



SARAH SILVERMAN TALKS WITH WCT PAGE 27

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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LOIS BATES' LEGACY AND TRANS SENIORS PAGE 13

## Robberies in Boystown Police comments criticized

BY KATE SOSIN

In what appears to be a string of iPhone robberies to hit Boystown over the weekend, officers on a police-scanner recording were heard making comments that may not sit well with many residents.

In one exchange Windy City Times was able to access, police officers suggested that a robbery victim brought the crime on himself by staying out late and associating with "boys in dresses."

According to police, a Latino man was robbed of his phone at approximately 5:15 a.m. Sunday morning on the 800 block of West Belmont Avenue. Police described the offenders as "five male Black" offenders. One, wearing a black T-shirt and blue jeans, punched the victim in the face before the group rifled through his pockets and stole his phone.

The victim was not transported to the hospital, and no one is in custody.

A police-scanner exchange that appears to refer to the same incident suggests that the attackers may have been transgender women or gender non-conforming people in their 20s.

An officer described the robbers as "four male Blacks that were dressed as female."

"If [you] wouldn't stay out so late, this wouldn't happen," said one person on the scanner.

"If you wouldn't mess with boys in dresses this wouldn't happen," responded another.

Both comments may hit sore spots for many LGBT Chicagoans. Last summer, a string of highly publicized violent attacks in the neighborhood set many residents on edge. Most recently, LGBT community groups have been debating strategies for implementing a transgender policy within the Chicago Police Department, aimed making police more sensitive to gender-variant and transgender people.

The Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) is looking into the matter.

"We take all allegations of inappropriate or unprofessional communications seriously," OEMC said in a statement. "At this time, however, we are still in the process of authenticating the tape."

### String of weekend robberies

Another Lakeview resident is recovering after he was assaulted and robbed Saturday. Adam Bogucki, said he was on his way to training early Saturday morning when he was followed, attacked and then robbed.

According to police, the incident occurred on the 3300 block of North Broadway at approximately 6 a.m.

Bogucki stopped at 7-Eleven on his way to training that morning. On his way out, he said he noticed a gender non-conforming person behind him.

"I kind of felt she was following me," he said.

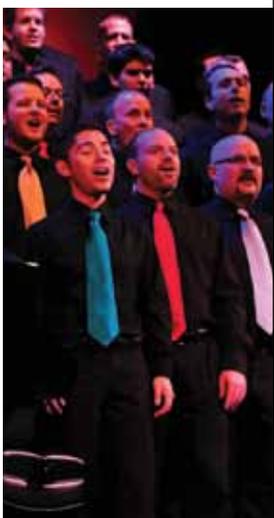
According to Bogucki, she asked for the time and then for 50 cents to make a call. She continued to follow him as he crossed the street to get away.

"She said 'give me your phone,'" Bogucki said.

He refused, at which point the attacker pepper sprayed him in the face, grabbed his gym bag and pulled until he fell to the ground in the parking lot of Starbucks.

She grabbed his phone from the ground and ran away.

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CHICAGO GAY MEN'S CHORUS PAGE 24

## Sukie de la Croix's Chicago Whispers book now available

BY YASMIN NAIR

St. Sukie de la Croix has been a Chicago fixture since the English native moved to this city in 1991. He is a former writer for Windy City Times, has been a reporter and columnist for several publications, and is often seen at LGBTQ events, recording people and speeches with his camera and notebook. He currently writes for ChicagoPride.com.

This month sees the release of his new book, Chicago Whispers: A History of LGBT Chicago Before Stonewall (University of Wisconsin Press), with a foreword by John D'Emilio, professor of History and Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

According to de la Croix, the book is the result of ten years of research, fact-finding, and interviews. Beginning in the seventeenth century, the book reveals new and unexpected details about even its most familiar LGBTQ figures, like Henry Gerber.

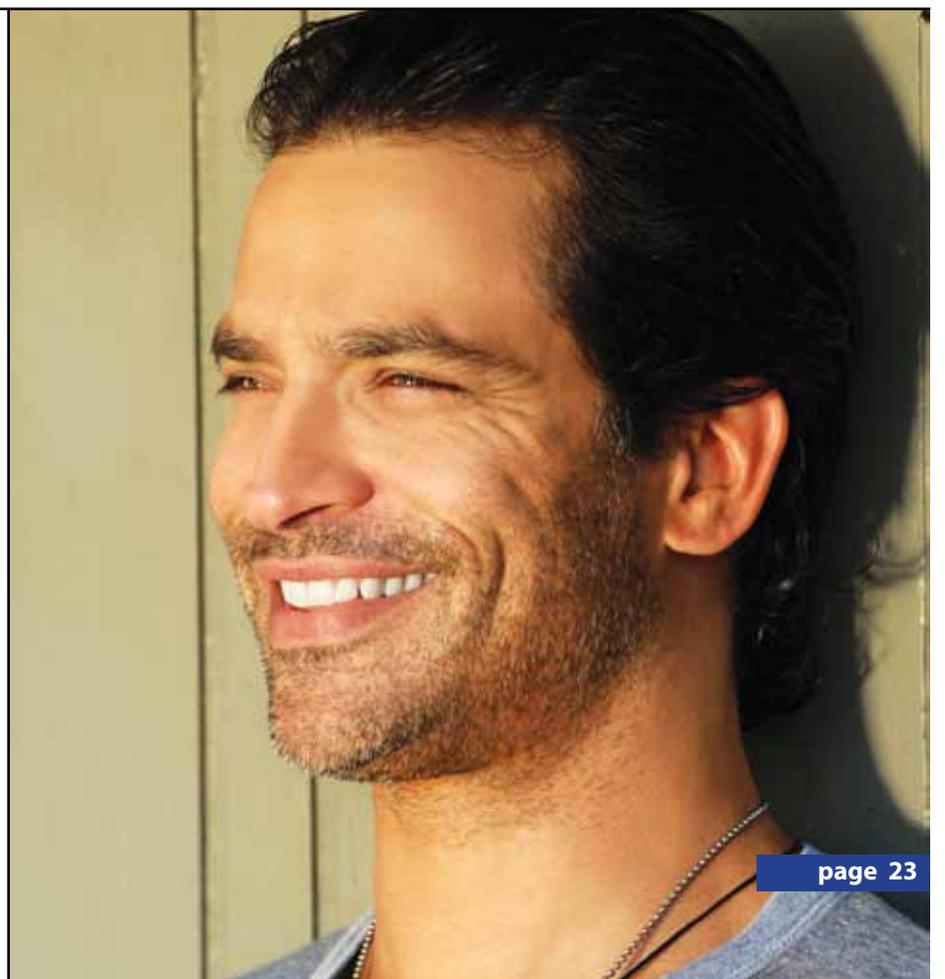
Chicago LGBTQ history has been strangely ignored for many years. But recent years have seen the publication of books such as Out and Proud in Chicago: An Overview of the City's Gay Community, edited by Tracy Baim. Marie J. Kuda is a historian who has written about Chicago gay history for decades. Chad Heap, Jonathan Katz, Tristan Cabello and



Author St. Sukie de la Croix. Photo courtesy of de la Croix



LATRICE ROYALE PAGE 25



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## SCHAECH TO THE SYSTEM

Gay fave Johnathon Schaech talks about his films, saving arts education and free love. See page 23. Photo by Alan Mercer

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Photo of Sarah Silverman by Robyn von Swank; photo of Lois Bates by Hal Baim; photo of the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus by Kat Fitzgerald; photo of Latrice Royale by Mathu Andersen

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### DANCE FEVER

Windy City Times talks with American Idol alum David Hernandez (left), who's with the local show Dancing Queen.

Press photo



Read a review of the film House of Boys.



Lambda Legal's Beth Littrell fields a question about pride and the law.

Photo from Lambda Legal website

### EURO SO VAIN

Financial expert Phil Sitar takes a look at the European debt crisis.

### SOUND JUDGMENT

Bent Nights reviews concerts by J.C. and the Uptown Sound; Le Butcherettes; and Bobby Cohn.

### THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Read entertainment news about Spartacus, Lauryn Hill and Angelina Jolie.

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# N.Y. federal judge strikes DOMA

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

For the second time in a week, a federal court has declared the core section of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) to be unconstitutional.

Judge Barbara Jones of the U.S. District Court for Southern New York, which includes Manhattan, issued a ruling June 6 saying DOMA violates the constitution's guarantee of equal protection when it requires a same-sex spouse to pay a federal estate tax that heterosexual spouses are exempt from.

On May 31, the First Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, using a "closer-than-usual" rational basis review, also struck down Section 3 of DOMA as a violation of equal protection. That case is now headed for the U.S. Supreme Court.

The June 6 decision came in *Windsor v. U.S.*, a case brought by the ACLU on behalf of Edie Windsor. Windsor married her spouse, Thea Spyer, in Canada in 2007. Spyer died in 2009, following a long illness. However, because Section 3 prohibits the federal government from recognizing the marriages of same-sex couples, Windsor was not able to claim the estate-tax deduction available to the spouses of straight married couples.

The ACLU filed suit, arguing that DOMA violates the equal protection rights of gay people whose spouses die. It asked the court to refund to Windsor federal estate tax she was required to pay following Spyer's death.

Attorneys for the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group (BLAG) in the U.S. House urged the court to dismiss the lawsuit. BLAG argued that, at the time of Spyer's death (in 2009), the state's highest court had ruled (in *Hernandez v. Robles*, 2006) that the state constitution "does not compel recognition of marriages between members of the same sex."

But Jones, a Clinton appointee, rejected that argument, noting that, in 2009, the New York governor, attorney general, and comptroller had each "endorsed the recognition of Windsor's marriage." And she noted that, since 2006, state appellate courts had upheld as valid marriage licenses from other jurisdictions, including Canada.

In her decision, Judge Jones noted that Windsor and Spyer had been together for 44 years and had obtained a domestic partnership from New York City and a marriage license from Toronto, Canada. Although New York state did not recognize their marriage at the time of Spyer's death, in 2009, Spyer left Windsor her entire estate in her will.

"Because of the operation of DOMA," wrote Jones, "Windsor did not qualify for the unlimited marital deduction [available under federal law to heterosexual widows] and was required



Edie Windsor in a video on the ACLU website.

to pay \$363,053 in federal estate tax on Spyer's estate, which Windsor paid in her capacity as executor of the estate."

In explaining the U.S. Department of Justice's position concerning DOMA, Jones misstated that the executive branch decided "not to enforce DOMA." In fact, the Obama administration said it would continue enforcing DOMA but would not defend it in court as being constitutional.

Jones declined to agree with the ACLU that DOMA should be held to the highest scrutiny of judicial review, noting that 11 courts of appeal have also declined to do so and that the U.S. Supreme Court "conspicuously has not designated homosexuals as a suspect class, even though it has had the opportunity to do so." When a group of people have been designated a "suspect class," laws putting them at disadvantage are held to the highest level of judicial scrutiny.

But Jones found that DOMA Section 3, which bars the federal government from recognizing legitimate marriage licenses for same-sex couples seeking federal benefits tied to marriage, "does not pass constitutional muster" even under the simplest level of judicial review: rational basis.

She took the reasons offered by BLAG to explain treating same-sex couples differently—factors offered and dismissed in other federal rulings on DOMA thus far—and agreed they did not justify DOMA. For instance, while Congress may have had a "legitimate" hope to promote traditional marriage, she said, "it is unclear how DOMA advances it." And while Jones said she "does not disagree that promoting family values and responsible parenting are legitimate governmental goals," she could not "discern a logical relationship between DOMA and those goals."

She declared DOMA Section 3 unconstitutional as it applied to Windsor and ordered the government to repay Windsor the estate taxes she paid, with interest.

Windsor, in a statement released through the ACLU, said, "It's thrilling to have a court finally recognize how unfair it is for the government to have treated us as though we were strangers."

ACLU attorney James Esseks, director of the ACLU Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender

Project, said the decision "adds to what has become an avalanche of decisions that DOMA can't survive even the lowest level of scrutiny by the courts."

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese praised Windsor, the ACLU and their cooperating attorneys at the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison for their "incredible efforts on behalf of gay and lesbian couples across the nation."

"The dominoes continue to fall on DOMA with yet another federal court rightly calling it unconstitutional," said Solmonese in a statement released by HRC. "All loving and committed married couples should be recognized by the federal government yet we continue to see the terrible pain DOMA inflicts on real families. The real question is when Speaker Boehner will see the writing on the wall and stop wasting taxpayer dollars defending this outrageous law and instead work to repeal it. Paul Clement's record of zero for four speaks for itself."

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, had BLAG vote on hiring an outside attorney, former Solicitor General Clement, to defend DOMA after the Obama administration said it believes DOMA unconstitutional. So far, Clement and his team have lost decisions in *Golinski v. OPM*, *Dragovich v. Treasury*, *Gill v. OPM* and *Windsor*.

## Elections: Walker wins recall, San Diego may get gay mayor

Several states held primaries June 5—the biggest item involved a do-over of sorts in the Midwest.

In Wisconsin, Republican Gov. Scott Walker won his recall election over Democrat Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett 53 percent to 46 percent. In so doing, Walker became the first U.S. governor in history to survive a recall. Two years ago, Walker defeated Barrett 52 percent to 46 percent.

According to CNN, a recall drive was launched after Walker signed a bill in March of last year that removed collective-bargaining rights from public employee unions.

Walker has a history of anti-gay activity. In 2011, he attempted to stop the state from defending a law that allowed hospital visitation for same-sex couples, according to News-er.

Also in Wisconsin, lesbian U.S. Rep. Tammy



Gov. Scott Walker.

Baldwin recently turned in her nomination signatures to the state's government accountability board in her bid for the U.S. Senate, according to Fox6Now.com. Should she win the seat currently held by the retiring Herb Kohl, she would be the first openly gay member of the Senate.

In California, gay Republican Carl DeMaio and straight Democrat Bob Filner will face each other for mayor of San Diego in November after finishing in the top two in the primary, according to San Diego Gay & Lesbian News. Nathan Fletcher, a straight Independent who left the GOP after the local branch endorsed DeMaio, finished third. Bonnie Dumanis, a lesbian Republican, ended up fourth. DeMaio and Filner both support marriage

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—Kerry (left), others want end to blood-donation ban

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House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's office issued a statement noting that Clement has "spent over \$700,000 in taxpayer funds" while working on 14 DOMA-related cases.

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equality; however, DeMaio has said that, as mayor, he would focus on economic issues and not be a gay activist, according to a piece by Rex Wockner.

Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico and South Dakota also held primaries. In one intriguing development, U.S. Congressman Bill Pascrell Jr. won his Democratic primary (beating another incumbent, Steve Rothman) and will now face Republican Rabbi Shmuley Boteach—the author of *Kosher Sex*—Nov. 6, according to Business Week.

On the presidential trail, Barack Obama headed to the West Coast June 6 for a two-day fundraising swing that included a stop at the LGBT Leadership Council Gala in Beverly Hills, according to CBS News. Glee star Darren Criss was the featured entertainment, and the speakers included Ellen DeGeneres.

## Wisconsin Democrats call for marriage equality

Wisconsin Democrats issued a call for marriage equality in the party's 2012 platform, according to an organizational media statement.

Under party regulations, each Congressional District convention can forward 10 resolutions to the state convention; the resolutions adopted by delegates to the state convention form the foundation of the party's platform.

The LGBT Caucus sponsored the platform plank, working with county parties in several parts of the state to adopt the resolution that calls for same-sex marriage.

## Denmark OKs marriage equality

Denmark's parliament approved equal-marriage laws by a vote of 85 to 24, Pink News reported.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark, to which 80 percent of the national population belongs, will be able to perform marriage ceremonies under the new laws, although priests will not be obligated to perform weddings.

In 1989, Denmark became the first country to allow the registration of same-sex partnerships, according to ABC News.

The new law is slated to take effect June 15.

## Lakeview Pantry ED to walk 50 miles

Gary Garland, executive director of Lakeview Pantry, is walking 50 miles from his home in Kenosha, Wis., to the pantry June 21-23 to increase awareness about hunger and poverty in Lakeview.

According to the pantry's website, Garland said, "There about 110,000 Chicagoans who live in Lakeview and 10,000 of them—including children, veterans, and families—are food insecure."

People can be \$50 or \$100 supporters. See [www.LakeviewPantry.org](http://www.LakeviewPantry.org).

# Series on bisexuality looks to document diversity in sexual behaviors

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

Bisexuality is sometimes looked on with confusion from both the heterosexual and homosexual communities. Researchers from Indiana University conducted a series of studies recently to explore how the stigma and stereotypes of behaviorally bisexual individuals stands up to reality, and how these men and women are actually living out their sexual lives.

Through a web-based survey, Vanessa Schick—assistant research scientist at the Center for Sexual Health Promotion at IU Bloomington—said that her team was able to reach 4,000 women respondents. Using that data set, the researchers were able to examine several questions about behaviorally bisexual women. Schick said the core question she set out to answer was “What sort of diversity exists in the sexual repertoire between women?”

Schick said the findings could help medical practitioners and clinicians in talking with and treating patients.

“I want, ideally, medical practitioners and clinicians to consider the diversity in their sexual repertoires when asking women whether they’ve engaged in sexual behavior with other women,” she said. “Oftentimes there’s this assumption that women don’t need to be asked about whether they’re engaging in sexual behavior with other women.

“There’s an assumption that that behavior would not necessarily put women at an increased risk for any sexual health outcomes, but what we found is that there is a wider diversity in sexual behaviors that could perhaps, we don’t know, may put women at an increased risk.”

Schick suggested that medical professionals should consider being more specific in the questions that they ask patients. Rather than asking one general question about whether a woman has engaged in sex with another woman, a doctor might ask a series of questions targeting specific sexual behaviors.

In addition to sexual activities that women engage in with other women, Schick also studied the labels that women use to identify themselves. According to study results, “Women who identified themselves as bisexual or lesbian reported the best health when their sexual identity matched their recent sexual history.”

However, Schick warned against jumping to conclusions about the importance of labeling sexual identity. “Unlike the other women in the study, the mental, physical and sexual well-being of queer-identified women was not related to the gender of their recent sexual partners,” she said. “This suggests that instead of encouraging women to adopt labels that are more descriptive of their behavior, we should be more flexible in the behavioral expectations that we attach to these labels.”



Vanessa Schick and Brian Dodge. Photo courtesy of Indiana University

Another researcher, Brian Dodge—associate professor in the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation and associate director of the Center for Sexual Health Promotion—conducted a qualitative study of 75 behaviorally bisexual men that also explored multiple questions.

“Behaviorally bisexual men, there are a lot of people who would say they don’t exist, first of all,” Dodge said. “But they’re not usually studied separately or distinctly in terms of their sexual behaviors. Usually, when they are it’s based on a one-question item that says ‘did you have sex with a woman and did you have sex with a man.’ What we were interested in was what were their

diverse behaviors. We asked about very specific behaviors with male, female and transgender partners. ... We really wanted to get a sense of what behaviors they were engaging in.”

One of Dodge’s most surprising findings was the isolation that many bisexual men feel.

“I was really surprised to find, among some of the guys, how they weren’t open at all about their sexuality,” he said. “For a lot of them, it had been the first time they’d ever talked to someone about engaging in sexual behavior with both men and women. There was a lot of stigma, even shame from both gay and straight friends and family members about bisexuality that was above and beyond just typical stigma. For some of them it really did seem like they were clearly linking that with having mental health issues, like feeling depressed or anxious or not comfortable with their sexuality because they felt like they were sort of the only ones. So in terms of the needs for actually doing this type of research, it was really validated.”

Dodge would like to see the results of his studies with behaviorally bisexual men lead to more effective health programming for men and their sexual partners.

“Because the content of most current sexual health programs for gay and bisexual men focus only on their behaviors and experiences with male partners, interventions are urgently needed that are specifically tailored to the wide range of sexual behaviors and experiences which bisexual men share with both male and female partners,” Dodge said.

Results from Schick and Dodge’s series of studies can be found in a special issue of *Journal of Bisexuality* that the pair guest-edited.

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# Center on Halsted, Gender JUST debate 'restorative justice'

BY KATE SOSIN

The Center on Halsted and queer direct-action organization Gender JUST are ensnared in a public debate over mediation practices at the Center after Gender JUST launched a petition urging the Center to adopt practices that the facility says it already has in place.

At the heart of the debate is "restorative justice," a practice used by organizations and activists that aims to provide alternatives to punishment when supposed wrongdoing has occurred.

Center on Halsted staff say that the organization practices restorative justice. Gender JUST argues that the Center has not adopted such practices or made current policy public.

The debate comes after an apparent breakdown in communications between the two organizations, which have been meeting almost weekly to work on restorative justice at the Center since summer 2010.

Restorative justice, also sometimes called transformative justice, is an approach to dealing with alleged wrongdoing that takes into account the experiences of both the victim and the person causing harm in a situation. Rather than focusing solely on crime and punishment, restorative justice most often looks at root causes and aims to heal those involved.

"Implementing restorative justice is about a culture shift within a space," said Lewis Wallace, volunteer coordinator at Project NIA, a Chicago-based organization that uses restorative justice to address violence and crime.

Restorative justice can rely on a variety of tools, according to Wallace, but ideally restorative justice seeks to bring as many people as possible to the table to talk about harm or conflict.

Restorative justice mediations might include the peers of both the person harmed and the person causing harm, in addition to community members who might have a stake in the matter.

According to Center on Halsted staff, the organization has long embraced restorative-justice principles. Additionally, in March, staffers removed an old policy that allowed Center patrons to be banned without recourse.

"We don't even use words like 'banned' anymore," said Tim'm West, the Center's new associ-

ate director of the youth program.

Instead, patrons can return to the Center after going through a mediation process with Center staff and victims.

