tremendous progress in reducing new injection-drug-related HIV infection. From 2001-2009, the state saw a 62-percent decrease in new HIV/AIDS cases related to injection drug use, which is the largest decline of any risk group. This decline meant 650 HIV infections were averted, saving the state over \$200 million in lifetime medical costs.

Illinois has invested in SEPs, passed the non-prescription syringe purchase law, and most recently passed legislation to prevent opiate overdoses. Each of these advances enables Illinoisans to remain healthy, but to sustain this infection decline it is essential that local jurisdictions be permitted to decide how to invest federal dollars without restriction.

Please consider the substantial progress Illinois has made in stemming injection drug related HIV and hepatitis infections through investing in SEPs. An estimated 45,000 of the 1.1 million people in the United States living with HIV/AIDS are right here in Illinois, and we cannot allow that number to grow.

We urge you to reverse this misguided funding restriction in FY 2013, and restore decision-making on SEP funding to its rightful place at the local level.

Sincerely,
 Melissa Janiszewski
 Policy & Community Education Coordinator
 AIDS Foundation of Chicago

Obama's commitment
in question

To the Editor:

Although it's nice to know that Barack Obama now supports marriage rights for LGBT couples, we question his sincerity and doubt he will fight hard to effect a genuine change in policy in the corridors of power in Washington.

Why should we believe him now?

Obama has been a chameleon on the marriage issue. He backed it before he opposed it and now he backs it again. In 1996, as a candidate for the Illinois state Senate, Obama "unequivocally" supported gay marriage. By the time of his U.S. Senate race in 2004, he had flipped. Now, in the race for a second term as president, he's for it again.

Furthermore, in a typical have-it-both-ways ploy under-reported by the media, Obama said that the states ought to decide marriage policy, not the federal government. Just as North Carolina, thank you, did the day before Obama's announcement when it banned marriage equality, the president would leave gay-marriage rights to the tender mercies of anti-gay hate-mongers across the nation. To his credit, U.S. Rep. James Clyburn from South Carolina disagreed with the president by asserting that marriage is a civil right that ought to be protected by federal law and not be put to popular referenda.

And speaking of federal law, the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) prohibits the federal government from recognizing a same-sex marriage and reciprocity for gays married in states where it is legal. This odious act was signed into law by Democratic President Bill Clinton in 1996 after bowing to the will of a reactionary Congress and remains the law of the land despite Obama's having Democratic control of both houses of Congress for the first two years of his administration. In short, Obama never opposed DOMA when he could have done something about it and now when he says he does oppose it he's ineffective, with the House in control of the Republicans. This is how our president fights for our rights.

Finally, in April this year, President Obama had the opportunity, at no cost to himself, to sign an executive order that would have prohibited federal contractors from discriminating against LGBT employees. He refused. Rather than having purely symbolic value like his tepid support of gay marriage, this executive order would have meant real and immediate support for the material rights of LGBT people.

So don't be misled for a moment. Obama's "commitment" to LGBT rights is worth about as much as his promises to support union organizing and tax the rich.

We need to keep up the direct action pressure for LGBT marriage rights no matter who's in the White House. It's the only way to deliver the goods.

Roger Fraser
 Bob Schwartz
 Gay Liberation Network

Ex education

Dear Editor:

Blair Mishleau proposes a "dialog" with the "ex-gay" community (WCT, 5/2/12). He says everyone wants "love" in their lives and that "the end goal is to look beyond the political issue and see real people."

Mishleau's proposal would be harmless enough were we to enjoy full equality. But since we are far from that goal, his misguided efforts at dialog play right into the hands of the enemies of LGBT people and our struggle for equal rights. If so-called "ex-gays" wanted to play fair they would adopt a live-and-let-live attitude toward us and support marriage for same sex couples, equal treatment in employment and housing access, etc. But, they do not. The public face of the "ex-gay" movement is closely allied with antigay hate mongering and discrimination.

Mishleau appears to have either missed or ignored the sharp criticism directed at the so-called "reparative therapy" of the ex-gay movement by the professional helping community. "Pray the gay away" has been denounced by the

American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, and the association of pediatric physicians. These organizations are clear in their identification of homophobia as being at the heart of lack of self-acceptance on the part of those gays who end up in ex-gay "ministries."

By many indications, the ex-gay movement is on the ropes. So, why toss a life buoy to people who want to see us back in the closet, or worse?

Bob Schwartz
 Gay Liberation Network

Bad medicine

Dear Editor:

Last week the United States Department of Justice announced settlements in two cases involving HIV discrimination.

In the first case, a podiatrist at Mercy Medical Group Midtown Clinic in Sacramento, Calif., incorrectly told his HIV-positive patient that he could not perform a needed surgery on the man's foot. The surgeon was afraid he'd contract HIV from the patient during surgery. In the second case, the Knoxville Chiropractic Clinic North in Knoxville, Tenn., turned away an HIV-positive man who'd been approved for 24 chiropractic treatments after being in a car accident. He was told the clinic doctors could not treat people "like him."

Prejudice is always ugly, but it's especially abhorrent in these cases because the people who discriminated were medical professionals—the very people we'd expect to know better. The worst of it is that medical professionals who discriminate against people with HIV create the perfect conditions for HIV to spread.

When medical providers let irrational fear guide their decisions—rather than scientific fact—it's not only unjust, it's terrible public health. Ample evidence shows that when people with HIV stay in care long-term, successfully tolerating and adhering to antiretroviral medication regimens, the "community viral load" is greatly reduced and new HIV infections dramatically decrease. Securing access to health care for people with HIV turns out to be a critical part of stopping the epidemic in its tracks.

The Public Health Service knows this. In the last few years it has directed an increasing share of resources and funds toward keeping people with HIV connected to medical care. At AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, we work every day to make sure people with HIV can access medical care, helping our clients fight through the labyrinthine bureaucracies of public and private insurance systems to ensure they have adequate coverage to get the medical treatment they need. In fact, securing access to medical care makes up the bulk of the council's daily work.

But even free comprehensive health insurance coverage for every person in America wouldn't be enough to guarantee that people with HIV will stay in care. First, they have to trust that the medical system cares about them, wants to help them stay healthy and will treat them with respect.

So as public health officials continue their admirable crusade to connect HIV-positive people to life-saving medical care, let's remember that no public-health plan works if people aren't willing to stay engaged with the medical system. Fighting stigma and protecting the legal rights of people with HIV is an integral part of preventing the spread of HIV.

Ann Hilton Fisher, Esq.
 Executive Director
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GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

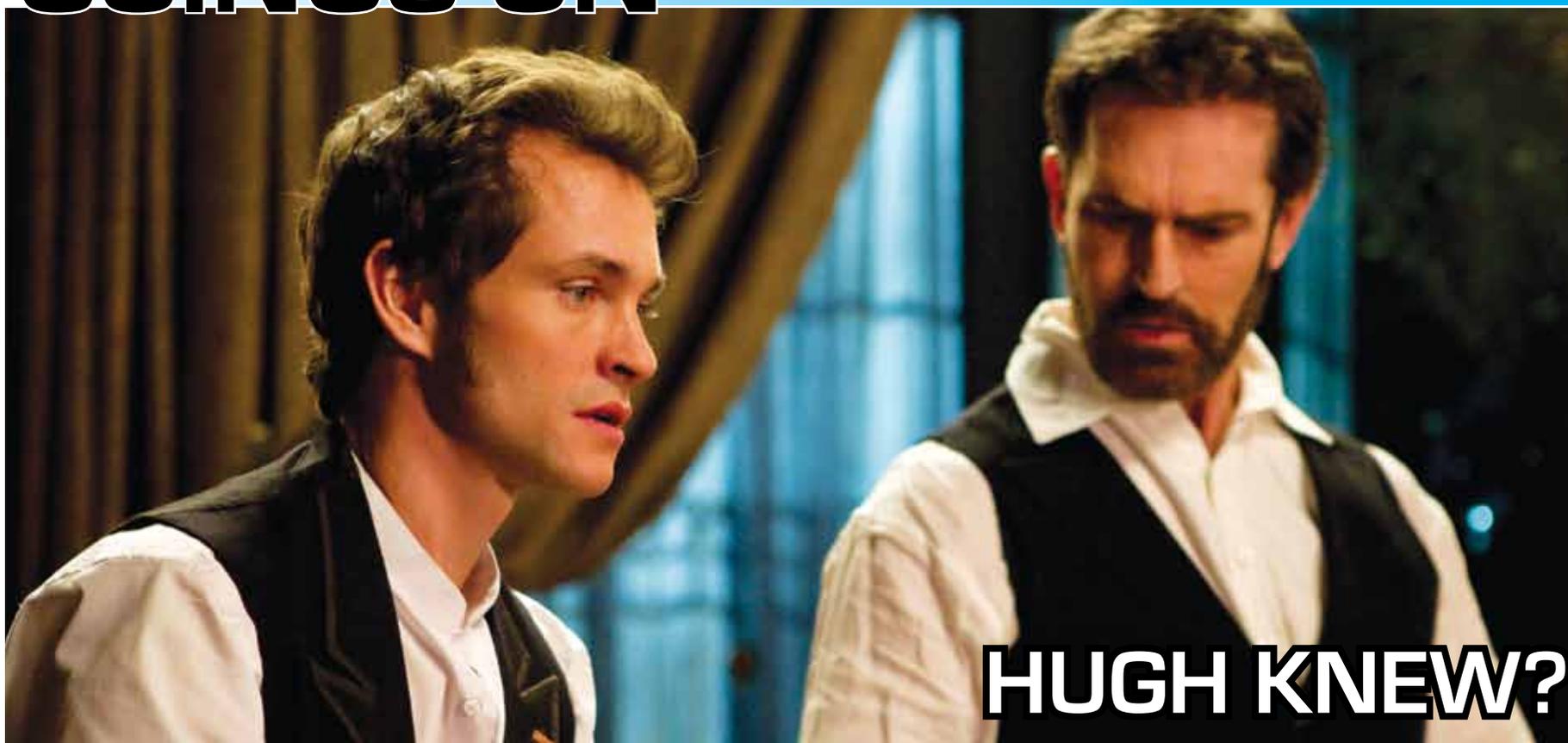


Photo by Ricardo Vaz Palma

HUGH KNEW?

Hugh Darcy (left) and Rupert Everett co-star in the movie *Hysteria*. Read the review on page 28.

DISH

Show and tell.
Page 30.Photo from the *National Restaurant Show* by Andrew Davis

MUSIC

Hard Sande.
Page 21.

PR photo



THEATER

Down 'Town.'
Page 18.

Photo by Lara Goetsch



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Cromer pays the 'Rent'

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Out director David Cromer admits that he once numbered among the chorus of colleagues who derided the hit 1996 Broadway musical *Rent*.

"Anything that was about cool kids and was really, really popular, I just automatically turned up my nose at it," Cromer said.

But recently, Cromer and some of his friends begrudgingly admitted that they secretly loved it, especially when they were moved to tears when they saw the current off-Broadway revival of *Rent* last year.

"I had never seen the show before, I had only listened to the CD," Cromer said, adding that amid the tears he realized that he wanted the chance to get his hands on the material.

"I hadn't come to terms with how it related to me and how it related to that period in my life," said Cromer, identifying with the musical's "struggling artist" aspect of its young characters throwing themselves into danger to be true to their lives and creative work. "I fell in love with it 15 years after the fact."

In the years before Cromer became one of the country's most sought-after theater directors following his revelatory productions of *Adding Machine* for Next Theatre and *Our Town* for The Hypocrites (both of which went on to be produced respectively in 2008 and 2009 off-Broadway in New York), he lived through tough periods of making ends meet while honing his craft as a director around storefront theaters in and around Chicago.

Originally American Theater Company artistic director PJ Paparelli and About Face Theatre artistic director Bonnie Metzger were announced to direct their companies' current co-production of *Rent*, but they gave Cromer the job when he called and asked if he could have a crack at it.

"It all happened sort of overnight," Cromer said. "That's the great thing about ATC and About Face and about Chicago—that I've always been able to get into a conversation with artistic directors and producing directors and say, 'Hey, you guys want to do something?' and they go, 'Yeah, fuck it, let's do it!'"

Although many professional doors have opened up for Cromer in recent years, he's also had to deal with a few artistic bumps along the way. Cromer's 2009 Broadway debut helming a double bill of Neil Simon revivals of *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *Broadway Bound* was cut short when the first show abruptly closed before the second play even opened. And a few productions that were Broadway aimed with Cromer named as director either fell apart (stars Nicole Kidman and James Franco were at one time announced for a revival of Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth*) or are still waiting to materialize (like the gay musical *Yank! A WWII Love Story*).

Cromer's recent work on *Rent* also had its issues, since many previews had to be cancelled and the opening night was slightly delayed due to technical issues. The show's critical reception wasn't all rapturous either, with some reviewers taking Cromer to task for not casting more secure vocalists in many key roles while others



David Cromer.

had issues with the amplification system.

"We were going for a thing that was going to be constantly changing parameters of the theater and trying to change parameters of the show," Cromer said about *Rent*'s preview hiccups. "It's a point of honor to open your show on time, but it's also ultimately your job as an artist to present it when it's ready."

The fact that Cromer hasn't abandoned directing in the Chicago area after relocating to New York in 2009 should make local theatergoers grateful. Mixed in amid Cromer's recent directing triumphs in New York (like Lincoln Center Theater's *When the Rain Stops Falling* in 2010 and the current critically acclaimed off-Broadway hit *Tribes* for Barrow Street Theatre) have been

wildly acclaimed Chicago-area productions like *A Streetcar Named Desire* for Writers' Theatre and *Cherrywood* for Mary-Arrchie Theatre Company. "I'm not as much in Chicago as I would like to be probably, but I've got to go where the work is and I've got to go where I can make a little more money," Cromer said.

Still, Cromer is really excited to be making his Goodman Theatre debut this fall with *Sweet Bird of Youth*, even if Hollywood stars (at this point) aren't attached to his production.

"I've wanted to that play for some time," Cromer said. "So when I go to meetings and places over the years and people ask, 'What do you want to do?' and you always have a certain play you want to do and one of them has always been *Sweet Bird of Youth*."

About Face Theatre and American Theater Company's co-production of *Rent* directed by David Cromer continues through June 17 at American Theater Company, 1909 W. Byron St. Performances are at 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays, 3 and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$45-\$50. Call 773-409-4125 or visit www.atcweb.org.

David Cromer makes his Goodman Theatre directorial debut with Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth* from Sept. 15 to Oct. 21, to open the theater's 2012-13 season at 170 N. Dearborn St. Season tickets are now on sale, and individual tickets go on sale in August. For more information, call 312-443-3800 or visit www.goodmantheatre.org.

More ATC news

Ayad Akhtar's drama *Disgraced*, which opened the 2011-12 season for American Theater Company (ATC), will be getting a New York production as part of Lincoln Center Theater's LCT3 program. Chicago director Kimberly Senior is attached to the show, which will be one of the first productions staged in the new Claire Tow Theatre which was recently built on the roof of the Vivian Beaumont Theater on the campus of Lincoln Center in New York.

THEATER REVIEW

Take Her To See the Maco Lights

Playwright: Bekah Brunstetter

At: Prologue Theatre Company at Luna Central (fka Live Bait), 3914 N. Clark St.

Tickets: 773-769-7761;

www.brownpapertickets.org; \$16-\$20

Runs through: June 2

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

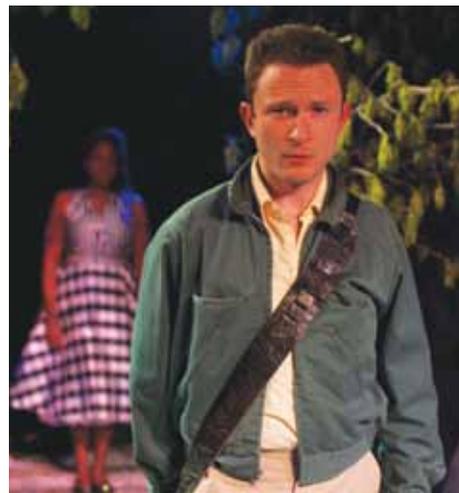
We know right away that the cheerful young man playing the dobro guitar under the big tree by the railroad tracks is a ghost—he says so, himself (“What are you looking at?” he teases us, “You can’t see me!”)—and that noncorporeal creatures are exempt from the temporal limitations imposed on mere mortals. What we don’t know yet is that his cognitive powers span only three generations in a chronicle dating back twice that number—immortality being no guarantee of omniscience—so that sometimes even he is unable to distinguish between the living and the dead.

Our story technically begins in the years before emancipation, with a slave-woman who bought her freedom, only to die when the train carrying her north derailed. As is often the case in these instances, the site of the wreckage became a trysting place for local youth seeking privacy and a glimpse of the long-deceased signalman’s warning lantern, said to appear to certain individuals. It is to this shrine that James and Mattie retreat in the summer of 1957 to share a clandestine courtship. James, you see, is heir to the tobacco fortune supporting the region’s economy, Mattie is a secretary in the family business—and she’s Black.

If you think you’ve already guessed how this will turn out, you’re only halfway there. How can

a person be hit by a train on a route abandoned for decades? Who is the smart New York visitor in town for her grandmother’s funeral, wearing her late gram’s dress? Why does our spectral host suddenly find himself sharing narrative duties with his former sweetheart? “This is just a legend,” he cautions. “Maybe I’m romanticizing a bit to keep you interested.”

Romanticizing or not, Bekah Brunstetter knows how to grab our attention and hold it spellbound for the 70 minutes it takes for her characters (and us) to—well, see the light. The intimacy of the small room places audiences barely eavesdropping distance from the confidences exchanged in a play demanding close attention to every word. Under Margo Gray’s direction, LaNisa Renee Frederick and John Wehrman trip daintily through their mosaic text, while Beth Laske-Miller and Barbara Trinh’s period accouterments keep us anchored in the present, however slippery its boundaries, and Luna Central’s location across the street from the picturesque Wunder cemetery provides continuation of the magic far into the night.



Take Her to See the Maco Lights. Photo by Stephen Davila

THEATER REVIEW

Elephant’s Graveyard

Playwright: George Brant

At: Red Tape Theatre at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 621 W. Belmont Ave.

Tickets: 847-738-6919;

www.redtapetheatre.org; \$25

Runs through: June 16

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

George Brant’s look at U.S. values opens itself to a number of interpretations: it could conceivably be read as a caveat on inhumanity engendered by wartime unease, parochial boredom or exclusionary capitalism. Then again, maybe it’s a romanticized sermon on the moral superiority of those dwelling on the fringes of society—or perhaps a southern-gothic creepiness along the lines of Ray Bradbury’s *The Circus of Dr. Lao*. When your playwright is the mischievous author of *Lovely Letters* and *Night of the Mime*, you never know.

What we know is that our saga begins with Charlie Sparks, now an old man in a hospital, whose dying memories are of that fatal day in 1916 that his circus arrived in the sleepy town of Erwin, Tenn. During the parade meant to lure customers to the next day’s show, the lead elephant breaks drill, drawing a physically painful rebuke from its inexperienced rider—whereupon the animal turns on her abuser, killing him. The circus troupe declares the handler’s death an accident, but the citizens of Erwin call it murder, demanding that the offender be executed. Sparks is reluctant to sacrifice his star attraction, but eventually capitulates to his customers’ wishes.

