



SUPREME COURT BACKS HEALTH CARE LAW

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WINDY CITY TIMES

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Esera Tuaolo: Coming back from darkness

BY ROSS FORMAN

Ultimately, everything was dropped and dismissed—Esera Tuaolo was found not guilty. However, the impact of just the domestic-violence charge against the openly gay former National Football League (NFL) player has had an impact as large as Tuaolo's 6'4", 290-lb. frame, turning the past two years into "an absolute nightmare," he said recently in an exclusive interview.

Two summers ago, Tuaolo was arrested in Minnesota, charged with three misdemeanors and given a domestic abuse-related no-contact order with the victim. Tuaolo was released on \$2,000 bail after his arrest.

"What happened was that I got into an argument/fight with my boyfriend at the time," Tuaolo said. "Things escalated and we got into a fight for personal reasons."

Tuaolo's boyfriend at the time did not press charges, nor did his parents. It was, instead, his ex-boyfriend's sister who called the police. Tuaolo said he would have called the police himself and holds nothing against her.

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THE MANY FACETS OF KATY PERRY



CROSSROADS FUND
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Pop star talks new 3D film, kissing gay boys and fighting hate with 'love bullets'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Not exactly last Friday night, but it still happened: Katy Perry called us from London, where it was nearly 1 a.m. If life really does imitate art, she smelled like a mini-bar on a night that's soon to be a blacked-out blur, right?

"Not tonight," she insisted. "I have to play and be professional tomorrow, but maybe after the show I'll be having a couple of Shirley Temples with some adult juice in them."

We spoke with Perry just after she made a surprise appearance in London for a screening of her new film, *Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D*, a docu-concert chronicling the California girl's evolution from gospel-singing daughter of two pastors to international pop phenom ... with the most lethal boobs in the world.

During our interview, Perry told us what else they shoot besides whipped cream, how the gay community can relate to her movie and why Madonna doesn't scare her.

Windy City Times: You go from pretending to kiss girls to wanting to have sex with girls, recently joking during a radio interview that you'd like to do Rihanna. What's up with all this faux lesbianism?

Katy Perry: You know, everybody's been asking me about the duet with Rihanna and when it's going to happen. I get that question every time I get interviewed. Obviously, we really want to do it and we want to do it in a big way, naturally; this [journalist] was doing this rapid fire of inappropriate questions of

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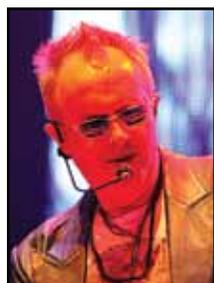
THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT
Read entertainment news about 'Dallas,' Lady Gaga and Susan Sarandon.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

POP LIFE

Pop Making Sense looks at musicians such as Ripparachie (left) and Cyndi Lauper.

Press photo



Musician Howard Jones talks with WCT about reliving the past.

Photo by Fredrik Svensson



GLAAD's Lester Aleman talks about the organization's youth-outreach initiative.

Photo from GLAAD

HEART-FELT



Heart's Ann Wilson (left) talks with Windy City Times about her sister act with Nancy.

Photo by Norman Seeff

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Supreme Court upholds health care-reform law



President Obama. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

In a dramatic move with significant political and economic implications, a majority of the U.S. Supreme Court voted to uphold President Obama's landmark health care-reform law June 28. The vote, at least in regard to the key conflict, was 5-4, with Chief Justice John Roberts writing the opinion and joining the four justices on the liberal wing.

The decision is a big relief to people with costly illnesses, including people with HIV or breast cancer. It is an enormous political victory for the Obama administration, because health care reform was Obama's signature achievement thus far in his first term. Moreover, it creates an awkward issue for Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney to negotiate. Romney worked for a similar plan for Massachusetts when he was governor, but has since joined the majority of Republicans in arguing vigorously against requiring citizens to buy coverage or pay a "tax" for not doing so.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) "individual mandate" requires every citizen, by 2014, to either buy health coverage or pay a penalty that helps mitigate the burden on the health care system when people seek medical care without insurance.

A few of the nation's major LGBT legal groups had signed onto a brief in support of the ACA, noting that 30 percent of people with HIV are not able to obtain health insurance.

Among other things, the ACA prohibits insurance companies from limiting or refusing coverage for a person with HIV, breast cancer, or any other disease. It also prohibits insurance companies from dropping a person's coverage after the person became ill.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the dissent, said he believes the entire law is unconstitutional. He was joined by the court's conservative wing, including Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Sam Alito.

Lambda Legal, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & De-

fenders, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the National Center for Transgender Equality and others submitted a joint brief in support of the ACA. They argued the law ensures health coverage for people with HIV and, in doing so, stems the spread of the virus to others. That, they said, also helps contain the enormous burden that HIV infection puts on the health care system.

The 30-page brief was one of more than 130 briefs filed in *HHS v. Florida* and several other

BLACK PRIDE:
See coverage in next week's **Windy City Times**

lawsuits seeking to strike down the ACA, signed into law two years ago by President Obama.

The gay groups' brief, like most media reports, focused on the ACA individual mandate that everyone purchase health coverage. Under ACA, with some exceptions (including religious-based objections and poverty), everyone would have to obtain health coverage starting in 2014. Those who failed to do so would have to pay one percent of their income annually as a penalty. Over the years, the penalty rises, but there are limits to how high it can go.

With the individual mandates, argued the gay groups' brief, "thousands of lives—and billions of dollars—could be saved each year, and the HIV/AIDS epidemic could be dramatically curbed."

Carl Schmid, deputy executive director of The AIDS Institute, said his group was "extremely pleased" with the upholding of the ACA.

The court upheld other points of contention in the law, including whether states can be required to cover the expanded number of people qualifying for Medicaid under the ACA. Some states opposed that expansion, saying it unfairly increases the state's obligation to share the Medicaid costs. The majority opinion said the federal government could not withdraw existing Medicaid funding from states that were unable to fund the expanded pool.

In other Supreme Court news this week, the high court voted 5-3 (with Justice Elena Kagan recusing herself) to strike down three provisions and at least temporarily sustain one provision of Arizona's controversial immigration law. Lambda Legal said the one provision retained—allowing law enforcement officers to stop any person they suspect is in the United States without the federal government's permission—is especially harmful to LGBT people.

"LGBT immigrants and LGBT people of color remain particularly vulnerable because this provision... requires police to stop and question people based on their appearance," said Lambda, in a statement released about the decision. "The LGBT community knows all too well how easily people who are perceived to 'look different' or 'act different' can be singled out for harassment and persecution."

Lambda said it would join other groups in staging a constitutional challenge to the provision. The Supreme Court did not declare the provision to be constitutional but said it could be enforced until such time as a court does rule

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NATIONAL NEWS

—Gay GOP candidate (left) ends campaign, won't back Romney

—Meghan McCain criticizes Obama's marriage stance

—SF police looking for killer of gay man

it to be unconstitutional.

The majority struck down three other controversial provisions of the Arizona law as overstepping state authority and encroaching on the purview of federal authority.

Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote the majority opinion, which was joined by Roberts as well as Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer and Sonia Sotomayor.

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Mary Kristene Chapa and Mollie Olgin.

Teen lesbian couple gunned down in Texas

BY KATE SOSIN

The shooting of a lesbian couple in Portland, Texas, on the same weekend when many cities, including Chicago, celebrate pride has left many LGBT Americans reeling.

Mary Kristene Chapa, 18, of Sinton and Mollie Judith Olgin, 19, of Ingleside were found together in Violet Andrews Park in Portland June 23. Olgin was found dead at the scene. Chapa suffered a gunshot wound to the head and was transported to an area hospital where she remains in stable condition.

The two were discovered just before 9 a.m. in a grassy area below a scenic overlook, police said. A couple visiting the park found Olgin and Chapa and called police.

Two witnesses told police they heard what sounded like fireworks or gunshots just before midnight the night before.

Investigators found shell casings from a large caliber handgun near the scene. Olgin's car was also found nearby, said police.

Police said there was not evidence of a hate crime, but they are not ruling out the possibility.

According to Texas-based news station KIII-TV, the murder is the first that Portland has seen in two years.

Olgin's sister responded to the news of her death on a Facebook page for a vigil to be held in her honor.

"Mollie, my beautiful little sister," Meghan Olgin wrote. "You were an important person

in my life who never deserved such a horrible thing. You were so full of life and so loving that I admired you for not caring what other people thought of you. I miss you so much. This has and probably will be one of the hardest parts [sic] of my life. I might be there crying but it won't necessarily be sad tears but happy tears too because I know you are at peace and are looking down on all of us. I love you baby sister. Kristene, you made my sister so happy and I consider you like a sister as well."

Several news reports show a makeshift memorial that has been built on the site, with rainbow fabric tied around the posts of the overlook deck.

News of the shooting has rocked the country. Anti-LGBT hate violence tends to spike during times when LGBT people are most visible in the media, with Pride Month in June often seeing a rise in bias-related incidents.

LGBT groups from around the country responded to news of the shooting. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, which provides LGBT victim advocacy and tracks hate crimes, said that its Texas-based organization is investigating the incident.

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) President Chad Griffin called on the FBI and Department of Justice to investigate.

"I want to express my sincerest condolences to the families and friends of the victims of this horrific crime," said Griffin in a statement. "Two young lesbian women were shot and one lost her life. Regardless of the motivation behind this tragedy, we must send a strong message that violence against anyone is never acceptable."

Former Chicagoan making waves with White House proposal

BY KATE SOSIN

When Dr. Scout got down on one knee at the White House LGBT Pride Reception this month, he anticipated the proposal would be seen as a grand gesture by his partner Liz Margolies. What he did not anticipate was that the move would put him under a public microscope.

Scout, who identifies as trans gender (he prefers the two words, rather than transgender) and whose name is legally one word, has been making national headlines for the June 15 proposal, which was broadcast over YouTube and has been watched by thousands.

"It would become historic in ways we didn't even understand," he said. "Intimately so many people were watching."

In the video, Scout is seen getting down on one knee while people around him mingle, unaware of that proposal taking place. A live band blares in the background making it difficult to hear Scout propose. Margolies, apparently dumbstruck, takes a few moments before finally saying "yes."

Scout said that moment felt like an eternity, but he knew Margolies was taking the proposal seriously.

Scout is used to being in the public eye for his activism, which dates back to his Chicago years. He grew up in Schaumburg, a suburb of the city, before moving to Chicago's West Side. He has appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show and Larry King Live for his AIDS and LGBT-related activism and work.

In the early 1990s, Scout was also arrested alongside Tracy Baim (co-founder and now publisher of Windy City Times) when he and others were protesting Easter Sunday at an anti-women's choice church on the West Side. Baim was reporting on the events.

Scout currently lives in Rhode Island and serves as the director of the Network of LGBT Health Equity at the Fenway Institute in Boston. Margolies lives in New York City and works as the executive director of the LGBT Cancer Network.

Scout said he proposed at the White House because he wanted the proposal to be a big gesture.

"Liz is, in many ways, really larger than life," he said. "With someone as fierce as that, you've really got to rise to the occasion."

Scout wanted the proposal to have political significance but never imagined it would be viewed by tens of thousands over the course of a few days.

Their story has now been in LGBT media throughout the country and on the Melissa Harris-Perry Show on MSNBC.

And while he received an outpouring of support, he has also had his share of hate messages, he said.

"There was hate, and the hate was very loud, and that scares us because it can be seen by the youth," said Scout.

On top of that, both Scout and Margolies have mixed feelings about marriage. Both have critiques of the institution of marriage, and both say they want civil rights, not marriage rights.



Scout and Liz Margolies right after the proposal at the White House. Photo by Tracy Baim

In the end, said Scout, the two decided to they could reconcile the institution with their beliefs.

"We can make our own type of marriage," said Scout.

Scout and Margolies can legally marry because Scout's identification says "male." But they have no plans to get married any time soon. For now, Scout said, the two are just enjoying the present.

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Lakeview residents report chaos after Pride

BY KATE SOSIN

This year's re-route of the Annual Pride Parade may have quelled safety concerns raised after last year's event, but some Lakeview residents are reporting a new set of problems in connection with the day's festivities: chaos in the neighborhood hours after.

According to several residents, many partygoers spent the evening smashing bottles, jumping on cars and passing out on residential lawns.

Dr. Robert Garofalo said it was so bad that he woke up the morning after the parade and sent an email to his realtor. A Lakeview resident of 10 years, Garofalo said he has never seen the neighborhood so out of control.

"Last night was just really a topper for me," he said the day after the parade. "People were just out of their heads."

Garofalo said he passed five people who were



Dr. Robert Garofalo. Photo by Israel Wright

unconscious in the few blocks it took him to walk home on Roscoe Street that evening. They had passed out on front lawns and sidewalks, he said.

The following morning at 6 a.m., the streets around his house were covered in garbage and vomit, he said. In addition, there were still people unconscious on the streets.

Brenden Chrisman, the general manager at Roscoe's Tavern, said that outside his home, people were jumping on cars, smashing bottles, serving cocktails and shouting hours after the parade.

Chrisman returned home from his shift at Roscoes after 1:30 a.m. The doorman at his building told him that people had been partying in the streets all night, he said.

"It's like it got dark and all of the sudden it was midnight and everything changed," he said. Gary Shovers, whose partner lives in the neighborhood, said that the problems went on until 3 a.m. However, he thinks that much of the chaos is a weekly issue in Lakeview.

"Things are out of control," he said.

At least one man has been charged in inci-

dents that occurred that evening. Steven Harris, 21, is facing one felony count of criminal damage to property, one felony count of resisting arrest and a misdemeanor charge of battery. He allegedly stabbed a 31-year-old man before crashing through the window at Forever Yogurt, 931 W. Belmont, to avoid arrest.

The incident sent one police officer to the hospital for a lacerated hand as well as the victim who was transported in stable condition to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. Harris was also taken to the hospital for evaluation, said police.

Max Bever, 44th Ward Ald. Tom Tunney's director of community outreach, said his office has received reports of problems that night.

"I've gotten a handful of complaints and calls," Bever said.

Tunney's office has been pressing the Chicago Police Department to classify the neighborhood as an entertainment district since last summer, when a string of highly publicized crimes rocked the neighborhood and set off controversy over alleged racial profiling of queer youth.

The classification would mean increased police presence in the neighborhood. Bever said he believes Tunney's office is close to securing that classification.

"We know that the issue is that we're lacking in resources," Bever said.

Several residents complained of youth gathering in the neighborhood the night after Pride. Shovers described the crowds as youth ranging from high school age to their early 20s.

But Garofalo, who works with many of Chicago's queer youth, said he did not believe the night's revelers were the city's young people or queer youth.

"It wasn't really a youth issue," he said, adding that his best guess was that many people had come from outside of the city to party.

What all seemed to agree on is that the partying was not a direct continuation of pride festivities.

Chrisman said he is tired of seeing LGBT people blamed for incidents that follow the parade. He contends that those breaking bottles and jumping on cars had not come to celebrate pride.

"This was not a 'let's be proud' celebration," he said.

LGBT youths looking to go to D.C. summit

Members from Youth Pride Services and other LGBT youth programs in Chicago are looking to take a delegation for the first time ever to the Gay Men's Health Summit that is being held in conjunction with the 2012 International AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C., July 20-23.

A host of activities, such as workshops and panels, is planned for the summit. According to the summit's website (www.gmhs2012.org), workshops include "Finding Mr. Right, Not Mr. Perfect," "Introduction to Leather" and "Say It Loud! I'm Black, Gay and Proud!," among many others.

Local youths are looking for businesses, individuals and others to consider becoming a sponsor to offset the remaining \$500 needed to cover 10 youth in the Chicago delegation by July 10. For more information, email youthpridecenter@gmail.com.



National LGBT newspaper alliance forms

NEW YORK—A new National Gay Media Association (NGMA) has formed to bring together the top regional newspapers serving the U.S. LGBT communities.

The LGBT market controls more than \$600 billion in annual spending, and NGMA will work to coordinate advertising spending in effective local LGBT media markets.

"The regional LGBT media continue to serve their communities with strong newspapers and online content," said Tracy Baim, spokeswoman for NGMA and publisher of Windy City Times. "The LGBT movement is driven by a very local model. Many of our issues are different from city to city, and state to state, so our strongest media are the ones attuned to issues in their communities."

The more than 150 regional LGBT media reach more than 3 million readers combined through weekly, biweekly and monthly newspapers and magazines. The annual Gay Press Report notes that the combined advertising spending in LGBT media was \$307 million in 2011, with 95 percent of that spent in local markets.

NGMA is a new alliance of the "best of the best" in LGBT media, representing long-time brand names in regional media, including the Bay Area Reporter in San Francisco and the Washington Blade, both founded more than 40 years ago, the Blade in 1969 and BAR just two years after the Stonewall Riots marking the start of the modern gay-rights movement. Other NGMA members are Bay Windows (Boston), Between the Lines (Detroit), the Dallas Voice, Gay City News (New York City), GA Voice (Atlanta), and Windy City Times (Chicago). These papers, along with their digital extensions represent an estimated 500,000 weekly newspaper readers.

Rivendell Media, the oldest and most experienced media rep. firm representing LGBT media to advertising and marketing companies, founded NGMA in 2011. "NGMA is the premiere vehicle for national advertisers to reach the gay and lesbian marketplace," said Todd Evans, president of Rivendell, which also represents more than 100 other LGBT media.

"Gay media is local media," said Evans. "It provides the best on-the-ground information to serve the diverse LGBT community. No one media outlet can be all things to the LGBT community, but regional media can do this best." The NGMA has its roots in the old National Gay Newspaper Guild, which provided the impetus for growth in the gay marketplace by providing the first verifiable readership demographics surveys of the gay press that sparked interest by Madison Avenue. Today the demographics of the LGBT consumer are well documented and this new organization will further the growth of LGBT media and provide the opportunities Madison Avenue demands today.

