



TRANS PRIDE EVENT

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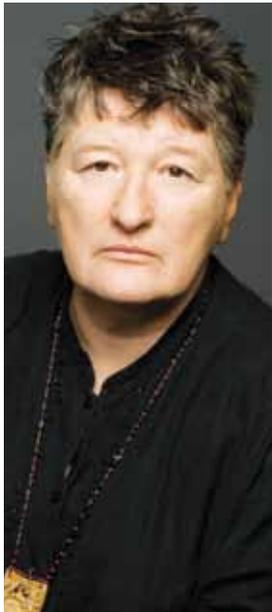
WINDY CITY TIMES

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PROFILE OF FERRON
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Chick-fil-A flap consumes Chicago

BY KATE SOSIN

Ald. Proco "Joe" Moreno has vowed to oppose the opening of a Chick-fil-A restaurant in his ward, after the company's chief operating officer said he was "guilty as charged" of opposing gay rights.

Moreno joined a chorus of critics against the fast-food chain as the fallout over Chick-fil-A COO Dan Cathy's comments continued for a second week.

Cathy told Christian news publication the Baptist Press that his goal is to operate the fast-food chain "on Biblical principles" and that he opposed same-sex marriage.

The comments have set off a firestorm of bad press against the fast-food chain and irked elected officials

throughout the country.

Moreno had been talks with the fast-food chain for nine months, but will deny the company a permit in Logan Square because of Cathy's "bigoted, homophobic comments" and concerns about traffic in the area, he told the Chicago Tribune.

Moreno has Mayor Emanuel's blessing. Emanuel affirmed his support for same-sex marriage to the Chicago Sun-Times and said that Cathy's comments are out of synch with Chicago values.

"Chick-fil-A's values are not Chicago values," Emanuel told the Sun-Times. "They're not respectful of our residents, our neighbors and our family members. And if you're gonna be part of the Chicago community, you should reflect Chicago values." Emanuel later clarified

his initial statement, saying he would allow Chick-fil-A to establish business in the city.

Moreno has been a vocal supporter of LGBT issues in his first term as alderman. This spring, he introduced a city ordinance that aims to create a policy within the Chicago Police Department for interacting with transgender detainees.

In a July 26 email to ward residents, Moreno said that Chick-fil-A representatives had previously assured him they didn't support anti-gay causes.

"Last week, the comments from the CEO of the company made it clear that they were lying to my face in every one of those meetings," Moreno said.

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Families valued

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Illinois is representing nine couples who are seeking the freedom to marry in their home state.

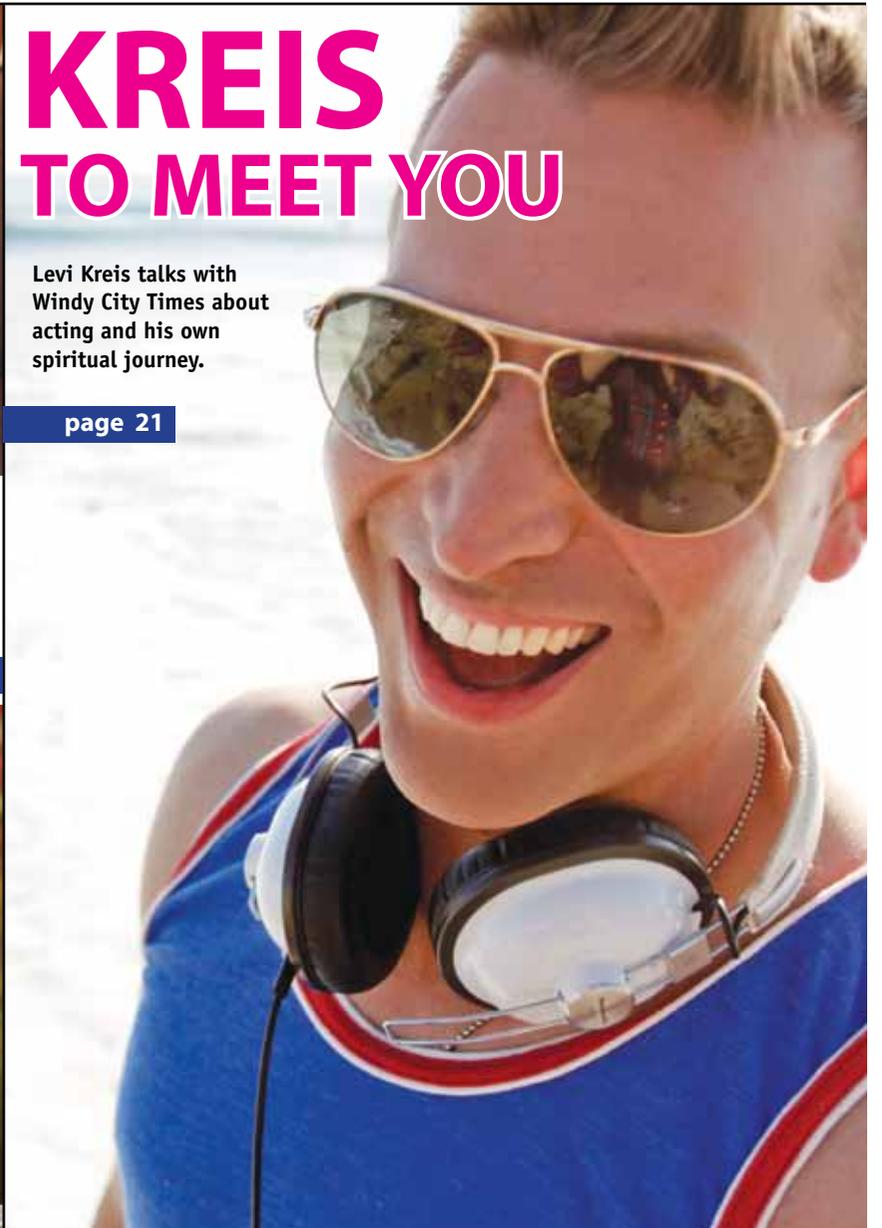
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KREIS TO MEET YOU

Levi Kreis talks with Windy City Times about acting and his own spiritual journey.

