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WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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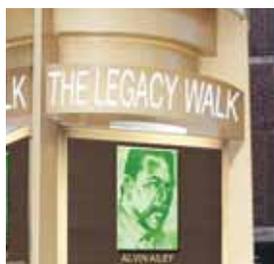
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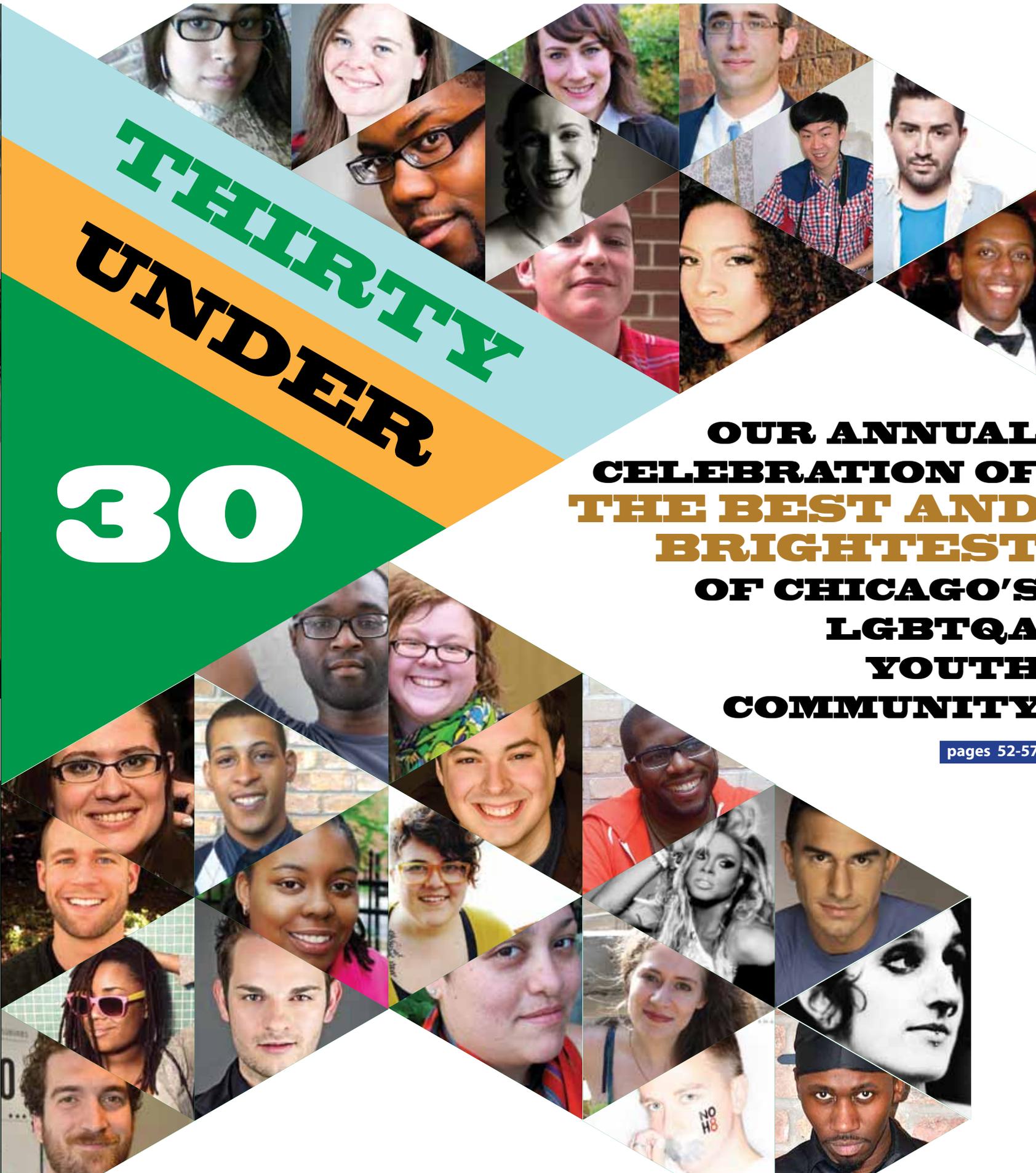
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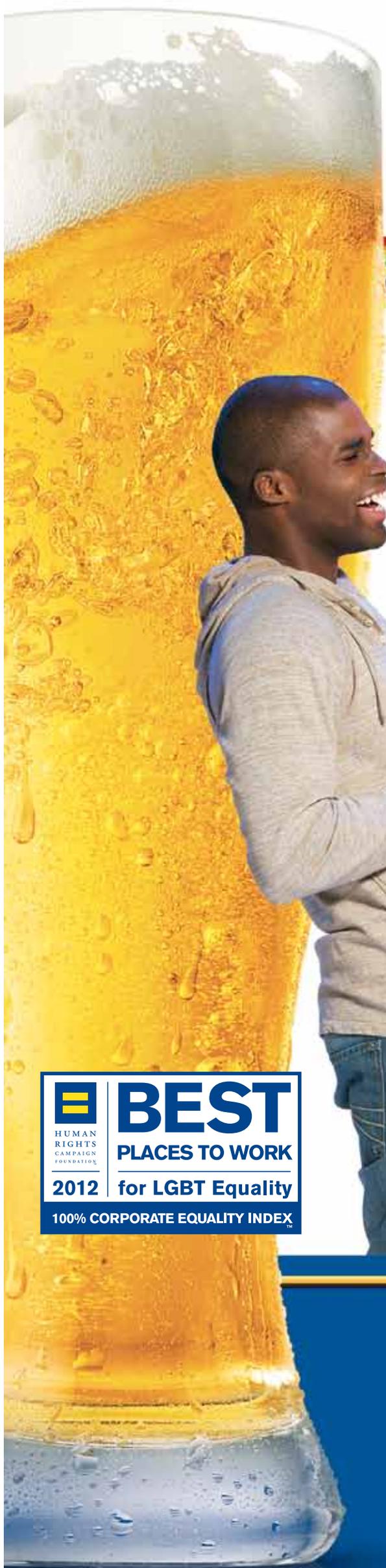
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Press photo



See pics from the Puerto Rican Pride celebration at Circuit.

Photo by Jerry Nunn



Read about summertime travel deals, including Lords South Beach (above).

Photo from Jeff Guaracino

MOVIN' ON

Financial expert Phil Sitar takes a look at retirement rules of thumb.

PEACHY GENE

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LGBT gold rush bets on Obama

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

President Obama has been greeted with thunderous ovations and thousands of dollars in LGBT contributions since his May 9 announcement that he supports allowing same-sex couples to marry.

A Huffington Post offshoot, BuzzFeed.com, reported that "a Democrat" claimed \$1 million poured into the Obama for America campaign within 90 minutes of President Obama's interview saying he supports the rights of same-sex couples to marry. An unidentified campaign spokesman later told NPR that wasn't true but "one source" said the surge in contributions was "astounding."

Whatever the number of gay dollars tallied, the money was part of a \$60 million haul for the re-election campaign in May.

During that same month, however, the coffers of Republican nominee Mitt Romney grew \$76 million. It marked the first month in which the Romney camp outraised the Obama camp.

Did Obama's same-sex marriage support have any influence on that? Probably not. A wide variety of independent surveys by news and polling groups showed the two major party candidates tied since the beginning of May—trading the lead but almost always within the margin of error. And an NBC-Wall Street Journal poll of 1,000 registered voters May 16-20 found that 62 percent of registered voters surveyed said the two candidates' positions on same-sex marriage—Obama for, Romney against—made no difference in their expected votes.

"When it comes to your decision to support Barack Obama, does his position favoring same-sex marriage reinforce the reason to support him, give you concern about supporting him, or really not make much difference either way?" asked the poll of those respondents who said they were leaning toward Obama. Sixty-two percent said it didn't make much difference either way, 31 percent said it reinforced their support, and seven percent said it gave them some concern. When the pollsters asked Romney supporters how the Republican's position opposing same-sex marriage affected them, the responses were nearly the same: 59 percent said it didn't matter, 32 percent said it reinforced their support, eight percent had concerns (and one percent was unsure).

An ABC-Washington Post poll of 1,004 adults May 17-20 found only one percent considered "gay marriage/gay rights" to be the "most important issue" in their choice for president. Ditto, a



President Obama. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

CNN poll of 1,009 adults May 29-31.

Still, gay money in the campaign has been getting a lot of attention. A CNN analysis published June 6 credited gay donors with raising at least \$8 million for the Obama re-election campaign even before the president's May 9 announcement. It said its analysis of Obama's biggest donors showed "at least 33—or about one in every 16 bundlers—is openly gay."

A Washington Post article May 7 estimated one in six of Obama's contribution bundlers were gay. (The paper did not reveal how it came to that estimate, other than to say it reviewed donor lists, and, as CNN noted, Federal Election Commission rules do not require donors to indicate their sexual orientation. CNN said it based its estimate on "bundlers who have disclosed their orientation in past CNN reporting or in trusted LGBT publications were counted as gay." CNN did not disclose which publications it relied on, but noted that openly gay software millionaire Tim Gill and his partner have contributed \$672,800 to the Obama for America campaign, and Chicago Newsweb Corporation owner Fred Eychaner has contributed \$1.2 million.)

OpenSecrets.org, an independent organization tracking the flow of campaign funding, posted a chart of 27 LGBT bundlers—13 of whom had raised more than \$500,000 each. Among those 13 were Sally Susman, an executive vice president at the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer; Joseph Falk, past president of the National Association of Mortgage Brokers; James Costos, a vice president at HBO, and his partner, designer Michael Smith; Kathy Levinson, former president of E-Trade; and Chicago Cubs co-owner Laura Ricketts.

To put the bundlers' role in perspective, the Human Rights Campaign political action committee reported that, through April 30, it had received contributions totaling \$218,816. The national gay conservative group GOProud and the political action committee of Log Cabin Republicans show no money raised for campaign financing.

President Obama appeared before several high-profile, big-ticket LGBT fundraisers in the past few weeks. On June 6, he spoke at a fundraiser sponsored by the Democratic National Committee's LGBT Leadership Council in Los Angeles. Then, he spoke to a fundraiser nearby at the private home of Ryan Murphy, the creator of *Glee*, a television series popular with many in the LGBT community.

An estimated 600 people attended the DNC-LGBT gala at the Regent Beverly Wilshire, paying somewhere between \$1,000 and \$5,000 each. According to a White House pool reporter, the audience there gave President Obama a "prolonged standing ovation, chanting 'Four more years!'"

The more private reception at *Glee* creator Murphy's cost the estimated 70 attendees \$38,500 each. According to the White House pool reporter, the president spoke for about 12 minutes then took questions but the reporter was not allowed to stay for the question-and-answer period. Although the pool reporter did not recognize anyone in the crowd, he said a campaign official told him it included actors Julia Roberts, Reese Witherspoon and Jane Lynch. It also included Jack Calhoun, the president of Banana Republic/Gap Inc., and Michael Lombardo, another HBO executive.

The two events were expected to raise several million dollars for the president's re-election campaign.

"I could not be prouder of the work that we've done on behalf of the LGBT community," said President Obama, in front of the DNC-LGBT Leadership Council gala. "From the work we did to facilitate hospital visitations to ending the HIV/AIDS ban, to the work we did to pass the Matthew Shepard law, to repealing 'don't ask, don't tell,' to all the administrative work that's been done by agencies to make sure that folks are fully recognized is something that I'm personally very proud of."

The DNC's LGBT Leadership Council, founded in 2000, works to ensure the Democratic Party's platform includes and respects the rights of LGBT Americans. At its gala last year in New

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—Kate Clinton (left) at lesbian telesummit

—Man poses as gay—for a year

—Professor nabbed as transgender escort

York, some in the audience criticized President Obama for not endorsing passage of the then-pending legislation in the New York legislature to allow same-sex couples to marry.

The Leadership Council also held fundraiser for Obama in New York last month, with entertainer Ricky Martin as host. That fundraiser sold out after President Obama gave his interview in support of same-sex marriage, according to OpenSecrets.org.

But whatever millions the LGBT community has chipped into the Obama re-election coffers, it pales in contrast to the money piling up on Republican nominee Mitt Romney's side.

Politico.com reported last month that Republican political strategist Karl Rove and allies have promised to raise \$1 billion in pro-Romney communications.

They are aided in large part by the U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*. In that decision, a split court ruled that the First Amendment prohibits the federal government from limiting how much corporations and unions can spend on "electioneering communications." Through so-called "Super PACs," corporations quickly began pouring money into such communications to support pro-corporate candidates. One prominent pro-Romney super PAC, Restore Our Future, reported raising more than \$26 million through April 30, compared to the \$4.7 million raised by the prominent pro-Obama super PAC "Priorities USA Action."

One prominent donor to the pro-Romney super PAC was Paul Singer, a billionaire investor whose son is gay. Ironically, the New York Times reported last weekend that Singer has also just announced forming his own super PAC—the American Unity PAC—with plans to direct \$1 million toward Republicans who support same-sex marriage.

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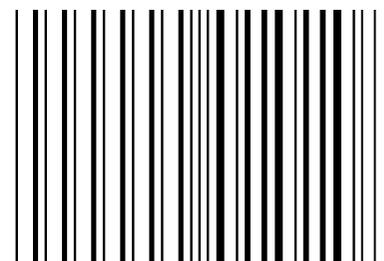
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Methodist clergy takes stand against anti-LGBT bias

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Going against the wishes of the church hierarchy and doctrine, United Methodists in the Northern Illinois Conference (NIC) recently signed a pledge of resistance and non-cooperation towards the church's discriminatory policies against LGBT people and their allies.

NIC members made the commitment "to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves" and embrace the higher law of "biblical obedience" at their annual conference "Celebrate God's Amazing Work" held June 6-9 at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Ill.

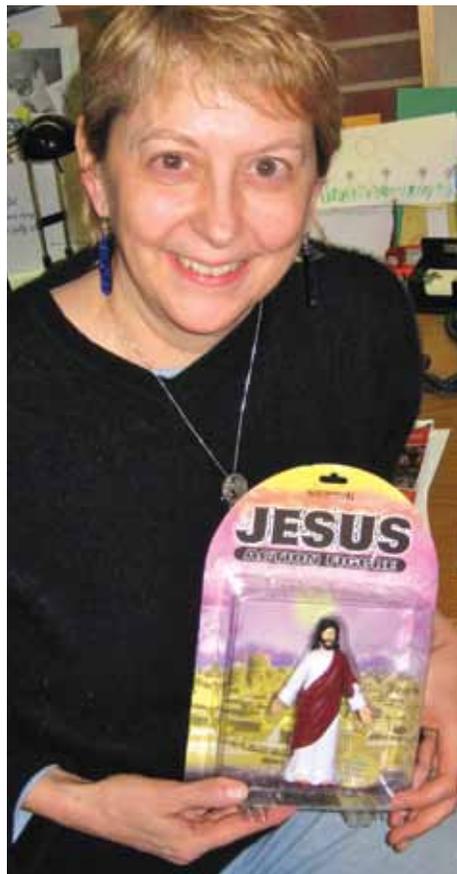
The NIC's pledge of resistance comes on the heels of the worldwide general conference for Methodist clergy. The conference was held this past spring in Tampa, Fla. and during the conference—which is held every four years—the global denomination voted to continue its discriminatory policies against LGBT people.

Speaking out against the anti-LGBT policies that the wider Methodist church voted to uphold at the conference, the "Love Your Neighbor" Common Witness Coalition held an event, "Altar For All—Celebrating Marriage: Witnessing God's Inclusive Love," to affirm its support for marriage equality.

Currently, the United Methodist Church (UMC) prohibits clergy from performing same-sex weddings and recognizing same-sex couples. More than 1,200 Methodist ministers have already pledged to fulfill their ordination vows to minister to all people and they are calling for more United Methodists to pledge their support for marriage equality.

The groups that make up the Common Witness Coalition include Affirmation: United Methodists, Black Methodists for Church Renewal, the Methodist Federation for Social Action, the National Federation of Asian-American United Methodists, the Native-American International Caucus of the United Methodist Church and the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN). According to their website the coalition "works for a more inclusive church for LGBT people, always in a broader context that strives for justice around issues of race, gender, global partnerships, peace, stewardship of creation and economic justice."

According to their website the RMN is "a growing movement of United Methodist individuals, congregations, campus ministries and other groups working for the full participation of all people in the United Methodist Church. We have mobilized United Methodists to create full inclu-



Rev. Lois McCullen Parr of Broadway UMC. Photo by John Fenoglio

sion of all God's children regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity since 1982."

Chairperson of the RMN board and lead pastor of First United Methodist Church in Arlington Heights, Ill., Rev. Bonnie Beckonchrist remarked that there are more than 500 RMN congregations and communities nationwide—30 of which are in the NIC. However, she noted that "the church's witness is critical to those places where the church's official stance continues to do harm."

RMN Executive Director the Rev. Troy Plummer said, "We are building relationships in tough states like Mississippi, Tennessee and Georgia and we are also advancing equality in Minnesota, Washington and Iowa. In Tennessee, United Methodists passed an anti-bullying commitment, and over 70 percent of our Minnesota United Methodist voters oppose the anti-gay marriage amendment coming to the ballot in November.

"This past year, we also reached out to United Methodists in the Philippines and Africa where

LGBT people can be incarcerated and executed. Across the spectrum, we are helping people take the next step wherever they are to foster the inclusive church we know Christ calls us to be."

The Rev. Marti Scott, pastor at Euclid Avenue UMC in Oak Park, said, "We must refuse to obey unjust laws. In northern Illinois, our congregations are filled with LGBT persons who are in our Bible studies, leadership committees, and every aspect of ministry in the church. Our declaration in favor of LGBT people affirms the ministry we are already dedicated to and practicing."

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr—pastor at Broadway UMC in Boystown—added, "It's a luxury to be in northern Illinois and to serve in an open and affirming congregation filled with LGBT folks in leadership and ministry. I know there are people who left Tampa and went back to places that are hostile and do harm. I think that clergy members like myself need to be a witness to the wider church with the work that we do as members

of the RMN."

Of the RMN and its work, Ann Craig said, "As a lifelong United Methodist and the daughter of a minister, I know that Reconciling Ministries has opened the hearts, minds and doors of so many United Methodists.

"In my home church one young person recently came out and her parents were able to turn to their minister for support—largely because RMN has educated pastors across the country on the life-saving importance of welcoming everyone. At this General Conference we did not vote a policy change, but the church was changed. I believe we will see the United Methodist Church be more open, less punitive and more willing to set aside unfair—and even un-Christian—rules in favor of living out core values of love and service."

See www.rmnetwork.org, www.gc12.org and www.umcnic.org for more information.



State Rep. Deb Mell. Photo by Hal Baim

said. "I will continue to serve my constituents, and hope for a speedy recovery."

Mell and her wife were married in Iowa in 2011, and later celebrated their union in Chicago.

Deb asked for prayers for Christin because she is a miserable patient.

A Democrat, Mell was first elected in Nov. 4, 2008. Her father is Ald. Richard Mell and her sister is Patti Blagojevich, wife of former Gov. Rob Blagojevich.

U. of C. gets top LGBT rating

Campus Pride has reviewed more than 300 colleges and universities, according to LGBT friendliness, the Huffington Post reported. More than two dozen factors were taken into consideration, including course offerings, housing and policies.

Twenty-eight schools received a top rating of five stars, including the Ohio State University, Stanford University, Indiana University, Dartmouth College, Princeton University and the University of Chicago.

Among other Illinois schools that were evaluated were Aurora University (Aurora, Ill.; three stars), Southern Illinois University-Carbondale (Carbondale; 4.5 stars), Adler School of Professional Psychology (Chicago; two entries of 2.5 and three stars), Columbia College (Chicago; four stars), DePaul University (Chicago; 3.5 stars), Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago; 2.5 stars), Northwestern University (Evanston; four stars) Roosevelt University (Chicago; 3.5 stars), Roosevelt University-Chicago campus (Chicago; 4.5 stars) and the University of Illinois at Chicago (Chicago; 4.5 stars).

The full list is at www.CampusClimateIndex.org.

State Rep. Deb Mell diagnosed with cancer

BY TRACY BAIM

State Rep. Deborah Mell, one of three openly gay members of the Illinois General Assembly, has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Mell, 43, represents the 40th District on the city's Northwest Side. She told Windy City Times that the cancer is Stage 1, and that she is pursuing expert advice from her doctors. She will receive more tests including a genetic test to help inform her treatment options.

"I am very grateful for my wife, Christin, my family and friends and especially the radiology team at Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Center at Northwestern who found the cancer." Mell

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LGBTs important part of Netroots Nation Conference

BY CHUCK COLBERT

For the hundred-plus LGBT bloggers, activists, journalists and community leaders who attended the Netroots Nation conference in Providence, Rhode Island, recently, two key buzzwords—networking and intersectionality—were also take-away messages from the annual gathering of the political left.

“The highlight of the pre-convention was, to me, found” in connecting “names and faces with people we only knew from the web,” said San Diego-based Autumn Sandeen, a transgender activist and blogger for Pam’s House Blend. Meeting folks in person, she added, created an opportunity for “collaboration.”

Sandeen was referring to LGBT Netroots Connect, a one-day programming component of Netroots Nation, the political convention for American liberal to progressive activists.

This year Netroots Nation drew 3,000 people, including Representative Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., who is hoping to become the first out lesbian to be elected to the U.S. Senate.

LGBT Netroots Connect was held June 6, a day before the larger Netroots Nation gathering, June 7-10.

“Netroots Nation has always had a gay presence,” said Mike Rogers, managing director of Raw Story and a Washington, D.C.-based activist. “But by having a pre-convention, we are able to create small-group connecting within the work that we do.”

Rogers is director of LGBT Netroots Connect.

The day’s programming included a discussion of best practices for online individuals and organization, including tips on how to drive website traffic, attract blog advertising, optimize search engine capacity, and conducting opposition research.

Same-sex marriage remains a predominant issue for the LGBT community. Accordingly, one marriage-related panel discussion focused on ballot-box versus legal strategies, federal versus state approaches to achieving marriage equality, coalition-building with communities of color, the whys of marriage referenda losses, and the role of religious opposition to gay marriage.

And yet same-sex marriage was among other conversations of importance, including one panel on immigration policy as it pertains to binational couples and support for undocumented LGBT folks.

In another panel discussion, pre-convention participants also tackled the topic of LGBT health and HIV/AIDS.

In yet another conversation, attendees shared strategies on advancing fuller LGBT equality in red and purple states, those primarily in the South, Midwest, and Rocky Mountain West.

Over the last few years, the gathering of LGBTs has “taken on different operational forms,” said Rogers, referring to initial efforts at breaking down barriers among online folks. Networking expanded, he explained, by adding journalists and individuals from LGBT organizations to the mix.

“This year we had more conversations about our personal experiences and how they affect the issues and work we do and how folks can get skill sets to explain those stories,” said Rogers.

In addition to LGBT Connect, Netroots Nation’s general program featured two LGBT-specific panel sessions, one on the topic of marriage equality: past present, and future, and the other, blogging for transgender equality: history, challenges, and progress.

Netroots Nation also held a marriage-equality caucus and an LGBT caucus.

The same-sex marriage discussion featured leaders from all four states with referenda on the ballot this fall—Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and Washington state.

One of this year’s great successes, said Rogers, was the inclusion of an LGBT caucus where issues beyond marriage came under consideration.

“One of the things I am most proud of is the extent to which Netroots Nation went to make transgender inclusion” a reality, said Rogers.

The transgender panel in fact provided a good example of intersectionality.

“Intersectionality isn’t just a talking point,” said panelist Sandeen.

“It’s a means to achieve positive ends for multiple communities by increasing the numbers of people working on issues we care about.”

As she explained, “We talked in our session a great deal about how we trans activists are in-



Mike Rogers. Photo by Chuck Colbert

tersectional in the way we do activism, and that basic, intersectionality theme that was repeated throughout the conference.

“I met trans activists Jos Truitt, who has a long history working on reproductive rights issues, and Monica Roberts, who works to build bridges between the LGBT and black communities,” said Sandeen.

“Seeing the work these trans activists do, and seeing up close how strong and powerful these folk really are, plus just getting to know them as people—that alone for me made the entire trip an incredible experience,” she explained.

Also on the panel was Jennifer Levi, Transgender Rights Project director at Boston-based Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD). Jillian Weiss, Ph.D., a contributor to the Bilerico Project blog, moderated the discussion.

Weiss voiced gratitude to Rogers for enabling so many people to meet face-to-face. “His vision has created a space where people who communicate all year long by means of blogs, Facebook, and Twitter can come meet face-to-face to talk about the major issues for year ahead. This conference is invaluable because it moves on-line advocacy to off-line communication and action,” she said.

Read the entire article online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.



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making the case for equality

www.lambdalegal.org/ILove



COMPLERA (emtricitabine/rilpivirine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV medicines before. COMPLERA does not cure HIV or AIDS or help prevent passing HIV to others.

The **one** pill for me

Patient model. Pill shown is not actual size.

INDICATION

COMPLERA® (emtricitabine 200 mg/rilpivirine 25 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) is a prescription HIV medicine that contains 3 medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine), EDURANT™ (rilpivirine), and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) combined in one pill. COMPLERA is used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 infection in adults (age 18 and older) who have never taken HIV medicines before.

COMPLERA does not cure HIV and has not been shown to prevent passing HIV to others. It is important to always practice safer sex, use latex or polyurethane condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids, and to never re-use or share needles. **Do not stop taking COMPLERA unless directed by your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly.**

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Contact your healthcare provider right away if you get the following side effects or conditions while taking COMPLERA:

- Nausea, vomiting, unusual muscle pain, and/or weakness. These may be signs of a buildup of acid in the blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious medical condition
- Light-colored stools, dark-colored urine, and/or if your skin or the whites of your eyes turn yellow. These may be signs of serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly), and fat in the liver (steatosis)
- If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B virus (HBV), your liver disease may suddenly get worse if you stop taking COMPLERA. Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition

COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects.

Do not take COMPLERA if you are taking the following medicines:

- other HIV medicines (COMPLERA provides a complete treatment for HIV infection.)
- the anti-seizure medicines carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®, Epitol®), oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®), phenobarbital (Luminal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®, Dilantin-125®, Phenytek®)
- the anti-tuberculosis medicines rifabutin (Mycobutin), rifampin (Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®) and rifapentine (Priftin®)
- a proton pump inhibitor medicine for certain stomach or intestinal problems, including esomeprazole (Nexium®, Vimovo®), lansoprazole (Prevacid®), omeprazole (Prilosec®), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix®), rabeprazole (Aciphex®)
- more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- other medicines that contain tenofovir (VIREAD®, TRUVADA®, ATRIPLA®)
- other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (EMTRIVA®, Combivir®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Trizivir®)
- rilpivirine (Eduvant™)
- adefovir (HEPSERA®)

In addition, also tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA
- a histamine-2 blocker medicine, including famotidine (Pepcid®), cimetidine (Tagamet®), nizatidine (Axid®), or ranitidine hydrochloride (Zantac®). Take these medicines at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA
- the antibiotic medicines clarithromycin (Biaxin®), erythromycin (E-Mycin®, Eryc®, Ery-Tab®, PCE®, Pediazole®, Ilosone®), and troleandomycin (TAO®)
- an antifungal medicine by mouth, including fluconazole (Diflucan®), itraconazole (Sporanox®), ketoconazole (Nizoral®), posaconazole (Noxafil®), voriconazole (Vfend®)
- methadone (Dolophine®)

This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss with your healthcare provider all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.

Save up to
\$200
 per month

You may be able to save on the co-pay for your COMPLERA prescription with a Gilead HIV Co-pay Assistance Card.

Call 1-877-505-6986 for more information or visit www.COMPLERA.com.*



COMPLERA. A complete HIV treatment in only 1 pill a day.

Ask your healthcare provider if it's the **one** for you.

Before taking COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have **liver problems**, including **hepatitis B or C** virus infection
- have **kidney problems**
- have ever had a **mental health problem**
- have **bone problems**
- are **pregnant or plan to become pregnant**. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- are breastfeeding; **women with HIV should not breast-feed** because they can pass HIV through their milk to the baby

Contact your healthcare provider right away if you experience any of the following serious or common side effects:

Serious side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- **New or worse kidney problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA
- **Depression or mood changes** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, or if you have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effect of these conditions are not known
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine

Common side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, and depression

Other side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles), and pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist. Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.

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

Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it

- **Always take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink does not replace a meal
- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA and see your healthcare provider regularly**

Please see Patient Information for COMPLERA on the following pages.

*The co-pay program covers up to \$200 per month for 1 year from card activation or until the card expires, up to \$2400 in a calendar year. The program is subject to change or cancellation at any time.



COMPLERA[®]
 emtricitabine 200mg/rilpivirine 25mg/
 tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

Learn more at www.COMPLERA.com

FDA-Approved Patient Labeling**Patient Information****COMPLERA® (kom-PLUH-rah)****(emtricitabine, rilpivirine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) Tablets**

Important: Ask your doctor or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with COMPLERA. For more information, see the section “What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?”

Read this Patient Information before you start taking COMPLERA and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?**COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:**

1. Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take COMPLERA or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. **Lactic acidosis** is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.

Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feeling very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with
 - nausea (feel sick to your stomach)
 - vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

2. Severe liver problems. Severe liver problems can happen in people who take COMPLERA or similar medicines. In some cases these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis) when you take COMPLERA.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms of liver problems:

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA or a similar medicine containing nucleoside analogs for a long time.

3. Worsening of Hepatitis B infection. If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking COMPLERA, your HBV infection may become worse (flare-up). A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

- Do not let your COMPLERA run out. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your COMPLERA is all gone.
- Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking COMPLERA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do regular blood tests to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking COMPLERA.

What is COMPLERA?

COMPLERA is a prescription HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) medicine that:

- is used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have **never** taken HIV medicines before. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome).
- contains 3 medicines, (rilpivirine, emtricitabine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) combined in one tablet. EMTRIVA and VIREAD are HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) and EDURANT is an HIV-1 non-nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI).

It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years.

COMPLERA may help:

- Reduce the amount of HIV in your blood. This is called your “viral load”.
- Increase the number of white blood cells called CD4+ (T) cells that help fight off other infections.

Reducing the amount of HIV and increasing the CD4+ (T) cell count may improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

COMPLERA does not cure HIV infections or AIDS.

- Always practice safer sex.
- Use latex or polyurethane condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids such as semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- Never re-use or share needles.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

- Do not take COMPLERA if your HIV infection has been previously treated with HIV medicines.
- **Do not take COMPLERA if you are taking certain other medicines.** For more information about medicines that must not be taken with COMPLERA, see “What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?”

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?**Before you take COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- have liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection
- have kidney problems
- have ever had a mental health problem
- have bone problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- **Pregnancy Registry.** There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. Its purpose is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that mothers with HIV not breastfeed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. It is not known if COMPLERA can pass through your breast milk and harm your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects. If you take certain medicines with COMPLERA, the amount of COMPLERA in your body may be too low and it may not work to help control your HIV infection. The HIV virus in your body may become resistant to COMPLERA or other HIV medicines that are like it.

Do not take COMPLERA if you also take these medicines:

- COMPLERA provides a complete treatment for HIV infection. Do not take other HIV medicines with COMPLERA.
- the anti-seizure medicines carbamazepine (CARBATROL®, EQUETRO®, TEGRETOL®, TEGRETOL-XR®, TERIL®, EPITOL®), oxcarbazepine (TRILEPTAL®), phenobarbital (LUMINAL®), phenytoin (DILANTIN®, DILANTIN-125®, PHENYTEK®)
- the anti-tuberculosis medicines rifabutin (MYCOBUTIN®), rifampin (RIFATER®, RIFAMATE®, RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®) and rifapentine (PRIFTIN®)
- a proton pump inhibitor medicine for certain stomach or intestinal problems, including esomeprazole (NEXIUM®, VIMOVO®), lansoprazole (PREVACID®), omeprazole (PRILOSEC®), pantoprazole sodium (PROTONIX®), rabeprazole (ACIPHEX®)
- more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

If you are taking COMPLERA, you should not take:

- other medicines that contain tenofovir (VIREAD®, TRUVADA®, ATRIPLA®)
- other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (EMTRIVA®, COMBIVIR®, EPIVIR® or EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM®, TRIZIVIR®)
- rilpivirine (EDURANT™)
- adefovir (HEPSERA®)

Also tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- a histamine-2 blocker medicine, including famotidine (PEPCID®), cimetidine (TAGAMET®), nizatidine (AXID®), or ranitidine hydrochloride (ZANTAC®). Take these medicines at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- the antibiotic medicines clarithromycin (BIAXIN®), erythromycin (E-MYCIN®, ERYC®, ERY-TAB®, PCE®, PEDIAZOLE®, ILOSONE®), and troleandomycin (TAO®)
- an antifungal medicine by mouth, including fluconazole (DIFLUCAN®), itraconazole (SPORANOX®), ketoconazole (NIZORAL®), posaconazole (NOXAFIL®), voriconazole (VFEND®)
- methadone (DOLOPHINE®)

Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one that is listed above.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Your healthcare provider and your pharmacist can tell you if you can take these medicines with COMPLERA. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider or pharmacist. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that can interact with COMPLERA.

How should I take COMPLERA?

- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA.**
- **Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Always take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink does not replace a meal.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly while taking COMPLERA.
- If you miss a dose of COMPLERA within 12 hours of the time you usually take it, take your dose of COMPLERA with a meal as soon as possible. Then, take your next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time. If you miss a dose of COMPLERA by more than 12 hours of the time you usually take it, wait and then take the next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time.
- Do not take more than your prescribed dose to make up for a missed dose.
- When your COMPLERA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is very important not to run out of COMPLERA. The amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you take too much COMPLERA, contact your local poison control center or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

What are the possible side effects of COMPLERA?

COMPLERA may cause the following serious side effects, including:

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**
 - feeling sad or hopeless
 - feeling anxious or restless
 - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effect of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.

The most common side effects of COMPLERA include:

- trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- abnormal dreams
- headache
- dizziness
- diarrhea
- nausea
- rash
- tiredness
- depression

Additional common side effects include:

- vomiting
- stomach pain or discomfort
- skin discoloration (small spots or freckles)
- pain

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

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

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 (1-800-332-1088).

How do I store COMPLERA?

- Store COMPLERA at room temperature 77 °F (25 °C).
- Keep COMPLERA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not use COMPLERA if the seal over the bottle opening is broken or missing.

Keep COMPLERA and all other medicines out of reach of children.**General information about COMPLERA:**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use COMPLERA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give COMPLERA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about COMPLERA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about COMPLERA that is written for health professionals. For more information, call (1-800-445-3235) or go to www.COMPLERA.com.

What are the ingredients of COMPLERA?

Active ingredients: emtricitabine, rilpivirine hydrochloride, and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

Inactive ingredients: pregelatinized starch, lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, povidone, polysorbate 20. The tablet film coating contains polyethylene glycol, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, triacetin, titanium dioxide, iron oxide red, FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, FD&C Yellow #6 aluminum lake.

This Patient Information has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Manufactured and distributed by:

Gilead Sciences, Inc.
Foster City, CA 94404

Issued: August 2011

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From left: Former NFL player Wade Davis Jr., who recently came out; Laura Ricketts and Miguel Ayala; and President Obama at the White House LGBT reception. Photos by Tracy Baim

Obama hosts White House Pride

President Barack Obama hosted his 4th annual Pride Month reception in the East Room of the White House June 15, with LGBTs and allies from around the U.S. attending, including several in full military uniform.

There were philanthropists, big-ticket Democratic donors, youth and senior advocates, business leaders, journalists and a wide geographic diversity of people at the reception, including several from Chicago.

Chicagoans at the event included Laura Ricketts, Jim Bennett, Jane Saks, Emma Ruby-Sachs and two of the founders of the Great Lakes Naval Base GLASS gay organization, FC3 Ann Foster and FC3 Liz Greenwood. Former Chicagoans were also well-represented, including Miguel Ayala, Heather Sawyer and Nan Schaffer.

Publisher Tracy Baim and Director of New Media Jean Albright were there from Windy City Times.

His speech from the event is at www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Obama-hosts-4th-LGBT-Pride-Month-reception/38151.html.

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We Salute
Chicago's LGBT
Community
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Chicago OEMC investigating transphobic scanner exchange

BY KATE SOSIN

The Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) has launched an investigation into a police-scanner exchange after officers faulted a robbery victim for staying out late and associating with "boys in dresses."

Delores Robinson, a spokesperson for OEMC, said that the incident is under investigation and is being taken seriously.

"We just want the public and your readers to know that we are trying to determine exactly what happened," said Robinson.

In the investigation comes after four to five people robbed a man of his phone in Lakeview June 10.

Windy City Times obtained a recording of a police scanner exchange that appears to reference the robbery, in which the robbers 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.

The comments come at a time when LGBT organizations are pushing for a transgender policy for the Chicago Police Department and when many Lakeview residents are worried about neighborhood crime after a string of widely publicized violent incidents last summer.

Chicago 1st Ward Alderman Proco "Joe" Moreno recently introduced a City Council ordinance that would mandate the transgender sensitivity trainings that activists have been pushing for within CPD. Moreno said the scanner comments

are part of a larger problem.

"It just goes to show why this transgender ordinance I'm introducing is so crucial," Moreno said.

The ordinance has been stalled, however, because some LGBT groups object to revisions made to the document. An initial draft of the ordinance gave community leaders oversight, while the current document would place policy oversight in the hands of City Council. Moreno said he is in talks with LGBT groups, Mayor Emanuel and other alderman now and hopes the ordinance will move by next month.

Robinson would not say if OEMC has specific policy for handling complaints related to sexual orientation or gender identity.

"Whether it was boys in dresses or girls in shorts does not matter," said Robinson. "It is our job to assist them."

Robinson said that allegations are investigated regardless of the identities of those involved.

"If there were any inappropriate or unprofessional comments made, then that's what we'll address," she said.

State's attorney Pride event June 26 at Center

Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez will host the "3rd Annual Pride Celebration and Awards Ceremony" Tuesday, June 26, at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

The reception will begin at 5:30 p.m., with the ceremony at 6:30 p.m.

Chicago Human Relations Commissioner Mona Noriega and state Rep. Greg Harris will be honored.

To RSVP, contact Ta'sha Williams at 312-603-8730.

LGBTs praise Obama's immigrant policy change

Lambda Legal issued a press release praising the Obama Administration after an announcement that the United States will stop deporting illegal immigrant youths who meet certain requirements.

Ivan Espinoza-Madrigal, a staff attorney for Lambda Legal, said, "This is great news for millions of young people who will no longer live under the threat of being removed to countries where they may not ever have lived or even speak the language. Many of them openly identify as LGBT, and their work and activism shows how the movement for immigrants' rights is inextricably intertwined with the LGBT struggle for equality."

National Center for Lesbian Rights Executive Director Kate Kendell stated in a separate statement, "This is a monumental development that will change the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people who have already contributed so much to this country and who will now be free from the specter of being brutally removed from their families and homes. Young people who came to this country as children and want to work hard, go to school, defend this country's constitutional ideals by serving in our military, and contribute to society should be given the opportunity to do so."

According to CNN, the new policy states that people younger than 30 who came to the United States before the age of 16; pose no criminal or security threat; and were successful students or served in the military can defer deportation for two years.

HRC releases youth survey

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) released a groundbreaking study of LGBT-identified young people and a associated study of straight teens that shows large disparities between the two groups, according to a press release.

With more than 10,000 respondents ages 13-17, "Growing Up LGBT in America" is the largest known survey of LGBT teens.

Among the report's key findings:

—More than one-half of LGBT youth (54 percent) say they have been verbally harassed and called names involving anti-gay slurs;

—Nearly half of LGBT youth (47 percent) say they do not "fit in" in their community while only 16 percent of non-LGBT youth feel that way; and

—More than 90 percent say they hear negative messages about being LGBT—and 60 percent say those messages come from elected leaders.

When asked to describe their most important problem, straight teens articulated the usual challenges of grades and college and finances. Conversely, LGBT teens' worries were directly related to their identity as LGBT, including non-accepting families and bullying.

"No one would say that growing up LGBT is easy, but this survey is a stark wake-up call to the daily toll that discrimination takes on vulnerable young people," said new HRC President Chad Griffin. "We have a responsibility to change that, because we know all too well that there are real life consequences to inaction."

A full copy of the report is available at www.hrc.org/youth.

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State's attorney will not defend marriage ban

BY KATE SOSIN

In a major gain for LGBT marriage advocates in Illinois, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez will file a legal response in support of two lawsuits that aim to bring marriage equality to Illinois.

The filing leaves the two lawsuits virtually unchallenged by Illinois officials.

Alvarez is charged with defending Cook County Clerk David Orr in lawsuits brought by Lambda Legal and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) that claim Orr's refusal to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples is unconstitutional.

"We are in agreement with the plaintiffs that Illinois laws that prohibit same sex marriage are unconstitutional," said the state's attorney's office in a statement. "We believe the plaintiffs are correct in their assertion that the Illinois Constitution upholds marriage equality for same sex couples just as it does for opposite-sex couples."

Orr, a longtime LGBT ally, has repeatedly stated that he supports the lawsuits.

"Government should not be in the business of discriminating," Orr said at a June 14 press conference at the Daley Center.

Attorney General Lisa Madigan has also filed to intervene in support of the suits, stating that the ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. As a result, no elected official who can counter the lawsuits will do so.

"This is unprecedented," said Camilla Taylor, national marriage project director of Lambda Legal. "I can honestly say this has never happened before."

The two lawsuits, filed simultaneously in the Circuit Court of Cook County, represent 25 same-sex couples that tried to obtain marriage licenses from Orr's office but were denied. If success-

ful, the suits would result in marriage equality throughout the state.

The lawsuits argue that civil unions, which began a year ago, have failed to provide same-sex couples with the same rights and symbolic meaning conferred by marriage. As a result, plaintiffs argue that the ban on same-sex marriage violates the state's equal protection clause.

"Civil unions brand these couples as worth less than other families, and children feel that," said Taylor.

The lawsuits will not go unopposed, however.

Peter Breen—executive director of the Thomas More Society, a law firm that opposes same-sex marriage—said his firm will file to intervene against the lawsuits.

Breen alleged the suits were an attempt to "make an end run around the legislation" and speculated that the lawsuits were "an inside job" between LGBT organizations, Orr, Madigan and Alvarez.

Both Taylor and Orr have said they did not communicate before the suits were filed.

Breen's firm is the same one that represented a group of Catholic charities that unsuccessfully sued the state over foster care contracts. The charities lost those contracts for refusing to place children with same-sex parents.