WCT 'AIDS @ 30' series available for download

CHICAGO—The award-winning Windy City Times AIDS @ 30 series, a 13-month look at the epidemic through more than 200 articles, is now available for free download on the paper's Website.

To receive the link to the 245-page download, sign up at www.windycitymediagroup.com/sign_up_to_rcv.php.

The series won the prestigious Peter Lisagor Award from the Chicago Headline Club, and was nominated for a national Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) Award, in the same category with The New York Times and The Boston Globe.

2012 marked the 30th year of the first known cases of what would later be called AIDS. The series was initially slated to be nine months long, but the paper continued the series to meet the demand for more coverage on the impact of the epidemic.

The series featured new information on the impact of AIDS locally, nationally and internationally, as well as features on people lost to AIDS, activists, volunteers, scientists, doctors, nurses, service providers, and groups which sprang up to respond to the crisis.

Windy City Times was founded in 1985, just as AIDS was escalating in Chicago and across the world. The series pulled from the archives of the newspaper, in addition to other publications produced by Publisher Tracy Baim: Outlines, BLACKlines, En La Vida and Nightspots. Baim coordinated a team of more than two dozen reporters.

"Many young people today do not realize the impact the AIDS epidemic had on the GLBT community," said Baim. "We wanted to document that history, and give perspective to this disease, which has claimed millions of lives around the world. The AIDS epidemic is not over, even though new therapies have helped some people survive longer."

The series was supported by: Gilead Sciences, Inc.; The Local Reporting Initiative of The Chicago Community Trust; Newsweb Corporation; and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

The PDF is a compilation of all of the pieces included in the 13-month Windy City Times series.

Windy City Media Group (WCMG) produces Windy City Times, Nightspots, OUT! Resource Guide, Identity online, WindyCityQueercast.com and QueerTVNetwork.com. WCMG is also the producer of these annual events: Windy City Gay Idol, Gays Got Talent, 30 Under 30 and the Windy City Times Theater Series. See www.windycitymediagroup.com.

LGBT Ugandans' freedom under siege

BY JASON CARSON WILSON

As Americans celebrate pride and freedom, loss of life and liberty looms over queer Ugandans. Suspicion of "promoting gay activities" prompted a June 19 police raid on a LGBT conference in suburban Kampala.

Father John Adewoye—a Nigerian native, gay activist and former Catholic priest who resides in Chicago—keeps track of what's happening in Africa. Adewoye wasn't startled by the situation facing Ugandans. To him, it's more of the same.

"Every year, there is something coming up anti-gay," Adewoye said in an exclusive Windy City Times interview.

Adewoye and gay Ugandans' oppressors have something in common. Simon Lokodo, minister of state for ethics and integrity, is a Catholic priest.

Ugandan activists are at the "forefront of the gay rights movement" in Africa, according to Adewoye. The East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP) organized a three-day workshop at Esella Country Hotel, according to Amnesty International (AI).

Organizers were arrested and soon released. Police allegedly advised EHAHRDP to provide its registration and incorporation papers as well as seeking approval for all future meetings.

"The police advice to EHAHRDP has no basis whatsoever in law," AI Africa Deputy Director Michelle Kagari said in a statement. "In this instance, the police have exceeded their authority. This continued harassment and intimidation of human rights activists must stop and the police need to start adhering to the laws they are supposed to protect and enforce."

Women's Policy Director Cristina Finch told Windy City Times it was the second police raid in four months. Lokodo shut down a similar conference. Finch stressed Ugandans' rights to freely assemble were violated. She described it as a "pattern of behavior."

In addition to the raids, Lokodo announced nearly 40 LGBT non-governmental organizations (NGOs) would be banned, various news outlets reported.

"The NGOs are channels through which monies are channeled to (homosexuals) to recruit," Lokodo said.

Finch echoed EHAHRDP Executive Director Hassan Shire Sheikh sentiments.

"This arbitrary closure confirms a pattern of behavior by the authorities that LGBTI people, and those working on LGBTI issues, will not be afforded the same protections as other people in this country," Shire Sheikh said, in an AI statement.

Adewoye said religion and politics fuels Lokodo's need to promote prejudice and hate of Uganda's LGBT community. However, combatting that prejudice and hatred has kept LGBT freedom fighters down.

"[Gay activists] continue to stand their ground and forge ahead," Adewoye said.

The raids have brought an international outcry. That outcry prompted a June 21 statement from the nation's president's office—free of remorse.

"The government would like to encourage all Ugandans to be vigilant and stay away from unlawful activities that would get them in trouble with the law," a June 21 statement read.

Section 145 of the nation's Penal Code Act makes "promoting gay activities" illegal. In addition to law, government officials use statistics and Africa's alleged social norms to make their case.

Unlike other nations, government officials claim two-thirds of African countries forbid homosexuality, while 80 percent East African countries criminalize it. They also said 80 countries



Father John Adewoye. Photo from Adewoye

outside of Africa deemed being gay a crime. Ugandan officials offered no sources to back their claims.

Even as police raid meetings, government officials remind Ugandans are free to assemble.

"No government official is bent to harass any section of the community and everybody in Uganda enjoys the freedom to lawfully assemble and associate freely with others," the president's office said.

AI is prepared, Finch said. Working groups are on the ground.

"We're very concerned about the human rights of [LGBT] people in Uganda," Finch said. "We're calling on the Ugandan authorities to stop the harassment."

However, losing freedom to assemble is the least of gay Ugandans' problems. Losing lives—legally—remains possible.

Uganda's parliament reintroduced a bill in January. It would sentence anyone engaging in "homosexual acts" to death. Government officials claim they don't support the legislation.

"It does not form part of the government's legislative program and it does not enjoy the support of the Prime Minister or the Cabinet," Lokodo said in a Feb. 8 statement.

With that said, he alleged that Uganda seemed to be a victim a double standard.

"If Uganda enjoyed as close a relationship with the U.S. and European countries as Saudi Arabia (which sentences homosexuals to corporal and capital punishment), would we have attracted the same [contempt] as a result of allowing this parliamentary debate. AI's Finch declined to predict whether the so-called "Kill The Gays" bill would actually get passed.

"We're certainly hopeful they would not," she said.

Based on personal observations of African politics, Adewoye dismissed Lokodo's claim that Uganda's government doesn't support the bill.

"[African politicians] hide a lot of things," Adewoye said. "Politicians play on people's intelligence. If the federal government didn't support it, why are police harassing people?"

Oreo Pride image goes viral

An image of a multicolored rainbow Oreo was added to Kraft Nabisco's Oreo Facebook page June 25—and has apparently generated a frenzy.

The post (which includes the caption "Proudly support love!" has received more than 200,000 "Likes," and there have been almost 40,000 comments as of June 27. SheWired.com reported that not all of the comments have been supportive; some of the people against the Pride Oreo used Bible quotes, and a large amount swore to boycott Oreo for supporting homosexuality or getting

involved in politics.

According to Mashable.com, an Oreo rep stated about the campaign, "In celebration of the 100th birthday of Oreo cookies, the brand is creating a series of daily ads reflecting current events in a fun way using images of Oreo cookies and milk.

"These ads are in the same style of the print advertising campaign for Oreo's 100th Birthday that launched earlier this year. The new campaign will bring to life trending topics, pop-culture news, milestones or celebrations using images of the iconic cookie and milk.

"In recognition of Pride Month, Oreo created an ad depicting the Rainbow flag with different colors of Oreo crème. We are excited to illustrate what is making history today in a fun and playful way."

In a statement to Windy City Times, Kraft

Foods Inc.'s Associate Director of Corporate Affairs Basil T. Maglaris said, "As a company, Kraft Foods has a proud history of celebrating diversity and inclusiveness. We feel the OREO ad is a fun reflection of our values.

"There has been a lot of buzz about the 'Pride' image and the positive comments have far outnumbered any negative comments. The level of engagement certainly shows how relevant OREO is to people even after 100 years."

—Andrew Davis



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From left: State Rep. Greg Harris, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez and Commission on Human Relations Director Mona Noriega. Photo from Alvarez's office

Alvarez honors Harris, Noriega at pride celebration

BY KATE SOSIN

Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez hosted her third annual Pride Celebration at Center on Halsted June 26, just days after she announced support for lawsuits aimed at the county that seek marriage equality in Illinois.

More than 80 people attended the event, which honored 13th District state Rep. Greg Harris and Commission on Human Relations Director Mona Noriega.

Attendees gathered for an evening reception with Alvarez and other elected officials, followed by an awards ceremony.

Alvarez received a standing ovation from attendees for her decision not to fight the two marriage-equality lawsuits, filed in late May by Lambda Legal and the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois and aimed at Cook County Clerk David Orr.

All three officials who could have fought the lawsuits—Alvarez, Orr and Attorney General Lisa Madigan—have refused to do so.

Alvarez discussed the lawsuits in a retrospective speech on her relationship with Chicago's LGBT community.

"This decision was unprecedented, I recognize that," said Alvarez. But, she added, "This particular decision truly was a no-brainer."

Alvarez said that the entire civil division in her office agreed unanimously that the ban on same-sex marriage violated the state's equal-protection clause.

"There was no backstory. There was no infighting," she said, noting that several reporters had asked if the decision was controversial within her office.

Dan Kirk, Alvarez's chief of staff and an openly gay man himself, also said that the state's attorney's office had been in agreement about the lawsuits.

"It wasn't what we were expecting but we're damn glad it's happening," said Kirk.

According to Kirk, no one has yet intervened to fight the lawsuits. He predicted that they will

result in marriage equality throughout the state.

But Harris, who Alvarez presented with the Pride Community Service Award, warned of a long road ahead for marriage equality advocates and pressed attendees to get out the vote for LGBT-supportive officials in upcoming elections.

"Hatred is out there. Bigotry is out there," said Harris.

Harris commended the state's attorney's office on its stance regarding the marriage lawsuits, stating that decision took more courage than they let on.

Noriega, who also accepted the Pride Community Service Award, reflected on the progress LGBT people have made since the early pride parades.

"Can I say ... have we come such a long way?" Noriega said. "How many people were at [Sunday's] parade?"

Noriega noted that early pride parades were often sparsely attended and scary to walk in, a far cry from the June 24 Pride Parade, which drew an estimated 850,000 people.

Also honored was young activist Andria Perez, who received the LGBT Pride Celebration Scholarship.

WGN's Dean Richards emceed the evening.

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>.



Top: Keisha Farmer-Moore and Jim Alexander. Bottom: Mary Morton. Photos by Tracy Baim

LGBT leaders, activists talk needs-assessment study

BY KATE SOSIN

A presentation of the newly released LGBT Community Needs Assessment study drew LGBT community leaders from around the city to Howard Brown Health Center June 27.

The study, which was conducted by the Morten Group and paid for through the LGBT Community Fund of the Chicago Community Trust, compiled information from approximately 2,000 LGBT Chicagoans.

After months of anticipation from local groups, the results the study have been released to the community. According to researchers, the study offers a snapshot of LGBT Chicago not seen in nearly a decade.

Among the top issues facing LGBT Chicagoans are access to healthcare, unemployment and underemployment, access to government rights and services, discrimination and safety. (Windy City Times previously reported on the results of the study in-depth at www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Looking-at-the-Needs-Assessment-data-results-/38395.html.)

The study combines information obtained through surveys, data cards, focus groups and interviews.

Community leaders discussed the study results with Mary Morten, president of the Morten Group, Keisha Farmer-Moore, the principal investigator on the study and Jim Alexander, co-chair of the LGBT Community Fund.

Among other things, the assessment showed that Chicago's LGBT population is spread across the city, that a larger number of LGBT Chicagoans are single and that both youth and seniors feel age discrimination within the LGBT community.

"In Chicago, it feels there is an age restriction to being gay," said one respondent, according to Farmer-Moore.

The study also concluded that the majority of LGBT people rank access to healthcare as a major concern, a fact that was true across racial categories.

Farmer-Moore and Morten encouraged attendees to think about additional ways to analyze the data and said that future assessments may be done in order to fill gaps in the first. Community leaders suggested that a lack of youth participation under age 18 as well as the absence of questions related to disability and domestic violence might be shortcomings in the study.

The assessment results will be used to determine one million dollars in funding initiatives from the LGBT Community Fund. Advocates are currently raising those funds. According to Alexander, approximately \$250,000 has already been raised.

The LGBT Community Needs Assessment can be accessed at www.MortenGroup.com.



Collaboration marks HIV-testing day event

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

On June 27—National HIV Testing Day—the “Step Up Get Tested: ChicaGO for 5K” campaign held an event at the Fantus Health Center Courtyard to celebrate its first-ever collaborative effort with a number of healthcare agencies.

Said healthcare agencies included the Cook County Health and Hospitals System, the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center, the Chicago Department of Public Health and other AIDS service organizations.

The goal of the event was to increase the number of people getting tested for HIV in the most underserved communities in Chicago by providing free, rapid HIV-testing services, prevention education and other resources. This year, more than 450 people were tested at the Fantus location June 27—a substantial increase from last year’s 365 individuals.

The city-wide campaign aims to test 5,000 Chicago-area individuals during a series of testing events across the city through the month of June and is a part of “Healthy Chicago,” the city’s public health agenda that, among other things, has a goal of reducing new HIV infections by 25 percent.

According to the Chicago Department of Public Health, there are about 20,000 people living with HIV in Chicago. Since about 20 percent of people infected with HIV are unaware of their status, the total number of people living with

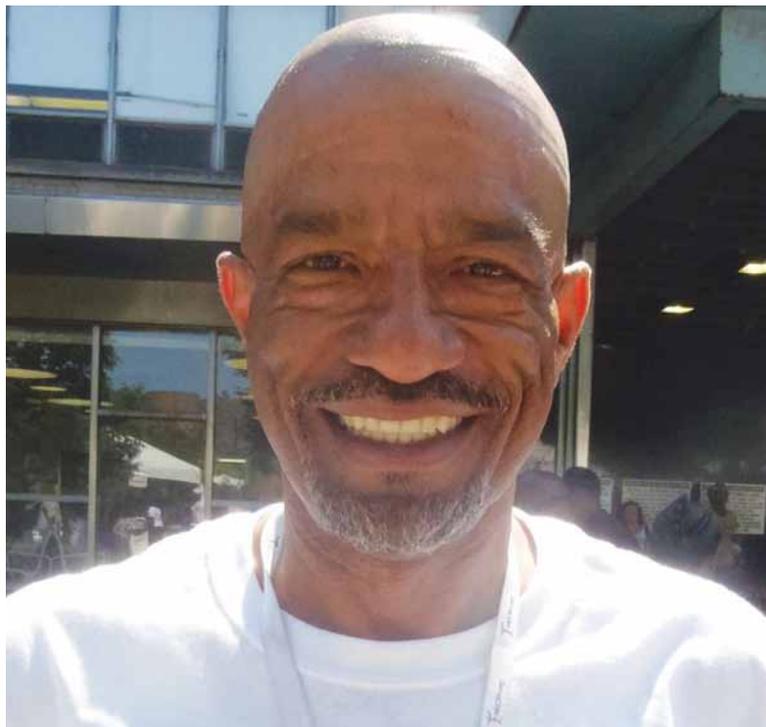
HIV in the city could be more than 25,000 people.

“There has been a big evolution in the care of HIV patients but the problem is to find everyone who is infected and get them treatment. We know that 50-70 percent of new infections are driven by the 25 percent of people who don’t know their status,” said Dr. Robert Weinstein, COO of the CORE Center. “It is clear that through routine screening we can find the patients who otherwise would never know their status. Testing is the first step in curbing the epidemic.”

“We are excited to take part in this collaborative effort that focuses on raising awareness about the important of HIV testing and testing more people for HIV,” said Jose Munoz, deputy commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health. “There is not one solution to preventing HIV— but with combined efforts, we can achieve this goal.”

Other dignitaries at the event included Peter McLoyd, consumer development and advocacy coordinator at the CORE Center; Marisol Gonzalez, director of prevention and education at the CORE Center; Hana Anderson from the Chicago Department of Public Health; and Cynthia Tucker and Anthony Galloway from the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

There will be more testing June 30, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at Feed, Clothe and Help the Needy hosted by Fantus Health Center, 1234 W. 59th St.



Peter McLoyd.
Photo by Carrie Maxwell

Alliance of Illinois Judges elects new officers

The Alliance of Illinois Judges, a group of LGBT judges in the state, held their annual meeting and installation of officers June 20 at the Chicago Bar Association. Colleen Sheehan was re-elected president of the organization, and Cook County Circuit Court Chief Judge Timothy Evans presided over the swearing-in ceremony.

Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim was the 2012 honorary chairperson of the event.



From left: Hon. Stuart Katz, treasurer; Hon. Jamie Shapiro, board member; Hon. Pat Logue, board member; Hon. Colleen Sheehan, president; Chief Judge Timothy Evans; Hon. Sebastian Patti, secretary; and Hon. Tom Chiola (Ret.), board member. Not pictured: Vice President Hon. Lori Wolfson and board member Hon. Jim Snyder. Photo by Hal Baim; more images online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

HHS releases report on LGBT issues

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has released the 2012 report of the HHS LGBT Issues Coordinating Committee, according to a press release.

The report outlines many accomplishments from this past year and sets new goals for the coming year with respect to the health and well-being of the LGBT community.

Key accomplishments from the past year include:

—Continued implementation of the Affordable Care Act has given U.S. residents, including LGBT individuals, improved access to health coverage;

—Re-launching the website www.StopBullying.gov, which contains specific information for LGBT youth to deal with bullies; and

—Creation of an LGBT youth suicide task force as well as funding to state and tribal suicide prevention programs.

The full report is at www.hhs.gov/secretary/about/lgbthealth_objectives_2012.html.

NW Indiana Rainbow Days July 14

NW Indiana Rainbow Days will take place in Gary, Ind., Saturday, July 14, at 12 p.m.