That’s one version of the legend, anyway. As with most such incidents, accounts differ widely, growing ever more nebulous with each retelling. Brant’s verbal montage weaves the diverse reports into a volatile tapestry of human behavior,



Elephant’s Graveyard. Pic by James D. Palmer

augmented by a rustic orchestra whose members roam through the action supplying incidental music reflecting the dramatic ambience and intensifying the impact of the more spectacular scenes—notably, the condemned pachyderm’s slow and ugly hanging, suggested by evocative choreography coupled with ingenious manipulation of objects stimulating our imaginations to the awe engendered by the magnitude of the atrocity in progress.

The tragic scope that this Red Tape Theatre production could have generated is unfortunately diminished by its configuration to an arrangement seating the audience not only on opposite sides of the arena-like playing space, but elevated on galleries high above the floor. This forces unmiked actors to repeatedly direct their voices away from half of their audience, so that even when vocalizing straight for the rafters, many important textual details are rendered unintelligible. If this concept’s purpose was to replicate the limited vantage of eyewitnesses to the original event, it also cheats us of fully comprehending the occurrence under scrutiny, much as a similarly myopic view did the bloodthirsty mob of a century earlier.

THEATER REVIEW

My Kind of Town

Playwright: John Conroy

At: TimeLine Theatre Company, 615 W. Wellington Ave.

Tickets: 773-281-8463 or

www.timelinetheatre.com; \$32-\$42

Runs through: July 29

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Be aware that the world premiere of John Conroy’s *My Kind of Town* at TimeLine Theatre is not a musical. Sure, that title may prompt you to think of Frank Sinatra’s crooning voice, but *My Kind of Town* is actually a serious affair looking at the police torture scandal in Chicago of the past few decades.

Conroy is well-positioned to dramatize this uncomfortable subject, since he has been researching and reporting on this scandal for the *Chicago Reader* since 1990. Though Conroy utilizes fictional characters in his drama, their personal dilemmas are undoubtedly amalgamations of the people and situations he encountered during his years reporting on the story.

The drama picks up when death-row inmate Otha Jeffries (Charles Gardner) hurls loads of foul-mouthed vitriol at his new *pro bono* lawyer, Robert Morales (Derek Garza). Yet once Morales hears Jeffries’ story of how his confession was obtained through police torture, Morales goes on a crusade to try and get the conviction overturned.

Yet not everyone is happy about Morales’ drive to get Jeffries released. Those accused of being directly or indirectly complicit are unsettled to different degrees, including

the state’s attorney worker Maureen Buckley (Maggie Kettering), former police detective George Dawson (A.C. Smith) and long-time police detective Dan Breen (David Parkes). Breen’s wife, Ann (Danica Monroe), and his sister-in-law, Peg (Carolyn Hoerdemann), must also question whether the accusations are true.

But in an interesting twist, Conroy also shows Jeffries’ divorced parents, Rita (Ora Jones) and Albert (Trinity P. Murdock), as being not entirely happy about this drive to free their son. On one hand they both want truth and justice to prevail, but neither really wants the stress and burden of dealing with their angry and prison-hardened son if he is released.

Conroy paints his timely drama with thoughtful shades of gray, prompting the audience to invest both in the personal issues of his characters and the moral issue of torture itself as a device to obtain confessions to solve local crimes or defend national security. Conroy increases the tension by showing each of his characters’ personal dilemmas as the trial approaches, and he also throws in surprise twist near the end to complicate all previous assumptions.

Director Nick Boling and his artistic ensemble do an expert job at humanizing Conroy’s characters and pulling you into the drama of their own complicated situations and moral tests. *My Kind of Town* questions the complicity we all have when it comes to torture, whether it’s turning a blind eye or refusing to speak up. *My Kind of Town* definitely unsettles and provokes, which is the mark of a dramatic job well done by Conroy and the combined forces of TimeLine Theatre.

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[title of show].
Photo by Michael Brosslow

THEATER REVIEW

[title of show]

Playwrights: Jeff Bowen (music and lyrics), Hunter Bell (book)
At: Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie
Tickets: 847-673-6300; www.northlight.org; \$25-\$65
Runs through: June 10

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

It actually happened: Two guys wrote a musical about two guys writing a musical. They filled it with self-deprecating humor and lots of laughs about show biz, and between 2004 and 2008 it moved from a workshop to an off-Broadway success and, finally, to a three-month run on Broadway itself. At each step the authors cleverly revised it to incorporate their new experiences.

Now in its regional premiere, [title of show] is an amiable 105 minutes performed by a talented cast, but it's amusing rather than entertaining, the real meaning of which is "to hold." There's not enough in this small show to hold our interest. Cleverness and bonhomie go only so far without dramatic conflict and character development, and [title of show] has neither.

There's no particular reason why an audience should care about authors Jeff and Hunter, or their friends Heidi and Susan who help them birth their show. They're pleasant and talented but not compelling. They have a big argument (which they resolve) close to the end of the show, but that's not the same as dramatic conflict (people with different goals or objectives) or a dramatic crisis. At the very beginning, one

of the authors says that working on the show will be a writing exercise for them, and far too much of [title of show] is precisely that: how can we come up with a duet for the girls, a duet for us, a song-and-dance number, a quartet, a big belt tune?

The authors decry the state of the American musical and the lack of originality of it, which is more than a little ironic. In the Golden Era, a Broadway show would have a cast of 40 with another 40 in the orchestra pit. [title of show] has four performers plus one person at a piano. The missing elements of choreography, chorus and orchestrations are the very things that make a Broadway show a Broadway show.

Veteran performers McKinley Carter (Susan), Christine Sherrill (Heidi), Stephen Schellhardt (Jeff) and especially clown Matthew Crowle, who is nimble of limb and voice as Hunter, strut their stuff with charm to spare and a quick, nonchalant style under Peter Amster's agile direction. But the four aren't asked to dig deeper than sitcom acting, not even in the attenuated songs, most of which are under two minutes long. The few fully developed numbers are a joy: Sherrill belts out "A Way Back to Then," Carter comes through with "Die, Vampire, Die," Schellhardt and Crowle have fun with "An Original Musical," and all four shine on the close harmonies of "An Awkward Photo Shoot." Still, even reliably top-drawer musical director Doug Peck can't make the mostly thin material more than merely amusing.

SPOTLIGHT



Belgian theater company Ontroerend Goed has been acclaimed worldwide from Sydney to Amsterdam with its expansive play **A History of Everything**, which ambitiously aims to retell our collective history from the present day all the way back to the Big Bang. Catch this U.S. premiere as part of Chicago Shakespeare Theater's World's Stage series. **A History of Everything** plays from Friday, May 25-Sunday, June 3, in Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Upstairs Theater space at 800 E. Grand Ave. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 3 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays; and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$35-\$45. Call 312-595-5600 or visit www.chicagoshakes.com. Photo by Brett Boardman

CRITICS' PICKS

El Mari Chi Chi: A Robert Rodriguez Burlesque, Gorilla Tango Theatre, through May 29. Gothic-western movies meet pasties and g-strings in Gorilla Tango's latest skin-and-satire extravaganza. (Is that a Colt .45 in your pocket or are you just glad to see me?) MSB

A Little Night Music, Writers' Theatre, Glencoe, through July 8. This is a gloriously intimate and chamber-sized approach to Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler's sophisticated and romantic 1973 Broadway musical. It's wonderful to be so up close and personals with such great performers without the aid of amplification. SCM

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

Timon of Athens, Chicago Shakespeare Theater at Navy Pier, through June 10. Two hours in the company of a spendthrift-turned-street grouch might not sound like a fun evening at first, but damned if Ian McDiarmid doesn't have us cheering on the scrappy old curmudgeon by the end. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

CULTURE CLUB

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-NY TIMES

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[title OF show]

music and lyrics by JEFF BOWEN
book by HUNTER BELL

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MUSIC

Jason Mraz: He won't give up

Pop star talks supporting LGBT community, his 'open' sexuality and clarifies *Instinct* interview
BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

How cool is Jason Mraz? For one, his unwavering fight for equal rights led him to shoot a Human Rights Campaign video recently; he's also waiting to wed until everyone can and, not long ago, united with Cyndi Lauper to tell the world that he, too, gives a damn.

And hey, it doesn't hurt to know that he's laid-back in the sack. Not just as a curious kid, but even now as an adult who, as he told us during this interview, is down for some three-way fun. As Mr. Feel-Good releases his fifth album, *Love is a Four Letter Word*, we got Mraz on the phone for a candid catch-up on music, marriage and the evolution of his wordplay—and set a few things straight: his misleading words in *Instinct* and how, when it comes to sex, he's "keeping his options open these days."

Windy City Times: So, the grungy look: Is that what happens when you make an album about freedom and love and everyone getting along?

Jason Mraz: Yeah, maybe so. I certainly admire John Lennon, George Harrison and David Crosby—the guys before me that did it. I think it's a rite of passage that not necessarily every artist has to go through, but I feel that I have to experience. And I'm enjoying it.

WCT: What about the boyish geek in pink? Is he still in there?

JM: Yeah, of course. From that I sprang.

WCT: How have you changed since *Waiting for My Rocket to Come*?

JM: You know what, I'm still scared. And from that fear, I'm still hopeful. I still don't know what I'm doing and from that not knowing, I'm still very excited. And those contradictions are what keep me going. That's the kind of stuff I continue to write about. I guess how I've changed is that I've learned to just accept what is. I certainly try to influence and inspire, but I am also not attached to the outcome, and I didn't know those things during *Rocket*. I was just like, "Give me a pack of cigarettes and let's go." And now I don't smoke anymore. I have more tools under my belt.



Jason Mraz. Photo by Emily Shur

WCT: So your rocket finally came?

JM: Yeah. But I want it to get off! [Laughs] I tried to get it off. I jumped off several times actually, like, "Ooh, OK, this is what this feels like. Yeah, no thanks. Let me start over."

WCT: Between doing the Human Rights Campaign PSA recently, a *Give a Damn* video and being on the cover of *Instinct*, how do you feel being a poster boy for gay rights?

JM: I love it, because this is my way to finally fight back. There were a few kids in high school who called me a fag or just would always intimidate me, and I didn't know at that time what I was going to grow up to be or who I was going to grow up to be. I hadn't had enough intimate experiences to know, so as a young man I questioned how my sexuality was going to evolve.

My best friend in high school came out when I was a senior and I thought that was the bravest thing anybody could do—to stand up and truly be themselves. I'm not bashing my town, but at that time in my life there were other kids who bullied those who were gay or different. I ended up just leaving town for many reasons, for pursuing a dream mostly, but I didn't feel encouraged or inspired by my peers.

Now that I have this opportunity to shine a light on the subject and be a straight man and be outspoken, I'm making up for that lost time—I'm making up for that kid, that geek in the pink, that didn't stand up—and I'm using my voice now for good, and it makes me feel really darn good.

WCT: You should. We need our allies.

JM: The civil-rights movement happened because all parties got involved. And this, I think, is one of the final steps in the civil-rights movement.

WCT: You mentioned experimenting as a young person, but now you identify as straight. Early in your career, however, I recall you stating that sexuality is fluid and that everyone is somewhat bisexual. Have you changed your mind? Are you still keeping your options open?

JM: Yeah, I'm keeping more of my options open these days. The older I get, the more fearless I become. That's not to say I'm absolutely

fearless. [Long pause] Man, I should be really careful with my words, especially with this question.

WCT: Talk about the "straight" label itself. Do you dislike labels?

JM: Were we to live in a society that was equal, those labels wouldn't really exist or matter—except maybe at the DMV or someplace where, for some reason, you have to put down gender, race or age. I don't get it. I don't get why sexuality has to be such a big deal. You know, I've been invited by couples to join them, and I'm really turned on by that. [Laughs] I've never taken them up on it, though.

WCT: We can leave it at that, then. Your decision to wait to wed until there's marriage equality was a bold move to make, especially since—according to the recent *Instinct* interview—it became one of the reasons your relationship with Tristan Prettyman ended. To people who might not understand your decision to wait, what kind of message are you hoping to send?

JM: I would like to add that my words in *Instinct* may have been written or may have been spoken incorrectly. It wasn't that my partner wasn't into the fight for equality—she absolutely was—but it was the frustration in the partnership, the waiting, that was one of many factors that made it difficult.

I can't speak for her anymore because we're not together, but for me it was a great opportunity to experience what it feels like to only be able to go so far in a relationship, which I know some of my gay and lesbian friends have experienced. They're like, "Well, we've been together for seven or eight years, we've even got a kid, yet we can't get married. We can't get the tax benefits. We can't visit each other in the hospital." It just seemed very unfortunate.

So, my personal protest really gave me that kick in the stomach that I wasn't expecting: "Oh man, this really is frustrating," because my partner really wanted to get married and I saw that and I acknowledged it but I'd already committed

to this and I surprised her with it. She said, "All right, let's go for it." But it wasn't easy.

WCT: "I Won't Give Up," the first single from your upcoming album, could be a love letter to the gay community. Have you thought about it that way?

JM: I wanted the song to be able to connect with anyone who has something worth fighting for—whether it's the fight for equality or someone who just wants to lose five pounds. The song is available for anybody's fight. Hopefully, though, I never see the song on two sides of the same fight. That would be awkward.

WCT: *Love is a Four Letter Word* lacks the scatty wordplay we've come to know from you. What's that all about?

JM: It shows up in a different way now. That scatty rap and wordplay is still in the core of my writing and what I do; for instance, the bridge of "I Won't Give Up": "I don't wanna be someone who walks away so easily/I'm here to stay and make the difference that I can make." The essence of that is a scatty, rappy wordplay all about alliteration and rhythm. On this album I wanted to have an intention with the words and have an intention with the lyrics rather than just pass it off as goofy wordplay.

WCT: Since the album's all about love, and without quoting Whitney Houston, what's the greatest love of all?

JM: Oh, man. I think it's the love of oneself, because it's once you truly love and accept yourself that you can accept others loving you and you walk around with the confidence and strength to love others and actually be of service to the world, so it's that—accepting and loving oneself. And it has nothing to do with being self-absorbed. It's just getting over your shit so you can step out into the world and make a difference.

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

Variety of local acts at Midsommarfest

The Andersonville Chamber of Commerce and Andersonville Development Corporation have released the entertainment lineup for the 47th annual Andersonville Midsommarfest, June 8-10.

The band 16 Candles will be the featured act Friday, June 8. The rest of the weekend will feature six stages of entertainment, including the new Out Rock Stage.

Approximately 50,000 people are expected at the event, which spans Clark Street from Foster Avenue to Catalpa Avenue. In addition to the musical acts, there will also be vendors and food. Below are just some of the acts:

Friday, June 8

North Stage: Clark & Catalpa

5 p.m. DJ Dan Luna
7 p.m. 16 Candles

Saturday, June 9

CENTER STAGE: Clark & Berwyn

11 a.m. Jesse Thomas & His Electric Band
1 p.m. Chicago Samba
2:30 p.m. Chicago Spirit Brigade
3 p.m. The Joans
4:30 p.m. Windy City Cowboys
5 p.m. Stann Champion's Roots Rock Society
7 p.m. Rock Candy

OUT ROCK STAGE: Clark & Balmoral

12 p.m. KAVUS
2 p.m. Fatally Cool

4 p.m. Ian Wilson
6 p.m. Mindy Bartlett
7 p.m. Stephen Leonard

Sunday, June 10

CENTER STAGE: Clark & Berwyn

11 a.m. Deliverance Singers Gospel Brunch
1:30 p.m. Chicago Spirit Brigade
2 p.m. Devin & The Straights
4 p.m. Liquid Soul
6 p.m. Artbeat Live
7 p.m. Maggie Speaks

OUT ROCK STAGE: Clark & Balmoral

12 p.m. Jeff Brown
2 p.m. Jeffrey Altergott
4 p.m. Dawn Xiana Moon
6 p.m. Monica Del Castillo
7 p.m. Sami Grisafe



Sami Grisafe. Photo from Grisafe



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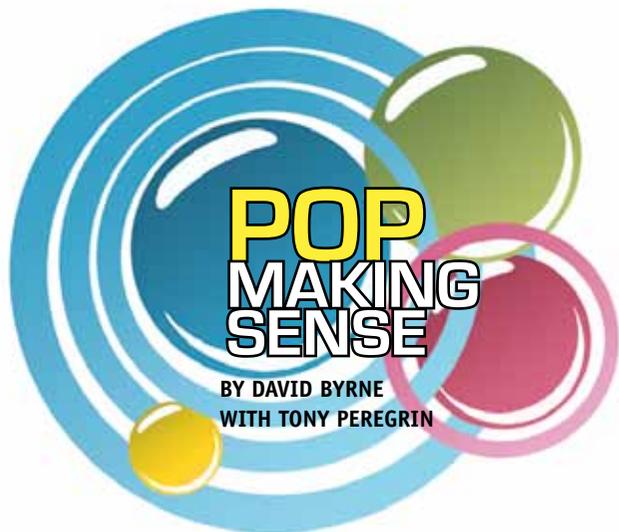
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Memorial Day weekend brings International Mr. Leather and Bear Pride to the Windy City. A sure-fire goodtime over the holiday is the dance party hosted by **Blowoff**, which has Bob Mould and Rich Morel as DJs. The pair's fourth annual event in Chicago takes place on Saturday, May 26 at Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., at 11 p.m. These music veterans combine a great blend of alternative, electro and dancefloor heavyweights into their mix to the crowd's delight. Tickets and more information are available at www.blowoff.us.

Openly gay singer-songwriter **Ian Wilson** returns with *This Is Water*. The Alt Q alumnus finds his strongest moments when his rich voice takes center stage with beautiful arrangements like on "Resurrection Ship" and the superb "Se Dice No." Another highlight is the mesmerizing rhythm on "Bad Ideas Work Best," where Wilson is on the brink with frustration, as he details somebody else's faults. The closing track, "Balancing Act," is quite atmospheric with its piano accompaniment and the echo of his voice. The opening song, "Indentured Servant," and "Bad Wolf Bay" seamlessly marry storytelling with folk and electronic music.

Fans of Matt Alber and Ben Folds Five definitely should check out Wilson's *This Is Water*. The Chicago-based Wilson will be at Andersonville Midsommarfest Saturday, June 9. The self-released *This Is Water* is out now.

I was introduced and ultimately spellbound by **Emeli Sandé** when she won The Critics Choice Award at the 2012 Brit Awards. Her captivating appearance coupled with the drum-and-bass sound of "Heaven" made me want to know more. Having already penned songs for Leona Lewis and Susan Boyle, Sandé's debut, *Our Version of Events*, shows off her songwriting and a voice that recalls Beyoncé's, but is far less annoying. Don't let the opening cut, "Heaven," leave the feeling that *Our Version of Events* is just a throwback to Massive Attack's *Blues Lines* era; it also features gorgeous, slower numbers like "My Kind of Love" and "Mountains."