The Center on Halsted defines restorative justice for itself as a practice that "does not seek to deny consequences for misbehavior. Instead, it focuses on helping youth understand the real harm done by their misbehavior, to take responsibility for the behavior, and to commit to positive change. It proposes a continuum of discipline measures, moving away from punishment, to consequences, then solutions, then restoration."

According to Brian Richardson, the Center's director of public affairs, the staff created the definition using frameworks provided by the Chicago Area Project and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Gender JUST members allege after more than a year of meetings intended create a restorative justice proposal, the Center has yet to adopt the true spirit of restorative justice, and has stated that it has restorative justice without finishing the work it started with Gender JUST in 2010.

"There is not a comprehensive embrace of its values," said Jason Tompkins, an organizer with Gender JUST. "There's still this punitive attitude that they really want to hold onto."

Tompkins said his group wants to see the creation of a "justice circle" or a jury comprised of youth, Center staff and other community members to help deal with conflict.

Presently, the Center holds weekly meetings with patrons who are accused of wrongdoing. The meetings might include staff members and the person harmed in addition to the alleged offender.

Tompkins said the practice of such meetings "leaves a lot of questions" about transparency and accountability.

But Richardson counters that the closed-door meetings protect the confidentiality and safety of those involved.

"We can and do discuss our mediation process openly with community members and partners, but we do not discuss individual cases or invite outside participants," Richardson said.

Wallace, who declined to comment on the Center on Halsted in particular, said it is possible to



Jason Tompkins of Gender JUST. Photo by Ross Forman

have restorative justice in situations where an offender is meeting with an organization's staff.

"It has to be possible because there are always power dynamics," he said. However, he added that the ideal is to have as many different people at the table as possible.

Both Gender JUST and Center on Halsted representatives invested significant time in creating a proposal for restorative justice at the Center. Among them were two Center interns

and Center youth representatives. Several Center on Halsted staff members also met with Gender JUST.

The result was a 22-page proposal for restorative justice, completed in late May. Tompkins said that he authored the document in partnership with Center representatives.

But turnover within both organizations has meant that many of those who began talks in 2010 are no longer at the table. Consequently, both groups have had to wade through the confusion of re-educating each other, and each tells a different story of how the two arrived at a point of disagreement.

Tompkins said that the two groups met weekly with the goal of creating a plan for restorative justice at the Center. However, Rayna Moore, youth advocacy manager at the Center, said the conversations were theory-based and did not tackle what restorative justice would look like at the Center, in particular. Tompkins said that the proposal was authored jointly with the Center, while Richardson said that the Center first laid eyes on it when it was released to the larger community.

"It did not come from the Center," Richardson said, but added that those listed on the document did work with Gender JUST on implementing restorative justice.

Of all those who began the conversation with Gender JUST in 2010, no one from the Center is still working on the project. Tompkins also joined the discussion late last year, although other Gender JUST members have been involved from the start.

What both groups do agree on is that in mid-May, the two stopped meeting. The Center wanted to change the meeting format to monthly meetings. The two organizations have yet to set up a time to reconvene.

In late May, after seeing that the Center announced it had restorative justice, Gender JUST launched an online petition alleging that if the Center did have restorative justice, it had not made the policy public.

More than 120 people have signed the petition, Wallace among them.

But after much debate, both groups say they are committed to seeing the process through to the end, and each has said they will resume meetings. Richardson is also quick to add that the Center's policy is constantly evolving.

Tompkins said the petition simply aimed to open up dialogue with the larger community about restorative justice at the Center, not to shut down the talks. "There was just a lack of clarity I think honestly on both sides about how this was going to be implemented," he said.

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# Velvet Rope fire ruled arson

BY KATE SOSIN

A fire that ravaged Oak Park's gay nightclub has been ruled an arson.

Investigators have determined that the June 3 fire that tore through the Velvet Rope Ultra Lounge, 728 Lake St., was set intentionally, said Deputy Chief Kenneth Klemm of the Oak Park Fire Department.

"The [police department] has taken over the investigation," said Klemm.

Police Commander Phylliss Howard previously told Windy City Times that "there was some graffiti that would lead us to believe" that it might be either a hate crime or something like that.

David Powers, communications director for the Village of Oak Park, confirmed the presence of graffiti in the building but said that it is too soon to tell if the fire was an anti-gay crime.

"I believe that the police are looking at every aspect," Powers said.

Powers added that the possibility that the arson was connected to anti-gay sentiments was a difficult one for the community to grasp. He noted that the bar has been operating for years

without incident and that the neighborhood is welcoming of LGBT people.

"We'd be a little surprised if it really turned out to be a hate crime, but police are not ruling anything out," he said.

News of the fire has worried many LGBT people in Oak Park and Chicago.

Greg Raub, co-chair of the Oak Park Area Lesbian & Gay Association, echoed Powers' sentiments that the area is known as a welcoming and diverse place. He said his group was "naturally concerned" about the reports of arson.

We are also greatly concerned about speculation that the Velvet Rope may have been targeted because of its gay ownership and clientele," said Raub.

According to police, the investigation is ongoing. No one is in custody at this time.

A fundraiser for the Velvet Rope employees will be held Thursday, June 14, at Hideaway Nightclub, 7301 W. Roosevelt Rd., Forest Park, at 7:30 p.m. The suggested donation is \$20. The event will include raffles and food. See "Velvet Rope Employee Fundraiser" on Facebook.

## Orr to advise state's attorney on marriage lawsuits

BY KATE SOSIN

Cook County Clerk David Orr will advise Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez that denying same-sex couples the right to marry in Illinois is unconstitutional, he told Windy City Times. He said he expects the Alvarez to back his position.

Orr is the target of two lawsuits filed last week by Lambda Legal and the American Civil Liberties Union, both aimed at winning marriage equality in the state. Orr is being sued in his official capacity. If successful, the lawsuits would result in marriage equality throughout the state.

Orr said that his official position and his personal position are both the same.

"I'm for equal rights," he said. "I think the law is unconstitutional, and the sooner we get rid of it the better... that's my position in and out of court."

Orr is a longtime supporter of LGBT rights, but his office has also been the target of marriage equality protests. Orr has said that he often had a difficult time turning away same-sex couples who requested marriage certificates.

Orr said he has yet to have a significant conversation about the lawsuits with the state's attorney's office (Orr has just returned from being out of the country) but said he expects they will represent his position.

"My guess is the state's attorney will be working with me as the client, and they will be supporting the position that I take," he said.

A spokesperson for Alvarez's office declined to comment on the lawsuits. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan has filed to intervene in favor of the lawsuits.



David Orr. Official headshot

## Affinity issues statement on marriage equality

The organization Affinity Community Services recently released a statement regarding local developments regarding same-sex marriage.

The release refers to Lambda Legal's and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)'s separate lawsuits that represent 25 same-sex couples from across the state of Illinois who want to marry. (Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan has filed a motion to intervene on behalf of the organizations.)

"The District of Columbia, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont have legalized gay marriage, either through legislation or court action," the release states. "The Illinois lawsuits are reminiscent of the Proposition 8 (Prop 8) legal battle in California, which began in 2008 after California's high court held that a ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional."

The statement also cites President Obama's and U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder's recent endorsements of marriage equality, before adding, "Same-sex marriage rights are long overdue in Illinois."

However, Affinity added that even if marriage equality is achieved, there will still be problems: "Affinity will always work towards advancing equal rights for LGBT communities. In light of Affinity's support of this lawsuit and marriage equality, however, we would be remiss if we did not highlight the fact that Black queer and transgender individuals and families face issues that will not be resolved by solely achieving marriage equality."

## Legacy Project event June 30

The Legacy Project will host its first-ever Pride Month party and birthday celebration on the rooftop terrace of Center On Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., on Saturday, June 30, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

The event will celebrate LGBT history coming to Halsted Street; a kick-off for the Legacy Project's summer/fall series of bar parties and programs; and Legacy Project founder Victor Salvo's 55th birthday.

## BOYSTOWN from cover

Bogucki and a witness called police, who arrested a suspect shortly after.

J. Armstrong is in custody for the robbery and has been ordered held on \$75,000 bond for the robbery, according to the Cook County State's Attorney's office.

Bogucki said he twisted his knee but did not sustain significant injuries. He was not taken to the hospital.

His phone was returned to him shortly after the incident, which he said, left him shaken up. Bogucki said he takes the same route to training every Saturday morning.

There will be entertainment, an open bar, buffet, a multimedia presentation and a full exhibit of the plaques to be installed along the Boystown section of Halsted Street this October.

Tickets are \$55 each; call 773-271-5116 or email [info@legacyprojectchicago.org](mailto:info@legacyprojectchicago.org).



Brad Schneider. Photo from campaign team

## Candidate wants end to work bias

Brad Schneider—a businessman who's running for Congress in Illinois' 10th District—has launched a petition calling on Congress to pass the an all-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would protect LGBT employees from workplace discrimination, according to a press release.

There is currently no federal law protecting LGBT workers from employment discrimination. It is still legal in 29 states to discriminate based on sexual orientation; regarding gender identity, the number rises to 34 states.

"In these difficult economic times, no one should live in fear of losing their job or being denied a promotion because of who they are," Schneider said in an email to his supporters announcing the petition. Schneider is running against Republican incumbent Bob Dold.

The petition is at <http://schneiderforcongress.com/congress-pass-enda-now>.

"Even though I feel like I'm careful, I think I was just overly confident," he said.

At least one other iPhone robbery hit Lakeview that morning, according to police.

A victim was waiting for a bus at 820 W. Belmont at approximately 5:30 a.m. One offender grabbed the victim's cell phone and ran. When the victim chased the attacker, the attacker turned around with a knife.

A recording of Sunday morning's police scanner suggests that a final robbery occurred near Sheffield and Belmont. That incident also involved iPhone theft. The offender was described as male.

Windy City Times will update this story as details become available.

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# Uptown unveils Pride banners

BY ERICA DEMAREST

The Center on Halsted, Uptown United and 46th Ward Ald. James Cappleman's office joined forces June 7 to unveil inaugural "Uptown Proud" banners on North Broadway Avenue.

Sprinkled along the new Pride Parade route, which will make a historic jaunt into Uptown June 24, the colorful banners serve a dual purpose: to welcome Pride revelers and to alert residents to upcoming festivities.

"We're really confident that [the move into Uptown] is going to work well for the overall parade and for the neighborhood," said Wally Rozak, Uptown United's assistant director. "We get a lot of bad press and reputation in Uptown, but there's a lot of great stuff that goes on up here. We want people to know it."

In June 2011, the 42nd Annual Pride Parade drew nearly double the expected attendees, overwhelming parade security and audience members alike. In October of that year, parade officials announced they would extend the 2012 parade route into Uptown to alleviate roadblocks and assist with crowd control.

This year's parade will kick off at noon at the corner of Montrose and Broadway, then wind south to wrap up in Boystown.

"Uptown has become much more LGBT-friendly and LGBT-occupied over the last 10 years," Rozak said. "We have a history of acceptance of everybody, so it just makes sense [to move here]."

Roughly 50 banners now line the parade route's Uptown corridor. Designed by Center on Halsted graphic designer David Hunt, each pennant features Uptown's skyline, the Chicago

skyline, a billowing rainbow flag, and the newly coined slogan "Uptown Proud."

The Center on Halsted initiated the banner production process earlier this year as part of its continued outreach efforts.

"We're constantly trying to find ways that every neighborhood in Chicago can be more welcoming to LGBT communities," said Brian Richardson, the Center on Halsted's director of public affairs.

The Center enlisted Uptown United, a local business development organization, and Ald. Cappleman's office to brainstorm ways the community could capitalize on Pride festivities. Banners were a no-brainer, Richardson said.

"Pride is such a visible sign to the city of Chicago that we're welcoming [all queer people] no matter what neighborhood they're in," Richardson said. "This will be the first time [Uptown] has had rainbow flags of any kind flying in the neighborhood."

The Center took on design responsibilities, while Uptown United fielded production costs, which ran into the thousands.

"There's the understanding that: Ok, we've got the banners for this year, and then we'll take them down, store them, and put them back up next year," Rozak said. "We've got the infrastructure in place now, and that's the important thing."

In addition to hanging banners, Uptown United will distribute several thousand handheld rainbow flags emblazoned with the phrase "Uptown Proud." The organization is also encouraging local businesses to offer drink specials, Pride-themed events, and parade-day perks such



From left: Center on Halsted CEO Modesto "Tico" Valle, Wally Rozak of Uptown United, Ald. James Cappleman and Uptown Business Partners Executive Director Paula Barrington. Photo courtesy of Brian Richardson

as water bottles and gift bags.

"It's exciting to see other neighborhoods showcase how excited they are to welcome LGBT people to their community," Richardson said, noting that while Boystown regularly displays pylons and banners, few other neighborhoods boast such visible forms of acceptance. "[These are] tangible ways for communities across Chicago to show welcome-ness and openness to the LGBT community."

Organizers hope the incentives will draw spectators to the Uptown leg of the route.

"We want to encourage people to spread out a little bit because [no one] wants the logistics of last year," Rozak said. "You don't want the

parade to collapse under the weight of its own success."

For its part, Uptown United views the banners as an investment, Rozak said. The organization hopes the Pride Parade will continue to kick off in Uptown for years to come.

"It'll probably take a couple years, but it will develop," Rozak said. "We pray that everyone feels safe, can get in and out when they need to, and have a good time—which is really what it's all about."

For a complete listing of Uptown Pride events, visit [www.uptownproud.org](http://www.uptownproud.org).

To learn more about the Center on Halsted's Pride events, visit [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org).

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## DE LA CROIX from cover

others have also written about Chicago gay history. In addition, D'Emilio and several emerging researchers have been uncovering the city's vibrant queer history. De la Croix's book is part of this emerging history.

Windy City Times interviewed de la Croix over the phone to discuss his new book. Following are excerpts from the interview, and a longer version is available on [www.windycitymedia-group.com](http://www.windycitymedia-group.com).

**Yasmin Nair: What made you want to write a book about Chicago gay history?**

Sukie de la Croix: I wanted to read one. And, in the end, after years of writing for Tracy [Baim, publisher of Windy City Times] and interviewing people, I just wrote it myself. The other thing is: I don't want to be boring, but I think it's politically important to hand down to the next generation as much as we possibly can. I was hearing all these great stories, well, [they were] almost like gossip but this was gossip about people that died years ago, so it was old, good gossip. People's lives interested me and I think it's very important that we tell our stories. And I think people mostly couldn't tell their own stories, not their real stories.

**YN: What do you mean by that?**

SDLC: Because I think it's a book about people with double lives. They have public lives and private lives, and I think often especially with the writers, musicians and actors that public life was well documented but I think their private lives weren't.

**YN: Although Chicago is a major urban area, there has been—till very recently—a dearth of writing about its LGBTQ history, in contrast to San Francisco or New York City. Why do you think that has been the case?**

SDLC: I think there were people living here who would have liked to have written it but I really think that the best history books are written by people who weren't there. Because they can look at things objectively. There are lots and lots of books about the city of Chicago that are actually written by people from other places. Now why the people who were here didn't write books, I don't know. I do know that some people have tried over the years and I think the task was so monumental and huge that I think a lot of people just gave up. But I'm not someone who gives up; I'm just a very stubborn person.

So I started it and I knew I had to finish it. And I knew it was important because there was nothing written about Chicago [as a single-author book] and I wanted it to be accurate. I think it's really important that you have accuracy as much as you possibly can when you're writing about secret lives.

**YN: A lot of readers will be already familiar with you as a columnist in the gay press, where you've been writing about Chicago LGBTQ history for a while. Is this a compilation of your previous columns?**

SDLC: Virtually nothing of my columns is in this book. Most of the columns I wrote were oral

history; they were interviews with people about their memories. We know how accurate that is—that's just not accurate. It was fun to do the columns and oral history has a place, but the book I've written is factual. There are one or two people I did interview whose memories I manage to confirm in news reports.

For instance, there was a raid in 1949 on the Windup Lounge bar and that was confirmed in newspapers but I did interview the bartender who was working that night and so it was interesting to have his perspective on what had happened. But no, this has really nothing to do with the columns I wrote.

**YN: This book represents years of archival research. How did you go about organizing the material?**

SDLC: I wanted to start at the beginning with the earliest accounts of feminine men in

the Illiniwek tribe. Because I also wanted to show there was a Chicago before the Europeans came. I mean, people lived here before. I also wanted to show that gay people were not immigrants, they did not come over with the Jewish refugees—we were here anyway. So I wanted to make that clear.

I had to stop somewhere and Stonewall seemed like the stopping point. So I realized that was a vast amount of time—300 years or so—and I realized there would be great swaths of time when I would find out nothing, when nothing would have been written down.

The order of the chapters: I tried to make it a timeline, date-wise, as much as I possibly could but of course there were subjects that crossed into various chapters. It was actually quite complicated. In the end, instead of trying to organize it, I just kept writing and writing and writ-

ing and I thought, "I'll worry about that later," and it actually all fell into place on its own. But yes, at the beginning it felt it was going to be the most complicated part of the process, like working out what was going into what part of the chapter and trying to keep it in some kind of timeline. But in the end, it just fell into place.

**YN: That brings me to the structure. The book is episodic, presenting vignettes of Chicago LGBTQ history, rather than any kind of an overarching narrative or analysis. That's not a critique, just an observation about the structure. I imagine that was a deliberate choice—what determined it?**

SDLC: It really chose itself. It confused me greatly, the whole process of writing this book. All I had at the beginning was where I was going to start, in 1673, and where I was going to end, in 1969 with Stonewall. I knew there would be a chapter about Towertown [a famously bohemian area in the Chicago's Near North neighborhood] and I knew that probably Margaret Anderson and The Little Review [an American literary and arts magazine published by Anderson from 1914 to 1929] was going to be a whole chapter because there's quite a lot of work about her. Henry Gerber was going to be a chapter, then I realized that he was so linked with the German sexologists like Magnus Hirschfeld, it just actually all worked out on its own. Once I stopped worrying about it, really the whole thing fell into place.

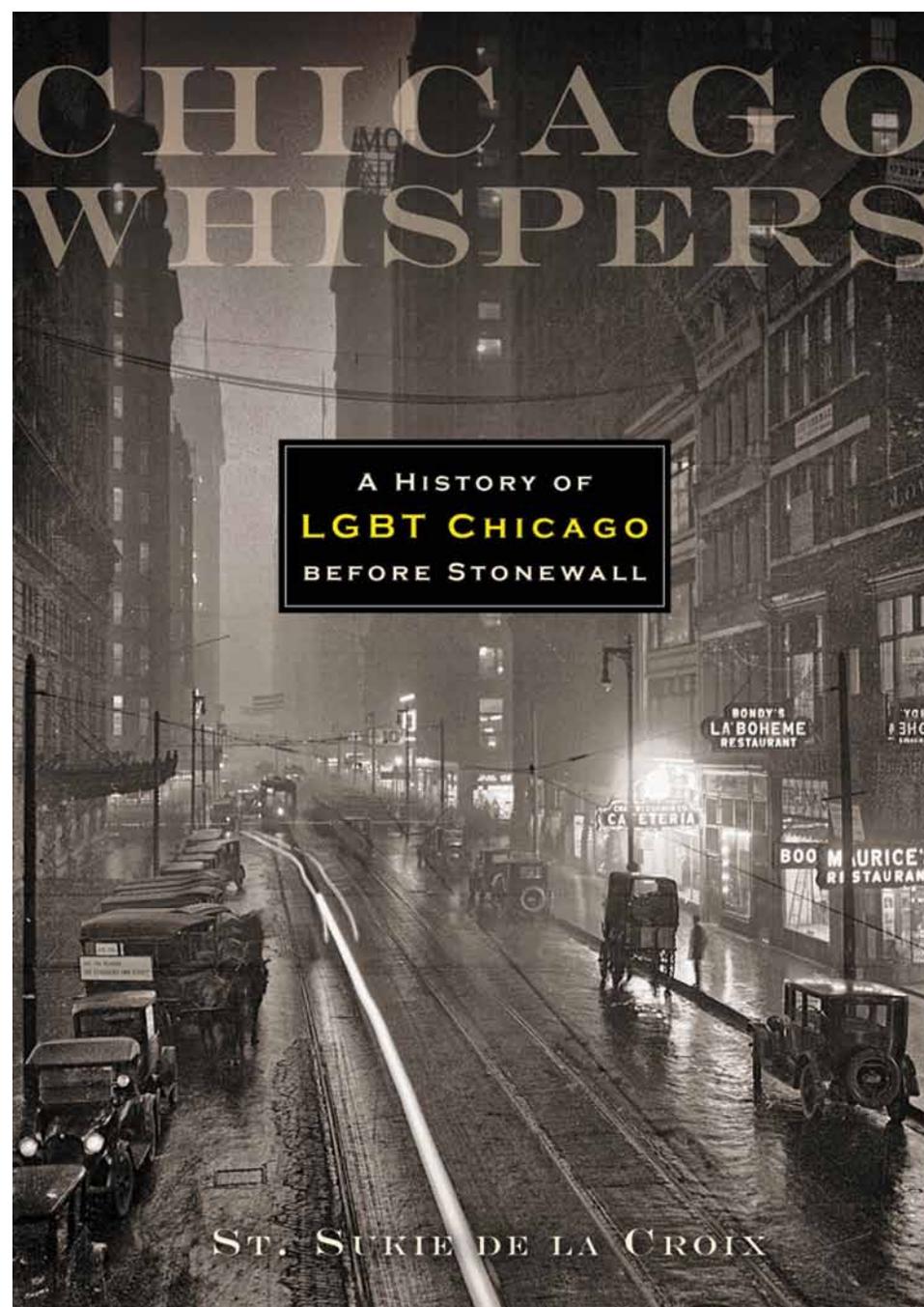
One thing I was very careful about: there's an occasional line that is my opinion on something, but I really kept the book factual. John D'Emilio writes in his foreword that I kept close to my sources. What I really wanted to do was to go to my sources at the time and reproduce them so that the reader could get a feel of what it was like then. I didn't try to clean up the language or be judgmental about any of it. It is what it is. The thing I'm most proud of is the bibliography.