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KATE BORNSTEIN
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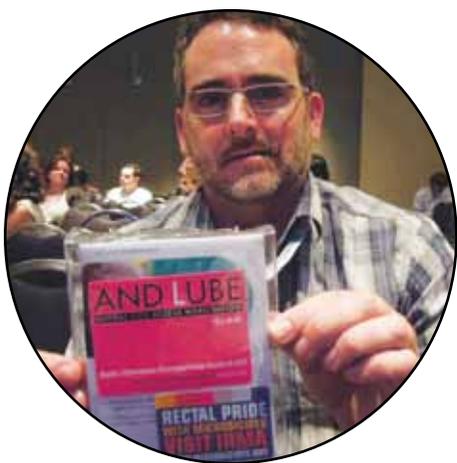
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Photos on cover (left, from top): Photo of KOKUMO at the trans pride event by Kate Sosin; press photo of Ferron; photo of Gregorio Millett by Bob Roehr; photo of Kate Bornstein by Barbara Carrellas

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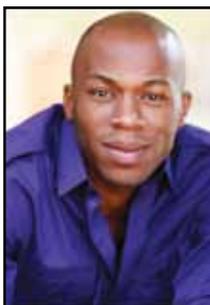
LUBE CONDUCT

Read Jim Pickett's engaging perspective on the recent international AIDS conference in Washington, D.C.
Photo from Pickett



See plenty of pics from the annual Chefs and the City, held this year at the Ritz-Carlton.

Photo by Ed Negrón



Read an interview with Chris Sams of Rock of Ages.

Press photo

FORCE OF NATURE

Read a profile of Brandi Srda of the Chicago Force.

SAM, I AM

Read about Sam Provenzano, who is driven by his passion for nonprofits.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Read entertainment news about Chris Brown, Ricky Martin and Robin Roberts.

SOUND JUDGMENT



JC Brooks and the Uptown Sound (above) is among the acts in Pop Making Sense this week.

Press photo

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INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE 2012

HIV rages among Black gay men

ANALYSIS BY BOB ROEHR

An alarming 60 percent of Black men who have sex with men (MSM) in the United States will become infected with HIV by the age of 40, according to the latest research presented at the XIX International AIDS Conference in Washington.

The HIV Prevention Trials Network study (HPTN 061) involved 1553 Black men in six cities—Atlanta, Boston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Washington—between 2009 and 2011.

It found that 2.8 percent of the study participants became infected with the virus each year, a rate almost half again that of white MSM, said

He said it is important to acknowledge the proactive steps that Black gay men (BGM) have taken to educate themselves and create a sense of community and support, often in the face of racism, AIDS phobia and homophobia within the broader Black community.

It has been difficult to financially sustain those efforts because of high rates of poverty within the Black community that limit both financial support for organizations and access to healthcare, according to Baker.

An initial assumption was that BGM must have been doing something different from other gay men that put them at higher risk for infection. But evidence over the years has shown that is simply not the case, said Gregorio Millett. He is



Phill Wilson at the conference. Photo by Bob Roehr

Kenneth Mayer, the study cochair and medical research director at Fenway Community Health in Boston.

"For younger Black MSM, those under the age of 30, there was an HIV incidence rate of about 5.9 per year, or about three times the rate of white MSMs," said Sheldon D. Fields, assistant dean for clinical affairs and health policy at Florida International University. "These rates are comparable to [what is seen in] countries in sub-Saharan Africa that are hardest hit by the epidemic."

Almost all of the participants (97 percent) agreed to take an HIV test. More than half either did not know their HIV status or believed that they were negative when they entered the study; however, 165 of those men (12 percent) were already infected but did not know it.

"Black MSM in America are more affected by HIV than any population in the developed world, it rivals the epidemic that we find in the developing world," said Phill Wilson, president of the Black AIDS Institute.

"Black gay and bisexual men account for only 1 in 500 Americans, but 1 in 4 new HIV infections," he said. "They are significantly less likely to be alive three years after being diagnosed with AIDS than are white or Latino MSMs."

Why?

The public face of the AIDS epidemic in the U.S. in the 1980s was of white gay men, "but from 1985 on there was a disproportionate impact in the African American community," said Cornelius Baker, a veteran AIDS advocate based in Washington, D.C. "We failed very early on to grapple as a country to wrestle with that disparity."

a researcher with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and played a leading role in writing the National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States, released in 2010. See www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/NHAS.pdf.

"They engage in comparable if not less risky behavior than other gay men," he said. Young BGM in particular "are less likely to have amphetamine use, injection drug use, less likely to use drugs during sex, but they are still five times more likely to be HIV-positive and two-and-a-half times more likely to have a STD [sexually transmitted disease]."

"We need to refocus on the context," Millett said. A leading factor is that the prevalence of HIV is higher among the pool of BGM they tend to have sex with. Higher rates of poverty also mean that BGMs are less likely to be under medical care for their HIV.

"In terms of viral suppression, we are far less likely, at least 50 percent less likely, to be virally suppressed [below the level of detection] compared to white gay men," he said.

Each of these factors increases the likelihood of being exposed to the virus. It means that the same level of risky behavior for BGM carries a greater risk of becoming infected than it would for other gay men.

It is important to understand the role that homophobia and discrimination play in the lives of Black MSM. It often plays out in the "down low," particularly in the South where many BGM from small towns and cities travel to party in Atlanta. But that situation provides little social support for healthy living.

Atlanta is the epicenter of AIDS for Black MSM. While other big city hospitals have closed

their AIDS wards, Grady Memorial still fills 30-40 beds with patients suffering from opportunistic infections that are preventable if the patient is receiving medical care, said Carlos del Rio, an AIDS doc at Emory University. Often that care begins much later than it should.