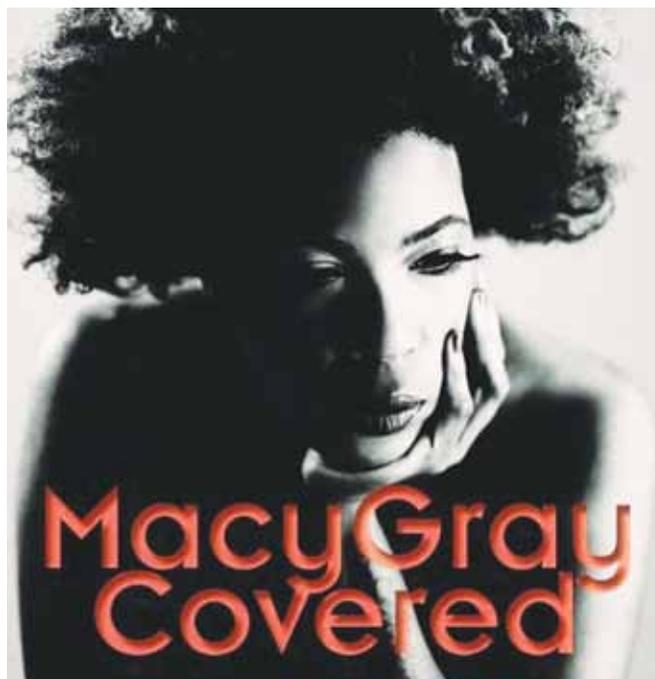
Sandé headlines a concert on Wed., May 30, at Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave., before opening for Coldplay at The United Center, 1901 W. Madison St., on Tuesday, Aug. 7 and Wed., Aug. 8. *Our Version of Events* is due out June 5 via Capital Records.

The comeback of the year belongs to **Garbage** with the newly released *Not Your Kind of People*. The alternative act is in fine form here after a hiatus following 2007's hits package, *Absolute Garbage*. The title track is another "It Gets Better" anthem for outsiders as Shirley Manson closes by repeating, "We are extraordinary people." The fantastic "Felt" has Manson cooing over tight guitars. Don't fret; she still has her don't-fuck-with-me attitude, as heard on "Automatic Systematic Habit," "Control" and the edgy "Battle in Me." A Chicago date finally has been added to Garbage's tour itinerary with a must-see show at Metro on Tuesday, Aug. 7.

Macy Gray has such a charming, unique voice that can emit a childlike wonder, belt out soulful funk and carry the gravity of heartache. When I first heard of she would be stamping that sig-

nature voice on other people's work for the album, *Covered*, I was hoping for some interpretations of Prince in there. Alas, she does not attempt any of his catalog here. The set opens with a spectacularly haunting version of "Here Comes the Rain Again" by Eurythmics. Gray's bizarre reworking of "Maps" misses its mark. But she redeems herself with risky renditions of Metallica's "Nothing Else Matters" and Radiohead's "Creep." Gray will be performing with Seal at Ravinia, 200 Ravinia Park Rd., Highland Park, on Sunday, July 22.

Allow the retrospective *The Essential Mariah Carey* to reintroduce the megastar. Her music became formulaic with its lifted samples, predictable covers and cheesy inspirational ballads by the time her third studio album, *Music Box*, came out in 1993. This collection captures some goodies during the first 10 years of her career, like remixes of "Anytime You Need a Friend"



and the album track "Vanishing" from her nine-times-platinum debut. "Emotions" still does not properly credit Earth, Wind and Fire's Maurice White and Al McKay for its blatant sample from "Best of My Love" by The Emotions. This

double-disc retrospective has memorable hits like "Vision of Love" and "Can't Let Go," but my favorites—"If It's Over," "You Need Me" and her spin on Prince's "Beautiful Ones"—are missing. The diva is now a spokesperson for Jenny Craig and has new material expected to drop later this year.

Need a soundtrack for a Memorial Day party? Check out **POPular Volume 7**. This Centaur Entertainment collection has upbeat remakes of radio staples like fun.'s "We Are Young" and Katy Perry's "Part of Me." The LGBT community is represented with new takes of Jessie J's "Domino" and Sia's hook on Flo Rida's "Wild Ones." The version of "I Like How It Feels" here is abso-

lutely irresistible with its sunny, feel-good vibe. Video-bar favorites "Set Fire to the Rain" and "We Found Love" make sure that POPular Volume 7 has never misses a beat. The 15-track continuous set mixed by DJ Grind is out now.

GLHF GAY AND LESBIAN HALL OF FAME 2012 CELEBRITY BOWL FUNDRAISING EVENT

Saturday, June 9th

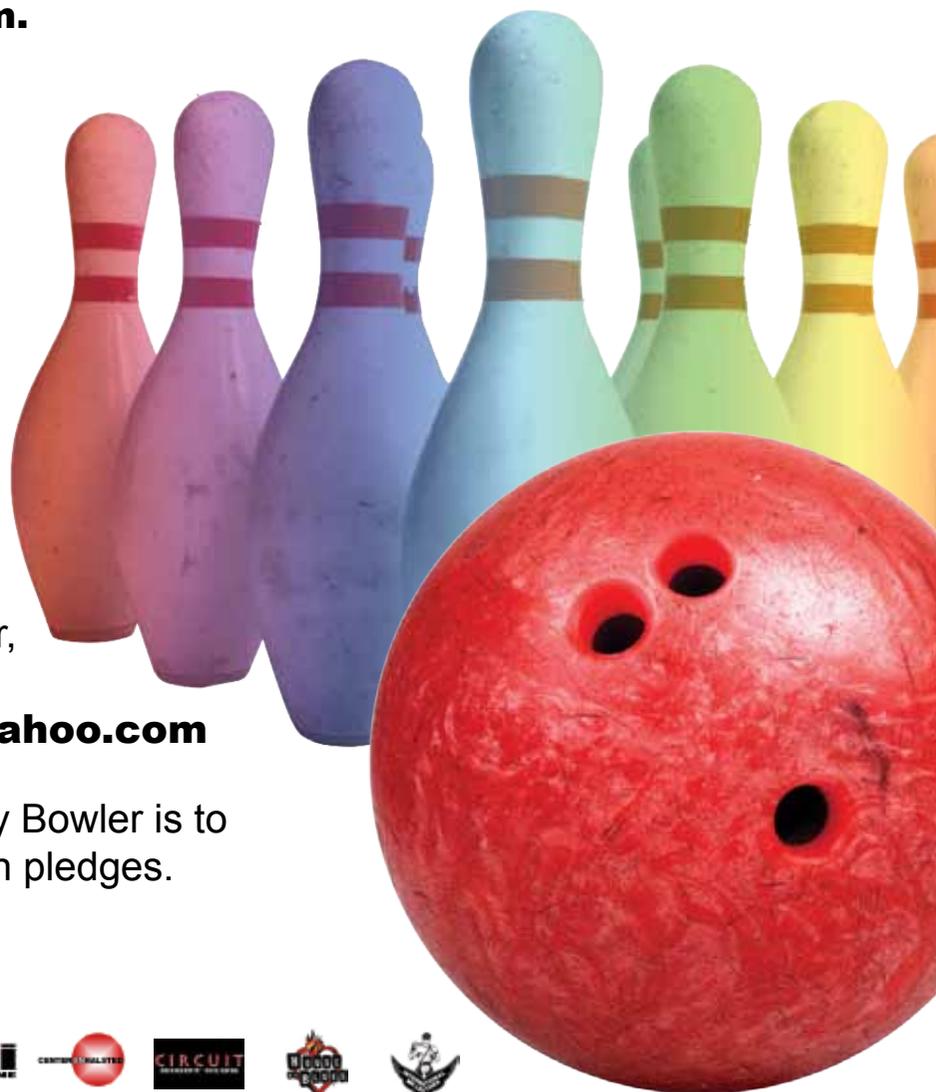
Registration: 10-11 a.m.

Bowling: 11 a.m.-noon

Wrap-up: Noon-1 p.m.

Waveland Bowl

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- Are pregnant or become pregnant

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

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- 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:

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- 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).

**EGRIFTA**[®]
tesamorelin for injection

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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National comic strip takes on gay kids and prom

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

Cartoonist Tom Batiuk has written the Funky Winkerbean strip for the past four decades, and since 1986 has periodically surprised readers by taking on mature and controversial topics including, teen pregnancy, suicide, cancer and teen-dating violence.

Now celebrating its 40th anniversary, the daily cartoon strip is taking on its first LGBT-related issue: gay kids attending prom. The storyline launched April 30 and will conclude at the end of May.

"This started a year ago," Batiuk said. "I saw an article in the paper where a parents' group in Southern Ohio was protesting a high school, and they were protesting apparently the school's more tolerant policy towards gays. I contrasted that with what I observe when I go out to my old high school. ... It seems to me that this younger generation has a more open and accepting attitude toward issues like this. It's not perfect, I'll be the first one to say this, but I think overall there is a generational divide here. I thought that would be a good topic to use in Funky. It's basically an issue of intolerance versus tolerance, and that is something that has been a lynchpin of Funky since the beginning and it gave me a chance to speak to that again."

This is the first time Batiuk has included any LGBT characters in the strip. The two gay male students are not Funky regulars and are not integral to the storyline beyond providing the catalyst for the debate that follows. The story instead centers on the variety of consequences and reactions that follow as the Funky characters face this issue.

The prom storyline kicked off when two gay students purchase prom tickets. Jinx, another student at the school, doesn't see an issue with the guys going together but Roberta Blackburn, a community member, has problem with their ticket purchase. This sets the plot in motion, as opinions fall on both sides of the issue and tension builds between those arguing for acceptance and those against the same-sex couple attending.

The school's principal is finally forced to bring the two sides together and gives a speech about tolerance. Batiuk mentioned that the speech is where he gets to express his own opinion on the topic. He promises that the storyline will end with an unexpected twist as well.

What is his view on the issue? "I don't have any problem with it," he said. "I don't see anything wrong with it. They have as much right as anybody to be at the prom."

Batiuk said he has received both positive and negative responses to the storyline from fans, and said that some of the 400 newspapers that carry the strip have chosen not to run it, but he seems pleased with the overall reception the strip is getting.

The storyline has garnered a positive response from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and from Stephanie Laffin of the "It Gets Better" Project. Batiuk said GLAAD's response was gratifying and means that he achieved what he set out to achieve.

"The best thing you can hope for is that people will just look at the work and consider it and it makes people think," Batiuk said. "Comic strips, all they can do is frame the question. It can't provide answers. The answers have to come from the readers. They're the ones who are going to have to decide what they're going to do in life, but I think comic strips are in a unique position in readers lives, showing up in the newspaper every day to provoke this question and frame it and then let people think about it."

So far, Batiuk has succeeded in presenting serious topics through Funky Winkerbean. In 2008 his breast-cancer storyline, "Lisa's Story," became a Pulitzer Prize finalist and became an award-winning book.

In celebration of its 40th anniversary, Batiuk's work is being reprinted in its entirety. Volume 1 came out earlier this year and covers the strip's first three years. Batiuk will be at the Wizard World Chicago Comic Con convention Aug. 9-12 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center (5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont), and he will be at the Midwest Band Directors Convention in December in Chicago.



Funky Winkerbean frame that deals with its first LGBT-related issue. Image by Tom Batiuk

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ON THE RIVERWALK






MUSIC

Donna Summer: The queen of disco dies

BY DAVID BYRNE

On May 14, I applauded a contestant at Windy City Gay Idol for drawing the microphone away from his mouth while singing. I told him it offers a great visage, but I have only seen two sirens do that flawlessly and still have their voice hit the mic; Sinead O'Connor and Donna Summer. Three days later, Summer lost her bout with lung cancer. She was 63. The vocal powerhouse was a private person to the extent that many did not know she was ill.

Summer will be remembered for her disco-era staples like "On the Radio," "Last Dance" and "MacArthur Park," thus earning the moniker "The Queen of Disco." Her enduring hits were the soundtrack in nightclubs and live on at wedding receptions. Not just another disco diva, Summer wrote a large share of her own material while collaborating with Giorgio Moroder, Pete Bellotte and Harold Faltermeyer.

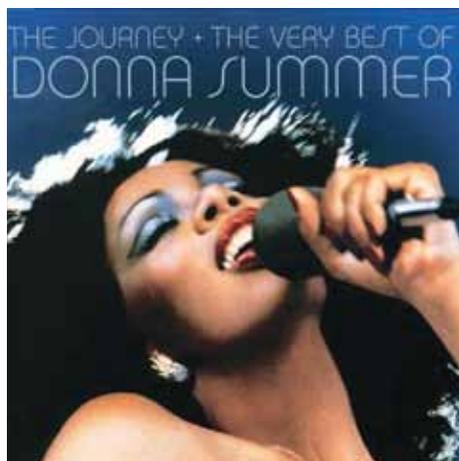
The dance charts provided her a home. Her last Top 40 pop hit was 1989's "This Time I Know It's for Real." The follow-up sessions with the hit production team Stock Aitken Waterman were troubled. Some of the material from these ultimately would go to Lonnie Gordon, most notably the hit "Happenin' All over Again."

There were rumors that Summer made anti-gay comments and claimed that AIDS was a divine punishment in the '80s. This soured my interest in familiarizing myself more with her catalog. Summer insisted the quotes were not true and asked for forgiveness to her loyal LGBT fan base. In 1998, she performed at Carnegie Hall, raising \$400,000 for the AIDS-related organization Gay

Men's Health Crisis.

Her multiple retrospectives show how influential her music is. Legions of artists have tapped Summer's vaults for samples or for remakes. The impressive list includes Blondie, Dolly Parton, violinist Vanessa Mae and the group TLC as well as duets of kd lang with Andy Bell and Marc Almond with Bronski Beat. House vocalist Juliet Roberts and openly gay singer Jeffree Star both have done fantastic versions of "Bad Girls."

In the liner notes to David Bowie's *Sound and Vision*, when Brian Eno first heard how "I Feel Love" had only a synthesized backing track, he said to Bowie, "I have heard the sound of the future." The sequencing on "I Feel Love" is used on Kylie Minogue's 2000 album track "Light Years" and Madonna's "Future Lovers" from 2005. Even Summer's own tunes "Now I Need You," "Work That Magic," and "Love Is a Healer" feature a



Donna Summer.
PR photo

pulsating groove similar to the one on "I Feel Love."

The late singer said that she would no longer perform her breakthrough hit, the overly sensual "Love to Love You Baby," because of her strong religious beliefs. Beyoncé sampled this track on the popular 2004 single "Naughty Girl." When I saw Summer at the Taste of Chicago shortly thereafter, "Love to Love You Baby" returned to her repertoire. In 2011, she recorded a new version of it for an ad for the Diesel perfume *Loverdose*.

Critics reference Summer's trademark sound when somebody releases material that blends dance music with pop melodies and a strong vocal. Such is the case with Madonna's *Confessions on the Dancefloor* and Janet Jackson's single "Together Again."

Summer's impressive list of hits has spilled over into pop culture. On *RuPaul's Drag Race*, Manila Luzon's theatrical performance of the chart-topper "MacArthur Park" left the judges awestruck. Even fellow contestant Alexis Mateo said, "I'm looking at Manila and I'm going, 'Wow—this is Broadway.'" During the show's next season, Chicago's *The Princess* eliminated Lashawn Beyond after a fierce interpretation of "Bad Girls."

On *South Park*, Eric Cartman performs a hilarious take of the women's-liberation anthem "She Works Hard for the Money" for an audition.

American Idol had contestants trying to tackle Summer's catalog on several occasions. She even

made appearances to sing and mentor the hopefuls.

Few know that Summer had struggles with depression, survived an abusive relationship, had an addiction to prescription medications in the '70s and attempted to kill herself by jumping out of a window, but was saved by a hotel maid.

The first time that a Grammy was given for Best Female Rock Vocal Performance, Summer won it for the hit "Hot Stuff." Similarly, she won the Grammy for the new category for Best Dance Recording for "Carry On" in 1998. Although Summer is not in the Rock n Roll Hall of Fame yet, she was inducted in the initial class for the Dance Music Hall of Fame.

Undoubtedly, the "Heaven Knows" singer will forever be tied to disco. She also ventured into making music in other genres. She was also an avid painter and wrote her autobiography *Ordinary Girl: The Journey*, which Villard published in 2003. Her memoirs were set to become a musical containing new material next to her beloved hits in 1999 but this was delayed repeatedly. She teamed with Junior Vasquez on the song "My Life" for the piece.

In a 2010 interview with *Allvoices.com*, Summer said she was planning on working on a dance album and a collection of standards. Her last single, "To Paris with Love," was her 16th visit to the summit on the club charts. The 2003 retrospective *The Journey and 1999's Live & More Encore* serve as ideal keepsakes of the late talent's remarkable career.

2012 gay key west

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keywestpride.org
June 6-10

Tropical Heat
tropicalheatkw.org
August 16-19

Womenfest
womenfest.org
September 4-9

www.gaykeywestfl.com
800.535.7797

Robin Gibb dies

Robin Gibb—who, along with brothers Maurice (who died in 2003) and Barry, made up the Bee Gees—has passed away at age 62 after a long battle with cancer.

The Bee Gees started in the 1960s but really hit superstardom during the disco era with the soundtrack to the movie *Saturday Night Fever*. The group's hits included "You Should Be Dancing," "Jive Talking," "How Deep Is Your Love" and "Night Fever."

L Stop anniversary party May 26

On May 26, The L Stop is inviting everyone to come celebrate its one-year anniversary. The event is being held at O'Malleys Liquor Club, 3551 N. Sheffield Ave, and will include a three-hour bar package, DJs, performances, contests and more. O'Malleys will be transformed, for one night, into a hub where women and their allies can drink, dance and celebrate with The L Stop team.

Throughout the night, The L Stop will highlight some of its accomplishments since its inception on May 1, 2011.

Co-owners Lisa Martinez and Vivian Gonzalez have worked to staff writers from a wide background of training and interests.

O'Malleys allows general admission (\$35

pre-sale) and VIP (\$60 pre-sale). The open bar begins at 9:30 p.m., with general-admission ticketholders enjoying call brands such as Bacardi, Jim Beam and Smirnoff. VIP guests will sample tasty bites and a private bar with top-shelf liquors such as Ketel One, Captain Morgan, Bombay and Patron. VIP ticketholders will also get to experience a private performance.

See www.brownpapertickets.com.

Macy's announces Glamorama theme

The theme of Macy's Glamorama 2012 is "British Invasion: The Music Then. The Fashion Now!"

From The Beatles to The Rolling Stones, Macy's Glamorama 2012 will pay homage to some of the world's most well-known and respected British pop icons from the past 50 years.

The event will take place Friday, Aug. 10, at 8 p.m. at The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St. Macy's on State Street will host an after-party.

Ticket prices are \$50 and \$75 for the show only; \$175 and \$285 for show and after-party; and \$1,000 for the VIP show and after-party. For more information, visit www.macys.com/glamtickets. (The American Express Exclusive Pre-Sale will take place May 30-June 7 for American Express cardholders only.)

BOOKS

A closer look at Carol Anshaw's 'Carry the One'

BY SALLY PARSONS

Anshaw is the author of the novels *Aquamarine* (1992), *Seven Moves* (1996) and *Lucky in the Corner* (2002). She has won the Carl Sandburg, Society of Midland Authors and Ferro-Grumley awards for fiction, and has been a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award three times.