**YN: Could you elaborate on how your skills as a reporter helped you in the research?**

SDLC: I think it was like hunting a story down. I think a historian would write a book with an academic structure and I don't have that structure, but I do have that relentless drive to get to the bottom of things; I have to know everything that's happening. This is not in the book, but I was looking at various newspapers about the time that Gertrude Stein came to Chicago. They sent one cop to meet her, and I was so excited to find the name of the cop. I love those details because when you're writing, you are trying to conjure up details in people's minds. And even with a factual book, I'm still telling stories, from real life, but every detail is important and I think that's where the reporter came in. That and not taking no for an answer.

**YN: Could you give an example of that, of not taking no for an answer?**

SDLC: Yes, Henry Gerber's arrest, which he claimed it was reported in a newspaper, and it's never ever been found and I found it. Over the years, everybody's looked for this in the archives, and no one has been able to find it. I wouldn't accept that. He named the newspaper.



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He was an old man when he wrote this and I thought, "You know, this silly old queen probably either made the whole damn thing up or she [sic] got the newspaper wrong." I went back and the newspaper he was talking about didn't even exist then—it had gone bankrupt by the date that he was arrested. So I started to hunt it down and I was just merciless. And I did find it.

I phoned up a local historian, and I asked, "1925: What was the nastiest, scruffiest, little, gossipy, trashy newspaper in Chicago?" Because it would only be in there, right? And he told me, and I went down and I found it.

**YN: You also write that his report had been that he had been arrested in his home but that in fact he had been arrested somewhere else.**

SDLC: That's right. I think there were several things I dug up that actually kind of overturn what's been written before. Jane Heap was not the first girlfriend of Margaret Anderson to work on The Little Review. She had another girlfriend before that.

**YN: What makes Chicago LGBTQ history different from, say, San Francisco's or New York's queer history?**

SDLC: I think it's the way the authorities reacted to homosexuality and dealt with it that's different from other cities. I know there were raids in other cities, but there just seems to have been a very strange, almost perverse relationship between homosexuals and the authorities here that made it. ... I can't even describe what it is but I don't think they had in San Francisco or New York. It's like they were part of it. I mean, there were supposedly some gay whorehouses on the South Side for Mafia men.

Mafia men often had sex with men because women were not [considered] trustworthy; they talked too much—that was the excuse. [laughs] Not that they wanted to suck dick, but because women chattered and gossiped and knitted.

**YN: What surprised you most while working on this history?**

SDLC: When I went into this, I had no precon-

ceived ideas. I did not know what I was going to find. I jumped in at the deep end of a project I didn't think at first I was qualified to do. It's like: this is the deep end of the pool, I cannot swim, I want to jump in. But I was constantly amazed at what I would find and just constantly excited, like a little schoolboy, every time I found out some little tidbit I could use for the book. The whole thing for me was exhausting and exciting. And actually putting the whole thing together, it was hard work and just bloody-minded stubbornness on my part. Because all common sense told me to just give up. I kept thinking, there's a reason nobody's written this book before because people have started and given up because it's too difficult. I had to finish it for me.

**YN: You talk about it being a difficult project for a lot of people. I wonder if that has something to do with the fact that most people think of queer history as being comprised of memory and speculation rather than the kind of research you did. What was the relationship between the oral histories you were uncovering and the research?**

SDLC: The oral histories were my starting point. I'll give you an example of that. I interviewed a man in his 90s; I think he died a week after I interviewed him. He told me about a drag bar that he got into during prohibition. He couldn't remember what it was, and how do you find something like that even though it's a great story. Now, this bar: I was hearing several stories about this bar and I actually knew someone who went to it. So how do you prove this? I started to research it as much as I could and I got really, really lucky because in 1933 or so, whenever Prohibition ended this one drag bar [The K-9] this speakeasy, went legit, and put an ad in one of those scuzzy Chicago gay papers, [The Chicago American] saying there were female impersonators in there. Of course, it was closed down but the name of the bar had the address, 105 E. Walton—and this was the rumored speakeasy I had heard about. Now I had proof that this place actually existed. So the oral his-

tory started me on a path and I went back to confirm the story. Memories are wonderful but they're not factual histories.

**Sukie de la Croix will be presenting on his book on the following dates in Chicago. For more information on the tour, go to <http://chicagowhispers.com/>**

**June 14, Book Launch, 7 p.m. – The Book Cellar, 4736-38 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago.**

**June 20, 6 p.m. – Harold Washington Li-**

**brary Center, Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, 400 S. State, <http://www.chipublib.org/events/details/id/83758> .**

**June 21, 8 p.m, Sukie de la Croix and Gregg Shapiro read and sign their books at, Uncharted Books, 2630 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago.**

**June 22, 7:30 p.m., Women and Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark St, Chicago,**

**June 27, 5:30-6:30 p.m., BMO Harris Bank's Lion's Pride at the Lakeview Branch of Harris Bank at 3601 N. Halsted.**

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# Gay couple part of leadership institute, mentors other gay men

BY ROSS FORMAN

John Aquilina was showcasing his work at an art show in Chicago's Ravenswood neighborhood back in the late 1990s, and Chuck Munro truly was impressed—with the art and the artist.

"I had sworn off dating at the time, but John had this pretty nifty art, and I thought he was pretty attractive. I was smitten, but I refused to ask him for his number because I wasn't interested in dating," Munro said. "I went home and immediately thought that I screwed up; I knew I should have gotten his [phone] number."

So Munro spent the next two weeks searching for Aquilina—until he searched for him in the phone book.

Munro found Aquilina and called him, and so started their journey.

The day they agreed on their first date, Aquilina told Munro that he was going to a Russian orthodox church service for Easter on the West Side of Chicago. Munro agreed to join him—and they didn't even talk for the first hour of their first date.

"Chuck was so outside of anyone who I had thought of as 'my type,'" Aquilina said. "He was just so different, but I was up for an adventure. There was just something inside of me that said, 'This is right.'"

Munro admitted he was attracted to the spirit of adventure that Aquilina brought to the scene. "He challenged me about the way I was talking and thinking, even on our first date, which I kind of liked," Munro said.

Flash-forward to the present. Aquilina and Munro, who reside in Edgewater, are celebrating 15 years together in April.

"Everyone needs to commit to their singlehood. You need to have the best single life you can have. It wasn't until I did that, and Chuck did that, that we readied ourselves to be in a relationship," Aquilina said.

Aquilina, 61, is a project coordinator and executive assistant at the Wright (formerly the Wright Leadership Institute), where individuals are dedicated to discovering their inner strength, their inner abilities and more. As the group's website boasts, it works to knock the doors off limited perceptions, challenging mistaken and limiting beliefs, and exploring what is possible.

Munro, 51, is the administrator for the Wright Graduate Institute for the Realization of Human Potential.

"We've had support from the gay and straight community, including our couples support group at Wright, since 2000—and we are the only gay couple" in the group, Aquilina said.

"The [couples support group] teaches us to look at our purpose as a couple together, to really examine what is the reason for [us] coming together," Munro said. "We look at things like how to have productive fights, how to share a life purpose, how to look at our position as a life couple within a larger community, and how to stay intimate, among other things."

Aquilina and Munro had a church commitment ceremony in Chicago in 2002. Munro said the key to their longevity includes support, accountability, honesty and more.

"We temper each other," Aquilina said.

The duo mesh their personal and professional lives through Wright, highlighted by the MORE for Gay Men program, which supports personal growth and development for gay men. At Wright, according to the group's website, gay men can expect to:

- Challenge and change the beliefs that have limited your power.
- Cultivate a genuine and truthful intimacy with family, friends, and partners.
- Achieve success in areas you never dreamed possible.
- Recapture a sense of power and purpose in your life.



Chuck Munro (left) and John Aquilina. Photo by Ross Forman

—Begin to realize your full potential.

The group combines weekend trainings, personalized coaching and ongoing learning labs, Aquilina said.

"Ironically, it was a straight man, Dr. Bob Wright, who mentored us to support gay men," Munro said. "Bob challenged us to form this organization that would support other gay men to develop their leadership."

The gay men's program includes a monthly movie night at the Center on Halsted, showing a movie carrying a gay theme, idea and/

or character(s). "The main point [of the movie night] is the discussion that follows after the movie," Munro said. "We first talk about the movie, then about ourselves personally."

About 20 regularly attend the movie night.

The group has a special event planned for Friday, March 23, with the showing of *The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later* at the Redtwist Theatre, 1044 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

**For more information about the MORE For Gay Men program, go to [www.moreforgaymen.com](http://www.moreforgaymen.com).**

## ChicagoPride.com marks 10 years

ChicagoPride.com will kick off its 10th anniversary with a cocktail party at Hydrate nightclub, 3458 N. Halsted St., Thursday, June 14, 6:30 p.m.

The event will include a hosted bar by 4Rebels Vodka, a "live" red carpet, an opportunity to win free airfare for two from Orbitz.com and other giveaways. Bud Light, 103.5 KISS FM and Hydrate are co-presenting the event.

Special guest host Angi Taylor from the "Brotha Fred" morning show on 103.5 KISS FM will join ChicagoPride.com's Bill Pritchard 8-10 p.m., along with the 103.5 KISS FM Beat Freaks. DJ Phil DaBeatz will spin the music.

The anniversary campaign also highlights a collection of more than a quarter million ChicagoPride.com photos covering the last decade of the city's LGBT events. The first in a series of illustrative mosaics designed for the campaign will be exhibited at the party and will feature a photo of the Lakeview neighborhood's rainbow pylon, which is made up

of nearly 20,000 photos from recent Chicago Pride festivals and parades.

A suggested donation of \$5 at the door will benefit the Legacy Project, a permanent memorial of bronze plaques affixed to the 22 rainbow pylons across Halsted Street that will pay tribute to LGBT pioneers and leaders.

RSVP at [www.chicagopride.com/ten](http://www.chicagopride.com/ten).

## LGPA/GOAL poker June 16

The Lesbian and Gay Police Association/Gay Officers Action League (LGPA/GOAL) is hosting a pride poker tournament fundraiser Sat., June 16, at Spyners Pub, 4623 N. Western Ave.

The check-in is at 12 p.m., with game time at 1 p.m. The buy-in is \$100 a player—who must be 21 or older.

The top 10 prizes will range from \$225 to \$1,500.

Proceeds will benefit LGPA/GOAL. See [www.goalchicago.info](http://www.goalchicago.info).



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## PRIDE MONTH: LGBT SENIORS

# Transgender seniors and the legacy of Lois Bates

BY KATE SOSIN

In late November 2011, June LaTrobe, the transgender liaison at Center on Halsted, got a call that changed her life and her role within Chicago's LGBT community. Lois Bates—a long-time mentor, friend and colleague—had died unexpectedly. It was days before the two were supposed to host Chicago's transgender Day of Remembrance at Center on Halsted.

"For me, Lois was one of the most validating things in my life," said LaTrobe, 71, with a sigh. "I don't really have a person that I go to like I would have gone to Lois for other stuff, frankly."

In her position as transgender health manager at Howard Brown Health Center, Bates, 41, mentored countless transgender Chicagoans through their first teetering steps into gender transition. Among them were two transgender seniors whose names would later become synonymous with trans activism in Chicago: Helena Bushong and LaTrobe.

In the wake of Bates' death, LaTrobe and Bushong were left with a difficult question: What do you do as an advocate when the mother of your community—decades younger than you—suddenly dies?

"When Lois died, it had a profound effect on me," said Bushong. "Lois was the one who sat me down and told me how to apply for the correct gender on my driver's license."

Both Bushong and LaTrobe got to know Bates relatively around the same time.

LaTrobe began to publicly transition in 2006 while in her mid-60s. She had met Bates at a Transgender Day of Remembrance event she went to with her friend Jami Bantry, another well-known trans senior who passed away just days after Bates.

LaTrobe eventually accompanied Bantry to T-Time, Bates' transgender support group at Howard Brown Health Center.

"It really was an opportunity to talk to other people, to meet other people," said LaTrobe.

It was around the same time that Bushong, in her mid 50s, began attending the group.

"Another trans woman saw something in me that I didn't see because I was so busy hiding," said Bushong. The woman brought Bushong with her to T-Time.

"By the time I left, I was so empowered I knew I could never wear male clothing again," she said.

Bushong returned to Howard Brown to meet with Bates, who directed her to a therapist.

It was not long before both Bushong and LaTrobe were not only in the process of transitioning but were both organizing around transgender issues.

LaTrobe quickly became the transgender liaison at Center on Halsted. Bushong began to do work on HIV, transgender and senior issues, work that would eventually lead her to a meeting at the White House.

Each made a name for herself and both worked closely with Bates, who—in addition to her role



Lois Bates (left) and June LaTrobe. Photo by Kate Sosin

at Howard Brown—organized with Lakeview Action Coalition, Windy City Black Pride, Illinois Gender Advocates and other groups.

But despite her seemingly constant activism, Bates was also reserved in her advocacy.

"She never came across as she presented herself—as a matriarch," said LaTrobe. "You never got a feeling she was talking down to you or teaching you. She was merely a role model."

Bushong, however, sees Bates' reserved nature in another way.

"I felt she needed to be more out there," said Bushong, who said she never figured out why Bates was often silent on issues when other transgender advocates were vocal.

The relationship between Bates and Bushong was never simple. Bushong was Bates' elder in real life, but in the trans community Bates had years on Bushong. Bushong suggested the two had an amicable but tense relationship. They were two out Black transgender women working in the community. Racism and transphobia had their roles in the relationship, she said.

"The rule is, you can only have one in the house," said Bushong. "You can't have two up there plotting your demise."

But Bushong was also full of praise and empathy for Bates.

LaTrobe said she felt Bates' quiet nature was often strategic. "I think she felt she was able to accomplish more negotiating, building bridges," she said.

Neither woman will deny Bates' influence both on young people and on older adults like themselves.

When LaTrobe has to use her identity documents to sort out healthcare and senior housing issues, she thinks of Bates who taught her to change her documents. And Bushong, now 61, remembers that Bates' aided her in changing her driver's license.

LaTrobe can't tally the number of transgender seniors that Bates supported through transition, or the number she advocated for in nursing homes and hospitals.

"Lois played a part in virtually every one of these things that makes Chicago a pretty good place if you are a trans or gender-variant senior," said LaTrobe. Still, she can't yet say exactly what Bates' legacy will be.

But she, like many, may see the contradiction: The role model for so many of Chicago's transgender seniors never lived to be a senior herself.

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## PRIDE MONTH: LGBT SENIORS

# SAGE and NCTE: Transgender seniors not getting proper care

BY SEAN PYLES

A recent new set of recommendations released by SAGE (Services and Advocacy for LGBT Elders) and the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) sheds light on systematic issues facing the growing population of aging transgender Americans.

The report—entitled “Improving the Lives of Transgender Older Adults; Recommendations for Policy and Practice”—focuses on how insurance companies, Medicare and cultural stigma prevent aging transgender people from receiving proper care.

According to the report, “The existing research on transgender people paints a picture of many people aging in isolation and without a network of knowledgeable or welcoming providers in the aging, health and social services arenas.”

This isolation can have profound effects on the aging transgender population. The report explains how “in order to avoid the stress of dealing with incompetent service providers, many transgender people do not seek care until they experience health emergencies and, in some cases, have died in the absence of medical care.”

The report includes the stories of aging transgender seniors to illustrate the struggles and challenges facing this population.

Helena Bushong, a prominent transgender Chicagoan, said her role as part of this community is one of advocacy.

“I got involved in advocacy because I did a lot of homework and set out to inform the world,” she said.

However, she worries about the current state of elder care for transgender people.

“My friend who’s adopted me is 60 and her husband is 76, so pretty soon we’ll be taking care of him,” she said. However, as Bushong and her friend age themselves, she doubts her friend’s adult children will be able to care for her, too.

“That’s really my biggest fear right now—not having the freedom to control my dignity,” said Bushong.

Britta Larson, senior services director at Center on Halsted, sees these issues in Chicago and works with the local aging transgender adult population to combat such hardships. Larson has found similar problems with loneliness in working with Chicago’s aging transgender population. “I’d say the biggest problem I see across the board on a daily basis is isolation,” said Larson.



Helena Bushong. Photo by Andrew Davis

“The seniors that come [to the Center] may not feel comfortable going to a mainstream senior center and being out,” she said. “They might go, but they might choose to keep their sexual orientation a secret, because they don’t quite feel comfortable in that setting declaring that they are LGBT, but here, it is such a welcoming and supportive environment, most feel comfortable identifying.”

The report suggests changing the wording of Medicaid and offering cultural competency training to make aging transgender adults more comfortable and trusting of traditional health facilities.

The full report is at [www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources/resource.cfm?r=520](http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources/resource.cfm?r=520).



Carole Weidhuner of Hinsdale’s PFLAG chapter at the “Heartland” gala. Photo by Sean Pyles

## PFLAG hosts ‘Heartland’ reception

BY SEAN PYLES

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) held its second annual “PFLAG Salutes the Heartland” at Center on Halsted June 6.

More than 100 guests enjoyed a cocktail reception followed by an award ceremony in honor of PFLAG partnerships and LGBT achievements in Chicago.

PFLAG President Toni Weaver honored former the former president of PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois, Barbara Schon-Lundberg, who is currently ill. Schon-Lundberg’s husband accepted the achievement award on her behalf.

Eduardo Placer and Alex Agard—both from the American Theatre Company production of Rent—dedicated the song “I’ll Cover You” to Schon-Lundberg.

Afterwards, Rusty Schwimmer, local actress and the night’s emcee, introduced PFLAG National Executive Director Jody Huckaby. Huckaby praised Illinois’ PFLAG and Equality Illinois for their efforts regarding the past year’s legal struggles toward LGBT equality.

Huckaby also made note of Jeanne Manford, the founder of PFLAG, whose historic march with her son 40 years ago eventually led to the organization’s creation.

Modesto “Tico” Valle received an award for his work as CEO of Center on Halsted. Christopher Gumprecht and Benjamin Sprunger of About Face Theater were recognized for their work with LGBT youth. Also, Walgreens was recognized for its new “Care with Pride” campaign, which raises money for PFLAG and LGBT causes.

The evening ended with refreshments and bidding at a silent auction.

## Chicago launches HIV-testing campaign

A collaboration of healthcare agencies—including the Cook County Health & Hospitals System, the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center and other AIDS service organizations throughout the city of Chicago—announced the launch of a campaign called “STEP UP, GET TESTED: ChicaGO for 5K,” the first-ever collaborative National HIV Testing Day event series for the city.

More than 20 organizations are joining forces to help increase HIV-testing efforts in the most underserved communities in the Chicagoland throughout June.

Some special events planned for the month include:

—June 21, 9-11 p.m.: Night Ministry Mobile Van Testing at the corner of Belmont and Halsted, hosted by the ministry

—June 23, 4-6 p.m.: Dyke March at Margate Park, 4921 N. Marine Dr., hosted by Asian Human Services

—June 27, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.: The Care Center at Jackson Park Hospital, 7531 S. Stony Island, hosted by the hospital

—June 27, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.: STEP UP, GET TESTED at the Fantus Clinic courtyard, 1901 W. Harrison St., hosted by the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center

See [www.CookCountyHHS.org](http://www.CookCountyHHS.org) for more info.

## ‘Pride and Joy’ at Circuit June 18

The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame will present its annual Pride and Joy Reception Monday, June 18, 6-10 p.m., at Circuit Night Club, 3641 N. Halsted St.

There will be entertainment (courtesy of the Circuit cast) and a buffet.

The 2011 Hall of Fame exhibit will be on display; nomination forms for 2012 inductions are available online at [www.GLHollofFame.org](http://www.GLHollofFame.org).

Tickets are \$20. They’re available from board members of Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, from current Hall of Fame inductees and at the door at Circuit.

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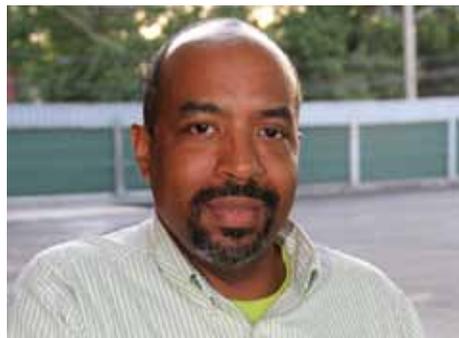
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**GAY** *in the* **LIFE**  
**Darrick Johnson**  
 TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN



**Age**  
49

**Neighborhood**  
South Shore

**Job title**  
Implementation Project Manager at Bank of America

**Other employment**  
Has been a bartender at Touche for four years; only on Saturday nights.

**Drink of choice**  
Vodka tonic

**Hobbies**  
Softball, bowling, cooking, piano playing

**Club affiliation**  
Onyx Midwest Leather Club: A member since 2002.

**It's a fact**  
Has a gay twin brother, Darryl, who lives in Orlando.

Darrick Johnson often arrives at the North Side softball fields used by the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) directly from the bar.

Johnson, as it happens, is a bartender on Saturday nights at Touche and, by the time he finishes his shift and drops co-workers off at home, he doesn't have enough time to make the 30-to-40-minute drive home, only to go back up north again.

So he often sleeps at the fields, in uniform.

Johnson, the pitcher for the Club Escape Phoenix team that plays in the C2 Division, has played in the league for more than 10 years. His team won the C2 Division two years ago.

"I play [softball] because it's a lot of fun," Johnson said.

He often has been spotted on the fields flagging, he admits with a smile. Johnson has often sported a light blue hanky on his left. He also has worn red, yellow and orange.

"We are a very emotional [team]. We communicate out of love. No one takes [on-field criticism] personally," he said.

That's why Johnson and his teammates often have post-game bar-b-ques, starting minutes after the last out is made.

Johnson is the team's co-captain this year, along with LaToris Jordan.