The parade will step off at 25th Ave. and Adams St., progressing to Taft St. Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson is slated to be the special parade guest.

A picnic will take place afterwards at Buffington Park, 6th Ave. and Connecticut St. See www.nwirainbowdays.bravehost.com for more info.

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Crossroads Fund continues to back social-justice groups

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Crossroads Fund has given more than \$6 million in grants over the past 30 years to literally hundreds of grassroots organizations.

"At 30 years, [the] Crossroads Fund is a relatively young organization, but the amount that our grantees have accomplished, with our support, is incredible," said Jeanne Kracher, executive director for the Crossroads Fund. "We are very proud of the groups who received their first funding from us and have gone on to grow into Chicago's non-profit leaders, including Affinity Community Services, Chicago Women's Health Center, Chicago Women in Trades, Korean American Resource and Cultural Center, and many others."

"I'm also really proud that [the] Crossroads Fund has remained true to our founding principles for the entire 30 years of our existence—and those principles still feel right today. Our motto is change, not charity, which means that we support groups who are working to change systems of inequality.

"Another founding belief of Crossroads Fund is that activists should be involved in making decisions about where to put resources. We engage the broader community to help us in grant-making decisions. We also follow a democratic fundraising model—most of our donors give us about \$100, and we are able to pool those resources and really have an impact for racial, social and economic justice. We are also happy to receive a gift of \$10,000 or \$100,000, and lucky to have gotten [those amounts, too] over the years."

The 30th-anniversary celebration for the Crossroads Fund was held in March at the Chicago Cultural Center.

"At this event, we [presented] the Ron Sable Award for Activism," Kracher said. "We have presented this award for the last [18] years in honor of the late Dr. Ron Sable. In his lifetime, Ron worked for gay and lesbian liberation, women's liberation, reproductive rights, just treatment of prisoners, and national healthcare. He helped develop services for individuals with HIV/AIDS at Cook County Hospital, was an active member of the Democratic Socialists of America, and pioneered a position as the first openly gay candidate for alderman in Chicago. Ron was a founder of Chicago's AIDS Foundation and served as a member of the Crossroads Fund board for 10 years.

"His death in 1993 was a great loss to the progressive philanthropic community. However, Ron's legacy lives on. The Ron Sable Award for Activism is a living memorial to the man whose clarity, wisdom, honesty, and leadership continues to guide Chicago's community members. Each year, awards are distributed to a grantee organization and an individual or group who has made a significant impact on Chicago's communities. We are proud to honor Ron and his life-long commitment to social change. He was an inspiring example for us all."

[Editor's note: Past recipients of the Ron Sable Award include Affinity Community Services, Long Term Prisoner Policy Project and the Chicago Workers' Collaborative.]

Kracher, who lives in Chicago's Ravenswood neighborhood, has worked for the Crossroads Fund for the past 11 years. She actually received funding as a grantee when she was Executive Director of Women in the Director's Chair in the mid-1990s; and when a member of ACT-UP/Chicago in the early 1990s.



Jeanne Kracher. Photo by Ross Forman

"At Crossroads Fund, we recognize that racial, social and economic injustice is, unfortunately, not on a trajectory to be resolved in the next 10, 20 or 30 years," Kracher said. "Due to the complicated nature of the issues that our grantees are working on, our goal over the next 30 years is to continue to build our capacity to be a resource for groups working on solving systemic injustice."

This is the goal even in a tough economic time.

"The economic downturn has impacted the entire nonprofit sector, including Crossroads Fund and our grantees," Kracher said. "There was a period of time immediately after the first shocks of the recession when we saw donors continuing to give, but giving at lower levels than in the past. That trend persisted for about a year. Now we are seeing that our donors are coming back at a higher level, and we are again finding new donors. We are incredibly grateful to our very loyal donor base.

"Thirty years ago, Crossroads Fund was the

first and, for a while, the only foundation to support LGBT groups. So we gave funding to the earliest iterations of building community institutions and projects like Horizons and [the] Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force (IGLTF). A number of these groups grew up to become some of the bigger and more established institutions in the gay community. We are really happy that we were able to be a part of that. And we are really happy that the LGBT community is now so visible and generous in supporting our own institutions and also that more mainstream philanthropy feels relatively comfortable in supporting some of the biggest projects in LGBT communities.

"Our mission is funding new and emerging groups that look at the intersections of issues and oppressions. This means that now we may fund groups who may be perceived as on the margins of the LGBT community, but we see them as absolute essential in building a strong, diverse and whole community of communities.

"We have been a strong and consistent supporter of Affinity Community Services. We have given grants to Amigas Latinas. We gave grants to the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance since its inception. Importantly, we ask all of our grantees, no matter what issue they are working on, how they address LGBTQ issues in their work, because we recognize that we are everywhere, and our issues intersect with so many other issues—immigration, worker rights, disability rights—really everything."

Other Crossroads Fund highlights include:

—Giving grants through its Youth Fund for Social Change, which was a grant-making program initiated in 2008;

—Raising \$300,000 to seed its newest grant-making effort, the Youth Fund for Social Change;

—Raising its first endowment gift of \$1 million; and

—Receiving a \$400,000 bequest, its largest gift ever from an individual donor.

"Over the last 30 years we have seen many grantee victories of great significance," Kracher said. "In the 1980s, ADAPT, a disability rights group, pressured the CTA to make public transit in Chicago accessible. In the early 1990s, when I was involved with ACT-UP, we received a Crossroads Fund grant for an action to pressure Cook County Hospital to open up an AIDS ward for HIV-positive women, and we won. More recently, we are very proud of the many groups we supported who worked for the successful abolition of the death penalty in Illinois. And just last year a grantee we have supported since they were founded, the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, was a leader in the effort to pass the Prevent School Violence Act, which protects LGBTQ and gender variant youth in schools."

Kracher said the biggest challenge facing the Crossroads Fund is fundraising, which can be challenging because of the economic downturn and the broad focus of the foundation.

Crossroads Fund is at 3411 W. Diversey Ave.; see www.crossroadsfund.org for more info.



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Chances Dances announces Mark Aguilar Memorial Fund

The Chicago-based DJ collective Chances Dances has announced The Mark Aguilar Memorial Fund, an additional component of the Critical Fierceness Grant.

The fund is a grant specifically for women-identified or transfeminine artists of color. The Critical Fierceness Grant is a biannual grant for Chicago-based artists who identify themselves or their work as queer. The first grants were awarded in 2008, providing up to \$500 to fine art and social-justice art projects.

The grant has two cycles with deadlines at the end of June and December. Download the application at www.chancesdances.org/fierceness.

Aguilar was a performer, art student and blogger who passed away earlier this year at age 24.

Read a profile of Aguilar at www.windy-citymediagroup.com/lgbt/PASSAGES-Performance-artist-Mark-Aguilar-remembered/36925.html.



Mark Aguilar. Photo by Asher Diaz

GAY in the LIFE

Mia Jones

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN

**Age**

33

Neighborhood

Edgewater

Job title

Music blogger; AfterEllen.com, The L Stop and Do312.com

Relationship status

"I'm in a loving relationship with my two dogs, Marshall and Bubble."

Tattoos

12, including an old-school cassette tape on her left bicep.

Favorite local bar

Big Chicks

Little-known fact

Once was in a performing arts troop with Kel Mitchell from the movie Good Burger

Mia Jones was a child of divorce and is pretty sure the only thing her parents ever had in common was their love of music.

Her dad, for instance, often sang "Folsom Prison Blues" by Johnny Cash to her as a baby. "That song has followed me my whole life," she said. Her mom would sing a lot of Motown songs to her and also The Bangles, particularly, Manic Monday.

She also has long been into dancing, including hip-hop and break-dancing. And one of her favorite movies continues to be Breakin'. "I watched and tried to do the moves [in that movie] when I was 6 or 7," Jones said.

Plus, in fourth and fifth grades, Jones and four of her friends started a band called The Funky Five. They wrote their own songs, performed on the playground and even at a school assembly. "We thought we were pretty cool," she said, laughing.

"I've always been into music in a really emotional way. Music, lyrically and instrumentally, can punctuate whatever mood you're in. I've always been moved by it."

Jones' preferred method of blogging is, admittedly, "nothing too serious. I'm more of a snarky half-wit." She said her writing is as if she were talking.

Her words on music have appeared in Venus Magazine and Flavorpill, and across Tribune websites. Many of her exclusive interviews have been high-profile, such as Teri Gender Bender from Le Butcherettes, The Veronicas, Sea of Bees, Beth Ditto and more.

Her dream interviews are Karen O of the rock band Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Mariah Carey.

Jones also writes about pop culture and music for AfterEllen.com, and acted in a web series, The Throwaways, due out this summer from tellofilms.com.

Jones formerly worked as a web producer for almost six years for the Tribune Company before leaving last November.



T in the LIFE

COMPILED BY KATE SOSIN



Jackie Richter and her wife Cyndi marching in the Pride Parade. Courtesy of Richter.

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

Jackie L. Richter

Pronouns

She, her, Mrs., Ms. and Madam.

Identifies as

Transsexual woman

Life's work:

"Heels and Hardhats Contracting Corp. — construction contracting in excavation, landscaping and specialty concrete. We are currently in the process of many certifications required to do government contracting work as a Female Business Enterprise as well as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise. Then, the end result will be a pathway of hope for other transsexual women to achieve these certifications and build upon their dreams of being self-employed. Our corporation is 100 percent female-owned with my wife Cyndi as my partner in business and life."

Hobbies

"Antiques (as I am one). Love to shop in thrift stores finding the unusual or maybe something special for the kitchen. And I love to cook."

Do you have a coming out story?

"I have to say it was the lipstick on my cigarette butts in my office and in the driveway that caught my wife's attention. She kept on insisting there was another woman here at night, who oddly smoked my brand. There was a long week of finger pointing until I finally broke down and

cried and told the rest of the story. She was relieved, but totally confused. We worked through it like people in recovery, dealing with the disease aspects and learning that we had to live in the solutions, not the problems."

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

"It allows us to see life in many ways that a so-called normal person will never grasp. It allows us to learn that hardships are a pathway of progress, and our progress paves a road of hope for those to follow."

Would you like to say something about your wife?

"My wife Cyndi has rewritten the word "unconditional." She has stood alongside me through transition, through the hard economic challenges that we faced in a career change and tough economy. She did her best to educate our children about the changes occurring and what we had ahead. Cyndi has been active with me in many Chicago functions and known throughout our community. I am truly blessed to not only behold a great wife but a partner in life. She has held my hand in those tough days of wanting to escape life. We embrace the moments of peace and sort through the challenges in life together. She has welcomed many friends to our home and opened her heart for them as well."

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VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY
TIMES

VOL. 27, No. 37, July 4, 2012

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CARDELL
PHILLIPSThe accidental
tourist

I couldn't believe my eyes: Is that guy wearing a thong? What the hell...

I had just gotten off of the train at the Belmont station to catch the purple line train to Evanston, and ran smack-dab into a crowd of outrageously dressed young people, getting their party on. I looked across the train tracks and saw a deluge of people moving down Belmont.

"What's going on?" I thought. Then I saw a man waving a rainbow colored flag. "Oh! It's the gay pride parade." I vaguely remembered hearing about that somewhere. It was a raucous scene. I happened to have my trusty G9 (camera) with me and took a few pictures of the crowd from the train platform. I enjoyed watching the spectacle as I waited for my train ... and waited ... and waited. Eventually, I realized that all of the trains were brown lines, did they cancel the purple line? It sure seemed like it.

I called my appointment. "Oh, you're caught

in the gay pride parade," said the receptionist. "You'll have to reschedule." Great, just great. I started to go back home, but since I was at the parade, I thought I might as well go down and take a few photographs. But, I was acutely aware that, as a middle aged, conservatively dressed Black man, I would be on front street in a crowd of gay, predominantly white twenty-somethings, and look foolish. So, I hesitated.

I asked myself, "Do you have the courage to go with the flow?" I looked for a spot where I could hang out and be inconspicuous. I could take a few photos, and keep my photographer/adventurer membership card. "Nah," I thought. "Maybe next time." Then I realized that I would have to go down to the street level to catch a train going back south. Damn.

When I got to the street, I casually strolled over to a spot along the wall I figured would give me a little cover. After a hanging around for a few minutes, I realized that no one was paying any attention to me. No hostile looks or stares that said, "WTF are you doing here?" So I grew bolder, mixed in with the crowd and moved further along the street. And to my surprise, the revelers happily mugged for my camera. They figured I was there to help them celebrate. And so, that's what I did.

After gawking at all of the crazy stuff that was going on for awhile, I picked up on the vibe and found myself having a good time. Getting caught up in the crowd's joyful exuberance, and the level of acceptance I felt, took me back to another time, more than 30 years ago.

I was in college and my best friend, Terry, told everyone in our circle that he was gay. I refused to believe it and pleaded with him to hang out with me, and run the streets, and chase women. But no; he refused to play that game any more, and our friendship fell apart because I felt betrayed. Eventually, I came around and accepted him for who he was, even though we would never party together again. That was OK. He was still a smart, generous guy who loved to laugh, and my mom adored him, and he was a true friend.

Terry loved everything about Los Angeles. And when he decided to move there, me and his cousin helped him pile his stuff into his car, and we took a cross country road trip. As soon as we arrived in L.A., we washed up, changed clothes, hit the strip, and partied; just like old times.

Unfortunately, things didn't work out for him in L.A. AIDS had just come on the scene and no one knew about the new threats to the gay lifestyle. A few years later he came home and, as his friends and family watched, this beautiful guy slowly withered away and died. I haven't thought about Terry in a long, long time. But I thought about him as I watched the Pride crowd party down. He would have loved it.

It's a good thing to take a chance on people who are from a different tribe. You'll probably meet some new friends—and have a great time.

Cardell Phillips is a freelance writer in Chicago and you can read his blog at <http://tale-softhewindycity.wordpress.com>.

TOMMY
AVICOLI
MECCABelting out
'Faggots' at
Independence Hall

Once upon a time and long ago in a place not far away, pride used to be called "Gay Pride" and it wasn't a whole month—it was a day, a very special day to commemorate a riot that happened during the last weekend of June in a city called New York.

Queens and fags and dykes rebelled on that long hot night. When the cops didn't get their regular payoff from the Stonewall Inn in the West Village, they raided the place. However, the queens and their friends pelted them with coins and stones and made them know that business-as-usual was coming to an end.

It wasn't the first time queens had acted up and caused a scene. They did it a decade before in Los Angeles (Cooper's Donuts), then in Philly (Dewey's, 1965) and San Francisco (Compton's, 1966). But that night in June a revolution was born—a queer revolution that spread throughout the country like wildfire. Its name was Gay Liberation and its first manifestation was Gay Liberation Front.

It wasn't surprising. Oppressed groups had already begun their own revolutions. Blacks, Latinos, women, hippies, farmworkers, students and others were chanting a line from a movie that hadn't been made yet: We're mad as hell and we're not going to take it anymore.

A few months after the Stonewall Riot, folks from various gay and homophile groups gathered, as they occasionally did (after all, there was a movement before Stonewall), and decided to replace their annual Fourth of July picket around Independence Hall in Philly (men in suits and ties, women in dresses, no transgen-

der folks allowed) with a march to commemorate this monumental event. Thus began what we now call pride.

That first march was a rowdy affair, with no dress or gender restrictions. It was nothing like the slick production that happens these days, especially in places such as San Francisco where I live. No top name entertainers (they were all in the closet or afraid to admit they had gay fans), no glad-handing politicians (they were too busy running from their own shadows), no million-dollar budgets (only the \$150 collected at that drag benefit).

There were no corporate sponsors. No liquor companies or banks or real estate companies put their names in the pride guide. There was no pride guide.

No cops, firefighters or church congregations joined us in those first marches. Just a lot of queens and fags and dykes with long hair, jeans and sneakers and makeup and feather boas and such. Folk songs (played by genuine folk singers) and poetry was featured on the stage, along with fiery speeches from activists who knew how to kick oppressor butts (invading the offices of publications that printed anti-gay articles, zapping homophobic politicians, even disrupting the CBS news broadcast with Walter Cronkite).

How can I ever forget my friend Saj, an amazing African-American singer/songwriter, belting out "Faggots"—his anthem of our new generation—across the street from Independence Hall at Philly's first pride march, which I helped organize in 1972. How that word "faggot" echoed in the acoustics of the square.

We weren't asking for marriage or military service. Our demands were fierce, though sometimes a bit unrealistic, such as an end to the Vietnam War, capitalism and the oppression of all oppressed groups. Hey, we were out to change the world, not the decor at the White House.

How I miss those marches.

Letters:

Addressing bullying

The Illinois Safe Schools Alliance (the Alliance) applauds Chicago Public Schools (CPS) on its just-released draft of the Student Code of Conduct for its movement toward limiting the use of exclusionary school discipline and focusing on improving school climate and positive behaviors, specifically for addressing and preventing bullying.

The Alliance, however, is very concerned to read language prohibiting the use of restorative measures to address bullying, and is asking the CPS board to move to eliminate this language from the anti-bullying policy prior to a vote. Restorative measures can be effective in addressing bullying situations and should be an option for school personnel to utilize, just as other behaviors included in the code are addressed.

To make the changes in the Student Code of Conduct real in the lives of students and families, CPS must effectively implement the mandatory professional development it references in the '12-'13 school year. School personnel need professional development to understand the changes, ask questions and shift from exclusionary discipline techniques to those that are restorative and focus on supporting positive behaviors.

The Alliance is excited to partner with CPS to develop and provide that professional development in order to ensure it is inclusive of the unique needs of students and families who are, or are perceived to be, LGBT. Additionally, CPS needs to adopt our proposed procedures for working with transgender and gender non-conforming students and their families to ensure that all students have a safe and respectful place to learn.