Breen said his firm will defend the ban because officials have failed to do so. However, it remains uncertain if Breen will be granted the right to intervene. He must first prove a vested interest in the suits.

Reporters pressed Alvarez on the legality of refusing to fight the lawsuits, which she said had correctly interpreted the law.

Asked if the lawsuits put her in a difficult position politically, Alvarez responded that they did not.

"It's not an uncomfortable position for me to be in," she said. "It is a little unusual."



David Orr and Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez. Photo by Kate Sosin

Alvarez has been vocal about LGBT rights in the past, including her support for marriage equality.

Ed Yohnka, director of communications for the ACLU of Illinois, said his organization was pleased but not surprised by the filings.

"It is not surprising that after the state's attorney and her colleagues were able to review our complaint and the Illinois Constitution, they

reached the same conclusion," he said. "Most of all, we are happy that we are one day closer to winning the freedom to marry for our plaintiffs and for thousands of couples across Illinois."

Taylor said the support of all three government officials signals a new day in Illinois, which lags behind neighboring Iowa in granting marriage equality by three years.

"We are a tipping point," she said. "We really are."



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Deaf queer confab to be largest ever

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Deaf Queer Men Only (DQMO) conference will be held in Chicago Aug. 1-5, and it will be the largest DQMO event ever—with a waiting list of others eager to attend.

"In 2008, the conference was held in San Francisco and 86 attended. In 2010, also in San Francisco, there was a slight increase [in attendance, up to] 106 attending," said Juan Bernal, co-chairperson for the 2012 event. "We won the bid for Chicago to host [the conference] in 2012 and were expected 150 deaf. We had to stop the registration at 230 participants. We are still receiving pleas for deaf wanting to register."

The conference features multiple events around Chicago, including the opening ceremony at Spin Night Club, followed later that night by the Blue Black White Contest. There will be speakers and more and a Navy Pier cruise. There will be DQMO events at the Center on Halsted and such area bars as Charlie's, Atmosphere and Jackhammer.

The dinner and Chicago scenic boat cruise likely will be the most popular events, Bernal said.

About 25 percent of attendees are from Chicago, with others from across the U.S., Canada and many other countries.

"This [event] puts Chicago on the map," to



the deaf queer male community, Bernal said. Plus, it "brings in tourism from other countries."

Bernal, who lives in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood with his husband (Tim Mahoney), works at Great Lakes Navy Base.

"My favorite memory from a past conference was two years ago in San Francisco. I met fellow deaf GLBTQ from around the country and have kept in touch," Bernal said. "My favorite memories are attending the workshops. [They are] so much to learn about ourselves."

Bernal said Chicago's deaf queer men community is about 100 or 150.

"The sponsored donations received limited us to a venue," he said. "More sponsors could help us move to a larger venue, thus opening up registration again for more deaf to attend and learn about our specific community."

"The DQMO is a biennial event that is held in different cities, for deaf gay men who love men to gather and share experiences of their lives. We give workshops on various topics and [have] team-building activities in the city. It is our space to be ourselves. The event is mainly for deaf gay men from all walks of life to celebrate our identity, understand each other and support, and our experiences."

About 30 international attendees are expected.

"I have gone [to DQMO] twice and always have [had] a great time with my friends, old and new," Bernal said. "I've always learned new things and explored the city with 106 wonderful guys, and made long lasting friendships."

For more information, visit www.DQMO.org.



Attendees at a past DQMO conference. Photo from Juan Bernal

Esteem Awards June 30

PrideIndex.com will host its annual Esteem Awards June 30 at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., 2-4 p.m.

Since 2007, the awards have honored local and national organizations and individuals for their continued efforts in supporting the African-American and LGBT communities in the areas of entertainment, media, civil rights, business and art.

This year's honorees include Affinity Community Services, former mayoral LGBT liaison Bill Greaves, Towleroad.com, TheGrio.com, transgender activist June LaTrobe and Dr. Cathy Cohen, among others.

This event is free. See www.TheEsteemAwards.com or www.PrideIndex.com.



Sukie de la Croix was an honoree at the 2011 Esteem Awards. Photo by Kate Sosin

Evenings

The Garden is open until 9 p.m.



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- It's not known whether taking *EGRIFTA*[®] helps improve compliance with antiretroviral medications
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Important Risk Information

Do not use *EGRIFTA*[®] if you:

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

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

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

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

- Serious allergic reaction. Stop using *EGRIFTA*[®] and get emergency help right away if you have any of the following symptoms: rash over your body, hives, swelling of your face or throat, shortness of breath or trouble breathing, fast heartbeat, feeling of faintness or fainting
- Swelling (fluid retention). *EGRIFTA*[®] can cause swelling in some parts of your body. Call your healthcare provider if you have an increase in joint pain, or pain or numbness in your hands or wrist (carpal tunnel syndrome)
- Increase in glucose (blood sugar) intolerance and diabetes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**EGRIFTA**[®]
tesamorelin for injection

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

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

What is **EGRIFTA**®?

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

Who should not use **EGRIFTA**®?

Do not use **EGRIFTA**® if you:

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

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

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

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

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

How should I use **EGRIFTA**®?

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

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

EGRIFTA® may cause serious side effects including:

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

- hives
- swelling of your face or throat
- shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- fast heartbeat
- feeling of faintness or fainting

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

- redness	- bleeding
- itching	- rash
- pain	- swelling
- irritation	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Active ingredient: tesamorelin

Inactive ingredients: mannitol and Sterile Water for Injection

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Lesbian activist reflects on new job

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Health policy and nonprofit consultant Andrea Densham was recently named executive director of the Childcare Network of Evanston (CNE).

Serving Evanston residents for 45 years, CNE's mission is to create awareness for the importance of early childhood education and advocate for the community's youngest members.

For 20 years, Densham has worked in community-driven public policy and advocacy, nonprofit management and strategic alliance building. As executive director of CNE, Densham will be responsible for running the organization, working with the board of directors, the policy committee and the staff to support the mission of the organization and look for ways to expand and have a greater impact in the community.

"I will be making sure the organization runs well and has the resources it needs for the staff and clients," said Densham. "I will be providing a vision which I hope to apply with the assistance of the staff, the board and the policy council (made up of clients and community leaders). I am really excited and thrilled to be working with them because I can use my professional and life experience doing work with non-profits in this position."

"We're excited to welcome Andrea Densham as executive director," said CNE Board President Deb Danson. "Martha Arntson, our out-going director, created a strong foundation to help ensure access to quality early care and education in our community and laid the groundwork for a smooth transition. Andrea is a leader with the vision, experience and passion to take CNE to the next level and beyond."

Born in Ann Arbor, Mich., Densham got her activist genes from her environmental activist family. This foundation stayed with Densham as she met other activists in the 1980s before heading off to college and it was through them that she learned about leadership, clear messaging and what it means to mobilize many communities together.

Densham graduated from the University of

Massachusetts-Boston with a B.A. in political science. While attending college, she continued to raise awareness about the HIV/AIDS epidemic having previously organized a protest in her hometown of Ann Arbor. Following graduation, Densham moved on to graduate school at the University of Chicago where she earned a masters degree in political science.

Since then, Densham has served on the boards of numerous organizations, including the Lesbian Community Cancer Project and the National Coalition on LGBT Health. She has also worked as a policy coordinator/project director at the University of Illinois-Chicago and as vice president of public health and government affairs for Prevent Blindness America. She has also owned her own consulting firm, Densham Consulting, since 2005.

Densham noted that all of her volunteer work reminds her what everyone brings to the table, not just the clients but also the volunteers. "I



Andrea Densham.

really believe in transforming change through identifying community assets and I think that my experience working in the LGBTQ community will help me achieve these goals. The focus on clients being leaders and advocates is something that I want to bring to the job," she said.

Densham has been involved with lesbian ac-

tivism since moving to Chicago 18 years ago. For the last six years she has lived in Evanston with her spouse, Amy Kipfer, and stepdaughter, Shama.

"One of the things that I'm going to bring to CNE is my perspective on blended families. We've done a lot of work around marriage and we sometimes present an image of a nuclear family but the truth is for most of our (LGBT) history we've been blended families in all sorts of ways," said Densham.

"I think we are at our best when we bring as many viewpoints as we can to the table, and I know that is true for our clients who are not coming from white-picket fence, nuclear-family lives. We have to recognize the diversity of how families are structured, how we develop chosen families and how we thrive through communities.

"As people have become aware of my new job my incredibly happy and proud 13-year-old stepdaughter has been excited by the press recognition," said Densham. "I am so blessed to be joining an organization that embraces me fully, lesbian mom with a spouse and all the other parts of me."

See www.childcarenetworkofevanston.org for more information.



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The Legacy Project announces education initiative, scholarships

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

With Pride upon us and the dedication of the Legacy Walk on National Coming-Out Day—Oct. 11—fast approaching, come two announcements from The Legacy Project.

The Legacy Walk—a walking museum along the Boystown area of Halsted Street showcasing biographies of notable LGBT people from history—will consist of commemorative bronze plaques affixed to the rainbow pylons. Many of these plaques have already received sponsorships by a number of notable people and organizations. Also, The Legacy Project will be creating LGBT teaching materials for the classroom with their Legacy Project Education Initiative (LPEI).

During the first year of The Legacy Walk, approximately 17 people will be showcased with plaques honoring their memory and contributions to the LGBT community. In all, 34 plaques will be installed on the rainbow pylons along Halsted Street. The remaining plaques will be dedicated on National Coming-Out Day in 2013.

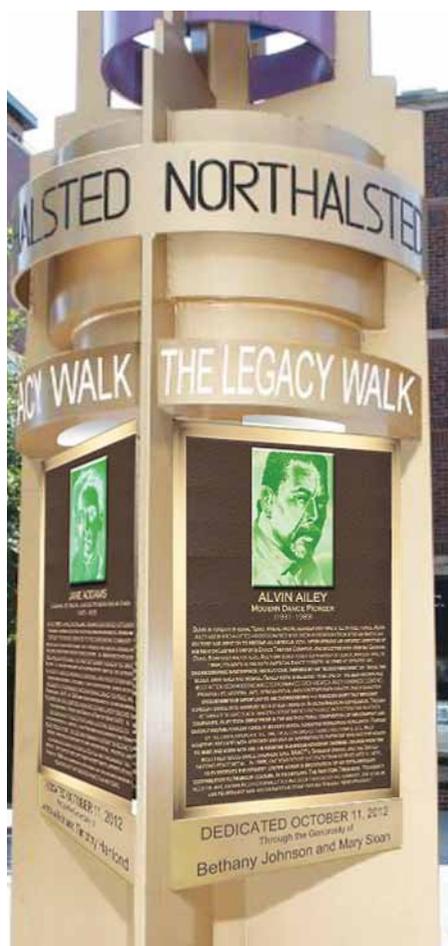
A diverse committee of noted LGBT historians and community leaders chose the initial candidates last summer noted Victor Salvo, founder and executive director of the Legacy Project. “In order for a plaque to make it up onto the Legacy Walk, it has to be sponsored by an individual, group of individuals, an organization, or a business,” said Salvo. Of the initial candidates for induction, Jane Addams, Reinaldo Arenas, Dr. Margaret Chung, Keith Haring, Barbara Jordan,

Harvey Milk, Dr. Antonia Pantoja, Bayard Rustin, Two-Spirit People, Alan Turing and Oscar Wilde have received sponsorships.

Sid Mohn, president of the Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights, said of their sponsorship, “We support the Legacy Walk because it is important to recognize the contributions LGBT people have made to better our world. Hopefully, this will inspire future generations to be fully inclusive and affirming of LGBT persons in all sectors of society. Next year Heartland Alliance will celebrate its 125th anniversary. Jane Addams was one of our founders and we inherited her commitment to advance the rights of the poor and the newcomer, and to work to build a world of justice and peace. Given our work with vulnerable LGBT populations in the U.S. and around the world, we are honored to celebrate the legacy of our founder, Jane Addams.”

Paul Highfield, senior manager-account marketing for Levi Strauss and Company, said, “Levi Strauss and Company values the pioneer. Harvey Milk, Dr. Margaret Chung and Barbara Jordan all resonate with the current Levi’s ‘Go Forth’ advertising campaign. They were chosen because they were pioneers in their field and time.”

Highfield also decided to honor the memory of Haring, another inductee, along with a number of other individuals under the banner Paul Highfield and Friends. Paul DeSousa, Elizabeth Liechty, Myron Mix, Chris Pritchard, Eddie Selsowsky and Patrick Torres are helping him with this sponsorship.



Pylon graphic. Image courtesy of Victor Salvo

“Keith Haring was an amazing openly gay artist. I fell in love with his work the first time I saw ‘The Radiant Baby.’ His art is full of energy and life. Although simple in design, it delivered/delivers an incredible message. I appreciate the fact that he made his work available to the masses. When he became an inductee for the Chicago Legacy Walk, I had to sponsor his plaque,” said Highfield.

Equality Illinois CEO Bernard Cherkasov said, “The Legacy Walk is a unique opportunity to educate the community about contributions of LGBT people to our civilization. Knowing our history is both inspiring and empowering. Bayard Rustin was a key actor in the civil-rights movement, serving as an advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King. Even in those days, Rustin was openly and unapologetically gay. His imprint on our nation’s history is undeniable, and we felt a responsibility to that history to honor the legacy of Bayard Rustin.”

Ralph Kennedy, vice president of compensation at BMO Financial Group and a member of the executive board for BMO Harris Lion’s Pride the Bank’s LGBT Affinity Group, said, “BMO Harris Bank has a long tradition of supporting its LGBT employees and causes in all of the com-

munities we serve. Shortly after the Legacy Project was presented to us for the first time, the bank realized how great of an impact the project makes in our communities, and our endorsement was quickly made through our plaque sponsorship.

“The plaque we are sponsoring is the Two-Spirit plaque—one which we believe aligns with our own company’s values and background. Since BMO Harris Bank is owned by a Canadian Bank, the Two-Spirit plaque held great significance as it pays tribute to the Indian tribes of the entire North American continent. It is truly an honor for BMO Harris Bank to be a sponsor of the Legacy Project.”

Kennedy is also working with the friends of Tim Imse to sponsor a plaque as a tribute and permanent memorial to Imse. They have opted to leave the selection of their specific plaque open for the time being.

“Tim Imse was a very talented writer who lived in Chicago for a number of years. Unfortunately, this past year Tim lost his battle with cancer and was taken from us well before his time. A few months before his passing Tim learned of the Legacy Project and he was very vocal in his support of the Project and its mission. Therefore Tim’s friends feel that a plaque dedicated in his memory would be a wonderful and fitting tribute,” said Kennedy.

Salvo said, “My passion for exploring and preserving our rich history crystallized into an obsession when I learned about the astounding life and tragic death of Alan Turing. As a survivor of multiple suicide attempts when I was a lonely, terrified gay teenager, I was struck to the core by Turing’s suicide and the loss to humanity it still represents.

“I am driven by the desire to create a place where our young people can come to find out about the lives and contributions of the LGBT people who came before them. By giving them an historic context for their own struggles and triumphs we hope to ease the social isolation and cultural marginalization that leads to despair, while at the same time challenging the ignorance from which bullying springs.”

Judge Tom Chiola (Ret.) and Drew Jemilo, chief technology officer at Scaled Agile, Inc., emailed Windy City Times, “When Victor first mentioned the idea of a walk that features LGBT people from throughout history as our gift to future generations, we were instantly intrigued. The thought that LGBT kids would be able to learn about the amazing contributions of past and present LGBT folks—information that is not available to them due to censorship, filtering of information through homophobic ‘education’ programs, or simple neglect—was most appealing. We want to help provide information about these positive role models in order to support our LGBT youth and maybe to open a few eyes in the larger community to what gay men and



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TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

lesbians have added to our culture and way of life."

"I've been involved in the law for decades, having served as a circuit court judge in Chicago for 15 years. Upon retirement, I began to pursue a second-chance career in acting. Oscar Wilde lived in those worlds as well. He was a consummate writer and performer who was put through hell by the legal system due to his sexual orientation. His trials have been dramatized. It just seemed like a good match," said Chiola on why he chose to honor Wilde specifically.

Andrew Hayes, vice-president of public relations at Fifth Third Bank, said, "We are proud to be among the first to step up and support the Legacy Project. Last year we helped the organization create a video to launch its effort and this year we similarly delighted to sponsor a Legacy Walk plaque. Victor Salvo, Lori Cannon and the other board members have been such stewards in Chicago's LGBT community we honor them through our support too."

Hayes added, "As the 'Curious Bank' we are drawn to discover the stories of those who've come before and contributed meaningfully to our community. We are certain that the Legacy Project and the Legacy Walk will inspire people to follow their dreams, live with purpose, and positively contribute to the world around us. We are happy to have the Legacy Project decide the bank's plaque as we fully embrace the entire spirit of the organization, its mission, and the its opportunity to empower others by telling the tales of those who helped paved the roads we enjoy today."

Other sponsors include Aspira of Illinois, who is sponsoring Pantoja's plaque, and Art Johnston and Pepe Pena, who are sponsoring the Arenas plaque.

Sponsorship of each plaque is \$10,000 and any of the remaining 2012 inductees who aren't sponsored will return to the general nominee pool from which the 2013 candidates for induction will be selected next spring. Salvo hopes

that all 34 spaces on the pylons will be filled at the 2013 induction ceremony. Each sponsor will receive a customizable dedication plaque that will be affixed to the pylon of the person they are sponsoring.

Funding for The Legacy Project comes from sponsorships of the plaques, corporate underwriting, community-based fundraisers and private donations. No public funds are being used to finance the project although the City of Chicago is co-sponsoring the installation and the museum will be promoted as an official tourist attraction by the city.

In 2014 or shortly thereafter, the plaques will be rotated to an indoor exhibit facility (plans for this indoor space on Halsted Street are still under discussion) to make room for the new inductees which will be installed on the pylons. Plaque rotation will continue each year on NCOD. The Legacy Project board of directors will determine the rotation process, Salvo noted, so that the exhibit remains dynamic each year.

The LPEI initiative will be using the research that was gathered to write each of the plaque's biographies to create educational materials for the classroom. The Illinois Safe Schools Alliance (ISSA) is co-sponsoring LPEI, and will utilize its gay-straight alliance (GSA) network to bring this information to at-risk youth.

"Since most all of our inductees had to overcome one hardship or another to make their contributions, we believe these wonderful role models will also serve as an inspiration to our young people, most all of whom face considerable obstacles in their own lives," said Salvo.

The LPEI educational materials will be integrated into the larger Legacy Project website portal and new information will be added as time goes on.

The Legacy Project will be holding its "First Annual Legacy Pride Party" Saturday, June 30. To find out more information about the project or to purchase tickets, visit www.legacyprojectchicago.org.

Man accused of killing roommate's dogs

BY KATE SOSIN

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of a former Joliet man who allegedly killed his roommate's two dogs before moving to Florida.

LeAndrae Blackman allegedly killed and then hid the dogs in a suitcase while his roommate was doing yard work March 23.

Several media sources have reported that Blackman and the victim were boyfriends, but Joliet Police Commander Brian Benton said the story was misreported.

"We have no indication that [he's] his boyfriend," said Benton.

Blackman allegedly helped the victim search for the dogs for two weeks.

"They went about putting fliers up, going around to different areas of the neighborhood looking for the dogs," said Benton.

After Blackman was kicked out for not paying rent, said Benton, he allegedly texted the victim asking if he had any mail. When the victim did not respond, Benton allegedly told him to look in a suitcase under the stairs, where the man found his dogs.

The victim filed a police report April 9. Blackman is not in custody but is believed to be in Florida.

'Latina/o Pride Picnic' Aug. 4

Orgullo en Accion will host the Latina/o LGBT PRIDE Picnic Saturday, Aug. 4, in Humboldt Park near the corner of Division Street and Luis Munoz Marin Drive, 12-8 p.m.

The event is free and intended for all: allies, family and children are welcome. Attendees are encouraged to bring food and grills.

For more info, email orgulloenaccion@gmail.com or visit "7th Annual Latin@ Pride Picnic" on Facebook.

Summer retreat for LGBT traditional Jews July 5-8

The Eshel Midwest Retreat—for LGBT traditional Jews—will take place July 5-8 at the Ronora Lodge and Retreat Center in Watervliet, Mich.

The Shabbaton will bring together Orthodox gay Jews of all kinds (including the ex-Orthodox and 'Ortho-curious') to an event aimed to create a community of support, learning, growth and leadership.

See <http://eshel.wildapricot.org>.

Chicago Dyke March June 23 in Uptown

The Chicago Dyke March will take place Saturday, June 23, in the Uptown neighborhood.

Every two years, the march takes place in a different neighborhood in the city. In the past, the event has been in Pilsen and the South Shore area.

This year, participants will gather at Margate Park (at 4921 N. Marine Dr.) at 2 p.m. The march will start at 3 p.m.

The Uptown neighborhood spans from the south at Wilson/Broadway to Marine Drive on the east and going Argyle Avenue on the north.

Find out more (including the proposed route) at dykemarchchicago@gmail.com and <http://chicagodykemarch.wordpress.com/march-2>.

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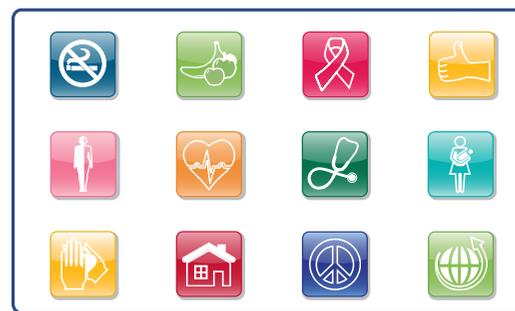
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Gay divorce counselor helps couples of all orientations

BY ROSS FORMAN

John Hassey is often asked when divorcing couples should come to see him in his role as a divorce and family mediator. His answer always is: before they get married.

"It sounds counterintuitive, but the conflict resolution and communication tools I use to help couples divorce more amicably are the same tools that help couples improve their relationships if they start using them early on," Hassey said. "I think most divorces could be avoided if couples had more clarity about their relationship before they even got married."

Hassey, 36, who lives in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood and is openly gay, works with gay and straight couples—and both have issues with divorce.

"In itself, I don't believe that divorce is a problem at all," Hassey said. "People are perfectly capable of making the best decision for themselves about divorcing or not. I believe that how couples do what they do is more important than what they do. So, if a couple decides to put the work into improving their marriage, they—and their kids, if they have them—will benefit from that work. If they decide to divorce in a fair, amicable and affordable way, likewise, they—and their kids—will benefit from that, [too]."

Hassey has been mediating divorces for 3 years, though he's been a marital counselor for 10. "More recently, I've seen couples pause the divorce process and, instead, work on their mar-

riage. Most of this has been motivated by the couples' difficult financial situation," he said.

He said he has not seen any surge of late in same-sex divorces.

"My worst case was a couple who had lived in the same house, with their children, for years, although their marriage had, in essence, ended long before," Hassey said. "The kids could sense that something was wrong, but the couple told their children nothing. When one of the parents moved out, they still told their children nothing. Even when one of the parents started dating someone else, they told their children nothing. Eventually the kids were begging to know something, but the couple still said nothing. This couple told me that they 'didn't know what to say.'"

"I can't imagine the fear and anxiety those kids were going through.

"My best case was a couple who went into the divorce process in a very deliberate way. They first went through my five-session marital counseling program. When they realized they weren't willing or able to work on the marriage, they went about drafting their divorce agreement with me. Ironically, since they were willing to go slowly and deliberately through divorce, their divorce went smoother and more quickly than most. From start to finish, they were done in five months, and they both seemed very happy with the outcome.

"Of course, there also are other couples who start divorce mediation and, during the process, decide to reconcile and work on their marriage.



John Hassey. Photo by Ross Forman

Those cases are always nice to be a part of."

Hassey said that, during a divorce, parents often teach powerful lessons to their children about fairness, how to handle conflict, and how to communicate. "These lessons will impact the children in their future relationships," he said. "If there is one piece of advice I deeply hope divorcing parents take, it's this: Ask yourself what you're teaching your children through your actions—and no matter how well you're doing, there's always room for improvement.

"A lot of people would say that, for social reasons, gay divorce is somehow more difficult for the parents and the children. I just haven't seen that in my practice. My experience is that,

although divorce does not have to be horrible, it's never easy, either. That's true of gay and straight couples alike."

Here are some divorce tips from Hassey, a divorce and family mediator:

—"Don't do what most couples do. Don't run to an attorney, spend tens of thousands of dollars and prepare for battle. Divorce doesn't have to be like that. There are different avenues for divorce, [such as] collaborative law or divorce mediation. Know the options, and decide which option is best for you."

—"I suggest to divorcing parents that they talk to their children about the divorce."

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OutServe onward: LGBT military org gains ground

BY ALEX LUBISCHER

Lt. Jamar Green weathered the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Now, in the wake of its repeal, the recruiter for young officer programs for Navy Recruiting District Chicago serves openly.

"If I feel that revealing a certain trait of mine is going to positively affect the recruiting experience, then I will use everything in my power to convince people that the Navy is the right choice," said Green. "If I'm speaking to a crowd and there may be some gay or lesbian people in the audience, then I might mention something about Don't Ask Don't Tell's repeal."

Outside of his recruiting duties, Green is the Illinois chapter leader for OutServe, the association of actively-serving LGBT military personnel launched in 2010 that was a pivotal contributor to the Pentagon's study to repeal DADT. In addition to its Illinois chapter, OutServe has more than 45 chapters worldwide. The association now boasts a fast-growing membership of 4,500. It is predicted to overtake EAGLE at IBM as the largest LGBT employee resource group in the world.

As OutServe's Illinois chapter leader, Green faces the geographical challenge of organizing for the entire state, although the majority of Navy personnel are concentrated at the Naval Station at Great Lakes, 40 miles north of Chicago. Here, enlistees convene for Recruit Training Command, the Navy's only boot camp.

Green also writes for OutServe Magazine. According to its website, the bimonthly magazine

"highlights the contributions that actively serving LGBTs are making to the United States military, discusses and educates readers about DADT repeal policies, and advocates for the continued fight for equality for all Americans."

When reached for an interview, OutServe Vice President of Global Affairs Tom Nibbio noted the magazine's success as indicative of the growing support for LGBT rights. "We've got over 250,000 digital downloads subscribers to OutServe Magazine," said Nibbio. "That's quite a few more than those who are actively serving. So it's not just gays and lesbians [in the military] who are downloading. There are supporters and families, too. So the visibility of this magazine is just tremendous."

Although he has no military background himself, Nibbio worked for years at the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association (ILGTA) as the Director of Partnerships and Development. He was recruited by OutServe to conceive of, raise funds and produce events for the association.

"I want to bring OutServe and our members to Chicago someday," said Nibbio, who is working to garner interest from the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau. He stressed that a convention in Chicago would bring an influx of tourism revenue to the city.

Most recently, Nibbio helped organize "OutServe Capital Summit 2012: Our Families Matter," which took place on May 14-15 in Washington D.C.. The first day was dedicated to workshops and presentations that focused on ways to make



Lt. Jamar Green. Photo courtesy of Green

LGBT military families stronger.

Sue Fulton, a member of OutServe's board of directors, was in attendance. "Monday was a day of ups and downs," said Fulton. "We heard from gay and lesbian spouses and partners who struggle with issues large and small to support their military partners while they serve. But the highlight of my day was the outpouring of support from mainstream military family organizations insisting that gay and lesbian partners ARE part of the military family. Many of us were emotional about being welcomed so warmly by these folks, mostly straight military wives, who seemed to understand our issues better than anyone."

On Tuesday, May 15, the conference shifted gears to focus on legislation and activism. "We teamed up with the Human Rights Campaign and the Service Members Legal Defense Network," said Nibbio. "They went to Capitol Hill

and spoke with congressional leaders and senators about the need for equal benefits in the military."

OutServe's next convention will be held this October, when its International Leadership Conference 2012 convenes in Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Service members will be lodging at Shades of Green, an Armed Forces Recreation Center located on the Disney resort. "We will be the first LGBT group of any type to ever hold any group event on a military-owned property," said Nibbio.

Back in Chicago, Lieutenant Green is rallying members of OutServe Illinois' chapter to march in Chicago's Gay Pride Parade on June 24. According to Green, an additional seven or eight OutServe chapters are planning to participate in Gay Prides throughout the United States this year.

"Service members who are actively serving can now participate in Gay Pride, they just can't be in uniform. We (Outserve Illinois) are not going to have a booth but we are registered and we are going march. It's just a matter of how many people I can get," said Green, who added, "We'll be there."

Green is optimistic that the new atmosphere of equality and acceptance in the armed forces is here to stay. "I think inevitably, regardless of what actual laws say, the experience in the Navy has already changed so much and it's going to continue to change. People learn, 'Hey, I know someone who's gay it's not that big of deal. He's just like me, or she's just like me, and they deserve the same rights.' ... So far we're on the right track, but that's in jeopardy with this upcoming election."

Outserve existed as an underground network before DADT's repeal, and for all intents and purposes would continue in the event of its reinstatement. At least for now, gay and lesbian members of the armed forces, like Lieutenant Green, can serve their country proudly and openly. OutServe has united their voices and continues to grow daily.

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Lorraine Sade Baskerville: Transcending into womanhood

BY JOE FRANCO

It is often said that the LGBT community sometimes forgets about the "T." Lorraine Sade Baskerville is here to remind those people.

Baskerville, until very recently, was a lifetime Chicagoan; she comes from a family of seven children and very modest means. "I had my family but there was no support," said Baskerville. From a very early age, she was confronted with the harsher realities of life. She was one of the first to speak out and lobby against Chicago's controversial ban on cross-dressing in public. "I was arrested many times for dressing in women's clothes. I had to fight to get that law repealed."

Baskerville also spent time as an escort to help support herself. It was during that time that she met her life partner and best friend, Bruce Lomar. "We spent 20 years together. He was learning to ride a scooter so he could join me in Thailand, and then he was gone. There just are no words. I know the trip from Thailand to Florida is 20 hours and three transfers, but I still cannot remember how I made it to Florida. I just knew I had to be there and grieve. I still am grieving today. It's like my left hand was severed."

Her heartbreak and her recovery from the death of her partner are parts of what she calls her "spiritual journey" to womanhood. Her new memoir—*One Trans Woman's Spiritual Journey: Transcending into Womanhood in Phuket, Thailand*—includes the story of how she met Lomar and how she inevitably lost him. But perhaps more personal than that, Baskerville shares with her readership the intimate details of her "surgical intervention." She told *Windy City Times*, "Words are powerful. I didn't have a 'sex change.' People identify negatively with that term. I had a 'surgical intervention.'"

Baskerville explained that although her initial reason for penning her memoir was to encourage other transgender individuals and to put their minds at ease, it quickly became something bigger: "I needed to transcend and teach others about what it is to be trans and what it feels like to be trans. I needed to show people that the trans community has layers and that this isn't a masquerade or about sex. Being trans and living trans is saying 'I have to be me.'"

She also noted that there are transgender

women who are still married to their wives: "Many trans women got married and even had children because they felt they had to please, whether that was their parents, their girlfriend, their community. So the trans woman still loves his wife very much and this can be extremely confusing for society to understand and accept."

Misinformation on the transgender community makes individuals frequent targets of tasteless humor and violence, both inside and outside the LGBT community, according to Baskerville. "People begin by saying, 'I don't like you.' They are ignorant and fear you and that ultimately leads to hate. We're all on the same river together, cut from the same fabric and part of the same human family," she said. "We all have our own little bubbles that we live in and oftentimes we don't see beyond or outside of that bubble. 'Here I am in my rich guy bubble and I have to do those things and be concerned with those things in my bubble.'"

Today, Baskerville is content with herself: "I have transcended into womanhood and I am free and happy. I didn't have my surgical interven-

tion earlier because the techniques were still crude in the '70s. It's a weird analogy, but think of a car. Do I want to be driving around in some rusty old nasty thing or do I want the latest and nicest model?"

Baskerville also related the story about the obstacles faced by trans individuals that many cisgender (non-transgender) people take for granted: "For years I couldn't use a woman's locker room or changing room. Now I can do cartwheels and the splits out of joy. There is no more hiding, no more tucking. I'm free." Baskerville added she used both the idea and an actual mirror as an affirmation of who she was and what was important to her: "Being born Black and trans could seem like it's the absolute worst it could be. But I looked in that mirror. I examined the temple that is my body and I took care of that temple and loved it. Nothing in life is perfect but you've got to look in that mirror."

"We, as a trans community, need to decide if we're just existing or if we're going to live, really live, and reach for our goals. Without someone to motivate you, you may never get anything ac-

complished. I wanted to insure that the [trans] community help one another and reach for their goals."

She said she started the organization *trans-Genesis* in 1995 for that very purpose. "When I want help from social workers or from counselors, I want to see me," Baskerville said. "I want to see someone else who is trans. There just was no such organization." Before her surgical intervention in 2003, Baskerville closed *trans-Genesis*. "Some people might say I abandoned the trans community; I didn't. These children are with me forever. But I got burnt out without any help. I had to do what I had to do."

Baskerville believes very strongly in the power that a community can bring to an individual: "I think it is extremely important that trans youth and other trans people find positive trans role models. They need to see themselves reflected in the staff of a counseling center or a shelter. It's a hard life. Some end up in jail, abused and beaten down." She said the secrets to her success and adjustment as a trans woman are to "[b]elieve in yourself. Demand respect for yourself, for you are a human being. Ask yourself, 'Are you living or just merely existing?'"

Baskerville is a trans activist, teacher and author who now lives near Bangkok, Thailand. She will be in town June 21-July 2 to promote her book at Howard Brown Health Center and Center on Halsted, among other places. Visit www.windy-citymediagroup.com for continuing updates.

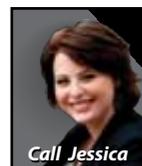


Lorraine Sade Baskerville. Photo courtesy of Baskerville

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Man suing Bureau County for denial of HIV meds

BY KATE SOSIN

An Illinois man has filed a federal lawsuit against Bureau County Jail in Princeton, Ill., after he was allegedly jailed for a week in September 2010 without his HIV medication.

Arick Buckles alleges that corrections staff at Bureau County jail refused to give him his HIV meds despite his repeated requests and those of his partner and local HIV advocates.

Buckles' story first came to light a year ago when the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Illinois issued a letter on behalf of Buckles to Bureau County Sheriff John Thompson urging reforms at the jail.

But Thompson never responded, the ACLU said.

"Bureau County had an obligation under the Constitution to provide the medical care necessary to protect the health of Arick Buckles," said John Knight, LGBT project director at the ACLU of Illinois, in a statement. "They failed. They elevated concerns about costs and price of health care above the need for health care."

Buckles entered the jail in late September 2010 on a 2003 warrant for forgery, a move the ACLU said was "part of a process that he undertook to clean up his life and take responsibility for past criminal activity."

The suit, filed in the Central District of Illinois in Peoria, alleges that jail medical staff stalled on providing the medication because it was deemed too expensive. According to the complaint, Buckles' partner, advocates at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and Gaining Ground all contacted the jail to confirm that Buckles needed the medication.

"I personally informed every officer that came around," Buckles previously told Windy City Times, estimating that because officers checked on him three times daily, he told staff at least 21 times about his need for medication.

Buckles suffered diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, lightheadedness, high cholesterol, reddish/yellowish eye color,

weight loss, swollen lymph nodes and emotional distress because he missed HIV treatments, according to the complaint.

The suit seeks unspecified monetary relief, punishment for jail staff and Thompson and reimbursement of attorney's fees.

Thompson did not respond to an immediate request for comment.



Arick Buckles. Photo by Kate Sosin

Howard Brown Health announces staff changes

Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) has announced changes among its staff.

Magda Houlberg—the former vice president of clinical services at HBHC—is now senior vice president of health center operations and chief operating officer. Michael McFadden was director of social services; he now is vice president of clinical services.

Alicia Ozier, the vice president of community health services, recently joined HBHC to lead and expand its testing and outreach, prevention and wellness, and education initiatives by leveraging existing and developing new relationships and partnerships.

Mary Morten has joined HBHC as interim vice president of development to lead its development and fundraising efforts. Willard Dumas III is senior director of development; he had served as national major gifts officer at Lambda Legal, where he was responsible for the solicitation and development of major individual gifts and national corporate sponsorships. Alonzo Brown has joined as senior director of communications.

In the area of legal and public policy operations, Michelle Wetzel will serve as general counsel. Clint W. Sabin is now senior director of public policy and advocacy.

Lastly, in the field of retail operations, Bill Joure will lead HBHC's three Brown Elephant resale shops in Chicago and Oak Park and any future retail social ventures HBHC may launch.

LGBT data to be unveiled June 27

The LGBT Community Fund, an initiative of The Chicago Community Trust, will announce a press briefing and community presentation of the data summary for the Chicago LGBT Community Needs Assessment at Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., at 8 a.m. Wed., June 27.

The press briefing is being held at Howard Brown in response to the finding that needs-assessment participants identified healthcare as one of the top LGBT community needs for the Chicago area. Plans are in development for additional data presentations at various locations.

Morten Group conducted the assessment in late 2011 with the assistance of more than 60 community partner organizations

and individual leaders. Morten Group's LGBT Community Needs Assessment Project Team analyzed the results in April 2012.

WCT's 30 Under 30 June 28 at Center

Windy City Times will hold its annual 30 Under 30 Awards Thursday, June 28, in the Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted St., at 5:30 p.m.

The honorees—30 years or under as of June 30—have made some substantial contributions to the LGBT community, whether in the fields of entertainment, politics, health, activism, academics, sports or other areas.

Among the award recipients are two reality-TV stars, a member of the mayoral staff and an ally of the community who ran for the Illinois General Assembly.

AIDS Foundation, Chicago House and Center on Halsted are among the sponsors of the free event. Polo Catering will provide hors d'oeuvres and treats.

Email Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com for more information.

Chicago House birdhouse auction/party June 21

The Chicago House Birdhouse Art Auction and Cocktail Party will take place Thursday, June 21, 6-9 p.m.

The event will take place at Room & Board, 55 E. Ohio St.

Tickets are \$70 in advance and \$80 at the door. Call 773-248-5200, ext. 303, or visit www.chicagohouse.org/event_birdhouse.html.

'Whirlpool Pride' event June 23

Whirlpool Corporation and its Pride Network will hold a celebration of diversity to benefit the Benton Harbor (Mich.) Out-Center.

The casual event will take place at 325 N. LaSalle St., Suite 725, on Saturday, June 23, 1-4 p.m. Among other things, attendees will learn ways to become allies of the LGBT community.

Tickets are \$30 each (and includes two drink tickets); see <http://whirlpoolpride.eventbrite.com>.



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LGBT teachers' group presents award

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) LGBT Rights Committee presented its annual Allan Wardell Inspiration Award to Emily Tongue—a special-education science teacher at Collins Academy High School and faculty sponsor of its gay-straight alliance (GSA)—at its June executive board meeting.

After some introductory remarks by CTU President Karen Lewis, LGBT Rights Committee Chair Mel Ferrand presented Tongue with her award.

Wardell was a Chicago teacher, CTU member and LGBT activist. Tongue was chosen because she has helped foster a safe and healthy learning environment for all students through the positive teaching of tolerance and demonstrates commitment and courage in the pursuit of equality for all students and staff.

Since starting the GSA—with a group of dedicated students—at the beginning of this school year, Tongue helped organize an anti-bullying day of service. Through this day of service, students created anti-bullying videos that were shown at a neighborhood elementary school. The video deemed best became the official one for the school's website.

School staffers (who nominated Tongue) have said students and teachers have worn pride ribbons and "No Hate" buttons throughout the school year, resulting in a marked decrease in anti-LGBT statements being heard throughout the school. Although the GSA was snickered at and its meeting signs were torn down at the beginning of the school year, GSA members eventually became leaders at the school. Also, a number of teachers and staff hung "Safe Zone" signs on their doors so students would know who they could talk to about LGBTQ issues and bullying concerns.

The GSA, with Tongue's guidance, sponsored the school's National Coming Out Day in October. They worked with the humanities department to organize a school-wide service-learning day in December focused on anti-bullying strategies and identity empowerment, and participated in the recent National Day of Silence. The nominators added that as the year went on, more students felt they could confide in their teachers, stick up for their friends, promote equality throughout the school and create a culture of safety and respect due to Tongue's leadership.

Upon receiving her award Tongue said, "I am honored to accept the Allan Wardell Inspiration Award. Allan Wardell was a dedicated educator who went beyond his role as a teacher to become an advocate for his students and colleagues. By accepting this award, I promise to continue to fight to ensure that all

students and staff have a safe environment to learn and work."

Anita Zajac, a middle-school social studies teacher at Stockton Elementary School, was this year's runner-up. Some of her eighth-grade students—who will now be going on to high school—will be marching with CTU members and other students in this year's Chicago Pride Parade.

Zajac said, "I was inspired by my students who were so concerned and passionate about LGBT issues and bullying. They gave me the courage to address these issues within an elementary school setting. I am thankful to my principal who gave me the go ahead and backing to help my students create programming that would foster inclusion and understanding of all students."



From left: GLBT Rights Committee Chair Mel Ferrand, CTU President Karen Lewis and Emily Tongue. Photo courtesy of Ferrand

Specifics of the 43rd Annual Pride Parade

Chicago's 43rd Annual Pride Parade will start Sunday, June 24, at 12 p.m.

The new route will start at Montrose Avenue and Broadway, proceeding south on Broadway. The route will then wind south on Halsted Street, east on Belmont Avenue, south on Broadway, and then east on Diversey Avenue to Cannon Drive.

For safety's sake, as spectators have increased at the parade, the route has been lengthened by several blocks this year, thus adding more space for people to view the parade. The longer route has also added more elevated train stations for potential spectators to reach the parade route.

There will also be six different crossover points on the route staffed by the Chicago Police officers to allow spectators to cross from one side of the parade route to another to balance out the crowd.

The consumption of alcoholic beverages by spectators on the sidewalks or streets is prohibited. Therefore, the police department can issue tickets.

The grand marshal for this year's parade is Evan Wolfson, founder and president of Freedom to Marry, the campaign to win marriage nationwide. Before founding Freedom to Marry, Evan served as marriage project director for Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund.

Barricades line the entire parade route. Only parade entries, parade marshals, credentialed media, police officers and other city reps are allowed on the street, inside the barricades.

Streaming: Gay Chicago TV and ChicagoPride.com have announced a partnership to live-stream the 43rd Annual Chicago Pride Parade.