The Phoenix is the lone predominantly Black team in CMSA's open division.

"We feel [opposing teams] always come ready to play us, and we like that challenge," Johnson said. "We want people to play us hard. That brings out the best in you. We don't quit; we always play to the last out," has been made.

Johnson worked for six years at The Generator, a now-closed gay Black dance club. Touche manager Dave Boyer asked Johnson if he'd be interested in joining the Touche team—and he now works the front bar.

"I love working at Touche. The patrons treat me nice, and it's always a lively, playful crowd," said Johnson, who has spent the past 25 years working his day job for Bank of America.

So, it's a casual, professional look by day for Johnson; then jeans, a T-shirt and a leather vest at Touche; and his softball shorts on Sundays.



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

**Angelique Munro**



Photo by Ryan Kolodziej

To nominate a person for T in the life, email: Kate Sosin  
[sosin@windycitytimes.com](mailto:sosin@windycitytimes.com)

**Identifies as**  
Female

**Life's work:**  
 "Since 2009 I have been representing the transgender community male to female (MtF) by lecturing at different colleges and universities, being apart of a trans panel to educate the audience which are doctors, social workers and students in the medical health field. I look forward to expanding this by doing many more of these lectures and such all over the USA."

**Job**  
 "I am currently pursuing a professional acting career. I just got cast as Erica, a genetic woman, in an upcoming miniseries, Shelter City, which can be seen on Gay Chicago TV (web-based). Also I work part-time as a floral designer for Taylor & Co. Events."

**Neighborhood**  
Edgewater.

**What is the best thing about being trans/gender-variant?**  
 "Seriously, when someone says to me I am an inspiration to them, that touches my heart. My hope is to inspire our trans youth and pave the way."

**When did you start questioning gender?**  
 "I knew since I was two years old that I was born in the wrong body."

**Do you have a coming out story?**  
 "I was born an only child - I came out twice in my life, the first time when I was 20 years old I thought, 'I'm not a straight male so I must be gay' because at that time I only knew/heard of gay or straight growing up."  
 "The second time was at 35 years old after my mom died. I started my transition as a trans woman and have never been happier. And couldn't care less what anyone thought of my decision."

**In your opinion, what are the most important issues facing the trans/ gender-variant community?**  
 "Sadly, our entire GLBTQA community is so segregated. There is so much hatred toward one another on many different levels, and what I don't understand 'we' (the GLBTQA Community) demand equal rights and such when we can't even respect one another within our own community."

**Saturday, June 16**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Sappho's Salon: A Provocative Night of Lesbian Diversions**  
**Guest: Vernita Gray**

**Wed., June 20**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Frances Osborne**  
**Park Lane**

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## VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY  
TIMES

VOL. 27, No. 34, June 13, 2012

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

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Tracy Baim

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**NATIONAL SALES** Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863  
**SENIOR WRITERS** Kate Sosin, Bob Roehr, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, David Byrne, Tony Peregryn, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair, Erica Demarest  
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(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609  
 e-mail: [editor@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:editor@windycitymediagroup.com) or  
[Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com)

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 5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, Illinois 60640  
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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.

MARK  
SEGALWalter Cronkite  
and the  
gay-rights  
movement

One of my great blessings is that I have so many friends, so forgive this mass email. One of the rewards of time is that eventually everything becomes public. While my 1973 disruption of the CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite, has been known for years, much of it has not been made public until now in esteemed author Doug Brinkley's new best-seller, *Cronkite*.

Recently on CNN, Don Lemon interviewed Brinkley on the book. (See the full interview at [www.cnn.com/video/#/video/us/2012/06/03/nr-lemon-brinkley2.cnn](http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/us/2012/06/03/nr-lemon-brinkley2.cnn).) His last question was "Are there any surprises in the book?" He mentioned the disruptions and my friendship with Walter which followed, but for the first time it is revealed that CBS news executives under the direction of Walter then took steps to assure the fair and unbiased coverage of the gay and lesbian community.

In a sense, I became a consultant to CBS News and Walter on the subject. It is also a time stamp for gay history since it was the first time attitudes in broadcast media began to change. This was LONG before *Ellen* or *Will & Grace*. It was a time when there were no LGBT characters on TV or only negative news. GLAAD hadn't even been founded. This was the beginning of that change, and Brinkley captures it well. Hope you enjoy.

A section of the book printed with Doug Brinkley's permission is below:

The days of lax security at CBS News abruptly ended on December 11, 1973, when twenty-three-year-old Mark Allan Segal, a demonstrator from an organization called the Gay Raiders, with accomplice Harry Langhorne at his side, interrupted a Cronkite broadcast, causing the screen to go black for a few seconds. Cronkite was delivering a story about Henry Kissinger in the Middle East when, about 14 minutes into the first "feed," Segal leapt in front of the camera carrying a yellow sign that read, "Gays Protest CBS Prejudice." More than sixty million Americans were watching. Segal had insinuated himself into the CBS newsroom by pretending to be a reporter from Camden State Community College in New Jersey. He had been granted permission to watch the broadcast live in the studio. "I sat on Cronkite's desk directly in front of him

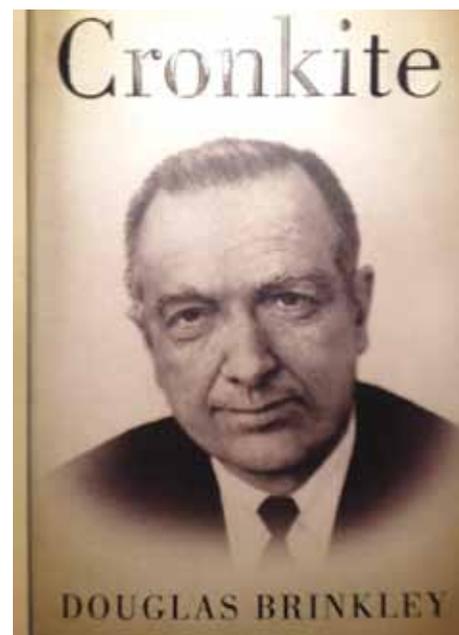
and held up the sign," Segal recalled. "The network went black while they took me out of the studio."

On the surface, Cronkite was unfazed by the disruption. Technicians tackled Segal, wrapped him in cable wire, and ushered him out of camera view. Once back on live TV, Cronkite matter-of-factly described what had happened without an iota of irritation. "Well," the anchorman said, "a rather interesting development in the studio here—a protest demonstration right in the middle of the CBS news studio." He told viewers, "The young man identified as a member of something called the Gay Raiders, an organization protesting alleged defamation of homosexuals on entertainment programs."

Segal had a legitimate complaint. Television—both news and entertainment divisions—treated gay people as pariahs, lepers from Sodom and Gomorrah. It stereotyped them as suicidal nut jobs, flaming fairies, and psychopathic villains. Part of the Gay Raiders' strategy was to bring public attention to the Big Three networks' discrimination policies. What better way to garner publicity for the cause than waving a banner on the CBS Evening News? "So I did it," Segal recalled. "The police were called, and I was taken to a holding tank."

But both Segal and Langhorne were charged with second-degree criminal trespassing as a result of their disruption of the CBS Evening News. It turned out that Segal had previously raided *The Tonight Show*, the *Today* show, and *The Mike Douglas Show*. At Segal's trial on April 23, 1974, Cronkite, who had accepted a subpoena, took his place on the witness stand. CBS lawyers objected each time Segal's attorney asked the anchorman a question. When the court recessed to cue up a tape of Segal's disruption of the Evening News, Segal felt a tap on his back—it was Cronkite, holding a fresh pad of yellow-lined paper, ready to take notes with a sharp pencil.

"Why," Cronkite asked the activist with genuine curiosity, "did you do that?"



Quite to the contrary: There are Jewish Pride, Black Pride, Puerto Rican Pride, Indian-American Pride, Latino/a Pride and so on.

But, alas, at least here on my own home turf (Chicago) it's Pride Fest, Pride Parade, Pride this, Pride that. It's as if the word "pride" hijacked the gay community and put it in the closet. It's a great social cover-up. Pride in and of itself doesn't bother anyone. Gay Pride just might. And for those who are bothered, let it be a growing pain in their coming around to the fact of this world's diversity and not just its right to be, but its right to be loud and proud—or, in this case, gay and proud.

Craig Teichen  
Chicago

"Your news program censors," Segal pleaded. "If I can prove it, would you do something to change it?" Segal went on to rattle off three specific examples of CBS Evening News censorship, including a CBS report on the second rejection of new York City Council gay rights bill. "Yes," Cronkite said. "I wrote that story myself."

"Well, why haven't you reported on the twenty-three cities that have passed gay rights bills?" Segal asked. "Why do you cover five thousand women walking down Fifth Avenue in New York City when they proclaim International Women's Day on the network news, and you don't cover fifty thousand gays and lesbians walking down that same avenue proclaiming Gay Pride Day? That's censorship."

Segal's argument impressed Cronkite. The logic was difficult to deny. Why hadn't CBS News covered the gay pride parade? Was it indeed being homophobic? Why had the network largely avoided coverage of the Stonewall riots of 1969? At the end of the trial, Segal was fined \$450, deeming the penalty "the happiest check I ever wrote." Not only did the activist receive considerable media attention, but Cronkite asked to meet privately with him to better understand how CBS might cover gay pride events. Cronkite, moreover, even went so far as to introduce Segal as a "constructive viewer" to top brass at CBS. It had a telling effect. "Walter Cronkite was my friend and mentor," Segal recalled. "After that incident, CBS News agreed to look into the 'possibility' that they were censoring or had a bias in reporting news. Walter showed a map on the Evening News of the U.S. and pointed out cities that had passed gay-rights legislation. Network news was never the same after that."

Before long, Cronkite ran gay-rights segments on the CBS News broadcast with almost drum-beat regularity. "Part of the new morality of the '60s and '70s is a new attitude toward homosexuality," he told millions of viewers. "The homosexual men and women have organized to fight for acceptance and respectability. They've succeeded in winning equal rights under the law in many communities. But in the nation's biggest city, the fight goes on."

Not only did Cronkite speak out about gay rights, but he also became a reliable friend to the LGBTQ community. To gays, he was the counterweight to Anita Bryant, a leading gay rights opponent in the 1970s: he was a heterosexual willing to grant homosexuals their liberties. During the 1980s, Cronkite criticized the Reagan administration for its handling of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and later criticized President Clinton's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy regarding gays in the military. When Cronkite did an eight-part TV documentary about his storied CBS career—*Cronkite Remembers*—he boasted about being a champion of LGBTQ issues. And he ended up hosting a huge AIDS benefit in Philadelphia organized by Segal, with singer Elton John as headliner.

## Letters:

## Word power

Dear Editor:

Pride is something we all share. Being LGBT is not—in the same sense that heterosexuality is not.

Pride in itself doesn't pack much punch if it is not linked to something specific, that is, some human, identifiable trait. What pride of identity is conveyed in such popular LGBT phrases as "Pride Parade," "Pride Fest," "Pride Committee," "Pride Week" and "Pride Calendar?"

No other community so lays claim to the word "pride" and drops its identifying nomenclature.

Send letters  
and viewpoints  
to [Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com](mailto:Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com).  
Items may be edited  
for length or clarity.

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Brian Kuhlmann

## MIGHT AS WELL JUMP

The Seldoms (above) have a big show coming up. See below.

## DISH

**Cake walk.**  
Page 28.

Photo of poundcake + strawberry + rhubarb  
at G.E.B. by Meghan Streit



## THEATER

**Mob action.**  
Page 20.

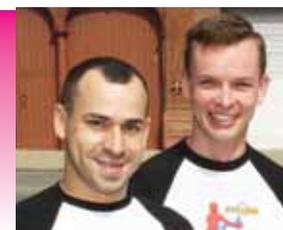
Photo from Commedia Beauregard



## SPORTS

**Smells like  
team spirit.**  
Page 34.

Photo by Ross Forman



## DANCIN' FEATS

## East meets West

BY VICKI CRAIN

Ten years is a big deal.

Chicago modern dance group **The Seldoms'** 10th anniversary season started with a unique program at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance last fall. "This Is Not A Dance Concert" deconstructed an evening of concert dance by dividing the dancers and the audience into groups so that each person and performer had a different experience as the "show" progressed. Dancers stationed in various parts of the theater—in the empty house seats, backstage, perched in a restroom stall, on a staircase—repeated their sections of movement, singing and text for the four groups of watchers roaming separate set paths around the theater, only to have everyone end up on the stage for a wild finale complete with a bingo game where everybody wins. "Unique" is the company's trademark.

Artistic Director Carrie Hanson, named one of Dance Magazine's 25 To Watch this year, is known for setting her works in unconventional locales. Past seasons have placed dances in an empty outdoor pool; an architectural salvage store; a giant, empty garage; and even in the water streams running through the Lurie Gardens at Millennium Park. Now more interested in issue-based work, Hanson received rave reviews for her 2011 work, *Stupormarket*, which tackled the economic meltdown complete with excerpts from a lecture by Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman.

While creating *Stupormarket*, Hanson and company collaborated with Russia's Elena Slobodchikova Dance Company. The Russian company worked with Hanson to develop movement for one section and the dancers returned the favor by traveling to Krasnoyarsk to teach and

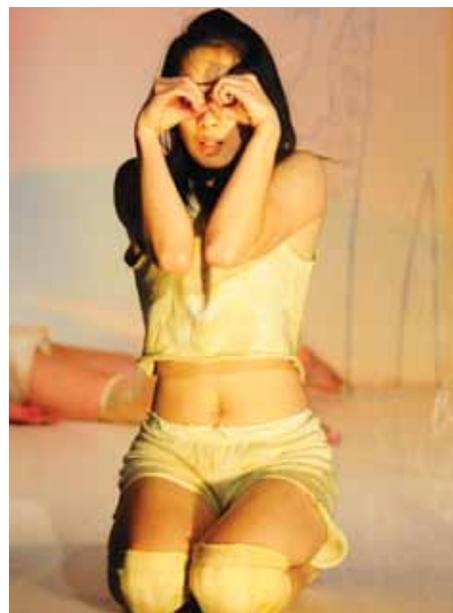
perform in their home theater. So, for the final performance of the tenth season, how do you top that? With an international collaborative workshop and performance that includes an issue-based theme, of course.

Aided by funding from the John D. And Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's International Connections Fund, The Seldoms and WCdance from Taipei, Taiwan, will present a joint concert this month at the Ruth Page Center for Dance in the Gold Coast. The Taiwanese company landed in Chicago June 3 for a month-long residency with The Seldoms that will culminate in a combined performance with two premieres created during this time. To make it even more interesting, Hanson and WCdance Artistic Director WenChung Lin will trade dancers for these new works.

"I think it's going to be a challenge more for the choreographers than it is for the dancers," Hanson admitted over tacos in the West Loop. "At the same time, I'm starting a new full-length work with my company about clean energy technology and the argument around global warming. What I'd like to do is to work with the WCdance ensemble members on a section that will get pulled into the larger piece. I'm still trying to figure out what that is."

Lin is up for the challenge. "I won't decide until after I see and work with the dancers for one or two days," he said via email from Taipei. "I need to know them more. They are vital to my new piece. The way they think, live and dance will say a lot to me."

A former dancer with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, Lin started his company in 2008 and has received critical acclaim for his Small Series work. Similar to Hanson, his pieces tend to be staged in unconventional spaces. Only as



WCdance. Photo by David Tsai

she goes big, he goes small: inside a three-meter square Plexiglas box, on a four-meter, raised square platform and in a confined space filled with giant building blocks.

Getting to know each other and each other's work via YouTube and email correspondence, the two artists found kindred spirits. I saw something really interesting," Hanson said. "Looking at his movement vocabulary, I was interested in his language. He staged a piece in a three-meter, square glass box! That intrigued me, because I've done so much site-specific work. When I go into a theater, I want to change it."

Lin is also interested in making international connections. "It's the opportunity that attracts me," he said. "Carrie will be the first guest choreographer for WCdance and it's the first time for my young company to create a piece outside Taiwan." Whatever these two come up with, it will surely be unique, unconventional and spell-binding.

The Seldoms with WCdance will be at Ruth Page Center for the Arts, 1016 N. Dearborn St., Thursday-Saturday, June 28-30, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, July 1, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$20. Call 312-337-6543 or visit [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/246618](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/246618).

**Additional area performances:**

**The Nanning Art Theatre** makes its U.S. debut at the Auditorium Theatre at Roosevelt University with *Legend of the Sun*. 50 E. Congress Pkwy., Tuesday-Wed., June 12-13, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35-\$55. Call 800-982-2787 or visit [www.ticketmaster.com/auditorium](http://www.ticketmaster.com/auditorium).

**Ensemble Español** hits the stage with *Flamenco Passion* at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, Friday-Saturday, June 22-23 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 24 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$26-\$46, call 847-673-6300 or visit [www.northshorecenter.org](http://www.northshorecenter.org).

**Hubbard Street Dance Chicago** presents its annual *Inside/Out* Choreographic Workshop performances at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Theater, 1044 W. Harrison St. with two shows on Saturday, June 23rd at 5 and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$35. Call 312-850-9744 or visit [www.hubbardstreetdance.com](http://www.hubbardstreetdance.com).

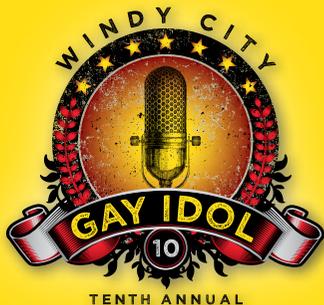
**Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre** presents *New Works 2012* at Hubbard Street Dance Center, 1147 W. Jackson Blvd., Saturday, June 23 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$30. Call 312-243-9310 or email [crdtoffice@comcast.net](mailto:crdtoffice@comcast.net).

**The Paris Opéra Ballet** takes the Harris Theater stage with three performances of *Giselle*, plus three repertory shows. 205 E. Randolph Dr., Wednesday-Saturday, June 27-30 at 7:30 p.m. and June 30-July 1 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$55-\$175; call 312-334-7777 or visit [www.harristheaterchicago.org](http://www.harristheaterchicago.org).

**Chicago Tap Theatre's** *Totally Tap-ular!* Is at the Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport, Saturday, June 30th at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$22-\$37. Call 773-935-6875 or visit [www.chicagotaptheatre.com](http://www.chicagotaptheatre.com).



WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP



# 2012 VOTING GUIDE

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WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP



**D'ANGELO** 1  
Jackhammer

**AGE**  
23  
**RELATIONSHIP STATUS**  
WHY! Just kidding. Single.  
**YOUR GAY IDOL?**  
Celine Dion.  
**LIFE'S SOUNDTRACK?**  
"Et S'il N'en Restait Qu'une (je serais celle-la)," by Celine Dion.  
**FAV SINGING SHOW**  
The Glee Project.  
**WHY SHOULD YOU BE THE NEXT GAY IDOL?**  
I'm an artist, so I live on creativity. I'm serious about what I do, but I also make sure to enjoy my time here.



**JENNIFER** 2  
The Closet

**AGE**  
28  
**YOUR GAY IDOL?**  
Jane Addams—she was amazing all around.  
**LIFE'S SOUNDTRACK?**  
"The Death of Me," by City & Colour  
**FAV SINGING SHOW**  
The Voice—it's initially not based on looks or age and that is awesome.  
**WHY SHOULD YOU BE THE NEXT GAY IDOL?**  
I should be the next Gay Idol because I am a rockstar and I leave you with a definite impression when I sing.



**NOAH** 3  
Spin

**AGE**  
27  
**RELATIONSHIP STATUS**  
Taken.  
**YOUR GAY IDOL?**  
Freddie Mercury, Alexander McQueen, and Björk.  
**LIFE'S SOUNDTRACK?**  
"I'm Too Sexy," by Right Said Fred.  
**FAV SINGING SHOW**  
Sister Act 2 (There was a singing competition between schools in the end of that.)  
**WHY SHOULD YOU BE THE NEXT GAY IDOL?**  
It would be nice if I won, but that's not my goal. My goal is to be the most memorable performer, in a good way.



**MARIA** 4  
Roscoe's

**AGE**  
25  
**RELATIONSHIP STATUS**  
Single.  
**YOUR GAY IDOL?**  
Girl: Beth Ditto; Guy: Freddie Mercury.  
**LIFE'S SOUNDTRACK?**  
"Take Your Mama," by Scissor Sisters.  
**FAV SINGING SHOW**  
Glee.  
**WHY SHOULD YOU BE THE NEXT GAY IDOL?**  
In college, they called me Glittertits McGee. I will do everything in my power to live up to the title.



**ROB** 5  
T's

**AGE**  
31  
**RELATIONSHIP STATUS**  
Imaginary Swedish boyfriend named Sven.  
**YOUR GAY IDOL?**  
Liza Minnelli.  
**LIFE'S SOUNDTRACK?**  
"And The World Goes 'Round." Look it up.  
**FAV SINGING SHOW**  
Waiting for the Real Housewives of New Jersey to have a drunken sing-off.  
**WHY SHOULD YOU BE THE NEXT GAY IDOL?**  
I sing because I'm happy; I sing because I'm free. And I know my imaginary boyfriend Sven watches me!



**LEXI** 6  
T's

**AGE**  
30-something.  
**RELATIONSHIP STATUS**  
Single.  
**YOUR GAY IDOL?**  
Andy Bell of Erasure—he bought me a shot of tequila on my 20th birthday. It was the gay highlight of my life.  
**LIFE'S SOUNDTRACK?**  
"Ain't No Mountain High Enough," by Diana Ross.  
**FAV SINGING SHOW**  
The Voice.  
**WHY SHOULD YOU BE THE NEXT GAY IDOL?**  
Because the Windy City reminded me, after five years living in Alabama and Georgia, how to live out loud and proud.