Remedies

There is "an urgent need for bold action and leadership, not business as usual, at every level to reduce the epidemic among Black MSM in America," said Wilson. He called for effective targeting of Black MSM "with high impact prevention, to build sustainable community infrastructure."

It is important that "that in the Black gay male community people understand what PrEP [pre-exposure prophylaxis using the drug Truvada to prevent infection] is, how it works and whom it is appropriate for," he said.

Fields added that the HPTN 073 study under development, which he co-chairs, will look at how to best use PrEP in combination with other prevention tools among BGM.

Full implementation of the health reform under the Affordable Care Act (ACA, also known as "Obamacare" to opponents) will be "perhaps the biggest game changer" for Black gay men said Millett. "It is going to help out enormously."

High portions of them do not have health insurance. The ACA provides coverage for persons making up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level, and has a floating scale of subsidies for persons with somewhat higher income.

Increasing access to health care will result in higher rates of testing for BGM and linkage to care. That in turn will reduce the level of HIV viral load within the community and the likelihood that the virus will be passed on to another person.

However, those provisions of the ACA are not slated to take effect until January 2014. More importantly, they are dependent up states buying into and helping to pay for an expansion of state Medicaid programs. Many Republican and a few Democratic governors have been reluctant to take on that long-term financial responsibility. Thus, full implementation is not assured.

Millett said the formula for distributing AIDS

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NATIONAL NEWS

—Fla. lt. gov. (left) issues apology for anti-gay remark

—Lesbian couple admit to choking, burying woman

—Nursing assn. backs marriage equality

funding under the Ryan White program is shifting from one based upon the cumulative number of cases to one that uses the current HIV case-load. That should benefit the South where the epidemic struck later but continues to grow at a faster pace than in the rest of the country.

The CDC already has begun to shift prevention and testing support to target communities most at risk, particularly Black MSM.

Shame, discrimination, homophobia and poverty are important underlying structural factors that must be addressed. "If we are going to mobilize Black gay men, maybe we need to mobilize across broader issues than just HIV, talking about poverty, talking about unemployment, talking about those structural factors," said Wilson.

A report from the Black AIDS Institute issued in July, the 76-page Back of the Line: The State of AIDS among Black Gay Men in America 2012 (at www.BlackAIDS.org/docs/back.pdf) documents the scope of the epidemic among that community. Fields said they will be updating research priorities in light of new data presented at the conference.



Elton John (left) greets U.S. Sen. John Kerry. Photo courtesy of Kerry's office

Kerry meets with Elton John, Annie Lennox

Sen. John Kerry, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, met July 24 with Sir Elton John, Annie Lennox and UNAIDS Director Michel Sidibe, who were in town for the International AIDS Conference, according to a press release from Kerry's office.

During the meeting, they discussed current investments in research, policies and next steps for fighting the AIDS epidemic. They also discussed options for strengthening the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund programs.

"It wasn't long ago that an HIV/AIDS diagnosis was a death sentence and stigma prevented many people from being tested or sharing the news with friends and family who could support them," said Kerry. "That's changing. We're making big strides in prevention and treatment. Because of programs like PEPFAR and the Global Fund, and significant investments in treatment and education, people are living longer, healthier and more productive lives with HIV."

Hundreds strike at Hyatt Regency

BY KATE SOSIN

After three years of failed contract negotiations and the recent launch of a global boycott against Chicago-based hotel chain Hyatt Hotels Corp., hundreds of hotel workers picketed outside the Hyatt Regency downtown July 26.

Workers lined the sidewalks of the hotel with noisemakers and pots and pans, drowning out the sounds of rush hour downtown.

The boycott has drawn support nationally from LGBT groups and famed gay activist Cleve Jones.

The Chicago demonstration was one of nearly a dozen held around the country in recent days in support of Hyatt workers.

The workers allege that conditions at Hyatt hotels are unsafe and that the company refuses to provide tools that could ease the strain on housekeepers and other workers.



Picketeer at the Hyatt. Photo by Kate Sosin

Hyatt contends that hospitality union UNITE HERE has refused to accept fair wage and benefits packages, using the boycott as an opportunity to build membership at non-union hotels.

Demetrius Jackson—who works at the Hyatt Regency in convention services, setting up chairs and tables for conferences and events—said, “The injuries that we see in convention services are just ridiculous.”

Jackson wants Hyatt to provide back braces, sturdier gloves and motorized carts for moving chairs and tables. “I want to be treated like I’m a human being, not a machine,” he said.

The demonstration drew workers from other hotels in the city as well as a group of more than 100 hotel workers from Detroit.

UNITE HERE Local 1 President Henry Tamarin said the Hyatt contract negotiations are important to hotel workers throughout the city because they could set a precedent for other hotels whose contracts expire in the coming months.

The union announced a global boycott July 23. The boycott has the backing of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Feminist Majority Foundation, Pride at Work, National Women’s Health Network, National Stonewall Democrats, NFL Players Association, the National Organization of Women, Netroots Nation and Interfaith Worker Justice.

IFI files to intervene in marriage cases

BY KATE SOSIN

A second anti-gay organization has filed to intervene against two Cook County lawsuits seeking to overturn the state’s same-sex marriage ban.

The Illinois Family Institute (IFI), known throughout the country for its anti-gay activism, is seeking to enter the case in support of the ban.

The Carol Stream-based organization argues that it has an interest in the case because it invested time, money and energy into the passage of the ban on same-sex marriage.

“IFI represents a significant constituency of thousands of Illinois citizens who care deeply about the preservation of traditional marriage... Since its founding in 1992, IFI has labored tirelessly to uphold, affirm and defend traditional marriage in Illinois,” the motion states.

IFI is the second group to seek intervention in the cases, filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois and Lambda Legal against Cook County Clerk David Orr. Orr, Cook County State’s

Attorney Anita Alvarez and Attorney General Lisa Madigan have refused to defend the marriage ban, stating that they believe it is unconstitutional.