The live stream will be available in HD quality picture at Gay-

ChicagoTV.com and simulcast on ChicagoPride.com. The coverage of each parade entry from start to finish will also be available for later viewing at GayChicagoTV.com.



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ALL SEASONS ... ALL LEVELS.

LGBT PRIDE: SENIORS

Candice Hart: A life before transition

BY CAMILLE BEREDJICK

Take off your shoes. Put them on the opposite feet.

You can walk around like that for a while, but it'll gnaw at you. If you're distracted, you can get through the day. But no matter what, you know something isn't right.

That's how Candice Hart described her life before her transition—productive, sometimes even fulfilling, but never true to the person she was. Now 62 years old, parent to two grown children and a vocal activist in Chicago's transgender community, she's finally embracing the person she's always been.

"I figured if I put everything in a vault and

clothes with her twin sister. She was horrified when puberty hit and made male body features inevitable. She was afraid to tell anyone—back then, "transgender" wasn't in mainstream lexicon, and she was worried she would be institutionalized.

"At that point, at about 10 or 11, I said to myself, you have to make this life for yourself," she says. "You've got something wrong in your mind, put it in a vault and lock it up."

"This isn't you"

Determined to power through, Hart compensated for her female-minded interior by exaggerating her masculinity. She asked her parents for a set of weights and started taking karate

and ignored it," she says. "I told myself, this isn't you, because if it was I would have been born this way."

As a director of public works in the north-west suburbs, an appointed position very much in the public eye, she blocked out any means of expression that could be read as feminine, afraid to out herself. She couldn't speak in front of crowds without meticulously planning her words; they came out cold and calculated.

At home she couldn't be comfortable around her kids, and she said she knows she treated them differently as they grew up. She and her daughter joined a club at the YMCA that provided them with six years of monthly meetings, camping trips and other prime opportunities for father-daughter bonding. She could be herself around her daughter more often than around others.

Things were different with her son—she couldn't be empathetic or understand his point of view, and their relationship suffered. She signed on as the manager of his Little League team, but when they went out for pizza after a game, the other parents would ask why she was so hard on her son.

"It was evident during the games—I was never a boy, per se, and I didn't know how to be a man," she says. "Straight answers without feeling or emotion—that's how I treated my son."

Embracing change

Hart was remarried and living in the suburbs when her spouse came home one night to find her dressed as a woman. She thought it was cute, Hart said, and they went out together that way. When Hart came out to her privately as transgender in 2001, the news wasn't so surprising.

That year Hart started on hormone-replacement therapy and slowly started to see changes in her physical appearance. She grew her hair just long enough to put back into a ponytail, which she tucked back into the collars of the suits she wore to work. Although she never came out on the job, some of her co-workers became suspicious—during late-afternoon meetings, Hart was the only one without a five o'clock shadow.

Three years ago, she came out to her son and daughter, her now 21-year-old granddaughter, her sister and her first spouse, now remarried. In December 2010, she got divorced from her second wife, retired from her career and moved to the city. A month later, she was out to the world as Candice.

"It's been a whole new experience for me," she said. "Everything that I do and say is spontaneous now. When you're trying to protect your identity, you don't have spontaneity. You have filters in your head."

Since coming out, Hart has chaired the Illinois Gender Advocates and served on a number of local LGBT task forces and on the board of directors for the Center on Halsted. In December

2011, the Chicago Tribune featured her in an article about local transgender people. In May, the theater company Erasing the Distance featured Hart's story in Finding Peace in This House, a play of monologues about real people's life experiences.

"She was so positive and was doing so much for her community and had such a positive outlook, I thought she was a perfect person to talk to," said Heather Tahler, 24, who worked with Erasing the Distance as a graduate student at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. "People who saw the show said it was really touching."

Hart said her family has been overwhelmingly supportive—she's still close with her ex-spouses, and she and her granddaughter text back and forth. She recently sat down with her kids, now 39 and 36, to apologize for her past behavior. Her daughter has accepted her unconditionally; her son is getting there.

"He said, 'I really like the way you are,' he compliments me on how I look," she said. "He just bought me a birthday present, and it was a fan, but he went out of his way to get me a pink fan—just to show me that he is thinking about me in that way. And I reciprocate by making sure he understands I'm his father, and that will never change."

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 for more info.



Candice Hart. Photo by Camille Beredjick

tried to lose the combination, which I did pretty successfully, that I could still be fulfilled," she said. "If I thought about it too much I would throw a little pity party for myself, but then I'd say, wait a second, that's not true."

Hart said she knew she was a girl as early as age 4. As a kid, she would dress up in women's

lessons. When she started to grow facial hair, she didn't shave. She set goals for herself—to get married, buy a house, have children—that could distract from the dissonance she felt. She checked everything off her list, but it didn't go away.

"I distracted myself with my work and my fam-

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LGBT PRIDE: SENIORS

Jerry Pritikin talks senior award and coming out

BY ELYSSA CZYNSKI

On June 2, retired photographer and activist Jerry Pritikin was inducted into the Chicago Senior Citizens Hall of Fame for his contributions to the LGBT community.

"The first thing it says in my bio is I'm an activist in the LGBT community," said Pritikin. "I think I was the only one being inducted who happened to be gay."

Pritikin spent years in San Francisco working for gay rights. His photographs have been published in exhibits, books and documentaries. His most famous is a photo of Harvey Milk.

In a time of "It Gets Better" videos, same-sex marriage debates and increased dialogue about sexuality, many assume that LGBT teens and young adults now have it as good as has ever been. Pritikin believes that his family's support of both his sexual orientation and LGBT accomplishments as an activist were a contributing factor in his success in his work and his happiness in life. Windy City Times caught up with Pritikin to talk about his years of activism and the family that supported him through it.

Windy City Times: When did you first come out?

Jerry Pritikin: I knew I was gay when I was in my teens, but it took me until I was about, I was 20 years old when I first came out.

WCT: What was your relationship like with your parents when you first came out?

JP: My older brother, kind of like, being a brother in the '50s, mentioned that a friend of his saw me come out of a "faggot" bar, and that kind of was a rude awakening. I got it put into

perspective. My brother is my best friend now. He has been gay-friendly ever since. He even came to visit me in San Francisco, and he has gay friends of his own, so he has come a long way.

As far as my parents ... this is very funny. My first lover was living with his parents and I was living with mine, and we wound up taking our parents to each others' house. We never used the "gay" word, but I think they knew. In fact, this is even funnier: When I used to sleep by his parents house, they knew he only had a twin bed in his room.

WCT: How did your relationship with your family change after coming out?

JP: Everybody was extremely supportive, and I went to San Francisco for the first time in 1960 when I was 23 or so, and I always went for a short time. Then, I moved there with one of my lovers and, at that point in time, [my family] came to visit me. My sister enjoyed going to gay bars because they used to card her when she was 40.

[My family] was super-duper. My nieces and my nephews all knew at an early point. I have no negatives except the instant with my brother, but that was the times. He was a little older than me, and in the '50s it was really taboo to be gay.

WCT: Do you think your activism would have looked differently had your family not been so supportive?

JP: I doubt so. If anything, I really did not have to work hard converting them. Once they saw how happy I was, they were in 100 percent. Like I said earlier, my brothers and sisters were



Jerry Pritikin with Ald. Michele Smith. Photo courtesy of Pritikin

very proud of me, as were their friends, and my close relatives. At the same time, I had a friend, Guy Corey who was a well-known gay photographer, and when he contracted AIDS (perceived as a gay illness) and died, his family were so ashamed of him, they burned all his negatives.

WCT: Over the years, how has your family's perceptions and reception of the LGBT community changed?

JP: In 1977, I created a T-shirt that said "Anita Bryant's Husband is a Homosapien," and outed myself nationally. ... I kind of have to laugh because my nephew said he was driving to work, and I made the Paul Harvey show with that, and he said that he may have lost control of the wheel for half a second, but they took it with pride.

Like I said, they became really supportive. When they came to visit me [in San Francisco], I used to always take them to the drag shows and the different things happening in my life. I was very proud indeed. I was in a gay softball league and took my brother to softball games. They definitely were, how do you put it, in my corner.

WCT: It sounds like your family was very accepting.

JP: There was no friction or anything like that. I have a niece who is gay. I have a nephew who is gay. Maybe it's in our genes, and it's not Levi's.

HIV testing at Walgreens

Beginning June 27 (National HIV Testing Day) through June 29, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) will provide free rapid HIV testing at four Walgreens stores 3-7 p.m. daily.

The Walgreens are at 11 E. 75th St., 4720 N. Marine Dr., 5440 N. Clark St., and 3401 W. Roosevelt Rd. For more info, see www.GreaterThan.org/walgreens.

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Book urges political parties to back gay rights

BY DERRICK JOHNSON II

The Republican Party will have to get back to basic human rights if it wants to stay relevant.

That is the case that David Lampo makes in his new book, *A Fundamental Freedom: Why Republicans, Conservatives, and Libertarians Should Support Gay Rights*.

Lampo was born in Mt. Kisco, N.Y., and attended Penn State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science. After graduating, Lampo worked for various libertarian and anti-tax organizations before joining the Cato Institute in 1982.

Windy City Times: What motivated your book?

David Lampo: I was motivated by the fact that few elected Republican officials and candidates were willing to speak out against the religious right and for social tolerance.

WCT: What is exactly is the book about?

DL: It's a primer on gay rights for Republicans, conservatives and even libertarians because the party has long had this image as an anti-gay party dominated by the religious right.

This has been the case for the last couple of decades because, in the '70s, the evangelicals moved from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party and since then they have become the party's base. You can't say that you support the religious right and also support limited government and individual rights, because there's a fundamental conflict between policies that the religious right advocate regarding social issues and the principles of individual liberties and limited government. I think the party is at a crossroads: It has to choose its values between individual rights and limited government and



David Lampo.

supporting the agenda of the religious right.

WCT: Why do you think Republicans, conservatives and libertarians should support gay rights?

DL: Three basic reasons: It's consistent with Republican principles; most rank-and-file Republicans already do; and it's politically the smart thing to do since independents, who Republicans need to win elections, are strongly pro-gay rights.

WCT: You said that the next generation of voters will increase the gap between religious extremists and the Average Americans. How so?

DL: Every new generation of Americans is more supportive of gay rights than the previous generation. The percentage of religious extremists will continue to shrink as the population ages and dies off, because older Americans are disproportionately anti-gay.

WCT: You also said that the next generation voters are in support of gay rights. What about the portion of that generation raised under religious extremism?

DL: The religious right has already lost the culture war. They bring up their sons and daughters to believe in the bigotry that they believe in and that's a distinct minority. ... Younger people already support gay rights and that's not going to change as they get older.

WCT: Why do you think that religious conservatives and extremist still have influence with the Republican Party?

DL: They are the squeaky wheel that gets the grease. They are a minority but they are a very determined and aggressive minority. We haven't had anything like that on the other side.

WCT: What are your thoughts on religious extremists and the role they play in American politics?

DL: Their role regarding gay rights is uniformly negative. While agree with them on most other issues, such as taxes, spending, reforming entitlements, etc., when it comes to personal liberties, they desert their stated beliefs in limited government because they try to tell people how to live their personal lives—not just on gay rights but control over reproductive rights, personal drug use, etc.

WCT: What direction do you believe the United States is headed regarding religion?

DL: Even in the United States we're becoming more secular. ... The majority of people at least believe in evolution. Polls show that even a majority of Catholics also support same-sex marriage and other gay rights issues, despite what the Catholic hierarchy tells them. Most people in America consider themselves Christian and believe in God, but they don't hold the fanatical beliefs of the religious right.

WCT: If the Republicans and conservatives were to officially change their stance on LGBT issues such as marriage how long do you think it would take?

DL: Most Republicans already support some form of legal recognition, but younger Republicans [millennials] support marriage rights at a higher level. Every year support gets stronger, so I'd say maybe five to 10 years until a majority support same-sex marriage. Until then, civil unions will be the fallback position for those who can't bring themselves to support marriage equality.

WCT: What do you think the Republican Party has to gain from supporting LGBT issues, besides votes from moderates?

DL: More votes. Independents usually decide who wins most elections, and independent voters are overwhelmingly pro-gay rights, with a strong majority supporting even same-sex marriage. Most voters are focused right now on economic issues for obvious reasons, but when the economy returns to normal, voters will return

David Lampo

A FUNDAMENTAL

FREEDOM

WHY REPUBLICANS, CONSERVATIVES,

AND LIBERTARIANS SHOULD

SUPPORT GAY RIGHTS

to looking at other issues like gay rights with greater scrutiny.

WCT: What steps would need to be taken by the Republican Party in order for them to gain more support from LGBT voters and their allies?

DL: By following my advice and accepting the fact that gays and lesbians should have the same legal rights as everyone else.

WCT: Do you think that changing its stance on LGBT issues will help the Republican Party with LGBT voters who are members of ethnic and racial minorities as well?

DL: It can only help, but when you introduce racial issues into the mix, that will certainly complicate and slow down the process.

Jane Lynch at Baldwin event June 25

Actress/writer Jane Lynch will be the special guest at a fundraiser for U.S. Senate candidate Tammy Baldwin Monday, June 25.

The event will take place at the home of Brad Lippitz and Jonathan "Yoni" Pizer in Lakeview. The VIP reception will be at 6 p.m., and the general reception will take place at 7 p.m.

Lynch currently co-stars as cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester on the TV show *Glee* and has been in movies such as *Best in Show* and *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*.

Should Baldwin be elected, the current U.S. representative would be the first LGBT individual in the Senate.

Tickets start at \$250 each; email sweber@kohnconsulting.com, or call Nancy Kohn or Sharon Weber at 312-527-3667.

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GAY *in the* **LIFE**
Daniel Schlax
 TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN



Age
25

Neighborhood
Edgewater

Job title
Hairstylist at Salon U in Lincoln Park; will celebrate his fifth anniversary working there in September.

Relationship status
Dating

Pets
Dog, a pit bull

Hobbies
Dancing, swimming, bicycle riding, board games

personal hairdo
"Very silvery."

It's a fact
"I'm really shy."

His passion for his current profession dates back to when Daniel Schlax was 3—when he braided the hair on his Barbie Dolls.

He certainly was hooked on hair at an early age, and knows he still has those old dolls in the attic of his parents' home.

"I'm 25, I love my job and co-workers, have no debt, make great money, and I have a lot of really good friends. In fact, I live with my best friend, who I've known for 16 years," Schlax said.

Ironically, though, hair hasn't always been his lone interest. When he was in high school, Schlax wanted to be a construction worker or architect. "I'm handy," he said, knowing that trait might surprise some. "I may look like the biggest queen, but I have the most tools. I'm good at fixing things and can put things together, be crafty.

"Heck, I grew up in the country with woods and [a] creek in [my] backyard." He used to fish with family members.

Schlax came out to some at 15 and his family at 16, though the announcement was, he now admits, just a formality. "They knew; I had Barbie [dolls] my whole life. It wasn't much of a shocker," he said.



Schlax's twin brother, Nicholas, who is straight, is fully supporting and loving—and has joined him at Chicago gay bars on multiple occasions. "He loves going with me to the gay bars; he gets a lot of attention [from the gays], no doubt more than [he does] back home," Schlax said, laughing.

Schlax's alter ego came to life in late May at DePaul University, when he donned the drag attire for the role of Kitty Lepore. "Being in character is was very awkward for me personally, but I'm good at it," he said, laughing.

Schlax does not have a hair specialty. He does coloring, cutting, perms, relaxers, braids, extensions and more.

To contact Schlax for an appointment, call Salon U at 773-327-2622.



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TENTH ANNUAL CONGRATULATIONS TO WINDY CITY GAY IDOL 2012 ROBERT HUGHES. SEE PAGE 62 FOR MORE PICTURES AND INFORMATION ON THE FINALS AT SIDETRACK.

PHOTO BY DAVE OUANO

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LOUGANIS

The toughest sissy in the world: The moment I triumphed over my bullies

I almost want to thank all the bullies in my life: the ones who called me "n*gger," "retard," "sissy boy" and "f*ggot"; those who threatened to throw punches at me and took my lunch money at the bus stop; those who actually threw punches at me and rubbed my face in asphalt; my dad, who whipped me with his belt until I did a dive I was too scared to do in my regular practice; the coaches who belittled me and intimidated me into pushing myself beyond what I thought I was capable of; and the man who raped me at knifepoint, whom I then stayed with for another six years. They all helped shape me, and without those experiences I could not be the person I am today. I had to learn to "forgive" myself and then find it in my heart to "forgive" them and even bless the light in them, no matter how dim that light was. But thanking them would be going too far, and it would be inaccurate. In the end it was my inner sense of self, my willpower and determination, that got me through and

helped me take those experiences and literally turn them into gold.

In 1988, at the Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea, on my ninth dive in the men's 3-meter springboard preliminaries, I struck my head on the board. Going into that Olympic event I was the favorite to win a gold medal, but in that split-second I became the "underdog." I was scared, having been diagnosed as HIV-positive six months prior, and aware that I was in a country that would have deported me if my status were known. It was what followed that made me realize the strength and power I had within me. I was taken to a room off the pool deck, where my head was sewn up. It wasn't bad, just four or five stitches. When my coach, Ron O'Brien, asked if I wanted to continue, I responded, without thinking, "We worked too long and hard to get there, and I don't want to give up without a fight."

I firmly believe that you don't achieve greatness on your own. I drew inspiration from my coach and from an Indiana boy, Ryan White, a friend who suffered from hemophilia and contracted HIV from his clotting factor. He went on to become a national spokesperson for people with HIV, working tirelessly before his 1990 AIDS-related death to make us visible and get increased government funding. He was a fighter, and in that moment I needed to find that fighter in me.

I set the board, and my dive was announced. I could hear an audible gasp from the audience. It was a similar dive to that in which I'd struck my head: a reverse one-and-a-half with three and a half twists. I patted my chest with a grimace on my face, and I heard a nervous chuckle from the crowd. It made me laugh a bit, and I realized these people wanted to see me succeed.

Only 22 minutes passed between the moment I struck my head on the board and the execution of that dive. I took a breath and went forward, trusting my training, my coach, and a young boy in Indiana. I did that dive, and as it turned out, it was the highest-scoring dive of that Olympic Games. In that moment I became the toughest sissy in the world. I went on to repeat that dive during the finals and took home the gold medal.

I never would have had that kind of strength and fortitude to succeed without my life's experiences, and I mostly attribute my strength in that moment to my tormentors. But it was only after I stopped playing the "victim" role that I truly began living a life of freedom. I found the will to learn and follow the path I was put on this Earth to follow. The experiences in which I felt "less-than" are the gems of my life, because I survived.

Each of us has a hero inside us and a uniqueness that we may not see at first, because we are so concerned with "fitting in." We may have a different walk or talk, a different way of learning, a physical appearance that doesn't match others' expectations, or a different way of expressing ourselves. In time, in my own experience, I learned to celebrate my uniqueness, cherish who I am as a human being, and act out of love and compassion for my fellow human beings. And, to borrow my mom's saying, "I make everywhere I go better, because I was there." I practice that every day and live it to the best of my ability.

To those who are being tormented, use those moments to find that inner self and that fortitude. It does get better!

Greg Louganis is an LGBT-rights activist and former Olympic champion diver.

DAVID-
ELIJAH
NAHMOD

The trouble with Harry: A 100-year legacy

The trouble with the late Harry Hay was, according to some, his outrageously blunt candor. There's no question that he spoke his mind freely, and let the chips fall where they might. But agree with him or not, you always knew that whenever Harry Hay opened his mouth, he spoke his truth and had the courage of his convictions.

Hay was born in England 100 years ago. He died in San Francisco 90 years later. During his nine decade sojourn on this earth, he displayed amazing courage, and planted the seeds for the birth of the gay rights movement. Long before Harvey Milk became the USA's first openly gay elected official, Harry Hay co-founded The Mattachine Society, the first American gay rights group to reach national prominence.

Harry Hay's original career goal was to become an actor. In the 1930s he worked as a stuntman in B-grade Hollywood films—his IMDB page lists him as a cast member in *Woman Against the World* (1937), a crime melodrama. That same year, Hay co-directed *Even: As You and I*, a short avant-garde film in which he also appeared. At the time he was only 25 years old, and was a card carrying member of the Communist Party. Long before his days as a "radical gay activist," Harry Hay was walking to the beat of a very different drum.

In hindsight, it's amazing and impressive to

realize that Hay first conceived the idea of a gay rights organization in 1948. Other gay men were fearful, and didn't support him. It took a few years, but in 1950, the first meeting of The Mattachine Society took place in Los Angeles. The group took its name from Medieval French secret societies of masked men—and indeed, what these early crusaders were doing was very dangerous and could easily have put them in harm's way.

Mattachine opened so many doors for the first time. The group published *The Call*, one of the very first gay newspapers. In 1952, when Mattachine member Dale Jennings was arrested for "lewd conduct" while cruising, Mattachine took a public stand against police entrapment—Jennings was acquitted of the charges. By 1953, Mattachine had over 2000 members.

Unfortunately, most chapters of the Mattachine Society closed by the 1980s, but there's no denying its pivotal role in gay history. It was hardly Hay's last stand. In 1979, he co-founded *The Radical Faeries*. The Faeries, still active today, often stand in direct opposition to the commercialism and assimilation of the mainstream LGBT equality movement.

In a 1985 interview, Faerie Peter Soderberg explained, in part, what the organization stood for: "Many gay men want to be middle-class Americans. They want to be respected as human beings and they want their sexuality to be ignored. But Radical Faeries are willing to live on the edge. We feel their is power in our sexuality. You know there is power there because our culture is so afraid of us."

Harry Hay was, in fact, a vocal opponent of assimilation. "If you're going to carry the skin of conformity over you, you are going to suppress the beautiful prince or princess within you," he said.

Sometimes he got himself into trouble, as in the 1980s, when he publicly expressed support for NAMBLA—The North American Man/Boy Love Association. He also opposed ACT UP, claiming

that the AIDS activist organization's confrontational tactics were rooted in the machismo of straight men.

It wasn't always possible to agree with Harry Hay. But there's no denying his incredible legacy. Who knows where we might be—or not be—today, had Hay and The Mattachine Society not taken those first public steps a half-century ago.

In 1999, frail and dying of lung cancer, Harry Hay, age 87, served as grand marshal of the San Francisco Pride Parade. He died Oct. 24, 2002, while in hospice care. He was 90.

Long before the concepts of Pride or coming out even existed, Harry Hay came out loudly and proudly. He had a strength and courage that few of us today can even conceive of.

Happy 100th birthday, Harry Hay.

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GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo courtesy of Breaking Glass Pictures

'GONE' TOO SOON

The real-life story of missing gay man Aeryn Gillern is the subject of the documentary *Gone*. See page 59.

DISH

Pasta time away.
Page 74.

Photo of ravioli at
Piccolo Sogno. PR photo



THEATER

Hank, you.
Page 36.

Photo from Peter Oylo



MOVIES

Red reckoning.
Page 64.

Photo from Disney/Pixar



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Next Stop: Pride

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Chicago is rife with shows that tie neatly into Pride celebrations this weekend.

Just to name a few, there are comedy revues (GayCo's *Swallow Your Pride*, The Octavarius' *Dungeons and Drag Queens*, The Neo-Futurists' *30 Queer Plays in 60 Straight Minutes*, iO Improv's *Qweirdo*), confessionals (the Annoyance Theatre's *Don't Act Like a Girl*, Glitterati Productions and *Pride Films and Plays' The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*), musicals (About Face Theatre and American Theater Company's *Rent*, Hell in a Handbag Productions' *Sexy Baby*, Annoyance Theatre's *Steamwerkz The Musical*) and so-called "straight plays" (*Immediate Family* at the Goodman Theatre, *The Glass Menagerie* at Steppenwolf's Garage Theatre.)

However, one show that might slip under most LGBT Pride radars is Route 66 Theatre's world-premiere musical *Next Stop*. One reason is because *Next Stop* was scheduled to only play four performances (the final two take place June 25 and 26 at Theater Wit.) Another is the way the show is billed.

Next Stop is described as a Chicago-centric show featuring short plays by six Chicago-area playwrights that were later transformed into mini-musicals by composer/lyricist Diana Lawrence. The show starts with a Greyhound bus escape to Chicago, followed by subsequent stories taking place near different CTA El train stops.

"We were big fans of singer-songwriter Diana Lawrence," said *Next Stop* director and instigator Erica Weiss, who hoped Lawrence would work again with Route 66 after they previously teamed so well behind the scenes on the musical *High Fidelity*. Luckily Lawrence was also equally keen to collaborate with Route 66 after

seeing its acclaimed 2011 production of Caitlin Montanye Parrish's *A Twist of Water* that Weiss directed.

Parrish sent Lawrence a short play about two teenage women talking about their idealized dream wedding just to see how she might be inspired. To Weiss and Parrish's delight, Lawrence quickly transformed the script into a musical, even though she had never really written a musical before.

"We just loved it," Weiss said. "But it was a short musical and we weren't really sure where we would go from there."

Weiss then got the idea of teaming Lawrence with other Chicago-affiliated playwrights like Alice Austen and Brett Neveu to create more mini-musicals to appear with Parrish's piece. Weiss sent out a CD of Lawrence's music to each playwright and asked them to find inspiration from it for a 10-minute play apiece.

Although Weiss didn't plan it, *Next Stop* turned out to have plenty of gay characters and content.

"We were completely open to any kind of subject matter," Weiss said, though she did advise the authors to keep the cast size small for each play. "Write whatever you want and we'll find the string to tie them all together."

The writing talent also included LGBT playwrights like Ike Holter and Alex Lubischer (who is also a contributing writer to *Windy City Times*), while Aaron Carter (who is also a literary manager at Steppenwolf Theatre) contributed a play about the downfall of a closeted conservative politician.

When asked why *Next Stop* was playing such a short run, Weiss replied that at the moment Route 66 was focused on putting the majority of its resources toward its planned off-Broadway



Diana Lawrence. Photo courtesy of Route 66 Theatre

restaging of *A Twist of Water* in New York later this year.

"We like to think of this really as the first step for what we would like to produce more fully later on," said Weiss in the capacity as Route 66's associate artistic director. "We decided to call this an 'in-town out-of-town opening,' as a kind-of first step toward realizing something more fully—just to give audiences a glimpse of Diana as a musical theater composer."

Route 66 Theatre's *Next Stop* finishes its brief run at 7:30 p.m. June 25 and 26 at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave. Tickets are \$25. Call 773-975-8150 or visit www.route66theatre.org for more information.

Critical convergence

Theater reviewers and writers from across the country recently gathered in Chicago for the annual regional conference of the American Theatre Critics Association.

From June 12 to 17, these writers took in shows at the Goodman Theatre, TimeLine Theatre, Black Ensemble Theater, Lookingglass Theatre and Theater Wit. There were also meetings, award presentations (playwrights Darren Canady and Caridad Svich were respectively given the Osborne and Primus awards) and panel discussions with distinguished guests.

One such panel, titled "Diversity at the Top," was moderated by Footlights Chicago managing editor Myrna Petlicki and featured artistic directors Chay Yew (Victory Gardens Theater), Bonnie Metzgar (About Face Theatre) and Lili-Anne Brown (Bailiwick Chicago) all talking about their roles, responsibilities and challenges running their respective organizations.

Although the panel was focused on the lack of women and minority leaders of major arts institutions, questions from the critics also brought up topics like the difficulty of attracting minority audiences to become regular theatergoers and the still sometimes controversial practice of colorblind casting.

But what was really illuminating for Chicago theatergoers was a question from conference host and fellow *Windy City Times* critic Jonathan Abarbanel about how each of the panelists was coping with his or her relatively recent appointments to the top of their organizations.

Metzgar mentioned how she still feels perceived as a bit of an outsider as a former New Yorker, while Brown mentioned that some of her decisions were challenged with a "that's not the way we've done that before" response—despite the fact that Bailiwick Chicago is still a relatively young company and that she was promoted up from the inside.

The panelist all agreed on Yew's assessment that change is difficult, but ultimately necessary if each of their organizations wanted to thrive and grow into the future.



Hank Williams: Lost Highway. Photo from Peter Oylo

THEATER REVIEW

Hank Williams: Lost Highway

Playwright: Randal Myler and Mark Harelík
At: Filament Theatre at the Athenaeum, 2936 N. Southport Ave.
Tickets: 773-935-6875;
www.filamenttheatre.org; \$22
Runs through: July 8

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

There's no denying that the life of Hiram "Hank" Williams was a hard one, and his death was the sorriest that anyone could wish on the artist responsible for turning "hillbilly" ballads rarely heard above the Mason-Dixon line into the internationally acclaimed musical genre today designated "country" music. Still, it was his voice—coming over the radio in the depths of the Great Depression—that offered citizens throughout the United States the grim assurance, "Don't worry about nothing, because it ain't gonna turn out right nohow."

His canon constitutes standard repertoire for country musicians to this day. A guitarist who can't croon "Your Cheatin' Heart" or "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" in three different keys is probably a Yankee pretender, as is any band of would-be pickers without "Move It On Over" or "Setting The Woods On Fire" on their permanent playlist. It wasn't all honky-tonk, however—"I Saw The Light" is a staple of rural church ser-

vices and revival meetings from Texas to Minnesota.

Such is the legacy of the quiet boy with the crippled back celebrated in Randal Myler and Mark Harelík's revue with text, which traces their reluctant hero's fortunes from his early youth, learning the blues from his neighbor, Rufus "Tee-Tot" Payne, followed by his marriage to an ambitious (but marginally talented) Opry-wannabe—a match leading to his discovery and subsequent tours with the "Louisiana Hayride" revue. We also witness his increasing dependence on a cornucopia of pharmaceuticals washed down with moonshine-grade alcohol, ending in his death from heart failure at the age of 29 in the back seat of a car on the road to a gig.

Some of these chronicles are narrated—story-theater style—by auxiliary characters, but the major part of the two-and-a-half-hour evening is devoted to a roster of Williams classics, performed with just the correct amount of down-home swagger by a quartet of cheerful sidemen backing the suspiciously healthy-looking Williams portrayed by Peter Oylo. Oylo sings up a storm and yodels right smartly, but has yet to find the "darkness" we are told lurks beneath the passive exterior of this introverted genius. That said, the show nevertheless generates Southern-bred nostalgia almost overflowing its tiny space. Royal George, are you listening? This could be your cabaret room's answer to that *other* toe-tapping lesson in U.S. music history over at the Apollo.

My First Time

Playwright: Ken Davenport, from www.myfirsttime.com
At: Broken Nose Theatre at Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.
Tickets: 773-404-7336 or www.greenhousetheater.org; \$20-\$30
Runs through: July 28

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Are you a virgin?

It's funny for a play all about people's initial sexual experiences like *My First Time* to find it necessary to ask the above question in a pre-show audience survey. But it all helps to make *My First Time* the all-inclusive experience that it strives to be.

Drawing extensively from contributed stories found on the Website www.myfirsttime.com created in 1998 by Peter Foldy and Craig Stuart, *My First Time* was the brainchild of Ken Davenport, who originally wrote, directed and produced the show. It was an off-Broadway hit that ran from 2007 to 2010, and now its belated Chicago debut arrives via an eminently enjoyable late-night production by the young Broken Nose Theatre troupe.

Staged by director Benjamin Brownson in a presentational style that recalls Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*, *My First Time* features four engaging actors (Jennifer T. Grubb, Michael Allen Harris, Leslie Ruettiger and Adam Soule) flipping through a variety of stories and one-liners about that key moment in many a person's life when he or she first got it on. Interspersed throughout are audience survey responses and

tallies that are both read aloud and projected above the actors, ranging from the exact location of where people did the deed, to the percentage of people who used contraception that first time out.

The stories run the gamut, featuring odd situations (an encounter at a college radio station during a Valentine's Day broadcast) to gross-out details (the teenage girl in the 1960s who was incorrectly told that douching with Coca-Cola would prevent pregnancy.) Lesbian and gay encounters are included in the mix, though the featured lesbian encounter feels more like it was selected more to titillate heterosexual male fantasies of sexually fluid girl-on-girl action rather than reflect a dyed-in-the-wool lesbian experience.

Although the show's tone is mostly comic and playful (particularly when coupling religious fanatics' denunciations of the show's inspirational Website with orgasmic deity-filled dialogue), *My First Time* also includes a few disturbing stories when the sex was forced or coerced.

Through it all, the acting company does a great job of shifting through the ups and downs and ins and outs of first-time sex. And if the show itself wasn't enough, the folks of Broken Nose have also invited a variety of Chicago storytellers to offer up a pre-show confessional about their own first time. (Sarah Zematis was hilarious on opening night with her story set at the Bristol Renaissance Faire near Kenosha, Wis.)

My First Time ultimately succeeds by shining a spotlight on a near universal human experience. Great stories are shared and audience members' memories are jogged to their own first-time trysts (although I wouldn't blame virgins if they ultimately feel left out).

THEATER REVIEW

Swallow Your Pride

Playwright: The cast
At: Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.
Tickets: 773-327-5252
www.Stage773.com; \$20
Runs through: July 7

BY JERRY NUNN

Formed out of improvisational alumni from Second City in 1996, GayCo continues to show its pride with new LGBT sketch segments in its current production, *Swallow Your Pride*. Unfortunately, a few of these ideas should have remained in the closet.

The story opens with the group at the Pride Parade and the song "Hate Your Cares Away." With changes to Chicago's Pride Parade, it was a surprise that those alterations weren't tackled.

Right after, a "homosexuals in their natural habitat" scene garnered a few chuckles—but the engagement scene that followed fell flat.

The group is not afraid to take names, using real places in Andersonville to poke fun at the name changes and type of cuisine that have happened in the past few years in the Acre space. However, outsiders that aren't familiar with that neighborhood are not going to understand the inside joke.

Gayco takes on the dated expression "that's so gay" but society seems to have moved on from that bullying—so why hasn't this troupe?

Speaking in unison as a theme makes *Swallow Your Pride* choke and seems like a misstep from director Sabrina Harper.

The cast put together the material so the members really do themselves a disservice, although their performances are good. Stand-outs such as Judy Fabjance and John Loos know how to have fun and make some difficult pieces work.

A comment about people posting on Facebook instead of actually fixing the problem in the Congo is possibly a good idea—but why

not hone in on something that might actually hit home with the audience? For example, one possible resonant issue involves people who self-promote on Facebook or tweet about meaningless things.

If you are looking for Large Marge to play "The Star-Spangled Banner" on the jugs, then this is the humor for you. Prohibition liquor laws treated to the tune of a West Side Story medley seem out of place and strange.

The story choice is where the stumbling happens, with some of GayCo's past productions being more successful. The audience is looking to drink beer from a pitcher while seeing a fun show that takes on LGBT subject matter they can directly relate to. This company attempts that, but doesn't quite make it out of the parade.

GayCo seems to be at its best when things are taken over the top, but the subjects lampooned from the workshops make this 16th-anniversary show's fun a little hard to swallow.



Swallow Your Pride. Photo from GayCo

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Exit, Pursued by a Bear.
Photo by Amanda Clifford

THEATER REVIEW
Exit, Pursued by a Bear

Playwright: Lauren Gunderson
At: Theatre Seven of Chicago at The Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.
Tickets: 773-404-7336;
www.theatreseven.org; \$20-\$30
Runs through: July 15

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Nan is leaving Kyle. It's not so much his dead-end service-station job, but after six years of marriage he drinks and slaps her around, apparently repeating the pattern of his own parents. Meanwhile, Nan has discovered Jane Austen, National Geographic Magazine and Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* and wonders out loud, "Why isn't that my world?"

She and Kyle are former high school sweethearts who live in semi-rural Georgia—where bears come out of the hills—and their world is limited to bowling and dinners at The Olive Gar-

den. In order to tell Kyle a couple things on her way out, Nan has duct-taped him into a chair with the help of Sweetheart, a lap dancer from the local club, and her gay best friend, Simon.

From that description, try to figure out if this play is a comedy or a drama. The circumstances of dead-end lives, abusive relationships and spouses who find their independence are very serious and are happening around us every day. Yet there are comic possibilities in a wife, a lap dancer and a gay guy binding the brute. This is the line author Lauren Gunderson tries to walk without success. Promoted by Theatre Seven as a comedy, even "a gut-buster," *Exit, Pursued by a Bear* is only fitfully amusing. But even if taken seriously it's flat, relying on a cliché premise—no matter how true it may be—and stereotypical characters.

I've seen and read literally dozens of plays over the years about under-educated couples, married too soon, in which the woman has had enough. Many have rural or redneck settings similar to *Exit, Pursued by a Bear*. However, a play can rise above the setting and basic situation if the characters are well-drawn and fully fleshed out,

but that isn't the case here. Given no character development whatsoever, *Sweetheart* and *Simon* are one-dimensional and add no complexities to the plot. The only apparent reason for *Simon* to be gay is so he can appear in a cheerleader's skirt. Kyle is interesting only in flashback scenes which reveal him as an occasionally-tender and tentative wooer of Nan, but he isn't given character development, either. Nan alone has an arc of evolution, but that has all happened before the play actually begins. We are told about it, but we don't see it.

The four actors perform with energy and focus

under director Cassy Sanders, on scenic designer John Wilson's detailed and dimensional set; but I can't understand what Theatre Seven saw in this play. This young troupe recently was honored as Chicago's emerging theater of the year, but *Exit, Pursued by a Bear* (a famous stage direction from Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*) won't show you why.

SPOTLIGHT



Cirque du Soleil has been transforming many of its previous big tent circus blockbusters into indoor arena spectacles. Just one example is the Asian and Western circus-influenced *Dralion*, which returns to the town with back-to-back stops in Rosemont and Chicago.

Cirque du Soleil's *Dralion* first plays the Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Rd., Rosemont, June 20-24, and then at the United Center, 1901 W. Madison St., June 27-July 1. Rosemont performances are at 7:30 p.m. June 20-22, 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. June 25 and 1 p.m. June 24. Chicago performances are 7:30 p.m. June 27-29, 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. June 30, 1 and 5 p.m. July 1. Tickets are \$35-\$145. Call 800-745-3000 or visit www.chicagoshakes.com. Photo courtesy of Cirque du Soleil

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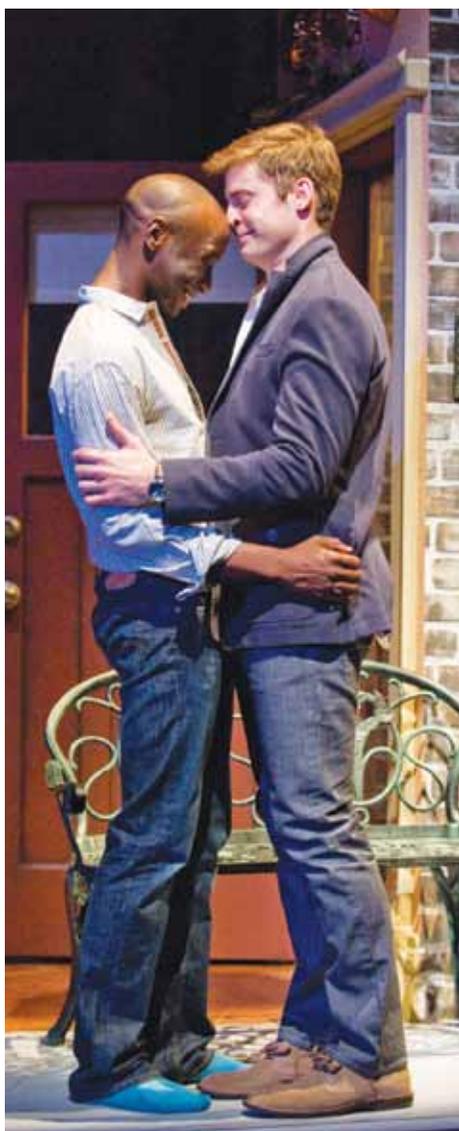
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BROADWAY PLAYHOUSE AT WATER TOWER PLACE



Immediate Family. Photo by Michael Brosilow

Our protagonist is Evy Bryant Jerome, to whom fell the responsibilities of surrogate lady-of-the-house after the untimely death of the family matriarch. The burdens associated with premature assumption of this post have alienated Evy from her brother, Jesse, who turned to girl-next-door Nina for companionship.

Further muddying the genealogical roles was the revelation of a mixed-race half-sister sired by the late Rev. Bryant. On the eve of youngest sibling Tony's hastily-planned wedding, Evy clings to her doctrinaire piety even as its collapse is imminent. Jesse, you see, is gay, as is Nina. Tony's bride is pregnant. Kristian, the wedding photographer is Jesse's lover and partner of two years. Oh, and did I mention that Kristian is Swedish and the Bryant clan is African-American?

This is a lot of conflict to explore in only 100 minutes: Tony can accept his bro' being queer, but not his whiter-than-white paramour, despite stepsister Ronnie reminding him of own biracial parentage. Evy, having embraced her religion's pro-natal imperative, is more appalled at Jesse's alleged neglect of his procreative duties, even as he questions her childless status and its contribution to her own husband's estrangement. Learning that Kristian is a devout churchgoer and devoted father only exacerbates Evy's hostility, until tensions finally explode over what begins as a harmless game of bid-whist.

In its television counterpart, all this would emerge at glacial pace, punctuated by bursts of slapstick, concluding with Evy getting her comeuppance and her antagonists crowing in triumph. Phylicia Rashad is smarter than that—more important, trusts us to be smarter, too. Under her direction, the action proceeds at a vigorous clip, while nevertheless ascertaining every individual's opportunity to appeal for our sympathy and keeping each small moment of enlightenment within the realm of plausibility.

THEATER REVIEW

Immediate Family

Playwright: Paul Oakley Stovall

At: Goodman Theatre in association with About Face Theatre at the Goodman, 170 N. Dearborn St.

Tickets: 312-443-3800;

www.goodmantheatre.org; \$20-\$54

Runs through: Aug. 5

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Although Paul Oakley Stovall's play is, technically, a comedy, and its humor based in "situation" (as opposed to "character" comedies), its dramatic scope extends wider than the domestic universe of the archetype and the social-issue overtones of the later post-Norman Lear subgenre. Our play may be premised on a family reunion, its setting a comfortable middle-class home and its ending rooted in reconciliation, but to dismiss its multi-faceted scrutiny as a "sitcom" is to diminish its incisive commentary on changing filial definitions in America today.

'Gacy Play' at Wit June 28-July 29

Sideshow Theatre Company will present the world premiere of Chicago playwright Calamity West's *The Gacy Play* at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave., June 28-July 29.

According to a press release, "Developed with Sideshow over two and a half years, West's play looks under the floorboards of a nondescript suburban home, and reveals the many ghosts hiding underneath."