**DAVID** 7  
Crew

**AGE**  
29  
**RELATIONSHIP STATUS**  
Committed relationship.  
**YOUR GAY IDOL?**  
Ellen Degeneres.  
**LIFE'S SOUNDTRACK?**  
"A Song for You," by Donny Hathaway.  
**FAV SINGING SHOW**  
The Voice.  
**WHY SHOULD YOU BE THE NEXT GAY IDOL?**  
Would love to promote and be an advocate for the gay community by doing something I love. Also, to encourage others to do the same and embrace their talents and differences!



**OLU TOY** 8  
The Call

**AGE**  
31  
**RELATIONSHIP STATUS**  
Single by choice!  
**YOUR GAY IDOL?**  
Still Ellen!  
**LIFE'S SOUNDTRACK?**  
"A Change Is Gonna Come."  
**FAV SINGING SHOW**  
Windy City Gay Idol/The Voice.  
**WHY SHOULD YOU BE THE NEXT GAY IDOL?**  
Because the title itself will help me gain the exposure I need to stand out as a lesbian artist and gain a bigger fan base.



**JAMES** 9  
Crew

**AGE**  
28  
**RELATIONSHIP STATUS**  
Taken.  
**YOUR GAY IDOL?**  
As always, my amazing, loving, supporting mother. Hasn't missed a Gay Idol yet! (Hi Mom!)  
**LIFE'S SOUNDTRACK?**  
"That's Life," by Frank Sinatra.  
**FAV SINGING SHOW**  
Windy City Gay Idol, of course!  
**WHY SHOULD YOU BE THE NEXT GAY IDOL?**  
I truly believe I am the complete package this year, and deserving of the title!



**MEGYN** 10  
The Call

**AGE**  
23 (will be 24 on June 15!)  
**RELATIONSHIP STATUS**  
Single.  
**YOUR GAY IDOL?**  
Celine Dion.  
**LIFE'S SOUNDTRACK?**  
"Lessons Learned," by Kristin Chenoweth.  
**WHY SHOULD YOU BE THE NEXT GAY IDOL?**  
I am competing not only for myself, but for all my fellow service men and women who have faced Don't Ask Don't Tell to remind them that we no longer have to hide, but can serve out and proud!



**E** 11  
The Glenwood

**AGE**  
If I told you I would have to kill you.  
**RELATIONSHIP STATUS**  
I have a friend.  
**YOUR GAY IDOL?**  
Sue Heggeland.  
**LIFE'S SOUNDTRACK?**  
"Queen Of the Night"  
**FAV SINGING SHOW**  
The Audience.  
**WHY SHOULD YOU BE THE NEXT GAY IDOL?**  
I'm not getting any younger; it's my time.



**ROBERT** 12  
D.S. Tequila Co.

**AGE**  
29  
**RELATIONSHIP STATUS**  
Single.  
**YOUR GAY IDOL?**  
Who else but Sir Elton John?  
**LIFE'S SOUNDTRACK?**  
"I Feel Good," by James Brown.  
**FAV SINGING SHOW**  
This past season of American Idol was intense.  
**WHY SHOULD YOU BE THE NEXT GAY IDOL?**  
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I Am Going to Change the World. Photo by Jeff Pines

## THEATER REVIEW

# I Am Going To Change the World

Playwright: Andrew Hinderaker

At: Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago Ave.

Tickets: 312-633-0630;

www.chicagodramatists.org; \$32

Runs through: July 1

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Nine years old is too young to draw up a bucket list, but even as a child, John Chapman's aspirations rewarded achievement over potential—conditions demanding clearly defined objectives. We meet our farsighted hero at his 1995 college graduation, his valedictory speech exhorting his classmates to reach for the stars. However, the next day—when his itinerary dictates that he begin his climb to CEO of Goldman-Sachs—something goes wrong: He oversleeps on the morning of his interview, his business suit is missing and his employers-to-be have not been

notified of his appointment. This is because it's 2010, and John is 35 years old.

His shrink calls this disorientation "anniversary reaction." John, in order to maintain focus on his ambitions, has blocked from his consciousness 25 years of occurrences contradicting his projected schedule—delays, failures and departures (his fiancée, for example, now married to somebody else). Therapy is helping him to accept the facts of his experiences, but certain dates, faces or sensory stimuli still trigger flashbacks to pivotal moments that may—or may not—have actually happened.

The progress of our hapless everyman's reintroduction to his own life could have been recounted in a series of comical re-enactments (cf. Groundhog Day), or perhaps as a step-by-step medical procedural, but Andrew Hinderaker instead plunges us straight into the mind of our bewildered protagonist, each new discovery revealed through the intervention of outsiders fully aware of his plight. This mosaic narrative structure requires some acclimation on our part, but the anguish reflected in Nicholas Harazin's portrayal of the would-be crusader reluctantly confronting his best-laid plans gone irreparably awry, his agony affirmed by an adroit supporting cast under the direction of Jonathan Berry, invokes our immediate empathy with a poignancy that never diminishes for an instant.

So where *do* you turn after leaving it all behind? Hinderaker takes us, literally, to the edge of the precipice (the Van Buren Street bridge, to be specific) before our broken knight's loyal sidekick—himself, no stranger to disappointment—reminds us that the measure of philanthropic contributions is not always scope of achievement. This might sound suspiciously like the proverb about "making lemonade from lemons," but who would deny a generation currently grappling with despair in an uncertain universe (as what generation hasn't?) the ray of hope for a brighter future offered by our author's timely and compassionate resolution.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**A Little Night Music**, Writers' Theatre, through July 22. It's not merely the lilting score or charm of the actors; it's that the great intimacy of Bill Brown's production allows this to be the funniest Night Music I've ever seen, without losing a tick of its lushly bittersweet *fin de siècle* tone. JA

**My Kind of Town**, TimeLine Theatre, through July 29. Chicago's police torture scandal of the past few decades is expertly explored in John Conroy's fictionalized world-premiere drama that pushes audiences to ponder what they would do in the characters' dilemma-filled situations. SCM

**Rent**, American Theater Company, through July 1. The intimacy generated by David Cromer's close-focus vision amplifies the romantic poignancy simmering beneath Jonathan Larson's hymns to doomed youth—and isn't seizing the day something that can be shared by both young and old alike? MSB

**When the Rain Stops Falling**, Circle Theatre, Oak Park, through June 17. A jigsaw puzzle, this Australian play is about four generations, two families and two continents—but stick with it for its richly poetic rewards in dealing with love and loss. It's beautifully acted against gorgeous projections. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## 'Drag Queens,' 'Batman' among Octavarius shows

The Octavarius troupe has returned to The ComedySportz Theatre, 929 W. Belmont Ave., with an open run—the first in the venue's history by an independent company, according to a press release.

Each show is Sunday at 7 p.m. Upcoming shows include "Dungeons and Drag Queens" (June 24), "British Invasion (The Beatles Take America by Force)" (July 1) and "Batman v. Batman" (July 15).

See www.Octavarius.com.

## THEATER REVIEW

# Corleone: The Shakespearean Godfather

Playwright: David Mann

At: Commedia Beaugard at the Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.

Tickets: 773-404-7336;

www.cbtheatre.org; \$25

Runs through: June 24

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Mario Puzo's saga of organized crime in the United States is only a short step away from Jacobean tragedy, so it was probably only a matter of time until some aspiring modern playwright reversed the chronology. David Mann's adaptation is not an irreverent schoolboy sketch extended to full-length proportions, however, but literary time-travel adhering faithfully to the conventions of its designated period. The results could easily be performed before a crowd of 17th-century London playgoers, should such an audience be discovered today in need of entertainment.

This attention to detail is expressed through dialogue written in iambic pentameter ending in rhymed couplets ("My father, who would not insult excuse/did make him an offer he could not refuse"), though a character might announce his intention to speak frankly by declaring, "I wish to speak with you in prose." The drug known in 2012 as heroin, as described to Don Corleone,

is a "distillation of poppies producing a poison that lives within the blood." Modern firearms, too, are conspicuously absent: The double assassination in the restaurant mimics the stratagem of the "envenomed" cup and blade in Hamlet, while Sonny Corleone is murdered, not in a shower of bullets, but by an ambush in which three hitters stab him with a dagger, sword and pike.

There's more—Lords of Brooklyn and Dukes of Queens, dead brother's ghosts warning their siblings of treachery, a Las Vegas lounge singer warbling "hey-nonny-nonny" to a Big Band beat. Who would expect anything less from Commedia Beaugard, the Minnesota-based company devoted to theater-in-translation, on the 40th anniversary of Francis Ford Coppola's landmark film? An ensemble fluent in Elizabethan declamation deliver their speeches with an articulate conviction as free of self-mockery as that of their source material. It's unfortunate (one is tempted to say "Tis pity") that the production's dramatic momentum must be impeded by the frequent scene changes arising from its spartan touring set.

Despite the inevitable tendency of spectators to giggle at familiar references, whether Shakespeare or Hollywood, it is a mistake to dismiss the purpose of this literary experiment as simple spoofery. The goal of the Commedia Beaugard aesthetic, in its forging of cultural community, represents an attempt to bridge the isolation that divides societies today as surely as in 1946 Italy—or 1646 England. What's funny about that?

## THEATER REVIEW

# The Blonde, the Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead

Playwright: Robert Hewett

At: Writers' Theatre, 664 Vernon Ave., Glencoe

Tickets: 847-242-6000 or

www.writers theatre.org; \$45-\$65

Runs through: July 29

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Who knew that unsubstantiated gossip could be so deadly and destructive? That's one of the driving plot points in Australian playwright Robert Hewett's 2004 comic drama *The Blonde, the Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead*, now playing in Writers' Theatre's intimate backroom venue at Books on Vernon in Glencoe.

The other focus of *The Blonde...* seems to be the point that we're all interconnected in one way or another in our communities and the world at large, whether it's via negative forces like jealousy and treachery, or beneficial ones like compassion or forgiveness.

This interconnectedness can also easily explain Hewett's theatrical gimmick of having all the roles in *Blonde...* played by one actress alone. Sure, it's an economical device (many a cash-strapped theater company will be grateful) and one that has been proven by shows like *Greater Tuna* and its many gender-bending sequels. But the structure of *The Blonde...* also serves to highlight the great storytelling skills of a determined and talented actress.

For the Chicago-area debut of *The Blonde...*, Writers' Theatre has turned to two Wisconsin theatrical stalwarts who have previously collaborated on the show in 2008 at Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. Director Joseph Hanreddy and star Deborah Staples have reconceived the show to fit in the more-intimate Books on Vernon venue, and the transformations are amazing.

*The Blonde...* starts with Rhonda (the vengeful redhead) at a police interrogation



The Blonde... Photo by Michael Brosilow

explaining some of her reasons for acting out. We then see a variety of people surrounding Rhonda from her less-than-best friend and neighbor, Lynette (the brunette), a lesbian doctor named Alex (who suffers greatly from Rhonda's actions), Rhonda's louse of a husband, Graham, and the Russian blonde, Tanya, the supposed temptress in the whole messy matter.

Staples does an amazing job transforming herself from character to character onstage and in full view of the audience. Staples is aided to no end by the great production work of wig designer Lara Dalbey, costumer Martha Hally, and set designer Linda Buchanan who provides a number of opening closet nooks to allow for the leading lady to change and establish who the character is that she's playing.

Part of the joy of watching *The Blonde...* is piecing together the relationships between all the people Staples portrays and deciphering the various versions of what led up to and the aftermath of the misbegotten attack. Staples and Hanreddy do a great job of keeping the audience rapt through the many changes and shifts in characters like a parade of helpful and dubious storytellers.

Although it's just one actress playing all the roles in *The Blonde...*, you do get to learn about a whole community of people tied together through a tragic event that didn't have to happen.



**The Sandman.**  
Photo by  
Ben Fuchsen

**THEATER REVIEW**

**The Sandman**

Playwright: Bob Fisher  
after E.T.A Hoffman

At: Oracle Productions, 3809 N. Broadway  
Tickets: 252- 220-0269;  
www.oracletheatre.org; FREE (but reserve)  
Runs through: June 30

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Three of the four actors in *The Sandman* take multiple roles and all of them manipulate doll puppets (designed by Tracy Otwell), demonstrating their mastery of the actor's "plastique" (voice, movement, expressiveness)—and so they must be if the audience is to make any sense of this complicated and cloudy 85-minute version of E.T.A. Hoffman's 1816 short story. Under director Max Truax, they nimbly switch characters by stooping shoulders, twitching hands, stiffening limbs or turning up a coat collar, accented by the expressionistic shadows of Karen Thompson's lighting.

Even so, it's difficult to follow Bob Fisher's adaptation, in part because it's really two stories

that overlap through one character, Nathaniel, presumably an early 19th-century German university student. (Fisher's text doesn't actually specify.) Nathaniel was a boy when his father died under mysterious circumstances after visits by Coppolus, a sinister figure whom Nathaniel equates with the Sandman, not our own benevolent bringer of dreams but a creature who steals children's eyes to feed his offspring on the moon.

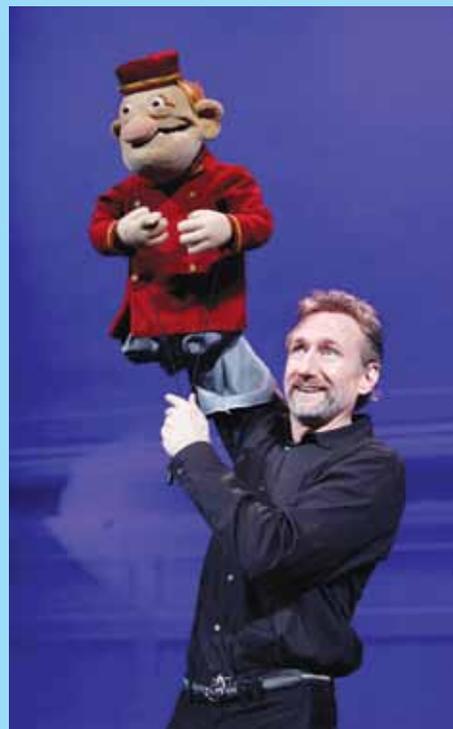
When college-age Nathaniel is approached by Coppola—a maker of barometers, lenses and telescopes (through which one can see the moon)—Nathaniel thinks he is Coppolus and it drives him mad, quite literally. In *Story Two*, Nathaniel's madness doubles when he falls in love with the daughter of a professor. Olympia, a doll-like young woman with a secret of her own, threatens Nathaniel's relationship with his long-time fiancée and her brother, Lothario, his only true friend. The two story threads merge only in a shocking conclusion, which finally brings a degree of clarity to things.

However, it's not a sufficient degree of clarity to justify the journey during which Hoffman grapples with some of his favorite physical and

metaphysical devices such as doppelgangers, robotics, pseudo-science and the fevered imagination. Hoffman frames the story with letters written after the fact by Lothario—a part Fisher mostly eliminates. Instead, he splits the narration between Nathaniel and Lothario, with the actor playing Lothario doubling as a younger Nathaniel as the narrative shifts back and forth in time. It's too fragmented for me, especially as Fisher emphasizes the faux mysticism of the work (such as never clearly explaining that what Nathaniel buys from Coppola is a little telescope and not an enchantment).

Perhaps Fisher means to show us the warped state of Nathaniel's mind, but to make that work he needs to set Nate up as normal first, and gradually have us enter madness with him, not outside him. As it is, so many elements of fact and character are elusive—even though stylishly elusive—that one gives up caring. Not many have the patience to peel the layers of an onion.

**SPOTLIGHT**



If you can't get enough of puppets behaving badly, then be sure not to miss the Henson Alternative show **Stuffed and Unstrung**, featuring what Brian Henson—the son of famed Muppets creator Jim Henson—calls up to 90 "miscreant puppets" performing improv comedy routines and more. *Stuffed and Unstrung* continues through Sunday, June 17, at the Bank of America Theatre, 18 W. Monroe St. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Wed.-Thursday, June 13-14, 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, June 15-16, and 7 p.m. Sunday, June 17. Tickets are \$25-\$60; call 800-775-2000 or visit [www.broadwayinchicago.com](http://www.broadwayinchicago.com). Photo by Carol Rosegg

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# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT, JR.

## Rock of Ages

Sherrie—a young innocent from the sticks heading for L.A. to fulfill her dreams of musical stardom sits on a bus and unable to contain her enthusiasm—bursts into song. A second later, the bus driver and Sherrie's fellow passengers join in.

Stepping off the bus at her destination in the midst of a glittery, neon-lit world, the song becomes a medley; now, prostitutes, petty thieves, tourists and cops join the chorus. Next, Sherrie stands outside her destination—the infamous rock club the Bourbon Room—trying to gain entry into a place packed with metal headbangers; a cute busboy also dreaming of musical fame; and Alec Baldwin and Russell Brand as the club's owner and manager, respectively, who also let it rip vocally. With a swoosh as over the top as the dancing waters outside the Bellagio in Vegas, the medley comes to a roaring (and predictable) finish.

This is the opening of *Rock of Ages*, out director Adam Shankman's film adaptation of the Broadway jukebox musical hit. It is so painfully familiar and phony to wised-up audiences that the immediate, derisive laughter and groans that greet it are unsurprising. At this late date, 75 years or so after *42nd Street*, the template for all subsequent movies and shows of this ilk (and there are tons of them), how could this reaction not have been expected by everyone connected with the movie down to the folks manning the craft service table?

It's only been two years since the gay-in-all-but-name *Burlesque* with Cher and Christina Aguilera, but here we go again with another gay director enacting another variation on this Jurassic aged material (just once I'd like to see a girl from the big city head to Kansas in pursuit of her dream of becoming a farmer or cattle baron). Unlike Steve Antin, who helmed *Burlesque*, Shankman—who choreographs as well



Alec Baldwin (left) and Tom Cruise in *Rock of Ages*. Photo by David James

as directs—does have spot on musical expertise and he did manage to bring a certain amount of freshness to 2007's *Hairspray*. So there's a smidgen of hope—even after that calculated opening number—that he'll be able to turn this creaky old tub of a movie in another, fresher direction, too.

However, Shankman doesn't. And he probably couldn't have, given the unsolvable creative dilemma that's the heart of the problem with *Rock of Ages*: None of the songs, which are drawn from the 1980s power rock genre, has an iota of true feeling. These songs—designed to whip up nameless masses gathered in gargantuan arenas and piped through Mt. Olympus-sized speakers—are not written to be enjoyed for their complexity. They're just supposed to get revved up while screaming "Dude!" at the top of their lungs.

With those kinds of songs being used as your musical score, welded to the oldest of plots, what else can Shankman do other than just barrel through, hoping for the best? Shankman does what any canny director would do with this gut-busting, mind-numbing stuff: He eschews any attempt at subtlety and instead rams the stuff down your throat, packing the scenes with as much heavy metal pomp and circumstance as they will allow. (The sets, costumes, hair and make-up are such exacting reproductions of the late '80s that one can almost smell the hair gel.)

Further insurance comes by casting a mixture of marquee names (Baldwin, Brand and Catherine Zeta-Jones as a conservative zealot, Mary

J. Blige as the owner of a gentlemen's club), rising stars (Julianne Hough and newcomer Diego Boneta as the star-crossed, career-obsessed lovebirds), and some really good actors (Bryan Cranston and Paul Giamatti, who stands out as a slimy, big-time rock star manager). Then there is the stunt casting of Tom Cruise as Stacee Jaxx, the rock star who is about to leave his band for a solo career and is convinced to play the Bourbon Room—the place where he started out—and, in the process, save it from bankruptcy.

Cruise enters the movie in a bejeweled jockstrap and leather chaps, buried under four lingerie clad babes in his king size hotel room bed. Rising up from the bed with his long hair, dark glasses and alabaster white skin, swigging on a liquor bottle, and mumbling his few lines while feigning complete indifference to the world around him, Cruise certainly looks and acts the part of a narcissistic rock star. And he sings in a sometimes light, sometimes husky tenor with enough finesse to make you actually believe he could pull off the power rock songs.

But as usual, all of Cruise's hard work goes only into creating the exterior of the character. Ironically, just like the patently phony songs he belts out, there's not one second of his performance that feels real. The most striking thing about Cruise is his shirtless torso with its alabaster skin which is, featured in every scene he appears. It's so omnipresent that after a while you begin to contemplate it. You think, "Pretty good for a guy of 49, actually." But a turn-on? A man irresistible to babes (and perhaps dudes)? Not even close. Playing a debauched rock god

desired by millions—a character who would seem to embody the sex, drugs and the rock-'n-roll lifestyle—Cruise is, ironically, the least sexy man in the entire film.

Even Baldwin and Brand—who (SPOILER ALERT) eventually hook up, coming out and coming on to each other while belting out REO Speedwagon's "Can't Fight This Feeling" in a not-very-funny parody that seems like an out-take from the Jimmy Kimmel show—are sexier than Cruise's Stacee Jaxx. Hell, even the wooden Hollywood sign (a meeting place for our young lovers) is sexier.

Putting Cruise and the rest of the cast and the dumb plot aside for a moment, at least Hough has a role that offers her more screen time and a greater vehicle for her many talents (plus a song or two) and every time she's the focus the movie briefly, truly glitters. The same can be said for a few other random scenes involving Giamatti, Cranston, etc. However, they are few and far between. *Rock of Ages* would have been more honestly titled *Rock for Ages*—because that's how long this headbangers ball seems to go on.

**Of related interest:** There's more phoniness where *Rock of Ages* came from. Consider **Joyful Noise**, recently released on DVD and Blu-ray, which stars Dolly "Queen of Plastic Surgery" Parton and Queen "I'm Not Gay" Latifah as rivals for the leadership of a church choir and the loyalty of its members and the populace of the small Southern town they all inhabit. As the duo battles it out, a choir contest that will ensure the financial future of the group's church becomes the proving ground for all concerned. Parton and Latifah are each given some gorgeous numbers to perform and, although the story's just about as phony-baloney as that of *Rock of Ages*, the enormous vitality and abilities of its two stars help transcend it—as do a raft of truly rousing musical numbers.