Representing two downstate clerks, the Thomas More Society law firm has already been granted intervenor status in the case after their motion went unchallenged by the ACLU and Lambda Legal.

It remains unclear if the two organizations will oppose the IFI motion.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks discriminatory organizations, has classified IFI as an anti-gay hate group.

IFI and the organization’s attorney did respond immediately to a request to comment.

State reps introduce anti-gay marriage resolution

BY KATE SOSIN

A group of Illinois lawmakers has introduced a resolution aimed at re-affirming the state’s ban on same-sex marriage.

Palatine-based Rep. Tom Morrison filed the

House Joint Resolution 95, also named “Defense of Marriage,” July 19. Reps. David Reis, Paul Evans and Dwight Kay are sponsoring the measure.

The resolution states, “That we oppose any efforts to extend the institution of marriage to 2 individuals of the same sex, whether by statute or by court decision...”

The measure comes in the wake of two lawsuits filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal that aim to win marriage equality in the state. A group of pro-gay state representatives backed a bill to legalize same-sex marriage earlier this year, but the bill languished in committee.

The July resolution specifically names the Cook County marriage lawsuits, which elected officials have refused to defend. Two downstate clerks are intervening in the case in support of the ban.

The resolution further urges support for a 2014 constitutional amendment against same-sex marriage.

LGBT policy organization The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA) denounced the measure in a statement.

TCRA Marriage Project Director Rick Garcia noted that past constitutional amendments against same-sex marriage in the state have failed.

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Mass. AG seeks Supreme Court review of DOMA

BY CHUCK COLBERT

Everybody knows this one is headed for the nation's highest court.

And in yet another legal step, expected to expedite the U.S. Supreme Court's consideration of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley has asked the court to uphold the decision by the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals striking down DOMA as unconstitutional.

In seeking review, the attorney general's brief states the "question" of the federal law's constitutionality "is one of national importance" and "should be conclusively settled."

According to the brief, the case should be taken now because "this Court is likely to review it in the near future, if only to ensure uniformity in the enforcement or non-enforcement of DOMA throughout the country."

The lawsuit in question is *Massachusetts v. Department of Health and Human Services*, currently in the 1st Circuit, where a three-member panel of judges unanimously upheld a lower court ruling, which found Section 3 of DOMA to be unconstitutional.

Section 3 defines "marriage," for the purposes of the federal government, as "a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word 'spouse' refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is husband and wife."

The effect of Section 3 is to deny same-sex couples, married in the states that issue marriage licenses to them, more than 1,000 benefits, rights, and responsibilities afforded at the federal level, including Social Security survivor benefits and the right to file joint tax returns.

Both the attorney general and Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) filed separate suits that so far have won at both district and appeals court levels. GLAD's suit is *Gill v. Office of Personnel Management*.

In both cases, the 1st Circuit court said the ban on federal recognition of same-sex marriages violates the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection.

However, the 1st Circuit did not agree with the state that DOMA violates the state's 10th Amendment right to retain powers that are not "expressly delegated to the United States."

And the 1st Circuit did not find persuasive the state's contention that DOMA violates the Spending Clause of the federal Constitution because it "conditions federal funds on the Commonwealth's violation of ... equal protection" rights of same-sex couples.

GLAD did not issue a press statement in response to the state attorney general's request for expedited Supreme Court consideration, but the organization's senior staff attorney Vicki Henry said over the telephone, "It's another necessary step in the process," adding, "We are expecting to file our responses [in support of the appeals court decision] by Aug. 2."

"We think this case really shows how hard-working people are really affected by DOMA," she told *The Boston Globe*. "We hope the harm of DOMA will be stopped."

"The Defense of Marriage Act is a discriminatory and unconstitutional law that harms thousands of families in Massachusetts and takes away our state's right to extend marriage equality to all couples," said Coakley in a statement.

"It is our firm conviction that in order to truly achieve marriage equality, all couples must enjoy the same rights and protections under both state and federal law. If the Supreme Court



Mass. Attorney General Martha Coakley.

chooses to examine this case, we will look forward to once again making clear that DOMA and its perverse discrimination is unconstitutional and should be ended," she added.

Filed July 24, the state attorney general's brief comes on the heels of the U.S. Justice Department's petition earlier this month, asking the high court to review another legal challenge to DOMA's constitutionality.

That suit is *Golinski v. Office of Personnel Management*, a San Francisco case that is currently before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

In a recent development, oral arguments in *Golinski*, which had been scheduled for the week of Sept. 10, have been canceled pending Supreme Court action, according to a July 27 blog posting on Prop8TrialTracker.com.

Earlier this year in a win for gay rights, the U.S. District Court in San Francisco ruled Feb. 22 that Section 3 of DOMA is unconstitutional, finding that the 1996 law "violates [the plaintiffs'] right to equal protection."

In his opinion, Judge Jeffrey White found that Section 3 could not pass either the "rational basis" or "heightened scrutiny" test. The latter is the more rigorous legal analysis.

The case dates from 2008, when lesbian attorney Karen Golinski, then a 19-year employee of the 9th Circuit Court, applied for health care benefits for her wife. Citing DOMA, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management denied her application. The office administers the court's employee-benefits system.

When the case eventually reached him, White dismissed the suit on procedural grounds, but invited Golinski to amend her January 2010 complaint to challenge DOMA Section 3's constitutionality. She did so on April 14 of that year.

Even before the District Court ruling, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced Feb. 23, 2011, that the Justice Department would no longer defend DOMA, but would continue to enforce it.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund brought the *Golinski* case. And in response to the Justice Department's request for Supreme Court review, Lambda Legal staff attorney Tara Borelli issued a statement.

"This development highlights the desire by all, the government included, to resolve this issue

quickly," she said. "DOMA's days are numbered."

Meanwhile, the Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives, through its Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group (BLAG), hired an attorney to defend the law in court.