Previews are Saturday, June 23, at 8 p.m.; Sunday, June 24, at 3 p.m.; and Wed., June 27, at 8 p.m. The regular run will be Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 3 p.m.

Preview tickets are \$20 in advance or pay-what-you-can at the door, and regular-run tickets are \$15-\$25. See www.theaterwit.org or call the Theater Wit box office at 773-975-8150.

Dance for Life holds launch party

BY ELYSSA CZYNSKI

Dance for Life held its annual launch party in the Auditorium Theatre's Katten Landau studio June 13.

Intended to kick-start ticket sales for the Aug. 18 HIV/AIDS fundraiser, the launch also raised money for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, the Dancers' Fund and Chicago Women's AIDS Project.

"We have a wonderful, huge group of corporate sponsors, but of course, it's the individual donors and that's what tonight is about," said Anthony Guerrero, producer of Dance for Life. "Also, everyone who wants to see dance and can be a part of it."

The event was full of dancers and dance community supporters. Interspersed were performances by Expressions Dance Company.

The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University will host Dance for Life for the second year in a row. The partnership began for the 20th-anniversary Dance for Life performances last year.

This year's Dance for Life will feature the Joffrey Ballet Chicago, Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, Hubbard Street Dane Chicago, River North Dance Chicago, Luna Negra Dance Theater and Ron de Jesus Dance.

Guerrero also explained what will happen between the launch party and the performance in August.

"Keep an eye out for things that may pop up around the city, but over the next couple of months it is all about making the city aware of this event, selling those tickets, letting them know we are in a bigger space and its for everybody to come and learn about what it is to give and have fun and enjoy their evening," he said.

More information and tickets are available at www.danceforlifechicago.com.

Sir Andrew Davis gets new role

Sir Andrew Davis, music director and principal conductor of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, will add chief conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra beginning to his credits in January 2013, according to a press release.

Davis' contract with the Lyric was recently extended through the 2020-21 season. He will conduct Strauss's *Elektra*, Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*, Massenet's *Werther*, and Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* during Lyric's 2012-13 season.

The English conductor, music director of Lyric Opera of Chicago since 2000, is conductor laureate of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (having previously served as principal conductor), conductor laureate of the BBC Symphony Orchestra (having previously had the longest tenure as chief conductor since BBCSO founder Sir Adrian Boult) and former music director of Glyndebourne Festival Opera.

CRITICS' PICKS

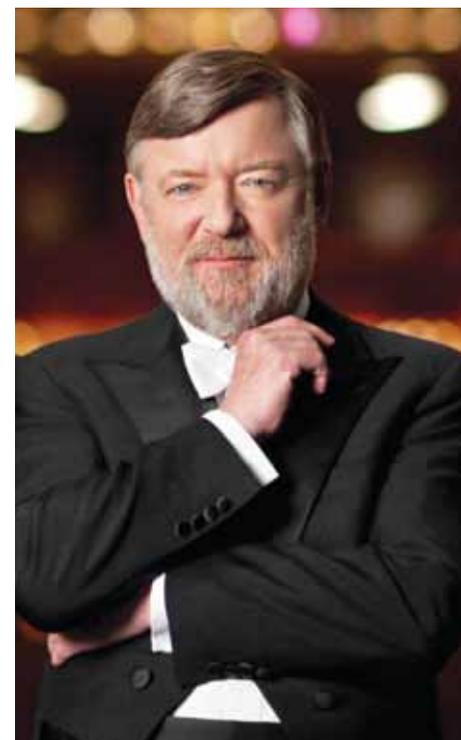
The Blonde, the Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead, Writers' Theatre, Glencoe, through July 29. Deborah Staples transforms herself into a multitude of vivid characters in Australian playwright Robert Hewett's comic drama that explores the repercussions of a piece of gossip that causes a tragic death. SCM

I Am Going To Change The World, Chicago Dramatists, through July 1. Andrew Hinderaker's tale of a young crusader doomed to fall short of the sweeping goals he set forth for himself speaks to a generation coming to terms with diminished expectations and, in doing so, offers them the hope that comes of small, but significant, accomplishments. MSB

A Little Night Music, Writers' Theatre, Glencoe, 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. JA

Rent, American Theater Company, through June 24. 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

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan



Sir Andrew Davis. Photo by Dario Acosta

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THEATER

'Larry Kramer' to mark 20 years here in Chicago

BY JOE FRANCO

David Drake began writing *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me* in 1990. Although he did not know it then, the series of monologues he developed for numerous AIDS and gay-rights benefits in the early 1990s would become one of the most frequently played one-person shows in history and the winner of *The Village Voice* Obie award in 1992. The play began off-Broadway and continued to play consecutively for over two years. The play would become a critically acclaimed film in 2000 starring Drake in the title, and only, role.

Now, after 20 years, the show is to be played again—but now in Chicago and with a new set of parameters informing the acting and the writing of the show itself. “So many issues originally informed the show,” Drake told *Windy City Times*. “There was the AIDS epidemic; the actual work of Larry Kramer, namely his play, *The Normal Heart*; but, ultimately, homophobia and what I saw happening to an entire class of men and women was the greatest influence.”

Drake admitted, “I was an actor and I could sell T-shirts. I decided to respond to the crisis by writing something and acting in it. My gifts were never political or medical.” After more than six months in pre-development, Drake finally read the piece to a friend and *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me* was born.

“There is an anti-bullying message as well,”

said Drake. “We were tired of being gay-bashed and this was my opportunity to bash back. I was actually a victim of an attack. A group of us were just walking down the street—in the middle of New York City’s gay neighborhood—when we were beaten. I felt embarrassed and humiliated. Despite the fact that there were literally hundreds of us around, the homophobes felt entitled to hate outwardly.”

Drake never intended the show to win any awards. “It was never my intention for the show to be popular or award winning or celebrated by anybody. I just had a need to write this show from a very deep-seated spiritual root. I felt compelled. Now I am both humbled and awed at what this show has come to mean for so many gay men. It is both humbling in its magnitude but I do feel some pride in sharing my story and the story of those gay men from New York in the early 90s.”

Sometimes it may seem that that the power and the energy of those early days seemed to lull for quite some time. Few organizations since ACT-UP have harnessed that kind of community spirit. Drake believed that, “this was a necessary lull. We got tired. We fought from 1995 through 2005 to heal a tumultuous wound in our community. The 1970s was our coming out party. Then the 1980s happened and all we could think was ‘Holy shit.’ Then we took the better part of the 1990s to take back some control.” Drake hoped



David Drake. Photo by Holly McDade

that the modern production of his play might also heal other schisms in the gay community. “I would like to see the young generation and the older generation get on the same page. This is a societal problem and it would be wonderful to think that this play could be a part of the process to bridge that divide. When younger men play this role, they are ‘walking the walk and talking the talk’ and learning what it was to be a part of that history. They are becoming ‘the archetype of the collective unconscious’, the everyman – the hero.”

Chad Ryan hopes to become that everyman in his adaptation of Drake’s role. “I think I’m an old soul. While I was not directly connected

to the center of the AIDS crisis, I am a part of its history. I still had that fear of AIDS,” said Ryan. “I remember going to see *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me* in 1993. I told my parents I was off to Iowa City but instead, just a freshman in high school, I went to New York instead. What I remember about that original production is that it was very loud. At one point, when the actor is in nothing but a jock strap I felt disgusted. My gosh, I thought that I was going to get AIDS merely by participating in the gay lifestyle. Some people still actually think that,” said Ryan.

The 20th-anniversary production is not just a watermark for the play, but a personal note of triumph for its actor. Ryan worked hard for private donations and through Indiegogo to raise the \$5,500 needed just to produce the show for two weeks. “I knew after I saw the film production for *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me* that I had to do this play. I have a thing for men who are unapologetically themselves, out and unafraid to tell others their story. When I contacted David [Drake] he was delighted that I wanted to do the show and actually wrote me a new ending.”

That new ending, which uses the new position of AIDS in our modern world and the new sense of equality and options for the gay community, was indeed written specifically for Ryan and his interpretation of this iconic gay play. Ryan hoped to “make the play more conversational. Drake originally wrote the play as more a performance piece but I wanted to make it something less beat. I wanted to make sure that today’s audience didn’t get lost and that this play could help them find something inherent in themselves.” Drake said, “I wrote this play for the gays. But now straights are gayer than we are. There are no more secret codes. Everyone is invited to the party.”

The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me will be playing June 20-July 1 at the Luna Central Theatre, 3914 N. Clark St. See www.brownpaptickets.com or call 800-838-3006.

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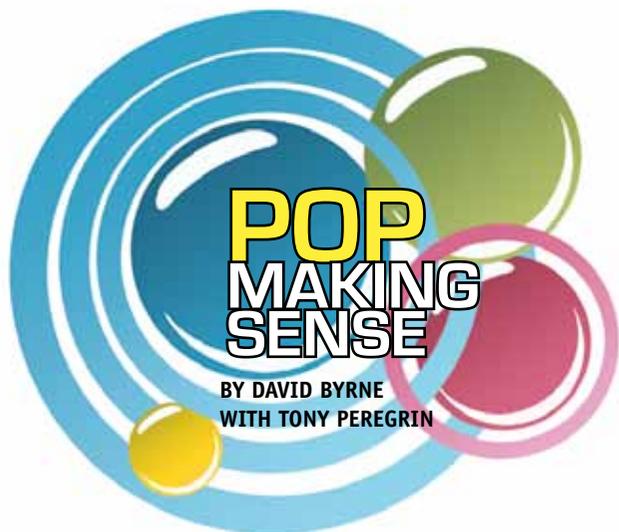
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"DNA" has a thumping beat that formally announces that summer is here. Rye Rye teams with Robyn on a great reworking of the Scandinavian's "Be Mine," which is renamed "Never Be Mine."

Our very own **Homer Marris** fuses his talents into humorous music. His EP *Prom King* features "The Facebook Song." Here, he complains about those who post tirelessly and needlessly on the social network. Marris jokes about the overtly casual connections, "I don't know you / I don't like you / but we can be friends on Facebook." The

accompanying video shows near-accidents as people are focused on their smart phones instead of their surroundings. Part of "The Facebook Song" was performed on Jimmy Kimmel Live in conjunction with National UnFriend Day. The EP also contains the hilarious "Bear411"—a stripped-down remake of "Fame"—and "A Prayer for Julian Sands," referring to the actor from *Warlock* and *Boxing Helena*. Sands appeared in an episode of *The L Word*, too. A release party is going to take place at Phyllis' Musical Inn, 1800 W. Division St., on Thursday, June 28. Ben Taylor of J.C. Brooks & The Uptown Sound produced *Prom King*; see www.homermarris.bandcamp.com.

Before taking a hiatus from touring, folk duo **Nervous but Excited** is performing in select cities. The lesbian pair is coming to Uncommon Ground, 1401 W. Devon Ave., on Friday, June 29, with Eli & the No Good and Bridge 19 on the bill. *Nervous but Excited's* most recent effort, *You Are Here*, features the stunningly beautiful "Away, Awake." There is no denying the fantastic

The partying after the newly routed Chicago 43rd Annual Pride Parade will not stop as **Scissor Sisters** will take to the stage at Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave., on Sunday, June 24. The queer New Yorkers recently released their fourth studio album, *Magic Hour*.

Lead singer Jake Shears opens about issues with trust on "Baby Come Home," which could have been an Elton John hit 40 years ago. The Bee-Gees-inspired "Inevitable" recalls the quartet's breakout hit "Comfortably Numb," as both are delightful midtempo electronic numbers. *Magic Hour* is complete with the outrageously camp tracks "Let's Have a Kiki" and "Shady Love."

Berlin Nightclub, 954 W. Belmont Ave., is hosting the official pre-party and after-party for the Scissor Sisters concert, with DJ Sammy Jo and Shears.

Be sure not to miss **Rye Rye**, who is opening for Scissor Sisters at this sold-out concert. Her energetic debut *Go! Pop! Bang!* is out now. The Baltimore-based rapper has party-ready cuts—like "Holla Holla" and "Boom Boom"—that would make Kid Sister and M.I.A. beam.



Scissor Sisters. Press photo

folk music *Nervous but Excited* makes upon hearing "Ohio to Michigan," "One Four Three" and "Blank Pages."

Pride Fest boasts an array of dance divas during the two-day street festival. These singers have provided staples to the club community and many coming-out anthems. For a complete schedule, visit www.chicagoevents.com.

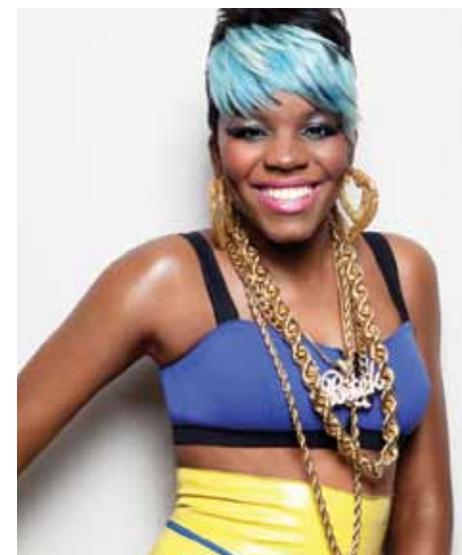
Martha Wash landed hits as a solo artist, including "Carry On" and "Give It to You"; as half of Two Tons O' Fun and The Weather Girls, she scored with "Just Us" and the camp evergreen "It's Raining Men." Wash's powerful soprano can be heard on classics by Black Box, C&C Music Factory and Seduction. Not just a dance artist, Wash released the power ballad "I've Got You" on her own label, Purple Rose Records.

Canadian siren **Simone Denny** sang the hit theme for *Queer Eye* for the Straight Guy—"All Things (Just Keep Getting Better)"—with *Widelife*. Her former band **Love, Inc.** blended Denny's mighty chops with dance-pop ditties like "You're a Superstar," "Here Comes the Sunshine" and "Into the Night." Although its time together was short-lived, *Love, Inc.* reached the top spot five times on the Canadian dance charts. On its debut, *Love, Inc.* did a wonderful, soulful rendition of One Dove's "Why Don't You Take Me." Denny is working on follow-up material to her sporadic singles "Cliché," "Luv Sick" and "Drama Queen (Texting U)."

Singer-songwriter **Janice Robinson** penned *Living Joy's* "Dreamer," which ignited throughout clubland in the mid-'90s. She reissued her

own version of the feel-good anthem a decade later. Robinson wrote material for others, most notably the brilliant-but-overlooked "Let Love Reign" by Kristine W. and "Crash" by Taylor Dayne. I saw her open for Lionel Richie and Tina Turner in 2000, when Robinson was promoting her solo bow, *The Color within Me*.

Frenchie Davis has been a crowd-pleaser with her previous performances at LGBT-oriented



Rye Rye. Press photo

street festivals in the Windy City. A clip of The Voice contestant scolding protesters with signs during Pride Fest has received more than 12,000 views on YouTube. Expect to hear the gorgeous Davis belt out radio hits better than the original singers.

In 1996 **Sandy B.** had one of the biggest dance hits with "Make the World Go Round," thanks to an unforgettable remix by Deep Dish. The vocal powerhouse returned to the charts with "Ain't No Need to Hide," "Alone" with Sal Dano and "Check It Out" with Karmadelic.

Inaya Day is a regular treat at Pride Fest. Day has released her own take of "Nasty Girl" and sang the hook on a reinterpretation of "Glamorous Life." Her vocals grace the saucy hit "Horny" by Mousse T.

JoJo was the youngest solo artist to have a chart-topping hit with "Leave (Get Out)" at age 13. Now the 21-year-old actress and singer has a new album out, *Jumping Trains*, which features "Sexy to Me." Also on the line-up is Thea Austin, who is the original vocalist on SNAP!'s monstrous smash "Rhythm Is a Dancer."

Among these veterans, newcomer **Guinevere** also will be at Pride Fest. The 20-year old Canadian has a scorching hot electro-pop number titled "Crazy Crazy."

Street-fair favorites 16 Candles and Dot Dot Dot also are performing at Pride Fest.



Guinevere. Press photo

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Pride Fest line-up: Martha, Frenchie

Martha Wash will be the featured performer at Chicago Pride Fest, which will take place between Addison and Grace on Halsted Street Friday-Saturday, June 22-23.

Wash—who is immensely popular in the LGBT community—is marking the 30th anniversary of “It’s Raining Men,” which she sang with Izora Rhodes when they formed the duo Two Tons O’ Fun. Wash also is known for her vocals on Black Box songs such as “Everybody Everybody” and “I Don’t Know Anybody Else.” She also sang lead vocals on the 1991 C+C Music Factory smash “Gonna Make You Sweat (Everybody Dance Now).”

She’s slated to take the North Stage June 23 at 4:30 p.m.

Other singers on the bill include Frenchie Davis (American Idol; The Voice), Jojo, Inaya Day and Janice Robinson. Local acts include the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus and Dot Dot Dot.



Frenchie Davis.

The line-up is as follows:
Friday, June 22

North Stage:
5 and 7:30 p.m.: Pride Drag Show
7 p.m.: Jojo
9 p.m.: Inaya Day

South Stage:
6 p.m.: The Personnel
7:30 p.m.: Chicago Spirit Brigade
8 p.m.: Sixteen Candles

Saturday, June 23

North Stage:
12 p.m.: Miss Foozie’s Pet Parade
1:30, 3 and 5:30 p.m.: Pride Drag Show
2:30 p.m.: Thea Austin
3 p.m.: Chicago Spirit Brigade
4:30 p.m.: Martha Wash
6:30 p.m.: Simone Denny
7 p.m.: Guinevere
8 p.m.: Frenchie Davis
8:30 p.m.: Janice Robinson
9 p.m.: Sandy B

South Stage:
1:30 p.m.: Chicago Spirit Brigade
2:30 p.m.: Chicago Redline
3 p.m.: Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus
3:30 p.m.: Rod Tuffcurls & the Benchpress
6 p.m.: Dot Dot Dot
7:30 p.m.: The Chicago Cowboys
8 p.m.: Wedding Banned



Adam Levine of Maroon 5.

Maroon 5 out in June with ‘Overexposed’

Grammy-winning band Maroon 5 will drop its fourth studio album, *Overexposed*, June 26.

Overexposed has 10 tracks. The first single, “Payphone,” is available on iTunes. Other songs include “Beautiful Goodbye” and “One More Night,” among others.

In 2010, the band (headed by *The Voice* judge Adam Levine) released *Hands All Over*, which included “Misery” and “Moves Like Jagger.”

Max Martin produced the album, with additional tracks produced by Benny Blanco and Ryan Tedder.

Epic to mark 25th anniv. of ‘BAD’

Epic/Legacy Recordings, in collaboration with the estate of Michael Jackson, will celebrate the legendary album and record-breaking *BAD* tour Sept. 18 with the release of a deluxe package *BAD 25*.

BAD 25 will include three CDs and two collectible booklets. It will also have the first-ever authorized DVD release of a concert from the *BAD* tour.

The DVD is of Jackson’s July 16, 1988, concert at London’s Wembley Stadium. The DVD was sourced from Michael Jackson’s personal VHS copy of the performance, as shown on the *JumboTrons* during the concert.

The CDs will include the remastered original *BAD* album; audio from the sound truck recordings of the Wembley performance; and previously unreleased material recorded in Jackson’s personal studio at Hayvenhurst in Encino, Calif.

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NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Chely Wright: Country singer on coming out, new doc



BY JERRY NUNN

Country music singer Chely Wright stepped right out of the closet in 2010 and her life has never been the same. Known for such hits as "Shut Up and Drive" and "Single White Female," Wright has released seven studio records.

She wrote a book, *Like Me*, about her life of being a closeted lesbian and a documentary called *Wish Me Away* really goes behind the scenes.

Wright returns to Chicago to appear live in Andersonville as the frontrunner in a Backlot Bash.

Windy City Times: Hi, Chely. Good to talk to you again.

Chely Wright: When was the last time?

WCT: Right before the big Borders Bookstore signing.

CW: That was almost two years ago. You need to call me more often!

WCT: Exactly—and I thought we bonded so well. The event was so busy we barely were able to talk there.

CW: We did bond well. That event was crazy but a good one.

WCT: It was so touching when people in the audience related their stories. You are finally coming back to Chicago.

CW: Can you make it a little less hot this time?

WCT: I don't know what I can do. It's in the back of a parking lot so not a lot of shade, unfortunately.

CW: I will hydrate and be fine.

WCT: Wear some sunscreen.

CW: I was the grand marshal of the Phoenix Pride Parade and performed a few weeks ago. They broke a heat record that had been set in 1949. It was 102 degrees.

WCT: Oh, no!

CW: So I did the whole parade with no sunscreen. I ended up buying an umbrella from a vendor for my car. As I was in the parade I yelled out, "How much for an umbrella?" It was 20 bucks and that was what I had in my pocket.

WCT: That is expensive for an umbrella!

CW: I am sure he would have given me a discount but I didn't want to begrudge him his full fare.

WCT: I hope it was a rainbow umbrella.

CW: It totally was! It ended up making the pictures really great.

WCT: Let's talk about this documentary.

CW: The theatrical debut is June 1.

WCT: It is called *Wish Me Away* and goes back and follows your whole journey of coming out, correct?

CW: It does. They began filming two years ago before I came out as I was writing my book. It was about me preparing my team for doing it the way we did. It also chronicles my entire life and my career. They went back and got archival work

just to make sure that the narrative was correct. I think they did a fantastic job.

WCT: It showed the countdown of each day before you came out. It looked like a roller-coaster.

CW: Yeah, it was. I had no editorial control. It is not my film. It just happened to be about me. When I agreed to do the film and give them access to my life, I said, "Now here is the deal from me. I don't want to see it or be asked about what to put in the film." We stuck to that and I didn't see it until a week before its first film festival appearance.

It was a roller-coaster. I think the way they did the editing really compiled a profound message that I didn't know was in there. It is emotional to watch.

WCT: how are you going to compete with *The Avengers*?

CW: I am totally going to kick their butts! I am sure our little documentary will knock it out of the number-one spot. [Both laugh.] I think people that enjoy documentaries are a different breed of people. I know after theater they are planning on an On Demand release on cable networks. I think a lot of people will get to see it in a lot of different platforms.

WCT: You also have your one-year anniversary coming up.

CW: I do. I am so married!

WCT: Do you have big plans?

CW: We are going to Italy for a week around that time. We had a delayed honeymoon back in December because we both went right back to work after we got married. It didn't go so well because I had foot surgery but we went, anyway. I just had another foot surgery done yesterday so enough with the foot, right? Hopefully I will be recovered enough to enjoy the Italy trip.

I may be doing the Chicago show in a surgical boot or a tennis shoe. I hope people will bear with me.

WCT: Let me know if I need to get you a chair or something.

CW: I might have to do a seated set, which is fun.

WCT: You have done it before such at Borders.

CW: Frankly, that is what I prefer to do when its acoustic with a songwriter-in-the-round type thing, I don't have dance moves so there is not point to me standing.

WCT: You have to sing "Broken" for me.

CW: That's the one you like? You got it. That's going out to Jerry!

WCT: I saw you perform that one at the Indigo Girls show at the House of Blues.

CW: Cute—wasn't that fun?

WCT: That was a great show.

CW: I love the Indigo Girls and they are so gracious. The band and crew is so wonderful. We did a three- or four-city holiday tour.

WCT: I just met Amy Ray face-to-face last week when she was in town.

CW: She has a neat presence about her.

WCT: When are you putting out some new music?

CW: I'm writing for a new record right now. I think I have six or seven songs that I really like. I'm also writing a screenplay. I don't know how to write a screenplay but I am. This is how I do things, Jerry. I get things in my head and I have big goals. I like to put every iron in the fire that I can.

WCT: Such as the Like Me organization. What is that all about?

CW: It is a nonprofit organization that I founded when I came out. Our main project to date is that we just opened a brand-new LGBT center in Kansas City, which desperately needed one. It is called the Like Me Lighthouse. It is a center for LGBT people and their loved ones. If you newly out person in your life then we have the book for you. If you need some guidance and support then we have the connectivity.

It is hard to learn when you are isolated. There is a lab and library with referral services. It makes things a lot less scary in Kansas when you can imagine a beautiful for your child.

WCT: I should get a book for my isolated mother in Tennessee.

CW: You should get her Ellen Degeneres' mother's book. Betty is not gay but her daughter is, and it tells of her journey. I gave it to my dad when I came out. People need to know there are other people like you. That is why I named my book *Like Me*. In turn a mom needs to read a book of someone else like her.

WCT: That's a great idea! I saw your sister and her son at the Borders event.

CW: He has turned into such a man and a great advocate. I am so proud to see him in *Wish Me Away*. He was 13 at the time and the filmmakers had interviewed him on a couple of occasions. It was really beautiful to hear him say that he



Chely Wright. Press photo

didn't know I was gay but before he knew he said bad things about gay people and he really regrets doing that. It is such a powerful moment in the film. You don't know you love someone who is gay until they tell you. That is the power in coming out and being genuine.

WCT: Today they just released the X-Men comic book where the gay characters are now engaged.

CW: A change is coming, and we are in the thick of it!

Change your plans and head over to the Backlot Bash, 5238 N. Clark St., on June 22 at 5 p.m. For the schedule of the entire week-end, go to www.backlotbashchicago.com.

For more on Chely, visit chely.com.

QUOTELINES

COMPILED BY KATE SOSIN

"The problem is that today, as I write this, young men and women whose behaviors, choices or attitudes are not deemed 'man enough' or 'normal' are being subjected to all kinds of abuse from verbal to physical to societal. They are being demeaned and threatened because they don't fit the group's idea of what a 'real man' or a 'real woman' are supposed to look like, act like and feel like."—Comedian Jason Alexander apologizes for calling Cricket "gay" on Twitter, June 3.

"I get a lot of mail—but I don't get many bad letters—but I got a woman the other day that was so upset with me because they said, 'How do you feel about the gay-marriage thing?' and my answer to that is, 'I really don't care with whom you sleep, I just care what kind of a decent human being you are.' I figure all the rest of it is your business and not mine. And not hers, incidentally."—Golden Girl Betty White to the *Huffington Post*, June 12.

"I think people who are well-adjusted are not going to be interested in this story. Fortunately, there are a lot of people who are not well-adjusted."—Graphic novelist Alison Bechdel on her latest book, to the *Advocate*, June 15.

"It is inevitable that in any movement there are people who are unwilling to change with the times. I am of the older generation of gay men. There seem to be men of this generation who think that there is a holy grail of gay equality that, once discovered, will admit them to the world of white male privilege from which they have been so unjustly excluded."—LGBT Activist Richard Lyon to the *Huffington Post*, June 14.

"What I do know is I couldn't be happier than I am right now. And that has very little to do with me being transgender. It has everything to do with me being true."—Transgender actress Alexandra Billings to the *Huffington Post*, June 14.

"Two men, two women should be able to get married. It's not about your sex, it's about love and commitment. No state has the right to tell someone, 'No, this is not legal in the eyes of the state.' That is the most ridiculous statement in the world when you then go and preach that this is a free country."—Actress Shannen Doherty to the *Huffington Post* in May.



Levi Kreis is slated perform Sat., Aug. 14 at Market Days.

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

Howard Jones at Mayne Stage July 10

Electronic music pioneer Howard Jones is reprising his "Classic Albums" tour. One of his stops will be Chicago's Mayne Stage Tuesday, July 10.

Fans will get to experience such hits as "New Song," "What Is Love?," "Things Can Only Get Better" and the number-one hit "No One Is To Blame."

Jones recently re-mastered his classic albums and the associated 12-inch mixes, the latter being a special limited-edition box set. They are all available now at www.howardjones.com or Amazon.com.

See www.MayneStage.com for info regarding his show.

Lita Ford CD out

Heavy-metal singer Lita Ford has released her new album, *Living Like a Runaway*, via SPV/Steamhammer.

The album will be available in four configurations: a double LP, limited edition CD, standard CD and digital download.

She is best known for her work with The Runaways and her solo career, featuring hit singles "Kiss Me Deadly" and the duet "Close My Eyes Forever" with Ozzy Osbourne.

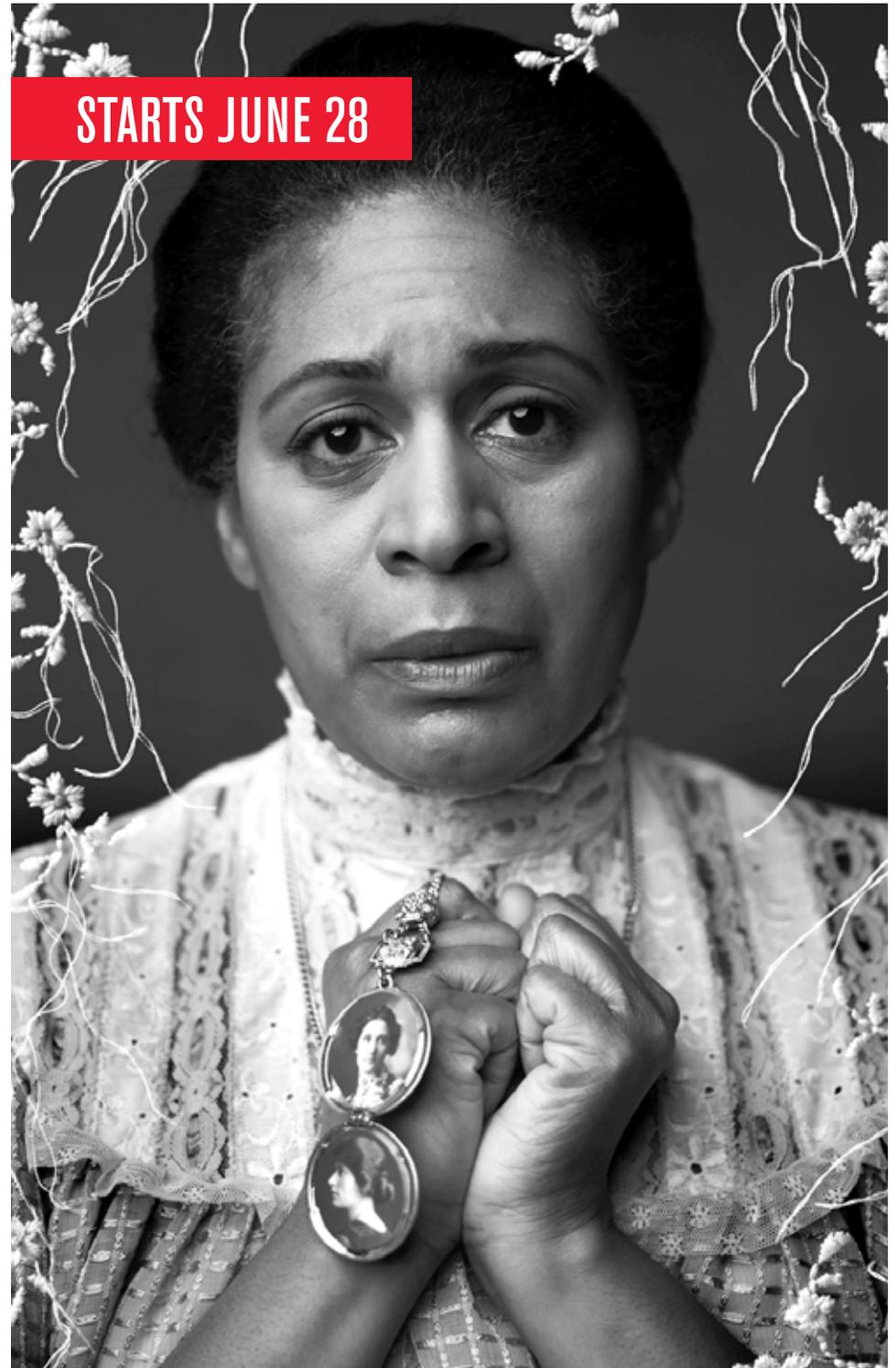
Ford is also touring (with Def Leppard and Poison). They will hit Chicago's All-state Arena Thursday, July 19.

Live Sade concert out on DVD/CD, download

The Sade release *Bring Me Home: Live 2011* is now available on Blu-ray, DVD/CD and download.

Last year, after a 10 year hiatus, Sade returned to the United States for a 54-date tour in support of the platinum-selling album *Soldier Of Love* (Epic Records), which became one of last year's top-10 grossing tours.

The tour, directed by Sophie Muller, features 22 of Sade's biggest hits performed live, including "Kiss of Life," "Your Love Is King," "The Sweetest Taboo," "Paradise" and "By Your Side."



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NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Martha Wash: On 'It's Raining Men' and her gay fans

BY JERRY NUNN

Martha Wash has been belting it out for decades, being everything from a back-up singer for Sylvester to a solo act. This Weather Girl predicted a rain of men that has lasted for 30 years.

After the group broke up, Wash moved on to sing with pop dance acts Black Box and C+C Music Factory, creating hits that are still in rotation today from "Everybody Everybody" to "Gonna Make You Sweat (Everybody Dance Now)." She also made waves with her self-titled '90s CD, with hits such as "Give It To You."

She has been a constant gay community supporter in her lengthy career and headlines our Pride Fest to kick off our big gay weekend!

Windy City Times: Hello, Martha. I read that you [sang with the late disco singer] Sylvester.

Martha Wash: You didn't know that? I am surprised.

WCT: I learned a new thing today.

MW: That is where I got started.

WCT: When did you begin singing?

MW: I started singing when I was a little girl at about 4 years old.

WCT: Did you study singing in school?

MW: In high school I made choir class and glee club. I started taking some private lessons for classical music. That was fun for a while but unfortunately my music teacher passed away so I never continued on with it. I liked it when I did it. There has always been music around me with choir classes and things like that.

WCT: Do you ever get sick of singing "It's Raining Men?"

MW: Not really, because I know it is a fan favorite so you have got to do it. It is always fun for them.

WCT: It has to be a good one for street festivals. You even sang it with RuPaul, correct?

MW: Yes, we did a version of it with RuPaul.

WCT: Being born in San Francisco you must have been around gay people your whole life.

MW: My adult life yes, definitely. Even in high school [and] probably junior high as well—I just

didn't know what was going on.

WCT: Have your fans changed over the years?

MW: I don't think so, but now I have new ones. There are people that go all the way back to Sylvester. Over the years I have gotten more and more fans. I am very appreciative of the gay community and the support that they have given me but the fans have broadened out. I have been around long enough where grandparents, parents and grandkids like my music. So that has been a good thing.

WCT: I wanted to ask you how you take care of your voice these days?

MW: Nothing, really; sometimes I try not to sing but instead hum to things on the radio when I am in my truck or listening to my iPod.

WCT: Lucky you—some singers follow a whole regimen. Pride Fest happens at the end of Halsted Street and kicks off the weekend. It will be hot. I just want to warn you. Talking about making you sweat!

MW: [Laughs] That's fine.

WCT: Since it's Pride weekend, what is the one thing you are the proudest of in your career?

MW: To be able to stand the test of time. "It's Raining Men" is a classic now, and it is 30 years old this year.

WCT: For your set list, are you singing songs from Black Box or C+C Music Factory?

MW: More than likely, yes. I am trying to finish up this CD that I am working on so I might possibly do one of the new songs. The single has been out for a while and it is called "I've Got You." The video for it is just beautiful. I am trying to finish up the CD, hopefully in the next two months. I am trying to pull the little things together to get it out there and ready.



Martha Wash. Photo by Sean Black

WCT: People can go to your website to find out when it's done.

MW: Right, at www.marthawash.com. I will let people know of Twitter too.

WCT: Oh, you are a Twitter person?

MW: I am. I still don't know a lot about it but I can tweet. It's @Marth_Wash. I fought it kicking and screaming but now I look at other people's tweets and just go from there!

Catch Martha Saturday, June 23, at 4:30 p.m. at Chicago Pride Fest, located at the North Stage on Halsted and Grace streets. For a complete schedule, visit www.northalsted.com.

Queer Fest America July 22 at Reggie's

Queer Fest America will present a multimedia PG-13 showcase to benefit El Rescate Independent Transitional Living for Homeless and HIV/AIDS Youth Sunday, July 22 at Reggie's Rock Club, 2105 S. State St., 4-9 p.m.

Headlining are national LGBTQ musician/comedian Jonny McGovern, Elephant and New York City dance-pop artist Matt Ryzan. International LGBTQ activist and musician Lair Scott will host and perform.

Tickets are \$15-\$25; email queerfestamerica@gmail.com or visit "Queer Fest America" on Facebook.

'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.

Dancers will include Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame inductee Jackie Anderson, actress Basha Evans, transgender activist KOKUMO and activist David Dodd, among others. C.C. Carter and Brandee "Starra" Young will co-host

General admission is \$20; VIP entry is \$25 (with includes unlimited wine); tickets at the door will be \$30. See DancingWithTheQueerStarsChicago2012.eventbrite.com.

'Kiss Kiss Cabaret' at Greenhouse

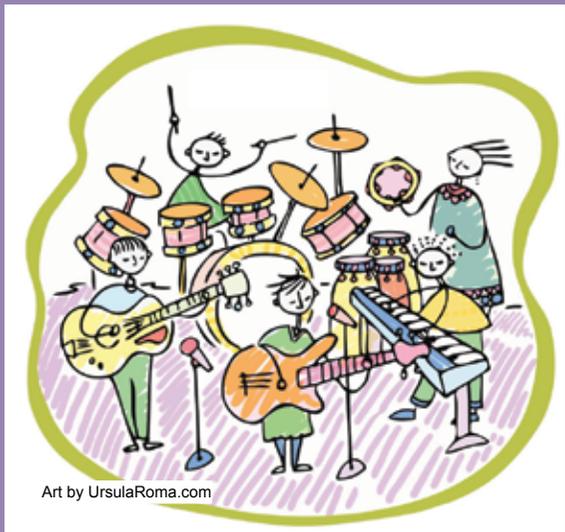
Chicago's only weekly burlesque/comedy show, "The Kiss Kiss Cabaret" is entering its second year.

The late-night variety show features stripteases, bawdy comedy, magicians, jugglers and musicians. It runs Fridays at 11 p.m. at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.

Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door; call 773-404-7336 or visit www.GreenhouseTheater.org.

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▲ Main Stage Schedule ▼

THURSDAY
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GODDISTAS
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LADIES MUST SWING

FRIDAY
MELANIE DEMORE
EMMA'S REVOLUTION
HOLLY NEAR
SUGARBEACH

SATURDAY
A RAINBOW PATH
BIG BAD GINA
TOSHI REAGON

SUNDAY
DANA GOLDBERG
JULIE GOLDMAN



◀ Day Stage ▶

FRIDAY
CHRIS COLLIER
SUMMER OSBORNE
LEELA & ELLIE GRACE

SATURDAY
MARY WATKINS
JAMIE ANDERSON
SHARON KATZ & THE PEACE TRAIN

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TELEVISION

Daytime serial utters the 'L' word

BY DAVID-ELIJAH NAHMOD

The once-mighty soap-opera genre has definitely fallen on hard times. Once a cash cow for the networks, these iconic dramas have seen their ratings plummet in recent years. A decade ago there were 10 of these shows on the air; today, it's down to four. Of these last remaining shows, CBS' long-running (since 1987) *The Bold and the Beautiful* is one of only two to still command a sizable audience.

Set in the glitzy high-fashion world of Los Angeles, "Bold" has been a surprisingly conservative show. In a business where LGBT people are a part of the daily fabric, "Bold" has kept its feet planted firmly in the heterosexual world. Until now. Last month, the show's viewership met its first lesbian couple in what's promised to be a long-term story arc.

The two actors cast in these roles are both quite familiar with lesbian culture, albeit in very different ways.

Crystal Chappell, who's straight, will be seen as Danielle, the new lesbian character on the "Bold" canvas. The actress was a fan favorite on the now-cancelled soap *The Guiding Light*. She and Natalia Rivera sizzled on that show as Olivia and Jessica, a lesbian couple in the suburban town of Springfield. *Guiding Light*'s ratings were quite low during its final few seasons, but "Olatia," as fans called the onscreen couple, definitely stood out. Towards the end of the series' run, they were just about the only players who could still generate press and bring in new viewers. The duo proved to be so popular, they played a second lesbian couple on *Venice*, a web

soap that was produced after *GL* ended.

Chappell isn't worried about typecasting as she begins playing her third lesbian role in as many years. "The majority of my career, I have played a heterosexual," she said in an interview with WCT. "I have played plenty of roles like doctors, business people, etc, so no, I don't worry at all."

The actress said that she's still hearing from fans of "Guiding," and expects them to follow her to the new show: "The [*Guiding Light*] and *Olatia* fans are extremely loyal and yes, they continue to follow me throughout my career. And we are very connected through social media. I also think there will be some new "Bold" fans."

For Joanna Johnson, who plays Chappell's new onscreen partner, being cast as Karen Spencer is more personal. The actress first played this role many years ago, when Karen was seen dating men. Johnson's return is also her first acting gig after a long hiatus from performing, during which time she worked behind the scenes in television. Soon after her "Bold" return was announced, Johnson publicly came out as a lesbian. As is often the case, her revelation wasn't quite the surprise as it was made out to be in the media, as Johnson has hardly been closeted.

"I was completely out in my private and professional life where and when my relationship status would come up," Johnson told *Windy City Times*. "It's not like the minute I was introduced to someone I said, 'Nice to meet you, and, FYI, I'm a lesbian'—just like a straight person doesn't announce they're straight. But, for instance, when people ask what my husband does,



Crystal Chappell (left) and Joanna Johnson in *The Bold and the Beautiful*. Photo from JPI Studios

I say I have a wife and she's an event promoter.

"So there was never a plan to come out. But when Brad [producer Brad Bell] called me and asked if I'd do the story, I said sure. Realizing that there would be press interest in the story itself and that I'd be interviewed about it, it would be weird not to talk about my life and how playing a gay storyline as a gay woman affected me. I didn't mean it to be a big coming-out event because I am out."

Both women have been hearing from the LGBT community. The response has been overwhelmingly positive.

"I am hearing from all people, straight and gay," said Crystal Chappell. "I think LGBT people are happy to see themselves represented, but it is very much a mix of open minded people. I am sure there will be people who don't understand, but I think most people will see a loving relationship. If you can affect one person who can see that it is all about love, then we have done something good."

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive," Joanna Johnson added. "I also heard from people who I went to high school with, who've been really supportive. It's been amazing. I think Brad Bell and the [*Bold & the Beautiful*] writers have written a wonderful story and some

lovely scenes that I think everyone can relate to."

Chappell also stated that she was unconcerned about possible backlash from conservative, anti-gay viewers: "I stopped listening to that a long time ago. There is always backlash and naysayers. I choose to focus on the positive feedback and the effect we are having on people."