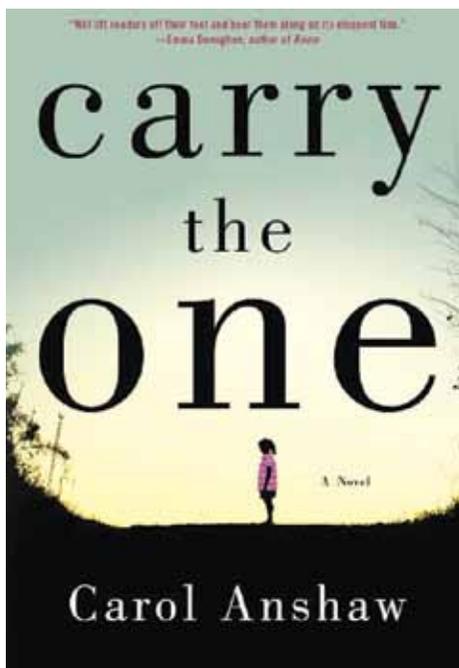
Anshaw is a past fellow of the Illinois Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. She teaches in the MFA in Writing program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She lives in Chicago and Amsterdam with her partner, Jessie Ewing. Anshaw recently provided the following comments to our questions.

WCT: You teach writing. What's the most important thing you tell your students?

CA: I like to work with aspiring novelists, and what I tell them is that it is way more difficult to write a novel than they think it will be, that it will take longer than they envision, and that they just have to hang in past the failure of nerve that is certain to come at some point along the way. But that, eventually, with persistence, novels get done.

WCT: You live part of the year in Chicago, part in Amsterdam. Why Amsterdam? How do you contrast the energy of the two cities?

CA: I love each city for different reasons, but what they have in common is water. I live by the lake here and on a canal there. The presence of water is crucial. I've lived in Chicago a very long time and know a ton of people. In Amsterdam, I know about three people, which makes it a very good place for me to write. ... It's a casual but elegant place—lots of art, great



restaurants [and] bookshops. But there is no dog beach in Amsterdam. My dog, Tom, would be too confined. So my partner and I spell each other in staying over there, so he is not without us for too long.

WCT: Nick, one of the characters in Carry the One is an astronomer. Why astronomy?

CA: I love astronomy and astrophysics. I understand about 1/100th of anything I read on the subject, but even that is thrilling. We humans are so tiny in the scope of things. Sometimes that's annoying; other times I find it a huge relief. Astronomers have better maps of what's going on out there than they used to, but an enormous percentage of the universe is "dark matter." Nobody knows what it is. I love that. I also like that time is a dimension and



Carol Anshaw. Photo by John Reilly

didn't exist before the big bang.

WCT: Is there a subject you want to tackle in your writing but which, as yet, eludes capture?

CA: Not that I can think of. I always try to do something new with every book. Now, I'm trying to make more and more agile narratives. Stories that don't move in expected ways. I also think my books are becoming darker as I go.

WCT: You're also a painter. You've done a series on Vita Sackville-West. Why did you pick her as a subject?

CA: Oh, she's totally delicious. I twigged onto her years ago on account of her affair with Virginia Woolf. She was a mediocre novelist and poet, a world-class gardener. She rebuilt a castle because she needed to live in one. She was a fairly terrible person—an aristocrat with a huge sense of entitlement. She was queer but married. Her husband was also queer. They had two sons, then she began leaving them for months at a time to carry on an affair in Paris. Cross-dressing and louche bars. She was a serial seducer. So I have paintings of her young, as a bride, with her family, paintings of the jettisoned girlfriends, paintings of her old in her garden. I know there has to be an end to this project eventually, but I'm not quite there yet.

WCT: What author has made the biggest impact on you? In what way?

CA: There are two: Don DeLillo and Shirley Hazzard—DeLillo for his vision of America and the lives we live in it, the false connections. [I like] Hazzard for style. Hazzard and Alice Munro—they are the style queens.

WCT: What's your next creative project?

CA: I'm a ways into a novel about life in the city as it is lived on separate—as the quantum theorists would say—separate membranes, parallel realities.

In her newest novel, Anshaw explores the weight of a little girl's tragic death on the lives of the people in the car that hit her. We follow Carmen, Alice, Nick and Maude principally as they travel on their way through the next two decades, each dealing in his or her own way with the burden of carrying the one—Casey, the child whose life was snuffed out due to their negligence. Alice explains the interconnectedness of all these characters: "Because of the accident,

we're not just separate numbers. When you add us up, you always have to carry the one."

These folks grapple with their memories and guilt over the summer night in 1983 that changed their lives. Some of these people we cheer for, others we sorrow for. Some we just want to go away. One, we are left wondering for much of the novel what happened to her as she stays hidden from view.

Anshaw's books always deliver—easy-to-read, sweet and touching tales of ordinary people with identifiable crises. The author unfolds her novels with great insight, humor and fascinating milieus. In *Carry the One*, in addition to various parts of Chicago, we enter the world of Moroccan hammams (communal bathhouses) in Paris, art gallery openings in Amsterdam and the rolling country hills of southwest Wisconsin, where the story begins.

But this is not a travelogue, unless we consider the main paths and byways the human heart leads us along. Carmen is the social-activist sister, the one whose wedding begins the book. Though not in the car that leaves the wedding celebration late at night with only its fog lights on, Carmen carries guilt over letting her stoned, drunk, and sleepy guests depart so unprepared for what was to happen. Her sister Alice, the artist, and her brother Nick, the astronomer, are passengers in the car—Alice in the back seat making out with her newfound love Maude, and Nick gazing out the window at the stars from the front passenger seat and stoned out of his skull.

It is these three—Carmen, Alice and Nick—whose journeys over the next quarter-century are the focal point of the novel. Others haunted by the girl's death pop in and out.

Perhaps the most touching character is Nick. Success in life eludes him. A brilliant astronomer, his quirks mean he's constantly shunted off to the sidelines of his profession. It seems he can deal with the macro and micro views of the universe but not what's right in front of him. As Nick puts it, "I understand the Theory of Everything, which doesn't even exist yet. Then I sober up and lose it all." As messed up as his life is, ironically Nick is the one co-conspirator in little Casey's death who achieves the greatest connection to her family.

One of the joys in reading Anshaw is the delight in her use of language. An example from *Carry the One*, where she describes the receptionist greeting Carmen and her charge at the hamman: "She towered over them, like a schoolmistress in a dark dream." Anshaw towers over our imaginations and our understanding of the human condition. It's an enriching read.

Ky Dickens fundraiser May 29 at Vertigo

Ky Dickens—who helmed the LGBT-themed movie *Fish out of Water*—will hold "The Height of Fashion" fundraiser for her newest movie, *Sole Survivor*, Tuesday, May 29, 6-9 p.m., at the Vertigo Sky Lounge atop the Dana Hotel, 2 W. Erie St.

The movie deals with the real-life stories of sole survivors of airline disasters.

The event, held in partnership with CS Magazine, will feature clothing designer Maria Pinto, jewelry designer Tammy Kohl and fashion blogger Emma Arnold as hosts.

This fundraiser will feature local arts and culture with a one-night-only auction sale of unique items and packages, ranging from jewelry to clothes, to art and exclusive behind-the-scenes tours.

Tickets are \$35-\$50; interested persons may visit www.brownpapertickets.com/event/247166.

Scooty & JoJo's 'Invasion' June 1

The Scooty & JoJo Show returns to Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., on Friday, June 1, with the benefit concert *Space Invasion*, billed as a "full-tilt celebration of sci-fi cinema and space rock."

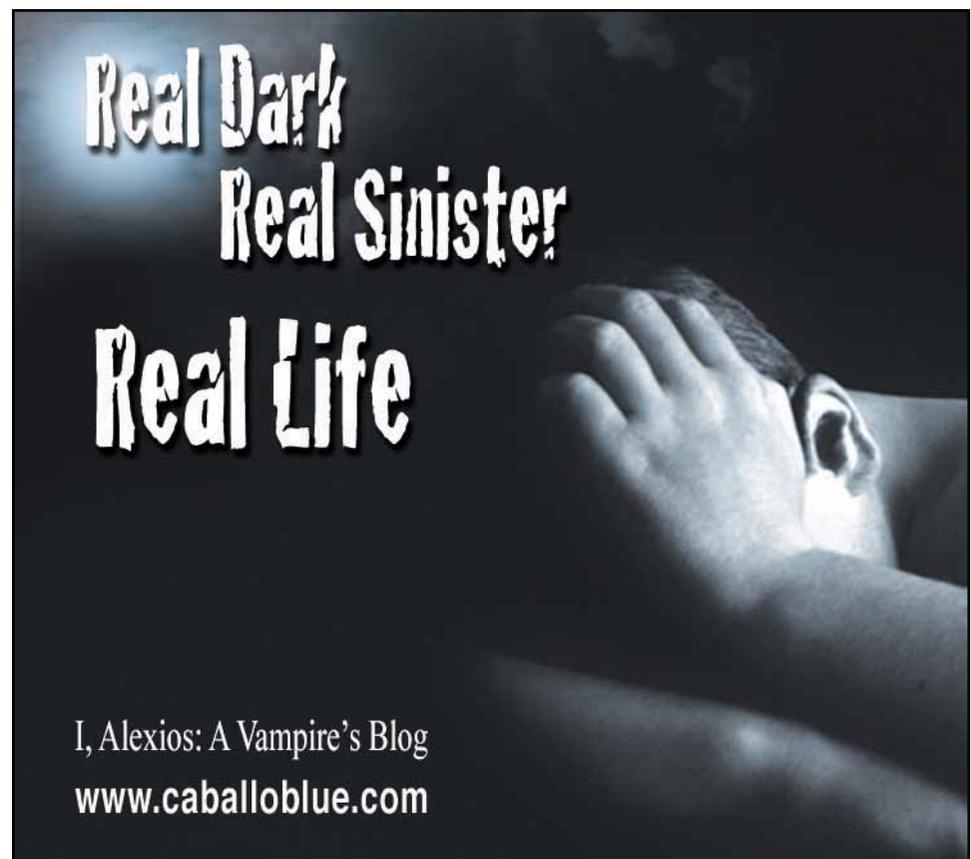
Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the show; VIP tickets are \$40 each. See www.ScootyJoJo.com or www.Metro-Chicago.com, or call 773-549-4140.

'Spring Awakening' fest June 16-17

The Spring Awakening Music Festival—touted as Chicago's first all-dance music event—will be held June 16-17 at Soldier Field (Stadium Green).

Among the entertainers scheduled to perform are Moby, Skrillex, Benny Benassi, Afrojack, Carl Cox, Derrick Carter, Diplo, Team Bayside High, Tommie Sunshine and many others.

Two-day passes are available at www.Clubtix.com; more info is at www.SpringAwakeningFestival.com.



MOVIE REVIEWS

Hysteria; Loose Cannons; film notes

BY SAWYER J. LAHR

Hysteria is a highly entertaining romantic comedy about the history and science of sexual pleasure and medical treatment of hysteria with surprisingly little sexual tension, considering the subject. This is the third feature by out lesbian and Chicago native Tanya Wexler (Ball in the House and Finding North, featuring out actor John Benjamin Hickey).

Wexler's third feature is a light and airy work of creative non-fiction, blending romance and adventure with historical facts and period detail without being esoteric. It pairs well with the Golden Globe-nominated *Dangerous Method* because of Sigmund Freud's writings on hysteria and psychoanalysis. The once-valid medical condition the title refers to was said to be primarily experienced by women who get excitable

tion.

The coinciding story line involves Charlotte, who is the sole representative of the suffragette and reform movements. It is a hefty task for one actress, but she pulls it off without compromising the historical significance of the cause. Unlike the silent suffragette films of the 1910s, the central woman does not abandon her cause for love; she stands up for a battered woman and serves a prison sentence for it. However, Charlotte shamelessly begs her father to subsidize her settlement until he refuses to continue to cover her debts. Conveniently, she later enters into good fortune when Granville offers to share the profits from vibrator sales.

I enjoyed the interplay between Edmund and the young Dr. Granville, who room together in a posh apartment sponsored mostly by Granville's better half, Edmund. Granville's friend is unfor-



Rupert Everett in *Hysteria*. Photo by Ricardo Vaz Palma

or irritable, or those who experience emotional extremes. It is better understood today as perfectly normal behavior, except in the cases of mood disorders and sexual depravity.

Hysteria stars Hugh Dancy as a clumsy Cary Grant-type character, Joseph Mortimer Granville, a medical doctor preoccupied with burgeoning 19th-century sciences like the controversial germ theory. Granville represents the real-life doctor credited with patenting the first commercial electro-mechanical vibrator for muscular relief—more referring to his weakened wrist while performing treatments than sexual exhaustion.

In the film, Granville gets a job with Dr. Robert Darlymple (Jonathan Pryce), a pre-eminent doctor treating upper-crust housewives for hysteria—"the plague of our time" according to Darlymple. The procedure, known then as "medical massage," is a delicate one that involves oil of lily and that induces paroxysms (the precursor to the orgasm).

After being hired into private practice with Darlymple, Granville's affections are split between Darlymple's daughters, Emily (Felicity Jones) and Charlotte (Maggie Gyllenhaal). Emily, a demure yet intelligent student of phrenology (head-reading), is the opposite of Charlotte, an uproarious suffragette and settlement house worker.

This highly recommended limited-release film comes on the tail of the London premiere of the Tony-nominated play *In the Next Room* (a.k.a. *The Vibrator Play*) by Sarah Ruhl. (It ran in Chicago at Victory Gardens.) Whereas the play's main character was a wife who investigates her husband's experiments with a device to cure hysteria, the film is a stricter historical adapta-

tionately the typical token gay best friend who knows only what he reads about women and is disgusted by the thought of them. However, Edmund is pleasantly eccentric and does add some stiff-lipped comic relief—Everett's mouth is tighter than ever. He spends his time lounging around like Oscar Wilde and tinkering with inventions like the telephone and automatic feather duster. Nearly every time Granville enters the apartment, Edmund is on the phone with his mother—another stereotypical trait I'd like to see avoided for once.

The filmmakers throw in a timeline of the evolution of vibrators to liven the credits, starting with the Vibratile from 1899 (a heavy piece of machinery) to the most successful vibrator of all time, the Pocket Rocket. *Hysteria* opens Friday, May 25.

If you live long enough, you may be less inhibited around family. **Loose Cannons** is an Italian gay drama directed by Ferzan Ozpetek about a few outsiders in an oligarchic family in Lecce, Italy, who shake up the peace by coming out of the closet, admitting their regrets and embracing their dreams.

The ensemble cast of idiosyncratic relatives is hilariously funny. Stefania Cantone (Lunetta Savino) frantically searches for proof that her son, Antonio (Alessandro Preziosi), is gay and how she might convert him back to normal. Luciana (Elena Sofia Ricci) is the black sheep of the family who languishes at home in her lingerie drinking herself silly and calling suiters to role play thieves-in-the-night.

Rather than be cynical, La Nonna (Ilaria Occhini) disregards her overbearing daughter-in-

law and contradicts her eldest son and heir to her husband's pasta empire. The film periodically flashes back to the La Nonna's marriage to the wrong man, Nicola, the brother of her true love. *Loose Cannons* writhes like the wild animal that is the city of Lecce, a small town where gossip governs and everyone knows each other's business. At first, what appears to be a simple coming-out story evolves into a melodrama about unrequited affection and the guilt of pursuing dreams one's dreams in spite of family obligations.

The golden son, Tomasso (Riccardo Scamarcio), returns home to the same deeply rooted patriarchy he escaped to study in Rome, where he lives as an openly gay writer. Having ditched business school to study literature, Tomasso knows he has to come out twice—regarding his sexual orientation and his chosen profession. However, before his announcements, his brother and heir to the business, Antonio, surprises everyone (including Tomasso) by coming out as gay at the dinner table the night their father, Vincenzo, plans to sign a contract with a new business partner who is also seated at the table.

The dynamics of the family dinner table in most coming-out films are a cliched motif, but few are this nuanced. The scene's awkward silence, burst of laughter and eventual realization make for great drama. The director's choice to have everyone hold his or her opinion until after Vincenzo disowns his son is a remarkable statement about traditional family hierarchy that lives on into the new millennium.

Marco (Carmine Recano), Tomasso's lover, struggles to understand the family dynamic until he visits with a group of their very flamboyant friends, whom the family invites. It's refreshing to see a gay couple discuss the situation maturely while they hide who they are to Tomasso's

naive parents. Sometimes, gay people rush into coming out guns blazing, but a slow acceptance is better than none at all. Antonio broke the seal on the lid for both he and his brother, but Tomasso stops short. No one would believe they were both gay, so he stays on to learn the family business—to no avail.

In the weeks after returning home, Tomasso confuses his family further by buddying with Alba (Nicole Grimaudo), the niece of the other business partner. She is a fashionista with brains and brawn who manages the business with Tomasso once Antonio is gone. Her reckless driving and tragic past somehow lead to a friendship with Tomasso—a relationship she wishes could be more. Every character's sense of longing, loss or disappointment brings the family closer together as it seems to be falling apart. It is available on DVD and VOD June 1 from Focus Features World.

Film notes:

—The Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., presents TransCinema on May 26. This transgendered film screening series occurs every fourth Saturday of the month.

—Chicago queer filmmaker Jules Roskam (*Transparent*, *Against a Trans Narrative*) is raising funds to complete his latest film, *Thick Relations*. It is a lyrical film about the ties we create in diverse queer communities. Pledges can be made at Kickstarter.com: <http://kck.st/ICKwIc>.

—Academy Award nominee Lily Tomlin (Nashville, 9 to 5) will star with Tina Fey (30 Rock), BAFTA nominee Michael Sheen (*The Queen*) and Paul Rudd in *Admission*, a comedy/drama directed by Paul Weitz (*About a Boy*, *Being Flynn*). Academy Award nominee Caroline Baron (*Capote*) is executive-producing.

Reeling to skip '12, resume in '13

Chicago Filmmakers (CF), the not-for-profit media arts organization that produces Reeling: The Chicago Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival, has announced that the festival will go on hiatus in 2012, with plans to resume the following year.

The second oldest LGBT film festival in the world, Reeling marked a milestone with its 30th anniversary festival in 2011.

A press release read, in part, "Time off from producing Reeling this year will afford the organization the opportunity to strategically plan for Reeling's future.

CF will undertake such considerations as: a change in the time of year that the festival takes place; how the festival might expand or evolve to better address the changing needs of LGBT filmmakers; and what impact the conversion to digital cinema technology will have on our exhibition options. This kind of strategic planning has been difficult to achieve while maintaining the production timeline for the festival each year."

CF will also be using this time to conduct a national search for a new festival director in order to allow festival founder and director Brenda Webb to devote her full attention to her primary position as executive director of the organization.

For more information, email reeling@chicago filmmakers.org.

Singer's tribute to Whitney 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Gay man's multimedia company on the rise

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

If you haven't heard of Hesperidian Productions, odds are you will soon enough. Started in January 2011, this Chicago-based multimedia production company already has more than 2,500 likes on Facebook. Its latest short film, *Stiletto*—which next screens for the public at the "RAW: natural born artists" showcase May 24 at the Double Door—premiered before an audience of more than 1,000 back in March.

That kind of growth in less than a year and a half certainly stands as testament to the drive, business savvy and talent of openly gay president and co-founder Kyle Thomas, who just celebrated his 25th birthday last week. But listen to Thomas talk about Hesperidian and its clear that the art and the creative process are paramount to the success.