—The Illinois Safe Schools Alliance

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

Community Marketing, Inc.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Press photo

This week, WCT looks the film *To Rome with Love* (which stars, from left, Judy Davis, Woody Allen and Allison Pill). See page 17.

DISH

Cake walk.
Page 27.

PR photo of 23-layer chocolate cake at Michael Jordan's Steak House



THEATER

'Common' sense.
Page 14.

Photo from Common Hatred by Gerard Van Halsema



SPORTS

Smash hit.
Page 30.

Photo by Gil Leora



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

About Face crossing its 'T's

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

With a title like *What's the T?*, it would be safe to assume that About Face Theatre's biennial Youth Theatre show would focus on the fourth letter representing the transgender community within that inclusive catch-all acronym LGBTQ. But as playwright Sara Kerastas pointed out, there's so much more to the show.

"What's really interesting about this particular project is that it has evolved a lot from our original idea," said Kerastas during a telephone interview.

The process began last summer when About Face Theatre held intensive workshops to create a youth-theater piece from the ground up to explore trans-identity issues. It was time, Kerastas said, since previous About Face Youth Theatre shows like *Queertopia* and *Fast Forward* respectively focused on youth violence and sex education.

So About Face Theatre made an effort to get a lot of organizations from the transgender community to work with Kerastas and the young actors to find a way to dramatize a show that would be performed the following summer not only as part of About Face Theatre's regular season, but also so it could be adapted later for outreach performances in area schools.

However, midway through the summer process, there came all sorts of tension within the community regarding LGBT youth hanging around Chicago's Boystown neighborhood and the accusations that they were the cause of increased

levels of violence and crime.

"That really was the climax of all of this community tension with the CAPS meeting and the stabbings," Kerastas said.

Since so many of the LGBT workshop youth felt directly affected by the issues at hand, Kerastas and About Face decided to bring these issues into play for the creation of the show.

"We didn't let go of our original theme, but we funneled it through this lens to use youth art to address what was going on in our own community," Kerastas said. "It's definitely a multi-perspective play with youth and adult characters coming from very different viewpoints and it's really a fast-paced snapshot of a lot of different characters inhabiting the very same space."

Most prominently featured are two trans-identified characters that have an interesting dialogue and relationship online. First there's the trans-woman Ms. Ma, who is an upbeat Internet personality famed for creating online videos about creating safe spaces for trans-identified people. Then there's a young trans-man named Shaman, who has just been kicked out of high school and creates an online rebuttal to Ms. Ma.

"Really, a part of the play is this narrative between Ms. Ma and Shaman that takes place entirely through making online videos for one another," Kerastas said. "So there's also this theme of how the Internet and new forms of media can be a catalyst for community as well."

Also unique about this About Face Theatre production is that director Eric Hoff ("*Hit the Wall*") and designer Tom Slazinski have devel-



About Face Theatre's Pride Parade contingent. Photo from the organization

oped *What's the T?* to play in two different venues: the Red Tape Theatre space in St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Boystown, and at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood.

"Slazinski has really put a great deal of thought into the space of the play, so seeing this play is going to be a really exciting and immersive experience where the audience is going to be really much part of it," said Kerastas, noting how the seating arrangements will play up different levels of status, privilege and proximity as reflected in the play. "Just having the play in two different spaces with two different surrounding communities will be an adventure for us."

As for About Face Youth Theatre performers Jade Ryian, 20, and Julian Alvarado, 17, they're both enjoying being part of the collaborative process and bringing up issues tied to race, class, gender and sexuality.

"My character is very stereotyped," said Alvarado about his Boystown hairdresser character Mic. "His complexion is white, but he is of Hispanic background and he's given a bit more privilege by the way he looks. But he does what

he can to try and prevent conflict."

As for Ryian, she plays a butch Latina teenager named Jude who is confused about her attractions toward her best friend.

"For me, it's mainly a support thing as an ally where I figured I could use my talent to showcase issues that are actually happening," Ryian said, happy to participate in the whole play-development process. "And just to be there for my friends and people I care about and put on a great piece of art."

About Face Youth Theatre's world premiere of *What's the T?* plays at two different locations from July 13 to Aug. 4. The production first plays the Red Tape Theatre at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 621 W. Belmont Ave., with previews beginning July 13 and an official press opening July 20. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and Sundays at 3 p.m. through July 29. *What's the T?* then moves to the National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St., for performances at 7 p.m. Aug. 3, and at 3 and 7 p.m. Aug. 4. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for students and \$25 for Youth Theatre supporters. Visit www.aboutfacetheatre.com or call 866-811-4111 for tickets.



Steamwerkz the Musical. Photo from Annoyance Theatre

THEATER REVIEW Steamwerkz the Musical

Playwrights: The Ensemble

At: Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N. Broadway

Tickets: 773-561-4665

or www.theannoyance.com; \$15-\$20

Runs through: Aug. 31

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

You can't blame the notorious Chicago male bathhouse Steamworks for not officially sponsoring or lending its name to the Annoyance Theatre's world-premiere comedy Steamwerkz the Musical.

That's because so many of the musical's creators and cast (featuring many troupe members of GayCo) have had a hand in concocting hilariously outrageous and ewww-evoking gross-out

scenarios in Steamwerkz that would not always be flattering to the real Steamworks.

Take, for instance, the party scene involving a game of illegal drug charades. Better yet, there's the song set in the Jacuzzi featuring the costumed characters of Cum Blob and Bloody Band-Aid, among other unsavory creatures that pop up in the form of puppets.

However, it isn't just Steamworks that gets lampooned in Steamwerkz. The musical, dreamed up and directed by Clay Goodpasture of GayCo with a cleverly satiric eye, also takes comic potshots at a plethora of Halsted-strip gay bars and the types of crowds who frequent them.

Then there's the literary structure that inspired Steamwerkz, which is strangely and appropriately Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. It's fun to draw the parallels between the topsy-turvy Carroll characters and those roaming the halls looking for sex and love in Steamwerkz.

John Loos plays the hunky hayseed Al from Needlepoin, Neb., who follows super-hot Stephen Stephan (Rob Anderson) White-Rabbit style into the wacky world of gay bathhouse culture that is Steamwerkz. There, he encounters the self-centered employees Twinkie Dee and Twinkie Dum (Zach Zimmerman and Chris Kervick), Andy Eninger as veteran habitué Chester (or is it "Chest Hair?") and the manipulative "King of Steam" (Jason Geis), who rules over the bathhouse like a dictator and ultimately challenges Al to a "fuck-off" to win the status of being Stephen Stephan's boyfriend. Ben Kramer also adds to the absurd mix with the old-time smoker Dewayne (think the Caterpillar) and the drug-addled Mad Max (a Mad Hatter stand-in).

Although deliberately low-budget and seat-of-pants in its production style, Steamwerkz the Musical ultimately succeeds by giving late-night Annoyance Theatre audiences what they want in terms of fast and furious laughs and plenty of male flesh on display. Now it would be nice if the Steamwerkz actors didn't always have to shout out their lyrics in finding pitches at the start of so many songs (led by music director Tara Trudel), but it's a small price to pay for so many copious laughs.

Strangely enough, official goodie bags from Steamworks were handed out to the opening-night audience of Steamwerkz. At least that gesture shows that the folks at Steamworks can take a laugh or two at its expense—but only if a couple of letters are swapped out of its name.

(Note: See the interview with Steamwerkz' John Loos on page 16 of this issue.)

THEATER REVIEW

Common Hatred

Playwright: Calamity West

At: The Ruckus Theater at the Side Project, 1439 W. Jarvis Ave.

Tickets: 773-973-2150;

www.ruckustheater.org; \$15

Runs through: July 22

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Costumers do it frequently: A script calls for an Armani suit, so the stitchers piece together assorted garments—a thrift-shop Ralph Lauren jacket here, some cast-off Tommy Hilfiger trousers there—and if they do their job right, what emerges is attire looking almost like the real thing. What the Ruckus Theatre ensemble has done is to read everything by, and about, Anton Chekhov before constructing an original play in the style of that Russian playwright, *without*—and this is the challenge—the results coming off like a gaggle of drama students swilling vodka shots the day after final exams.

Our setting is the antebellum Branwell mansion, circa 2007 (indicated by news items figuring in conversation). Siblings Olivia and Andrew are the sole residents now, following their parents' death in an automobile accident doing indelible damage to the tree in their front lawn. Helping Olivia with her household duties is sister-in-law Margaret, once destined to marry Andrew, but now wed to his adopted brother Sean,

a writer of ponderously-titled novels. Frequent visitors include Steve Darden, Sean's eccentric editor, and Leigh Jones, Olivia's bubbly ex-school chum. We gradually learn that a mortgage on the home, taken out by unemployed Andrew, now threatens its foreclosure.

What lend these microcosmic proceedings the genuine Chekhovian flavor—as opposed to, say, A.R. Gurney—are the silences before characters are spurred to break the stillness. Indeed, our story opens with Andrew sipping an afternoon whiskey and staring out the window, his unprotesting torpor so pronounced that by the time he speculates aloud upon his habit of soliloquizing, any humor we might find in this remark has likewise waned. Steve, on the other hand, refuses to succumb to stifling ennui, his defiance expressed in impulsive utterances, typically followed by surprise at his own daring.

Playgoers versed in Chekhov's Greatest Hits will appreciate the deftness with which Calamity West folds motifs from the source material into a text giving the impression of a four-act play, despite actually running only 100 minutes. The most welcome element in this company-based effort, however, is its absence of weapons to tempt those in despair to offstage suicide attempts. The Prozorovs, Ranevskys, Voynitskis and Sorins may have seen no escape from crippling inertia, but this is the United States in the 21st century—an age offering the Branwell clan a promise of moving forward toward redemption, and maybe even a kind of happiness.



Time After Time cast. Photo from Theo Ubiq

CRITICS' PICKS

Immediate Family, A co-production with About Face Theatre at the Goodman Theatre, through Aug. 5. After President Obama and the NAACP both made historic endorsements of same-sex marriage, Paul Oakley Stovall's comic drama couldn't be timelier. The fact that director Phyllicia Rashad expertly brings out comedy in the show also helps to make this a must-see. SCM

A Little Night Music, Writers' Theatre, Glencoe, through Aug. 12. It's not merely the lilting score or charm of the actors; it's that the great intimacy of Bill Brown's production allows this to be the funniest Night Music I've ever seen, without losing any of its lushly bittersweet *fin de siècle* tone. JA

My First Time, Broken Nose Theatre at Greenhouse Theater Center, through July 28. This is a hilarious and sometimes harrowing look at a variety of people's first sexual experiences. It's also astutely localized s warm-up acts and survey responses from each individual audience worked into the flow of the show. SCM

Pride and Prejudice, Lifeline Theatre, through July 8. It's your last chance to visit the high-manners world of Regency England, replicated in Lifeline's cozy candy-box theater for Christina Calvit's champagne-giddy adaptation of Jane Austen's romantic fable on money and matrimony. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

MUSICAL REVIEW

Time After Time: The Songs of Jule Styne

Playwright: music by Jule Styne,
arrangements by Aaron Benham

At: Theo Ubiq at the No Exit Café, 6970 N. Glenwood Ave.

Tickets: 773-347-1109;

www.theoubique.org; \$29-34

Runs through: July 29

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

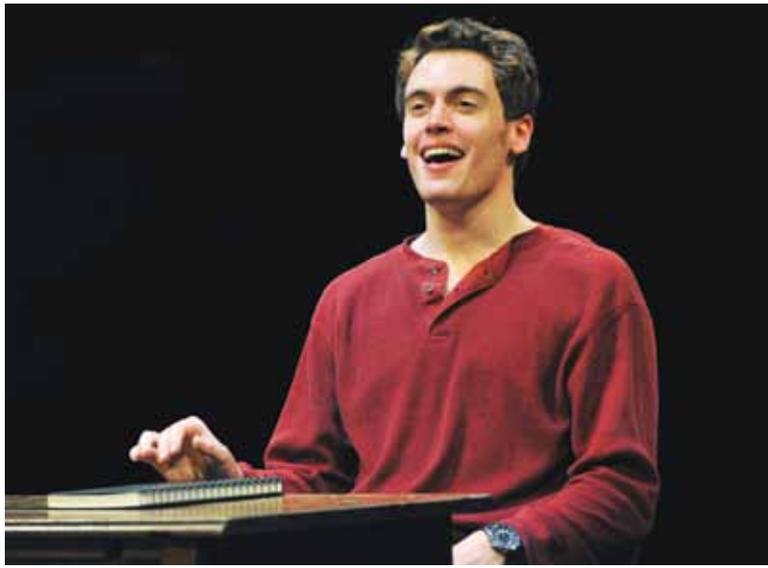
Whether you watched Mary Martin in Peter Pan or Mister Magoo's Christmas Carol on television as a child; whether you dressed up as Marilyn Monroe or Nicole Kidman on Halloween; whether you're over 70 or under 30 years old; whether you know or even *like* showtunes; or whether you get your music on a radio, an iPod or not at all—you've heard a song written by Jule Styne. The composer who wrote Broadway hits for Ethel Merman, Carol Channing and Barbra Streisand over a career spanning more than 40 years is now the focus of this homegrown musical revue.

Theo Ubiq didn't anticipate extending its Jeff-winning production of *Light in the Piazza* to run in repertory with this world premiere—but since the architecture of the Italian Renaissance is not unlike that of American 19th-century Greek Revival, the nightly switch from a Florentine palazzo to Grand Central Station (except for the climb-

ing flowers) is an easy one. Once located in an environment where everybody is either coming or going, we are freed to enjoy such fantasy scenarios as a homeless waif suffering from insomnia who dances with a chorus of lambs as she carols "10,572 Sheep," or a jilted gun-toting sweetheart's rendition of "If You Hadn't (But You Did)" as she engages her faithless lover's corpse in some Weekend at Bernie's gymnastics.

It's not all dusty archival material: Stephanie Herman sizzles in "Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend" (the uncensored version), Danielle Brothers belts forth "Don't Rain On My Parade" with the conviction of a drill sergeant, while Khaki Pixley—yes, that's her name—recalls Cyd Charisse shadow-hoofing with Christopher Logan, channeling Gene Kelly, on "All I Need Is The Girl." Star-watchers should also note Andrew Sickel—still a student, according to his playbill bio, and therefore, just the right age to croon the wistful "I Fall In Love Too Easily."

Ah, but what if you were a rebel fleeing your parents' Eisenhower-era music for rock 'n' roll? Be assured that Aaron Benham's medley-heavy score (encompassing such socially-conscious lyrics as "Good Enough" and the protofeminist "Men") is not content to recycle the saccharine arrangements of the originals, but reconfigures even iconic ditties like "People" into exciting new chorale-harmony anthems destined to enter the repertoire of weddings, churches and school concerts.



**Erich Bergen
in Hero.
Photo by
Peter Cooper/
Marriott Theatre**

Hero

**Playwright: Aaron Thielen (book),
Michael Mahler (music/lyrics)**
**At: Marriott Theatre,
10 Marriott Dr., Lincolnshire**
**Tickets: 1-847-634-0200;
www.MarriottTheatre.com;
\$40-\$48 (plus tax/fees)**
Runs through: Aug. 19

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Hero is so close to sensational that the changes I suggest for this new work probably won't make much difference in its commercial potential. And commercial potential it certainly has, whether that means widespread regional theater success or landing on Broadway first.

There's nothing especially original about this modestly scaled character-based show, but it supplies fresh packaging for the familiar small change of sit-coms and rom-coms through a truly funny book, clever (and often funny) lyrics and unbeatably perfect casting. Director and choreographer David H. Bell has secured hilarious and moving performances from his corps of

singing actors, as he must in a show with little formal dance and only a small chorus element.

In ancient musical-comedy tradition, Hero features a lead romantic couple and a secondary comedy couple whose happy endings are as predictable as the carefully foreshadowed plot developments in Aaron Thielen's tightly constructed book. Father and son, Al (Don Forston) and Hero Batowski (Erich Bergen) operate a comic book shop in Milwaukee. Hero, 28, is a gifted comic book/graphic novel artist but emotionally withdrawn since his mother's death 10 years earlier, for which he holds himself responsible. Enter old high school flame Jane (Heidi Kettnering): Can she crack Hero's shell? Their respective "wingman" buds, Susan and Kirk, form the comedy odd couple, limned in brilliant comic performances by Dara Cameron and Alex Goodrich.

The entire cast in this warm-hearted show exudes charm and is reason enough to go. There's major support from Forston (all affectionate bluster) and Jonah Rawitz as Kirk's funny and precocious kid bro. But Bergen's balance of hang-dog and hopefulness, and Kettnering's infectious gurgling laugh make for memorable

characters as much as their fine musical chops.

Michael Mahler's lyrics are extremely well-suited to character and action with apt and often unpredictable rhymes (which is good) and at least one sensational mid-song musical joke. He also provides several uncommonly specific and effective expository songs. His music is generic pop/rock, pleasant enough but not memorable. Fuller orchestrations—some brass, a guitar, perhaps more exotic percussion—would provide more musical color and texture.

At this point, Hero already is a successful vehicle which should be a big hit for the Marriott

Theatre. Even so, improvements can be made. Musical trimming still is possible (perhaps two songs) and the brief final wedding scene needs to go. More importantly, we need to see Hero's artwork along the way. You can't be told for two hours about someone's talent and never see the proof. Even more crucial, we need to understand *why* Jane is interested in Hero. Introspective self-pitying guys aren't very appealing; there needs to be more. These are small fixes in a strong show that's thisclose (sic) to wonderful.

SPOTLIGHT



Chicago Shakespeare Theater continues its tradition of giving the Bard a summer vacation by presenting a family-friendly show that is bound to appeal to Navy Pier's teeming throng of visiting tourists. This time it's **Disney's Beauty and the Beast**, directed by Jeff Award-winning director Rachel Rockwell in a production that showcases the Academy Award-winning score by Alan Menken and the late out lyricist Howard Ashman.