On June 29, BLAG asked the Supreme Court to review the Massachusetts cases.

If the Supreme Court takes up either matter (*Golinski* or the consolidated Massachusetts cases) or both of them in its October conference, oral arguments could take place this fall or winter. Right now the court is in summer recess.

In its filings, the Justice Department said it is seeking Supreme Court review so that the constitutional "question" may be settled authoritatively.

The department and Lambda Legal argue that heightened scrutiny, a more rigorous analysis, applies because, as the department explains in its filings, "the denial of federal benefits to same-sex couples who are legally married under their state's laws bears no substantial relationship to any important governmental purpose that motivated Section 3's enactment."

The Justice Department also points to Section 3's failure even by the lesser legal standard of rational basis "because Section 3 is not rationally related to any conceivable legitimate interest of the federal government."

In its ruling, the 1st Circuit found Section 3 of DOMA unconstitutional under the rational-basis standard, which necessarily means it also fails heightened scrutiny.

Altogether, the Justice Department argues, "This case squarely raises important questions about the Constitution's equal protection guarantee as it applies to a federal distinction among persons who are legally married under their state's laws on the basis of sexual orientation."

In another DOMA development during the week of July 16, the American Civil Liberties Union, asked the Supreme Court to consider the case of *Windsor v. United States*, an appellate case pending in the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

There, in New York, a U.S. District Court also found Section 3 of DOMA unconstitutional, ruling on rational-basis review that it violated

plaintiff (and widow) Edith Windsor's equal protection rights. The court ordered her to receive a tax refund of more than \$350,000, money she had paid on her inheritance from her late spouse. If federal law had recognized the marriage between her and the late Thea Spyer, Windsor would have paid no tax.

During the week of July 9, in still another DOMA-related development, 132 House members filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the *Golinski* case. The brief argues that heightened scrutiny applies insofar as gay men and lesbians as a minority group lack sufficient political power to gain favorable treatment by lawmakers.

Additionally, the brief states that gay men and lesbians are, historically, a disfavored minority. Consequently, they are often targeted legislatively on the basis of stereotypes and bias. Therefore, laws like DOMA, singling out gay men and lesbians for harm, warrant judicial skepticism and more rigorous legal analysis and review, according to the brief.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), Minority Whip Steeny Hoyer (D-Md.) and Assistant Minority Leader James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.), among others, took the lead in filing the brief, which highlights that House members are not of one mind on DOMA's constitutionality.

Joining House leadership in signing onto the brief are openly gay Democratic Representatives Barney Frank (Mass.), Tammy Baldwin (Wis.), Jared Polis (Colo.) and David Cicilline (R.I.).

In more recent news, *Blesch v. Holder*—a lawsuit challenging Section 3 of DOMA as it applies to binational couples and immigration—is on hold now, pending resolution of the 2nd Circuit's Windsor case, according to Prop8TrialTracker.com. The advocacy organization Immigration Equality filed *Blesch* in the U.S. District Court in Brooklyn.

On July 31, there were two more updates in DOMA cases, for Prop 8 and GLAD's case on the East Coast; see *Windy City Times'* website for details.

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With editing by William B. Kelley

Target launches gay wedding-registry advertisement

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

In another move to reach out to the LGBT community, Target has launched a same-sex wedding-registry campaign.

The campaign includes an ad that showcases two grooms in formalwear holding hands with their foreheads and noses pressed together. A similar ad was created featuring two brides in wedding dresses popping open a bottle of champagne. Target's current ad campaign slogans for its wedding registry are "Be Yourself, Together" and "That's Love." The retail outlet invites couples to build a "Target wedding gift registry as unique as the two of you."

Also, when a couple registers at Target, they can choose either "bride," "groom" or "partner" when it asks for the primary registrant and co-registrant.

The ads are in addition to two other pro-LGBT initiatives that Target launched in the past few months. The company is now carrying same-sex greeting cards and, in June, sold Pride T-shirts.

"Target is committed to diversity and inclusion in every aspect of our business, including our marketing efforts," said Target spokeswoman Molly Snyder. "The Target Wedding Registry advertising campaign is designed to reach all guests and represent the diversity of communities we serve. At the heart of our company are core values, which include Target's long-standing commitment to

create an environment where all of our team members and guests feel welcome, valued and respected. We believe our current marketing is consistent with this value."

Snyder indicated that Target does not typically disclose the specifics of the company's media mix; however, she did say that the ads are actively running. One place the ad can be found is www.equallywed.com. The link that is embedded into the ad goes directly to Target's wedding-registry portal.

Wis. state rep comes out as bisexual

Wisconsin state Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa, D-8th, came out as a bisexual July 24, according to the Wisconsin Journal Sentinel.

Zamarripa, 36, represents Milwaukee. She is the only Latina in the state legislature.

She told reporter Georgia Pabst: "It has always been my goal in office to be transparent and honest with my constituents. But before the primary in 2010, I didn't have the valor and courage to come out. I feel remiss that I didn't come out then."

Zamarripa said she wants to help others who are struggling with their identity. She also said it was more difficult to be out as a bisexual: "'It's tough for people to wrap their minds around that, but it is a reality and the truth," she said.

She has a primary opponent Aug. 14. See <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/w3asp/contact/legislatorpages.aspx?house=assembly&district=8>.

Also see www.jsonline.com/blogs/news/163580696.html.

Attack saddens gay rowing team

BY ROSS FORMAN

Jenn Gibbons was attacked and sexually assaulted in the early morning hours of July 22.

Information about the attack was posted almost immediately on Facebook, and it spread quickly, particularly within the Chicago Rowing Union (CRU), the gay rowing team that Gibbons has coached for two years.

The attack has been covered in the Chicago Sun-Times and by NBC-TV, among other media outlets. Gibbons was in the midst of a 1,500-mile trip around Lake Michigan to raise funds to help breast cancer survivors live healthier lives.