"We would be nowhere close to where we are now if we didn't have such an awesome team," Thomas said. "The staff that we have just completely blows me away every day because everyone is so talented and passionate and it makes me so much more fiery and alive to be doing this."

Thomas refers to everyone working for or with Hesperidian (including its fans) as part of the "tribe." The self-explanatory term emphasizes the collaboration-driven nature of the company and expresses the way Thomas and his co-workers cherish each and every connection they make, be it professional or with fans and admirers.

But Thomas understands the infectious team-first attitude starts with the quality of the work.

"If people did not like what they were seeing and didn't like the energy of being involved with

it they wouldn't want to be involved with it," he said.

That energy starts with Thomas. Growing up in Milwaukee, he explored all kinds of art before focusing on playwriting and psychology as a student at Loyola University. After two years, he transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Madison in effort to save money. There, he started to gather some fellow artists and began to film his own plays as well as work with musician friends on music videos. Then he had his epiphany.

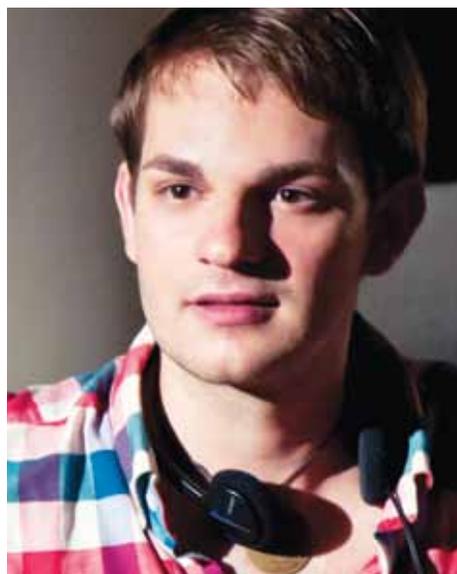
"I'm writing plays; I'm working with the performers; I'm creating the aesthetic; I'm developing how the project is made," he said. "Eventually I was like, 'Ha, I'm a director, that's what I want to do with the rest of my life.'"

After graduating, Thomas bought all his own equipment and started doing all his own work, but he wanted to do something bigger. He met with financial advisors and attorneys to learn everything he could about how to make a career of his passion.

"Bridging the gap between amateur and professional is what I wanted to do, he said. "In order to do that I had to study, I had to meet the right people and I had to work harder than I ever worked in my life and that working harder has not slowed down, it's just getting more intense, but it's great."

When Thomas moved back to Chicago he met an equally hard worker in Jane Morson, a writer with a development, marketing and communications background that shared Thomas' sentiments on collaboration. Together they cofounded Hesperidian Productions.

The company began with a short film to set the tone for its brand. *Awakening*, a story entailing the origin of the company's name, won the



Kyle Thomas. Photo courtesy of Thomas

Excellence in Filmmaking award at the 2012 Canada International Film Festival. The short can be viewed online at www.hesperidianproductions.com/awakening.

Stiletto, the second and most recent short film, boasts even higher production quality. A neo-noir (because that's what the tribe decided it wanted to make at the "Awakening" cast party), *Stiletto* centers on a district attorney named Pete who is trying to bring down an archbishop on trial for sexually abusing a child. After the victim/key witness commits suicide, Pete enlists the help of an old flame, the madam of a high-end brothel, to help him take down the archbishop.

Thomas and his company are bringing the film to the RAW showcase because of their commitment to reaching out to the Chicago art community.

"There's an untapped creative potential in Chicago," Thomas said. "I think it's really disrespectful for the nation at large to only think

that the great art comes from New York and L.A. because that disregards an entire population of people that lie outside of those places that have a voice too."

In addition to film, Hesperidian showcases a fashion department directed by Michelle Sam. Over the next six months, the company has big plans to roll out a music department with top-notch talent already lined up to work with them.

"People that are award winning all over the world want to be involved in the productions we're doing," Thomas said. "Right now we're in this huge growth period and it's like everything is coming to life. I just feel really blessed."

Although a proud and openly gay man, Thomas says he avoids terming himself a "gay filmmaker."

"It instantly creates a conception in [a person's] mind that I do gay love stories or that I do gay smut films or things of that nature," Thomas said. "I'm very proud to be who I am. I love who I am. But it's more important to me to be a filmmaker than a gay filmmaker."

Thomas said he will absolutely someday use gay characters in a film, but when the time is right and the story calls for it.

"Ultimately, the way I look at characters it shouldn't matter if they're gay or straight," he said. "I like gay films, too; it's not about that. I want to reach people and I want to touch people and it shouldn't be about who is falling in love with who."

In fact, Thomas and the film department of Hesperidian have started working on a romantic comedy, which Thomas has gleefully announced will be their first feature-length project. The film will focus on the impact of a musician's rise to fame on his long-term relationship. Casting took place last week and approximately 800 people auditioned.

The company also hopes to begin turning *Stiletto* into a feature film some time next year.

Visit www.hesperidianproductions.com for more information.

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Demographic reports also influence marketing investment. Virtually absent until recently, we now see a growing variety of products and services represented in gay media, celebrating our diversity. Ads keep LGBT publications and websites in business, serving their communities with independent news and information.

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We respect your privacy. All personal survey data is held securely by Community Marketing, Inc., a gay-owned and operated, independent market research and communications firm based in San Francisco, and will not be sold to third parties or used for marketing purposes. CMI was founded in 1992 and is proudly NGLCC-Certified. Thank you!

Gay Market Research + Development Lab™



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JUNE 8-9-10

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MILLER LITE MAINSTAGE

TAYLOR DAYNE
Saturday, June 9
MILLER LITE MAINSTAGE

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featuring Terri Nunn
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Sunday June 10

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WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES

Restaurant show features something for everyone

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The National Restaurant Association (NRA) show took place May 5-8 at McCormick Place for industry professionals and media.

Among the featured events were a speech by former President Bill Clinton, a block party and the Restaurants Rock Industry Party. However, the exhibit was the crown jewel, with more than 1,800 vendors wanting attendees to take interest in their products. Among some of the standouts are the following:

—Go-2 Products, Inc. (www.go-2products.com): This company offers a huge variety of items such as straws, cutlery and containers. However, what's really eye-catching is the fact that some of the items change color if placed in a hot food or liquid—which can be helpful as well as entertaining.

—Crave (<http://icravemilk.com>): Not only is this milk absolutely delicious, but because of its unique pasteurization process, Crave can be stored at room temperature just like your favorite soda or juice until you're ready to enjoy it.

—Earth Wise (<http://earthwisebeverages.com>): Another great-tasting product, Earth Wise Beverages come in a variety of fruit-juice blends such as Berry Meadow and Orchard Reds. Juice boxes feature flavors such as Pomegranate Blueberry and (my fave) Orange Carrot Mango. The company says it uses only filtered water and the highest quality concentrated juices.

—Aphrodite Divine Confections (www.AphroditeDesserts.com): Try to eat just one of this company's chocolate-chip cookies. However, Aphrodite also offers dessert bars, squeeze-and-bake batter and cream-filled sconesants (scone-croissant blends).

—Staybowlizer (<http://staybowlizer.com>): I actually was bowled over by this product, is a device that is used to secure bowls of all shapes and sizes from unwanted movement across a variety of surfaces by applying suction on those applications.

—RAAW (www.RAAWfoods.com): I was immediately sold on the passion Fruit Wheatgrass juice from this company, but it also sells Raspberry Lemongrass, Cranberry Ginger, Carrot Lemonade, Better Beets and Pineapple Cucumber.

(By the way, the products are 100-percent natural.)

—Wikki Stix (www.wikkistix.com): Designed for kids, this item is a great alternative to crayons, which can be quite messy, of course. The multicolored Wikki Stix are made of hand-knitting yarn, and stick to practically any surface.

—Staff Ranker (www.staffranker.com): Employers definitely might want to check out this particular product, which lets them rate employees according to a variety of values the boss determines, such as leadership, respect, passion and innovation. Moreover, the software can be used on a smart phone, laptop, desktop or iPad.

—Power Express (www.evse.spx.com): Offering commercial charging solutions, these products would allow restaurant patrons to charge their electric vehicles while dining. However, there are also stations that would work at home as well.

—RealBeanz (www.realbeanz.com): This line of nutrient-enhanced iced coffees comes in such flavors as vanilla nut, mocha, cappuccino, diet

cappuccino and caramel. There are no artificial flavorings, colorings, sweeteners or preservatives.

—Waiter Wallet (www.waiterwallet.com): Designed to make a server's life easier, this item comes with a pocket for daily specials, wine notes or other info; another pocket for cash/receipts; a swipe-card pocket; and a formatted pad.

Photos by Andrew Davis



Seasons 52 debuts—at Schaumburg and Oak Brook

BY JERRY NUNN

There's a new restaurant in town with Seasons 52 opening in Oak Brook, Ill., with its 22nd location to date. After a successful spot in Schaumburg, this made a logical step in upscale dining.

Award winning Chef Clifford Pleau is inspired by the seasons changing 52 weeks a year.

Start off with the tomato and Haas avocado salad made fresh for the spring menu. For appetizers, don't miss the grilled steak and cremini mushroom flatbread that almost makes a meal in itself.

Capturing the flavor in the wood, the cedar-plank Atlantic salmon or the caramelized sea scallops are must-haves. If seafood is not your thing, then try the grilled rack of New Zealand lamb or the char-crusted filet mignon. Food specials change 52 weeks a year so make sure to stop in and visit regularly.

For libations, don't hesitate to go with wine paired by Master Sommelier George Miliotes. He

custom-blends wines from South Africa for the restaurant and provides "George's Picks" seasonally. The vinho verde from Portugal is currently being featured perfectly paired by your server with certain selections.

A standard in desserts in all the restaurants are the mini indulgences in a shot glass to not overwhelm a guest with its size after dinner. Flavors include key lime pie and rocky road among others.

Although a different layout than the Schaumburg restaurant, this is a 10,000-square-foot building with seating for more than 300 diners, with 95 of the seats in the piano bar that fea-

tures nightly live music. A chef's table and private dining rooms are also offered.

The opening of the restaurant has created almost 100 jobs for employees in the area.

Seasons 52 Oak Brook is conveniently located at 3 Oakbrook Center; see www.seasons52.com. The fresh grill and wine bar seems to be always forward thinking attacking people's appetites as well as their stomachs so follow them on Twitter @Seasons52.

Look for new openings in California, Texas, and Tennessee in the future with plans to eventually come to downtown Chicago one day.



Photo by Jerry Nunn

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PRIDE MONTH CALENDAR

as of Fri., May 18

compiled by PRIDEChicago

www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org • PrideChgo@aol.com • 773-348-8243

Call phone number listed on each event to verify date and time. To add an event, contact PRIDEChicago: PrideChgo@aol.com The calendar includes Pride events whose coordinators have sent a listing form or press release to PRIDEChicago for inclusion.

JUNE (various dates) - CENTER ON HALSTED - during June Pride Month, the center will be hosting many events. 3656 N. Halsted. www.centeronhalsted.org.

JUNE (various dates) - PLAY - "Late Nite Catechism" by Nuns 4 Fun Entertainment at the Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted. Thursdays and Saturdays. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$30 (discounts available). www.nuns4fun.com; info@nuns4fun.com; 312-988-9000.

JUNE (various dates) - PLAY - "Immediate Family," A New American Play written by Paul Oakley Stovall and directed by Phylicia Rashad. Location: Goodman Theatre in the Owen, 170 N. Dearborn. About Face Theatre partners on this new comedy with previews starting June 2. "An African-American family gathers for a wedding on the south side of Chicago. When prodigal son Jessie shows up with his Swedish boyfriend, the Bryant family reunion becomes a family showdown." Tickets at Goodman Theatre box office or: www.goodmantheatre.org/ImmediateFamily; 312-443-3800.

JUNE (various dates) - FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIE FESTIVAL & DISCUSSIONS - at Broadway United UMC, 3338 N. Broadway. 7 p.m. (Movie dates: June 1-15). www.broadwaychurchchicago.org.

JUNE (various dates) - PRIDE WORSHIP SERVICES - on Sundays in June with guest speakers at Broadway United UMC, 3338 N. Broadway. 8:45 a.m. & 11 a.m. (10 a.m. on 6/24).

JUNE (various dates) - BOOK STUDY - "Homosexuality & The Bible" on Wednesdays in June at Broadway UMC, 3338 N. Broadway. 7 p.m. www.broadwaychurchchicago.org.

JUNE 1 - PRIDE MONTH - "Chicago Sky Celebrates Pride Month" by WNBA Chicago Sky at Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim Rd., Rosemont, IL. 7:30 p.m. (also June 8, 13, 29: Games at 7:30 p.m. EXCEPT June 13 at 7:00 p.m.). Tickets: \$25 per game (or \$80 for all 4 games). www.chicagosky.net tickets@chicagosky.net; 866-SKY-WNBA.

JUNE 1 - AUTHOR READING - "When We Were Outlaws" Spinster Ink. Jeanne Cordova in conversation with author and journalist, Achy Obejas at Women and Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark. 7:30 p.m. Queer journalist Jeanne Cordova's memoir is a true story of a brash young radical lesbian during early struggles for gay and women's rights during the 1970s social and sexual revolutions. www.womenandchildrenfirst.com; 773-769-9299.

JUNE 1, 2, 3 - PLAY - "The Rock & The Ripe" by Mark Blane (director/playwright/activist) at LINKS Hall, 3435 N. Sheffield. 8 p.m. (June 1 & June 2); 3:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. (June 3). Tickets: \$15. Billed as "...a play, book and movement launching in Chicago to give a voice to the bullied and bruised gay youth of America." Seven professional actors portray children and teenagers based on real stories, revealing why each was sent to the principal's office. "The play is somewhere between a gay version of The Breakfast Club and Waiting for Godot." www.therockandtheripeh.eventbrite.com.

JUNE 2 - WORKSHOP/DISCUSSION - "Be The Change: Redesigning Our Vision of Community" by Affinity Community Services at First Presbyterian Church, 6400 S. Kimbark. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. FREE. www.affinity95.org; admin@affinity95.org; 773-324-0377.

JUNE 2 - WINDY CITY GAY IDOL SEMI-FINALS - 10th annual competition by Windy City Media Group at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted. 2 p.m. (door opens); 3 p.m. (starts). Open to all amateur singers age 21 and above, regardless of sexual orientation. facebook.com/windycitygayidol; wcmgpromotions@gmail.com.

JUNE 2 (& 16) - COACHING GROUP - "Choose Life" by Living Well Ministries, 6554 N. Rockwell. 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Led by Rev. Jacki Belile, a lesbian Baptist pastor and spiritual life coach. Free. www.livingwellministries.net; jacki@livingwellministries.net (RSVP required).

JUNE 2 - WORKSHOP - "Navigating Your Workplace Civil Rights" at Joliet C.A.A.N. (Community Action and Alliance Network) by attorney Christina D. Hatzidakis. She outlines basic employment rights of LGBTQ employees, followed by a Q&A session. Time: 7 p.m. at C.A.A.N., 68 N. Chicago St., Joliet. Potluck precedes presentation. Event information: www.caanmidwest.com. For information

about Hatzidakis Law: www.hatzidakislaw.com; 312-857-5577.

JUNE 2 - PRIDE CONCERT, DANCE - "Girls' Night Out" by Artemis Singers, Chicago's lesbian feminist chorus, at Broadway United Methodist Church, 3338 N. Broadway. 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. The concert spotlights the music of 20th century girl groups. Artemis Singers will perform "Boogie Woogie Bugle GAL," "One Fine Day," "Lollipop," "(S)he's So Fine," "The Loco-Motion" and other hits. Suggested donation: \$15 advance for adults, \$20 door. \$10 for children 12 and under. www.artemissingers.org; 773-764-4465.

JUNE 3 (through 17) - BOOK STUDY - "Nothing Pink" w/author Mark Hardy at Broadway United UMC, 3338 N. Broadway, 10 a.m. www.broadwaychurchchicago.org.

JUNE 3 - WORKSHOP - "GLBT People and the Bible" (first of three in a series): "Clearing Out the Clobber Passages." Achurch4me MCC, 1545 W. Morse (parlor, 3rd floor). 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. "Free, but please bring your Bibles!" www.achurch4me.org; 773-951-4268.

JUNE 5 - SOUTH AFRICAN LGBT WELCOMING MOVEMENT - at St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square, 2649 N. Francisco Ave. 7 p.m. Meet w/ reps of Inclusive and Affirming Ministries (IAM) to learn about LGBTI status and movements in South Africa. Includes video presentation, "Created in the Image of God." www.stlukesls.org.

JUNE 6 - COCKTAIL RECEPTION & HONORS CEREMONY - "PFLAG National Celebrates the Heartland ... Chicago!" by PFLAG at Center on Halsted. 3656 N. Halsted. 6 p.m.: cocktails; 7 p.m.: honors ceremony. \$75 PFLAG members; \$100 General Admission; \$200 VIP Admission. Event co-chairs: Charles Middleton, PhD, President of Roosevelt University and Pamela Tate, President and CEO of the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning. The event features drinks, food and an opportunity to honor Modesto "Tico" Valle and About Face Theatre. www.community.pflag.org/chicago.

JUNE 6 - PRIDE WORSHIP - hosted by Lake View Presbyterian Church, 716 W. Addison. 7 p.m. Guest preacher: J.C. Cadwallader, Pastor and Director of Admissions at McCormack Seminary. joy@lakeviewpresbyterian.org; 773-281-2655.

JUNE 6 - BENEFIT PERFORMANCE - "Sexy Baby" for Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St. 7:30 p.m. www.glhalloffame.org; isaiahwrite@yahoo.com; 773-281-5095. Tickets: \$35 online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/224726

JUNE 8 - PRIDE MONTH - "Chicago Sky Celebrates Pride Month" by WNBA Chicago Sky at Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim Rd., Rosemont, IL. 7:30 p.m. (also June 13 at 7:00 p.m. and June 29 at 7:30 p.m.). Tickets: \$25. www.chicagosky.net; tickets@chicagosky.net 866-SKY-WNBA.

JUNE 9 - CELEBRITY BOWLING - by the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame at Waveland Bowl, 3700 N. Western. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. www.glhalloffame.org; isaiahwrite@yahoo.com; 773-281-5095. Registration: CelebrityBowl2012@yahoo.com.

JUNE 9 - BENEFIT - "Flag Day Beer Bust & BBQ" - 16th annual Pride Month fundraiser for American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) at Bucks Saloon, 3439 N. Halsted. 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. \$10. 773-525-1125.

JUNE 9 - CONCERT - "One Voice, Two Hearts." A concert to benefit the Night Ministry featuring local musician Michael McBride and Windy City Court Empress Alexandra St. James. Achurch4me MCC, 1545 W. Morse (Overdier Hall, 3rd floor). 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. \$5 suggested donation to benefit the Night Ministry. www.achurch4me.org; 773-951-4268.

JUNE 10 - WORKSHOP - "GLBT People and the Bible" (second of three in a series): "What Did Jesus Say (and not say) About GLBT People? And: For Whom Did Jesus Have a Special Affection?" Achurch4me MCC, 1545 W. Morse (parlor, 3rd floor). 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. "Free, but please bring your Bibles!" www.achurch4me.org; 773-951-4268.