Disney's Beauty and the Beast is playing now in previews before an official press opening Saturday, July 7, at Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Courtyard Theater at Navy Pier, 800 E. Grand Ave. Performances (mostly at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.) continue on various dates through Sunday, Aug. 26. Tickets are \$18-\$25; call 312-595-5600 or visit www.chicagoshakes.com. Photo by Bill Burlingham

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Nora Ephron. Photo by Jerry Nunn

Nora Ephron dead at 71

Nora Ephron—the author/screenwriter behind such movies as *Sleepless in Seattle*, *Julie & Julia*, *Silkwood* and *When Harry Met Sally*—died June 26 in New York City at age 71, according to the L.A. Times.

Ephron died at New York Presbyterian Hospital, where she was being treated for acute myeloid leukemia and pneumonia.

She also directed several films, including *Julia*, *Sleepless*, *Mixed Nuts*, *You've Got Mail* and *Bewitched*, among others. With sister Delia, she wrote the play *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*.

Ephron also wrote about her own life, with I

Feel Bad About My Neck: And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman, *Wallflower* at the Orgy and *Heartburn*—the last one about her marriage to Watergate journalist Carl Bernstein—among her books.

She was born May 19, 1941, in New York City and grew up in Beverly Hills, Calif., in a family of writers. After graduating from Wellesley College in 1962, she interned in the White House during John F. Kennedy's presidency. Ephron eventually pursued a career as a journalist, starting as a mail clerk at *Newsweek*, then as a reporter at the *New York Post*.

At the time of her death, the three-time Oscar nominee was married to her third husband, *Goodfellas* writer Nicholas Pileggi, according to *People* magazine.

Per the family, donations may be made in her honor to The Public Theater and The Motion Picture and Television Fund.

'Gaye' at BET through Aug. 19

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

The *Marvin Gaye Story* will be presented at the new Black Ensemble Theater Cultural Center, 4450 N. Clark St., through Aug. 19. It will run Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$55 on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturday matinees; and \$65 on Fridays, Saturday evenings and Sunday matinees. See www.ticketmaster.com or call 773-769-4451.

John Loos heats things up in 'Steamwerkz'

BY TONY PEREGRIN

"I'll just say a few random words that have something to do with Steamwerkz: The Musical—and we'll let your readers come see how they fit into the show," said actor John Loos when asked to describe his favorite LOL moments of the new musical set in a Chicago bathhouse. "Fuck bench, Gun Oil, home healthcare worker, ducks, Nancy Reagan, showers, Tina Turner and Kmart."

Loos plays Al, a character loosely based on Alice in Lewis Carroll's exquisitely peculiar novel Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (commonly shortened to Alice in Wonderland). Al is an innocent, wide-eyed gay boy who moves to the Windy City from Nebraska and makes friends with a ragtag group of characters at the city's most beloved bathhouse. Talk about falling down the rabbit hole!

"The show is very irreverent and silly and weird and twisted, but most of all, I think it's truthful," said Loos, a GayCo Productions ensemble member. "Each character, while exaggerated, is based off types of people you might encounter in a bathhouse: the giddy twinks, the crusty old guard, the endearing older man with a mustache, the leader of the pack type, the trophy boy who everyone chases. When the show makes you laugh, it's either because it's so weird or so true, or so both."

With song titles such as "Wet With Your Love," "The Ropes" and "How Exciting! A Fuck Off!" Steamwerkz: The Musical is poised to offer tongue-in-(butt) cheek entertainment, though Loos, 29, promised the show is actually an old-fashioned love story.

Windy City Times: How similar is this character's experience to your first experience at a bathhouse?

John Loos: We all went to Steamworks as research for the show, which was a great experience in terms of understanding the environment, the patrons and the overall feel of the place. I know I had a lot of negative misconceptions about bathhouse culture before I went—I think a lot of gay guys who've never been do—and Steamworks really put those to rest. It was a very relaxed, clean and safe place to visit—a bit of a wonderland in its own right, you might say, with its dark and winding halls and constant sense of mystery, fantasy and discovery. This, in my opinion, makes the Alice in Wonderland theme that much more fitting.

WCT: How much nudity is in the production compared to an average night at the real Steamworks or, say, Naked Boys Singing?

JL: Nudity-wise, we definitely have some rear



John Loos. Photo from Loos

nudity. We can't go fully nude, but we are in tiny towels for a large majority of the time. The story is actually a really old-fashioned love story at its core, with crazy sex and fun swirling around it, so the nudity is placed strategically throughout. We wanted to be titillating without distracting too much from the characters and the music.

WCT: Is Steamwerkz: The Musical based on someone's real-life experiences?

JL: We all wrote it together and created it through improvisation. I think anyone who's been into Steamworks or a bathhouse will relate to the story, especially in terms of first experiences. Because the first time really is an eye-opening and inhibition-bending experience for anyone, and the show captures that in a fun, creative way. We have lights, set pieces, fog machines, a rolling platform, glory holes. Clay [Goodpasture, the director] did a great job recreating the atmosphere. All that's missing is Roberto, the guy who cleans the rooms.

WCT: I'm guessing you guys had a ball, so to speak, pulling this show together especially during rehearsals.

JL: I laughed my ass off during this process, in every rehearsal. The guys in the show are all fantastic improvisers, so there were many moments that we all just ended up laughing like crazy.

The first time we all brought in song lyrics we'd been assigned to work on separately and shared them with the group was so much fun. Every song had us in tears, we were laughing so frickin' hard. That's when I knew it was going to be a great show. Even when given separate homework, we all ended up being on the same page.

WCT: Talk a little about performing on stage with an all-gay cast.

JL: I love musicals, I love performing at the Annoyance, and to get to do a show with an all-gay cast that was created through improvisation and collaboration was an opportunity too good to pass up. As a gay comedy performer, it's not often that you get to work with all gay casts outside of groups like GayCo, and when you're in such a process, it allows you to be creative and funny in new ways. Not that I don't love working with straight performers—I absolutely do—it's just that there's something special about creating comedy from a place where you don't have to justify your sexuality or identity beforehand. It's already the given, and you can go anywhere from there. The sky's the limit.

WCT: How did you get involved with Steamwerkz: The Musical?

JL: Clay is a really good friend and we frequently work together with GayCo Productions. During GayCo's Christmas show last year, he mentioned his plans to do a Steamworks musical and I was immediately on board. I mean, how could I pass that up? Singing, dancing, shirtless men, tiny towels—it's all anyone could ever ask for.

WCT: How relatable is this musical, especially for audience members who've never stepped out of their clothes and into a towel inside a bathhouse?

JL: I think the show's comedy and story are extremely universal. The whole idea of fantasy versus reality, chasing that alluring idea and catching it and seeing that it's not quite what you envisioned, is very much a component to the bathhouse world. Hell, I'd say that's the

lesson we're always learning and re-learning in most aspects of our everyday lives.

WCT: Do Grindr and other social media play a role in the musical? Do apps like Grindr make bathhouses seem a little dated in your mind—at least for a certain generation?

JL: We touch briefly on the exclusivity of the bar scene, but not so much Grindr itself. It's funny that my character is sort of the old-fashioned romantic in the show, because bathhouse culture itself is old-fashioned in a certain way. But that's not to say it's antiquated.

I think it will always have a place in gay communities, because there's something very visceral and real about meeting someone face to face in an environment completely stripped of the status and peacocking and rabid self-consciousness you see on display in gay bars and on Grindr. It's just you and a towel and a key around your arm. It doesn't matter how much money you make, or what kind of \$50 designer underwear you wear or who you know in the city. The armor is stripped away. It puts you very much in the moment that way, and that's something apps like Grindr can't replicate, because everything gets distanced.

WCT: For the uninitiated, what does "werkz" mean? What does it mean to werk it, at least in your mind?

JL: "Werkz" is a fun play on the title. I guess it might mean just being yourself, being bold and not letting others tell you who you can be and what you can and cannot do.

Steamwerkz: The Musical is running Fridays at 10 p.m. through Aug. 31 (except Aug. 17) at The Annoyance, 4830 N. Broadway.

BOOK REVIEW

The Water Man's Daughter

by Emma Ruby-Sachs
\$15.99; Emblem Editions;
336 pages
BY TRACY BAIM

The much-anticipated U.S. release of Emma Ruby-Sachs' *The Water Man's Daughter* is now available from Emblem Editions.

This debut mystery novel by Ruby-Sachs, a Canadian who now lives in Chicago, is a wonderful look at the geopolitics of South Africa. Ruby-Sachs is a journalist (*The Nation*; *Huffington Post*) who has worked as a civil litigator; she now works with a progressive online organization. This combination of interests and skills blends nicely in her book.

The Water Man's Daughter is not a lesbian novel per se, but there is content that will appeal to lesbian readers. Rather, it is a broader novel about the battle for water rights in Johannesburg, and the fight of Black township citizens against the privatization of their wa-



Emma Ruby-Sachs.

ter by a Canadian-based company.

An executive of the water company is found dead, and his daughter arrives from Canada with hopes of uncovering the truth of his death—and his life's work. The stories of three powerful women intertwine beautifully in this well-written novel: Claire, the water man's daughter; Nomsulwa, an anti-privatization activist; and Zembe, a police woman who has competing sympathies.

Ruby-Sachs lived in South Africa for periods in 2003 and 2004, which is very clear from the vivid descriptions of the region. I have visited the country just once, and felt transported back there in reading this book. I felt the oppressive heat, the lack of resources, the desperation and hope, and the race, gender and class segregation. Ruby-Sachs also does a great job getting into the minds of people, providing the characters with dignity and complexity, not one-dimensional lives.

The issue of water rights is very topical right now, as citizens around the world are fighting against efforts to privatize and export one of their most critical resources for survival. This book takes an interesting and passionate approach to the complicated issues on all sides of this argument. I highly recommend it for your summer reading.

“★★★★★” - *Time Out Chicago*

“A timely and important American play.” - *Chris Jones, Chicago Tribune*

“One of the best reactions to someone coming out ever written.” - *New City*

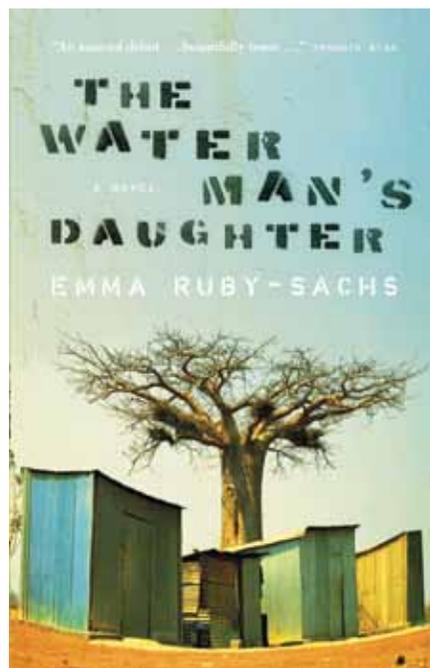
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MOVIE REVIEWS

Take This Waltz; ...Spider-Man; To Rome with Love; new on DVD

BY SAWYER J. LAHR

Take This Waltz proves why marriage and multiple partners should not be mutually exclusive. Michelle Williams (*Brokeback Mountain*; *My Week with Marilyn*) stars as Margot, a tragic woman who might remind others too much of themselves to judge. As has often been said about her, Williams disappears into her roles and does so equally in her public life. She tends to be more solemn but no less commanding than domineering roles often associated with Meryl Streep, Joan Crawford, Bette Davis and Katherine Hepburn. As audiences, how do we reset our dial of fierce female roles to reflect the changing balance between a generation of millennial men and women whose off-screen relationships bear more resemblance to melancholic films like *Greenberg*, *Cyrus* or this year's *Safety Not Guaranteed*?

In the movie, Margot meets rickshaw driver Daniel (Luke Kirby, who played gay in *Mambo Italiano*) while on a trip to Nova Scotia to re-write the official pamphlets for historic Fort Anne/Port-Royal. Daniel challenges Margot's idiosyncrasies and dares to draw out a side of her she may have put away after eight years of marriage to Lou Rubin (Seth Rogen), a cookbook author who exclusively writes about chicken. Once they return to their quaint neighborhood in Toronto, what starts as a romantic comedy quickly spirals into a psychological drama about the fragility of heterosexual monogamy.

This film triggers many assumptions about the endurance of marriage and the expiration date on fidelity in ways that make the movement toward gay marriage equality look like a symbolic battle for the recognition of marriage rather than legal contract—not to be entered into lightly. It's a right many straight millennials are passing up because they simply don't need it.

Comedian Sara Silverman is brilliant here as Geraldine, Margot's recovering alcoholic Jewish sister-in-law who openly rejects tradition while following it every step of the way—until she cracks under the weight of it all.

Oscar-nominated writer/director Sarah Polley (*Away From Her*) has an acute vision of life as we know it, yet her skillful handling of comedic

Andrew Garfield in *The Amazing Spider-Man*.

moments errs when she tries to recreate a "When Harry Met Sally" moment. For example, Margo bemoans seeing husband Lou donning a goofy chef's hat on the cover of his latest chicken cookbook.

I like Rogan's attempt at a more serious role, which was a bold but justified casting choice. He deserves praise for being a very likable and ultimately pitiable contender for Margot's affection. Daniel is intentionally more attractive because he's fit, active and an artist, but Margot wants to be with both men for different reasons. Her emotional affair with Daniel is not a replacement for the one she has with Lou, but it would be better off in addition to her relationship with her husband, a point I think Polley missed here.

What if Margot's relationship with Daniel could have revived Margot's stagnant marriage and deepened her love for her husband instead of breaking all ties? Instead Polley portrays a tragic girl whose every relationship will end up

unraveling unless she looks for an occupation besides wallowing in her own misery. Nevertheless, this movie will stick with me. Take this Waltz opens Friday, July 6, from Magnolia Pictures.

Previews

For the **Spider-Man** franchise reboot, Sony and Marvel cast another brown-haired young gent of the moment, Andrew Garfield, as the web-slinger and Emma Stone (*The Help*) as Gwen Stacy. In this version of Stan Lee's comic book series, Spider-Man is looking for the answer to his parents' disappearance during childhood. Also in the cast is Rhys Ifans as the Lizard; Denis Leary (*TV's Rescue Me*) as Gwen Stacy's police chief father Captain Stacy; and veteran actors Martin Sheen (*Apocalypse Now*) as Uncle Ben and Sally Field (*Steel Magnolias*, *Norma Rae*) as Aunt May. Garfield is a little less wholesome and "aww shucks" as Tobey Maguire but I still like original Spider-Man because of James Franco as Peter's rich college roommate Harry Osborn.

Director Marc Webb appears to have risen to the occasion for his first big-budget picture after directing the break-out indie movie *500 Days of Summer* with Zoey DeChanel (*New Girl*; *Our Idiot Brother*) and Joseph Gordon-Levitt (who played an underage gay-for-pay hustler in Gregg Araki's *Mysterious Skin*). Judging from the trailer and four-minute preview of *Spider-Man*, Webb seems to have been well-prepared for this career promotion, but I sincerely hope *500 Days* will not be his last film of its kind.

Justin Bieber and Miley Cyrus have both done 3D concerts, so it would be natural for Katy Perry, a life-size human hello kitty doll, to have her own motion picture diary, **Katy Perry: Part of Me**. This movie follows the pop star during her "California Dreams" tour through behind-the-scenes highs and lows, from her Santa Barbara, Calif., roots to her highly publicized divorce from Russell Brand. Her catchy mezzo-soprano voice is squeaky yet soulful. Her songs are full of pop-culture references that resonate with millennials such as the "plastic bag floating in the wind" from *American Beauty* and "We make out in your mustang to Radiohead." Fans will likely enjoy these front-row tickets to her concert spectacle on screen in *Part of Me*.

Despite her controversy in the gay community for her early singles "Ur So Gay" and "I Kissed a Girl," Perry seems to have risen above the criticism with "Firework," which she dedicated to the "It Gets Better" campaign started by sex columnist Dan Savage and his partner. Like Lady Gaga, the spectacle of Perry's concerts and her flamboyant costumes are as essential to her popularity as her voice. Perry and Gaga are both outspoken supporters of the queer community, and their influence can be seen in the hordes of gay fans who show up at concerts and pay tribute to their songs on YouTube. *Part of Me* opens nationwide July 5 from Paramount Pictures.

Woody Allen's latest film, **To Rome with Love**, is a loose comedy with four diverging storylines wrapped around a parody of marital infidelity, celebrity and the 24 hours new cycle. *To Rome* stars Judy Davis (*Deconstructing Harry*, *Husbands and Wives*), Woody Allen, Penelope Cruz, Alec Baldwin, Jesse Eisenberg, Ellen Page, and Roberto Benigni and Greta Gerwig (*Lola Versus*; *Damsels in Distress*), who play parents who come from New York to Rome to see their daughter (Alison Pill) and meet her new, handsome Roman boyfriend, Michelangelo (Flavio Parenti from *I Am Love*).

Actor Riccardo Scamarcio (who played gay in *Loose Cannons*) is featured briefly in *To Rome*. He plays a clever bit part as a bandit in a hotel room where a fictitious Italian movie star (Antonina Albanese) and a young newly wed provincial woman (Alessandra Mastrorandi) are brought together in a chance encounter that turns into an afternoon of hijinks. Woody Allen envelops us into fun of the meandering Roman streets that won't take you where you're going but will lead you into something exciting and then back where you started.

Coming to DVD:

—**The Casserole Club** is a camp dramedy about a group of 1960s era suburban housewives trying to one-up each other with their hospitality. It goes on sale July 3 at www.Breaking-GlassPictures.com.