The first and final season of **GCB** (standing for "Good Christian Belles") is also out on DVD and Blu-ray. Kristen Chenoweth; the expert character actor Annie Potts; a batch of blonde female beauties; and a closeted gay character got things started off right in this Southern-fried sisterhood series, a somewhat entertaining, sort of fanciful, fictionalized *Real Housewives*-type look at the lives of religious and pampered suburban Texas ladies. However, fickle audiences didn't reward the show—which was created by two high-profile gay men: Steel Magnolias playwright Robert Harling (who created it) and *Sex & the City* creator Darren Starr (who produced it)—with much attention, leading to its quick demise.

**Check out my archived reviews at [www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com) or [www.knightatthemovies.com](http://www.knightatthemovies.com). Readers can leave feedback at the latter website.**

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ABOUT FACE THEATRE

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## Musical 'Once' dominates Tonys

The romantic musical *Once* won far more than one award at the Tony Awards, which aired June 10 on CBS.

*Once* won eight Tonys, including best musical, best lead actor in a musical and best musical direction, according to the Huffington Post.

*Peter and the Starcatcher* won five awards—but several productions had a piece of the Tony pie.

The Bruce Norris production *Clybourne Park* (which is set in Chicago, and is an updating of lesbian playwright Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*) won for best play. Audra McDonald won her fifth Tony after being named best lead actress in a musical for her work in *Porgy and Bess*; the production itself was named best revival of a musical.

Mike Nichols won his ninth Tony for directing Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*, which

stars Philip Seymour Hoffman and Andrew Garfield (who is starring in the new *Spider-Man* film).

In a mild upset, Nina Arianda won best leading actress in a play, beating Tracie Bennett, Stockard Channing, Linda Lavin and lesbian actress Cynthia Nixon. Noted LGBT ally Judith Light won for best featured actress in a play.

Among the many presenters were Bernadette Peters, Jessica Chastain and the newly out Jim Parsons. Hugh Jackman received a special honor for his fundraising work, including his work for AIDS organizations; wife Deborah-Lee Furness presented him with the award, according to *Starpulse.com*.

Neil Patrick Harris hosted for the third time, calling the event "50 Shades of Gay" at one point. Harris' critically praised turn included an opening skit that looked at reality vs. theater; Patti LuPone and out actor Jesse Tyler Ferguson (as Harris' understudy) were also in the piece.

# Actor Johnathon Schaech: On arts education, 'Doom Generation'

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Actor Johnathon Schaech (pronounced "sheck") is known from a variety of shows and movies, including *How to Make an American Quilt*, *Quarantine*, *That Thing You Do!*, *The Forgiven* and the LGBT fave *The Doom Generation* (with gay auteur Gregg Araki).

However, in addition to upcoming movie projects, Schaech is channeling his passion into saving arts education in elementary schools. He recently testified before Congress and—along with celebrities such as Jane Lynch, Steven Tyler and members of KISS—is part of the YouTube video "Epic School Battle," in which the villains try to deprive young students of the arts. (The video is at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfakB8g5cQw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfakB8g5cQw).)

Schaech talked with Windy City Times about his films, arts education and what Hollywood needs.

**Windy City Times: You recently testified in front of Congress about arts education?**

Johnathon Schaech: Yeah. They put me in a group of actors—with Alec Baldwin and Tiffani Thiessen—and we each had to say something as advocates for the arts in schools. I had part of Adopt the Arts out here in California with Matt Sorum of Guns 'n Roses.

He started this thing because they were taking the arts out of the elementary schools in his neighborhood. He would say, "Man, that's not right. How could a child not have any understanding of music? It's one of the only things that bring kids together without competition. You need to be expressive."

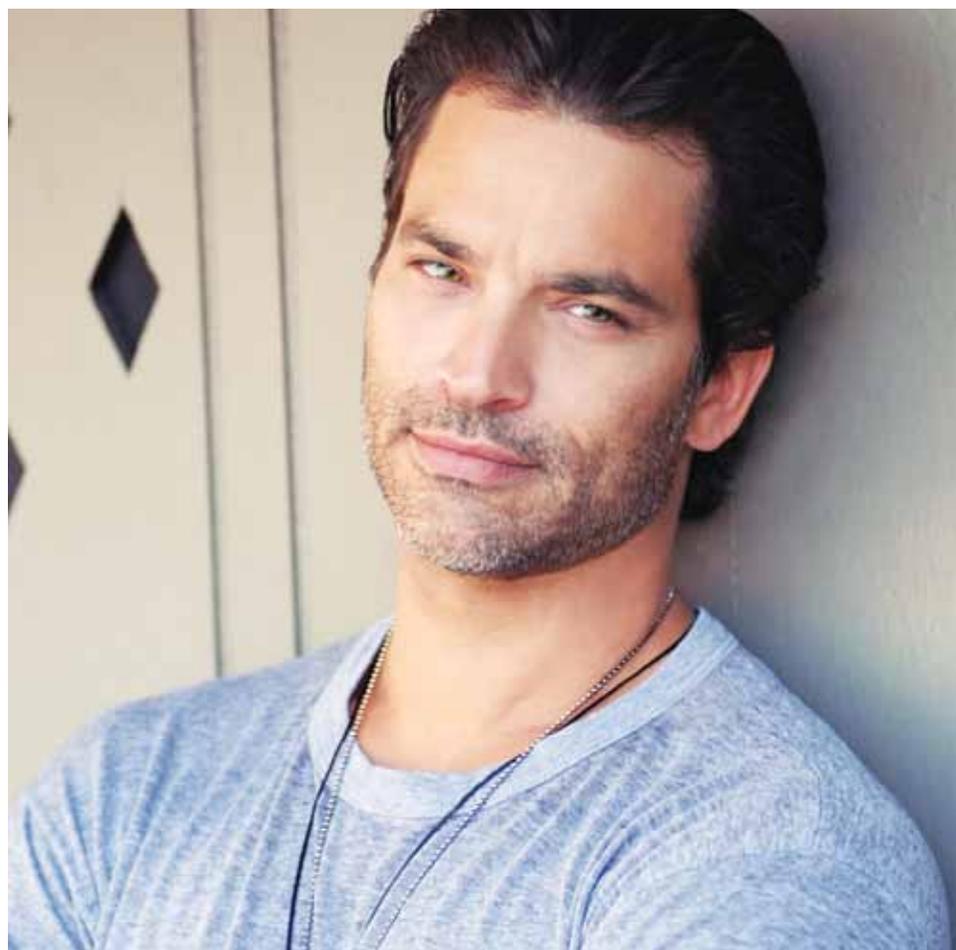
As an advocate, I've learned so many talking points on why the arts are important in America, number one, and in the education system. It's mind-boggling that the first thing they go after when there are budget cuts are the arts. In the poor regions, you start to see that the arts are completely gone; parents can't save the programs because they don't have any money.

The biggest thing I advocated on Capitol Hill is that we have to stop proving that the arts and music improve academic performance. They help to help develop the brain and build critical thinking skills and spatial reasoning. It's just common sense. People think the arts are a luxury but they're really a necessity—especially for the minds of youths.

**WCT: That would seem to be the key thing: to convince people the arts are a necessity.**

JS: Yes! When the arts are gone, what kind of children is America raising? What about the foundation and principles of this country, where we're all given an equal chance to be successful? Everything around us involves the arts.

**WCT: I remember when I went to high school**



Johnathon Schaech. Photo by Alan Mercer

**during the Stone Age. [Schaech laughs.] Activities like band and chorus (which I was in) were considered electives.**

JS: Yes, and at a certain point, maybe they should be electives. But when you're younger, everyone should get to play an instrument or sing in the chorus. Those things open their minds.

You doing this interview—it's you using your creative side. You're not a fucking computer. You're coming up with stuff.

**WCT: And the arts really helped you when you were in school.**

JS: Oh, yeah. ... Let me talk about bubble testing. For most people, it's difficult to do. You basically learn to memorize the answers, and then you go on to the next test. That kind of stuff increases the dropout rate across the United States; the kids feel horrible about themselves. The kids don't learn; they get bored and they drop out of school. That happened to my nephew.

Me, personally—I was put in remedial classes

when I didn't test well. In the Stone Age ... [Interviewer laughs], they put people who tested poorly all in the same class and they tried to teach you at a slower pace. I was a very small kid, and I knew I shouldn't have been in remedial classes. The problem was that I was testing poorly. The problem was that I was dyslexic and no one realized it.

My reading-comprehension skills were poor—until I started taking art classes. The discipline of art and the visual processing inside my head were the things that triggered the analytic side of my head. I scored very high on the SATs and I could've gone to any college I wanted.

We're going to have an Ayn Rand generation of kids where it's just going to be about math and science. Creativity is one of the building blocks of all this.

**WCT: I know "Epic School Battle" deals with a serious subject, but it looks like it was so much fun to make.**

JS: When those guys came to me about raising funds, I thought, "If the kids only knew." With

the video, we wanted to reach out to the children and say, "Hey! This is what's going on." It's going on in California, but I've gotten so many messages from across the country.

I wanted to create a viral video so kids can have a good time but have an idea about what's going on. The next thing you know I'm getting the band KISS, Steven Tyler—and we had to make the video "epic." I couldn't believe KISS walked in the door; they were, like, eight feet tall.

**WCT: Talking about your work for a bit, many of our readers are fans of *The Doom Generation*. What was it like working with Gregg and what do you remember from making that movie?**

JS: First of all, it hits on one of the biggest issues going on across America: It doesn't matter who you love, as long as you find love. When it came down to it, that was one of the messages behind Gregg. Then I went and did a film, *Splendor*, which involved three people in love. I wish Gregg would make more movies. Everyone should see *The Doom Generation*, or bring Xavier [Schaech's character] back for some revenge movie.

With my work, I feel like I've done a lot of good things—but there are other things I want to accomplish.

**WCT: Being a big fan of horror films and thrillers, I've seen several of your films.**

JS: One of my best friends from high school has a publishing company, Cemetery Dance, that's a leading publisher in horror. I've gotten to work with [novelist] Stephen King and Tobe Hooper [of *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*]—a lot of great horror people.

**WCT: If you could change one thing about Hollywood, what would it be?**

JS: I'd make it [have more integrity] about what people say and do. It'd make life easier out here.

"Integrity" is my favorite word that I try to live by. I mean, I struggle with it...

**WCT: As we all do.**

JS: It's just good to be what you say. Like with these civil liberties we want to take away from people—what's going on with that? It seems like some people are scared, and that they forget about where we've gone.

**WCT: Some people feel that way about marriage equality.**

JS: Well, Obama stood up for that and the way he did it—and how he addressed the religious aspect of it—is the way to go. Everyone has a right to religious beliefs, but you don't push them on someone else. I believe in the Constitution of the United States of America.

I have this open mindset. I was raised in a very diverse family—complete with "fuckles." [Laughs] ... Imagine if people had put that money [for] Prop 8 into education.

**WCT: You sound like you're going to run for office.**

JS: [Laughs] Could you imagine if they looked into my past?

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# The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus: A history lesson

BY JON PUTNAM

Toward the end of 1982, Mitch Laks noticed posters on the lamp posts near Broadway and Belmont. Laks was excited to learn that a new gay chorus was being formed.

"I was not yet 'out,'" admitted Laks. "I told my best friends and they insisted that I audition. They thought it would be the perfect 'transition' to coming out—and it was."

The first meeting of the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus (CGMC) took place Jan. 9, 1983, at Broadway United Methodist Church in East Lakeview. The emergence of CGMC must have been surprising to some people, since Chicago already had the Windy City Gay Chorus, which had been around since 1979. In fact, Sunday was chosen as CGMC's rehearsal day in order to allow members to sing in both groups.

In an interesting twist, the founders of CGMC were so-called "renegades" who had broken off from Windy City to form their own chorus. The rift involved a nascent organization called the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses—better known as GALA—which was sponsoring the nation's first GLBT choral festival in New York City later that year.

It was big news. "There had been some West Coast choral festivals, but never anything on a national scale," said Randy Franks, a charter member of Windy City. "We told them we were going to go. New York City went and made these huge arrangements—they booked Lincoln Center again."

Windy City initially announced plans to attend the New York festival, called COAST (Come Out and Sing Together), but then the director changed his mind.

One explanation was money: only a year earlier, the chorus had raised funds to send the entire membership to the East Coast for a joint concert with the New York City Gay Men's Chorus. "A bunch of us even wanted to pay our own way," said Nick Kelly, one of Windy City's founding members. "But [the director] just refused."

"He told the chorus they had been one of two choruses before, and now they would be just one of many," said Kip Snyder, who at the time was Windy City's vocal technique coach and who ultimately became CGMC's artistic director. "The travel manager did not want to go and the chorus voted 35- 27 not to go. Several cranked about it and got labeled 'the dirty dozen,' 'the terrible twelve,' and eventually the general manager said, 'Why don't you form your own chorus and go?'"



The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus' "Over the Rainbow Concert" in June 2009. Photo by G. Thomas Ward Photography

"Randy Franks and Nick Kelly called me and said if we formed a new chorus, would I be its interim director?" Snyder continues. "I agreed and 125 letters were sent out to former Windy City singers who had quit." The letter was signed by Snyder, Kelly, Franks and Phil Stewart, who was Windy City's accompanist and would assume that same role for CGMC.

Whereas Windy City was known for its largely classical repertoire and "stand-and-sing" format, CGMC established its own personality right away with its premiere concert, Ha, Ha, Ha! Ho, Ho, Ho! And a Couple of Tra, La, Las, which premiered April 9-10, 1983, at Lincoln Park High School. The program confirmed the light-hearted theatrical tone the title suggested; the event included a medley not only from The Wizard of

Oz but also from three Broadway musicals: Company, The Fantasticks and South Pacific.

The latter has particularly poignant associations for Kelly. "When we sang 'Some Enchanted Evening' and I looked out and saw my boyfriend's face, boy, I could hardly sing," he said. "It was really exciting. ... I still remember swaying to the music and having tears in my eyes."

Fifty-seven singing members were listed in the program for CGMC's premiere concert. However, not all of the names were real: Being identified as gay at that time carried risks that might be hard to conceive today, and several members used aliases. "A person could still be fired, evicted, etc. for being gay," said Charlie Euston, a member from 1986 to 2008. "No legal protections whatsoever." Mike Dunge therefore be-

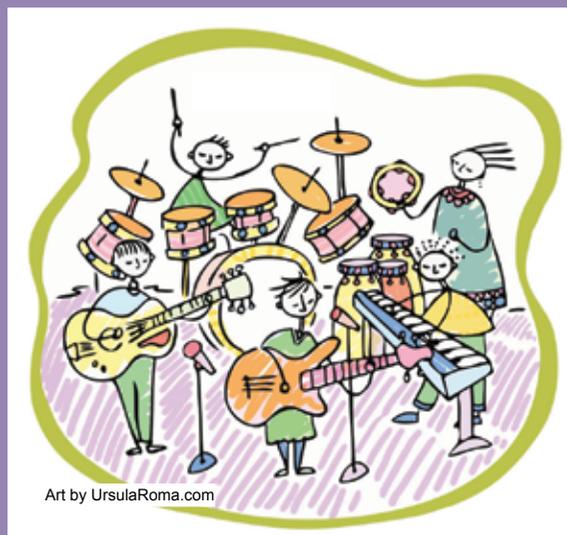
came Mike "Dunne" for the program listing; another member used the name of his high school crush.

Membership jumped to 76 for the group's next show, Here We Go Again, which took place in July (again at Lincoln Park High School). Continuing the Broadway tradition, the program included medleys from A Little Night Music and Oklahoma!, as well as a "Rain Medley" featuring the gay anthem "It's Raining Men." "We all wore raincoats and it was about 97 degrees inside the auditorium," remembered Randy Franks. "It was so hot! People were standing with these slickers on, ready to pass out."

Turn to page 29

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NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION

# Talking with 'Drag' doll Latrice Royale



BY JERRY NUNN

The "large-and-in-charge" Latrice Royale represented the big girls on the fourth season of RuPaul's Drag Race on the Logo Channel.

She came out of the closet—also disclosing a checkered past that includes a prison history and tough times—on the show. Her light shone through though, with a "chunky but funky" personality that kicked the competition to the curb, making her a top four finalist.

This Florida "bold and beautiful" queen now travels around the country and is heading to a new group of fans in the Windy City.

**Windy City Times:** Hey, Latrice. How are you?

Latrice Royale: I'm wonderful. How are you?

**WCT:** Great. I watched the whole season, of course. Is this the first time you have been to Chicago?

LR: I have been there but this is the first time performing.

**WCT:** You perform mainly in Florida?

LR: Pretty much. I have been here for 21 years.

**WCT:** What is your opinion? Is Florida the South or not?

LR: It has some tendencies, but I wouldn't call it the South. We have our own situation there. [Laughs]

**WCT:** I read that you started wearing drag on a dare in the beginning.

LR: Absolutely. You know friends...

**WCT:** "I dare you to put on that wig!" It just stuck?

LR: As soon as I won my first little contest, a star was born and that was it. I saw drink tickets and a hundred dollars. Yes, honey—I can do this!

**WCT:** What made you want to be on RuPaul's Drag Race in the first place?

LR: I was at a crossroads in my career. I needed to do something because I was at the point where I wasn't really progressing. It is hard when you are just doing club gigs. I had to do something different, change my position and put me in a better place than I was. That is why I auditioned.

**WCT:** Then you did really well.

LR: Who knew? I just wanted a little bit of exposure and represent the big girls, of course. We haven't been fully represented properly so I thought I could do it.

**WCT:** And you did. Not only did you last a long time, but your personality was important on the show.

LR: Well, thank you. I was really me being me. I am a nurturer kind of person. That is just who I am. I didn't realize there were so many wounded souls on the show. We were definitely a wounded cast.

**WCT:** Do you feel pressure to lose weight after the show?

LR: Oh my gawd, you know what? It would be lovely. I have lost a few pounds because I have been traveling a lot but I am so happy in my skin. I am content. Love me fat, love me skinny, love me tender—that is just me.

**WCT:** That must have been quite an honor being asked to be on Drag U.

LR: That was definitely an honor. I feel so blessed because not everybody gets to go into that situation. We were the chosen ones. I am glad I was able to make a big enough impression to keep going because I want to stay relevant.

**WCT:** I watched the first episode and—Heyyy!—guess who is on it?

LR: I didn't even know I was on the first episode until this moment!

**WCT:** Surprise!

LR: Right out of the box, baby! I love it, yes.

**WCT:** The show is about helping women that have had some tough times, so I think you are a perfect candidate to help them.

LR: Yes; it definitely hit home. My mom was a single mom. I didn't grow up in the most ideal household situation. I can relate to those women very well.

**WCT:** I have been singing, "Jesus Is a Biscuit" all morning.

LR: I love it!

**WCT:** You know how everyone wants to have a music career after RuPaul's Drag Race?

LR: Right?

**WCT:** This is my idea for you. You should put out a gospel album with "Jesus Is a Biscuit" as a track and some Mahalia Jackson, maybe a Winans cover song?

LR: Wow; a full-out whole other genre of music, an inspirational album. No one does that. It is always club beats. I definitely want to do "Jesus Is a Biscuit" with all of the other girls in the video, too.

**WCT:** All I ask for is a "special thanks" on the album.

LR: Exactly. [Laughs]

**WCT:** First, you are doing an appearance at Hydrate on Saturday, then coming back the following Thursday for Roscoe's with the whole gang.

LR: It is going to be crazy but I am excited though.

**WCT:** Are you staying in town the whole week?

LR: No, I am going back home for a few days then coming back.

**WCT:** You are still friends with everyone from your season, correct? You didn't burn any bridges like Miss O'Hara.

LR: No, not at all. I really love everyone genuinely. There is not anyone that I don't like. I keep in touch with some more than others. Ideally I talk to everyone pretty much.

**WCT:** Did you do the Al and Chuck boat cruise?

LR: I did the first little mini one. It was interesting. [Laughs] I had never been on a cruise before so I was expecting a lot of things to be different. The cruise line sucked so this next time hopefully it is a better ship.

**WCT:** So it was not the Love Boat?

LR: No. When they closed down the buffet I was ready to get off the boat.

**WCT:** I don't know if I would get seasick on there.

LR: I did a lot better than I thought I would. That wasn't so bad but when they shut down the buffets early, that was bad.

**WCT:** Not nice.

LR: Especially for a fat girl...

**WCT:** I love that you represent my generation because we are around the same age.

LR: Awesome. We are from the old school, boo-boo. We have to school these new girls. See? That is the problem. You see why they go rogue and go raging mad? They don't have a background and have no training.

**WCT:** People like [competitor] DiDa [Ritz] came a long way on the show, though.

LR: Real quick, didn't she?



**WCT:** Anything else about Drag U this season?

LR: I am very excited because they truly revamped it. Because I am a fan of the show, I was always that one person who thought that when they came out of the Dragulator that they didn't look like the picture. That used to really irritate me. When I tell you that they have changed that; these bitches are done! I was very impressed and excited. I am looking forward to even the episodes that I am not in.

**WCT:** There are some good guest stars, such as Robin Givens and Brittany Snow. Who are you a fan of as far as celebrities?

LR: I get star-struck easily because people I have been watching on TV I have been able to meet lately—people like Kelly Osbourne and Adam Lambert. I made a little connection with Kelly when we met. That's my girl.

**WCT:** She is great. Well, I will see you this weekend.

LR: Alright, baby. See you then!