JUNE 10 - SUMMER PRIDE FILM FESTIVAL - "Fish Out of Water" presented by the Gay and Straight Together Ministry of United in Faith Lutheran Church. Presented at the church, 6525 W. Irving Park Rd. 2 p.m. This Chicago-produced documentary by filmmaker Ky Dickens explores seven Bible passages used to condemn homosexuality and justify marriage discrimination. The film fest includes several other movies being presented in July and August.

JUNE 10 - DINNER & SOCIAL - by Chicago Prime

Timers at Ann Sather Restaurant, 909 W. Belmont. 6 p.m. \$25 for guests, \$20 for members. www.primetimersww.org/chicago; info@chicagoprimitimers.org; 773-844-1005.

JUNE 11 - WORKSHOP - "What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?": identifying your true career directions, by Judi Lansky of Lansky Careers. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. No charge, but advance registration required. www.lanskycareerconsultants.com; 312-494-0022 (for location and information).

JUNE 12 - LGBTQ OPEN MIC READING - Annual Pride Month event by Women and Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark. 7 p.m. Every year, seasoned pros and first timers share their work. Readers sign up in advance (slots fill quickly) and bring up to two typed (double-spaced, 12 pt. font or larger) pages of original poetry or prose to share. To sign up, drop by or call store. www.womenandchildrenfirst.com 773-769-9299.

JUNE 13 - LGBT DINING OUT - at Jamaica Jerk Restaurant, 1631 W. Howard by PRIDE Up North (Suzanne Kraus, organizer). 6:30 p.m. Cost: What you order you pay for! Separate checks. State Rep. Kelly Cassidy will be attending. email: prideupnorth@hotmail.com; 773-764-1546 (RSVP).

JUNE 13 - PRIDE MONTH - "Chicago Sky Celebrates Pride Month" by WNBA Chicago Sky at Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim Rd., Rosemont, IL. 7:00 p.m. (also June 29 at 7:30 p.m.). Tickets: \$25. www.chicagosky.net; tickets@chicagosky.net; 866-SKY-WNBA.

JUNE 13 - SERVICE - of Healing and Communion at Living Well Ministries, 6554 N. Rockwell. 7 p.m. Rev. Jacki Belile, presiding. www.livingwellministries.net.

JUNE 14 - CELEBRATION - "ChicagoPride.com Ten Year Anniversary" by chicagopride.com (Daily LGBT Guide) at Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted. 7 p.m. www.chicagopride.com.

JUNE 14 - CELEBRATION & RECEPTION - "Love: A Celebration of All Unions" hosted by Congregational UCC of Arlington Heights and Countryside UUC of Palatine. Location: 1025 N. Smith St., Palatine, IL. 7 p.m. Rev. Rex Piercy (CUCC) and Rev. Hilary Krivechenia (CUUC) presiding. Both churches' choirs will sing jointly and wedding cake will be served at the reception. www.ccuu.org or www.congucc.org.

JUNE 14 - TELEVISION PROGRAM - "Out & Proud in Chicago." 8 p.m. on WTTW (11.1). Historical coverage of LGBTs in Chicago. This is one of several LGBT-related shows on WTTW during June Pride Month. www.wttw.com.

JUNE 14 - TELEVISION PROGRAM - "We Were Here" (on Independent Lens show). 9:40 p.m. on WTTW (11.1). This is one of several LGBT-related shows on WTTW during June Pride Month. www.wttw.com.

JUNE 16 - WINDY CITY GAY IDOL FINALS - 10th annual competition by Windy City Media Group at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted. 2 p.m. (door opens); 3 p.m. (starts). Open to all amateur singers age 21 and above, regardless of sexual orientation. facebook.com/windycitygayidol; wcmgpromotions@gmail.com.

JUNE 16 - PRIDE CONCERT - "The Sound of Fabulous" by Windy City Gay Chorus, Aria, and Chicago Gay Men's Chorus at Senn Hall, 5900 N. Glenwood. Two shows: 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. General admission: \$20, order tickets online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/24936; www.windycitysings.org; info@windycitysings.org; 773-661-0928.

JUNE 16 - SAPPHO'S SALON - "A Provocative Night of Lesbian Diversions" featuring women's music legend Deidre McCalla and folk/rock singer and songwriter Monica Del Castillo with guest host, long-time community activist Vernita Gray at Women & Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark. 7:30 p.m. \$10 cover charge includes food and wine, and benefits the artists and the Women's Voices Fund. www.womenandchildrenfirst.com; 773-769-9299.

JUNE 17 (through June 30) - PRIDE SALE - 25% to 50% off at Brown Elephant stores. Sales benefit the Howard Brown Health Center. Store locations: 3651 N. Halsted; 5404 N. Clark; 217 Harrison in Oak Park, IL. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. www.howardbrown.org/be.

JUNE 17 - WORKSHOP - "GLBT People and the Bible" (last in a series): "What then shall hinder me?" We are everywhere--in Biblical times too. Who were those unusual men who took women's names and groomed Esther so nicely? Achurch4me MCC, 1545 W. Morse (parlor, 3rd floor). 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. "Free, but please bring your Bibles!" www.achurch4me.org; 773-951-4268.

JUNE 17 - MEETING - "Foreskin Restoration Support

Group" by the National Organization of Restoring Men. 4 p.m. Location & other details: www.NORM.org; NORM. Illinois@gmail.com; 773-669-NORM.

JUNE 18 - RECEPTION - "Pride & Joy" by Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame at Circuit, 3641 N. Halsted. 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets: \$20 (door). www.glhalloffame.org; isaiahwrite@yahoo.com; 773-281-5095.

JUNE 19 - WORKSHOP - "How Do You Find A Job in This Economy?" by Judi Lansky of Lansky Careers. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. No charge, but advance registration required. www.lanskycareerconsultants.com 312-494-0022 (for location and information).

JUNE 20 - PRIDE WORSHIP - at Salem Lutheran Church, 607 Lake Street Church, Evanston. Rev. Dr. Douglas Sharp, preaching. www.lakestreet.org.

JUNE 20 - MEETING - "... to help celebrate Old Lesbians in Chicago." Event coordinated by OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change). The event is hosted by Affinity Chicago at 1424 E. 53rd St. #306 (corner of 53rd and Blackstone). 6:30 p.m. "OLOC takes Lesbian Pride to a new level with a national network of Old Lesbians, all age 60 and older, who work to make life better for Old Lesbians." www.oloc.org jan@oloc.org 888-706-7506.

JUNE 20 - TELEVISION PROGRAM - "Schoolboy to Showgirl: The Alexandra Billings Story." 10 p.m. on WTTW (11.1). This is one of several LGBT-related shows on WTTW during June Pride Month. www.wttw.com.

JUNE 20 - TELEVISION PROGRAM - "In the Life." 10:30 p.m. June Pride Month edition of a monthly show on WTTW (11.1). www.wttw.com.

JUNE 21 - WEEKEND PRIDE PARTY - "Backlot Bash" - 9th annual event starts a day earlier this year with a "Comedy Kickoff" at Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse. Tickets \$20 advance online (limited tickets). Backlot Bash continues June 22, 23 and 24 in parking lot behind Cheetah Gym, 5238 N. Clark, as in past years.) For a list of performers, hours, age requirements, etc.: www.backlotbashchicago.com.

JUNE 21 - PARTY & AUCTION - "Pride Deconstructed: The 2012 Art Auction & Pride Kickoff Cocktail Party" by Chicago House at Room & Board Chicago, 55 E. Ohio St., 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets: \$65 advance; \$80 door includes unlimited cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds will benefit the housing and supportive services Chicago House provides to over 1,400 HIV/AIDS-affected men, women and children each year. www.chicagohouse.org; development@chicagohouse.org; 773-248-5200, ext. 303.

JUNE 21 - MOVIE - "The Lies We Tell But the Secrets We Keep: The Sequel" by MVP Productions at the Portage Theatre, 4050 N. Milwaukee. 7 p.m. (Red Carpet); 7:30 p.m. (showtime). Tickets: \$15 advance. www.themakingofmvp.com; theliesmovie@gmail.com; 312-298-9298.

JUNE 21 - TELEVISION PROGRAM - "Stonewall Uprising: American Experience." 8 p.m. on WTTW (11.1). Historical coverage of the Stonewall rebellion that is credited with kicking off the modern-day LGBT rights movement. This is one of several LGBT-related shows on WTTW during June Pride Month. www.wttw.com.

JUNE 21 - TELEVISION PROGRAM - "Claiming the Title: Gay Olympics on Trial." 9:30 p.m. on WTTW (11.1). This is one of several LGBT-related shows on WTTW during June Pride Month. www.wttw.com.

JUNE 21, 22, 23 - PLAYS - "30 Queer Plays in 60 Straight Minutes" by the Neo-Futurists, 5153 N. Ashland. 8 p.m. "Too Much Light" benefit for a local organization. www.neofuturists.org; neofuturistsboxoffice@gmail.com; 773-878-4557.

JUNE 22 - OUTDOOR WEEKEND PRIDE PARTY - "Backlot Bash" - 9th annual event in parking lot behind Cheetah Gym, 5238 N. Clark features an "Acoustic Evening" summer concert. Performers include Chely Wright and other entertainers. (Backlot Bash continues June 23 and 24). For a list of entertainers, DJs, age requirements, hours, ticket prices, etc.: www.backlotbashchicago.com.

JUNE 22 (23, 24) - BENEFIT - "Celebrating Pride & A Taste of Campit Charity Weekend" fundraiser for various charities. Location: Campit Outdoor Resort, 6635 118th Ave., Fennville, MI. Weekend includes: Saturday: Building float for participation in Chicago Pride Parade, poolside relaxing, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Sunday: Caravan trip to Chicago for the parade. www.campitresort.com. reservations@campitresort.com; 269-543-4335 (office); 877-campit1 (reservations).

JUNE 22, 23 - TOURNAMENT - "Chicago Pride Bowl V" by the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association

(CMSA) at Montrose Soccer Fields, Montrose & Lake Shore Drive. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. FREE. This is the second largest Gay Flag Football tournament with teams from across the U.S. and Canada. www.pridebowlchicago.com; menfootball@chicagomsa.org.

JUNE 22 - STREET FESTIVAL - Chicago Pride Fest by Northalsted Business Alliance (NBA) on Halsted Street from Addison to Grace. 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. (Two-day fest continues June 23, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.). \$7 suggested donation. www.northalsted.com; info@northalsted.com; 773-868-3010.

JUNE 22 - GATHERING - "\$1 Drinks with Log Cabin Republicans," Howl at the Moon, 26 West Hubbard. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free. www.logcabinillinois.org; chuxley@logcabinillinois.org; 312-841-0172.

JUNE 22 - BOOK RELEASE - "Chicago Whispers" by journalist and historian Sukie de la Croix at Women & Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark. 7:30 p.m. The book illuminates a colorful and vibrant record of LGBT people who lived and loved in Chicago from the city's beginnings in the 1670s as a fur-trading post, to the cusp of Stonewall. 7:30 p.m. www.womenandchildrenfirst.com; 773-769-9299.

JUNE 23 - OUTDOOR WEEKEND PRIDE PARTY - "Backlot Bash" - 9th annual event in parking lot behind Cheetah Gym, 5238 N. Clark features an "All Day Bash." (Backlot Bash continues June 24). For a list of entertainers, DJs, age requirements, hours, ticket prices, etc.: www.backlotbashchicago.com.

JUNE 23 - DYKE MARCH - Rally and march at northside location. For more information: www.chicagodykemarch.wordpress.com.

JUNE 23 - PRIDE WALK & RUN - "Proud to Run" 31st annual event includes a 5k run and 10k run and 2-mile fun walk presented w/ Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago in Lincoln Park, Montrose at Simmonds Drive (east of Lake Shore Drive, at the lakefront). 8:04 a.m.. Fee to participate benefits local organizations, Pride Youth and the Gerber/Hart Library. www.proudtorun.org; proudtorun@yahoo.com; 312-409-8991.

JUNE 23 - PRIDE WORSHIP SERVICE/ PLENARY & WORKSHOPS - featuring the Moderator of Metropolitan Community Churches, Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson from Sarasota, Fla., preaching. Eight MCC churches from four different states gather to celebrate Pride. Presented by MCC's North Central US Network at achurch4me MCC, 1545 W. Morse. 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free, but an offering will be taken. www.achurch4me.org; 773-951-4268.

JUNE 23 - STREET FESTIVAL - Chicago Pride Fest by Northalsted Business Alliance (NBA) on Halsted Street from Addison to Grace. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Second day of two-day fest). \$7 suggested donation. www.northalsted.com; info@northalsted.com; 773-868-3010.

JUNE 23 - Worship Service - "Pride Weekend Mass" by Dignity Chicago at 3338 N. Broadway. 5 p.m. www.dignity-chicago.org; dignitychicago@gmail.com; 312-458-9438.

JUNE 23 - PRIDE CELEBRATION - by Fairy Gardeners Guild. 6 p.m. Potluck dinner. Bring appetizer/side/dessert to share. Entree will be provided. BYOB. email: fggchicago@gmail.com.

JUNE 23 - LGBT FASHION SHOW & COMPETITION - for Breast Cancer Awareness by MVP Productions at The Alahambra, 1240 W. Randolph. 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets: \$20 (advance); \$25 (door). www.themakingsofmvp.com; mlon317@gmail.com; 312-298-9298.

JUNE 23 - TELEVISION PROGRAM - "The Grove." 11 p.m. on WTTW (11.1). This is one of several LGBT-related shows on WTTW during June Pride Month. www.wttw.com.

JUNE 24 - CHICAGO 43rd ANNUAL PRIDE PARADE - New line up location and new parade route: Line up at corner of Broadway and Montrose. Step off from the Broadway/Montrose corner at noon, proceeding south on Broadway (to Halsted); then south on Halsted (to Belmont); then east on Belmont (to Broadway); then south on Broadway (to Diversey); then east on Diversey (to Cannon Drive) in Lincoln Park. coordinated by PRIDEChicago. www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org; PrideChgo@aol.com; 773-348-8243.

JUNE 24 - TELEVISION PROGRAM - "Chicago Pride Parade" 1-hour ABC7 Chicago show w/ taped highlights of this year's parade. Time: www.abc7chicago.com

JUNE 24 - OUTDOOR WEEKEND PRIDE PARTY - "Backlot Bash" - 9th annual event in parking lot behind Cheetah Gym, 5238 N. Clark features a "Pride Day Bash." (Backlot Bash continues June 24). For a list of entertainers, DJs, age requirements, hours, ticket prices, etc.: www.backlotbashchicago.com.

JUNE 24 - BLOCK PARTY - hosted by LakeView Lutheran Church, 835 W. Addison. 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Family and visitor friendly. Proceeds support local urban ministries doing outreach with homeless youth. 773-327-1427.

JUNE 24 - WORSHIP SERVICE & PICNIC -

at Broadway UMC, 3338 N. Broadway. 10 a.m. worship service. 5 p.m. Post-Parade picnic and open sanctuary. www.broadwaychurchchicago.org.

JUNE 24 - LIVE RADIO BROADCAST - of the Pride Parade on 820 AM by WCPT AM & FM. Noon to 3 p.m. www.chicagoprogressivetalk.com; [web@newswebradio.net](http://www.newswebradio.net); 773-594-8700.

JUNE 25 - WINDY CITY BLACK LGBT PRIDE - beginning this week there are numerous events scheduled for the LGBT Black Pride celebration. www.windycityblackpride.org.

JUNE 25 - CEREMONY - "Salute to LGBT Veterans" - 10th annual event at Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago with American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER). 12 Noon to 1 p.m. www.averchicago.org; jamesdarby@aol.com; 773-752-0058.

JUNE 25 - CABARET & MEET & GREET - w/"Nothing Pink" author, Mark Hardy (a Youth

Lounge fundraiser). 7 p.m. at Broadway United MCC, 3338 N. Broadway. www.broadwaychurchchicago.org.

JUNE 26 - GAY MEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP - "Me" by Ricky Martin by Gerber-Hart Library. 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. For location & other information: www.gerberhart.org; info@gerberhart.org 773-381-8030.

JUNE 28 - TELEVISION PROGRAM - "A Place To Live: The Story of Triangle Square." 8 p.m. on WTTW (11.1). This is one of several LGBT-related shows on WTTW during June Pride Month. www.wttw.com.

JUNE 28 - AWARDS CEREMONY - "30 Under 30 Awards" by Windy City Media Group at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The awards honor 30 outstanding young (under 30 years old) LGBT individuals (and allies). www.windycitymediagroup.com; andrew@windycitymediagroup.com.

JUNE 28 - TELEVISION PROGRAM - "Two Spirits." (on Independent Lens show). 9:30 p.m. on

WTTW (11.1). The show deals with the life and death of Fred Martinez, one of the youngest hate-crime victims in modern history who was murdered at age sixteen. It also explores the ancient Native American two-spirit tradition. This is one of several LGBT-related shows on WTTW during June Pride Month. www.wttw.com.

JUNE 29 - PRIDE MONTH - "Chicago Sky Celebrates Pride Month" by WNBA Chicago Sky at Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim Rd., Rosemont, IL. 7:00 p.m. Tickets: \$25. www.chicagosky.net; tickets@chicagosky.net 866-SKY-WNBA.

JUNE 29 - CONCERT & INTRODUCTION - "Peace Concert" and "LGBT- Introduction to SGI Buddhism" by SGI Buddhist at SGI Chicago Cultural Center, 1455 S. Wabash. 7 p.m. (concert); 8 p.m. (introduction). No cost, free parking. 312-913-1211 (9 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

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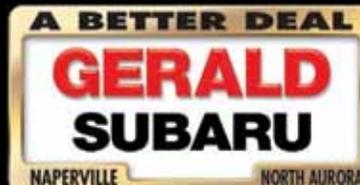
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TRAVEL

Napa's and Sonoma's long and winery roads

BY JERRY NUNN

Many travelers are familiar with the wineries in Napa Valley, but if they head north they will discover a wine road that has much to offer without all of the busloads of tourists.

Flying into San Francisco from Chicago was a breeze; then, it was a quick jaunt up Highway 101 over the Golden Gate Bridge to arrive at the Bella Villa Messina to spend the night. Not your typical bed-and-breakfast, it was like staying in a huge mansion, thanks to gay partners Jerry and Harold. They treated everyone like family, and the cooking is top-notch. I can still taste bacon and French toast. The fireplace in the room kept me warm and toasty, and there was a Jacuzzi tub to relax after a long trip.

I began the week with checking out some local winemakers at their factories.

Manzanita Creek Winery is owned by two brothers, Jack and William Salerno. Having very different personalities adds to the mix; the very young production started only a few years ago. Try the Stealth zinfandel; it was inspired by planes, of course, and comes in for a strong landing.

The well-known film director Francis Ford Coppola has a side project that has grown into a huge business. Located in the Alexander Valley, his winery is massive, complete with a pool, restaurant and factory that produces huge vats of wine. The style of food at the inclusive restaurant Rustic brings the diner to Italy; however, there are other dishes, such as Mrs. Scorsese's Lemon Chicken and the Marrakesh lamb. His

Oscars are displayed for public enjoyment and artwork is everywhere, even down to the label on the reserve wine.

Two terriers ran out to greet us at the Nalle Winery. Having a building underneath the ground in a shallow cave makes this family-owned winery a cool place to be—literally. Don't worry, though: You won't feel claustrophobic, as there is only three feet of dirt covered with rosemary above the construct.