As they prepared to return to work on the "Bold" soundstages, both women gave us an idea who they might be voting for in the next Presidential election.

"I commend President Obama for supporting gay marriage," stated Johnson. "I understand that politically he's between a rock and a hard place, so it's small steps forward. I hope the next step in his evolution is to recognize that it needs to be a federally protected right. We didn't leave slavery or segregation up to the states. Civil and human rights can't be left to the states, they must be federally protected."

"He is who I expected he would be," added Chappell. "He said something that certainly makes him a Democrat and liberal and I think it's wonderful that a President accepts all citizens of this country for who they are."

The Bold and the Beautiful airs weekday afternoons on CBS. Check local listings for times.

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NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION

Carmen Carrera on 'Cake Boss' controversy and coming out

BY JERRY NUNN

Carmen Carrera may be best known for the third season of RuPaul's Drag Race on the Logo Channel but a recent trip in reality left the cake out in the rain.

After seeing the final cut of TLC's Cake Boss episode "Bar Mitzvah, Beads & Oh Baby!," Carrera was shocked to see how the show was edited. She was apparently the punch line of a joke played on one of the reality show's cast members, with Buddy Valastro saying "That's a man, baby" to Cousin Anthony. The joke offended Carrera, who recently out of the closet as transgender. [Editor's note: Valastro reportedly apologized for the joke.]

Carrera called the day after the airing to set the records straight.

Windy City Times: Hi, Carmen. Was the last time you were in town was an appearance at Spin Nightclub?

Carmen Carrera: No, I was just in town a week ago. I had my breasts done. I was there for a week and a half or so. I could hardly go out anywhere because I was all drugged up, sore and swollen. I made a video and posted it online to show I was okay.

WCT: Why did you decide to have the work done in Chicago?

CC: Because I wanted the best and that was the look I was going for. I didn't want to look like a plastic Barbie. I wanted to look natural and sexy. I wanted to look like myself just a little enhanced. Many of my transgender friends have gone to this doctor and I liked his work.

WCT: Are you on Drag U this season?

CC: Not on this season but I was on two episodes before.

WCT: What was RuPaul's reaction when you came out transgender?

CC: Honestly, I don't know. I don't know how Logo or World of Wonder feels about it. Even before RuPaul's Drag Race I wanted to transition. I didn't want to do drag anymore. I was having issues with my own club circuit; other performers with all the shade and drama. I was ready to give up drag. When I was referred to World of Wonder I thought it would be a good way to part. I would be able to look back and watch it. I didn't know my time on the show would be so popular.

When the show started to air, I was already six months into my transition.

WCT: What were people's reactions from the show at that time?

CC: I was getting all this mail from straight fans and all of this exposure. I wanted to promote the fact that I was transgender to shed some light on the subject. Many gay people don't even understand most of it.

I finally came out with a piece for ABC Primetime: What Would You Do?; I really wanted to educate people. I was really open with it. I was ready to announce to everybody. I was afraid from [being] judged so much on the show and having their opinions. I wasn't sure if I was brave enough to make a life-changing decision. I just hoped to inspire someone somewhere. I posted a whole thing on Facebook showing my transition every three months. It was not easy with the medications, and it was hard on my body.

WCT: How did you wind up on a show for TLC?

CC: I got the phone call from them I told them that I wanted it done right and to show respect. I had already shot the piece for ABC. I told them where my career was going and that I was still a



Carmen Carrera. Press photo

showgirl. I told them that I wanted to educate people on not being ignorant. I told them it was not okay to call transgender women "men." They said they understood and they are a family network.

When it was filmed in the club, it wasn't the way it was edited. That was why I was so upset. When Buddy Valastro told his cousin that I was born a male he had a reaction, but it wasn't as dramatic as it was made out on TV.

I was right there; my husband came over and we all had a piece of cake and did shots. He told me how beautiful I am and all of these positive things. I left that day with the feeling that everything went perfect. "This was a different network that will show respect for transgender women"—that was my feeling leaving.

WCT: So that is not what happened, apparently.

CC: Not at all; they made a mockery of it. It

even looked like I was part of it. That this was something I signed up for. I am trying to be a positive voice so this doesn't make me look good.

WCT: What have people said since it aired?

CC: On Facebook, some people have said that I shouldn't get any support for it because that is the way it looks. If I had known this was going to happen I wouldn't have done it. The reason I made such a big deal about it is because I don't want people to think I was a part of it.

WCT: Buddy has apologized since then.

What do you think about that?

CC: He called me and said he was sorry. He asked me if he could make me a cake. I told him I could buy my own cake. I wanted him to call his producer and have them edit the episode the way they filmed it. He said, "He will see what he can do." They pulled the episode but I don't know if it will be played in other countries or YouTube.

WCT: Take me back to Monday, when you watched the show.

CC: I was excited all day. I was telling everyone to watch it and how great it would be. I had someone make me a graphic for it. Then when I watched it with my husband I got so upset. Those people knew what they were doing and they did it. I felt so stupid.

WCT: Sounds like a big lesson on how you can be edited.

CC: I have done reality television before but this reveal in the club had continuity. I thought there was no way it would be messed up. They just decided to not use any of that footage.

People were asking why I am being so dramatic on Facebook but it's because I didn't sign up for that! It is not okay to make a joke out of transgender people. Just like women don't like to be called bitches, I don't want to be called a man. I couldn't care less if people don't agree with my life decisions, but at least respect me for it. My mom is the only person I allow to judge me in the world.

WCT: You have your own family with a daughter, too.

CC: Yes; my husband's daughter has grown up around me. I have known her since she was 5 years old.

WCT: Do you want to take a break from reality TV after this?

CC: No, I love reality television. I just don't like to be lied to. I don't like to be the butt of a joke because a lot of people aren't brave enough to put it all out there. Many transgender people turn to prostitution or drug use because they feel so belittled by society. I want to show them they can have a family like me.

If you are in the San Francisco area, Carmen Carrera will be the grand marshal for the Pride parade there the same weekend as Chicago's on June 24.



Still from Woke Up Black. Photo courtesy of Mary Morten

'Woke Up Black' showing June 29 on WTTW

Woke Up Black will screen Friday, June 29, on WTTW at 10 p.m.

The movie focuses on five Black youths, along with their struggles and triumphs as they start their journey into adulthood. The film places at its center the voices of Black youth: their ideas, attitudes and opinions that are often overlooked in today's society.

Among the five are Carter, whom two African-American gay men adopted when he was 10, and genderqueer youth Ansheera.

There will be two local screenings later this year. One will take place Saturday, Aug. 18, at Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark St., at 7 p.m. Another will be at the Chicago Cultural Center's Claudia Cassidy Theater, 78 E. Washington St., on Wed., Oct. 24.

For more, see www.WokeUpBlack.com.

Hal Sparks at Mayne Stage in Sept.

Actor/comedian Hal Sparks will perform at Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., Sept. 6-8.

Sparks began his professional career in Chicago as a member of Second City. Later, he hosted Talk Soup on E!, and co-starred as Michael Novotny on the Showtime series Queer

As Folk. He will start in the stand-up special Charmageddon this June.

He will perform at Mayne Thursday, Sept. 6 at 8 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 7, at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Sept. 8, at 8 and 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$23-\$27; see www.mayne-stage.com.

Sarah Siddons gala July 16 at Ritz-Carlton

The Sarah Siddons Society will hold its 60th-anniversary gala Monday, July 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 120 E. Delaware St.

Barbara Cook will be honored with the prestigious "Sarah Siddons Society Award" and Mike Nussbaum will be honored as "Chicago's Leading Actor."

The Sarah Siddons Society Award (which goes to an actor for an outstanding performance in a Chicago theatrical production) was first presented in 1952 to Helen Hayes, and since then has been awarded to actresses such as Lauren Bacall and Julie Andrews.

See www.Sarahsiddonssociety.org or email sarahsiddonssociety@gmail.com. Non-members interested in attending such call the Sarah Siddons office at 312 396-1977 or Marc Kaufman at 773-301-3611.



Jay Michaelson. Photo by Sebastian Collett

Author Jay Michaelson at Unity July 15

Jay Michaelson—the best-selling author of God vs. Gay? The Religious Case for Equality—will be at Unity in Chicago, 1925 W. Thome Ave., on Sunday, July 15, for the church's 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. services.

An afternoon program—"The Spirituality of the LGBT Movement: Why 'Gay Rights' is a Spiritual Opportunity for Straight People, Gay People, and Everyone in Between"—begins at 1:30 p.m.

A \$10 donation is requested for the afternoon program. Call 773-973-0007 or visit www.Unity-Chicago.org for more information.

Book-release party at Jackhammer Aug. 22

Oeishik Moitra-Goel Chowdhury will release his first collection of prose, poetry and photography—Tribute to Sam Steward—Wed., Aug. 22, at Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St., at 6:30 p.m.

According to a press release, "The book hinges on the experiences of Samuel Steward, subject of Justin Spring's award-winning biography Secret Historian: The life and times of Samuel Steward, professor, tattoo artist, and sexual renegade."

The book chronicles the journey of Chowdhury, who describes himself in the release as "a dyslexic, gay immigrant." Despite his challenges, he eventually graduated from college and law school.

At the event, Chowdhury will also introduce the concept for his second book, The Alice Project, a culinary-artistic collaboration.

'Biggest 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.



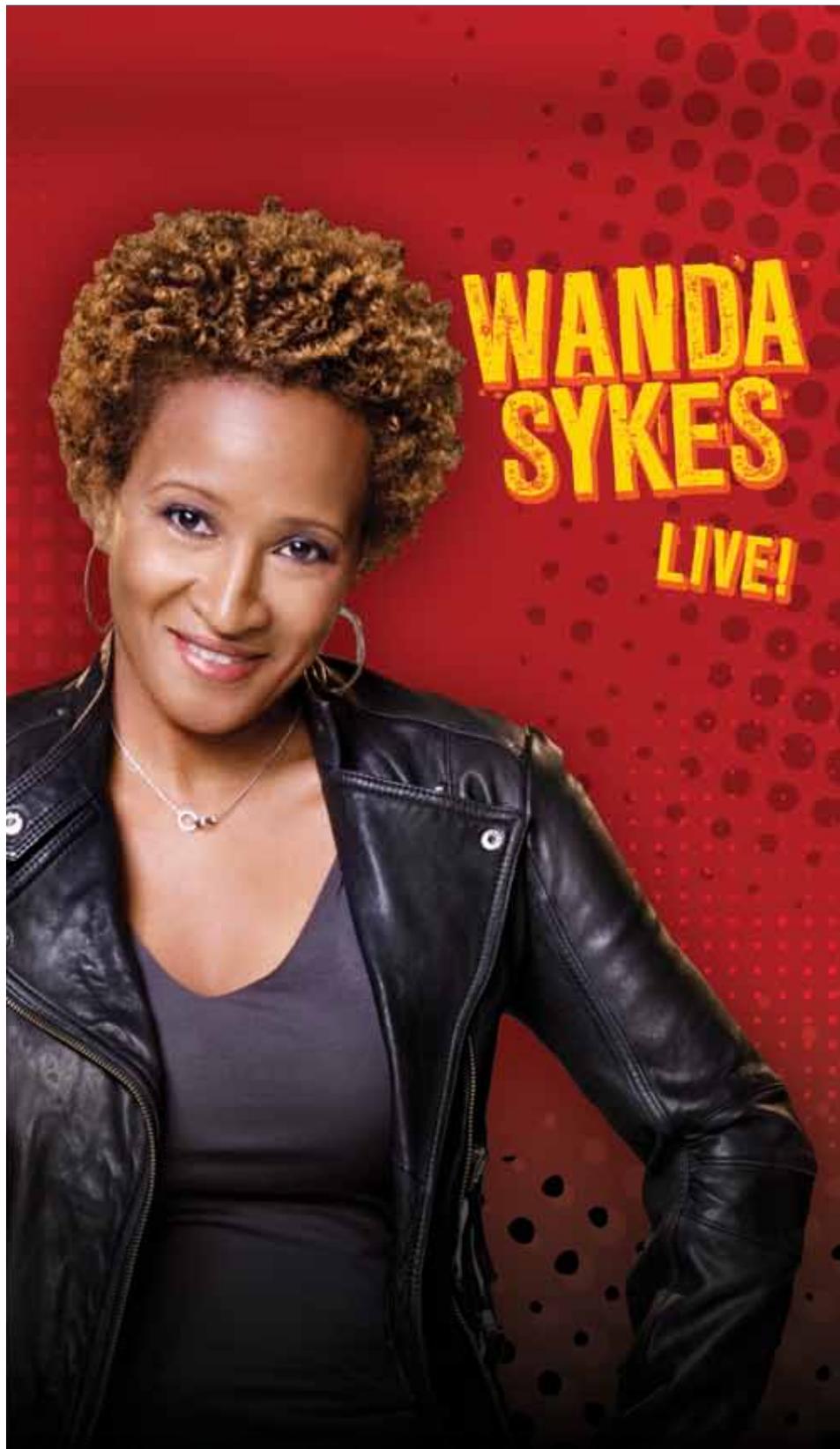
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ALLISON BURQUE

29

Allison Burque, 29, is a licensed clinical social worker and activist in the LGBTQ community. She worked for two years as an HIV case manager with the Howard Brown Health Center, and now focuses on queer women's health with the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program and the Alternative Inseminations Program at the center.

Allison is also a DJ and organizer with Chances Dances, a collective that hosts three monthly queer dance parties and uses the proceeds to provide micro-grants for LGBTQ artists. She recently opened a small private practice that specializes in providing therapy for LGBTQ folks and those impacted by HIV. She currently lives in Logan Square with her partner and their greyhound, Milkshake.

Did you know? Allison once waited on the head coach for the Green Bay Packers, and he gave her a \$300 tip. (She didn't mention her Chicago roots.)



LAUREN CARTER

24

Lauren Carter, 24, moved from Minneapolis to Chicago in 2006 to study Spanish and political science at Loyola University. While there, she began to cultivate her ties to Chicago's LGBT community as the vice president of Advocate, Loyola's LGBT student organization, and as an intern for Equality Illinois. After graduation, Lauren worked as the organizer for Vote Naked, a program that encouraged the new absentee/vote-by-mail rules in Illinois; she also served as the LGBT coordinator for Gery Chico in his 2011 bid for mayor.

Currently Lauren serves on the Young Leaders Board of the Center on Halsted, as well as the founding Ambassadors Board at the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago. Hoping to someday start her own nonprofit, she is currently taking a break from her 9 to 5 to focus on her writing, which includes "The Ovary Office," a politically charged blog for The L Stop.

Did you know? A traveler at heart, Lauren dreams of being able to travel the world in search of its grassroots leaders—couch-surfing her way from one country to the next to study the roots of social justice and the queer community's international presence. Here's to winning the lottery!



MAR CURRAN

22

Mar Curran, 22, is a trans/queer-rights activist and community organizer. A Loyola University Chicago graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications and women's studies/gender studies, he was active in campus life through one year as secretary and, later, president of the school LGBT group Advocate. He also served as the Queer Intercollegiate Alliance's co-chair for two years, working to bring different Chicagoland schools' queer communities together.

He is on the Vanguard for Video Action League as well as the Center on Halsted's Young Leaders Board. In addition, Mar is a staff writer and community outreach manager for In Our Words, an online activist and literary salon for queer people and their allies.

Did you know? Mar Curran knows every word of Destiny's Child's hit song "Say My Name," and can even play an acoustic cover of it on the guitar.



PRECIOUS DAVIS 26

Precious Davis, 26, is a native of Omaha, Neb., who moved to Chicago to pursue her passions of theater and nonprofit work after studying in London and Paris. Precious, a graduate of Columbia College Chicago, first achieved recognition locally thanks to memorable drag performances in Boystown.

Last summer, Precious decided to stop performing and commit her life to direct service in the nonprofit world. She is an artistic associate with About Face Theatre and a facilitator with the National Conference for Community and Justice in addition to being the youth outreach coordinator at Center on Halsted. In her free time, she delves into photography, queer performance and transgender issues; she also likes being with friends Kandice, Chadwick and Jordan.

Did you know? When she was a college sophomore, Precious walked the 530 stairs to the top of the dome at London's St. Paul's Cathedral—in five-inch stilettos.



ANNA DESHAWN 28

Anna DeShawn, 28, is a Chicago-born social entrepreneur. Anna graduated from Drake University in 2005 with a degree in radio/television production. She went on to study corporate communications at Ithaca College and graduated with her masters in 2007.

Media has always been Anna's passion so it was natural that she founded E3 Radio, LLC. E3 Radio is an online radio network that produces media to bring about real change. Anna and the QCREW including Brandee Young host their show for queer people of color around the country every Thursday. Anna also produces two additional shows on the E3 network: Conversations with Angie Harvey and Phenomenal Soul Sessions.

Did you know? Anna has been in love with Good Morning America co-host Robin Roberts all her life. Interviewing Robin would be the ultimate experience—and a date with her wouldn't hurt, either.



NAOMI GOLDBERG 29

Naomi Goldberg, 29, is an LGBT movement and policy researcher for the Movement Advancement Project (MAP), a think tank that works to speed equality for LGBT people. She's also a collaborator in the longest-running longitudinal study of children raised by lesbian parents.

Naomi has co-authored reports and articles about LGBT issues such as parenting, domestic violence, community-building and progress toward LGBT equality. She volunteers with the Mount Holyoke Club of Chicago and Limmud Chicago, a Jewish learning conference. Naomi recently married her long-time girlfriend, Libby.

Did you know? Naomi has lived in eight of the 21 cities on AutoStraddle's Most Lesbianic Cities.



VIVIAN GONZALEZ 29

Vivian Gonzalez, 29, was born on the South Side of Chicago. She attended the International Academy of Design and Technology, where she got a B.A. in web and media design.

Combining her passions for women and design, Vivian joined forces with Lisa Martinez to create TheLStop.org, an online blog for local LBTQ women. The L Stop features services such as a biweekly newsletter, an updated events and a blogging system. The year-old website has become a hub for women in Chicago and the Midwest. Vivian is excited to see what happens in the near future with The L Stop and LGBTQ.

Did you know? Vivian's favorite animal is the ferret. Also, if she didn't become a designer she would've been a restaurant chef.



WILL GUZZARDI 25

Will Guzzardi, 25, grew up in Chapel Hill, N.C., and earned a Bachelor's in comparative literature from Brown University in 2009. After moving to Chicago's Logan Square, he worked as a reporter and associate editor for Huffington Post Chicago, where he covered news, politics, culture, sports and more.

In August 2011, this straight ally of the LGBT community ran for state representative of Illinois' 39th District with a platform based on the issues of education, housing, government reform and civil rights. He initially captured 49.2 percent of the vote, forcing a recount.

Will has been a staunch advocate for marriage equality, in part because of his own brother, who is gay. In addition, Will wrote an editorial on the Huffington Post about same-sex marriage, at one point saying that "supporting civil unions over marriage is very dangerous. ... This risk is why 'separate but equal' was eliminated in America."

Did you know? Will founded Brown's premier improv comedy group, and performed for a year on a Harold team at the i0 improv theater here in Chicago.



YOUNG SUN HAN 29

Young, 29, is a visual artist working in photography, performance, installation and sculpture whose work is unabashedly queer, personal and political. He recently competed on season two of Bravo's Work of Art: The Next Great Artist, where he finished as runner-up.

Young graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and studied at Goldsmiths, University of London. In 2005, he received the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange grant to live and work in Cologne, Germany, where he also studied the language. Since moving back to Chicago, Young has exhibited his work at Jean Albano Gallery, Las Manos Gallery and New York's Printed Matter Inc. Also, his work has been featured in publications such as Entertainment Weekly, and his artist book is still raising funds for the organization Life Funds for North Korean Refugees.

Did you know? On midnight of New Year's Eve 2009, Young found a stranger on Craigslist to embrace him for an uninterrupted 24 hours for a performance piece at the Swimming Pool Project Space. Many other strangers joined in for the last 10 minutes.





REGINALD HARRIS

30

Reginald Harris, 30, was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago in the Englewood neighborhood. He began his dance training with his uncle and mentor Marshall Lindsey at the age of 5, and started his classical ballet training with former Dance Theatre of Harlem principal dancer Homer Bryant at the age of 14. After graduating from Whitney Young Magnet High School in 2000, Reginald trained professionally at the Pennsylvania Ballet and the Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle; he joined Ballet Austin in 2002, where he danced professionally for six years.

In 2008, Reginald moved back to Chicago, joining the River North Chicago Dance Company as a company dancer, and joined the dance faculty of the Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts) when it first opened its doors in fall of 2009. In 2011 Reginald was named the head of the dance department at ChiArts, where he continues to teach and oversee 130 young dance majors.

Did you know? Reginald makes a legendary baked macaroni and cheese.



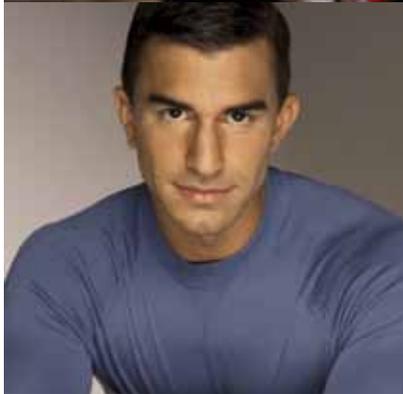
RYAN HART

25

Ryan Hart, 25, was raised on the South Side of Chicago. He attended South Shore Community Academy; after graduation, he attended the International Academy of Design and Technology, but had to stop school because of what turned out to be the HIV strand that began to infect his system.

At the beginning of the next year, he received an official diagnosis; Ryan was 19 years old and made it his personal prerogative to share his story with those who would listen, educating and advising his peers about the virus; and volunteering for different organizations and events. Five years later, Ryan is fulfilling his dream of advocating to those in need. He is serving as a board member on ACCESS Community Health's Advisory Council and the board council for the AIDS Foundation Chicago's Housing Program. He is also a brother with Theta Chi Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Did you know? Ryan is an artist who has been drawing since he was a toddler. He wants to release a line of fashionable HIV-prevention T-shirts.



CHRISTOPHER HONGOSH

27

Christopher Hongosh, 27, has been a resident of Chicago for three years. He is originally from Cleveland, where he was involved in the planning and execution of that city's Pride festival. Upon arriving in Chicago, Christopher became a volunteer for Howard Brown and its outreach program regarding STI testing.

Two years ago, Christopher took part in Project Wish's HIV vaccine study at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and received a trial vaccine against. Last year, Christopher joined the Ride for AIDS Chicago; he raised \$1,300 from his friends and family as well as completed the 200-mile, two-day ride. Again this year, Christopher is partaking in the ride and became a co-captain on Team TPAN.

He has recruited four new riders to ride and has set a fundraising goal of \$3,333. On March 29, he held his first fundraiser at DS Tequila and raised more than \$3,000 for TPAN.

Did you know? One of Christopher's favorite lines is "If I have five oranges, I eat one, save one and give the other three away," attributed to Cleveland philanthropist Roe Green.



PAUL JOHNSON

29

Paul E. Johnson, 29, was born in Virginia, Minn.; ironically enough, he then grew up from the age of 4 in a town called Nevada, Mo. After trying out six different majors at the University of Missouri-Columbia, he decided to move to Chicago to attend The John Marshall Law School.

In addition to writing winning applications for funding and awards from the American Bar Association (ABA) for John Marshall's Diversity Affairs Committee, as a student he founded and has led the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues Network of the ABA's Section of International Law. Issues presented include the systematic abuse of LGBT people under religious legal schemes as well as LGBT asylum under the system of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. His article, "Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill is a Threat to Human Rights and the Rule of Law," appeared in the April 2010 issue of Africa Law Today.

Paul is currently pursuing non-profit advocacy work and dreams of someday becoming a foreign service officer in the U.S. State Department.

Did you know? Paul ran his own business selling books door-to-door during the summer of 2002, and had no idea when he sold books to Trey Anastasio that he was meeting the lead singer of Phish.



ANTONIO "APOLLO" JONES

Antonio "Apollo" Jones is a young Black gay man whose creative genius and commitment to his community is evidenced not only by his interaction in various youth programming at Center on Halsted and Broadway Youth Center, but also the exemplary department he maintains in a community challenged by negative stereotypes of gay youth. Apollo is a graduate of the Center on Halsted's Silver fork program, a 12-week vocational training program for LGBT adults. He has also been a part of the TPAN program Our Voices Advocating Health (OVAH), and is a current member of the youth-empowerment organization Prodigies of Pride.

Did you know? Apollo is also a writer, rapper and vocalist.



VERONICA LOZANO

23

Veronica Lozano, 23, is driven by her passion and rage against heteronormative societal ideals, making this queer Latina a natural to create change. A recent DePaul University alum, Veronica pushes the masses into rethinking what the queer body/community looks like, intersecting identities of not only sexual orientation, race, gender, and class but also (dis)ability status on a local and national level—being involved with organizations such as the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH) and Advocates for Youth.

She currently holds many titles, such as a bilingual health educator/ HIV tester for the Center on Halsted and a peer (LGBTQ) health educator for Advocates for Youth.

Did you know? Veronica danced with the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago for five years.



JIM MERRELL 28

Jim Merrell has worked in HIV/AIDS policy and advocacy since 2007.

He currently works as national coalition development coordinator at AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC). In this role, Jim helps to coordinate the HIV Prevention Justice Alliance, a national coalition of individuals and organizations working at the intersection of HIV/AIDS and social justice. He also leads Dose of Change, an evolving project that strives to build the community knowledge and organizing capacity of HIV/AIDS advocates.

Previously, Jim worked as a policy associate at AFC, where he was charged with leading the organization's statewide grass-roots organizing efforts. As resident "tech nerd," he has helped to integrate new technologies into AFC's policy work, including electronic advocacy systems, virtual trainings and an ever-expanding list of websites.

Did you know? Jim is a Pisces, loves to sing and holds a B.A. in political science from Northwestern University. In addition, he can do a good impression of Chewbacca from Star Wars.



ellie navidson 25

ellie navidson, 25, moved to Chicago as a youngster, growing under the influence of the punk scene and becoming deeply passionate about issues of social justice. ellie went to the University of Illinois at Chicago and received a degree in gender and women's studies.

ellie organizes with Genderqueer Chicago, co-founded No Boys Allowed and works on various other safe-space, consciousness-raising and literary projects. ellie's committed to anti-assimilationist queer politics, radical visibility and brave personal growth. Lastly, ellie does written explorations of gender and normativity, with a personal blog at invisiblyqueer.tumblr.com.

Did you know? ellie has a freckle in her eye and thinks of it as glitter from God.



KATE PALMER 29

Kate Palmer, 29, is a queer, working-class feminist activist originally from the Detroit area. Her work focuses on the intersections of reproductive justice and queer issues.

She received an undergraduate degree from Ohio Wesleyan University and has spent the last 10 years working in reproductive healthcare and HIV outreach and education. Kate is the co-founder of 45 Million Voices, a project to reduce stigma around abortion as well as the co-founder and co-director of the Chicago Doula Circle, an organization that provides doula support for folks going through abortion experiences. She is also a birth and postpartum doula specializing in the needs of queer and trans families. In addition, Kate is currently a board member of the Chicago Women's Health Center and the Chicago Abortion Fund.

Did you know? When Kate was a young child, she was inexplicably fascinated by Pope John Paul II.



JUANA PERALTA 28

Juana, 28 is a Latina queer organizer. As a core member of the Chicago Dyke March Collective, Juana, has played a pivotal role in the organization of the Dyke March in South Shore and the upcoming Chicago Dyke March in Argyle/Uptown.

Juana was born in Bogota, Colombia; she was raised in New York City and Miami, and attended the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Fla. Juana helps organize/co-hosts Heavy Rotation, a queer fat/body-positive dance party. Juana writes/collaborates on a queer writing collective/micropress, "Failed Attempt," which she helped founded in 2011. There are two volumes of zines and assorted collected mixed media work.

Did you know? Juana also goes by the stage name of "Jennifer Love Handles" and dreams of attending culinary school one day.



MUGSIE PIKE 24

Mugsie Pike, 24, was born in Milwaukee, Wis., but has Chicago roots. Mugsie (who prefers the pronoun "they") went to Northwestern University, where they double-majored in theatre—with a focus on costume design—and gender studies. They wrote an honors thesis on the role lingerie in the construction of gender.

After college, Mugsie combined a love of sewing with a desire to create relevant individual-scale feminist and queer-positive change. With this goal, they studied custom bra-making and started Renegade Lingerie, a purposely inclusive custom lingerie company that makes foundation wear for people of all sizes, genders, abilities and orientations. Mugsie designed one of the first stand-to-pee packing harnesses on the market, and received a Critical Fierceness grant for it. They also co-run the Intersex Chicago group at the Center on Halsted.

Did you know? Mugsie played baritone saxophone in high school and was the only band member crazy enough to march with it.

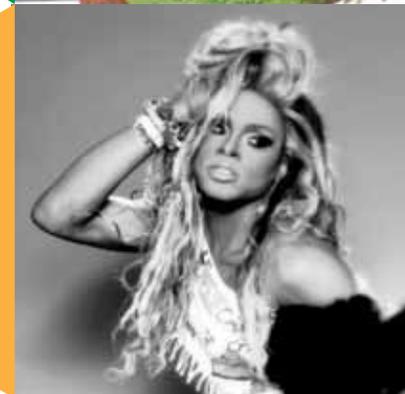


DIDA RITZ 26

No stranger to the local or global scene, DiDa Ritz has been doing drag for five years. DiDa's name comes from her love of model/burlesque dancer Dita von Teese and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Ritz has worked with About Face Theatre; at venues such as the Lakeview nightspots Hydrate and Berlin; has performed at TPAN's Chicago Takes Off benefit; and has worked with celebrities such as Margaret Cho.

Many saw DiDa compete on RuPaul's Drag Race, where the self-proclaimed "Legs of Halsted" placed in the top five.

Did you know? DiDa's favorite place is the Hello Kitty store.





RICARDO SEBASTIAN

26

Ricardo Sebastian, 26, launched Luxury Management (LUX MGT) as a fundraising project to support local non-profits through event production and fashion shows in 2008, while he was president of Students in Free Enterprise at Robert Morris University (RMU SIFE).

In less than a year, Ricardo has taken his brand from Chicago to New York and L.A., benefiting such organizations as the American Cancer Society. He is best known for his philanthropic efforts at minibar Ultra Lounge; however, Ricardo also promotes with fashion and art, with the intention to make the rest of the community aware of new members of the LGBT community as they work in their new projects. His work has generated more than \$600,000 for Chicago's local businesses and has impacted more than 40,000 people.

Did you know? Ricardo has a purple belt in karate. He chose not to move forward because he didn't agree with the color scheme after purple.



MIKE SIMMONS

29

Mike Simmons, 29, hails from the Lincoln Square neighborhood on Chicago's North Side. He attended Amherst College for his undergraduate degree, where he became student body president his senior year and led efforts to launch an on-campus think tank. He also interned for then-Sen. Barack Obama.

After graduating in 2006, he took a job in the private sector before heading to Capitol Hill to staff Sen. Dick Durbin. In 2009, he returned to Chicago to head policy for Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer. Mike also served as curriculum chair for the inaugural class of the New Leaders Council in Chicago in 2010. He now serves as Mayor Rahm Emanuel's policy director.

Mike also served as curriculum chair for the inaugural class of the New Leaders Council in Chicago in 2010. He now serves as Mayor Rahm Emanuel's policy director.

Did you know? He once won an award for riding a unicycle.



ANTHONY SINGLETON

21

Anthony Singleton, 21, began working with Chicago's Taskforce Prevention & Community Services shortly after graduating from high school. Since then he has worked with other organizations such as Project VIDA, Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus and the Chicago Child Care Society.

He now works with the Center on Halsted, where he is working on two grants. One of them involves the Mpowerment project, a peer- and network-based community-level intervention meant to reach African-American and Latino males 16 to 24. Anthony also works on the National Strategy with Youth Pride Services, which highlights what it is like to grow up Black and gay in Chicago.

Did you know? Anthony has more than 25 brothers and sisters.



DONTÉ SMITH

26

Donté Smith, 26, is a Houston transplant who has been part of social-justice projects involving issues ranging from labor to transgender/queer rights.

Donté currently works at Heartland Alliance as an HIV prevention specialist. They also serve as a member of the AIDS United AmeriCorps Chicago team that received the 2012 Alexian Award of Excellence from the Alexian Brothers' AIDS Ministry for its long-term community courtyard project.

In 2010, Donté co-founded the Black and Brown Punk Show series, which focuses on individuals and communities of color. This fall, Donté will launch HIVoices, a documentary and blog series highlighting the voices of long-term survivors of HIV. As someone living with HIV since 2009, Donté hopes it will serve as a resource for people newly diagnosed with the virus.

Did you know? Donté is an experienced herbalist, tarot reader, and killer cook whose vegan curried eggplant-pizza recipe has snatched trophies.



ANDREW SOBOTKA

26

Andrew Sobotka, 26, works in IT operations for CSG Media, and serves as the president of the Chicago Gay Hockey Association (CGHA).

A native of Detroit (known as Hockeytown), Andrew graduated from Michigan State University in 2007 with a B.A. in telecommunications. He moved to Chicago and initially worked for Hewlett-Packard, constantly traveling. However, he decided to work for CSG Media in 2009, which allowed him to establish roots in the city.

Joining the CGHA—first as a player, and now as the organization's president—has been one of the more fulfilling pursuits Andrew has experienced. After the Chicago Blackhawks won the Stanley Cup in 2010, Andrew invited the team to join the CGHA in the Chicago Gay Pride Parade—an invitation that was accepted and widely covered in local and national media outlets. Since 2010, the CGHA has donated and raised nearly \$10,000 for charities such as the Howard Brown Health Center and Chicago Cares.

Did you know? Andrew is a vegetarian and a wannabe urban vegetable farmer. He loves beets.



BRETT TAYLOR

25

Brett Taylor, 25, grew up in small-town Indiana and moved to Chicago to attend the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, where he graduated with a degree in musical theater.

While in college, Brett began working at Chicago Children's Museum and has been in his current role as special projects coordinator for the Office of the President for the last year and a half. He is an active supporter of the LGBT community as a member of the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance's Education and Training Committee as well as at the museum, where he leads the museum's All Families Matter Initiative, a LGBT community-outreach project. He is also active with United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, where he is a member of the external Diveristy Committee.

Did you know? A proud Eagle Scout, Brett has a roller-coaster addiction.



KYLE THOMAS 25

Kyle Thomas, 25, was born in Milwaukee. After years of professional acting, writing novels and plays, and studying psychology, mythology and literature, he co-founded Hesperidian Productions with Jane Morson in 2011.

Hesperidian Productions is a Chicago-based company that produces film, fashion and music. Kyle's leadership as president of the company and his position as film director have led the company to produce an award-winning short film, "Awakening," as well as "Stiletto," which premiered to a crowd of more than 1,000 people in March. Hesperidian is now developing its first feature film, which Kyle will direct; the movie will be produced just outside of Chicago.

Did you know? Kyle wrote his first novel at age 14 after a history teacher confiscated his work during class. She was impressed with his storytelling abilities and took him under her wing, teaching him the "hero's journey."



SHENA WILLBRANDT 29

A passionate activist at heart, Shena Willbrandt, 29, spends her days working for the Lesbian Community Care Project and her free time training camp professionals and youth about LGBTQ advocacy.

Shena was born and raised in Battle Creek, Mich. While receiving a bachelor's degree in social work and women's studies from Western Michigan University, she worked in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. She has since settled in Chicago, where she is pursuing a graduate degree at Loyola University Chicago.

Shena unites her love of feminist activism with camp by developing and facilitating curriculum and training materials for the American Camp Association. A fierce advocate for women's health, she also works to connect queer women to health and wellness programs and services by providing outreach at professional conferences, city festivals and local events.

Did you know? Shena's hometown of Battle Creek, Mich.—known as the "Cereal Capital of the World"—hosts her all-time favorite festival, "The World's Longest Breakfast Table" every June. More than 60,000 people join together to eat a community breakfast.



JENAE WILLIAMS 29

A cultural curator for the Chicago queer and lesbian scene for the last 10 years, Jenae Williams, 29, begs you don't do the math or you will hear the story of her getting kicked out of the Closet by Tabitha at age 17 or rebellious pool games at Stargaze at 19. Currently doing customer service for Stardust at the Berlin nightclub, she has also hosted the only lesbian party on the Halsted strip with Fall Out Boy's Pete Wentz at the helm.

Named one of Chicago's "Cultural Curators" by Time Out Chicago and winner of the Chicago Reader's poll for best female promoter in 2011, she tries to organize parties in safe spaces filled with amazing music and welcoming staff. Jenae is a board member of the Chicago Michfest Planning Committee. Over the last two years she has helped 14 womyn receive scholarship tickets to the Michigan's Womyns Music Festival.

Jenae is also involved with Decibelle, an annual not-for-profit, community-based event that features internationally acclaimed and emerging female musicians and artists, educators, activists and community leaders in dozens of events.

Did you know? Proclaiming boldly that she is the most consistently photographed lesbian in Nightspots magazine, Jenae is very proud to be a Boistown lesbian and to be a 30 under 30 winner.



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NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION

'New Jersey' housewife Caroline Manzo on gay brother's wedding

BY JERRY NUNN

The Real Housewives of New Jersey are never boring, making it a huge success on the Bravo network and Caroline Manzo leads the pack, being on the show since the beginning. Manzo also runs a household with husband Albert and three children.

Caroline's brother, Jaime Laurita, and Rich Lane had their civil ceremony filmed for the program last year at their home in the northwest suburbs of Chicago.

We have Caroline in the Windy City just in time for Pride month and she is here to show her support.

Windy City Times: Hi, Caroline. I just watched the episode and it was so emotional that I cried.

Caroline Manzo: It was nice, wasn't it? It was nice to see something inspiring I should say.

WCT: How was it giving that speech at the ceremony?

CM: I was very touched that Jaime asked me to give the speech. I wasn't expecting that. I don't know how much of the speech will be shown on the show, I haven't seen it yet.

I was an older sister watching my younger brother go through the struggles in his life just trying to be who he was and finally seeing him in a place of acceptance and happiness, it spoke to all of that. Of course, it was emotional at times but I don't know what you will see on the show.

WCT: How was your family with Jaime being gay?

CM: The family was amazing. My mom and dad didn't even blink an eye. Their first question was, "Are you happy?" They just wanted him to be happy and it didn't matter. Not one member of my family was skeptical or disappointed in any way, shape, or form.

When we met Rich, he's my brother—just as Jaime. It's all good.

WCT: He's one of the family now.

CM: When you look back over the years and we recall the girlfriends he brought home and I thought to myself how tortured he must have felt about that at that time, knowing who he is, but yet he had to put on façade know what he thought we expected of him such as find a girl, get married, and settle down, the norm if you will.

It is sad to think that there are so many people out there that marry and settle down and fight this inner battle with themselves because they are afraid of the public perception and the cruel comments. That is what I cried for. I spoke about it on the show. I called my husband and cried hysterically. I was worried he would be abused, and he doesn't deserve that. Nobody deserves that. So that is why I cried—because I knew what he was going to have to endure in just being who he was. That broke my heart.

WCT: I'm am glad things got better. There was a nice spotlight on Chicago, with you staying downtown at the Hotel Sax before at-



Caroline Manzo.
Press photo

tending the wedding.

CM: I love Chicago. I've been about four or five times and, unfortunately, every time I go it's a whirlwind trip. I never get to enjoy it the way I would like to. It is usually 24 hours or 48 hours, at best. It is usually for business. The last time I went to visit Jaime was down at his house and you guys had a tornado or something.

WCT: Oh, no! That's Chicago weather for you.

CM: Yeah—his whole front yard was literally blown to bits. Through it all, we had no lights but we were laughing hysterically all night long because we could not believe what was happening when I was there!

WCT: I know he goes out to the gay bars here. Would you go out with him?

CM: Oh, yeah—we did. The time before the hurricane visit we went to a few gay bars. I loved every second of it. We had a blast. We spent the night gay bar-hopping. That's in Boyston?

WCT: Yes, it is.

CM: I loved it!

WCT: I just went to the Ladybug fundraiser that your sister, Dina, does. What projects are you working on?

CM: I have a few projects I am working on that I am not at liberty to talk about just yet. But it is exciting stuff that I am proud of. My focus is my kids. My daughter opens her store. I'm helping her. As a new business owner she has a lot of questions and she is a little nervous about things so I am her sidekick there.

My boys [have] their BLK water. I show up wherever they want me to go. I am trying to help them promote the water so at this point so I am trying to get them all a jumpstart to what they need to do in life.

WCT: I noticed you have a website so people can keep up with that you are doing there.

CM: I have a website that I haven't been taking care of. I have to be honest with you. I have been too busy with this other stuff.

Listen: My life is great, there is nothing I need in this world and right now my focus is on my kids so I don't think about that. I don't think about the website and it is on the back burner. The website needs some cleaning up and updating, I suppose. I will get to it when I get to it. Maybe this is the reason, with you telling me this then I need to look at. [Laughs]

WCT: How far are we into the season this time?

CM: We are on episode five so we have at least ten more I think.

WCT: I met Melissa and Joe Gorga when they were in town. They were so much fun!

CM: You know what? Joe is sunshine. He walks into a room and he lights it up. He reminds me of my Christopher. When they walk into a room it is all smiles and hugs. Let's have fun and be happy.

WCT: I like Melissa's sister, also.

CM: They are nice girls. They always support each other, and it's nice.

Hit the shore with the Jersey Housewives by watching every Sunday night. Check out www.bravotv.com for more details and watch what happens.

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DVD REVIEW

Gone

BY STEVE WARREN

If *Gone: The Disappearance of Aeryn Gillern* weren't a documentary, Kathryn Gilleran would be in the running for Best Actress awards. She has a great character face and her role lets her run a gamut of emotions: she's tough, tender, frustrated, determined and much more. Don't be surprised if a dramatization follows and Melissa Leo wins an Oscar for playing her.

I wrote those words last year after seeing *Gone* on the festival circuit. Since then the ABC series *Missing*, with Ashley Judd, has come and gone, telling a similar story with, predictably, more action and hetero main characters. Had the ratings been higher Gilleran would have been swamped with offers for the rights to her story, since Hollywood would rather emulate success than risk originality.

Gone begins with Kathy telling an interviewer her story. There are occasional cutaways to photos or videos, but mostly it's her in close-up. After 21 years as a police officer in Cortland, N.Y., she retired in 2006 and went to work at an animal shelter. Her gay son, Aeryn (the difference in spelling is not addressed), was working for the United Nations in Vienna, Austria. He came home for 10 days in September 2007. She was planning to sell her house and go to live with him in Austria for six months.