—Oscar-winning queer classic **The Crying Game**, directed by Neil Jordan (*Breakfast on Pluto*) and starring Forrest Whitaker, is a drama about the romance between a transwoman hairdresser and IRA soldier living in London. It is available at major retailers.

—Called "the lesbian Thelma & Louise," **Joe & Belle** (directed by Veronica Kedar) is a dark comedy about women in love and on the run after they accidentally shoot a man. It is on sale at www.wolfevideo.com.

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TUAOLO from cover

The police came to his ex-boyfriend's house and learned the case involved a celebrity.

"At that time, I was already home, so they called me to come in for questioning. When I got there I was arrested and charged with domestic abuse and a non-contact order was issued. I was absolutely surprised," Tuaolo said. "I understand the judicial system and how they need to protect women or weaker people from an abusive boyfriend, husband or stronger person [who] constantly beats them up, but, in this case, it was two men [who] got into a fight. My ex did not press charges, nor did he want to press charges. Even his parents got involved, trying to talk to the prosecutor to drop the case, even going so far as talking to the mayor of the county to have [the charges] dropped.

"Now if I was just a normal gay man [who] got into a fight with his lover, do you think they would have wasted government money to take this to trial for a year? I don't believe so. The case was dragged on for an entire year. It was something that was taken way out of context, maybe because I [am] Esera Tuaolo, the gay ex-NFL player; I really don't know.

"All my life I have helped people whenever I can. For the last 10 years, I have dedicated my life to helping the GLBT community and youth. I have dedicated my life defending human rights and equality. When I was charged with domestic abuse, people turned their backs on me, even when I told them it was a big misunderstanding and with my ex [also] explaining to them the situation."

Tuaolo said people and organizations blackballed him, and that numerous speaking engagements were cancelled because of the charge.

Tuaolo estimated he lost \$60,000 or more in the first year after the charge, and he's still impacted when schools or organization contact him or his agent to book a speaking services. The domestic charge is still an obstacle.

"It's been a slow recovery, but hopefully it will get better," Tuaolo said. "As I said, I would spend every day of my life talking about homophobia and bullying if I could. Now I under-



Photo courtesy of Tuaolo

stand their reasons for canceling [appearances], but it was hard and I took large financial and reputation hit that is still impacting me and my family. I want to tell everyone reading this that [the charge] was dismissed and that I was cleared of everything."

He said things now are "good" with the ex. "We are both in a better place now," Tuaolo said.

Tuaolo, 43, lives in Minnetonka, a suburb of Minneapolis. His children, Mitchell and Michele, are each 11, heading into sixth grade in the fall, and regularly play basketball—and each of the siblings' teams made it to the playoffs last season.

The kids always put a smile on Tuaolo's face, even in these rough times.

"I have to confess, these are not easy times for me," Tuaolo said. "There is a lot going on in my life right now. A few weeks ago, I would have been one of the most pessimistic guys around; there were times when I didn't see the light at the end of the tunnel, and what is worst, I couldn't even imagine how this light would look."

Tuaolo had hit rock bottom.

"That was probably the most critical period

in my life so far," Tuaolo said. "I woke up one morning and realized I was financially broke; my life savings were taken away by someone I trusted; I was emotionally drained; my boyfriend and I broke up; I was physically exhausted and had gained a lot of weight."

Tuaolo battled deep depression.

"I thought of taking the easy way out," he said. "But luckily for me, I have amazing friends [who] are helping me in these tough times. I probably owe them my life. I am taking it one day at a time and feel things are improving thanks to their help and my determination to get back on track. I've been there before, [having grown] poor in a banana farm in Hawaii and I know what I need to do to get over this hump. What is more important, I know I can do it. So, yes, I am one of those typical football player horror stories, but I really hope this one has a happy ending. I am working on it.

"I've had it all; I've lost it all, but I know I can get back on track. In the last few years since coming out [in 2002], I have been helping people; I love that and will continue doing it as it is one of my passions in life, together with my kids, but I know now that I have to help myself first."

Tuaolo added, "What is the hardest thing about running a race? I thought I knew the answer but, actually, I didn't. The hardest part is usually taking the first step. I am proud to say that I took that first step by starting to work out—and have since lost 30 pounds—and have been reaching out to friends and opening up about my situation.

"After I told the first person, I dropped to my knees and prayed; I thanked God for giving me the strength to do it. I don't want to be ashamed anymore; I don't want to pretend, and I want to be myself again, the happy Mr. Aloha that most people know ... but this time I want my smile to be sincere. Sometimes lately I felt that the smile I was projecting was similar to the one I had when I was in the closet when playing for nine years [on] five different teams in the NFL. I smiled even when it hurt so much inside. But not anymore. It feels better to get it all out now so that I can start the healing process. It's a fresh start to a new day and I'm excited."

Tuaolo has pushed the reset button on life.

"I know there will be people thinking that I deserved [this fate], while others will be shocked. Some will be secretly happy and others will really care," Tuaolo said. "I know I can do this; I have my life, my health, my voice and especially my kids. I've been to the top and I know how to get there, but it will take hard work and dedication."

Tuaolo's singing career has been stalled, he said, although he performed June 24 at a major Minneapolis block party in conjunction with its Pride weekend, opening for Mya and Crystal Waters. He also has been writing songs of late for a one-man show about his life.

Tuaolo's run through the public-speaking circle includes stops for high school and college students, and for corporations. And he never has enough of either gigs.

For the students, Tuaolo speaks against homophobia in sports and bullying. "I am passionate about what I do, but especially to this group," he said. "I love watching the reaction on the faces of the audience when I speak, as well as knowing that my speech impacted many people by the emails I get afterwards. It has been extremely rewarding."

To the business world, Tuaolo stresses the importance of accepting diversity, creating safe zones for employees, and the skills that he had to develop to be successful as a football player.

"My speaking career is going okay, but if I could spend every day of the year speaking against homophobia in sports and anti-bullying, I would certainly do it," said Tuaolo, represented by New York-based Greater Talent Network. "I get to travel around the country [for speeches] to educate people on issues of homophobia and bullying, trying to make a difference in today's society, to try and create a better world for our younger generation and for my children.

"The main obstacle I've found to be hired by more schools is the domestic abuse charge, even though I was found innocent and all charges were dropped."

Esera Tuaolo sings at a Gay Games VII preview benefit called 100 Champions, held at Soldier Field spring 2012. Photo by Hal Baim



Off the playing field

Tuaolo tagged President Obama "brave and courageous" for his support of gay marriage.

"He has taken the first step to include all Americans under eyes of God as being equal," Tuaolo said. "Like Abraham Lincoln abolishing slavery, Martin Luther King, Jr., with [the] civil-rights movements and the women's rights movements, it's a good thing and I love him for it."

Tuaolo is very active in Minnesota, supporting same-sex marriage or at least civil unions—even just promoting the subjects.

He also is working on a "HATE IN ANY FORM IS WRONG" video /campaign that hopefully will include some professional athletes and celebrities, he said. He asks anyone that believes in this phrase, to stand up for what's right and make a pledge. Create a video and post it on YouTube with the following pledge: "I believe that hate in any form is wrong, and as a human being I will stand up for what is right."

Tuaolo sang the National Anthem at a Los Angeles Clippers basketball game last season for Equality Night and to support the NOH8 campaign. "I was going to be a keynote speaker and perform at the Equality Maryland gala, but because of the [past] domestic abuse incident, they decided not to [have me at the event]."

It's a sad scenario for Tuaolo, who has heard the same song multiple times over the past two years, he said.

"Because of the domestic abuse incident, a lot of people have cancelled engagements I had booked, or decided not to establish contact with me," he said. "I totally understand their stance on the issue because we do not want to give our opponent a reason or information that will hurt our campaign. That's why it is important for me to do this story—to let everyone know that the charges were dropped and that I was found innocent. I want to do all I can do, but it's hard when every time you Google my name, [the domestic charge] pops up."

Bullying

Tuaolo's children are big for their age, which has led him to emphasize the negativity of bullying.

"It breaks my heart reading about another child/student committing suicide because of bullying," he said. "This could be avoided or prevented if people would just speak up, step up, and make a difference. I'm tired of reading how many times these kids reached out for help and nothing was done."

"I'm always making sure [my kids] know that bullying is wrong. I needed to have that talk with them, so they know how to deal with the situation and that they should treat other kids like how they would want to be treated."

Tuaolo, mostly because of his size, said he was never bullied at school—but was bullied at home.

"I always stuck up for the weaker kid because it was the right thing to do," Tuaolo said. "I was raised by my mother to respect people and treat everyone like a human being. Mom always told me, 'If you want to be great in God's kingdom, you need to be a servant.'"

Coming out

Tuaolo said he had dreams about coming out while still active in the NFL, but there was no chance those dreams would become reality.

"The environment was not right," he said. "I had to play to provide for my family and kids, and coming out would have probably meant getting or been purposely injured by one of my teammates, been ostracized in the locker room and in practice; I couldn't risk it."

"One of my happiest moments in my life, after having my kids, was taking my mom to the mall and asking her to choose whatever she wanted, knowing that I had enough money to buy her anything she wanted. It might sound a little shallow, but you have to understand that I come from a hard-working, but poor family, so, to have been able to provide for the woman who basically made me who I am now, that was one of the highlights of my life."

Despite the odds, Tuaolo said he did not know, or even suspect, any other gay players in the NFL when he was playing.

"When you're in the closet and your feel like you are isolated and all alone, it's hard to think of anything else," Tuaolo said. "When I took that courageous step to come out into my truth, I was welcomed and supported by the GLBT community and everyone who truly liked me. Had I have known that while I was playing, my answer would be, 'yes,' I would have come out sooner."

More on Esera Tuaolo:

—**On marriage:** "I would love to register [for the wedding shower], plan a wedding and say 'I do' to the one who will love me and my two beautiful children for life. But I need to work on myself before I can give my heart to someone."

—**On the NFL:** "When I played, times were different [as his nine-year career began with the 1991 NFL draft]. Back then, I never thought of coming out, [or] even doing anything that would jeopardize my position. I never, ever felt safe to come out. Just imagine what the bounty would have been on 'the gay guy.' I believe the NFL still thinks, or wants to believe, that there are no gay NFL players in the league or retired. I really don't think it's fair that a veteran of nine years [in the league] is not able to leave his benefit or pension to his life partner. My blood and sweat, together with everyone who [has] played in the NFL, went to creating what the NFL is today. I spoke to the NFL a few years ago and asked all the women in the room who were married to an NFL player that passed away to raise their hand if they would have been okay



Esera Tuaolo. Photo by Steve Becker Photography, beckermedia.com, for Gay Games VII in Chicago

if they couldn't receive their husband's benefits. No one raised their hands because it's not right. I'm hoping they will change their policies and recognize the same rights of gay players."

—**On the first openly gay active NFL player:** "[He] definitely would have a huge impact on our society."

—**On teen suicides from bullying:** "Committing suicide is a selfish act that I can certainly relate [to]. I've been on the cliff before, ready to jump or ready to pull the trigger. But there was always something or someone who pulled me away from the cliff or took my finger away from the trigger. But when I read about all these kids who have unsuccessfully reached out for help numerous times, and don't get the help they need and felt the only way out was to check out, that pisses me off. I have dedicated my life to seeing that this stops. We need to step up to the plate and start doing something about bullying; it's a real problem that needs to be addressed now."

—**On the "You Can Play" project:** "I am

friends with a few NHL hockey players who are straight. We have had discussions on the topic, and I think the NFL player should do the same thing—be welcoming to athletes based on their skills, not based on who they love. I would have come out while I was still playing if there was something like that implicated and supported by the players. It sure would have given me the confidence and drive to play to the best of my potential."

—**On an out active player in one of the big four male sports:** "As time goes on, and the way things are progressing with our younger generation coming out, [plus] President Obama's stance on gay marriage, I wouldn't be surprised if it happens this coming year."

—**On his catering business, for events in the Minneapolis area:** "I learned to cook Hawaiian-style from my mom and other chefs from restaurants that I have been part of. I combine my catering skills with singing, if the host wants me to. I like to call myself 'The Singing Chef.'"



Esera Tuaolo. SKREBNESKI PHOTOGRAPH © 2006. Take as part of promotion for Gay Games VII in Chicago.

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NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Idina Menzel: 'Barefoot' in the park



BY JERRY NUNN

Thanks to Broadway roles in productions ranging from *Rent* to *Wicked*, Idina Menzel has gained a legion of fans through the years.

After winning the Tony Award in 2004 for playing Elphaba in *Wicked*, she went on to appear in several movies, such as *Enchanted*, and perform her solo work at Lilith Fair. Her turn as Shelby Corcoran, Rachel Berry's biological mother on Fox's *Glee*, was a match made in heaven and broadened her appeal.

Menzel recently made a DVD and album of her tour called *Live: Barefoot at the Symphony*. She brings a similar tour to Ravinia for an outdoor concert with wine and cheese, and we tracked her down on the road to talk about it.

Windy City Times: Hi, Idina. Last time I saw you was at your show in Indianapolis.

Idina Menzel: Did we hang out after?

WCT: We did.

Menzel: I'm sorry. I am trying to put it all together.

WCT: That concert seemed very similar to the *Barefoot* video. Was it all part of the same tour?

Menzel: Yes, the PBS special was a culmination of a whole year and a half of touring that you saw. This tour has some things that are the same and a few things that people have been asking me to keep. They have become things that people expect. I have changed about 75 percent of it.

WCT: Are you still wearing that purple dress?

Menzel: [Laughs] There are a couple of dresses I like to switch out and one of them happens to be fuchsia, which is the one on the cover—and that happens to just be coincidence.

WCT: I never ask celebrities their favorite color but I thought yours must be fuchsia.

Menzel: No, but everyone tells me they are the best colors for me. When I was in *Glee*, Ryan

Murphy was always making me wear purple.

WCT: It looks good on you. Is Ravinia the first stop on this tour?

Menzel: No, it's not. This whole month I have been on the road. We started in Vancouver. We are doing about 21 dates through the whole month. I have been with my 2-year-old on a tour bus.

WCT: How is that going?

Menzel: It is going great, better than expected. I was very anxious about it. He is doing great. It is not the same because your mind and your heart are split as you get used to life. He gets to see me every day.

WCT: Does your husband, Taye Diggs, pop in to some of your shows?

Menzel: Yes; he did the whole northern California part of it. He is on hiatus from [the TV series] *Private Practice* so he has some vacation time. He was with us and then went to Europe to visit some really good friends of ours; then, he will be back.

WCT: You guys are making it work!

Menzel: Well, we don't stay in separate cities for very long. That is rule number one, really—no more than a couple of weeks. With the baby it has become even less than that. If we have to sacrifice the job because of that, we will. We just know from all of these years of being together, and the ups and downs, that you have to put each other first; otherwise, it can lead to feeling very alienated from each other.

WCT: I love the personal stories that you tell in the show.

Menzel: Oh, thanks. I tell some of those again and I have a bunch of new stuff. It has been fun. I try to keep spontaneous but have this sort of elegant evening but also very improvised. The balance of all of that has been fun for me to play with. I think it has been going over really well. To be out there playing music and doing it for a living especially in this climate of the music industry it feels very empowering. We are hitting the cities and pounding the pavement.

WCT: Do you want to make another studio album soon?

Menzel: Yeah; probably next year I will get into the studio again. I want to compile a bunch of songs from this tour that I think are really working. I want more orchestra with the new songs. I am not really sure. I have to think about it a little more.

WCT: Are you going to sing "Brave?"

Menzel: That is probably a sign because people have been asking that lately. It is not in there. You know, I get tired of my own music and I forget that people want to hear it. I don't have

it in the set list but maybe I can get it in there in time for Chicago.

WCT: Maybe you can squeeze it in. It seems like a very good anti-bullying song.

Menzel: That's true. Thank you for reminding me.

WCT: Your gay fans have certainly made you a household name.

Menzel: I don't know if I am a household name but I am certainly very grateful to the gay community.

WCT: There are a lot of Glee fans out there, too. What did you think of that storyline with Puck?

Menzel: It was fun for me!

WCT: He's a cutie.

Menzel: Yeah, he's cute. It was a cool storyline by Ryan Murphy. I was excited to be back. It was complex and a little risky but it was fun.

WCT: Do you know of other plans to return to *Glee*?

Menzel: No; they don't let you know until they know.

WCT: Do you watch *The Glee Project* on Oxygen?



Idina Menzel. Photo by Robin Wong

Menzel: No; I was on it once as a judge but haven't seen it since.

WCT: Your old buddy from *Wicked*, Kristin Chenoweth, is coming next in concert, too.

Menzel: She seems to be within a couple of weeks on my whole tour. We are following in each other's footsteps, which I like. She is christening all of these theaters and dressing rooms for me and bringing me good luck.

WCT: Do you get a chance to Twitter to her or talk much these days?

Menzel: We do a little bit but we are both so busy. Twitter is an easy way to do it but it would be nice to get together socially.

WCT: I know she is on vocal rest but do you take care of your voice as well for those high notes on "Defying Gravity?"

Menzel: I do. She is pretty infallible so she's probably just sick. She can usually just sing for days and it doesn't even matter. She takes off and has a beautiful voice. I, on the other hand, can't even sing until I get on stage for a couple of weeks and try to build up the amount I will be

singing. It is like running a marathon, so doing three miles [and] then five miles. With belting, it is a muscle; the more I prepare it, the better I do.

I have a couple of pieces that the orchestra is prepared to play a half-step lower in case I am not feeling it. I am not ashamed of that because I would rather be there the next night at another city than miss a show. There is nothing worse than feeling pressure to hit notes. You just want to be up there and have fun and be yourself. People don't care if it's a C or a C sharp.

WCT: Singing live, you have to be ready for a back-up plan.

Menzel: Exactly. Just having a back-up plan makes me feel at ease and relaxed. I do that on Broadway, too. I have an A show and a B show. You probably wouldn't even know the difference. There are only a couple of melody changes. Instead of making myself feel intimidated, I just hit the B show and make it awesome! Then I never feel like I am coming up short; it is all psychological and how you set it up in your brain.