**For more Royale-T, visit [www.latriceroyale.com](http://www.latriceroyale.com). Don't miss the Absolut RuPaul Tour at Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N. Halsted St., on Thursday, June 14, at 10 p.m.**

**Drag U premieres Monday, June 18, with listings at [www.logotv.com](http://www.logotv.com).**

Latrice Royale.  
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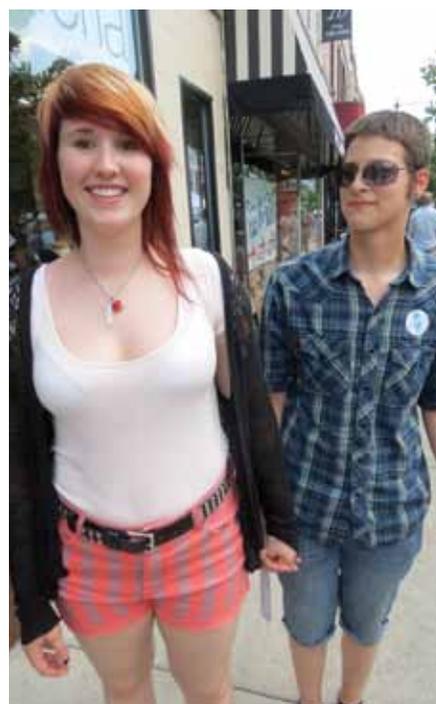
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Photos from a gorgeous weekend at Andersonville's Midsommarfest. Photos by Jerry Nunn



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NUNN ON ONE: COMEDY

# Sarah Silverman:

## On roasts, her show and lesbian fantasies

BY JERRY NUNN

Comedian Sarah Silverman has always gone her own way in the business of making audiences laugh. Whether she is poking fun at stereotypes or religion, Silverman lets it all hang out sometimes getting her into trouble.

No stranger to stand-up, she started very young; she then gained exposure writing for Saturday Night Live, although none of her sketches actually aired.

After several small roles on films such as *There's Something About Mary* and *School of Rock*, her one-woman show *Sarah Silverman: Jesus Is Magic* became a box-office and video hit.

She then went to Comedy Central for three seasons of *The Sarah Silverman Program*, and was nominated for an Emmy.

Silverman returns to Chicago to headline the Just For Laughs festival and is bringing a group of her comedian friends, calling her act Sarah's Pro Choice.

**Windy City Times: Hey, Sarah. Why not call your show *Pro Gay Marriage*, too?**

SS: Sarah Silverman: Because that's not a double entendre for the "choice" comics on the show, Sillypants.

**WCT: People always want to know about your love life. Isn't that kind of personal?**

SS: I'm an open book. For instance, right now I'm dating a very funny man. He will be on the show on the 16th. You have to guess which one!

**WCT: If you were going to swim in the lady pond with someone these days, who would it be?**

SS: Hmm... I feel like you want an answer that more correlates to what women I admire, but the truth is, if I were going to have a lesbian experience it would probably be with a faceless, slutty, big-boob stripper type.

**WCT: Can you talk a bit about your movie *Take This Waltz*? Was it hard to convince you to go naked in the film?**

SS: No. I was so honored that Sarah Polley wanted me for this part and so excited to get to work with her. She called me after I signed on to ask if I was going to be comfortable with this and that it was very important to her. I figured who am I to blow the chance to do something real? I trusted her completely. And, look: In the end it's not a big deal. It's just a body, exactly what you'd expect.

**WCT: How was it working with Michelle Williams?**

SS: She's lovely. She takes her work very seriously and thoughtfully, but she's a generous laugher, too.

**WCT: Do you have any more roasts planned?**

SS: No. Who knows? I just feel like Comedy Central has veered away from the heart of the roast. You're supposed to roast the ones you love, icons, people you admire. Not pop-culture jokes. Joan Rivers was the last roast of a real legend. But I'll always watch because they are amazing. I find it sad and scary that the last two comics to close the last two roasts have had untimely deaths. Jeff! Lisa! BE CAREFUL!

**WCT: Did you have a favorite moment from *The Sarah Silverman Program*?**

SS: So many, actually. We shot all this extra stuff for the box set (which comes out June 19) and we were all so happy to see each other we all got drunk/stoned and acted like animals. I haven't laughed that hard in so long—since we were all together!

It was a real abortion of a DVD extra, but the editors at Shout Factory made it very cohesive

and shockingly coherent. We did a bunch more audio tracks, too. Season three wasn't even gonna get released so this is the only way to get season three as well, the whole thing. My heart swoons for that show and the experience we all had.

**WCT: What do you think about Britney Spears being a judge on the *X Factor*?**

SS: I don't think about it. What are the kids on the street saying?

**WCT: That she will be entertaining to watch. Have you ever felt like one of your jokes goes over the line?**

SS: Sure! I'm not frozen in time. I think it's good to look back at your old stuff and cringe. It means you're in a new place. There's definitely stuff in *Jesus is Magic* that I can't believe I

found appropriate. But I still love it. It's where I was at at the time. I was in a place where I assumed everyone knew what I really thought and that there was a stark contrast between what I said and how I felt.

And I do think most people did. I'm in total flux now. Every show is a part of a process that may never get to a sparkling final place, you know? That's just where I'm at right now.

**WCT: Would you like to write another book?**

SS: Can't imagine it now. But someday when I feel one in me. I am working on a children's book with my friend [and TSSP co-creator] Rob Schrab that I'm excited about.

**WCT: Future projects in the works?**

SS: Yeah, but mostly I'm daydreaming for what the next thing for me will be. Oh yeah, have a Disney/Pixar movie coming out called *Wreck It Ralph* that is so amazing. Those movies fucking kill me. They rip your heart out, right?? But I'm so honored to be a part of it. It's so good!!

**Silverman and company arrives at the Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St., on Saturday, June 16, for shows at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. See [www.justforlaughschicago.com](http://www.justforlaughschicago.com).**

**The Sarah Silverman Program: The Complete Series debuts on DVD June 19.**



Sarah Silverman. Photo by Robyn von Swank

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# the **DISH**

## WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN **WINDY CITY TIMES**



### G.E.B.

BY MEGHAN STREET

If you're not prepared to drop \$95 to \$145 for a lavish tasting menu at Graham Elliot, you can still get a taste of the celeb chef's cuisine. Last week, Elliot launched his third restaurant, G.E.B. (which stands for Graham Elliot Bistro) in the West Loop. Elliott also operates Grahamwich, a gourmet sandwich shop in River North.

Graham Elliott veteran Jacob Staben is working as the executive chef at G.E.B., but there's an unmistakable Elliott stamp on the place. The space is decorated simply with black concrete floors, white brick walls and a bright red banquette. Lining the walls are mock religious pillar candles poking fun at or paying homage to music legends and celebrity chefs. The menus are printed on old-school records and the wine list is typed on loose-leaf paper (just like the kind

you used in elementary school). The ambiance is decidedly masculine and irreverent. Between a glass garage door that opens onto the back patio and the blaring rock music, you might think for a moment that you've stumbled into a biker bar – until you look at the menu and see offerings like gremolata and oxtail.

G.E.B. has a fine selection of wines. I sipped a sparkling Chenin Blanc that paired nicely with each of my courses. The beer menu is equally (if not more) robust, with plenty of craft and local selections. The food is versatile and relaxed enough to go down just as easily with a glass of red or a cold beer – so order what you like best.

The menu is refreshingly simple and even more refreshingly reasonably priced. Each dish is made of three ingredients and they are listed right in the description. Instead of made-up entrée names, you'll find options like "linguine + clam + fennel" and "steak + potato + béarnaise." Basically, what you see is what you get. That is not to say the dishes aren't carefully crafted and artfully presented (although, they aren't too fussy). The most expensive entrée is \$20, but many dishes ring in between \$8 and \$15.

The beet + burrata + arugula is a tasty salad starter. The slightly sweet red and yellow beets play nicely with the bitter arugula, and the

burrata cheese is a nice upgrade where buffalo mozzarella may have done the job. For a hot appetizer, the risotto + artichoke + lemon is a nice way to go. The risotto is perfectly creamy and the high lemon notes lend lightness to a sometimes heavy dish.

I also enjoyed the chicken + buttermilk + tarragon. The chicken is marinated to juicy perfection in buttermilk. The generous helping of tender chicken is delicious, but as advertised, all you really get is chicken, which left me wanting some sort of carbohydrate companion. The trout + spaetzle + sorrel was, quite unexpectedly, the best thing I ate at G.E.B. The trout is seasoned simply, but is full of flavor. The pungent sorrel provides a nice contrast to the mild fish, which sits on top of a bed of soft, doughy spaetzle. Wild mushrooms serve as the surprise fourth ingredient.

Dessert is as simple and straightforward as dinner. Most people will have a hard time not ordering the cookie + and + milk. A stack of warm chocolate chip cookies is served on a platter with an ice-cold glass of milk. There's no debating the cookies are good, but I couldn't decipher whether I enjoyed them more because they were truly above average or because of the simple novelty of eating cookies and milk at a

restaurant as an adult. The poundcake + strawberry + rhubarb is another excellent dessert option. The poundcake is almost like a moistened shortbread cookie and the sweet strawberry and tart rhubarb complement one another perfectly, as those two summery fruits are inclined to do. What makes the dish special is the basil whipped cream sandwiched between the two pieces of poundcake. It's fluffy, slightly sweet and tastes ever-so-subtly of basil, creating the perfect ending to an early summer meal.

G.E.B. is located right next door to one of my favorite new restaurants, Nellcote (<http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Sugar-Spice-Nellcote/37332.html>), and rumor has it the two restaurants are teaming up to open an elegant champagne salon in the cobblestone courtyard that sits between them. It seems the Chicago restaurant gods have heard my prayers and answered them. Look for news of the champagne bar opening later this summer.

G.E.B. is located at 841 W. Randolph St.; call 312-888-2258 or visit [www.gebistro.com](http://www.gebistro.com).

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To get your business listed in The Dish, contact [advertising@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:advertising@windycitymediagroup.com)

## 'Loser' auditions June 23 in Downers Grove

NBC's reality series The Biggest Loser is launching a 13-city cross-country search to find new contestants for the next edition of the hit show.

Locally, the show will hold auditions Saturday, June 23, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at Chicago Home Fitness, 1205 Butterfield Rd., Downers Grove.

Candidates must be at least 18 and legal residents of the United States. For those who are unable to attend a casting call, info on how to apply to the show and submit a video is available on [www.thebiggestlosercasting.com](http://www.thebiggestlosercasting.com).

## 'Dancing with the Queer Stars' July 7

"Dancing with the Queer Stars Chicago 2012" will take place Saturday, July 7, at the Provision Theatre, 1001 W. Roosevelt Rd.

The reception will be at 7 p.m., with the show at 8 p.m.

The event raises funds for the Anita Davis Dance Theatre's annual dance camp.

General admission is \$20; VIP entry is \$25 (with includes unlimited wine); tickets at the door will be \$30. People should visit [DancingWithTheQueerStarsChicago2012.eventbrite.com](http://DancingWithTheQueerStarsChicago2012.eventbrite.com).

## CHORUS from page 24

CGMC further distinguished itself from other male choruses when it welcomed its first female member in 1997. Anne Santiago was a regular at Side Track's "Show Tunes Night" when she saw and loved Side Track III, and upon inquiring about how she could get involved with the chorus, she was surprised to learn that CGMC accepted female members. The group's official policy had long stated that the chorus was open to all, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, but Anne was the first woman who had ever shown an interest in joining.

"The board had a discussion when Anne approached us about joining," Sinozich said, "and there was unanimity (from the board) in welcoming her since the chorus's mission statement says 'CGMC is open to all.' However, there were a few members who didn't like it, and one resigned over allowing a woman into the group."

"Some guys wondered if I was a lesbian, a pre-op, a post-op, confused ... I heard it all!" Santiago laughed. "I always loved being the only woman among a bunch of guys."

Although Santiago has since relocated to Los Angeles, other women have followed her lead and as of this writing, CGMC boasts three female members. Santiago's memories of the chorus are very fond: "CGMC will forever remain in my heart as one of the best experiences of my life."

[Editor's note: The author of this piece is a member of the chorus.]

Visit [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) for much more on the history of the chorus, including how AIDS affected the organization in the 1980s.

The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, the Windy City Gay Chorus and Aria will share the stage in "The Sound of Fabulous!" on Saturday, June 16, at Senn High School, 5900 N. Glenwood Ave. Performances are at 5 and 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the door, or online at [www.windycitysings.org](http://www.windycitysings.org) or [www.cgmc.org](http://www.cgmc.org).

## Northalsted Market Days to feature Olivia Newton-John

Olivia Newton-John will headline this year's Northalsted Market Days Aug. 12.

The four-time Grammy winner will perform on the North Stage. Other legends slated to sing include The Pointer Sisters ("I'm So Excited") and Sheena Easton ("Strut"). Former American Idol finalist Paris Bennett is also scheduled to sing.

LGBT acts on the bill include Eric Himan, Tony winner Levi Kreis and Matt Zarley. There will also be local acts, such as the Chicago Spirit Brigade and

The 31st annual Northalsted Market Days (which will take place Aug. 11-12, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.) will take up six blocks on Halsted between Belmont and Addison, and feature three music stages.

Full lineup:

### Saturday, Aug. 11

Rivers Casino Stage  
3:30 p.m. Levi Kreis

5:45 p.m. Jessica Sutta  
9:05 p.m. The Pointer Sisters

Roscoe Stage  
12:30 & 2 p.m. He Said, She Said  
3:45 p.m. Isaiah Grass  
5:30 p.m. Abba Salute  
7:40 p.m. Eric Himan  
9:10 p.m. Jessie and the Toy Boys

Belmont  
12:30 p.m. Comasoft  
2:15 p.m. The Wanton Looks  
3:30 p.m. Chicago Spirit Brigade  
4 p.m. The Handcuffs  
5:30 p.m. Dot Dot Dot  
8:15 p.m. Lez Zeppelin

Jazz Stage  
1:30 p.m. Lucy Smith Quartet  
3:45 p.m. Red Hot Riot  
6 p.m. BMR4

### Sunday, Aug. 12

North Stage  
3 p.m. Mia Martina  
5 p.m. Adam Barta/Matt Zarley

7:15 p.m. Karmin  
9:05 p.m. Olivia Newton-John

Roscoe Stage  
12:15 p.m. A Thousand Julys  
2:15 p.m. Windy City Cowboys  
2:50 p.m. The Personnel  
4:30 p.m. Chicago Spirit Brigade  
5:30 p.m. Sheena Easton  
7:45 p.m. 16 Candles

Belmont  
12:30 & 1:50 p.m. Almost Famous  
3:30 p.m. Kimi Hayes  
5:15 p.m. Planet Claire (B52s Tribute Band)  
7:30 p.m. Don't Speak (No Doubt Tribute Band)  
9:10 p.m. Paris Bennett

Yoshi Stage  
1:30 p.m. Soulio  
3:50 p.m. Stache  
6 p.m. Lil Ricki and The Licorice Sticks

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## ARTISTS

**CALL FOR ARTISTS: SKOKIE ART GUILD'S 51st ANNUAL ART FAIR. July 14th & 15th, 2012.** Fine art. Prizes and awards. Held on the Village Green, 5211 W. Oakton St., downtown Skokie, IL. apply now. For applications or information: [skokieart@aol.com](mailto:skokieart@aol.com) or 847-677-8163. [www.skokieartguild.org](http://www.skokieartguild.org) (6/27/12)

## CLASSES

**DRAG MAKE-UP CLASSES!** Get Your Drag Make-up on! Come on Queens; Come Show Some Pride, Learn Some Make-up and Really Shine! 2 Convenient Days Available In A Controlled, Discreet Environment. 773-327-9249. [dean\\_students@att.net](mailto:dean_students@att.net), <http://www.elegantebeauty.blogspot.com> (6/20/12-4)

## CLEANING SERVICES

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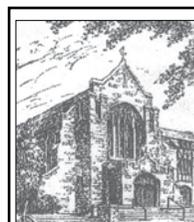
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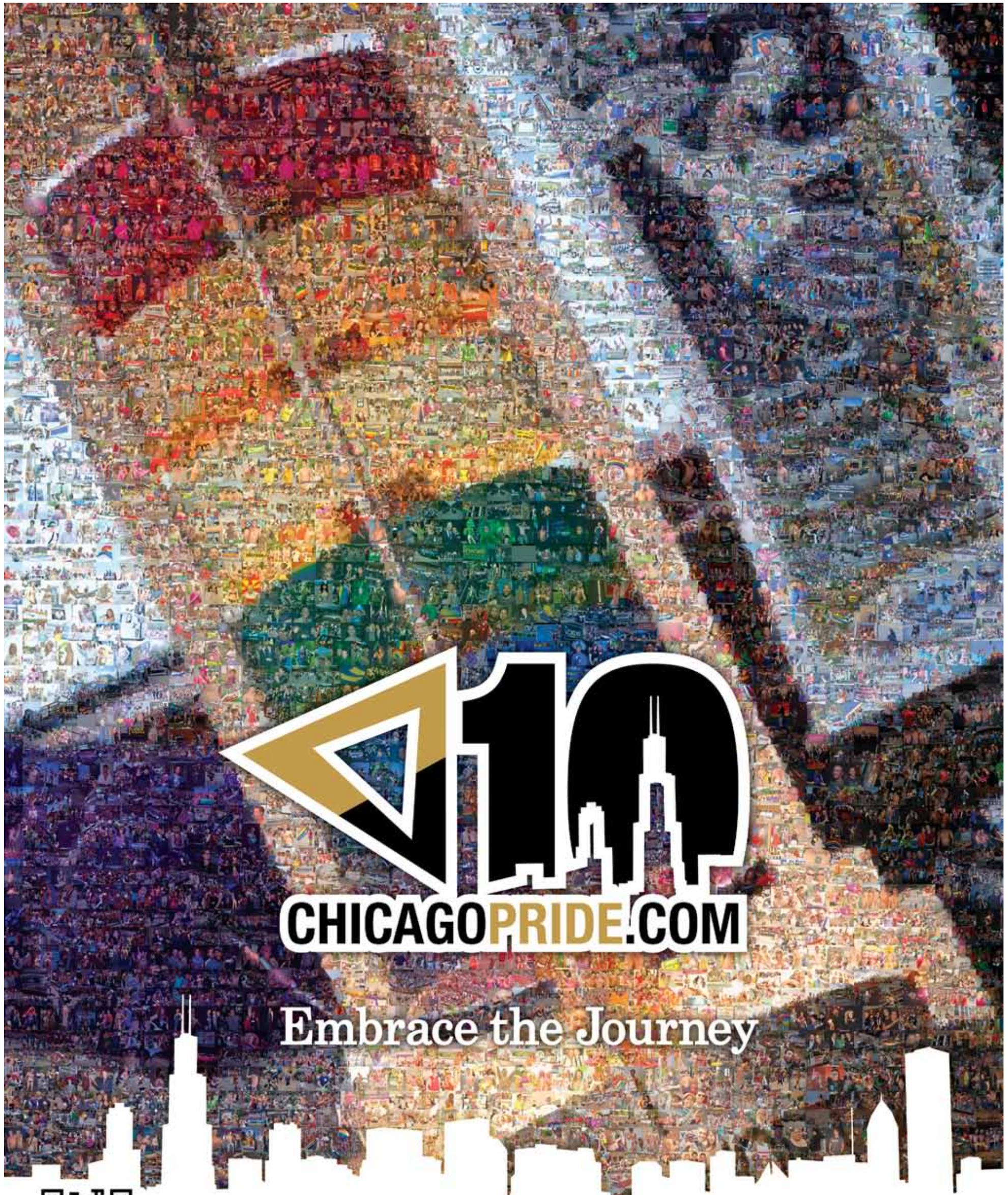
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# calendar

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## Wed., June 13

**TBS Just for Laughs Chicago** Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago collaborating on three nights of independent comedic short and feature films from around the world. Screenings will take place Wednesday, Through Friday, June 15. 12pm, Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., www.siskelfilmcenter.org

## Celebrate PRIDE Up North, Rogers Park

**LGBT neighbors and friends** Fifth year of gathering for dinners usually in RP. You pay for what you order to eat/drink/tax/tip. Separate checks. No extra charges. Special guest, State Rep. Kelly Cassidy will attend. Street parking, near Red Line Howard stop. RSVP by phone. Join email list: PRIDEUpNorth@hotmail.com; 6:30pm-9pm, 773-764-1546, Jamaica Jerk Restaurant, Authentic Caribbean Cuisine, 1631 W. Howard St.

**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

**Sidetrack @ 30: Deep Into the Video Archives** Three decades of Sidetrack favorites hit the screen, plus 30 years of special video treats. No cover, giveaways, special performance and airfare for two from Orbitz. Celebrating Sidetrack's 30th anniversary summer. 8pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., www.sidetrackchicago.com

## 'JOY' STORY Monday, June 18

The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame's annual Pride & Joy Reception will take place at Circuit, 3641 N. Halsted St.