On Oct. 31, 2007, Kathy got a phone message that Aeryn hadn't been seen for two days. He was last seen running naked from the Kaiserbründl, an exclusive sauna (bathhouse), after some kind of altercation inside. A short time later a fisherman reported seeing a body in a nearby canal.

When Kathy goes to Vienna our movie expectations kick in. Like Judd in *Missing* and Liam Neeson in *Taken*, she's going over there to kick



Aeryn and Kathryn Gilleran. Photo from *Breaking Glass Pictures*

some ass! Well, not quite...

First Kathy has to get pissed off enough. She consults the police, who keep changing their story after a cursory investigation led them to a verdict of "spontaneous suicide." After all, Aeryn had been gay (he'd actually been Mr. Gay Austria) and was HIV-positive. However, he wasn't—he'd tested negative days before his disappearance.

Once she realizes the police won't help and determines to find the truth for herself, you'd think Kathy would be able to put her training and experience to better use than she does. De-

spite the language barrier—she finds that many Austrians don't speak English, at least to her—she meets a few people who try to help her. One even gives her a tour of the lavish sauna where Aeryn was last seen.

Coincidentally, a gay and lesbian support group within the police force was formed a few weeks before Kathy's visit. With their help and her first-hand knowledge of how police cover-ups work, she should be able to uncover more than she does.

But the sad fact is, real life doesn't always

play out as neatly as a movie script. Where *Gone* should have an action climax it has pleasant reminiscences of the beauty of Vienna instead, and where there should be resolution, there's what may be seen as anticlimax.

Gone: The Disappearance of Aeryn Gillern cries out for a dramatic remake, not to mention a real-life happy ending, but writer-producer-directors Gretchen Morning and John Morning have done a remarkable job with what they have, thanks in large part to the "star" they've discovered.

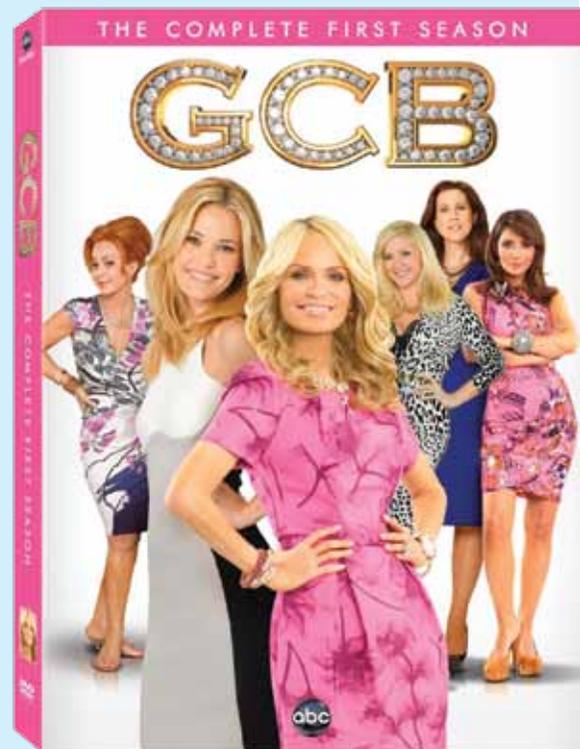
'GCB' out on DVD

ABC may have cancelled *GCB*—much to the chagrin of many people in the LGBT community (and talk-show host Wendy Williams)—but at least the first season of the comedy is available.

Back in high school, original mean girl Amanda Vaughn (Leslie Bibb) mercilessly tormented her less attractive classmates. Twenty years later, after her hubby is busted for a Ponzi scheme—and meets his maker in a particularly scandalous way—a disgraced Amanda is back in Dallas to start life anew under her mother's (Annie Potts) palatial roof.

Other actors on the show include gay fave Kristin Chenoweth, Marisol Nichols and hunky Mark Deklin, who played gay husband Blake Reilly.

The three-disc DVD set includes all the episodes and extras such as "Bigger in Texas," which shows the actresses' transformations on the show; "Preaching to the Choir," in which the actors discuss the role of music on the show; and audio commentaries, bloopers and deleted scenes.



Remember when

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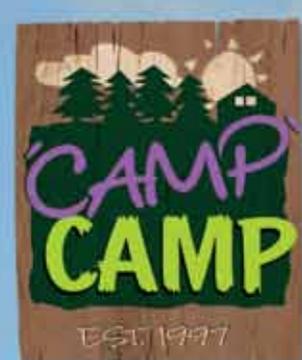
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NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION

Chris Crocker: YouTube sensation subject of HBO documentary

BY JERRY NUNN

HBO Documentary Films presents a new endeavor called *Me @ the Zoo* that focuses on the world of Internet celebrity. After Chris Crocker cried, "Leave Britney Alone" on YouTube, his life changed completely and turned the bullied teen into a household name.

The doc follows Crocker's humble beginnings in Tennessee, posting web videos on Myspace and YouTube, to becoming a performance artist. This intimate portrait of a person who learns to escape small-town life through a computer is not only riveting but teaches a lesson we can all learn.

Windy City Times: Hi, Chris. I just watched the movie and I was glued to my television.

Chris Crocker: So it is fresh on your mind.

WCT: Exactly. Did you see it yet?

CC: I only saw a rough cut one other time, but I really loved it.

WCT: How does it feel looking back at the old videos?

CC: I feel like I'm a punk-rock bitch! I think that is the beauty of constant self-surveillance and documenting every part of my life. I had forgotten that 70 percent of that stuff I filmed even existed. I will be able to look back at this when I am 40 and think how cool it is.

WCT: What part of Tennessee are you from?

CC: Bristol. It is northeast right on the border of Virginia.

WCT: It looked like a very small town.

CC: The only other thing that it is known for besides me is the racetrack.

WCT: You showed tough times, from being bullied at school to coming home and being cyberbullied.

CC: I was bullied at school; then, videos were my outlet to feel empowered from them. Then,

the bullying continued online. All obstacles that were against me I made to my advantage. Keep throwing the hate at me. It's like Fiona Apple sang: "I'm an extraordinary machine." I am going to turn it into something positive.

WCT: When did you first fall for Britney?

CC: I first started connecting with Britney on her first CD. It was a trend back in the day with Teen Magazine—to design your room or lockers with pictures of your favorite pop artist.

I continued to do that, even after Britney was cool to be liked. I related to her music and when there were rumors about her having fake breasts, I related to her. I liked her from an early age, probably third grade.

I loved the video "Sometimes"; it was right when she got her fake breasts. I was really intrigued by it.

WCT: I think you hit the nail on the head when you compared Britney to your mother, so there was some emotional connection there.

CC: I was being silly about why I connected with her, but they are both ethereal and free-spirited. I was living as a teenager and, maybe subconsciously, I missed my mother. I connected the pieces when I filmed the documentary. There was a lot that I discovered while filming. I never stopped to think why I was making videos. I was on autopilot.

WCT: So you changed during the filming?

CC: It is a very different experience being in control of the content that I put out there and selecting what I want people to see and then giving up access to my story to let them do it. They came into my house so it was a very vulnerable experience.

WCT: It looked like you would get your own television show at one point, but it fell through.

CC: There were a few factors as to why it fell through. It is not explored too much in the documentary but I was assigned to two different production companies. The first one was getting a lot of death threats and people were boycotting them. They just dropped me from having a reality show.

The second production company was World of Wonder, who does RuPaul's Drag Race. We filmed a pilot for four months then got an offer from Logo, but it wasn't enough money. It was more about making videos for their website and maybe get a show on air if there was enough traffic. We had already filmed the pilot so, for me, it was ass-backwards. There was no money it and so I refused it. I burned a lot of bridges.

WCT: Do you still want to do music, like your "Freak of Nature" single?

CC: I put out an EP that went to number two on the electro charts. I have still been putting out singles this whole past year—even three or four from last summer. My last single came out a couple of months ago and I have sold almost 100,000 songs. It is going good even with no label. I wouldn't have a car if it weren't for my music!

WCT: That's funny.

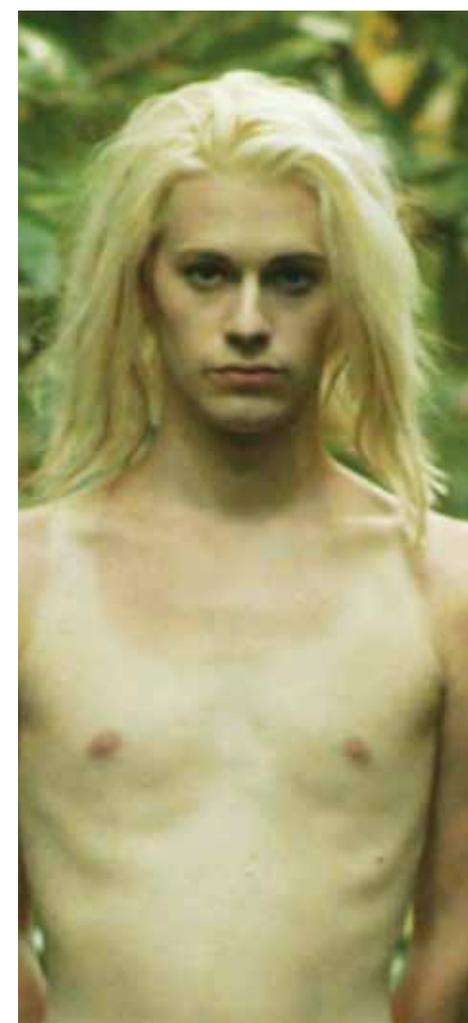
CC: I say it jokingly but it really has been a blessing for me.

WCT: Are you still in Tennessee or did you move?

CC: I'm like a gypsy right now because I bounce from New York to L.A., but I still live in Tennessee.

WCT: Are you excited about your mother and grandmother seeing this movie?

CC: My mother has seen it. She attended the screening in New York City. I thought it was brave of her to watch it in front of hundreds of people. My grandmother just ordered HBO at



Chris Crocker. Photo courtesy of HBO

home, so she is excited.

WCT: What are your plans for the future with being transgender?

CC: I am very comfortable with my penis, to be very frank about the anatomy of the situation. My gender identity is enormously different as compared to my transgender friends, who feel stuck in the wrong body.

I might just have a trans spirit. I feel like I can tap into both female and male parts of myself. I don't feel the need to undergo surgery or anything because, number one, I'm a top. I feel I can dress up if I still feel that urge to throw on a wig and lipstick. That is a spiritual experience for me because I am embodying a certain feeling. I am content with my anatomy.

WCT: How is life for you since the documentary was filmed?

CC: Everything this year is coming full circle. I have made some really solid connections. People finally see what I do as an art form and not necessarily as a joke. They finally see the whole story and getting the context of what I do.

I would like to go into acting, maybe later this year. There have been a lot of opportunities that I have been taking under consideration right now. I am not trying to jump into anything but I have had some really good offers that I am excited to pursue.

WCT: Have you ever heard from Britney Spears herself?

CC: I have heard things. When Sam Lufti was her manager, he went to me on MySpace and told me that I was disrespectful because I flashed the paparazzi one time. I would be very outlandish when I was around the paparazzi, regardless of how sincere I was in the "Leave Britney Alone" video. I was milking the 15 minutes of fame for all that it was worth, so I acted like a fame-obsessed weirdo.

Her manager thought I was disrespectful and mocking the crotch shot. That is the most I have heard from her team but I think there is a restraining order against him now, anyway.

Thank God for the documentary it shows all sides to me from my humor to my sincerity.

Find out why everybody loves or hates Chris when *Me @ the Zoo* debuts Monday, June 25, on HBO at 8 p.m. with reruns on June 25, July 1 and July 3. Visit www.hbogo.com for more information.



Chris Crocker. Photo courtesy of HBO

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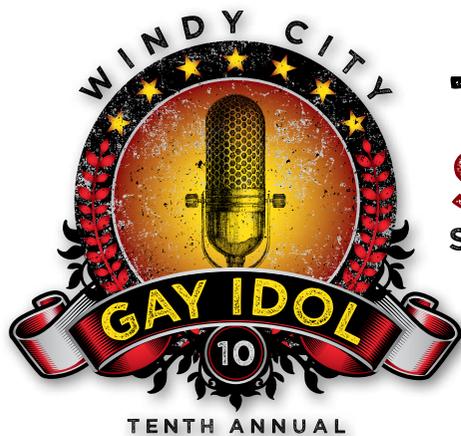
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THE FINALS AT SIDETRACK

SAT., JUNE 16

It started with 12 very talented singers and came down to Robert Hughes, the new Windy City Gay Idol.

Joining Robert in the final three were first runner-up Rob Gellman and second runner-up Megyn Kleemann. At the end of the tense third round, Robert was announced as the winner and bedecked with the traditional rainbow boa by hostess Sofia Saffire.

But it's not all about the boa. As the winner, Hughes received \$1,000 in cash; a trip for two to Vancouver, courtesy of Tourism Vancouver, along with airfare courtesy of American Airlines; a gift basket of Smirnoff and Ketel One products; and a gift bag with several different theater tickets and other prizes. Gellman and Kleemann also received Vancouver trips and Smirnoff/Ketel One baskets.

During ballot-counting breaks between rounds, the crowd was entertained by burlesque performers Frenchie Kiss and May Oui; Chicago Cabaret Project; and 2011 Windy City Gay Idol T.J. Chernick. Judges for the finals included Windy City Times film reviewer and movie director Richard Knight, Jr.; fiery cabaret performer Meghan "Big Red" Murphy; and pop-culture columnist/interviewer Jerry Nunn.

Text by Kirk Williamson; photos by Dave Ouano. Many more photos online at www.windycitymediagroup.com



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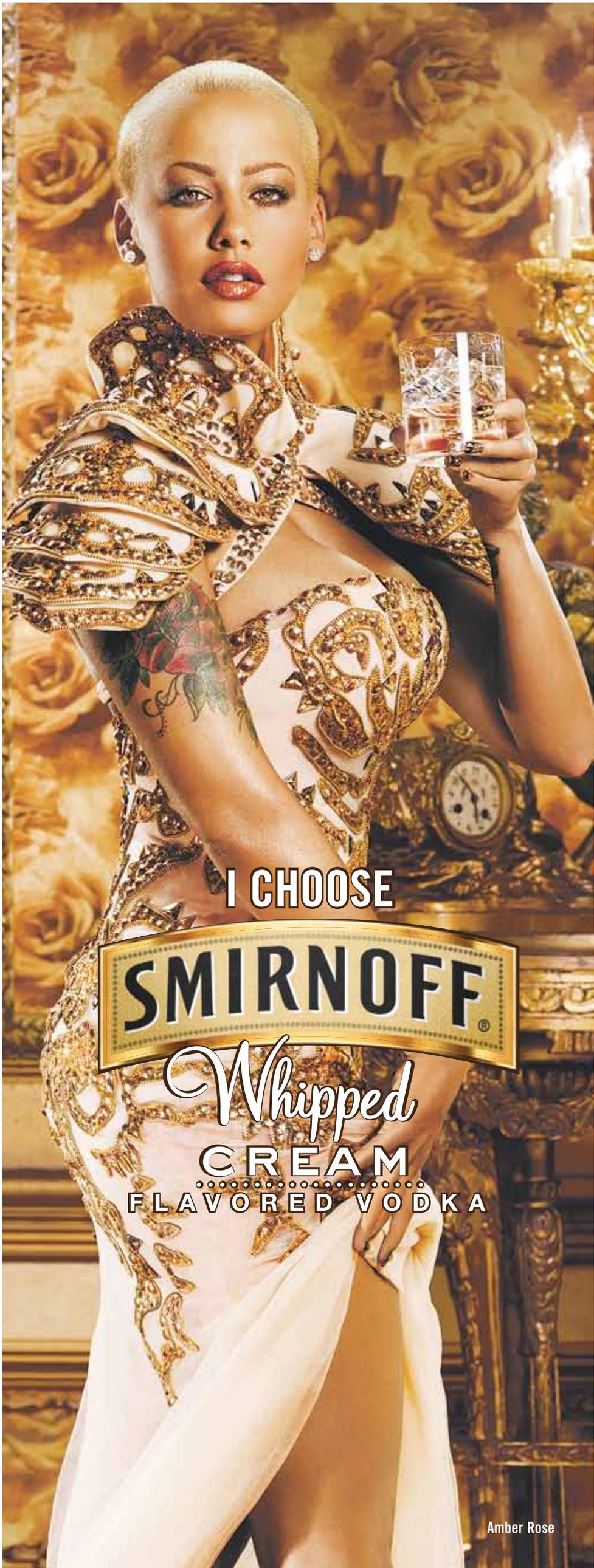
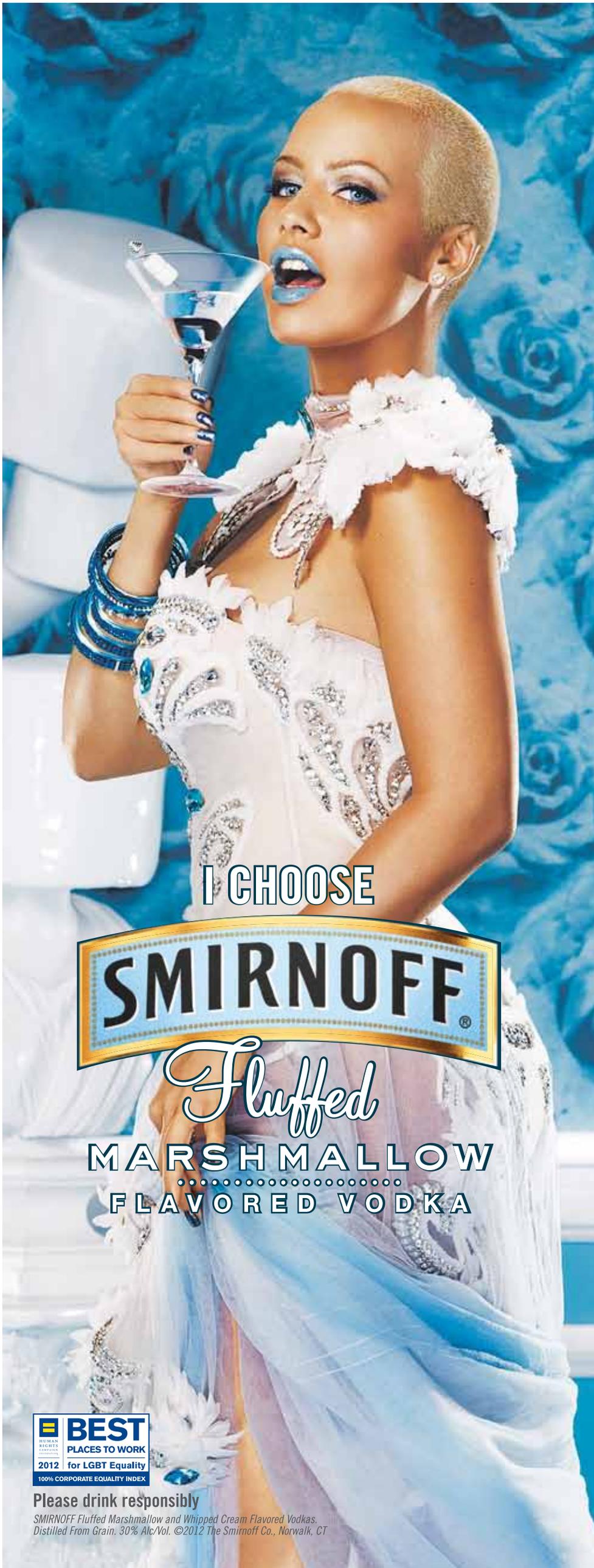


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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

Brave; Women in Danger DVDs

I have now seen something that makes the fuss over 3-D worthwhile. That would be the fiery red hair of Merida, the young heroine of director Mark Andrews' *Brave*, the latest animated film from Pixar/Disney.

Merida, voiced by the talented actress Kelly Macdonald (TV's *Boardwalk Empire*, the film *Gosford Park*, etc.) doesn't just have red hair—she sports a mane that would have put a young Kate Bush to shame. Flecked with strands of orange, gold and rust, Merida's flowing mass of corkscrew curls is a thing of beauty that catches the sun and darkens in the shadows. It moves with a life of its own—trying, it would seem to keep up with its owner—who, in true Disney fashion, is a rebellious princess dashing about and getting into *big* trouble.

Brave is the first fairy tale from Pixar, and with Disney as its parent company one wonders what took so long. Set in the 10th century in the highlands of a Scotland kingdom called Dun-Broch, the movie is a familiar yet very delightful hybrid of *The Little Mermaid* and *Beauty and the Beast*. It's not a musical like those two but the dilemma for the plucky princess isn't far off from Ariel's and Belle's—nor Cinderella's or scores of other fairytale protagonists', for that matter.

Merida, a champion archer and dedicated tomboy, is horrified to learn that Queen Elinor—her very proper, tradition-bound mother—has invited the sons of the heads of the other three clans to vie for her hand in marriage. Our gal, naturally, wants to hold out for love—although whether with a man or woman isn't made clear (and speculating on this adds to the fun for queer movie audiences).

In the meantime—until her indulgent, comically violent father (hilariously voiced by Billy Connolly) or exasperated mother reins her in—Merida will continue indulging in her free spirit (hence the untamable hair, a vivid symbol of her independence). So she flaunts tradition and, in the process, goes to war with mum (voiced with the expected linguistic expertise of Emma Thompson). Soon, she strikes a bargain with a not-so-friendly witch that goes completely and horribly awry. This being Disney—er, Pixar, of course—all will be put to rights before the fade-out.

The picture is light in the plot department—all the better to keep the fidgety kiddies engaged—but there's plenty of clever tongue-in-cheek dialogue; adorable and wacky characters (Merida has three younger brothers who cause havoc at every turn and also sport ginger locks); and copious amounts of the expected cartoon violence.

Best, the animation department has really gone to town to show the gorgeous Scottish countryside with its lush, verdant hills, dotted with mysterious rock formations. That, and the fact that the script manages to work in seemingly every beloved Scottish tradition ("Eat your



Brave. Photo courtesy of Disney/Pixar

haggis," mum tells her boys), should make the country's tourism bureau very, very happy.

Brave is a charming and vibrant new member of the Disney/Pixar stable, and certainly could be musicalized and join its forebears with a Broadway run. Whether that happens or not, in its depiction of the fractious though ultimately loving relationship between Merida and Queen Elinor, *Brave* also makes for a smashing addition to the mother's day movie canon.

Of Related Interest: Tomboy, French writer-director Celine Sciamma's fascinating study of 10-year-old Laure (played by the fearless Zoe Heran)—who passes herself off as a boy to the other kids when her family moves to a new neighborhood—is one of the most carefully observed studies of adolescence caught in the throes of gender confusion that I've seen. The film, which made my Top 10 LGBT films of 2011, is now out on DVD and digital download from Wolfe Video.

Universal has partnered with Turner Classic Movies on several boxed sets of interesting and highly coveted material by classic fans. The recently issued **Women in Danger** set—which includes four little-known titles on separate discs—is just such a release. The quartet stars four actresses who had seen better days at the box office yet retained enough of their former glory and high-wattage glamour to warrant heading these terse and highly entertaining B pictures.

For LGBT fans, the inclusion of 1955's **Female on the Beach**, with star Joan Crawford (at one point she suntans wearing stilettos, short-shorts and a high-collared, long sleeve shirt) being romanced by hunky (and often shirtless) Jeff Chandler, will be a reason to immediately add the set to the collection. And it's not a bad reason: The film, which skirts both the noir and camp genres, is at times a howler with Crawford being hard, coy and then frightened when faced with the rapacious advances of Chandler, who makes little pretense of being anything more than a male escort.

The grouping also includes three lesser known but just as satisfying potboilers. In 1950's **Woman in Hiding**, Ida Lupino plays the daughter of a factory owner who marries the no-good but good-looking plant manager, who doesn't waste any time trying to kill her (like on their wedding night). With the help of real-life husband Howard Duff, Lupino sets about convincing the rest of the world that her husband is a baddie.

Esther Williams, she of the swimming pool musicals ("Wet she was a star," produce Joe Levine

said of her appeal) takes an unusual dramatic (though rather interesting) detour in 1956's **The Unguarded Moment**. Williams portrays a high school teacher who is stalked by a peeping Tom and sexual predator—a very provocative subject for its day. Lastly, Merle Oberon plays a duplicitous businesswoman in 1956's **The Price of Fear**. She is involved in a hit-and-run accident that leads her down a very dark path with an underworld crime boss and the dreamy Lex Barker (the one-time Tarzan), a dog-track owner the mob is after and who falls hard for Oberon's line. All in all, they're a terrifically entertaining foursome.

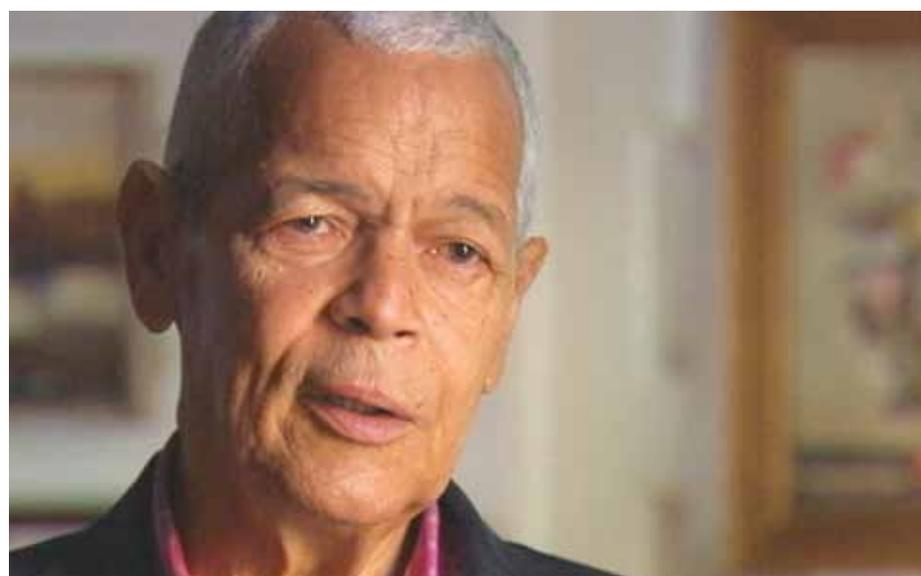
One More Woman: Speaking of rotten-egg ladies, they don't come much nastier than the revenge-seeking ghost in **The Woman in Black**, the Edwardian ghost thriller recently released on DVD that was Daniel Radcliffe's first starring role after saying goodbye to the Harry Potter series.

Radcliffe plays a young widower who heads to a remote area of England to settle the estate

of a rich woman who resided in a rotting, decayed mansion accessible only during low tide. Everyone in the audience knows that the frozen reception young Daniel receives upon entering the nearby village has more than a little to do with the previous resident of said rotting mansion, the source of plenty of heartache (not to mention death).

Slowly, Daniel knows it as well. The avenging harpy of the title is creepily realized, and the picture's terrific production design (the house is a triumph for the art department) and the above-average ghost story the movie relates—not to mention Radcliffe's nicely shaded performance (ably assisted by Ciaran Hinds, Janet McTeer and others)—more than compensates for a minimum of genuine scares.

Check out my archived reviews at www.windycitymediagroup.com or www.knightat-themovies.com. Readers can leave feedback at the latter website.



Julian Bond in Endgame. Photo from Eddie Ward

'Endgame: AIDS in Black America' airing July 10

The documentary *Endgame: AIDS in Black America* will air Tuesday, July 10, on PBS at 9 p.m. ET.

The film, by award-winning filmmaker Renata Simone, will feature interviews with basketball legend Magic Johnson; civil-rights pioneer Julian Bond; physicians, health workers, educators and social activists working on the front lines of the crisis; and pastors around the country.

Near the end of the film, the focus is on the hardest-hit city in the country—Washington, D.C.—where the prevalence of HIV last year was higher than in African nations like Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia and the Congo.

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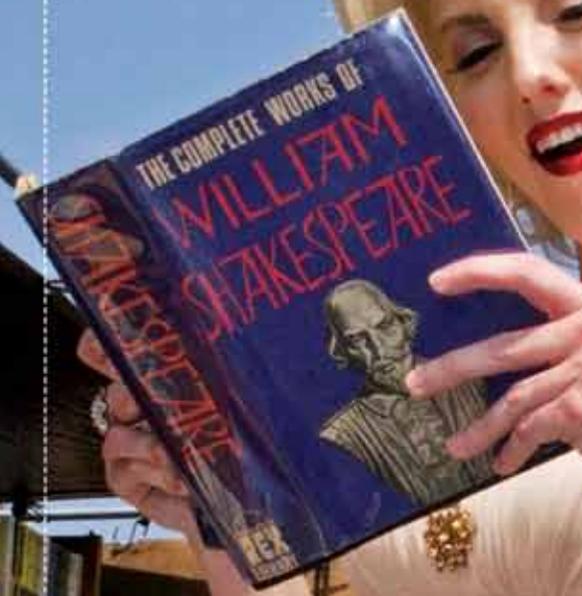
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Save The Dates

Save The Dates

BENT NIGHTS

Mavis Staples; Jonathan Richman

BY VERN HESTER

I suspect that only **Mavis Staples** could close out the 29th Annual Chicago Blues Festival and turn it into a celebration of hope, faith and spiritual awakening. The blues—along with country, jazz and soul—is one of the only pure art forms in the United States and Chicago is, without a doubt, its northern capital.

Steeped in suffering, despair, abuses of every variety, hard times and heartbreak, the music has always been synonymous with mundane living but with a commonality that anyone can relate to. This isn't to say that it's all a "pretty big downer," as Rocky Horror once said. The blues are also about celebrating, which is exactly where Staples found her groove while infusing this SRO crowd with a solid common man's perspective. Roy Rogers Sr. would have been proud.

In my review of Bobby Conn's Macaroni CD last week, I wrote that Conn is fighting the "good fight" for common decency; Staples is doing the same in her own way. After a round-robin performance by four of Chicago's premier blues women (Melvia "Chick" Rodgers, Jackie Scott, Deitra Farr and Nora Jean Brusco) in homage to the late KoKo Taylor, Staples casually strolled on stage and dug into Jeff Tweedy's "You Are Not Alone," as lilting and engrossing as any recent blues song has a right to be. Then the formality went out the window.

Nodding to Taylor's memory with a ragged and relaxed "Wang Dang Doodle," Staples joked

about how Taylor always called her "Mabel," which she could forgive—barely. Reaching back to Pops Staples' "Why Am I Treated So Bad?"—a song the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. insisted the Staples perform during the terrifying early days of the civil-rights movement—allowed Staples to open her arms and embrace all causes. "We got people runnin' around criticizing our president sayin', 'We're taking the country back,'" she exhorted. "Back to where? The '50s? The '60s? I'm never going to the back of the bus again..."—which was a statement that everyone could own.

Maybe she referenced the civil-rights movement as a starting point but she embraced all civil-rights causes by pointedly staying un-specific. Staples didn't name-check the LGBT community and she didn't have to; given the recent and ongoing breakthroughs with LGBT rights, "going to the back of the bus" or going back in the closet are no longer options.

At this point it's difficult to get a fix on **Jonathan Richman** without laughing. Credited as the creator of punk rock with his band, The Modern Lovers, through its debut album and its single, "Roadrunner," Richman watched two members of that band (Jerry Harrison with Talking Heads and David Robinson with The Cars) go onto huge success while he remained a cult figure. Oddly enough, obscurity didn't happen even with the lack of radio play, huge album sales and media recognition. So many artists have name-checked him as their mentor for so long (Joan Jett, Iggy Pop, John Cale, Weezer, Alex White and Brandon Flowers among them) that his name couldn't be forgotten while The Modern Lovers is still recognized as one of the only bands that matter.

"Roadrunner" is still recognized as the recording that took rock 'n' roll out of the hands of corporations and into the clutches of hundreds of garage bands in hundreds of garages in hundreds of cities. The real twist came with the Farrelly Brothers surprise hit movie *There's Something About Mary* (1998), which not only made Cameron Diaz and Ben Stiller stars but did the same for Richman—by presenting him as an off-kilter Greek chorus who kept popping up throughout the movie. (The final joke had him being assassinated.) It's a funny history insofar as rock stars go, but one that is absolutely fitting.

Now at the spry age of 60, Richman hardly seems like a punker but quite the opposite; a sweet puppy dog of a charmer graced with buoyancy, joy and a slightly snarky humor. The man and his cracked vibrato are so sincere that he left no doubt that he would not leave the stage



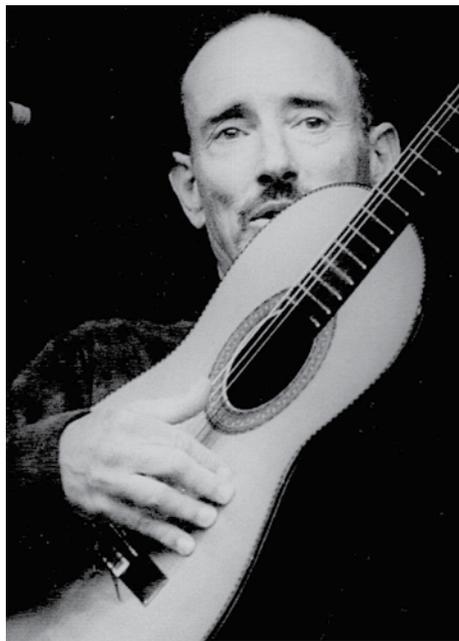
Mavis Staples. Photo by Vern Hester

of the Pritzker Pavilion until every single audience member was entertained.

Yes, there were songs of such aching emotional honesty that they nearly brought this crowd to tears ("I Should Have Been Kinder"), and there were songs that were just plain goofy ("Keith Richards") as well as rambling, highly entertaining introductions of songs that gave them far more heft. ("When I was in high school I was such a brat/I should have been bullied more than I was" was the lead-in to "Bohemia.") And, yes, Richman would spontaneously put down his guitar mid-song and break into a dance like a lazy puppet. Also, he did close the show with "I Was Dancing in the Lesbian Bar," which

yanked half the audience out of their seats and had them dancing madly in the aisle—much to the frustration of security. Lastly, he gave two encores and made it clear that he loved giving joy just as much as his audience enjoyed receiving it.

After these two shows presented by the City of Chicago I have to hand it to some of the people behind the scenes; Mary May, Bruce Kellner, Cindy Gatzolis and Alex McIntire. The mayor may have received a mixed reaction when he took the stage at the Blues Festival but there's no question that the crew working behind the scenes knows how to throw a swell summer party.



Jonathan Richman. Photo by Vern Hester

Macy's announces Glamorama theme

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

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

Singer Robin Thicke and the duo Karmin will be the featured performers.

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

Ticket prices are \$50 and \$75 for the show only; \$175 and \$285 for show and after-party; and \$1,000 for the VIP show and after-party. For more information, visit www.macys.com/glamtickets.

Wanda Sykes in Chicago Sept. 29

MSG and Live Nation welcome out comedian/actress Wanda Sykes to the Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St., on Saturday, Sept. 29, at 7 p.m.

Sykes is currently filming *The Hot Flashes* with Brooke Shields and Daryl Hannah. In 2011, Wanda made a return to HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm*; in 2010 she starred on her own late night talk show on FOX, *The Wanda Sykes Show*. In 2009, her second HBO stand-up special, "I'ma Be Me," premiered.

Sykes has also been in TV shows such as *The New Adventures of Old Christine* and films like *Rio* and *Monster-In-Law*.

Tickets are \$39.50, \$49.50 and \$65.50. Visit the box office, Ticketmaster.com or

LiveNation.com, or call 800-745-3000. All tickets subject to applicable service charges and fees. Dates and times subject to change without notice.

Mika CD due this fall

Mika has announced his new album *The Origin of Love*, due out on Universal Republic this fall.

Following up his multimillion-selling *The Boy Who Knew Too Much*, *The Origin of Love* is Mika's third album; an EP precedes the CD this summer.

On "Origin," he collaborates with Pharrell Williams, William Orbit, Benny Benassi and others.



Mika. Press photo

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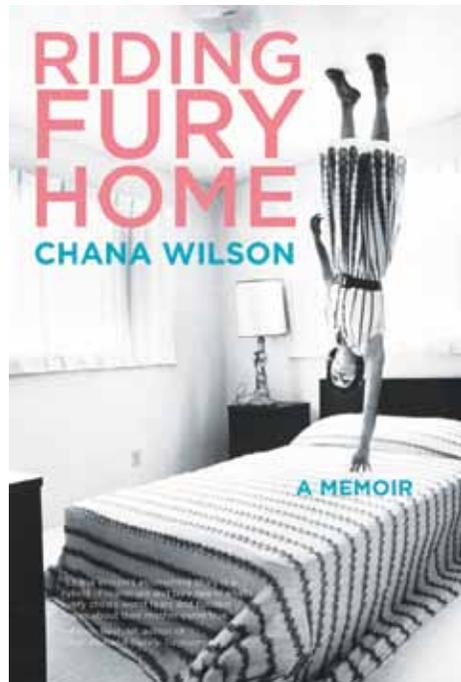
BOOK REVIEW

'Riding Fury Home' tackles many issues well

BY RACHEL PEPPER

Chana Wilson's moving new memoir, *Riding Fury Home*, is compelling for many reasons: It tackles mother-daughter relationships, the effects of a parent's mental illness, what it was like to come out into the lesbian-feminist movement of the '70s and, finally, what it means to come into one's own as an adult while making peace with one's difficult past.

Although she's a first-time author, Chana Wilson is a masterful storyteller. The span of *Riding Fury Home* is immense: It begins in 1958,



when Wilson is a child and her mother attempts to commit suicide by putting a gun to her own head. The trigger jams and, instead, her mother is taken away to the mental hospital. The book then carries us forward until almost the present day, well into the author's own adulthood and after her mother's death. Although originally Wilson says, she was afraid "that the truth would come out," if she dared speak about her childhood, she did want to honestly write her mother's story. Yet after she began to write, she found that her own life story was intrinsically tied to her mother's. Thus, she ended up writing her own life story, as well.

"I decided to tell a story of two lives set against cultural history," she says, and it is clear from reading her book that she succeeded. The book begins with Wilson having to caretake her mother during an age when mental illness was not discussed, let alone understood. Also not discussed was her mother's illicit lesbian affair while married to Wilson's father, which was a fairly big no-no in the conservative 1950's. And when this affair ended, the grief of this loss led to her mother's depression, suicidality, and multiple hospitalizations. Eventually given shock treatment, her mother's depression and lesbian tendencies were surprisingly not "cured" by the treatments she received.

Through her caretaking and the witnessing of her mother's struggles, Wilson made a vow oft taken by the children of the mentally ill: that she herself would never succumb to mental illness nor to addiction. Surprisingly, Wilson's father took a job out of the country during this time, so Wilson became her mother's keeper, too big a task for an elementary school aged child.



Chana Wilson. Photo from Wilson

Not surprisingly, Wilson had to go stay with family friends when her mother was again hospitalized, and her parents eventually divorced.

Wilson finally escapes to college, and begins to come out and into her own. By incorporating such vivid cultural moments as the rise of public radio and the blossoming of the Bay Area as a gay and lesbian mecca, Wilson creates a book not just of personal but also of political and cultural relevance. Of the '70s, Wilson says, "There was euphoria at being part of a community and having radical ideas ... of having a sense of belonging even when stigmatized, and this created a powerful political force." She writes of her journey to San Francisco: "In the Women's Liberation Movement of 1970, it was as if a huge group of orphans had discovered their

lost kin and were gleefully screaming, 'Sister! Welcome!'" Wilson found comfort in being part of this burgeoning LGBT community and in doing her radio work, but also lives for some time in New York City to spend some time with her mother, who has also come out as lesbian.

Riding Fury Home took Wilson 12 years to write. She has said that she rewrote some chapters up to 30 times. During this time, she took writing classes, participated in supportive writers groups—an activity she recommends to other aspiring writers—and gradually pieced together the story she wished to tell. However, the memoir still didn't seem as authentic as she wished. She wondered how she would get fully inside the head of the girl she had been as a child, and felt frustrated by the "disassociation" she felt from what was likely her authentic childhood voice. Wilson then decided to take a class that helped her "open up to my subconscious" and write with more emotional immediacy about the childhood trauma she lived through. The book quickly swelled out to more than 550 pages, which was eventually pared down to the 371 gripping pages it is today.

After many years spent in young adulthood drifting professionally, Wilson eventually went back to school to become a therapist. Wilson got licensed and still practices as a Marriage and Family Therapist in the Bay Area. Specializing in "LGBT affirming therapy," she believes that being a clinician has helped in her writing process. "I have been so inspired by the healing of others," she says. "But as therapists, we also need to do our own healing." Writing her memoir, Wilson said, provided incentive to "tackle issues of trauma and recovery" and also infuse the book with "a hopeful air of change."

Wilson plans to tour with the book for the next several months and continue to write and speak about the effects of growing up with a suicidal parent. For more on Wilson and possible local tour dates, visit www.ridingfuryhomebook.com.

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African-American LGBT card company looks to expand

BY ROSS FORMAN

Otis Richardson studied painting and illustration on the undergraduate and graduate levels, obtaining a Master of Fine Arts degree from Northern Illinois University in 1990.

He's still sharing his art with the masses decades later. In fact, he's expanding his offerings.

Richardson, 48, who lives in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood is the owner and an artist for Lavenderpop Greeting Cards, a line of greeting cards geared for the LGBT community. Lavenderpop Cards offers a diverse mix of cards for everyday occasions, such as birthdays and more. More specialty cards address HIV prevention, gaydar humor, youth pride; there's also a line honoring pioneers such as Bayard Rustin and Audre Lorde.

In addition to select bookstores and gift shops, Lavenderpop would like to expand its reach into non-profits, health, HIV/AIDS, and social organizations.

"I started with a bang in 2004," Richardson said. "I was really inspired to create Lavenderpop cards because the few gay cards I saw didn't have many African-American images. I felt this was a market that wasn't being served. We were in about a dozen stores nationwide the first couple years. Stores were very enthusiastic because the cards were different. It was difficult for me to really give the attention and follow up that the stores needed [to expand the cards' avail-

ability]. I also had to figure out the best ways to reach the Black LGBT community.

"A couple factors caused me to re-examine the focus of the cards. When the economy slowed down, so did the customers who bought my cards. People just had less money to spend on specialty items. Also, many of the businesses who supported my cards were bookstores. With the slow economy and competition from Amazon, many of those stores went out of business. When you look at the number of gay bookstores that have closed in the last year or so, this unfortunate trend is continuing. So, I had to alter my

stores and gift shops. I also decided to evolve my line to not only have African-American cards, but to have more multicultural designs, so they appeal to all races and ethnicities."