WCT: At Ravinia you have nothing to worry about. People bring their blankets and drink wine on the lawn and are laid back.

Menzel: I heard it is one of the best venues in the whole country. I am very excited about it.

WCT: Hopefully, it won't be too hot.

Menzel: We were just in Nashville and it was hot but the sun went down and a breeze came and it was nice. It is a whole other vibe than being indoors that I like. It is nice to trade off.

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WCT: Do you have more Broadway projects planned?

Menzel: Yeah, I am missing the theater community. I have dipped my toe in the water with a couple of different projects that are in very early stages. They are original pieces and out of respect for the writers I don't really talk about it but I do talk about originating things. Being invited into their process is an honor. That has worked for me in the past and hopefully one of these things will bring me to New York soon.

WCT: You have a new movie coming out, too?

Menzel: Yes—I am so excited. It is animated and called *Frozen*. It is with Kristen Bell, who will be singing. It is a beautiful story. It will come out sooner than you think because they have done a lot of the artwork for it already. It might be a year away.

Catch Idina Menzel at Ravinia, 418 Sheridan Rd., Highland Park, on Sunday, July 8. Visit www.ravinia.org for ticket information.

PERRY from cover

sexual things, and I just decided to throw her a curveball. I do not discriminate against any beauty no matter what form it comes in, and Rihanna is gorgeous. I think that everybody would tap it if they could.

WCT: Have you ever kissed a gay boy and liked it?

Perry: Yes, I have. It's so funny. This boy I pseudo-dated in high school, a fantastic flamenco dancer, was in Fiddler on the Roof with me and we were dating during the production, and I had just a tiny part but I was his first kiss. Cut to 10 years later, or even more, and we're out at this place called Rasputin—this incredible gay club in Hollywood—and come to find out, he's making out with my stylist. He's still in it to win it, and he's just become a part of our crew.

WCT: You've been hanging out with your gay friends in West Hollywood a lot lately. What's been your most memorable gay night out?

Perry: I don't really decipher it as gay night or straight night; it's the same night continually. I came from a really interesting perspective—interesting being the keyword, because it was obviously very suppressing and sheltering. I was set to think that gay people were an abomination, so I was not allowed to speak to anyone who was obviously fabulous and I was never allowed to associate with that type of people. Really, generally, I was never allowed to associate with anybody that wasn't Christian. So I was kind of trapped in a bubble, and then it finally burst years later. Now I think that 90 percent of everyone I work with, from my assistant to two out of three of my managers, is either gay or lesbian. It's been an incredible journey of acceptance and tolerance.

WCT: Where are your parents now on gay people?

Perry: My parents have actually become more accepting and tolerant now. We've all grown up and evolved and broadened our mindset. Some-

times people have a really picky way of eating, right? And they don't like certain foods, but a lot of times they haven't even tried those foods. Once they try or know or get educated and have the facts, they're more comfortable and there's no judgment on your shrimp cocktail. I know that sounds so strange, but it's this simple thing. A lot of people just aren't educated; they still have this 1950s mindset, unfortunately.

WCT: You've said Madonna had a lot of influence on this film, and her 1991 documentary Truth or Dare really resonated with the gay community.

Perry: Yes, and still continues to.

WCT: Do you think Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D will have a similar effect on the gay community?

Perry: I hope that people see that they don't have to change themselves in order to achieve their goals or dreams, and they can accept the skin that they live in and overcome obstacles or judgments. The theme of this movie is me overcoming obstacles: where I came from, problems with my record label and my personal struggles. A lot of times, people wanted me to be like someone else or sing like someone else or write like someone else. I wanted to be the first Katy Perry, but they couldn't accept that. So hopefully people can come away from [the film] saying, "I don't have to change myself. I don't have to fit in. I don't have to be what someone else wants me to be in order to reach my goals in life."

WCT: After what happened with Gaga—where Madonna mashed up "Born This Way" with "Express Yourself" for her upcoming tour and called Gaga "reductive"—are you scared of being too inspired by Madonna?

Perry: No. I'm inspired by everyone. And you know, I think that the queens love a little catfight every once in a while. It's good for the cocktails and the conversation, I'll tell you that.

WCT: "Ur So Gay" and "I Kissed a Girl" didn't sit well with some of the gay commu-



Katy Perry. Photo courtesy of Capitol Records

nity when they came out. You obviously have a huge gay following now, but did you feel like you needed to prove your authenticity after all the uproar over those songs?

Perry: I never really try and try hard. I like things to roll out naturally. People like to put me in a box. From the first official single, "I Kissed a Girl," they always said I was a one-trick pony, and I've always known what I was gonna do next in my play-by-play and how I was gonna roll out the moments—and "I Kissed a Girl" was the strongest song for me at the time.

It was also on the tip of everybody's tongue pop culturally, even on television shows like Gossip Girl people were talking about it, and it was becoming more of an accepted idea to be bi-curious and to be bisexual. The song just took it over the edge for the public in some ways,

but I think that anybody who saw a confusing message in those songs was either looking for a fight or taking it completely out of context. Anyone that really understood the songs understood the songs for what they were.

WCT: Now that more gay couples are able to legally marry, what would you tell them about marriage from your own experience?

Perry: It's everybody's individual experience. I think you can be in love without walking down the aisle, or you can walk down the aisle and be in love, but everybody deserves that choice and I think that equality is very important. People ask me questions about the whole Obama thing and him coming out and saying it publicly, and I'm like, "I hope soon enough we'll look back and say to ourselves how ridiculous it was to think this way, just like it was during the civil-rights movement." We're embarrassed. And it is completely embarrassing. We're a young country and we're developing slowly; we're not as cultured as the Europeans, but that's OK. We're gonna get there, and hopefully there will be more tolerance in the world very soon and we won't make the same mistake twice.

WCT: You've shot whipped cream and fireworks out of your boobs...

Perry: Actually, if you look at the placement of those fireworks, they come from my spirit. [Laughs] But I know people love going straight to the tits. They're a big target on me.

WCT: If you could shoot anything else out of your boobs, what would it be?

Perry: I'm gonna shoot down hate. I'm gonna shoot down all the people that hate, that sip on our haterade, that hate just to hate. I'm gonna shoot them down. But I'm gonna shoot them down with love bullets. And they're non-violent. They don't even hurt you. Like a Cupid's arrow, they just turn you into a more tolerant, loving person.

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

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www.scroogeandmarleymovie.com

Chicago's 43rd Annual Pride Parade

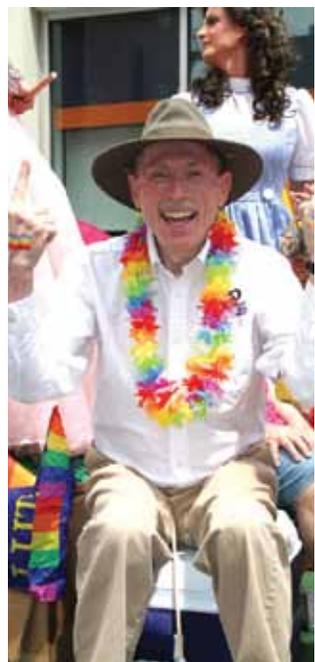
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Chicago's 43rd Annual Pride Parade

Photos by Hal Baim, Susan Mattes and Ross Forman. See www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com for many more Pride weekend event photos.



Correction: In last week's issue, Tim Carroll Photography's pictures of Pride Fest were mistakenly credited to Ed Negron. Windy City Times regrets the error.

See www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com for hundreds of photos from Pride weekend. And pick up next week's Windy City Times for coverage of Chicago's Black Pride events.



30 Under 30 at the Center

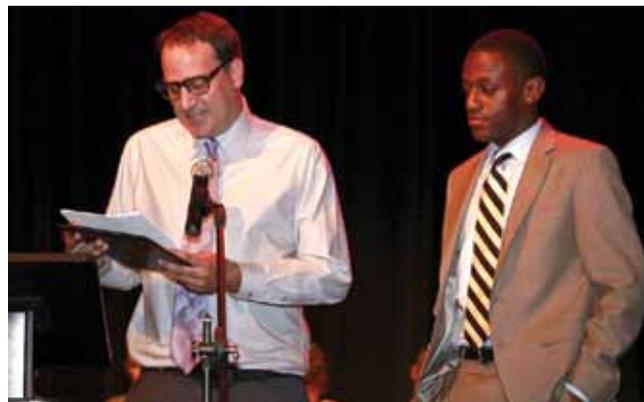
The annual Windy City Times 30 Under 30 Awards ceremony was held June 28 at the Center on Halsted.

Honorees excel in areas ranging from politics to clothing design to social services. Season of Concern's Stephen Rader and Windy City Times entertainment reporter Jerry Nunn co-hosted the event.

The ceremony began with a moment of silence for teen Texas lesbian couple Mollie Olgin, 19, and Mary Kristene Chapa, 18, who were gunned down. (Olgin died.) The 43rd anniversary of the Stonewall Riots (which took place in the early-morning hours of June 28, 1969) was also noted.

The sponsors for the ceremony were the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, the Center on Halsted and Chicago House, while Polo Cafe and Catering provided edibles.

Photos by Dave Ouano





WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Michael Jordan's Steak House; Volare

BY ANDREW DAVIS

I have to admit: I was initially skeptical about Michael Jordan's Steak House (505 N. Michigan Ave.; www.michaeljordansteakhouse.com), despite the owner's past and present success in the restaurant field.

However, one thing became clear when I entered the restaurant, located in the InterContinental Chicago on Michigan Avenue: The people here want to impress patrons as much as possible.

That aim became clear upon walking up the staircase and then crossing a magnificent walkway to enter the dining area. Staffers (such as the eternally smiling Jennifer) were not only extremely knowledgeable but seemed genuinely nice.



Michael Jordan's Steak House's prime Delmonico steak and the 23-layer chocolate cake. PR photos

Executive Chef James O'Donnell—who's worked at the other Michael Jordan's Steak Houses in New York and Connecticut—certainly knows what he's doing. He told me that what distinguishes this steakhouse from others in Chicago is that he leans toward locally sourced items, including the grass-fed beef and side dishes such as asparagus. O'Donnell also favors a simple approach to his dishes, adding half-jokingly that the goal is "to not screw it up."

Not only does O'Donnell not screw it up—his dishes are darn near magical. I usually avoid bread at restaurants, trying to avoid some dreaded carbs. However, the garlic bread with Roth Kase blue-cheese fondue is the very essence of heaven on earth. (Another appetizer that seems very tempting is the double-smoked bacon with a maple syrup/black pepper glaze.)

Among the entrees I tried was the so-called colossal crab cake (with asparagus-arugula salad and Meyer lemon aioli), which was thankfully packed with meat. MJ's prime Delmonico steak, the signature piece of meat, is unlike any steak I've tasted in the city—and I mean that in a

good way. The ribeye is dry-aged for 28 days and it's topped with a ginger balsamic jus, resulting in a dish with striking flavor.

And as if all that isn't enough, the restaurant excels with its desserts as well. One of the signature items is the 23-layer chocolate cake (to pay homage to Jordan wearing "23" when he played); it's delicious, but most people won't be able to finish it at the restaurant. Other offerings include gelato and sorbet (courtesy of Black Dog Gelato); carrot cake and mascarpone terrine; and lemon-poppysseed goat cheesecake.

What can I say? Michael Jordan's Steak House has scored a slam dunk.

See www.mjshchicago.com.

Volare (201 E. Grand Ave.; www.volarerestaurant.com) has been a fixture in Streeterville, but recently reopened after expanding its space. Many things are new, including floors, tables and chairs. (However, some things remain the same—including the warmth that greets you when you walk in the door.)

The menu has also changed, from Italian-

American fare to items that more accurately reflect authentic Italian cuisine—and, for the most part, it succeeds. Our server (who recently seemed concerned about our digestion for some reason) made innumerable suggestions.

Things got off to a slow start with the antipasti. My dining companion and I tried a combination of mortadella, Gorgonzola dolce and olive oil tomatoes; it was solid but not amazing. Moreover, the grigliata mista (grilled sea scallops, calamari, octopus and shrimp in a balsamic vinaigrette) was too charred and needed lemon to counter the taste.

However, the black-ink spaghetti should never be taken off the menu. The same goes for the salmone al forno (salmon marinated in olive oil and lemon). Desserts were also a high point, thanks to the chocolate marjolaine (chocolate meringue layers with Swiss chocolate mousse).

The proof is in the pudding—or, in this case, the spaghetti. There's a reason Volare has bustling crowds, even during the week.

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Celebrations

A 35th celebration for Borovina and Fisher

Leslie Fisher (left) and Geege Borovina, longtime Chicago activists and businesswomen, celebrated their 35th anniversary in style last weekend at the Polo Cafe surrounded by dozens of friends and family members. It was also Fisher's birthday celebration.

Photo by Tracy Baim



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calendar

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Wed., July 4

HIV support group for 22-34-year-olds For anyone living with HIV regardless of length of diagnosis, we offer HIV+ support groups. Our support groups run on 10-week cycles and are age-specific. Pre-registration required. 6pm-7:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St.

GenderQueer Chicago GenderQueer Chicago is a grassroots, peer-led group that works to create safe spaces for all of us to talk about, think about, explore, and express gender. Meetings are intended to be a safe, encouraging and supportive environment. They are open to those who wish to talk and think about gender! 6:30pm-7:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St.

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

Curtains Up! Showtune Video Night Come and enjoy the music of the Great White Way and the Silver Screen, 9pm, The Call (Chicago), 1547 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

Thursday, July 5

Cirque Shanghai: Year of the Dragon Running through 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

PHI TO BE Thursday, July 5

Phi Phi O'Hara is among those headlining Dollhouse Drag Revue at Spin, 800 W. Belmont Ave.

Photo by Mathu Andersen



Eshel Midwest GLBT Summer Retreat A summer retreat for traditional Jewish GLBTQ people. Through July 8 at a rustic retreat site for children and adults, partnered or single. 2pm, Ronora Lodge and Retreat Center, Watervliet, Mich., www.eshelonline.org/

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

Open gym volleyball Come meet new people. 6pm-9pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

American Veterans for Equal Rights (GLBT veterans) Monthly meeting first Thursday of each month. 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.averchicago.org

Dollhouse Drag Revue 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, July 6

Trans amor A peer-led, casual conversation group open to current partners of gender non-conforming/transgender identified individuals, as well as those considering entering a relationship with someone who is gender non-conforming/transgender. T-Amor is always open to individuals of any gender identity/sexual orientation. 6:30pm-9pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Man cave A peer-led casual conversation group, for those 18 and older, who identify as female to male, transgender individuals, or are female bodied and are questioning their gender. First and third Fridays of each month. 7pm-8pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St.

Club Kylie: 2nd Anniversary Celebrate two years of all things Ms. Minogue with DJ Riley York. 9pm, The Call (Chicago), 1547 W Bryn Mawr, Chicago, http://www.facebook.com/thecalbar

Steamwerkz The Musical 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. 8:30pm, Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N. Broadway, www.theannoyance.com

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

Saturday, July 7

Lincoln Park Arts & Music Festival Art, music, kids' area, food in one of the city's most cosmopolitan neighborhoods. Through July 8. 12pm-10pm, 773-868-3010, on Racine Avenue between Fullerton and Webster in the heart of the DePaul/Lincoln Park neighborhood, www.chicagoevents.com

'8' The Play in Rock Island Reading of a new play chronicling the historic trial in the federal legal challenge to California's Proposition 8. 2pm, 309-235-1654, The District Theatre, 1611 2nd Ave., Rock Island, www.8theplay.com; Tickets: www.districttheatre.com

Dancing With The Queer Stars event and

free camp planned Event and free camp are diverse ballroom dance competition where local queer stars team up to compete in ballroom style dance. Dancers include gay hall of fame legend Jackie Anderson, filmmaker Ky Dickens, Dr. Robert Garofalo, transwoman activist Kokumo and socialite David Dodd. Co-hosted by Chicago's own C.C Carter and Brandee 'Starra' Young. \$20 in advance and \$25 for VIP which includes unlimited wine. Tickets at the door will be \$30. 7pm-10pm, 773-807-3546, Provision Theatre, 1001 W. Roosevelt Rd. Tickets: www.dancingwiththequeerstarschicago2012.eventbrite.com.

D.I.L.F. kickoff party (first Saturday of every month) for men over 35 and men who want them. Hosted by Jason Hendrix with music from Nightspots' own DJ Marc "Moose" Moder. Hot Daddy contest at midnight with great prizes and bragging rights. Audience picks the winner, so bring your friends. \$3.75 Stella Artois. No cover. 9pm, The Sofo Tap, 4923 N. Clark St., www.thesofotap.com

Sunday, July 8

Worship at the Lakefront St. Mark's Episcopal Church moves worship outdoors in July and August. Everyone is welcome! 9:30am-10:30am, 847-864-4806, Evanston Lakefront (at Hamilton Street), www.stmarksevanston.org

Summer PRIDE Film Festival The Gay and Straight Together Ministry of United in Faith Lutheran Church, a welcoming and affirming congregation, invites you to Summer PRIDE, a film festival dealing with different aspects of homosexuality and our faith. 2pm-7pm, 773-283-2326, United in Faith Lutheran church 6525 W. Irving Park Rd., www.unitedinfaith.org

Idina Menzel In Concert Tony Award-winning performer Idina Menzel (Rent, Wicked, Glee) is joined by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and composer/conductor Marvin Hamlisch for an unforgettable evening of song. 5pm-7pm, 847-266-5100, Ravinia Festival, www.ravinia.org

Chicago Prime Timers 6pm social hour, 7pm dinner. Guest entertainment Matthew Agnew, cellist. Prime Timers are older gay or bisexual men (and younger men who admire mature men). Second Sunday of each month. BYOB. \$20 members/\$25 non-members. Ann Sather - Belmont, 909 W. Belmont Ave., www.chicagoprimetimers.org

Hunter's Boom Boom Revue: Blonde Ambition Show Come out to Hunter's Nightclub for their Blonde Ambition Show hosted by Angel LeBare; 10:30pm, 847-439-8840, Hunters, 1932 E. Higgins Rd., Elk Grove Village, www.facebook.com/huntersboomboomrevue

Monday, July 9

Job Club The Center on Halsted has set aside time in the Cyber Center for folks who are looking for work. FREE; 10am-12pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Open gym volleyball Come play volleyball and meet new people. 6pm-9pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, Chicago, www.centeronhalsted.org

LGBT Narcotics Anonymous LGBT meetings take place Mondays. For more info, call Anthony Oltean at 312-208-4021. 8pm-9pm, Haymarket Center, 20 N. Sangamon St.