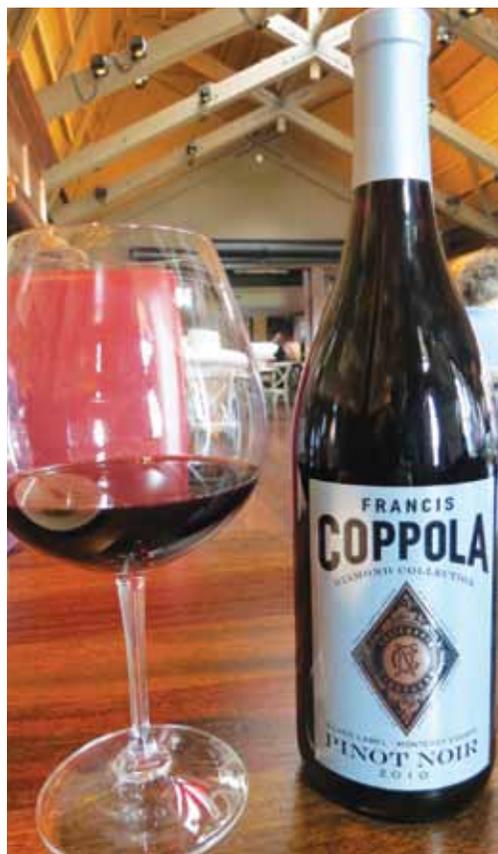
Don't miss the breathtaking view from the Russian Hill Estate. Edward Gomez, a retired doctor, made his dreams come true by creating a place to drink and reflect.

Chef Mateo Granados prepared a delicious meal, including his specialty monkeyface eel that is customized for different size groups. Inspired by his Yucatan background, Granados uses local Sonoma ingredients to prepare sustainable dishes such as the *cochinita pibil* and the *pollo adobado*.

The Wine Road includes six Sonoma's County wineries. Tasters follow a map and rules to enjoy a one-of-a-kind experience that leaves other samplings in the dust.

Barrel tastings offer buyers a chance to purchase futures, which means wine that is in the finishing process usually completed by August of the same year. This is for bargain shoppers offering an opportunity to order in bulk and save big bucks.

"Crazy Coffaro Futures Program" has come up with a system to purchase that premium wine and is currently on their second sparkling wine. David Coffaro invites guests for tastings every



A Coppola vintage. Photo by Jerry Nunn

day except holidays.

The Pedroncelli family have an upscale winery with a fourth generation now growing on the vine.

In downtown Geyserville there are many stops, such as Route 128, where people can even buy moisturizer made from grapes. While the outside might not impress, just look inside for a hands-down winner, as Charles and Molly have garnered awards like Wine Spectators' 100 Best Wines of the World. Transformed from an old bank property, this is a vault full of bottles that I would

like to be locked inside of for an afternoon. Mercury Wines brings something creative to the table, with bottles such as The Bastard and the fruity Orange.

Lunch at the Jimtown Store takes customers back in time, with antiques in every corner of the general store and juicy sandwiches to consume or box lunches to go.

Speaking of restaurants, Starlite Vineyards ships many of its wines all over the world, including Chicago (at venues such as Blackbird and Pops for Champagne). The incredible art collection relaxed spectators who sipped on cabernet sauvignon sitting in the sun.

Santa Rosa's Sunce Winery has a record number of members and has won medal after medal. Hopping from barrel to barrel, this winery has garnered well-deserved accolades and has a nice sense of style.

For dinner, don't forget to stop by the new and hip Scopa in the downtown square of Healdsburg for Nonna's tomato-braised chicken served in a warm pot. The place keeps a cute crowd that packs the house and the cooks aren't too shabby either, with an open kitchen to watch pizza dough be kneaded by strong hands.

The road continued on through even more wineries, with more than 100 to sample from over the weekend.

Make sure you are there next year, as the tour celebrates a big 35th anniversary. Visit www.wineroad.com for tickets and details such as a map to not get lost, there's an app for that too. Look for the 14th Annual Wine & Food Affair Nov. 3-4.

Also, try "Out in the Vineyard: Gay Wine Weekend" June 15-17 in Sonoma Valley—complete with a twilight T-dance; more info is at www.gaywineweekend.com.

All this wine talk is making me thirsty. Time to uncork a bottle—cheers!

More photos can be seen online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

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VEHICLE REVIEW

2013 Acura RLX Concept: Luxurious, sporty and green

BY WILL CHEVAL JR., GAYWHEELS.COM

The Acura RL has always had a hard time fitting in. Much like people you might have known in high school. Trying to hang with the popular crowd but always falling short. The current RL is satisfactory, but in a group filled with the latest and greatest from Lexus, Audi, BMW, Mercedes, and Infiniti, it's tough to demand some spotlight. The 2013 RLX concept is Acura's latest attempt to fit into the large luxury sedan category.

Shown at the 2012 New York International Auto Show, Acura previewed the concept with a beautifully artistic video shot along the streets of New York City, where there's even a cameo from a much-older Acura Legend.

Never one to shy away from green technology, the RLX-concept has Acura's new Sport Hybrid Super Handling All-Wheel Drive, which features a 3.5-liter V6 engine, along with three electric motors, two-of-which supply power to the rear wheels. The engine is rated at 370hp, and mated to a seven-speed transmission—green, indeed. Acura has hopes to gain notoriety by nabbing

and tech-filled cabins, the RLX may have a chance to draw in a new crop of drivers that love luxury and sport, yet crave green-tinged efficiency when necessary.

For more, see www.Gaywheels.com.

Auto news

—**Ford's hybrid:** Ford is taking on Toyota in the hybrid market with its new C-Max small minivan, the Washington Post reported. The C-Max will have a base price of \$25,995 when it goes on sale this fall—\$500 less than Toyota's Prius V wagon. Also, Ford claims that the C-Max is more efficient than the Prius, which gets an estimated 42 mpg in combined highway and city driving.

—**Saving Saab:** The largest union representing Saab's employees in Sweden, IF Metall, has written an open letter to President Obama, asking him to help save the company, according to Fox News. While Saab looks for investors, the cars in its lineup had been engineered under General Motors (GM) ownership and were being produced under license from the U.S. automaker—licenses



2013 Acura RLX Concept. Photo from Richard Read

that much-desired 30+mpg rating. As noted, a FWD model will be available with a 310hp engine.

Acura has filled the cabin with technology that will suit any technophile. The newly-updated AcuraLink and Ultra-Premium 14-speaker sound system give the driver and passengers access to internet and email, streaming internet radio, and multiple safety features. With a dual-screen set-up in the dash, which Acura has named On Demand Screen, your hands are free from the monotony of buttons.

The clean lines of the sedan show that Acura isn't taking any chances with its flagship sedan. The stately sedan is sleek and sophisticated for its intended audience. The exterior design has come under some scrutiny, with some saying the concept is too plain, while some say the concept resembles other sedans already on the road. I really cannot see anybody being completely turned off by the design, yet it's beautiful enough to attract a larger clientele to Acura. The pendulum grille lives on, but designers have made it a subtle, attractive signature piece. Up-front, Acura installed its latest Jewel-Eye headlights, which are made up of LEDs to help guide the driver into turns and give a more precise glow to the road. Acura also fitted its concept with unfortunate 20-inch rims that will hopefully disappear when it reaches production.

In a category blurred with beautiful sedans

that GM would not be extend to new owners because of intellectual property issues.

—**Little red Corvette, gone:** Illinois is seventh in states with the most Corvette-related thefts, according to a USA Today item. From 1981 through 2011, 4,092 Corvettes were stolen in Illinois, trailing (in order) California, Florida, Texas, New York, Michigan and New Jersey. The 1984 model is the one that has been stolen most often (8,554 across the country during 1981-2011).

—**Carjackers charged:** In Detroit, three young men have been charged in the assault and carjacking of pastor/gospel Marvin Winans, who delivered Whitney Houston's eulogy in February, NPR.org reported. Montoya Givens and Christopher Moorehead, both 20, and Brian K. Young, 18, are charged with carjacking, unarmed robbery and conspiracy. Winans, 54, sustained scrapes and bruises; his 2012 Infiniti SUV, wallet and Rolex watch were taken, with the vehicle being recovered.

—**Scorsese takes on Rolls-Royce:** Legendary film director Martin Scorsese will work on a movie that will detail the history of the Rolls-Royce automotive brand, according to Fox News. Scorsese is acting as the producer of the movie, titled Silver Ghost. Silver Ghost will focus on motoring pioneer Lord John Douglas-Scott Montagu; his wife; Cis; and his secret love affair with his secretary and mistress, Eleanor Velasco Thornton.

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NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION

Gay singer shines on 'Eastwood' reality show

BY JERRY NUNN

Move over Kardashians, the E! Channel is introducing Mrs. Eastwood & Company to the world of reality television. Dina Eastwood, who is married to actor/director Clint Eastwood, is opening their home in more ways than one.

She has two daughters and six members of a boy band called Overtone from South Africa that all live under one roof. That—plus animals, including five chickens, a chinchilla, a pig, and two tortoises—keeps the place jumping with activity.

Eduard Leonard Janse van Rensburg, one of the members of Overtone, comes out of the closet during the course of the show. He talked with Windy City Times about that pivotal event.

Windy City Times: Hi, Leonard. How is life for you these days?

Eduard Leonard: We are really working on our music at the moment. We are doing a few corporate shows but otherwise we are focusing on new

music and recording new material.

WCT: So you are from South Africa?

EL: That's right. We are from Johannesburg, South Africa.

WCT: How did you become an Overtone in the first place?

EL: I am actually one of the founding members of the band. The band originated as a serenade group in our fraternity at the University of Johannesburg. We really enjoyed the singing and after our studies, Emile, one of the other members, and myself decided to get a few other guys together that we had known from singing in previous choirs and at church. So that is how we formed Overtone.

WCT: How did Clint Eastwood find the group?

EL: It is quite a random story. It was almost like winning the lottery. We were in Cape Town, South Africa, busy doing a Queen tribute show. Dina Eastwood, Clint's wife, picked a flyer up from the sidewalk; it was advertising our show, and she decided to go to ladies' night at the show.

She introduced herself afterwards and said she would like to organize a private event where we would sing for the cast and the crew of *Invictus*, which included Matt Damon and Morgan Freeman.

After that we were offered to do a song on the soundtrack for the film. One song became nine songs and the majority of the soundtrack, and that is how our relationship with the Eastwoods started off.

WCT: I loved *Invictus*, by the way...

EL: Oh, great. Thank you.

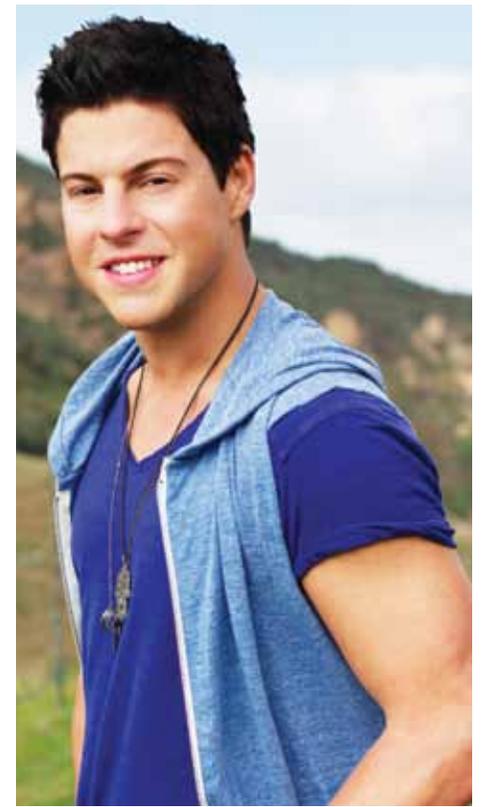
WCT: This series shows you moving in with the family, correct?

EL: Well, we have been in the United States for the last three years. Only two years after we moved here, Dina met with Jeff Jenkins from Bunim-Murray Productions proposing a show with Overtone and the unique family dynamics. That is how the show started off only three years after we got here. It was quite a process but now down the pipeline it has arrived.

WCT: These producers make *The Real World* for MTV, among other shows, so they know what they are doing.

EL: They make *The Real World* and the Kardashians. They are the groundbreakers for reality television.

WCT: How was it having the cameras around for you?



Eduard Leonard Janse van Rensburg.

EL: First of all it was a little intimidating but it seemed to become part of our nature to have them there. I think we adapted well because obviously they are in your personal space most of the day. Now it is kind of weird not having them around! [Laughs]

WCT: Your coming-out process is going to be covered in the show?

EL: Yes. Originally coming from South Africa and being an Afrikaner is a culture where they are quite conservative. Dina always says we remind her of the 1950s America there. It was very difficult for me. The band has known for quite a while. So it wasn't coming out to them but it was more coming out to the world. It is an interesting story and still a work in progress for me. It is not something that is just overnight.

Originally, I did not want to have my sexuality portrayed in any way on the show but I realized you have to be true to yourself—not only in who you are, but also in reality TV. Otherwise, it is not reality television.

WCT: That is a good point. The band does a cappella versions of popular songs such as "Move It." It is very much like the Warblers on *Glee*. Do you watch that show?

EL: Yes, I do.

WCT: Your sound reminded me of them.

EL: Yes, I think so, too, since we originated as a serenade group—a glee-clubbish kind of thing. We try to mimic the instruments to sound as close as possible.

WCT: You play an African bongo drum in addition to singing.

EL: It is called a djembe and a mandolin, so random. It is something I play but not really something we use in our music at the moment.

WCT: You sing a pretty high range in the group, correct?

EL: My vocal spot in the band is soprano because I can sing the highest. When I am not singing lead, that is pretty much where I am.

WCT: How many languages do you speak?

EL: I speak African and English; those are my two main languages. I am not too bad in German and Dutch. I am learning Spanish and Hebrew at the moment.

WCT: When are you touring out to Chicago?

EL: That is a good question. I have always wanted to see the Windy City. Hopefully, that will happen soon.

WCT: Are you single? I am sure our readers will want to know that.

EL: Yes, very single at the moment.

WCT: Are you excited about this reality show finally being out in the world?

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EASTWOOD from page 38

EL: I am terrified and excited at the same time because I am not out in South Africa so I have that whole thing looming. But, hey—if you want to do something, then go big, right? If you are going to come out, then come out on the national news or a reality show!

WCT: Your family already knows though, right?

EL: My dad has yet to find out and my mom has only known for a few months so she is still digesting the fact. My sister also knows and she is very supportive.

WCT: That's good. We will all be supporting you, too.

EL: Thank you!

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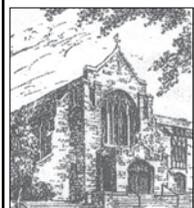
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Superstar Karaoke This uber-fun and chill after work set is comprised of cool young professionals, great drinks, and a microphone for you to own up to your superstar destiny! Come out and network, get buzzed, & sing your heart out each and every Wednesday at this relaxed Wicker Park lounge. 7pm, 773-342-5282, Seven Ultra Lounge 1270 N. Milwaukee Ave., www.7ultralounge.com

\$1 Drink Night Join SPIN every Wednesday for \$1 Cocktails, featuring 42 Below Vodka, Wine & Beer and \$5 Bacardi Bombs! DJ's Riley York, Bryan, Dominic and Chester SPIN their two dance floors until 2am; 9pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave.

Curtains Up! Showtune Video Night A night of your favorite showtune videos in Andersonville! All of the classics from stage and screen and a lot of new ones thrown in for your singing, laughing and watching enjoyment! 9pm, The Call (Chicago), 1547 W Bryn Mawr Ave.

The Experience with Rebecca Ferguson Sony Music Entertainment and The Music Experience present; 7pm-9:30pm, 773-493-0154, The DuSable Museum, www.amicsexperience.com

Thursday, May 24

Go Girl Live! Go Girl is moving off the web! Go Girl Live! is an after-work networking event for adventurous, independent, global women to gather and meet one another in a fun and relaxed atmosphere while supporting a local non-profit. Join Go Girl and the Chicago Women's Health Center for a presentation of "The Anatomy of Pleasure."; 1pm, Happy Village, 1059

THE BEND PLAYS ON May 24-Sept. 3

Cirque Shanghai entertains the masses at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave.

Photo by Jerry Nunn



N Wolcott Ave., gogirllive.eventbrite.com

Cirque Shanghai: Year of the Dragon Running May 24-Sept. 3, rain or shine, at the Pepsi Skyline Stage, the 1,500-seat, canopied, open-air theater on Navy Pier. 2pm-4pm, Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave., www.navy pier.com

The Big Picture The Board of Chicago Lost and Found invite you to join them for the Big Picture; raising needed support for education in the community through the visual arts. Enjoy cocktails, and tasty treats provided by celebrity Chef, Dale Levitski of Chicago's newest dining sensation, Frog N Snail. 6pm-10pm, Victor Hotel, 311 N Sangamon St., www.chicagolostandfound.com; Tickets: goprider.com/c6kw

Chicago Dyke March Collective to Hold Safety Marshal Training For questions or to reserve your seat, please e-mail dykemarchchicago@gmail.com or call 773-330-6878. Training is free and open to everyone. 6pm-8:30pm, Gender & Sexuality Center at UIC, 1007 W. Harrison St., room 181, chicagodiykemarch.wordpress.com

Asians and Friends Chicago Dining Club RSVP to hotline. 7pm, 312-409-1573, Jack's On Halsted, 3201 N Halsted St., www.afcchicago.org

Lambda Literary Awards finalist reading for Chicago and Midwestern authors Our special guest at the event will be Judith Markowitz, national co-president of the Lambda Literary Foundation; 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.lambdaliterary.org/awards/

Skin Trade - Grabby Weekend Kickoff Hydrate is hosting the Official Grabby Weekend Kickoff Party! Come meet and mingle with the superstars of the adult industry and DJ Chi Chi LaRue; 9pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St.

Steampunk Thursdays Elate is taking its eco-friendly philosophy to new heights, on Thursdays, by re-inventing itself as the Steampunk center of Chicago. 9:30pm, 312-202-9900, Elate, 111 W Huron St., www.elatechicago.com

Friday, May 25

IML Opening Ceremonies IML Opening Ceremonies doors open 8pm, begins 9pm; 8pm-11:30pm, Hyatt Regency Grand Ballroom, www.imrl.com

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/home/; Tickets: midtangent.tix.com/event.asp?event=452247

Shower Contest Join Spin Host Victor each Friday for their legendary Shower Contest at Midnight! 10pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., www.spin-nightclub.com/

Intense Bondage Party Shibari rope bondage demos by David Lawrence, author of Intensity: Men In Rope. Digital book previews, free rope harnesses. DJ Jim Lewis. 10pm, Touche, 6412 N Clark St, Chicago, www.touchechicago.com

Gossip Album Release Party Celebrate the release of A Joyful Noise, the new one from Th Gossip. Win copies while supplies last. Album available everywhere and at www.gossipyouth.com. DJ Greg Haus. 10pm, Berlin Nightclub, 954 W Belmont Ave., www.berlinchicago.com

Confined w/ DJ Joe Gauthreaux Just named DJ of the Year by Justcircuit.com, Joe Gauthreaux will be making his return to the Hydrate DJ booth. Special midnight special by Rupal's Drag Race star DiDa Ritz. Porn star dancers on hand for everyone's pleasure. No cover until 11 pm.

10pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

Saturday, May 26

Out & Proud Chicago LGBT Tour Out & Proud Chicago, an LGBT tour coordinated by the Chicago Office of Tourism & Culture, is happening this summer on three dates. Led by Tracy Baim, Publisher and Executive Editor at Windy City Media Group. 10am-2:30pm, 312-742-1190, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., www.explorechicago.org/city/en/things_see_do/tours/tourism/out_and_proud.html

Belmont - Sheffield Music Festival Through May 27. Features region's top tribute bands, food, libations, and arts & crafts. 12pm-10pm, North Sheffield between Belmont & School, www.chicago-events.com/event.cfm?eid=140

A Chili Cookoff benefiting ILGRA The Men of Charlies are hosting a Chili Cookoff benefiting the Illinois Gay Rodeo Association, during the Bear Pride Boystown Bar Crawl. 10 different self proclaimed chili chefs will be presenting their best. The judging starts at high noon and goes 'til 6 or until the chili runs dry. 12pm-6pm, Charlie's, 3726 N Broadway, www.charlieschicago.com

2012 Grabby Awards The 2012 Grabbys hosted by ChiChi LaRue and Honey West. See your favorite adult film stars in an evening that highlights the top talent and performances in the industry. 7:30pm-11pm, Park West Chicago, 322 W Armitage Ave., www.grabbys.com

The Chocolate Party LGBTQ Mixer Pride Network's event with a 15 foot chocolate buffet, FLAIR TV filming the event, hosting from Studology 101 and 2 WNBA all-stars. Tickets available online. 9pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., chocolatepartychicago.eventbrite.com

L Stop anniversary party Three-hour bar package, DJs, performances, contests, and more. O'Malleys will be transformed, for one night, into a hub where women and their allies can drink, dance, and celebrate with The L Stop team. General Admission (\$35 presale) but also for VIP (\$60 presale). 9:30pm, O'Malleys, 3551 N. Sheffield Ave., www.brownpapertickets.com/event/246679

Sunday, May 27

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

Allen Schindler Remembrance Ceremony Gay veterans graveside honors for gay sailor from the Chicago area who was murdered in 1992 by shipmates. 2pm, 773-752-0058, Steger, IL.

Queer is Community A space to open a dialogue around racism, transphobia, homophobia, sexism, ableism, violence and any other limitations to community-building and to inspire positive change. Performers, activists, students, nonprofits and folks from across Chicago dialogue about community building and the need for inclusive, affirming spaces. Begin with vigil/speak out at 6 outside, followed by a short period to file inside. \$5 suggested donation but no one will be turned away. 6pm-9pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted

International Mr. Leather Contest International Mr. Leather Contest doors open 5:00pm, begins 6:00pm; 5pm-11pm, Location to be determined, www.imrl.com



'ALL' PASS

May 29-June 3

The transgender conference Be-ALL will take place in Downers Grove.

Photo from 2011 by Jerry Nunn

Monday, May 28

Bear BQ Grilling from 1 pm. No cover. Part of Bearpawcalypse!. 1pm-7pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., www.sidetrackchicago.com

Space Park Memorial Day Ceremony Gay veterans of the Chicago Chapter of the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER); 2pm, 773-752-0058, Space Park at Halsted & Roscoe, www.averchicago.org

Memorial Day at Touche Beer bust all day with 50 cent Bud and Bud Light drafts, cookout from 4 to 7 with fresh-off-the-grill eats and a bike raffle, Survivor Party at 10 pm. 4pm, Touche, 6412 N Clark St, Chicago, www.touchechicago.com

The Black & Blue Ball The Black & Blue Ball doors open 8:00pm; 8pm, Excalibur Nightclub, 632 N Dearborn, Chicago, www.imrl.com

Live Band Karaoke with Amy Armstrong Every Monday night at 10 p.m. in the front bar, hosted by the one and only Amy Armstrong; Roscoe's, 3356 N. Halsted St., www.roscoes.com

Tuesday, May 29

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

Chicago Transgender Convention Be-All 2012 Hospitality Suite, seminars including surgeons, vendors, off-site adventures to Hairspray by John Waters at Drury Lane and a casino, lunches with Mara Keisling commander of NCTE and with guest speaker Amanda Simpson of the White House. Through June 3. 3pm, DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Downers Grove, 2111 Butterfield Rd., Downers Grove, www.be-all.org

"The Height of Fashion": A Fundraiser for Sole Survivor Help award-winning Chicago filmmaker Ky Dickens' newest film take flight. Auction sale jewelry, clothes, art, exclusive tours. 6pm-9pm, Vertigo Sky Lounge atop the Dana Hotel, 2 W. Erie, www.brownpapertickets.com

Wed., May 30

Win Scissor Sisters Tickets at MaryOke! Win a pair of tickets to see Scissor Sisters at the Vic on Pride Sunday. Come to MaryOke with DJ Hamybear and sing one of the mystery songs from the mystery hat. At midnight, a winner will be chosen from all songs sung that night. Other fun prizes too. 9pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark St., www.hamburgermarys.com/chicago



SIMPLY THE VEST

Memorial Day Weekend

Thousands will be in Chicago this weekend to attend IML.

Photo from 2011 by Andrew Davis

BILLY MASTERS

"The only thing I can say is that people who don't like me can just not come and hear me. Because I, when I don't like something, I just don't bother about it."—Maria Callas tells a reporter what she thinks about people who criticize her voice.

Several years back, I was included in a group of notable gays who are considered "icons" (their term, not mine—I'm far too humble to point out my trailblazing ways). At the time, I only saw the bright side. What gay man doesn't want to be venerated by the masses? As I recall, the evening culminated with several nubile young men genuflecting before me—but perhaps that wasn't part of the official program.

However, there is a downside. Being an icon is similar to being given an honorary degree or lifetime achievement award—it means you're on your way out. I recently was musing on this subject when something marvelous happened—I got a hate letter! First let me say how much I enjoy getting your praises and plaudits. It's



Channing Tatum (above) gets it on with Sir Elton John—on stage. Pic by Matt Nettheim

very gratifying to me. But when someone goes out of his or her way to start a grassroots boycott of your work, it means you're still relevant. I guess I haven't lost my edge. I am troubled that my lone gunman's manifesto included the topics Merv Griffin, Dick Clark and Depends, in short succession. I fear that even if he gets this boycott off the ground, it'll be short-lived.

I'm known for anticipating celebrity deaths. If Olivia de Havilland so much as coughs, I know about it. But I was taken aback by the untimely death of Donna Summer. The Queen of Disco succumbed to lung cancer at 63. During a phone interview, Piers Morgan mentioned to Aretha Franklin that people didn't know that Summer was sick. Aretha—perhaps prophetically—said, "Well, some people are private about these things." The family issued a statement saying that Donna was not a smoker and she believed that her cancer was caused by the close proximity of her NYC home to Ground Zero. Summer also was said to have had a premonition about the 9/11 attack and fled to the Hamptons days earlier. Regardless, she was certainly taken too soon.

And now, I'd like to share an uplifting story. A story of hope. A story of dreams. A story with a happy ending. No, this isn't an update on the story of John Travolta and the masseurs. I'll give him (and you) a break. Instead, I'm going to get personal. As is well-documented, Lindsay Wagner holds a special place in my heart. For

the better part of two decades, I have rung in the New Year watching her movies with close friends. (She's quite prolific—20 years, two movies a year and we still haven't run out.) And yet, I've never met her. I think maybe I was worried it could be a letdown. I put my fears aside when I was invited to attend her induction to the Palm Springs Walk of Fame. To help celebrate, her friend Lynda Carter flew in from Washington, D.C.—yes, "The Bionic Woman" and "Wonder Woman" ... together! Despite being pulled in a million directions from rabid fans who flew in from around the world, Lindsay exhibited enormous grace and genuine gratitude. As to our meeting, words cannot express how lovely it was. Amidst the chaos, we spent some time together and I must say that she's one of those people who really looks you in the eye while she listens. Of course, she does have that bionic ear.

More photos are being leaked showing the cast of Magic Mike in various forms of undress. But lest you think this flick is solely being targeted

to women and gay men, think again. Channing Tatum anticipates a very different audience: "With Joe Manganiello naked in a movie, I think even straight guys are going to be, 'Sh*t, I need to see that. That man is a specimen.'" Really? Will straight men really be saying that? If so, then I expect loads of 'em to check out BillyMasters.com. After all, I already have photos and footage of Manganiello as naked as you're gonna get in the film ... and, yeah, he is a specimen.

Believe it or not, this leads in perfectly to our "Ask Billy" question. Joshua in Missouri (yes, the heartland): "I was reading 'Vanity Fair' and Kelly Ripa said that her husband had been a stripper. Do you know anything about this? Please say there are some videos—or at least Polaroids!"

Although I've previously reported about Marc Consuelos' stripping days, I've never had the assistance of Ripa's own words. Here's what she said: "A lot of hot guys in Hollywood have done that... There he was, in south Florida; he's gorgeous, looking to break into show business, so he started off as a roadie to a group of these guys, and then they talked him into stripping." See? Why isn't Joey Lawrence comparing himself to Kelly Ripa's husband instead of Oscar winners? Be that as it may, she's not kidding when she says he was gorgeous—and very, uh, "accommodating" to the fans. Of course, we'll run

the photographic proof on our website.

Remember when I told you about Elton John singing "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" at Sting's "Concert for the Rainforest Fund" last month? And I showed you photos of him bumping and grinding with Channing Tatum? Well, one of my sources has finally come through with a video from the event, complete with Chan's sexy stripper moves. A tantalizing and tasty treat for you is at BillyMasters.com.

When we're promoting the objectification of men, it's time for me to hit the gym and end yet another column. I do have one teensy exclusive announcement to make. One of our dear friends is teaming up with a bon ami for a special show in Provincetown. "An Evening with Whoopi Goldberg & Bruce Vilanch" will play Town Hall Aug. 5. The bosom buddies are planning this event for the gays, and you won't want to miss it. I'm sure more details will be posted on www.BillyMasters.com, the site that's always a little bit ahead of the pack. If you have a question that needs some attention, e-mail me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I join my own boycott! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

We're ready!

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Outgames official 'shocked' merge did not happen

BY ROSS FORMAN

Julia Applegate left the two-day meeting in Montreal May 6 to fly home to Ohio, with the final proposal on the table from the Gay and Lesbian International Sport Association (GLISA) to the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) in hopes of one merged LGBT-sporting event between the GLISA's World Outgames and the Gay Games for 2018.

"When I left to go to the airport, I thought [the merged 2018 event] was going to happen," Applegate, co-president of the GLISA board, said in an exclusive interview. "When we found out that the FGG Board did not agree to that last proposal, I was shocked, very upset and very surprised. I felt completely devastated and really, really upset that [the agreement] fell through at the very last moment. That was my personal response."

FGG and GLISA, which had been discussing a merged 2018 event for about two years, agreed to meet for 48 hours in Montreal—to finalize plans for 2018 or call them off. When the FGG board voted down GLISA's last proposal on May 6, which the GLISA board supported unanimously, the two organizations had reached the deadline for an agreement. At that point, GLISA sent out a mutually agreed upon press release saying that an agreement had not been reached.

"GLISA left the door open to the FGG to come back with an alternative proposal in 72 hours," Applegate said. "GLISA felt the proposal they returned with was not a good foundation for ensuring an equitable relationship going forward, so GLISA reverted back to the proposal from Sunday. FGG again declined that proposal."

So now it's two separate sporting LGBT events—as it's been since the 2006 Gay Games was held in Chicago and the 2006 World Out-

games was held a few weeks later in Montreal.

The second World Outgames was held in 2009 in Copenhagen while the last Gay Games was held in 2010 in Cologne, Germany.

The third World Outgames will be held in 2013 in Antwerp, Belgium. Gay Games IV is scheduled for 2014 in Cleveland.

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."

"I am now coming to terms with it because I feel like we tried real hard, but, when it came right down to it, there just was not enough support for a games that, from the GLISA perspective, did not have enough support for an equitable [joint] arrangement," said Applegate, 41, who lives in Columbus, Ohio.

The Montreal powwow was a last ditch effort to form 1QE (one quadrennial event), though both groups had been stuck on even getting a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to work together. Both FGG and GLISA sent four representatives to Montreal to advocate on behalf of their board's.

"The hope was, we could meet in Montreal and come to an agreement of an MOU and then go forward from there," Applegate said.

Each team came to the table with a set of non-negotiable elements for 1QE that needed to be mutually agreed upon, Applegate said.

Ultimately, "we just reached an impasse," she said, "and we weren't able to come to terms that felt comfortable for both organizations."

The biggest obstacles were revenue and the voting procedures, Applegate said.

"The FGG was bound to have the site-selection meeting for the 2018 [event] in Cleveland [in 2013]; that's part of the licensing agreement [with Cleveland]. GLISA wanted that site selection meeting to be held in Antwerp at the 2013 event," she said.

The voting method also was an issue.

GLISA uses electronic voting and proxy voting. FGG did not want to accept that style of voting, she said. "So, GLISA accepted doing a site-selection meeting in Cleveland, but just as long as we're able to vote electronically because, likely, our membership will be unavailable to attend a site-selection meeting in 2013 in Cleveland." The voting issue was never resolved.

There also was an issue around revenue split, she said.

"The FGG wanted to do an independent assessment of each organization's value, and then do the revenue split from the host city, based on that independent assessment," Applegate said. "GLISA was in agreement with that up to a point; we felt we needed to take on a certain level of shared risk in doing a 2018 [event]. We had different perspectives on where those [revenue] percentages should fall and when the revenue split should happen."

One thing that was not an issue was, the name for the 2018 event, she said.

"We agreed a long time ago ... the Gay Games

was adamant that Gay Games needs to be part of the name, and GLISA said that's fine," Applegate said. "Ultimately, it was suggested, and agreed, to be: 2018 Gay Games – Outgames.

"The [name of the 2018 event] was not a sticking point at all."

Applegate, a former Division I college swimmer, has participated in three Gay Games and two World Outgames. She has won multiple medals at every event. Her partner is Liv Gjestvang and they have one son, Karsten Applegate.

"We responded, at least in part, to what the global LGBT community said it wanted," that being a joint event in 2018, she said. "We came together to try to create a unified event."

"However, I don't think the global LGBT sporting community would benefit from joint games if they're not joint in every sense of the word."

"We were very close. We are much closer than it appears, but there wasn't enough [support] from the FGG for the final proposal on the table—and that was the proposal that GLISA felt was most equitable and would allow us to move forward in the spirit of true cooperation."

So now, the next possible 1QE will be in 2022—and Applegate is certain talks will resume, at some point.

"I just don't think it's sustainable for either organization to continue to do separate events," she said.



From left: Jeff Neilsen, Sam Hamilton and Shawn Albritton. Photo by Ross Forman

Three inducted into sports hall of fame

BY ROSS FORMAN

Shawn Albritton made his debut in the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) during the spring of 2000, playing softball for an Equality Illinois team in what then was known as Division 5 (now, D2-Division). He was an outfielder on opening day.

Today, Albritton is out for all CMSA sports. In fact, he jokes that it's easier to name the sports he doesn't or hasn't played. This year, for instance, it's no badminton or basketball. However, he does still play softball, football, tennis, volleyball and soccer.

In addition, Albritton is the CMSA president. On May 19, he was inducted into the CMSA Hall of Fame. Sam Hamilton and Jack Nielsen joined Albritton in this newest class.

"I'm flabbergasted" at the honor, Albritton said. "I'm deeply honored. It's hard to describe how honored I am. This is one of the biggest honors I could imagine receiving—because this organization, CMSA, means so much to me."

Albritton was the commissioner for the men's flag football league from 2003-2008. He also has been a softball umpire and football referee, among other CMSA chores.

"My happiest time in CMSA is seeing new members join, and watching them have a great time," Albritton said.

Hamilton has been a CMSA mainstay since 2003, participating in women's flag football, dodgeball, basketball, soccer and more. In

2011, she coordinated Family Day at a Chicago Sky game.

"CMSA is like my family and I've had such good experiences in CMSA," Hamilton said. "It's amazing to be honored. I never thought I would be [inducted into the Hall of Fame;] it's incredible."

Neilsen also made his CMSA debut on the softball fields—in 2003. And his greatest CMSA accomplishments have been softball-related. No one lives Sunday Funday in the spring and summer more than Neilsen who, since 2009, has been the commissioner of CMSA's open division softball on Sundays. Plus, he was the key CMSA representative several years ago that helped land the 2011 Gay Softball World Series in Chicago.

He also has been a World Series winner. "I'm very emotional ... overwhelmed, honored and humbled," Neilsen said. "This award truly makes everything I do worth it."

"I am truly, truly humbled, and speechless."

Force rocks Cleveland

The Chicago Force traveled to Cleveland—and upped its record to 6-0 with a 48-0 shellacking of the Fusion.

RB Melissa Smith, who leads the league with 19 rushing touchdowns, generated much of the offense. Smith finished with 189 yards and 4 TDs; she also rushed for the two-point conversion on all six of the Force touchdowns.

The Chicago defense was led by Sami Scurto and Elisha Okrey, who had eight tackles each; April Fowlkes chipped in with four tackles.

The Force led 24-0 at halftime. The Force's next game is at home against the Indy Crash on Saturday, June 2, at 5 p.m. at Lazier Field at Evanston Township High School, 2285 Church St., Evanston.

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This past year we have had three of the most substantive changes in the law that I have seen in over 35 years. The Civil Union Act, the Real Estate Transfer on Death Instrument Act and the new Power of Attorney Act. This series of articles will discuss all three.

After experiencing the struggles and battles that I have seen my clients and same sex couples go through - it is really exciting that we can use these three new laws to protect our relationships. But there are still landmines and pitfalls for our families and children.

When my partner Chris and I adopted, he was the one who got the Foster Home License, as only one person could. Now both partners should be able to get a joint Foster Home License from DCFS if they are in a civil union. However, the latest I heard was that DCFS was not yet doing joint Foster Home Licenses. And you need that before you can have a child in your home pending the completion of the adoption process.

Once Chris completed the first adoption we did a second parent adoption for me. We combined our names when giving the kids their new names - I was McCaffrey and Christopher was Boss. Thus the kids were named McCaffrey-Boss but we the parents were not.

We both went back to court and obtained Change of Name Judgment Orders changing our last names to McCaffrey-Boss, same as the kids. Now all our Passports, the kids Birth Certificates and our Birth Certificates all have the same last name.

Having the same last name has taken the terror out of international travel or even traveling to a different state with our children and having to explain why we are with a child whose last is name different from ours. I know many couples with children feel trapped in the US, unable to travel, because of this fear.

We also travel with old photos of us and the children in case we are stopped and have to prove we have not abducted our multi-racial children.

Today with the Civil Union Act couples are finding they don't need to go to court to change their names. Clients have been successful in changing their Illinois Drivers Licenses, Passports and Social Security Cards with a certified copy of the Civil Union Certificate.

Next week: More is needed.

- Bankruptcy • Wills, Trusts & Probate
- Real Estate Closings • Civil Unions

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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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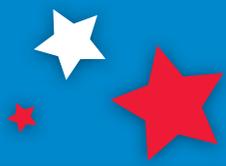
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