Richardson truly brings a personal touch to the cards—for his online customers, he has always included a handwritten note thanking the person by name.

Richardson's most popular card is the "Sexy Birthday card," with male and female versions. It says, "I want you to have your cake and eat you, too."

"I've been really touched by people who have said the cards really served a deeper purpose for them," Richardson said. "A few years ago, I was contacted by the Chicago Abortion Fund, [which] wanted to order cards for their leader organization. They really liked the 'Honoring The Pioneers Among Us' design. It's a card I created to honor anyone who is contributing in a positive way to the community. It's not a card that falls into a typical greeting card category, so I was so pleased that it reflected the ideals of their leadership group."

Plus, Richardson heard from Frank Walker, president of the Youth Pride Services, that the Youth Pride card that Richardson created to affirm LGBT youth serves as the mission statement for the organization. Last year, YPS honored Richardson with a Living Legend Award. "To



Some of Otis Richardson's cards. Photo by Matt Maldre

prove that the youth members have to learn the text of the card, Frank asked one of them to recite it to me. The young man recited it perfectly from memory," Richardson said. "I was so impressed—that something I wrote in a greeting card really made a connection to someone."

Richardson said his card buyers are split evenly between men and women.

"I love designing cards and coming up with interesting illustrations. I dig pop culture and the social and cultural influences we contribute as LGBT people," Richardson said. "I want my cards to celebrate that."

"It's great that the Black LGBT community can see cards that reflect our relationships. But if you are a gay white male, or a Latina lesbian, or an Asian transgender, I want to have designs—from the unique to the traditional—that speak to that diversity, too."

Lavenderpop has one East Coast-based sales representative, and Richardson is looking to expand. "I'm seeking outgoing, creative guys and gals who may be party promoters or entrepreneurs who are the movers and shakers in their circle of friends," he said. "Much like a Tupperware party, I'd like people to have Lavenderpop Card Parties."

Richardson said working in the greeting card industry definitely, "has been a learning experience."

"There are several models out there and you have to find the one that works for you," he said. "There are advantages of working within an existing card company. But there are many self-publishers like myself who like the freedom that comes from doing your own designs without having some kind of corporate approval. Of course doing it yourself is more of a challenge. It's very much like self-publishing a book as opposed to having Random House doing the sales and marketing. Independent card makers have to hustle more, but I kind of like the road less traveled. I think the payoff is going to be great."

"I'm really excited about our new series of Pride cards I'm currently working on. I'll have a design for twinks, bears, leather daddies, lesbian couples, etc. I hope people will want to collect [all.] I also am looking forward to building up my presence in gift shops and adult-novelty stores. As the economy slowly rebounds, I urge people to support the brick and mortar independent stores as well as online businesses in our community."

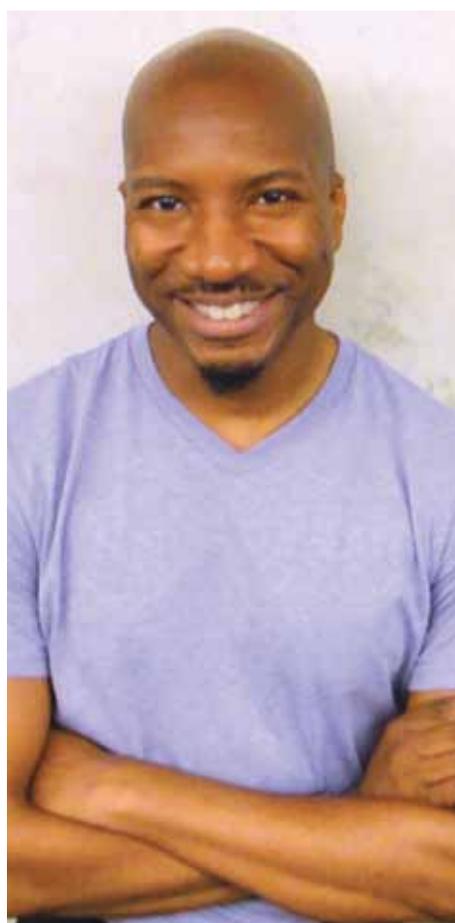
More Otis Richardson:

—Is an active painter. "I'm currently working on an exhibition of portraits of Black, lesbian, gay, bi, trans and same-gender loving icons."

—Is an active member of Soka Gakkai International Buddhist organization. "We have a strong and committed group of LGBT Buddhists here in Chicago. There are a growing number of people looking at Nichiren Buddhism and seeing the encouragement and openness it offers the gay community, and I love being a part of that dialog."

—Ran the 2011 Chicago Marathon in 2011 for the third time as part of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's endurance-training program, Team To End AIDS (T2). He likely will run the marathon again in October for T2.

See www.lavenderpop.com.



Otis Richardson. Photo by Matt Maldre

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BOOK REVIEWS

Her Majesty: Queen Elizabeth II and Her Court
 by Robert Hardman
 \$27.95; Pegasus Books;
 384 pages

The Rough Guide to the Royals
 by Alice Hunt et al.
 \$16.99; Rough Guides;
 272 pages
 REVIEW BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Imagine yourself at age ten.

Life then was relatively carefree. You spent your time riding bikes, playing games and being a kid. Your future stretched for miles; the possibilities were limitless.

Now imagine that you're 10 years old and the life you dreamed about is suddenly no longer possible. You'll never have a "best friend." You'll never be allowed to make a happy fool of yourself in public. There are no more sloppy jeans, shopping sprees or spontaneity.

Would you chafe under the new rules?

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary of York did not. She gracefully accepted the mantle of responsibility, and in the new book *Her Majesty* by Robert Hardman, you'll see how she copes.

Her full name is a mouthful.

Her Majesty Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith is a name that explains her life for the past 60 years, ever since her father died and made her the British sovereign. The name tells you who she is, but not completely.

While many think *Her Majesty* is traditional, impersonal and rather humorless, she is, privately, quite the opposite. Queen Elizabeth loves the absurd, enjoys sharp wit and she's keenly interested in her subjects' lives. She's purposefully modernized protocol by including women on her staff and by changing some long-standing rules to include divorcees and gay citizens. She reads most letters sent to her (but doesn't send or receive email) and sometimes answers missives personally.

She's warm but then again, anyone who inappropriately tries "familiarity" with her may be on the receiving end of the "royal stare" that can reduce one to "jelly."

Yes, it's good to be queen—but the job has its downsides. Hardman says that *Her Majesty* doesn't have a "best friend" in which to confide and is, in fact, constitutionally barred from discussing certain matters with non-officials. She's expected to embrace decorum and maintain a certain regal bearing at all times, and it's her duty to "be nice" to even the most ill-behaved government visitor.

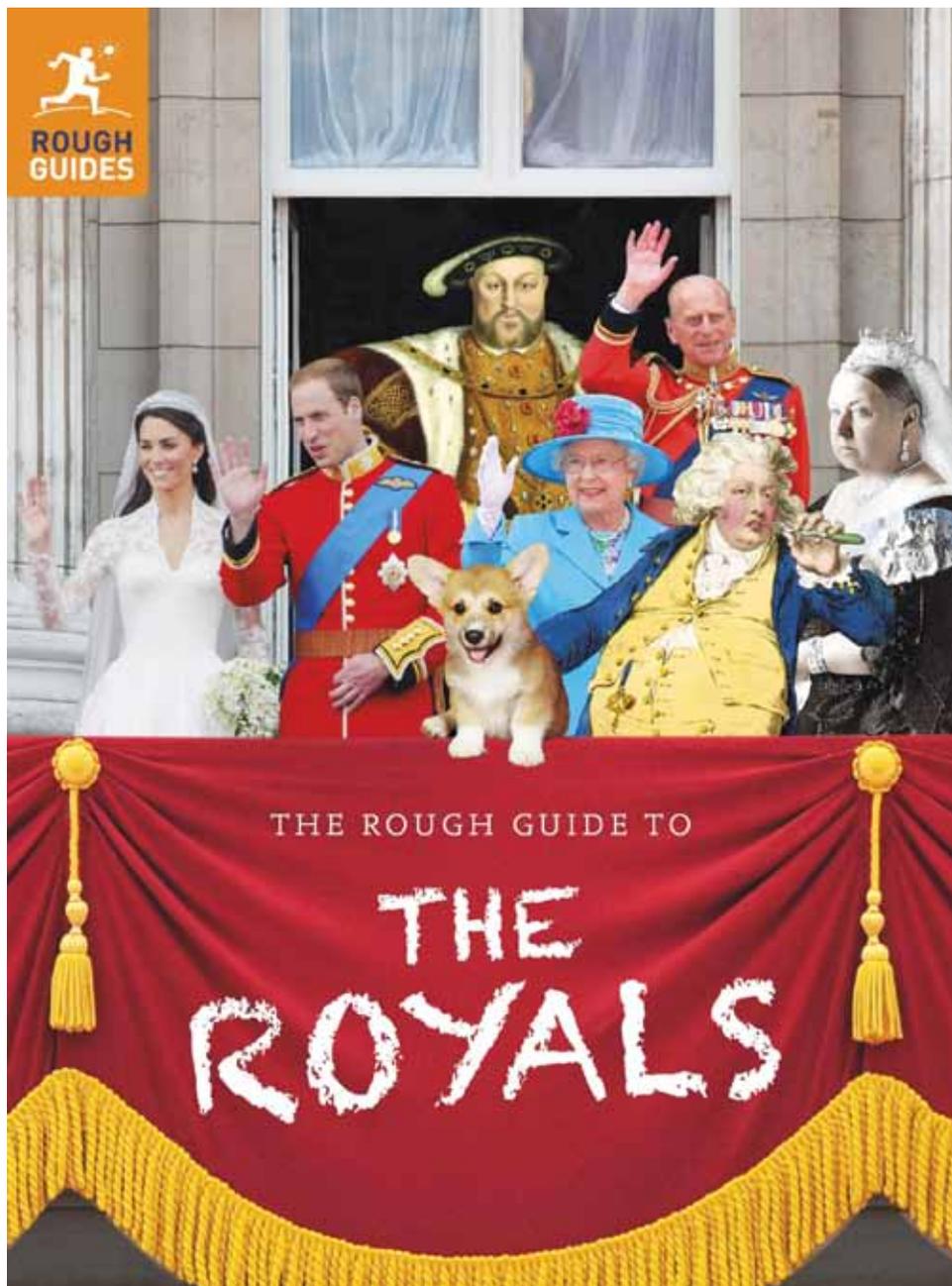
In the past six decades, a lot of trees have died in order to chronicle the lives of the royal family. Most of those books seem basically the same.

This one, though, stands out.

Unlike those other books, *Her Majesty* gives readers a warts-and-all inside peek at the private face of Elizabeth the enigma. Hardman doesn't allow any stuffiness here; his biography of the queen is lively and, at times, sweetly amusing with a touch of respectful awe. Hardman dishes a bit of light scandal as he delights us with things we don't know about his subject and her subjects. I liked the way he subtly includes other royals and royal matters in *Her Majesty's* story, without bogging it down in hard history.

Anglophiles will eat this book up, biography

Turn to page 80



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BOOKS

'...Moonlight Gulch': A tale of gay love in the 19th century

BY JASON CARSON WILSON

There's nearly nothing new about looking for a new love. Searching can still take a while. However, methods to the madness have changed through the years.

"It's almost as if I could have written at any time in history," author Shelter Somerset said. "It's a timeless theme."

History and love collide in Shelter Somerset's newest 311-page novel, *On The Trail To Moonlight Gulch*. Reading this book, it seems that cruising Boystown today really isn't that different from navigating gay Chicago in 1886.

Unlike some gays of today, Tory's search for true love—from Chicago to the Black Hills—after tragedy didn't start on grindr.com. He counted on a 19th-century version: a mail-order bride catalog. No matter the century, Tory and his lovers faced the same obstacles: family and society.

On The Trail To Moonlight Gulch first shares the story of Tory and Joseph; then, ultimately, Tory and Franklin. Somerset, copywriter-turned-novelist, shared the origin of story, showcasing his love of cowboys, Native Americans and camping.

"Their story just kind of popped in my head," he said. "I love writing about rustic lifestyles. All of my novels have that similar setting."

With that said, *On The Trail To Moonlight Gulch* wasn't just a product of Somerset's vivid imagination. Depicting a Chicago of yesteryear required a lot of detailed research about the city and semantics. No character utters the word "gay." Per Somerset's research, it didn't come into fashion until the 1960s.

"It's amazing how similar things were," Som-

erset said. "Chicago was hustling and bustling city. There's still an idyllic idea of striking a match and lighting a lantern."

Idyllic qualities like love and devotion play prominently—intermingled with tragedy—but the book ends happily. Somerset took on possible critics who believe happy endings influence literary quality.

"I don't know why people think that way," he said. "The purpose of literature is to entertain and [to educate]. Within the confines of the novel, the reader or character is supposed to learn a lesson."

When stories end happily, Somerset believes, characters learn from the tragedy, while the audience learns a lesson. Armed with that concept, the author stressed his literary work stands on its own.

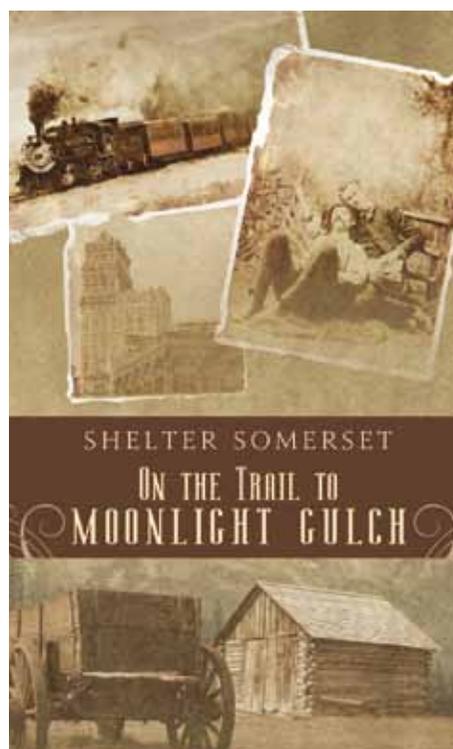
"I don't think that lessens the value," Somerset said.

Literary happy endings weren't Somerset's only departure from a writing a "typical" gay love story. Sex scenes were less than graphic. Luckily, his publisher doesn't require explicit language. However, they do demand happy endings.

"That's not my style. I like to leave it up to the imagination of the reader," Somerset said. "I grew up perusing and reading classics. I've always been exposed to older classics."

So, Tory, Joseph and Franklin can be whoever the reader wants them to be. *On The Trail To Moonlight Gulch's* title and content both reveal the novel's Wild West theme. It almost begs for a comparison to Annie Proulx's novel, *"Brokeback Mountain."*

"I don't really mind being compared other



types of literature as long as it's a compliment," Somerset said.

With that said, there's a difference between the two. *On The Trail To Moonlight Gulch* tells the story of cross-country and Wild West adventures from Tory's point of view—bringing innocence not present in *Brokeback Mountain*.

"Everything he sees is the way he would see it. It's new and exciting," Somerset said.

Even though it's a gay love story, the novel pays homage both to immigrants coming to Chicago for a better life and those heading to the new frontier.

Tory's the son of Swedish parents, who run a successful boarding house and bakery—where true love first found him. Even Tory's first lover, Joseph, had come to the Windy City to build his family's fortune. In spite of the times, seeing

them walk arm-in-arm might not have been so shocking.

"In 1886, they didn't have a word," Somerset said. "'Homosexual' was just beginning to be used. Nobody knew. Today, we're inundated. Nobody in 1886 would've thought that. That was probably common sight."

So, sanitizing that from the story wouldn't have been an option.

"I didn't feel like I would hold myself back," Somerset said. "It was probably easier than we thought."

Honoring immigrants inspired him to dedicate the book to Marco Spinelli, his paternal grandfather.

The author, whose real name is Mark Spinelli, was named after him. While his first novel was dedicated to his dog, Guido, Somerset dedicated the second to a niece. Less than modern ideas took center stage in his first novel about a gay Amish man.

"I usually write what I want to read. I'd like to read about a gay Amish man," Somerset said. "Initially, I wanted it to be light-hearted. But, as I fleshed out character, learned it couldn't be light. It turned out deeper than I expected."

Somerset paralleled the Amish and LGBT communities. No one fits anywhere. He said he "writes a lot about guys who don't fit anywhere," highlighting discrimination within one's own community. On a lighter note, Somerset remembered being shunned at parties for not worshipping Madonna.

The suburban Washington, D.C., native has been lived in Chicago for 10 years. Somerset jokingly said he'd officially become an Illinoisan, when he first cheered on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Fighting Illini. Now, the Land of Lincoln must play a major role in all his stories.

"Everything has to have an Illinois theme," Somerset said.

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WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Piccolo Sogno

BY ELYSSA CZYNSKI

Piccolo Sogno is one of Chicago's many Italian restaurants, but its food and atmosphere definitely set it apart from the others.

Piccolo Sogno translates into "little dream," and it was the dream of chef and owner Tony Priolo and owner Ciro Longobardo. It opened its doors in 2008 and will be opening a second restaurant, Piccolo Sogno Due, in the future.

Piccolo's location is an odd one. It is a short distance from downtown, but not really in a pedestrian friendly neighborhood. What brought me to the corner of Grand and Halsted was Piccolo, and it will time and again.

Upon walking in, the bar is lovely, the inside seating is light and comfortable and the outdoor section is breathtaking. I have eaten at Piccolo Sogno many times before, and every time I have come only when the weather is nice enough for eating outside. The patio is quite large, yet full of trees that create a canopy over the seating.

The light of the outdoor seating matches the food. Most of the dishes are light and very fresh. During this visit to Piccolo Sogno I had the burrata con culatello, which is pugliese, hand-stuffed mozzarella and prosciutto, for my appetizer. My guest had prosciutto di parma, pro-



Piccolo Sogno's pizza bianca. PR photo

sciutto and melon. The melon was carved into a little flower. It suited the summery atmosphere well.

When I have been to Piccolo Sogno in the past I usually get the grilled salmon, but I decided that for the review I would try something new. For main courses I had anatra e spinaci. It was more of a salad than I was expecting. Arranged on the plate was spinach with shredded duck and mushroom mixed in. It was a warm and summery dish. My guest had battuta di pollo, a grilled, flattened chicken breast, mixed greens, grapes, pine nuts and Capriole farm goat cheese.

It looked delicious, and he enjoyed it.

For dessert my guest and I shared an egg-less panna cotta infused with saffron and honey that came and served with caramel and strawberries. I thought the panna cotta had a very interesting flavor to it, but after eating almost half, the saffron was a bit overwhelming. The richness of the dessert made it very difficult to finish, but the flavors were very different from another other dessert I have had.

Savor talked with Priolo about his restaurant and the food:

Windy City Times: From what I read online, you wanted to create a very authentic dining experience.

Tony Priolo: We wanted to bring Italy to you. Our idea was to work for ourselves and to bring a true Italian dining experience to Chicago. If you're in an Italian restaurant in the country you're going to eat what you see in here. If you're on the coast, you're going to eat what you see in here. So we wanted to bring all of Italy, not just keep it at one region, but bring all of Italy here, and that's what we did.

[This is] a neighborhood restaurant. We want you to come every day with your parents, with your significant other. We want you to come with your friends on girls' night out or whatever.

WCT: Why was it so important for you to

create a restaurant that incorporated all the different aspects, décor, food, wine...

TP: My family is from Sicily; Ciro's family is from Naples. We both have an appreciation for everything Italian. I did not want to limit to one region, because Italy has so much to offer. So we wanted to bring as much as we could to you.

And then our next version—Piccolo Sogno Due, which will be at 340 N. Clark St.—will be an Italian restaurant that features seafood. It will be like dining on the coast in Italy.

WCT: What kind of thought goes into the creation of a dish, and the creation of the menu on a whole?

TP: that's very simple. We cook the food by season and availability, just like they do in Italy. So it's really not much to think about. So when its summer we're going to do panzanella, a tomato bread salad, things with artichokes and fava beans. In the winter we're going to do braised items, like lamb. It's very simple: We try to cook with the season and what God offers us. The inspiration, of course, is my experience of working in Italian restaurants and traveling to Italy and working in Italy, so that's how it all evolves.

I like to keep it very clean and simple and natural. I'm not trying to re-create the wheel; I'm just trying to give you a great experience.

See www.piccolosognorestaurant.com.

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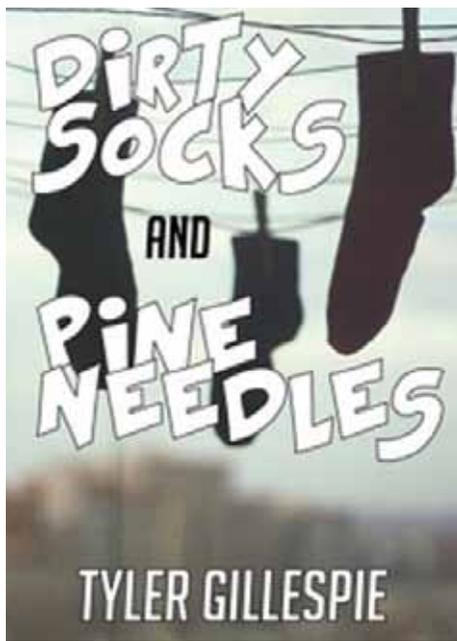
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BOOK REVIEW

Dirty Socks and Pine Needles

by Tyler Gillespie

\$2.99; Sibling Rivalry Press; 26 pages

BY SALLY PARSONS

The publisher's blurb for Dirty Socks and Pine Needles says Sibling Rivalry Press aims to promote projects that "... inspire people to read, challenge, and ponder the complexities of life...." They welcome manuscripts that "sing sweetly," among other things.

Tyler Gillespie's book is a slender collection of reminiscences that sing of gentle and bittersweet memories of a childhood in the South. It's a helping of sweet potato pie and collard greens—a filling meal whipped up by a boy who learned disappointment and betrayal early from his father, buffered by loving grandparents, mother and uncle. These stories, crafted by a gifted young writer, will touch you deeply and haunt you often.

Gillespie's prose drips with sensually alive references that jump off the page. Many of these are found in the descriptions of the family he loves—Grandpa, a mix of "Old Spice, motor oil, and citrus;" Granny Lula, whose skin sagged from her biceps; Mother, with the hands "that smell like bleach and laundry and soap bubbles." Then there's Gillespie's father, who introduced his son to the power of alcohol much too young. The title of Gillespie's book is a reference to smells his sense memory retains of summer nights as a child in Kentucky studying the stars with his father.

Gillespie's connection with his father is tenuous and troubled, from the moment of his birth when his father, sobering up in a jail cell, was not even aware his son had just been born. Aside from the few magical moments he shared with his father under the stars, their relationship hit mostly sour notes from birth on. In one of the most heart-wrenching pieces, Hiding from the Sun, Gillespie repeats the mantra, "I am not my father," desperately trying to assert his connection with the goodness of his loving mother, Granny Lula, and the others who are positive role models in his young life, and to separate himself from the bad influence of his alcoholic father, on whose dark path he fears he may follow.

You will want to wish, like me, that Gillespie has found the missing piece of him that he so eloquently yearns for. Dirty Socks and Pine Needles tugs at your heart and makes you a little misty-eyed—it's a good thing. Settle in with a piece of sweet potato pie and enjoy.

Gillespie was a junior editor at Ampersand Books, an independent publishing house. He has been published in outlets such as Creative Loafing, Writer's Digest and Windy City Times. He lives in Chicago.

BOOK REVIEW

Outlaw Marriages

by Rodger Streitmatter

\$26.95; Beacon Press;

224 pages

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

The groom looks nervous.

Maybe because he never thought this day would come. He never believed that he'd ever fall in love and because of that, he couldn't imagine this day.

The other groom looks nervous, too. He knows how much work goes into a wedding, and that's doubly true for a wedding like this. He never thought this day would come, either. He didn't think the law would ever allow it.

Something old, something new? There's more of the first, as you'll see in the new book Outlaw Marriages, by Rodger Streitmatter.

For more years than you care to count, you've been fighting for the right to marry the one you love. It seems lately, though, that the only progress you're making is backwards, and that's disheartening. But years ago, gay men and lesbian women didn't let a little discouragement stop them from enjoying *sub rosa* marriages. Instead, they boldly "flouted convention."

In 1865, for instance, 45-year-old Walt Whitman fell in love with a handsome 21-year-old streetcar conductor. Until that time, Whitman had a hard time getting his poetry noticed, but falling in love had a "powerful impact" on his work. Peter Doyle became the older man's muse and was devoted to Whitman until the poet died.

Ned Warren and John Marshall were kindred spirits, too.

Both were obsessed with antiquities and had a passion for procuring them for U.S. museums. Although Warren loved Marshall, he didn't want to be monogamous; then, Marshall was forced to marry a woman. Mary Bliss-Marshall knew the score, though, and was happy to let her husband share his bed with Ned Warren. She was also happy to join the two men in procuring more antiques.

But, as with any modern union, things didn't always go well in an Outlaw Marriage. Sometimes, break-ups were inevitable...

Greta Garbo was a diamond in the rough when Mercedes de Acosta met the new starlet but under de Acosta's tutelage, Garbo learned manners and poise, flourished, and succeeded. As a screenwriter, de Acosta did everything to ensure that her lover got good roles and major accolades.

The problem was that de Acosta couldn't keep

anything to herself, and she blabbed their secrets in a tell-all book. That was when Garbo coldly told de Acosta to get lost.

Let's start with the bad news: At just more than 200 pages, Outlaw Marriages is barely longer than a Kardashian wedding. The good news is that it's just as rich.

Mixing history, some old-fashioned scandal and plenty of star power, Streitmatter not only gives readers a sense of the times in which these "outlaws" lived, but also—and this is pretty amazing—an idea of the tolerance that they enjoyed.

In some cases, the media kept mum about the marriage (which, technically, in all cases in this book, were not strictly "marriages") and in other cases, the situation was public knowledge but few seemed to care.

Outlaw Marriages is the kind of book you'll be disappointed to see end because it's so much fun. And do I recommend it...?

I do.

Want more? Then look for What God Has Joined Together: The Christian Case for Gay Marriage by David G. Myers and Letha Dawson Scanzoni; or Making It Legal: A Guide to Same-Sex Marriage, Domestic Partnership & Civil Unions by Frederick Hertz and Emily Doskow.



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BOOKS

Dan Bucatinsky tackles same-sex parenting with humor

BY SALLY PARSONS

Actor/writer/producer Dan Bucatinsky has penned *Does This Baby Make Me Look Straight?*—a funny, touching account of the daily adventures he has braved with his husband, producer Don Roos, as they set out to adopt and raise two children, Eliza, 7, and Jonah, 4.

Bucatinsky's credits include the Showtime series *Web Therapy*, produced with Roos and his business partner, actress Lisa Kudrow. Bucatinsky also plays a recurring character on the new Shonda Rhimes ABC series *Scandal*. He and his family live in Los Angeles.

Windy City Times: What parenting challenge did the kids present for you this morning?

DB: Bucatinsky: This morning, Eliza had to find her library book. I got a note from the school: It was due May 23. So we looked at the calendar and we counted out how many days it was actually late. And we had to go find the library book. And Jonah was not getting himself dressed, in typical school-day fashion. Each one of them has a task that takes a lot of prodding to get it done. This morning was fun.

WCT: You and Don present a new definition of "family" to many people. Do you feel in some way there actually is no difference between your family and any other?

DB: For the most part ... the experience of waking up every day and getting the kids up, and getting them fed, and making their lunch, driving them to school—that day-to-day experience really is, I'm sure, quite identical to every other family in America, and maybe in the world, who have kids. ...

WCT: But there are exceptions, I imagine.

DB: There are those days where another child will ask your kid, "Where's your mommy?" Or a grownup will tap us on the shoulder on an airplane and ask, "Where's the kids' mommy?" Or you'll just get looked at differently. ... I feel like we can walk around and be an example to those who've never seen it before. ... I often feel like there's a real opportunity there, which certainly my book does as well, which is to put out there a portrayal of a couple and a portrayal of a family that, for all intents and purposes, is so specific, and yet so universal, I hope.

WCT: But when you run across these moments of curiosity, is there anything that aggravates you?

DB: I had a period of time where I was very defensive about it. I resented the questions and I resented some people's close-minded assumptions. ... The fact is, [Eliza and Jonah have] two loving parents. They both happen to be guys. ...

I always love hearing Eliza's description of the way she was born because it's so simple. She knows that she grew in the womb of another woman [Monica] who always knew from the very beginning that the baby was going to be ours. And it's true, she chose us. And to her [Eliza], it feels very logical. She [Monica] grew this baby in her tummy and then the baby was Daddy and Papi's. ...

WCT: Knowing what you know now about all the challenges of being a parent, is there anything you would do differently about starting a family if you were going to start now?

DB: You are, in fact, benefiting greatly from what can potentially be the saddest day in another woman's life and the happiest day in yours. And I wish, I guess, when I was in the middle of it and I felt like there was still a possibility that she could change her mind, or there



Dan Bucatinsky.

was the possibility this baby was not going to wind up in our home, all the fear and anxiety—in hindsight, I wish I had sort of braved through it more and felt more confident that we were going to wind up with the family we were meant to have. But, again, only the extremes of going through it successfully gives you that confidence. So, ... if I were to do it all over again, I think I would have to do it exactly the same way.

WCT: So you and the children are still in touch with Monica, the birth mother?

DB: No, not all the time. And the kids aren't any more, really. Although on birthdays and stuff. She calls on their birthdays and they hop on the phone with her. And we text with her and we send photos. We are in touch. I'd say light touch.

WCT: What do you wish to say to LGBT folks who are contemplating becoming parents?

DB: I feel there are so many babies in this world and there are so many children in foster care, that if someone feels the impulse to be a parent, I absolutely encourage everyone who wants to, to become one because there's a need. And if there's a need and a want on the part of the parent, then it's a perfect match.

WCT: What is the most encouraging thing you learn from people you encounter when they've read your book or know that you're parenting children with Don?

DB: I feel very proud because, at the end of the day, you set out just to be honest, truthful, open. Certainly, in writing the book, I didn't set out to have a giant message or to teach. I'm not a parenting expert. I just want to connect. And when, in fact, I have, especially with those I didn't predict I would connect with, it's very encouraging.

WCT: Have you and Don considered expanding your family?

DB: You know, there were moments. But we're definitely happy with the two that we have. We became parents a little later in life. I think if we were in our 20s, we probably would expand, but two kids with two grownups, that's a good ratio.

WCT: So what's your greatest joy in parenting?

DB: I have these moments where I realize how

unique and special—they're developing into their own people. Those are moments of absolute, total wonder as a parent that I couldn't have prepared for. ... There are a lot of the most simple little things that happen on a day-to-day basis, so those are the things that I am usually the most dazzled by.

Review

From the opening salvo offered by Eliza, his earnest 5-year-old daughter, as she sat on the toilet prompting her dad to smell her fingers, Bucatinsky pulls us into funny, touching and honest encounters with his children. (Jonah is the counterpoint to Eliza.) Bucatinsky struggles with what it is to be a parent (very little different from the challenges of any parent, as it turns out), and how parenthood changes his own perceptions of himself.

These pages are filled with everyday struggles penned with wit and in a neighbor-next-door voice that makes you like the author right off the bat. Bucatinsky starts with him and his partner, Don Roos, struggling through picking a proper birth mom for the baby they hope to adopt and chopping through the legal pro-

cess until they get there. That painful odyssey brought them Eliza and a few years later, Jonah (from the same birth mom).

On the announcement their first child was to be a girl, Bucatinsky was delighted. He realized he could go shopping for dresses with a girl. When Jonah's impending arrival was announced, he was a little wary. Jonah might turn out to be straight, and straight boys had tortured him as a child. Would he be able to love a straight boy child, he wondered? Happily, the answer is a resounding yes.

Bucatinsky honestly discusses the landmines of two competitive parents in a relationship where the kids play favorites from time to time. He shows us how he and Roos have dealt with the persistent question of "Where's your mommy?"

We meet the loving family and friends that become Bucatinsky's support system and, in one touching chapter, how he has dealt with the death of his own father.

You couldn't find a more charming portrayal of two people struggling through the complicated scenario of parenting.

BOOK REVIEW

Through the Door of Life

by Joy Ladin

\$26.95; Univ. of

Wis. Press; 259 pages

REVIEW BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You knew there would be pain.

No doubt about it, change was going to hurt. It would require, if not tears, then a kind of ripping of your soul, a new way of life, an alteration of outlook.

You would no longer be a smoker, a drinker, a nail-chewer, a sweets-addict. You would be giving up... but you would be gaining so much more.

It was change and, good or bad, it wouldn't be easy.

For author Joy Ladin, pain was exactly the reason for change. Pain had accompanied her for most of her days, but in her new book, *Through the Door of Life*, she explains a journey that was, for her, long overdue.

Ladin "never much wanted to live."

Born into relative privilege, she had a good childhood, but death "seemed close." Ladin remembers thinking that the idea of dying was exciting, while life was not because life, at the time, was spent in the wrong body: Joy Ladin was born a boy.

"I spent my childhood trying to be what people wanted me to be," she says, which worked, outwardly. Few noticed or knew that Ladin was struggling, so adept was she at tamping down feelings of sorrow.

At 17, while away at college, Ladin met her "life partner," to whom she confessed her inner turmoil. The woman was undaunted; they married in 1982—Ladin's wife made it clear that she could accept Ladin's transsexual feelings but not a transition—and they started a family within the decade. Ladin took pride in being a father.

However, in 2005, everything began to fall apart.

Ladin started having panic attacks and suicidal thoughts. No longer able to withstand the soul-crushing pain of living in a body that was all wrong, she shaved off the beard she'd had since puberty, began taking hormones, and tried to maintain a dual life that would satisfy her wife, three children, her God, and her colleagues at Stern College for Women of Yeshiva University.

And slowly, Joy Ladin began to embrace the woman she knew herself to be.

Through the Door of Life is a bit of a conundrum.



Joy Ladin. Photo by Lisa A. Ross

It soars with celebration, then drops like a stone into an abyss of angst. There are self-deprecating, bittersweetly humorous passages, followed by wailing rants that hurt to read. There's love in here, and hate that'll make you gasp. And, repeatedly, author Joy Ladin gives you all this in the space of a page or two.

Despite that repetition, what readers will appreciate most, I think, is that Ladin pulls no punches. We're given a front-row seat at the difficulty—and shaky triumph—of being true to one's self despite the costs. Yes, there are bumps in this story, but Ladin's honesty is hard to beat.

Through the Door of Life is deep and thick with thought, emotion and pain, but its cover should clue you in on the kind of read you'll end up with. That kind of Joy should make you want to change your schedule to read this book.

Want more? Look for *Balancing on the Mechitza: Transgender in the Jewish Community* by Noach Dzmura; or *Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc to Dennis Rodman* by Leslie Feinberg.

Book provides insight into adoptive fatherhood

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

Gay fathers face questions and issues that their straight and even lesbian counterparts don't as they begin the adoption process and their transition to fatherhood, according to Abbie E. Goldberg.

Goldberg, an associate professor in the department of psychology at Clark University and a senior research fellow at the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, has been studying the gay and lesbian parenting community now for more than 10 years. Her first book, *Lesbian and Gay Parents and Their Children: Research on the Family Life Cycle*, examined and analyzed the research that existed on same-sex parenthood since the 1970s.

Goldberg said that very few studies done on gay and lesbian parents really focuses on gay fathers' experiences, so after completing her first book she decided to turn her attention specifically to gay dads. She hopes the result, *Gay Dads: Transitions to Adoptive Fatherhood*, will provide gay fathers, prospective gay fathers and others interested in the topic with information that until now hasn't existed.

Windy City Times: Tell me about your book, *Gay Dads: Transitions to Adoptive Fatherhood*.

Abbie Goldberg: This is my second book. It's a book on gay dads and basically it charts the transition to the parenthood experience for 70 gay men—all of whom I interviewed both before they were placed with a child, while they were waiting to adopt and then after they adopted. It starts out with a chapter looking at the kinds of experiences they had navigating the adoption process, discrimination in the adoption process and the legal process.

It then moves on to examine their initial adjustment experiences, how they struggled and balanced work and family. There is also a chapter looking at their relationships with families of origin and friends and how those relationships changed. Then there is a chapter looking at their interactions with their broader community, feeling more out when they became parents, particularly if they'd adopted transracially, and how that gave them new visibility in their neighborhoods and their community.

WCT: Why did you decide to write a book on gay dads?

AG: There are no full-length books on gay fathers, empirical research on gay dads. There are a few, very few, published papers on gay dads, but it's really an area that is pretty much uncharted territory. I wanted to provide a book that was readable, interesting and informative about the real life experiences of gay men. I wanted it to be something that a gay dad could pick up or a prospective gay dad, a researcher or a grad student, somebody who is just interested in the topic. I wanted to make it accessible to as broad a range of people as possible.

WCT: What was your first book about?

AG: Its called *Lesbian and Gay Parents and Their Children: Research on the Family Life Cycle*. It is the first full-length analysis of the research on gay parenting from the 70s to basically 2010. That book was very well received and won a couple of awards.

WCT: Why do you think the *Gay Dads* book is important?

AG: The research on lesbian parenting started a long time ago, in the 1970s. Really prompted by a couple of high profile court cases where women were denied custody of their children because of their sexual orientation.

Gay dads really didn't get on people's radar, until I would say about 2000. There are a few studies of gay fathers in the 1980s, but all of those focused on gay men who had their kids

in straight relationships and then came out. Intentional gay dads, men that were having or adopting children in the context of same-sex relationships, that really hasn't been on people's radar or been visible in the media until about 10 years ago. That's why it's important; it's a timely topic. It's vastly understudied.

WCT: What kinds of trends or things did you find that you think are particularly interesting?

AG: I think that perhaps one of the things that is so striking in the book, and is a theme that continues to come up, is the incredible importance of geographic location in context for these men's experiences. The gay men who were adopting or raising children in San Francisco obviously had a very different experience than the gay men who are adopting in, say, the Amish country or rural South Carolina.

That, to me, is the most striking and, in some ways, the most interesting recurrent theme in the book. In many states gay men cannot co-adopt a child. One man has to adopt as the legal



Abbie Goldberg.
Photo from Goldberg

parent and then the other parent may or may not ever be able to get a second parent adoption. In many cases in the book, there are couples in which only one man is legally connected to the child. Of course that has profound implications for men dealing with security and feeling that they are safe and their child is safe and their relationship is secure and recognized. If there is one thing to take away from the book, it's how important things like laws are in terms of affecting families.

WCT: Were there any outcomes that surprised you?

AG: Yes; there is a really fascinating pattern that emerged. As I said, I asked these men about their support from family and friends. One of the

most fascinating findings was that a third of the men perceived their families—particularly their own parents—as becoming more supportive of them across the transition to parenthood. They attributed this to, "Everyone loves babies." So many of their family members—even those who were very unsupportive, very homophobic, very concerned about "How can you raise a child? That is cruel. We don't support that"—came around once there was an actual child in the home.

Not only did they come to be more supportive of the men because they wanted a relationship with their grandchild, but they actually became more activist, in some sense. So they were more likely to come out to their neighbors, their own extended families and friends and admit that they had a gay son, where before they were very closeted themselves.

WCT: Is there anything you would like to add?

AG: Just the fact that the men's stories are what carry the book. It is filled with quotes and stories and highlights various couples across this journey. It's really written in a way to be engaging and to allow readers to immerse themselves in these stories. You really get to know these men in the book.

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BOOKS

'Christianity' shows revolutionary concepts about faith

BY JOE FRANCO

No presidential election in history has been so polarized by issues that directly affect the rights of gay and lesbian individuals as this one. We have two distinct camps: One that believes that marriage is "traditionally" between a man and a woman and one that believes that marriage is between two people who love one another and want to create a future together.

The Christian faith often forms the basis of the traditional argument. Remarkably, Brian McLaren, a college English professor-turned-theologian, argued more than two years ago—using Christianity as his foundation—that marriage equality was not just a civic right but was also one of faith.

In McLaren's book, *A New Kind of Christianity*, he asks 10 questions regarding the direction of the faith. He made the biggest waves in the popular press, including the *New York Times* and *The Huffington Post*, with the suggestions on the importance of marriage equality, specifically regarding inclusion of the LGBT community within any faith that is truly Christian.

"If the Christian faith were meant to be more shrink-wrapped, Jesus would not have taught in parables or spoken in generalities," said McLaren. He begins his chapter with these words: "I don't want to be closed-minded or judgmental, but in good conscience I simply can't approve of the lifestyle." He goes on with rhetoric that the LGBT community has often heard about "lifestyle" choices and aberrations but ends his diatribe thusly: "The lifestyle I'm speaking of is fundasexuality. A neologism that describes the

reactive, combative brand of religious fundamentalism that preoccupies itself with sexuality."

"The Bible is a record of humanity's growing and evolving moral consciousness. It is not static," said McLaren. Leviticus—as some LGBT individuals are aware—is often quoted to denounce homosexuality. "Some Christians claim that this verse must be applied literally. If that were so, then there should be a death penalty for gays and lesbians because it's pretty explicit. But some fundamentalists ignore an awful lot of what Leviticus has to say. They soon forget that this book has been used as a defense of slavery and segregation," said McLaren.

He is quick to point out that the LGBT population is now and probably has always been a minority population, particularly at the time the Bible was written: "A 6-to-10-percent minority can be intimidated into silence for a very long time. Any contrary evidence regarding homosexuality would have been suppressed and very come out. When you're reading Leviticus you're reading the words of a primitive society where procreation is goal number one."

McLaren also points out that Leviticus is silent as to what to do with people who are schizophrenic or have diabetes. "Those were concepts that were just unknown to the authors of that book. How does a fundamentalist deal with that?" Ultimately, McLaren argues that "the moral movement should be one that moves from the law to love. Love and loving the other as we love ourselves. Take that love and that "law" and apply to everything."