The Sun-Times reported that Gibbons awoke to the sound of someone boarding her boat, which she had docked near a lighthouse on a stretch of remote shoreline in unincorporated Schoolcraft County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She rushed to lock the cabin door, but the stranger forced his way inside and sexually assaulted her, police said.

Gibbons screamed. No one could hear her, according to the Sun-Times.

"I was out in the middle of nowhere. It was terrifying," she said.

When the attack was over, Gibbons punched the man in the chest and ran. She tried to lock herself in a wooden outhouse, but her attacker forced his way inside. She fought him off until he fled in a yellow Jeep Wrangler that had a yellow smiley face on the spare tire cover and, possibly, Illinois license plates, police said.

Gibbons ultimately called 911.

Investigators released a sketch of the man on Tuesday and continued their search for clues. Gibbons told her story—allowing Windy City Times and the Sun-Times to release her name, as both papers do not name the victims of sexual assault—and she planned to resume her trip July 25, the Sun-Times reported. "I could come home and no one would question it," she said. "But what happened will not define my trip."

Investigators have reason to believe the assailant traveled a significant distance to commit the assault. The suspect is described as a white male in his 30s, approximately 5'8" to 6' tall, with a fair amount of facial stubble hair, but

not a full beard nor mustache. The man has light eyes, an average to athletic build and shorter well-kept hair. He was wearing a grayish green T-shirt, jean shorts and tennis shoes.

Gibbons is this year's competitive program coach for CRU, her second year with the team. She coached the novice program in 2010.

"As with countless others, Jenn is a source of inspiration for the team, both on the water at practices and now during her hiatus from CRU as she makes the trek around Lake Michigan," said CRU President Bill Moudry. "She provides inspiration through her courage, her self sacrifice, and her unrelenting positive attitude regardless of the circumstance."

In 2011, Gibbons was named masters coach of the year by U.S. Rowing, a prestigious rowing honor that "highlights her achievements as an instructor and a leader in the rowing community," Moudry said. "CRU looks forward to her return in August when she will resume as coach for the Competitive Program."

Joshua Thurbie, who rows for CRU, was one of many to reply to the Facebook post about Gibbons. He wrote, "Disgusted. Angry. Sad. Jenn—we're here for you."

On CRU's Facebook page, it said, "Jenn Gibbons, CRU supports you 100%. Our thoughts and prayers are with you."

Gibbons, 27, lives in Chicago and works as a Groupon customer-service agent. She departed the Chicago Yacht Club June 15 and planned to return there by the end of August, according to the EagleHerald Marinette & Menominee.

A native of Battle Creek, Mich., Gibbons rowed at Michigan State University. She began coaching in 2005 as the men's novice coach for Ignatius Chicago Crew.

She currently coaches high school and adult rowing, the EagleHerald reported.

—Anyone with information or investigative leads is asked to call the Michigan State Police toll-free at 1-866-411-0018.

—For more information about Row4ROW and Jenn's journey around Lake Michigan to benefit and raise awareness for Recovery On Water, visit <http://row4row.org>.

ACLU court agreement solidifies new trans birth-certificate rule

BY KATE SOSIN

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Illinois has announced a new proposed court agreement expected to solidify a small but important gain for transgender people wishing to change their birth certificates.

Under new rule, transgender people are allowed to update the gender markers on their birth certificates without having to undergo genital surgery. The new mandate still requires proof of gender-related surgery.

The ACLU sued the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) on behalf of three trans people last May, claiming that IDPH placed unfair and costly burdens on trans people by requiring proof of genital surgery in order to change their birth certificates.

IDPH issued new certificates to plaintiffs Lauren Grey, Victor Williams and Nicholas Guarino and released new rules that removed the genital surgery requirement.

But John Knight, LGBT project director of the ACLU, said that without a court agreement, the state could have changed the rule back.

"The main thing to celebrate now is that they can't go back to doing something else," said Knight, adding that the agreement will be enforceable for other cases down the road.

But Knight said that work remains.

Not all trans people want gender-related surgeries, and not all can afford them either. Consequently, trans activists have been pushing for years for a policy that offers a non-surgical option for changing the certificates, much like



John Knight. Photo by Jay Geneske

current U.S. passport rules.

Transgender organization Illinois Gender Advocates had been working on changing the IDPH rule internally, but those talks have yet to result in the announcement of a policy without a surgical requirement.

Still, the ACLU court agreement, if finalized, could enforce the state's new responsibility to make birth certificates easier to obtain, an important gain for many transgender people who will now be able to update the certificates.

"Having an accurate birth certificate is critical today," said Lauren Grey, the lead plaintiff in the ACLU case in a statement. "The agreement filed today clears the way for many people born in Illinois to get an accurate birth certificate that will make their lives safer and more secure."

Per the agreement, the state would be required to notify applicants denied since January 2010 of the policy change as well as those denied since 2008 whose records are still on file.

The agreement will be reviewed at a final upcoming hearing.

Northalsted Business Alliance switch increases police visibility

BY KATE SOSIN

A switch of private-security firms by Lakeview's Northalsted Business Alliance (NHBA) has resulted in increased visibility of police in Boystown.

New England Security has been hired to patrol the area, according to Jen Gordon, a spokesperson for NHBA. Gordon said the security team is composed of off-duty police.

Several area residents and partygoers noticed the officers on the street over the weekend, clad in bright green shirts and bullet-proof vests.

"This is not a new endeavor for Northalsted Business Alliance to employ a private security firm," noted Gordon.

Gordon said the new security team started over the weekend and will patrol the area as needed, depending on the neighborhood's events and anticipated crowds. The officers are intended to stand out, said Gordon, as NHBA wanted to create a visible police presence on the streets.

"We're constantly evaluating the security issues on the street," said Gordon, adding that the NHBA may make further changes to its private security.

A string of highly publicized crimes last summer sparked controversy over crime and racial profiling in the neighborhood. Some residents have called for increased police visibility in the neighborhood since, stating that crowds and crime continue to grow along Halsted street.