Live Band Karaoke with Amy Armstrong Every Monday night at 10PM in the Front Bar, hosted by the one and only Amy Armstrong; 10pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N. Halsted St., www.roscoes.com

Andersonville Green Week Created by eco-Andersonville, the week-long event highlights Andersonville's commitment to sustainable living with events, activities, and demos. Through July 15; 11pm, 5356 N. Clark St.



ALONG FOR THE RIDE

Sat.-Sun., July 14-15

Ride for AIDS will span 200 miles to Wisconsin and back to Chicago.

Photo from 2011 by Ross Forman

Tuesday, July 10

Mario, Make Me a Model open model calls Mario Tricoci Hair Salons & Day Spas is bringing Chicago's beauty into focus this summer as it launches its fifth annual search for the modeling stars of the future. 10am-5pm, Mario Tricoci Hair Salon & Day Spa, 900 N. Michigan Ave., www.mariomakemeamodel.com

The confident modern family Join us for wine and hors d'oeuvres to learn how to create the modern family. There will be a panel discussion on the emotional, legal and financial complexities that LGBTQ families face. 5:30pm-7:45pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St.

Anything Beau's A multimedia comedy satire about a country gay man and his big dreams in the face of harsh reality. With video and live sketches, commercial parodies, dance routines and audience participation, Anything Beau's is gay comedy accessible to everyone. 7:30pm-8:30pm, 773-598-4549, Gorilla Tango Theatre, http://anythingbeaus.com

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

Saturday, July 14

Ride for AIDS Ride for AIDS Chicago is a two-day, 200-mile, bicycling event produced by Test Positive Aware Network and designed to raise needed monies for TPAN and Community Partners. 7/14/2012 4:30 am - 7/15/2012 6:00 pm; 4:30am-11:45pm, www.rideforaids.org

NW Indiana Rainbow Days 5th Gay Pride Parade and Picnic follows. 12pm, 25th and Adams St. to Taft St., Gary, Ind.

Sunday, July 15

Jay Michaelson: A Holy Conversation, Sexuality and Religion Best-selling author Jay Michaelson will speak at the 9:30 and 11:30 am 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 pm. 9:30am, 773-973-0007, Unity in Chicago (Unity Church), 1925 W. Thome Ave., www.unitychicago.org

Wed., July 18

7th biennial Deaf Lesbian Festival Workshops, entertainment, socializing, activities, dyke ball, sightseeing in Chicago. The first time DLF will be held in the Midwest. Through July 21. Email DLFchicago2012@gmail.com. 4pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.deaflesbianfestival.org; Tickets: www.deaflesbianfestival.org/chicago2012/regform.html



KY ANXIETY

Saturday, July 7

Filmmaker Ky Dickens will be one of the participants in "Dancing with the Queer Stars" at Provision Theatre, 1001 W. Roosevelt Rd.

Press photo

BILLY MASTERS

"I used to have this guy who came to my office for like a hundred dollars and it took an hour."—Anderson Cooper tells Kathy Griffin about his former barber. When Kathy quipped, "It sounds like a prostitute, but continue the story," Andy added, "Believe me, it would not take that long!"

Gay Pride Month is drawing to a close, and this year all our little gay celebrities were busy entertaining the masses. As you know, I've hosted many of these celebrations around the country. In my many years hosting L.A. Pride, it was very difficult to get certain people involved. Ellen DeGeneres—impossible. Even when her mom Betty was the grand marshal, no Ellen. Another was Melissa Etheridge. She refused to discuss it. In fact, she wouldn't even allow Tammy to participate—and we all know how that turned out. The unofficial word we got was that Etheridge felt that performing at gay pride would "cheapen her brand." So I was understandably surprised when I heard she headlined Pittsburgh Pride. Pittsburgh? No offense, but how did they get her? She was asked this question by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, and here's what she said: "I have often been asked to come to this pride thing or that pride thing, but Pittsburgh was the first time that there was an actual offer of the kind of money I'm used to getting." I believe that's the same reason Miss Elton gave for singing at Rush's wedding.

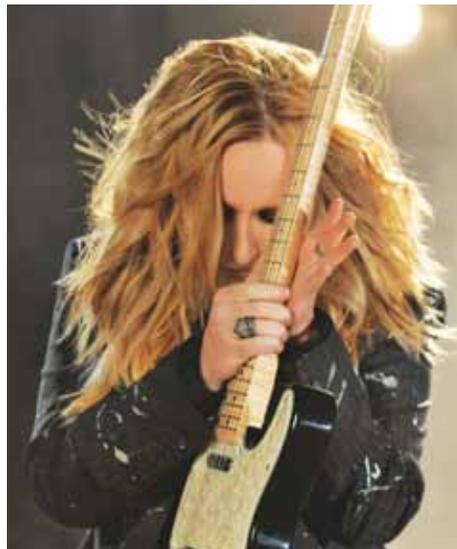
Many people use these celebrations to draw attention to the many issues we as gay people still need to work toward. We ain't where we was, but we ain't where we ought to be. But we sure have come a long way in a short amount of time. You'll understand if I use as an example something ever-so-slightly tawdry. Back in 1992, Dirk Shafer was a Playgirl centerfold and later became their Man of the Year. During his "reign" (such as it was), he was very careful to maintain a hetero façade. I suppose he could have been dethroned and replaced by the male equivalent of Suzette Charles! He did eventually come out and produced Man of the Year, a mockumentary depicting his experience. And now, 20 years later, he's back in Playgirl—this time as a proud openly gay man. And he should be proud—to be able to look that good nude 20 years later is certainly an accomplishment. The issue won't be available for another month, but I'm sure something current will pop up on BillyMasters.com.

Every generation has its male-stripper movie. We had the beautiful Gregory Harrison in For Ladies Only. We had hunky Christopher Atkins in A Night in Heaven. And now we have a gaggle of guys in Magic Mike. But it doesn't arrive without some controversy. Channing Tatum has been accused of stealing some of the dancers' signature moves (known as the "hot seat"—variations of which have gone on since Salome) and even the storylines from the lives of two strippers he worked with—Thomas "Awesome" Austin and London Steele (names, I suspect, that don't appear on any birth certificates). Channing replied, "Look, there's nothing that's factual in this whole movie" and "Those guys have been trying to make money off of me since I got into this business." They ain't the only ones. Someone has leaked a few pics and vids of Chan in his stripper prime—including a rather embarrassing attempt at doing the "YMCA." Watching the video on BillyMasters.com will surely put to rest any gay rumors.

Cheyenne Jackson is awfully busy these days—which is doing wonders for his physique. To help promote his upcoming solo CD (available July 10), he's on the July cover of Attitude magazine—and the pics inside will certainly heat things up (of course, they're also on Billy-

Masters.com). He'll also guest-star in the pilot episode of Mockingbird Lane, a reboot of The Munsters that will star Portia de Rossi, Jerry O'Connell and Eddie Izzard. As if that weren't enough, he's also joined the cast of the soon-to-be-filming Liberace flick for HBO. Who would he be playing? "I'm not allowed to say who I'm playing, but it's pretty exciting," he's said. Scott Bakula will play choreographer Bob Black, who introduced Lee to Scott Thomson. Rob Lowe will play Liberace's plastic surgeon.

It's been a few weeks, so why not give you a John Travolta update. Remember Fabian Zanzi? The Chilean Royal Caribbean room-service waiter who claims Travolta made sexual advances on him? Well, now he's giving us the dialogue—in case someone wants to make a movie eventually. According to Zanzi (who, I'm guessing, does not speak English as his first language), Travolta disrobed, showed his erect penis, flipped onto his stomach and said, "Take me. I will take care of you. Please." Well, at least he said "please"—although he might have gotten farther with a "por favor." Allegedly, Zanzi was offered \$12K in hush money (an odd figure—maybe a thousand a month), which he declined. He's threatening



Billy says that money talks when it comes to Melissa Etheridge. Photo from Universal

to sue ... perhaps on Caso Cerrado (yes, another reference—because it's my favorite show).

Meanwhile, remember Robert Randolph? He's the guy who wrote all about Travolta's spa dalliances in You'll Never Spa in This Town Again. Anyway, he's also suing John for slander. He claims that Travolta and his attorney Marty Singer told publishers that he was a little crazy and had spent time in a mental institution. It should be noted that in Randolph's book and on his website, he freely discusses getting beaten up by another spa-goer and that he sustained "permanent brain damage." At least that explains why he went back!

And speaking of books, remember Doug Gotterba, the pilot who was allegedly Travolta's boyfriend for six years? Well, now he's writing a book! And he's got two co-writers ready to help him. I just hope everyone connected has a clean bill of mental health. But, frankly, I think anyone crazy enough to get involved with John Travolta really should have his head examined. Just my opinion.

When working for Travolta requires a confidentiality agreement and a competency test, it's time to end yet another column. We ran a tad long, so I barely have time to remind you to check out www.BillyMasters.com, the site that shows all. If you've got a question, just send it to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Channing turns up in a revival of Gypsy. So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Lesbian roller-derby player talks love, sports and family

BY ROSS FORMAN

Jackie Daniels is in her eighth season as a roller derby standout, but, with the experience comes a bit of light-hearted ribbing.

"I am getting to be a granny of the sport," she said with a smile. "I have to do all I can to keep up with these young, healthy bodies on the track. I was joking with our youngest All-Star member the other day, calling her 'Young



Jackie Daniels. Photo by Gil Leora

Tender,' and telling her to drop 'Granny,' referring to myself."

Rachel Bockheim, the real-life Jackie Daniels, is 33 and lives in the Wicker Park/Bucktown area. She has been in Chicago for a little more than two years and works as a project manager for a rendering and animation company. She claims she is now "single-ish, though I recently met someone. She stuns me every second with her vivid capacity for life. I'm not known for commitments, but this one—she's got it if she wants it."

Daniels is in her third season with the Windy City Rollers, a member of the Fury and co-captain for the WCR All-Stars.

She previously skated, and lived, in Grand Rapids, Mich., where she built her on-track style: friendly, yet fierce. She's a pivot, which is a front-of-the-pack, typically defensive position. She also has been a jammer, the point-scoring player.

"People say about love, you know when you know," Daniels said. "Well, I was never so certain about anything in my life until I heard about roller derby. Even though I knew next to nothing about the sport [when I started], I still knew I was going to play it; it was never a question. It's truly my first love. If I was meant to do anything, it was this.

"Roller derby is hard work that is very challenging—and a little healthy competition. I love the derby community, a fun-loving and supportive one. There is a ton of opportunity for growth in derby."

Daniels tried several sports while growing up



Jackie Daniels (front) in action. Photo by Gil Leora

and was very active in gymnastics until the age of 14. "I wasn't much for sports with balls. While I've tried [them], it's with little success," she said. "Basically, if it requires legs and strapping things on your body, I can do it, [such as] water/snow skiing, roller/ice skating [and] wake/skate boarding; they all come pretty naturally to me."

Roller derby, too, as she launched her career with the Grand Raggy Roller Girls (GRRG)—memories that, still today, are very special to her.

"It's a little bit painful to think about all the memories I have and to still not be with them," Daniels said. "Going to watch my first game not as a GRRG skater was one of the hardest things I've done, which was really unexpected. I was nearly an original member and was a leader on and off the track. I was part of so many amazing things, like picking team names, developing the first uniforms, planning crazy parties, printing the T-shirts and the gritty work. I was involved in all aspects of the business development.

"I saw many of the skaters [on] the first day they strapped on skates, made teams, or skated in a Regional tournament. I met some of the most influential people and challenges in my life during those years; I cherish them. I skated for the Blue Collar Broads home team, and was captain of the [GRRG] All Stars each of my seasons there. There is a lot of heart, hard work and laughter in GRRG—they are a fantastic league and I am so proud to have been part of it."

Chicago's WCR are among the elite nationally, currently ranked No. 10 overall and No. 1 in the North Central Region.

"When I started derby seven years ago, all I had to do was sign a waiver," Daniels recalls. "These women are now training for months just to try out for our farm team to hopefully make a team sometime after. Our travel team, particularly All Star tryouts, are cut-throat. We have skaters training for spots on our Second Wind team that could be starters on 'A' teams in smaller cities. WCR is deep, and that says a lot for the longevity of our sport and how Chicago can remain a top competitor.

"The biggest misconception about derby is that people stereotype players all the time. It's a shame. We are all too pretty/big/small to play roller derby and all lesbians throw elbows—didn't you know?"

Daniels' derby goal is a WFTDA championship tourney win for the All Stars, "and I have some crazy ideas about what I can do to remain involved [in the sport] when my body wears out," she said.

Daniels said her career highlight came last October when her parents and aunt attended the

North Central Regional playoffs. "They have always been so supportive of derby, but they had never witnessed the competition and community of a multi-game tourney like that," Daniels said. "WCR made out with a couple close wins late in the weekend to remain in first-place and secure a first-round bye at Championships. There were truly little miracle moments in these games by the All Stars.

"My parents were so energized and ultimately, so proud. My mom was spotted at brunch and talked to some random roller girls; I guess they fanned out on her because she was Jackie Daniels' mom. She felt like a rock star.

"I took the hardest hit I've had in derby [during those playoffs] by running into my own teammate at top speed. I got up really slowly to finish that jam, but I was not in good shape. My dad came running to the bench after to see if I was OK; he was so worried. It was really amazing for me to see them so engaged. I think it brought a whole new perspective of derby to them, and seeing them really, really understand what I have poured my heart and soul into for the last seven years was incredible."

Daniels said derby has led to multiple annoying, nagging injuries. She's endured broken fingers, hip pointers, sprained knees, vocal-cord nodules, and more. "I have added a strong cross-training regimen [through] On Your Mark Training; that is helping me stay strong and, hopefully, injury-free for a long while."

Nike holds LGBT sports summit on bullying, bias

Many of the nation's top LGBTQ sports leaders joined Nike representatives at that company's world headquarters in Beaverton, Ore., for the first-ever Nike LGBT sports summit to combat bullying and anti-LGBTQ bias and discrimination in sports, according to a press release.

Advocates and organizations pooled their expertise and strengths to develop a unified plan to end harassment and discrimination against LGBTQ athletes and coaches in kindergarten through high school, college, recreational sports and pro sports.

Outsports co-founder Cyd Zeigler began developing the summit last year. Zeigler then joined forces with National Center for Lesbian Rights Sports Project Director Helen Carroll and Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network's (GLSEN's) "Changing the Game" Sports Director Pat Griffin.

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This past year we have witnessed three of the most substantive changes in the law that I have seen in over 35 years. This week concerns the Illinois Residential Real Property Transfer on Death Instrument Act

This new law effective Jan 1, 2012 provides for a non-probate transfer of real estate upon the death of the owner. The benefit of the new law is that allows for the creation of a "transfer on death instrument" (T.O.D.I.) that when properly witnessed, acknowledged, (Just like a will) and recorded, allows an owner of residential real estate to transfer the property to a stated beneficiary effective only upon the owner's death. It must be residential real estate; and the TODI must be recorded prior to the owner's death.

After the owner's death, the beneficiary must record a Notice of Death Affidavit and Acceptance. Failure to do that can lead to loss of the beneficiary's interest in the property as it goes back to the estate of the owner.

The law provides a way to contest the validity of a TODI if an action is commenced within the earlier of 2 years after the date of the owner's death or 6 months from the date that letters of office are issued.

One very big problem with using a TODI to pass title of real estate to someone is that title is not insurable during this 2 year contest period. Title companies will not insure title for a new buyer until the contest threat is over.

I like these for same sex couples because: with many couples one person will own the house when the relationship starts and has many reasons not to put their partner in title while alive. One such reason is that there could be a gift tax issue if they do. That leaves only a will or a trust to pass title to their partner.

Problem with Trusts is that clients find them very complex and expensive. The problem with just a will is that you usually have to probate the will to pass title to the beneficiary of the will AND Probate opens the estate and the house to claims of creditors of the owner Such as. credit card bills and student loans.

The benefit of the TODI is the potential it has preserve the real estate from the creditors of the decedent owner by avoiding probate. More next week on TODI.

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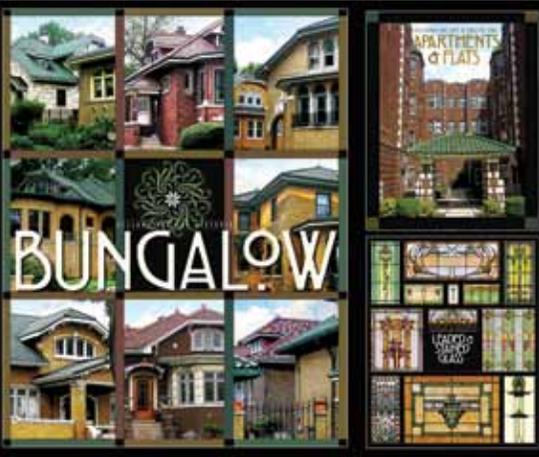
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Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved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

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