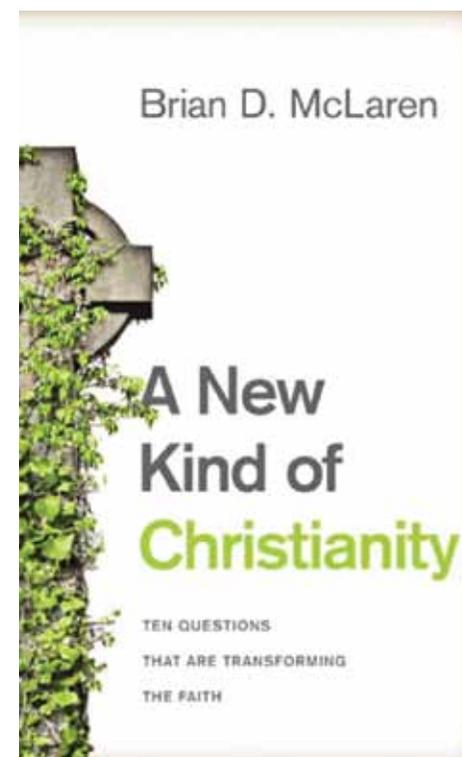
McLaren uses two devices to argue that Chris-

tians, as technically more evolved on humanity's moral spectrum, should include the LGBT community as equals, no questions asked. First McLaren quotes a story that most Christians would not even notice or ever mention. In Acts of the Apostles 8:37, Philip, one of the disciples of Jesus comes across an Ethiopian eunuch on his way from the Temple in Jerusalem where he has been denied access to worship because he is both black and sexually deviant according to traditional Jewish law. Philip acts fast and immediately tells this man about Jesus and is ordered, by God, to baptize this sexual outcast into the faith, just as he is.

Second, McLaren takes aim at Paul's Letter to the Romans. The letter begins with what initially appears to be admonishment against gay people. But McLaren points out that Paul is not writing a constitution but is in effect, trying to get his point across. In other words, the admonishment is St. Paul's reverse psychology. He's saying, "Yes, look at these gays and the idolaters and the other freak show going on here. It's so good of you to point this out. Oh wait. You mean, you're all doing it to? Interesting." St. Paul is basically chastising the Romans for being too judgey. Rather than admonishing their use of statutes or gay sex, he's more concerned with the early Christians becoming too judgmental and less inclusive. "We should be reading the text in its entirety," said McLaren.

McLaren also points out that due to the changing landscape of modern living, the way that even heterosexuals express their sexuality is radically different from two or three thousand years ago. "By coming out of the closet regarding their homosexuality, gay folks may help the rest of us come out of the closet regarding our sexuality. And that is important, because the no longer we hide from the truth of our sexuality—in all its beauty and agony, in all of its passion and pain—the sicker we will be as religious communities, as cultures and as a global society."

For more information on *A New Kind of Christianity* or on Brian McLaren, visit www.brianmclaren.net for a full sampling of his theology as well as links to his other works on faith and spirituality.



Utah: Children's book controversy

A picture book that features a lesbian couple raising children has upset parents at a Utah elementary school, the *Chicago Tribune* reported.

The book, *In Our Mother's House* by Patricia Polacco, was removed from the library shelves at Windridge Elementary School after parents objected to the book's social message.

The book is now kept behind the librarian's counter and can only be checked out if a student presents a permission slip from a parent.

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Brian McLaren. Photo from McLaren

Widow of Gay Games founder reminisces

BY ROSS FORMAN

It's been an emotional roller-coaster, filled with tears, cheers and fears. It's been a 30-year journey, anchored by two milestones this summer that will, no doubt, tug even harder at Sara Waddell Lewinstein's heart—and that of the worldwide LGBT sporting community, too.

The inaugural nine-day Gay Games—founded by Lewinstein's former husband, Dr. Tom Waddell—started Aug. 28, 1982, in San Francisco, with Tina Turner performing at the opening ceremony. The event drew 1,350 participants plus 300 cultural participants for 16 sports.

Gay Games II in 1986 drew 3,500 participants from 17 countries for 17 events.

Waddell died of complications of AIDS July 11, 1987.

Gay Games III, held in Vancouver in 1990, drew 7,300 participants, representing 39 countries, for 27 sports.

Gay Games VII in Chicago attracted nearly 11,000 participants representing nearly 70 countries.

Gay Games IX is in Cleveland in 2014—and 10,000 participants are expected, or more, with about 35 sports offered.

"It doesn't seem like 30 years. To hear 30 years, I'm taking it personal," said Lewinstein, a lesbian. "All I have to do is look at [daughter] Jessica and I remember the years. She's going to be 29 [this year]."

"Every five and 10 years are big milestones. The fact we're going into Gay Games IX is really exciting. To have the Games, [with its] philosophy, the passion go on for men and women from around the world, and what it has to offer, it's just phenomenal."

Lewinstein, now 57, lives in the Bay Area with her partner of 14 years, Sandra Ghilarducci. Jessica also lives in the Bay Area and works in public relations for Gameloft.

Both will be in Cleveland in 2014.

Lewinstein said Waddell would be "ecstatic" that his vision—the Gay Games—is stronger than ever.

"He definitely provided a civil-rights movement for our culture," Lewinstein said. "I think he'd say, 'Let's go back to the quality instead of the quantity of how many sports are actually participated in.' He'd be so proud of the Gay Games, and [there's] no reason he shouldn't be."

"I miss him dearly and there isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about him."

I miss him as a team player with me, and a great number of others who also aren't with us anymore. They were so passionate; they really loved the Gay Games. ... It's sad that we've lost so many. At the same token, there are so many who have survived longer than they were told [they would] because of participating in the Gay Games."

Lewinstein said the biggest challenge now facing the Games is increasing the number of women participating. In fact, she said, "Outreach to women has been very, very important since day one—and I think it needs to be continued. It takes 10 times more effort to get a woman to participate [in the Games] than it does a man."

Despite the growth of the Games over the past three decades, it also has coincided with HIV/AIDS, which has had such a dramatic impact on the event and its participants, starting with Waddell, who competed in the decathlon at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City. He was diagnosed with AIDS in 1985 and died within two years.

"We lost some of our best people from HIV/AIDS; they were comrades of mine," Lewinstein said. "I now have very few [friends] alive from

Gay Games I and Gay Games II. I feel like I carry a torch for so many; it's unbelievable.

"It's not really what HIV/AIDS did to the Gay Games in particular, though it certainly affected [the Games.] It's what AIDS did to our community. HIV/AIDS took away some of our best people; it really hurt our culture, our community."

She added, "Tom's death was the icing on the cake after we lost so many others before him. Tom's death was devastating. To be truthful, I almost hated the Gay Games at that point because we had put so much energy, so much time and so much money into it. I almost wanted to quit as a board member and sports director [when he got sick]. It took everything to keep it going."

Lewinstein managed the largest bowling alley in the Bay Area until April when it lost its lease—and bowling was one of her strengths in Gay Games competition. In fact, Lewinstein has—and won—the first Games gold ever awarded.



Sara Waddell Lewinstein. Photo courtesy of Lewinstein

Lewinstein has six total bowling medals and eight gold medals from women's competitive softball, some for participating and some for coaching. She got her last softball gold in 2010, in Cologne, from the German team that won—because her team was not there.

"We won the gold [at the 1982 Games] and then I went to [support the] powerlifting event," Lewinstein said. "I walked in [to that event] as the [Games'] sports director, and the place was jammed. I was so happy that there were so many people there, and I still get chills

thinking about it. Next thing I know, they stopped the powerlifting [event] and gave me a standing ovation. It still brings tears to my eyes."

Why?

"Because I was wearing the very first [Gay Games] gold medal," she said. No one had seen the medals yet, until I walked in wearing mine ... it was absolutely sensational the way everyone responded!!!

More from Sara Waddell Lewinstein:

—"When the Games started, computers weren't too prominent. Look where we are now on a technology front."

—"I envy every city, state and country that has hosted any of the Gay Games."

—"On the upcoming 25th anniversary of Waddell's death in July: 'I think about him every day, [so] it doesn't seem like 25 years.' She kisses pictures of him and her late mother at home every day.

—"I felt it was my responsibility to carry Tom's vision, and the vision of so many others, who have passed."

—"Whenever I do anything for the Games, I feel like I have Tom and so many other souls with me. I carry them with me and it's given me the strength to carry on this far."

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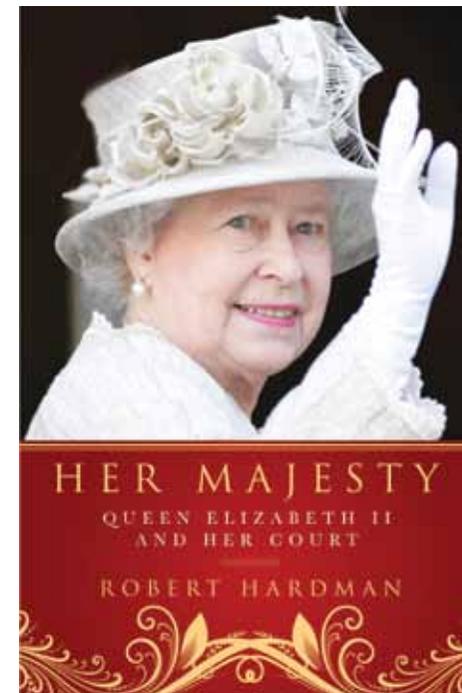
ROYALS from page 70

lovers will be charmed, and if you're both, then you'll feel quite regal. For you, Her Majesty is queen-sized enjoyment.

I also absolutely could not resist this book: The Rough Guide to The Royals by Alice Hunt, James McConnachie, Samantha Cook, Rob Humphreys and Rupert Matthews.

This way-fun book goes way back in time to the earliest monarchs and, of course, their scandals, decisions, ill-fated actions and good deeds. There are pictures all over in this book, quick-to-read sidebars and short, one-to-two-page articles meant for many afternoons of browsing.

Although the Rough Guide is about all the residents of Buckingham Palace (and then some), it's a great companion piece to the Hardman book or alone.



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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 St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Sukie de la Croix, author of 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 St., www.chipublib.org

Superstar Karaoke 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

Prime Timers Book selection: Flagrant Conduct by Dale Carpenter; 7pm-9pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Innovation Dance Cooperative presents Of One Mind IDC is excited to present its new evening-length modern ballet inspired by the story of Truddi Chase, a woman who was diagnosed with more than 90 distinct personalities. 8pm-10:30pm, 312-505-7749, Prop Theatre, 3502 N. Elston Ave., www.innovationdance.org

Thursday, June 21

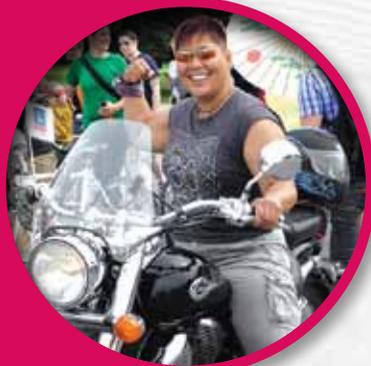
Cirque Shanghai: Year of the Dragon Running thru Sept. 3, rain or shine, at the Pepsi Skyline Stage, the 1,500-seat, canopied, open-air theater on Navy Pier. 2pm-4pm, Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave., www.navypier.com

TPAN 25th-birthday party Celebrate a

EASY RIDER Saturday, June 23

The Chicago Dyke March will wind through Uptown this year.

Photo from 2011 by Mel Ferrand



quarter century of service to Chicago's HIV Community. Spring Campaign goal: raising \$25,000 for HIV education programming. General admission \$25. Free for all TPAN volunteers, Ride for AIDS participants, Chicago Takes Off performers, and anyone who contributes \$100 to our Spring Campaign. VIP contributions of \$100 or more get a \$25 gift card to Spacio. www.spaciospa.com

Pride Deconstructed: The 2012 Birdhouse Art Auction & Cocktail Party Chicago House Social Service Agency, Bays English Muffins and Room & Board Present "Pride Deconstructed: The 2012 Birdhouse Art Auction & Cocktail Party. The Summer event everyone is tweeting about! 6pm-9pm, Room & Board 55 East Ohio St., www.chicagohouse.org

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

Back Lot Bash The ninth annual Back Lot Bash is the hottest, most rockin' and most attended outdoor women's party taking place ALL Pride Weekend. Through June 24. 7pm-11pm, 773-368-6225, 5238 N. Clark St., www.backlotbashchicago.com

Out in the Suburbs Links North Shore Youth Health Service panel discussion about LGBT issues in the schools. Participants from Links' Pride Youth Program will share their experiences alongside adult speakers from Equality Illinois, Lambda Legal, PFLAG, and local schools. Links' Pride Youth Program serves grades 9-12. 7pm-8:30pm, 847-441-6191, Kenneth Young Center, 1001 Rohlwing Rd., Elk Grove Village, www.linksyouth.org

Opening night, The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me Glitterati Productions presents The Pride Films and Plays production of David Drake's work in a new 20th-anniversary edition with Chad Ryan. \$20. 7:30pm, 800-838-3006, Luna Central, 3914 N. Clark St., www.brownpapertickets.com

CRAM Pride Kickoff Party Sexy male models, DJ Chris Spinazzola, complimentary beverage (21+), gift bags for the first 30 people, raffles and more. 8pm-10pm, Cram Fashion, 3331 N. Broadway

Dollhouse Drag Review Join The Princess, Phi Phi O'Hara and different guest stars each week for a fresh, creative and exciting drag show unlike any other that you've seen before! Featuring up-and-coming talent with lots of energy! 9pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave.

Friday, June 22

Macy's Pride Event with the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Musical lunch hour relives the era of MTV and Solid Gold with 80's hits as the Chorus celebrates the decade it was born and springboards into its 30th anniversary. 12pm, Macy's Water Tower Place, www.macys.com

Chicago Pride Fest® This festive two-day event marks the first official party of summer. Through June 23. \$7 donation benefits the Northalsted Business Alliance. 4pm-10pm, 773-584-6631, Between Addison/Halsted and Broadway/Halsted, www.chicagoevents.com/event.cfm?eid=142

Dating for Queer Nerds Check in starts 30 minutes prior to each event. Registration is required. Sign up online. 4pm-7pm, Blue Bayou, 3734 N. Southport Ave., www.nerdsatheart.com

Congregation Or Chadash Pride BBQ Followed by a Shabbat Beach Service. More info: office@orchadash.org; 6pm, Congregation Or Chadash 5959 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago

Pride Weekend Kickoff Cruise Mystic Blue

presents Miss Fozzie. The third annual cruise welcomes all adults celebrating the diversity of our city. Includes one free drink and a souvenir glass, buffet, DJs playing hot beats, and amazing skyline views, dancing. 21+ only, valid photo ID at boarding. 6:30pm-9pm, 877-299-7783, Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave., www.mysticbluecruises.com

St. Sukie de la Croix, Chicago Whispers: A History of LGBT Chicago Colorful record of LGBT people in Chicago from the city's beginnings in the 1670s as a fur-trading post to the cusp of Stonewall. 7:30pm, Women & Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark St., www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Steamwerkz: The Musical opening Wide-eyed gay boy comes to Chicago looking for love in all the wrong places when he stumbles on a popular bathhouse, Steamwerkz. Shows every Friday through Aug. 31. No show Aug. 17. \$20, \$15 students and preview. 10pm, Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N. Broadway

Saturday, June 23

Pride Walk and Run The 31st annual Proud to Run includes a 5k run and 10k run, 2 mile fun walk presented with Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago. 8:04 am, Montrose at Simmonds Dr., www.proudtorun.org

Dyke March The 2012 Dyke March will be in the Uptown neighborhood this year with start and stop at Margate Park, located at Marine Drive and Ainslie. 3pm, Margate Park, 4921 N. Marine Dr., <http://chicago-dykemarch.wordpress.com/>

An Evening with Reese Witherspoon Also features Academy Award and Golden Globe winner, Alexander Payne. Following cocktails and dinner, Payne will talk with Witherspoon about her career and creative inspirations. Benefits programming at the Gene Siskel Film Center, a part of the School of the Art Institute Chicago. 6pm-10pm, 312-846-2072, Ritz Carlton, 160 E. Pearson St.

Whirlpool Corporation Pride Food Network hosts The Hearty Boys will make an appearance. Learn powerful, simple ways to become straight allies. Appropriate casual attire. Wine, beer, appetizers. \$30 includes two drink tickets. 8:30pm, World of Whirlpool, 325 N. LaSalle St., #725, Tickets: <http://whirlpoolpride.eventbrite.com>

Queer Fest America celebrates LGBTQ Pride Variety showcase is hosted by QFA CEO Lair Scott, and features The Polymer Twins, Bad Bad Meow, among others. No cover, 21+. Info from QueerFestAmerica@gmail.com; 9pm, The Mutiny, 2428 N. Western Ave.

Pride with Mr. Chicago Leather 2012 Celebrate Pride with Mr. Chicago Leather 2012 Angel Velez and his leather party. Door prizes and Best Bulge contest at midnight. 10pm, Touche, 6412 N. Clark St., www.touchechicago.com

Sunday, June 24

Brunch with Ben Cohen Brunch to benefit the Ben Cohen Standup Foundation. \$45, food, beverages and mingling with Ben Cohen; 9am-12pm, W Chicago Lakeshore, 6th floor deck, 644 N. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago

35th Annual Rocks LGBT Pride celebration Vendors open market, entertainment, volleyball, bidwhist tournaments. Also a health and wellness focus on lesbian and bisexual women of color and the transgender populations with health organizations. Look here for further details on a full week of events. 10am-7pm, Montrose Harbor, www.montserocks.org

43rd Annual Gay Pride Parade Chicago's 43rd Annual Pride Parade will feature 200 entries featuring floats and walking groups representing businesses, organizations and individuals. 12pm-3pm, 773-348-8243, Corner of Montrose/Broadway, www.chicagopridecalendar.org

Urban Village Church: Andersonville ser-



DOOZY OF A FOOZIE

Sat.-Sun., June 23-24

Thousands will attend Pride Fest in Boystown this year.

Photo of Miss Fozzie from 2011's Pride Fest by Tim Carroll

vice 10:30am-11:45am, 1602 W. Ainslie (at Ashland), www.newchicagochurch.com

Senior Pride Parade Viewing Party Special viewing party of the pride parade for adults aged 55 or older. Light lunch and air-conditioned view of the parade. \$5 suggested donation. 11am-4pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, Chicago, www.centeronhalsted.org

Scissor Sisters Pre- and After-parties 3-10 pm: Berlin Nightclub, 954 W. Belmont Ave., www.berlinchicago.com

Monday, June 25

Salute to LGBT Veterans The City of Chicago honors gay veterans; 12pm-1pm, Daley Center Plaza, Clark and Washington, www.averchicago.org

Jane Lynch at reception in support of Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin Star of Glee and author of Happy Accidents will appear in support of the Democratic Candidate for U.S. Senate, Wisconsin. swerber@kohnconsulting.com; 6pm, 312-527-3667, Brad Lippitz and Jonathan "Yoni" Pizer's private residence, call to RSVP

LGBT Narcotics Anonymous Meetings take place Mondays. For more info, call Anthony Oltean at 312-208-4021. 8pm-9pm, Haymarket Center, 20 N. Sangamon St.

Tuesday, June 26

Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez's 3rd Annual Pride Reception Please join Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez at the 3rd Annual Pride Awards and Celebration to honor Mona Noriega, commissioner of the City of Chicago Department of Human Rights, and state Rep. Greg Harris. 5:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.facebook.com/events/347243335345899/

Wed., June 27

How to Reach 100% on the HRC Corporate Equality Index Speakers: Jim Norman, Vice President of Diversity, Kraft Foods; Lisa Parker Gates, Partner & Chicago Diversity Lead, Baker & McKenzie; Doug Sanborn, Brand Manager of LGBT Marketing, MillerCoors; Rich Westphal, Sr. Manager North America Talent & Inclusion, Accenture; JPMorgan Chase, TBD Moderator: John Barry, Human Rights Campaign; 5pm-7pm, MillerCoors 16th Floor Pub, 250 S. Wacker Dr., www.surveymonkey.com/s/ny2vjtf

Thursday, June 28

30 under 30 Windy City Times honors outstanding LGBT individuals (and allies) for its annual 30 Under 30 Awards. 5:30pm-8pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.windycitymediagroup.com



I LOVE A PARADE

Sunday, June 24

This year's Pride Parade will have a new starting point—at Broadway and Montrose.

Photo from 2011 by Steve Starr

BILLY MASTERS

"You can't get herpes from hate!"—Joan Rivers tells David Letterman why she named her latest best-selling book *I Hate Everything ... Starting With Me*.

Did you all watch the Tonys? Now, don't lie to me—did you REALLY? Because the ratings say this year's Tony Awards hit an all-time low ... and yet still managed to win the night. Apparently, nothing else was on and nursing homes nationwide only get CBS. What you missed was Neil Patrick Harris hosting a fantastic show celebrating a memorable Broadway season. You also missed witnessing the palpable electricity between Hugh Jackman and his wife, Deb. It was closely matched by sexual chemistry between Diane Sawyer and Mike Nichols—can't you just



For Joan Rivers, it's a think line between love and hate. Photo by Joe Toreno/WE Tv

picture them doing it? Like Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip!

While the Tonys were on, I was spending time with my dear friend Leslie Jordan. He had appeared at Key West Pride and made a quick trip to Fort Lauderdale. His appearance at Georgie's Alibi was so packed, it felt like a sauna. Even more people came out to Bill's Filling Station for the full show, which found Leslie in fabulous form. The queue for the meet-and-greet was endless, but Jordan dutifully posed for photos in between signing books and DVDs. Before he left, he handed me the DVD of *My Trip Down the Pink Carpet*, saying, "I know you have one in L.A., but keep a copy here in Florida for friends to watch. The case on this one is broke so we can't sell it—but you can still watch it. I'll even autograph it." That's my life: getting irregulars from Leslie Jordan!

Sometimes a headline will grab your attention and make you read a story you never would have glanced at. Such is the case with our next story: "Off-duty female border agent performed sex act on co-worker as they sat in audience at Cirque du Soleil show." Now, how could I not read on—especially with the sub-heading "Accused high-fived a youngster during act"?

Of course, one of my dear friends shrugged, saying, "Well, you've gotta do something to stay awake during a Cirque du Soleil show!" Now, back to our story. The incident happened March 27 in Del Mar, Calif. Allegedly, this 24-year-old woman and a 35-year-old man (pictured in a sombrero) are border-patrol agents who decided to see the show. First, they were kissing and a witness claims to have seen the man fondling the woman's breast. Fine. Then the witness says the woman's head and hands were "moving up

and down" in the man's lap. Since he didn't have RLS, I think we all know what was going on. The witness told them to stop because there were kids around, but instead they kept going and the guy high-fived one of the children. This witness called security over, and then the couple stopped. But as they were leaving, the limber lady started attacking the witness. The attacker was arrested, the customs and border patrol was alerted and the two employees have been placed on paid leave pending investigation.

While our very own Matthew Mitcham is preparing for the London Olympics, he took time out to be photographed for Marie Claire Australia and show his support for the country's "I Do" marriage equality campaign. Needless to say, the Olympic diver is ridiculously hot, as you can see on BillyMasters.com.

Do divers start out hot, or become hot? I'm not sure, but it certainly was one of the reasons I took up the sport in high school (and earned my letter, by the by). Another hot diver made the news this week. Tom Daley is the cover

model for Fabulous magazine in the UK, with the appropriate headline "Sexy And We Know It!" (He joined friends to make video lip-synching to the LMFAO song.) The photos of the buff Brit—mostly nude and dripping wet—made tongues wag on both sides of the Atlantic (and, probably, the Pacific, too). Despite the name Fabulous, it's not a gay rag; it's a fashion mag. Regardless, the gays are loving the pics, which you can see on our website.

I've always liked gay porn star Erik Rhodes because he was interesting. He said what he thought and in a world of cookie-cutter, generic hotties (no offense), he was unabashedly unique. He was also a little crazy. After years of promising that he'd die young, he actually did that last week when he had a heart attack in his sleep—or did he? What if he just wanted to drop off the grid and "kill off" his porn persona? Anyone who knew him knows he could pull that off if he wanted. I choose to believe he's still out there, living in anonymity—and, hopefully, is at peace.

Our "Ask Billy" question is from Steve in Philadelphia: "Do you know anything about Kathy Griffin's boyfriend? She's said a few times that he's young and hot, but that's it. Is he really cute? Who is he? What does he do?"

I assume he does Kathy—bada bing! Kathy has been dating Ryan for about a year. He's very handsome and not involved in show business. Despite the 18-year age difference, they appear to be quite compatible. Although they're relatively private, the couple has been caught by the paparazzi a few times. He accompanied her to Florida last week and their time on the beach was caught on film. That explains why Kath had on a bikini and her more modest mate opted for shorts and a T-shirt. We'll run the pics on BillyMasters.com.

When I'm contemplating a returning to diving on the senior circuit, it's time to end yet another column. You know that I'll be in Provincetown for the Fourth of July. I'll be seeing David Drake as Tawny Hetherton in "Tawny, Tell Me True" Sunday, July 1, at the Crown & Anchor. On Wed., July 4, I'll be celebrating with Mr. Drake by seeing the fabulous Patti LuPone at the Art House. Who knows what else I'll do, but I'm sure it will be posted on www.BillyMasters.com, the site that's always one step ahead. As you know, I always have time for my readers. If you have a question, feel free to drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Kathy and her beau check out a Cirque du Soleil show! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Sami Grisafe:

Slings TDs, singing music

BY ROSS FORMAN

It certainly has been a June filled with pride for Sami Grisafe—on multiple levels, in multiple fields.

Jump back to Friday, June 1, which started with an interview that aired on WBEZ Radio about the Chicago Force, a football team in which she is the standout quarterback.

As the favorable emails started hitting her inbox about the interview, she also received a text message from a friend who said she heard Grisafe's song, "Hooky (in Chicago)," in the background of a local commercial on TV.

Next came The Huffington Post, which posted an online story about a parody song Grisafe made with Force teammates Albi Zhubi and Stephanie Precourt.

Their video instantly went viral.

Finally, the biggest piece of her fantastic Friday was the release of her new album, *Atlantis*, and also a glowing review from the blog The L Stop.

"It was a great day," said Grisafe, 27, a lesbian who lives in Evanston and whose business card would read: musician, songwriter, co-owner of Vicious Muse, LLC record label, bartender and amateur football player.

"It's not easy [balancing my schedule], but luckily everybody in my life is very flexible with me. I couldn't have the life I do if Rose and Judi weren't so flexible with my schedule at The Closet, and if the management and my sisters of the Force weren't so understanding and supportive of my dreams and the time I need to take to pursue them. Kathy, my manager and co-producer of *Atlantis*, is equally understanding of my love for football and the Force. I am eternally grateful for the people in my life and the love and support they give me."

Grisafe has already shared her music once in June on a high-profile stage. She was the closing act on one of the stages at the Andersonville Midsommarfest June 10.

Grisafe will be back under the high-profile local music spotlight when she performs at 8 p.m., on Friday, June 22, at the Back Lot Bash, leading up to Chely Wright.

"I am thrilled," to perform at the Back Lot Bash, Grisafe said. "Christina Weisemore and Amie Klujian have put together an amazing, eventful weekend. This is going to be the greatest Back Lot Bash to date and I am more than thrilled to be a part of it. I am so honored to be opening for Chely Wright. She is extremely talented and I am inspired by her strength in coming out. We have been rehearsing to make sure we will rise to the occasion in opening for such a prolific, talented woman. I am thankful for the opportunity that Christina and Amy have given us. I believe this show is a big milestone in my career and I am excited for the experience."

Grisafe said her musical career has, "escalated very quickly," thanks to many who believe in her talent, skill and sound.

"It has been a lot of hours of hard work, and [it's] worth every second," Grisafe said. "We are in an interesting time, because the public has the opportunity to build a career for independent artists of all kinds. Music is accessible to everyone with the Internet. We are no longer in a world where our only option for music is what the radio stations play or what the major [record] labels spoon-feed us. That being said, I ask that if you like this [new] album, please share it and write a review. Our success is driven by the people's opinions. Every review, comment, 'Like' and 'Share' matters."

"That goes for all local musicians; if you like an indie artist, please let the world know. Believe me, when you take the time to appreciate our work we couldn't be more grateful."

Grisafe's new album, *Atlantis*, came about when Tellofilms.com and King Is A Fink Productions needed a soundtrack for an original play/web series, *I Hate Tommy Finch*. Grisafe met Kathy Kuras—the music supervisor/co-producer of *Atlantis*/CEO of Vicious Muse, LLC—briefly at The Closet in Lakeview during one of her bartending shifts. A month later, Kuras contacted Grisafe and asked if she'd like to be involved in the development of the soundtrack.

"Obviously, I agreed," said Grisafe, who was told she'd be working with another artist on the soundtrack development, Shannon Nicole, "who is an amazing vocalist and wonderful person."



Sami Grisafe. Photo from Grisafe

Ultimately, Grisafe and Nicole were able to find seven songs that they could place—and only had to write a few more.

"I finished writing 'Atlantis,' the title track, over a two-day span and then wrote 'Two of Hearts' later," Grisafe said.

The last track added was "Lost on Lincoln," written by Jackie Rada. "We were realizing we needed some instrumental pieces for the web series and both Kathy and I loved this piece that Jackie wrote, so we added it," Grisafe said. "It's just beautiful. Jackie also wrote a wonderful instrumental for 'Will She Remember.'"

"What we thought would be a weekend in the studio turned into four months," Grisafe said, laughing. "The overlying theme of the album is the journey we all take alone, the discoveries we make about ourselves and others, and how our relationships develop in the process. I guess it's a bit of a coming-of-age theme."

"The album came about in a most interesting way, and developed into something much bigger than we initially planned. I am so excited [for the album;] I can't even tell you."

Grisafe said about 98 percent of the instruments on the album were played by a musician in the studio. "I know that sounds silly, but most of the stuff being played on the radio is all synthesizers. This album is organic; there are no hormones added and a very small percentage of preservatives."

"The other thing that makes it special is the collaboration that occurs when you have a large group of talented artists get together and tell a story. From Evan Ryan, the drummer/percussionist on the whole album, who was in the studio for almost every session, to featured artists like Sugar Blue and Viper, who came in for a few hours. Everybody created and collaborated so effortlessly; it was truly magic."

Her album also has high-profile individuals who assisted. Take, for instance, Ricciano (Riccio) Lumpkins, a Grammy Award-winning producer.

"During our studio sessions, we had been talking about maybe wanting a rapper featured on one of the songs," Grisafe said. "Riccio contacted a longtime friend of his and sent him the rough studio cut of 'Hooky (in Chicago)'. Viper was then on board. Viper has been in the music industry for years and has worked with everyone from Snoop Dogg to Adele. He is also part of a trio called, F.Y.I., and their new album will be releasing soon with so many A-list musicians [involved.]"

Sugar Blue—the harmonica-playing legend famous for writing the hook to the Rolling Stones hit "Miss You"—was, ironically, in the studio

when they were recording "Hooky (in Chicago)." Ultimately, Sugar Blue and his bass player, Ilaria Lanteri, contributed to "Two of Hearts."

"It was a humbling experience to watch Blue and Ilaria work in the studio. They were so professional and beyond talented," Grisafe said. "These are just a few of the folks who created the identity of this album. Everyone who came in through those studio doors created a piece of the personality of this project. People who have played with Eric Clapton, Guns N' Roses, Prince, The Chicago Symphony Orchestra mixed in with young, hungry musicians."

"This album was such a huge growing experience for me. I learned so much from everybody involved and the album represents all of that. *Atlantis* makes a statement that is very important to me: collaboration. I believe collaboration is the only way that we are going to get better as a society. If we can all get over our own egos and learn to create together, in every aspect of our lives, we can change the world for the better. I know that's a large statement, but I believe in it."

Grisafe is a co-songwriter, vocalist, ukulele player and co-producer on *Atlantis*.

"Atlantis has kind of a mixtape feel," she said. "The more I talk to people about the kind of music they like, the more I hear, 'I like a little bit of everything.' This album has just that. There are 11 tracks—three primary artists and seven different genres. From pop/rock to instrumental, country to soul; it has something for everybody."

Grisafe is now in her sixth season with the Force, and this finally could be the team's championship season. The Force open the playoffs on Saturday, June 30. Gametime is 5 p.m. at Evanston High School.

"I love this team so much," Grisafe said. "I have really grown up with the Force; they are my extended family. This 2012 team has a lot of heart, drive and talent. I think this could be our year. If everybody gives their all, we will be victorious. I am confident in that."

Grisafe likely will continue singing the national anthem before Force playoff games, as she's done during the regular season.

"I love singing the national anthem," she said. "I believe all great songs tell a story and have an arc. When I perform the national anthem, I feel a great responsibility to tell the story. It is always an honor and I thoroughly enjoy it."

Grisafe and Force teammate Albi Zhubi released a parody earlier this month, too, transforming Justin Bieber's "Boyfriend" into "Gayfriend," which was profiled on the Huffington Post.

"We both rewrote the lyrics; she did the majority of the verses and I did the majority of the chorus' and we collaborated to fill in any holes that remained," Grisafe said. "We asked Stephanie Precourt, a rookie on the Force, if she would shoot and edit it, [and] she jumped on board."

"We really only intended it to be a fun way to kick off Pride Month for our friends and never intended it for commercial use."

But, in three days, the catchy "Gayfriend" video went viral, "which was never expected," Grisafe said.

"It was a lot of fun to make and I really believe in the message. Although it was funny and farcical, the message is about inclusiveness," she added. "In a world where the media pits gay and straight people against each other over this gay marriage issue, the song talks about how great it is for gay and straight people to be friends. The truth is, I think most gay and straight people get along swimmingly, the media just shows the extremes of either side. As long as we keep battling each other, progress will remain at a stand still."

"We decided to take the video down because we didn't want to step on anybody's toes. The song was never intended to be a knock at Justin Bieber, [who] is a very talented artist. It was not a commentary about him [possibly] being gay, [not] at all. We were simply inspired by his work and thought it would be a fun video for our friends, gay and straight alike."

Visit www.samigrisafe.com for more info.



Sami Grisafe in the studio. Photo from Grisafe

Pride Bowl bigger and better than ever

BY ROSS FORMAN

Pride Bowl V, the flag football tournament that will be held June 22-23 on Chicago's North Side, is the largest ever and now also is an international extravaganza.

The tournament features 24 teams, up from 23 last year, playing in two divisions—and features the first team from Toronto.

"This event has gone from a small weekend tournament with 12 teams [participating] the first year to a real destination event weekend. The games are highly competitive and the weekend caps off with the annual [Chicago Pride] Parade," said event organizer Brian Kupersmit. "We never could have envisioned the tournament would be as successful as it is."

The tournament features 16 teams in the top-tiered A-Division, including three-time defending champion the Phoenix Hellraisers. The San Diego Bolts, the only other team to have ever won the tournament, will be back.

A darkhorse in A-Division appears to be Team Tequila, featuring players from across the United States, including New York, Texas, North Carolina and elsewhere. As testament of the team's geographical patchwork, cornerback Stephen Osada of Chicago is playing for Team Tequila.

"One of the cool aspects of Pride Bowl is, players have the ability to play for any team. Unlike the [annual] Gay Bowl, where players have to play for their hometown team, in Pride Bowl, they can play for any team. So, it's a great opportunity to play with friends or people who you don't normally play with," Kupersmit said.

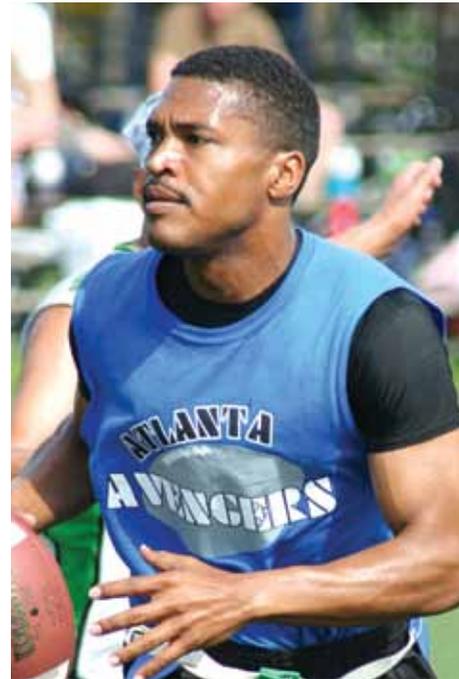
"In the A-Division, there are about five elite teams, and then everyone else. But, the distance between the elite teams and everyone else is

shrinking. Others are catching [those elite teams] in talent; the gap is closing."

Still, Kupersmit tagged the Hellraisers as this year's team-to-beat.

"There's no reason to believe they won't be competitive again. They've won it three years in a row, so you have to make them the favorite again this year," he said.

The Chicago Wreckers are Chicago's representative in the A-Division, led by captain Mike An-



Participant in 2010 Pride Bowl. Photo by Ross Forman

person, safety Tyler Foerster, wide receiver Steve Brehm and quarterback Issa Rizkallah.

For the second year in a row, Pride Bowl features a B-Division. This year, it has eight teams—up from four last year.

Chicago has two B-Division teams. The Chicago Motley Crew is led by captain and quarterback Terry Howerton and co-captain Rich Aleong. Chicago Mary's Attic Assault features captain Mar-

cus Han, safety Matt Gast, and receiver Andrew Burke.

Kupersmit said the tournament field had to be capped at 24 due to available playing fields. However, that total might expand to 32 next year with addition playing fields.

"The B-Division was a huge success last year, so we're thrilled it's doubled [in size] this year," Kupersmit said.

Illinois' lieutenant governor reminisces about AIDS ride

BY ROSS FORMAN

Despite losing its most high-profile rider, the 26-member Election Cycles team is its largest-ever for the annual Ride For AIDS Chicago (RFAC), up from 15 last year and seven in 2010.

Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon rode the entire 200-mile Ride last year, along with her husband, Perry Knop, and she also rode the first leg of the 2010 Ride. Neither is participating in the Ride this July, but her fond memories of two sweat-filled days last summer linger.

"The experience was fantastic, though certainly taxing," Simon said. "At the 80th mile of each day, I was really wiped out. But [at] the end of each day, I was very proud of myself for what I had accomplished."

"The hills [along the course] weren't too, too challenging, but the total mileage was tough. To ride 100 miles on back-to-back days, it's a real good test of your legs and your lungs. The second day was challenging, but not more challenging than the first."

Simon said she might participate in the RFAC again next summer.

The Election Cycles this year features three noteworthy returning riders: Ald. Ariel Reboyras (30th Ward); Austin Baidas, of Chicago, who is the associate director of office of management and budget for Gov. Pat Quinn; and Bennett Lawson, chief of staff to 44th Ward Ald. Tom Tunney.

"We sure loved [the Ride]," Simon said. "What a great bunch of people to ride bikes with for two days. It was great to be on the road with old friends and make new ones along the way, too."

"It got to be a more congenial bunch every mile along the way."

Thus, handshakes at the RFAC opening cer-

emony turned into high-5s and celebratory hugs at the end.

"A bike ride, especially one of that distance, is a good leveling factor. We were all just bikers out there for a good cause," said Simon, who still wears her 2011 RFAC jersey while cycling these days.

"To be able to tackle 200 miles in two days with [my husband] was an accomplishment for both of us. It was fun, a good challenge. It's on our list of possibilities to do again in the future."

"I admire anyone who is doing the Ride For AIDS Chicago, and best of luck to all of them."

For more about the Ride For AIDS Chicago, set for July 14-15, visit rideforaids.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?event=999164.



Sheila Simon.

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With same-sex couples now entering into civil unions in Illinois, there are established general rules of divorce previously only applied to heterosexual marriage and divorce. These are new to LGBT couples entering civil unions. They are important and everyone who plans to "tie the knot" should be aware of them.

In a divorce action, the spouses only have rights as to marital/civil-union property of the couple. Marital/civil-union property is any property acquired by the parties during their civil union except for property which is specifically excluded as non-marital/civil-union property. The burden is on the party claiming non-civil-union property to prove through clear and convincing evidence that the property falls under one of the definitions of non-marital/civil-union property.

If there is a divorce, one of the couple may be entitled to maintenance (formerly known as alimony) from their civil-union partner. Be aware that there are no percentage guidelines. The amount and duration of maintenance is determined based upon relevant factors including age, income and property of each party, education, length of civil union, whether the recipient's ability to earn income.

A civil partner may be entitled to child support for the children of the couple. In most cases a percentage of net income guideline child support is 20% for one child, 28% for two children, 32% for three children, 40% for four children, 45% for five children, 50% for six children.

There are also different tax considerations.

When a husband and wife transfer property between themselves, or add names to real estate or bank accounts, there is no taxable event. When partners in a civil union do this, there is.

The taxable event in real estate is when the other person's name is added to title of the real estate and with joint bank accounts the taxable event is when the other person withdraws the money from the account. Gift tax returns may due.

When civil-union couples divorce there is no tax deduction for the payor of maintenance from one partner to the other for civil union couples. Will the IRS treat it as income to the to the recipient? Probably yes.

And when making a division of property pursuant to a divorce decree; these transfers can also be taxable. Yet transfers of property pursuant to a divorce for a husband and wife are not taxable events.

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Proud to Run June 23

The 31st Annual Proud to Run will take place Saturday, June 23, at precisely 8:04 a.m. at Montrose Avenue at Simmonds Drive (east of Lake Shore Drive).

Proud To Run is a 10K run and 5K run and walk that celebrates LGBT pride. The LGBT running and walking club Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago is presenting the event.

This year's beneficiaries are the Pride Youth Program and Gerber/Hart Library.

The event is free. Participants can pick up packets and register at Universal Sole, 3052 N. Lincoln Ave.

Email proudtorun@yahoo.com or visit www.ProudToRun.org.

Chicago Dragons hosting 'Pink Party' at Redmond's

The all-inclusive rugby team the Chicago Dragons will co-host the 7th Annual Pink Party (with Bar1 Events) after the Pride Parade at Redmond's Ale House, 3358 N. Sheffield Ave., on J

Prizes for the best dressed in pink apparel will be awarded.

The admission of \$20 includes drinks and food. Funds will benefit the Dragons.

AIDS Run & Walk changes date

The date for the 2012 AIDS Run & Walk Chicago has been changed to **Sunday, Sept. 30**.

The event will still start from Soldier Field and offer 5K and 10K routes along the lakefront. The run/walk is a fundraiser for dozens of organizations that provide life-saving services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Event registration is \$30 in advance and \$50 on-site. To register as a fundraising individual or as a team, visit www.aidsrunwalk.org or call 312-334-0946.

Imerman Angels golf outing June 22

The cancer program Imerman Angels is hosting its second annual golf outing Friday, June 22.

The event will take place at Lost Marsh, 1001 129th St., Hammond, Ind.

Registration will start at 7 a.m., with a "shotgun start" at 8 a.m. The package (which includes 18 holes and a pre-round breakfast) is \$190; email Lizzy@ImermanAngels.org.

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