LGBT Narcotics Anon. meetings at Haymarket

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

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

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CHICK-FIL-A from cover

"I'm a staunch believer in equality," he continued. "I will not support a business that discriminates against a minority population. I believe the majority of 1st Warders agree with this opinion. I'm tired of self-professed 'liberals' who have no backbone and are all talk. Denying Chick-fil-A is taking a stand for what is right."

The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA), which worked with Moreno on the transgender ordinance, praised Moreno and Emanuel's stance against the chain in a statement.

"Diversity has made this city great, and we have some of the strongest protections for LGBT folks in Illinois," said Anthony Martinez, execu-

Illinois businesses owners, including those leasing space to the chain, to cut ties.

The company has been a sore spot for some Chicago LGBT activists since it opened a restaurant downtown last summer, after contributing millions to anti-gay organizations. But until recently, the company had denied that it was anti-gay.

Still, the fallout over Cathy's comments may be complicated for some Chicagoans, most notably the owner of Chicago's only Chick-fil-A restaurant.

Owner Lauren Silich released a statement that says her business is an independently owned and operated franchise and that her family has deep Chicago roots.



tive director of TCRA. "The statements made by Dan Cathy show that this restaurant has no place in Chicago. We will continue to work to ensure that Chick-fil-A is not welcome in this city until they see the value of acceptance and diversity, and they make that clear in their company policies."

Students at the University of Illinois have also launched a petition to evict Chick-fil-A from the Illini Union student center. The university is among seven schools to launch Change.org petitions demanding that the chain be removed from campus.

"We are not arguing against the Christian community, we are only saying that any organization, regardless of its heritage, that actively supports discrimination has no right being housed and supported as a part of a diverse university community," the petition reads.

Equality Illinois has also launched a "Flick-the-hate" petition against Chick-fil-A, that asks

"We hold fundraisers for hospitals, school, fallen police and we donated to a wide variety of causes, including everything from churches to gay and lesbian organizations," Silich said.

Silich did not specify what LGBT groups the restaurant donated to.

Also, in a subsequent development, the Chicago Republican Party plans to file a complaint with Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and the Illinois Department of Human Rights over Moreno's action against Chick-fil-A, according to a press release.

The party's release states that "Moreno is attempting to use the hammer of government action to harm a person's business after that person expressed religious views with which Alderman Moreno disagrees. It's hard to imagine a clearer violation of First Amendment rights."

Also, Windy City Times reached out to 44th Ward Ald. Tom Tunney and 46th Ward Ald. James Cappleman (both openly gay) to get their reac-

tions. Tunney had no comment.

Cappleman, however, responded with his feelings and a promotion of an event: "I am disappointed to hear that the CEO of Chick-fil-A does not believe in equality for all Americans. Many 46th Ward residents and businesses disagree with this kind of hateful stance, which is why Hearty Boys, located at 3819 N. Broadway, is hosting a Chick-fil-Gay Appreciation Day Aug. 1 starting at 5 p.m.

"Hearty Boys will be serving fried chicken breast sandwiches on toasted buttered buns with pickles and a side of fries for \$10. [All] of the proceeds will go to Equality Illinois for marriage equality.

He added, "I am committed to improving economic development and creating jobs in our neighborhood. In the past, if I have not agreed with the legal practices or views of a particular business, I work with that business to become a more open, welcoming neighbor to our community."

The controversy has gone national. For example, mayors across the nation have taken sides on the issue. Boston Mayor Thomas Me-

nino and San Francisco counterpart Edwin Lee have shunned the chain, according to ABC News. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, however, said that he "disagree[s] with them really strongly on this one. You can't have a test for what the owners' personal views are before you decide to give a permit to do something in the city."

Some conservatives, including former Gov. Mike Huckabee, plan to celebrate Chick-fil-A Aug. 1 (hence the Hearty Boys event on the same day). Former GOP vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin tweeted a photo of herself with her husband, Todd, in a Chick-fil-A, holding bags of food and making a thumbs-up gesture, the Chicago Tribune reported.

On a related (and some might say bizarre) note, Chick-fil-A VP of Corporate Relations Don Perry passed away July 27. He had worked with the chain almost 29 years.

[NOTE: Also see Windy City Times coverage, Chick-fil-A officer: The company is anti-gay, at www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Chick-fil-A-officer-The-company-is-anti-gay/38777.html.]

Richter becomes first trans person to receive business certification

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Recently, Jackie Richter made history as the first transgender person in Illinois to qualify for a Female Business Enterprise (FBE) certification and a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification.

With these certifications, Richter's construction company, Heels and Hardhats Contracting Corporation, can bid on contracts to do work for the Illinois Department of Transportation, the City of Chicago, CTA, Metra and Pace.

The company is 100-percent female-owned and focuses on excavating, landscaping and specialty concrete. Her wife Cyndi shares ownership in the company although Richter has a controlling interest in the corporation.

Richter began her construction career in 1975 while still in high school. She is the third generation in a business that dates back to cutting ice in Crystal Lake, custom coal crushing in Chicago and building airports during World War Two. She stepped back from construction work for a couple of decades to raise her family with her wife. It was then that she began marketing and exporting construction equipment globally.

Following her transition, Richter realized that she was stuck in an industry that wasn't friendly to transgender people. Richter said she was blessed to have Christy Webber hire her as a woman working for her firm. From there she began to come out in the construction industry. During this time she also researched how to become certified as an FBE/DBE company.

According to the United States Department of Transportation, a DBE is a certification that allows for-profit small business where socially and economically disadvantaged individuals own at least a 51 percent interest and also control management and daily business operations to participate in DBE programs as outlined by individual states.

African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific and Subcontinent Asian Americans, women and persons with disabilities are presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged. Other individuals can also qualify as socially and economically disadvantaged on a case-by-case basis.