Photo from 2010 by Jorjet Harper



## Thursday, June 14

**Changing People's Hearts and Minds** A discussion of LGBT images in the media and their effect on the workplace. Speakers Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). RSVP online. 1pm, 333 S. Wabash Ave., www.surveymonkey.com/s/xrp6zlg

**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, Chicago, www.navypier.com

**French Market coming to Westfield Old Orchard** North Shore and Chicago area shoppers will enjoy a Parisian style street market at Westfield Old Orchard. The outdoor market, located near Macy's, will house a variety of artisan vendors selling fresh produce, breads and cheeses and other local artisan products. The market runs 2pm - 7pm every Thursday through September; 2pm-6pm

**ChicagoPride.com's 10th Anniversary Party** RSVP today! 6:30pm-10pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.chicagopride.com

**Dinner with Dyke March** Community building in the Argyle neighborhood as part of the lead up to the Dyke March: get to know each other, support local businesses, and get acquainted with the neighborhood that the March will be in. Pay for your own meal. Please Bring cash to make it easier. RSVP by June 12th to Alexis (maddogapache@gmail.com) or JJ (jueunten@gmail.com); 7:30pm, Pho 777, 1065 W Argyle St.; Hon Kee, 1064 W Argyle St.; Demera, 4801 N. Broadway

**RuPaul's Drag Race Tour** One stage, one night. Featuring performances by Jade, The Princess, Jiggly Caliente, DiDa Ritz, Willam, Latrice Royale, Phi Phi O'Hara, Chad Michaels and Sharon Needles. \$15 general admission. Sponsored by Absolut OUtTrageous. 8pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted St., www.roscoes.com

**Qweirdo** Recurring showcase of Chicago's top gay comedians and improvisers coming together every Thursday at 10 from May 31st to June 28; 10pm, Upstairs in the Del Close Theatre, 3541 N. Clark St., Chicago, www.chicago.ioimprov.com

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

## Friday, June 15

**The Victorian Ball** The Victorian Ball benefiting Chicago Lost and Found at the Stan Mansion. This is an event to celebrate and support Chicago's Artists in Fashion, Art, Photography and Music - benefiting the community educating work of Chicago Lost and Found. 7:30pm, Stan Mansion 2408 N. Kedzie Ave., Tickets: http://thevictorianball.eventbrite.com

**Equality Illinois Ladies' Night** Looking to start the weekend right? Then don't miss the ladies' night social, coming to you at Parlour on Clark! A \$10 donation to EQIL gets you two cocktails! RSVP to info@eqil.org. 8pm-10pm, Parlour on Clark, 6341 N Clark St., www.eqil.org

**Bjork Showcase** Celebrating the release of the Biophilia remix series. DJ Greg Haus. 9pm, Berlin Nightclub, 954 W. Belmont Ave., www.berlinchicago.com

**Cathy Richardson Band** plus Leslie Hunt 9pm, FitzGerald's, 6615 Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn, www.fitzgeraldsnightclub.com

**Hydrate presents: Juicy Fridays** Hydrate presents Juicy Fridays! Featuring, the sexy Juicy Go-Go dancers: Kiki, Natalie, Drea,

Karla, Daniel, Niko, and Mistha FX. "Juicy Will Hydrate You!" 10pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

**Mad Midnight: A Sixties Sketch Comedy Cocktail** Join Cake-n-Hatred and fall into the alcoholism, sexism, racism and all the other great isms of the 1960s. 11:45pm, 312-337-3992, Donny's Skybox 1608 N. Wells St. - 4th floor, www.secondcity.com/training/chicago/performances

## Saturday, June 16

**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. 9:30am-2:30pm, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington St., www.explorechicago.org/city/en/things\_\_see\_do/tours/tourism/out\_and\_proud.html

**NCLR Chicago Brunch** Featuring Kate Kendall, Esq., Executive Director and Arcelia Hurtado, Esq., Deputy Director. Champagne, brunch, and discussion about NCLR, our Movement, and the work yet to be done. Host Committee: Amy Bloom; Evette Cardona & Mona Noriega; Dan Ebner & Ray Prather; Brian Fletcher & Robert Hickok; Sarah Schmidt & Julie Matthei; Jennifer Tobits; Richard Wilson & Sam Burckhardt; Nora Winsberg & Pat Alvino; 11am-2pm, Lake Shore East area. Address provided upon RSVP.

**Pride poker tournament** The Lesbian and Gay Police Association/Gay Officers Action League hosts a fundraiser. The buy-in is \$100 a player, must be 21 or older. The Texas Hold'em shootout features cash prizes. Call Kathy Caldwell for details. 12pm, 773-307-2673, Spyners Pub, 4623 N. Western Ave., www.goalchicago.info

**Windy City Gay Idol Finals** Finalists in a Final Competition for Windy City Gay Idol, the best amateur LGBT singer in the Chicago area. Doors 2pm. 3pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/windy-city-gay-idol-kicks-off-10th-year-/36745.html

**The Sound of Fabulous Pride Concert** Windy City Gay Chorus, Aria and the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus join forces to present a very special Pride concert at 5 pm. and 8 pm. \$20. The celebration is in anticipation of all three traveling to Denver in July for the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses quadrennial Festival. 5pm-10pm, 773-661-0928, Senn Hall, 5900 N Glenwood Ave., www.windycitysings.org

**TOM: A Manhole Tribute to Tom of Finland** Featuring DJ Ted Eiel, opening set by DJ Harry Cross + Jpeg. General admission: \$10. Admission with VIP entry and open bar from 9-10:30 pm: \$15. Tom-inspired look, gear or shirtless required. Buzz cuts and boot black live on the stage. Tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/244451. 9pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

**Just for Laughs** Sarah Silverman hosts her favorite comedians. Also as part of the festival June 12-17 Janeane Garofalo, Scott Adsit, Jon Glaser, Chris D'Elia, Paul Provenza, Matt Braunger, Lil Rel, Susan Messing, legendary Comic Tom Dreesen and a line-up of Chicago's funniest. 11:30pm, Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St., www.justforlaughschicago.com.

## Sunday, June 17

**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



## KATE EXPECTATIONS

### Saturday, June 16

National Center for Lesbian Rights head Kate Kendell will be at an exclusive brunch in Chicago.

Photo by Erica Demarest

**Robyn showcase** The polar music party with music and video from Robyn, and electronic superstars of Scandinavia. DJ Greg Haus. 10pm, Berlin Nightclub, 954 W Belmont Ave., www.berlinchicago.com

## Monday, June 18

**Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation 21st Annual Play For The Cure Golf** Golfers of all skill levels. Proceeds to breast cancer research. Tee-off 1 pm, finishing with a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception. \$900 per person. Sponsorships available. First to ace any of the four par 3 holes will win a car. 11am-7pm, 312-926-7133, Onwentsia Club, 300 N. Green Bay Rd., Lake Forest, www.lynnstage.org

**Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame's annual Pride and Joy Reception** Hors d'oeuvres, the 2011 Hall of Fame exhibit display. Entertainment will be provided by members of the Circuit Night Club cast. Money raised from this event will be used to cover the expenses of the 2012 Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame induction ceremony, which is scheduled for November. Tickets \$20, available from board members of Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, from current Hall of Fame inductees, and at the door at Circuit. 6pm-10pm, Circuit Night Club, 3641 N Halsted St., www.glhhalloffame.org

## Tuesday, June 19

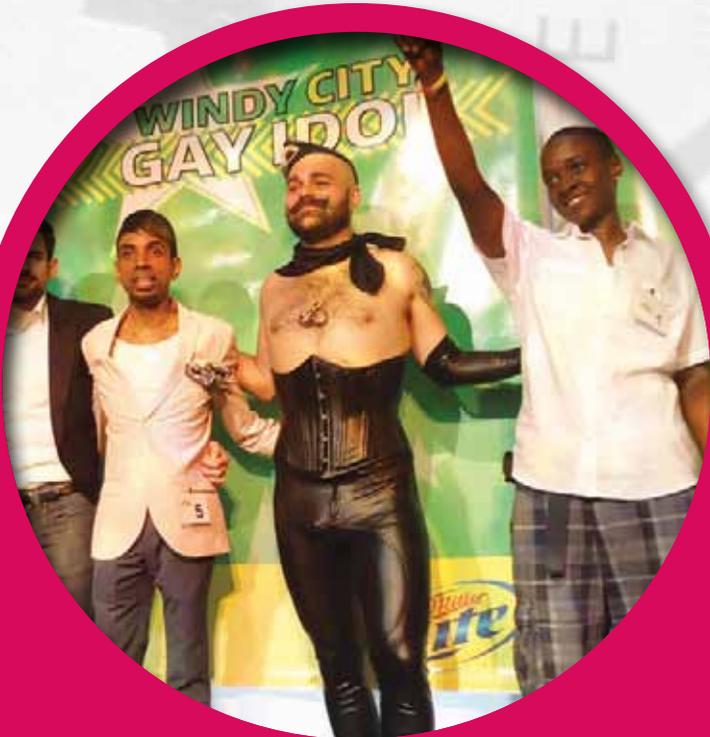
**Drag Race with Frida Lay** Chicago's only amateur drag contest, hosted by Frida Lay! A hit at Roscoe's since its premier in 2000. 9pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted St., Chicago, www.roscoes.com

**Senior Pride Anniversary Party** If you are over the age of 55, then join the Center on Halsted for its second annual Senior Pride Anniversary Party. This lively party will include BBQ, cake and music! 12-3pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

## Wed., June 20

**National HIV Testing Day Seminar** In recognition of National HIV Testing Day, the Center on Halsted invites the community & service providers to a free seminar sponsored in part by ViiV Healthcare. 9am-3pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, Chicago, www.centeronhalsted.org

**Sukie de la Croix author Chicago Whispers: A History of LGBT Chicago Before** Part of Chicago Public Library's Pride Month; 6pm, 312-747-4300., Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S State, Chicago, www.chipublib.org



## FINAL COUNTDOWN

### Saturday, June 16

The Windy City Gay Idol finals will take place at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Photo from 2011 by Constance Ruholl

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ChicagoPride.com

# BILLY MASTERS

"I would say that probably *Grease 2* put me on the map ... but that was a different map!"—Michelle Pfeiffer responds to Sanjay Gupta's comment that Scarface put her on the map by making a rare mention of one of my favorite films. Lest you think she isn't embarrassed by *Grease 2*, you should have seen her face when they showed a clip of Cool Rider.

Being a die-hard royalist, I enjoyed every minute of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee. That meant not relying on our limited domestic coverage. No siree—I was glued to the BBC. I particularly enjoyed watching her pre-taped



For Michelle Pfeiffer (seen here in *Dark Shadows*), *Grease* is the word.

jubilee address from the Buckingham Palace equivalent of the Oval Office. I chuckled as she did several quick pivots to accommodate the multiple camera angles. Let's face it—that's a lot of work for an 86-year-old monarch.

Have you noticed that the queen's signature wave has changed? Rather than those little circles with her wrist, she's now simply moving her elbow back and forth. Well, she has been doing this for 60 years. Maybe she's got carpal tunnel or waving elbow! Some people feared Prince Philip's hospitalization would put a damper on the festivities. One of my friends worried that Liz might be tired after taking Phil to the ER—as if the queen rode in the ambulance to check him in! She didn't seem particularly concerned to me. In fact, on the morning of the actual jubilee, she scheduled some time before church to go out horseback riding. It's all about priorities.

You'd think with all the royal revelry, I'd forget all about John Travolta. Not on your life. Once again, I must credit the National Enquirer for supplying more pieces to the puzzle. These came via an interview with a guy who dated a guy who dated John Travolta. Did you follow that? You know what they say—when you sleep with someone, you're sleeping with everyone they slept with. So, technically, this guy slept with Travolta, too. The stoolie, Robert Britz, says he dated Doug Gotterba, who worked as a pilot for Johnny and, allegedly, was his lover. Baitz said, "Doug said that he hated sleeping with John because his body was very hairy, and he didn't like the way John smelled." He (Baitz) also says that Travolta's sexual advances began to "repulse" him (Gotterba) when Travolta would gain weight in between movies. I'm repulsed just thinking about it.

While this third-hand story is fun, it's not

really credible. But the Enquirer got corroboration from Travolta's former secretary, Joan Edwards. She said, "I worked for John Travolta from 1978 through 1994. I did everything for him, including taking care of his personal and professional schedules. Of course, I knew he was gay. It never bothered me." That's how she met Gotterba: "Doug is a wonderful guy and we are still good friends. He told me that John was gay and they had a sexual relationship." Which begs the question—why is she talking now? And why did she leave his employ? Those questions are not addressed by the tabloid. And what about Gotterba? The Enquirer did contact him. The only thing he confirmed was that he worked for Travolta as a pilot for six years.

Speaking of scandals, there's a story surfacing about Siegfried and Roy ... or, rather, of Roy Horn. Apparently, he's gotten a bit feisty with his attendants and his questionable behavior has been caught on film. The good folks at TMZ claim to have seen the video and allegedly it shows Roy sticking his hand down the back of the pants of one caretaker who is helping him in the bathroom! He later tries to grind his own ass against this caretaker's crotch—which is hard to do when you're confined to a wheelchair. I can just hear the argument now: "But ya are, Roy, you are in that chair!" He's also seen grabbing the crotches of two other attendants. When he's shown pinching one man's nipples, TMZ says, "The caretaker appears to writhe in pain." (Now, Harvey, you know pain and pleasure look so similar.) In the most disturbing instance, he allegedly whips one of the guys with the tube from his oxygen tank. Look, you don't want the oxygen? Fine. It might be time for Roy to spend some more time alone with Montecore!

While we're talking Vegas, let's discuss the progress being made on the Liberace biopic, which will star Michael Douglas. Catherine Zeta-Jones told reporters that she was shocked to discover her hubby walking around in her panties in order to get into character. He even took to wearing her diamonds and added another Liberace affectation: "I'm sick of having breakfast by candelabra." As it turns out, Cat was just having a bit of fun: "Before anyone writes that my husband's a cross-dresser, I'm kidding. He wishes he could fit into them." Does he? Does he wish he could fit into them? I guess that's some of that Welsh humor. What is true is that Matt Damon is still playing Liberace's lover and Dan Aykroyd will portray his manager. The film will begin shooting in August.

Our "Ask Billy" is from Frankie in Baltimore: "During the Diamond Jubilee coverage, one of the reporters said that the British Olympic team posed nude. Do you know anything about this?"

I do indeed. Every year, Cosmo UK presents male celebrities posing nude to raise awareness of prostate and testicular cancer. Since the summer Olympics are in London this year, the magazine asked members of the British team to pose and a number of them accepted, including the very limber gymnast Louis Smith, cyclist Ben Swift, runner Conrad Williams, swimmer Nick Robinson-Baker and members of the field hockey team. And if you think field hockey is a girlie sport, these guys will change your mind. I'll feature the pics on BillyMasters.com.

When nude Olympians are considered racy, it's time to end yet another column. Hmm ... maybe I'll start a petition for all Olympians to resume competing in the nude—that would surely boost ratings! You can find all this and much more at [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com). If you have a question, send it along to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before Kelly Preston catches John Travolta wearing her panties (he'll be preparing for a role, of course)! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

**My name is Creagh Bennewate**

**On June 17th I will be participating in an event called**

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# Team CUR aiming to raise \$30K for AIDS ride

BY ROSS FORMAN

Jaime Arroyo deals with HIV/AIDS on a daily basis—personally and professionally.

He is the community liaison lead at Children's Memorial Hospital, working exclusively with HIV-infected and at-risk youth. He works with troubled teens and transgender individuals, among others, many directly impacted by the disease and the stigma that follows it. He helps HIV-infected patients who are afraid to admit their status and others who simply don't know where to go for help.

Plus, Arroyo has had a family member die from AIDS.

"[The disease] is near and dear to my heart," said Arroyo, 28, who lives in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood.

Arroyo is among 16 bicyclists on Team CUR—short for Chicago Urban Riders—which is participating this summer in the annual Ride For AIDS to benefit Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN). Arroyo also completed the 200-mile ride last summer.

Team CUR is shooting to raise \$30,000.

"It really means a lot to me to be able to make a difference," Arroyo said.

He will be joined on the journey by his younger brother, David, a North Carolina resident who will be making his debut in the Ride. Jaime, months before the July 14 opening ceremony, is already emotional for the Ride and the family affair that the 2012 event will be.

"He's my best friend, my biggest advocate. We've always been very close," said Jaime, who is openly gay. David is straight. "He signed up for the Ride the night I mentioned it to him."

Added Team CUR rider Keith Stryker: "David is

a remarkable guy."

Stryker, 39, also lives in the Edgewater neighborhood. He is a bartender at Big Chicks bar in Uptown and a student in massage therapy and acupuncture. This is Stryker's second Ride—and definitely a personal venture for him.

Stryker was diagnosed HIV-positive in 2003.

"This Ride is my way of giving back, especially for all that has been given to me," Stryker said.

Team CUR is a new Ride team this year, with 15 men and one female. The female and David Arroyo are the lone straight Team CUR members, ranging in age from 25 to 53.

"A friend got to me [several years ago] at a drunken moment. He told me about the Ride and I said, 'Sure; I'll do it; it sounds amazing,'" admits Jorge Partida, who is participating for the third consecutive year in the Ride. "My first year, I also really wanted to do it because I needed a distraction because I was going through a breakup.

"I have since come back [for the 2011 and 2012 events] because of the camaraderie that comes along with the Ride, seeing so many people come together for a single cause. It's amazing, heart-warming, a truly eye-opening experience.

"I have many close friends affected by HIV; they are HIV-positive. In return, I am affected by [the disease] because I have some very close, dear friends who are HIV-positive. This Ride is a great way to give back—to them and the community."

Joe Iverson, 27, who lives in Lakeview and works for the Museum of Contemporary Art, is making his Ride debut with Team CUR. He's not only one of his team's top fund-raisers, but one of the overall event's top fund-raisers.



Team CUR members (from left) Jaime Arroyo, Joe Iverson, Jorge Partida and Keith Stryker. Photo by Ross Forman

"I have friends who are HIV-positive and I enjoy bicycle riding. This is a perfect way to be more involved with the community and also help a wonderful cause," Iverson said.

Added Stryker: "We can't ignore the fact that HIV has impacted [the LGBT] community so horribly, so tremendously. I want to be part of a change."

In fact, it's the cause—much more than the personal physical challenge—that motivates Team CUR members.

"We're raising funds for significant outreach programs that do meaningful things for individuals impacted by HIV. There really is tangible affect," of the funds raised, Iverson said.

Added Richard Cordova, TPAN director of athletic events, "Team CUR has it all—passion, dedication and charm. They embody the true spirit of Ride for AIDS Chicago. Working together, as a team, to accomplish one goal—supporting those impacted by HIV."

Partida, 28, who lives in Andersonville and manages the Cheetah Gym in Edgewater, is riding in the event for the third consecutive year. He has raised more than \$7,500 for TPAN over

the past two years.

"For me, the highlight is the people I meet on the Ride, the fact we're all there for the same thing. Some [riders] are just acquaintances, but some become long-term friends."

Partida's partner, Raul Garcia, is a first-time rider. Garcia was part of the crew last year, but he'll be pedaling 200 miles with Team CUR this summer.

"The opening ceremony is so memorable," Partida said, "because that's when and where you truly understand and appreciate how many people are participating."

For others such as Arroyo, meanwhile, their most memorable moment from the 2011 Ride was, well, resting at the campsite after the first 100 miles, knowing that the majority of the hills were done. They relaxed, ate, swam and roasted marshmallow by the campfire.

"Through the Ride, you get to experience a sense of community that you can't find elsewhere," Arroyo said.

To donate to Team CUR, visit [www.tinyurl.com/TEAMCUR2012](http://www.tinyurl.com/TEAMCUR2012).

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This past year we have witnessed three of the most substantive changes in the law that I have seen in over 35 years. The Civil Union Act, the Transfer on Death Instrument Act and the new Power of Attorney Act. This series of articles will discuss all three.

Divorce has been described as the great benefit of the Civil Union Act. Divorce provides property rights and a legal fix for the mistakes that people make in creating their relationships.

In the world of heterosexual marriage there is an established history of divorce terms, broad experience with breakup rights and duties that are different from the rules that LGBT couples have lived by. It seems that every divorce client I have ever had already knows the trials and tribulations of a friend's divorce, the property settlement they got, what their lawyer could or could not do for them. Unfortunately, these rules are new to LGBT couples entering civil unions. They are important and everyone who plans to "tie the knot" should be aware of them.

First, if you want to break up – divorce – you need a reason. You need "grounds" for divorce such as adultery, mental cruelty and physical cruelty which are commonly used. Couples, however, can stipulate to a reason to satisfy the separation requirement. There is also irreconcilable differences which requires a two-year separation of the couple or six months separation if the parties waive the two years. Parties, however, can be separated within the same home.

Second, the conduct of the parties is not to be determined in the resolution of financial issues. This means if your wife is out cheating on you with the other moms from the PTO, you are not entitled to receive more of a property settlement. However, if funds are expended for purposes unrelated to the union (typically, an extra civil union relationship), such expenditures are dissipation of the couple's assets and can be assessed against the spouse who has spent the funds.

Finally, Illinois is an equitable distribution state which means property is not necessarily divided equally or 50/50 – there is no guarantee you will get half. The Court considers relevant factors in determining how assets are to be divided, such as length of the union, age, health and employability of the spouses, contribution, both financial and non-financial, to the acquisition of property.

**Next week: More on marital/union property.**

- Bankruptcy • Wills, Trusts & Probate
- Real Estate Closings • Civil Unions

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Pictured, from left: Jerry Flood, Early Quintana, Ald. Tom Tunney, Ald. James Cappleman and Dick Uyvari. Photo by Tracy Baim; more online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

## Hall of Fame bowling event raises more than \$10,000

Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame (GLHF) held its first-ever Celebrity Bowl at Waveland Bowl June 9.

The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame ([www.GLHollofFame.org](http://www.GLHollofFame.org)) is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation that annually holds an induction ceremony for its honorees. Chicago is the only known municipality that so honors its LGBT residents.

The event, which was organized by Hall of Famer Dick Uyvari, raised more than \$10,000.

GLHF is privately funded through individuals, businesses and organizations, along with its 2012 sponsors, including Absolut Vodka, Boi Magazine, Center on Halsted, Circuit Night Club, House of Blues, J&L Catering, International Mr. Leather, Miller Lite, Napleton's Automotive Group, Phil Hannema, Remy Martin V, Michael Leppen, Rick Aguilar Studios, Sidetrack, Supergurl Images, Waveland Bowl and Windy City Media Group (the sponsor list is still in formation). See [www.GLHollofFame.org](http://www.GLHollofFame.org).

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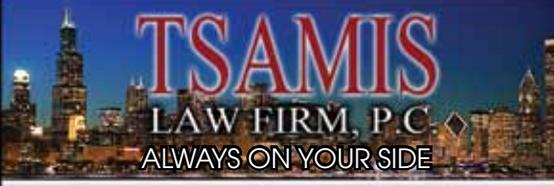
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Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved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

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