Rick Garcia, senior policy advisor at The Civil Rights Agenda, was one of the people who helped Richter during her application

process. He expressed his excitement that Richter got her certification and said "this is a great opportunity for transgender people to access the same benefits that others have. It is precedent-setting, the correct decision by the state of Illinois and it will give the opportunity for transgender business owners to pursue a similar thing for their businesses."

Richter explained that the certification process was lengthy and after a year-long research and investigation process by the state the determination was made that she met the rules and requirements for certification. She also had documents that proved she was a female.

"This certification is a pathway for progress for the transgender community," said Richter. "It opens doors for a multitude of business programs designed for women, especially older transgender women who face discrimination in the workplace. This gives people who are skilled and driven the resources to build their own occupation and business. It is not just a certification of a business, but a certification of identity, equality and diversity in all forms of government for a community that has been driven away from prosperity based on a birth defect."

Hall of Fame nomination deadline extended

The 2012 deadline to nominate individuals, friends of the community and organizations for induction into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame has been extended to Monday, Aug. 13.

Nomination forms can be downloaded or printed from the Hall of Fame's Web site (www.GLHollofFame.org) or requested by calling 312-401-8893 and leaving a mailing address.

Completed nominations should be sent to The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, 3712 N. Broadway, Unit 637, Chicago, Ill., 60613-4235.

The 2012 Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame induction ceremony and reception are scheduled for early November. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, call Israel Wright at 312-401-8893.



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Attendees at trans pride event. Photos by Kate Sosin; more online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

Hundreds attend first trans pride event

BY KATE SOSIN

With gender-variant people of nearly every age and background represented, hundreds gathered in Union Park July 29 for Chicago's first-ever transgender pride event.

Transgender Gender non-conforming Intersex Freedom (TGIF) featured performances and speeches and attracted more than 200 people who picnicked under sunny skies.

The event, themed "Enterprising from the Margins," focused largely on the stories and experiences of transgender people of color, both celebrating organizing efforts locally and honoring trans Chicagoans who died this year.

Among those honored were Lois Bates, a long-time activist and transgender health manager at Howard Brown Health Center, and Paige Clay, whose unsolved murder in April made national headlines. Attendees also marked the names of deceased community members and living activists on large banners.

TGIF organizers stressed the importance of creating positive spaces for gender-variant people and allies.

"As a trans woman, we are shut out of the establishment," said KOKUMO, lead organizer of TGIF.

"They keep telling you to wait," said Alexis Martinez, another organizer. "My message is don't wait. Now is the time."

Keynote speaker Kylar Broadus, founder of the Trans People of Color Coalition, talked about the

intersections of race and transgender identity, among other things.

"Living at the margins is what we do," Broadus said.

But Broadus drove home in the importance of personal pride and resistance.

"Politics is local, politics is you," he said.

TGIF also featured the voices of intersex people, whose marginalization as people who vary physically from standard definitions of male or female is rarely united with gender-variant issues.

The four-hour picnic featured an open mic speak-out, during which young people, activists and others took the stage.

The day wrapped up with performances by About Face Youth Theatre, the Youth Empowerment Performance Project, Statesqueer and KOKUMO.

Representatives from several community groups and projects were present including No Boys Allowed, Life Skills, the Chicago Dyke March Collective, Lambda Legal, the Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois, Equality Illinois, Intersex Chicago, Inter/Act, We Happy Trans, United Latino Pride, Soy Quien Soy: Trans* Empowerment Collective, Black Trans Men Inc., Oak Park Public Library. The Illinois Department of Public Health's "Wellness on Wheels" van was also present. Free HIV tests were also given on-site.

KOKUMO said that overall the event went well but added, "It'll be even better next year."



New website tackles Chicago LGBT substance abuse

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

The Chicago Task Force on LGBT Substance Use/Abuse (CTFSUA) launched a new website July 25.

CTFSUA is a group of community members, community-based organizations, public health advocates, business owners, clergy, and governmental and law enforcement representatives dedicated to addressing substance use and abuse among LGBT people in Chicago. CTFSUA has approximately 45 members representing approximately 30 organizations.

The CTFSUA website, ChicagoLGBTSubstance.com, features resources for social-service providers as well as individuals seeking help. There are also links to information on different substances, wellness and health resources, as well as self-assessments for substance users.

The CTFSUA Web Content Committee—composed of Co-Chair Pamela McCann, Jeffrey Zeman and Todd Babcock—created the new site completely with volunteer resources.

CTFSUA is in talks with the Adler School of Professional Psychology's LGBT program to potentially have students maintain the website and add resources.

Members of CTFSUA met virtually for the first time this year, and they hope to utilize this technology again for future meetings. The next CTFSUA meeting is scheduled for Wed., Sep. 26, at 4:30 p.m., in the boardroom at the Chicago Health Department administrative offices, 333 S. State St.

Anti-gays want lesbian judge to recuse herself from marriage case

BY KATE SOSIN

Same-sex marriage opponents are calling on the Cook County Circuit Court judge presiding over two Illinois same-sex marriage cases to recuse herself because she is an out lesbian.

Sophia H. Hall is a charter member for LGBT judicial association The Alliance of Illinois Judges, according to the alliance's website. She is also the judge presiding over two coordinated cases brought by the American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal that seek marriage equality in Illinois.

The two organizations are suing on behalf of 25 same-sex couples who say that Illinois civil unions have fallen short of the promise of equality. Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez and Cook County Clerk David Orr, who is named in the suits, have all refused to defend the ban on same-sex marriage.

Hall has granted two downstate clerks intervenor status to argue in favor of the ban.

However, same-sex marriage adversaries argue that Hall is biased and should recuse herself from the case.

Anti-gay group Americans for the Truth About Homosexuality lists several instances in which Hall has participated in LGBT life in the city, including her mention in Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim's book *Out and Proud in Chicago*.

Trans activist Kate Bornstein on Scientology, book

BY ERICA DEMAREST

Transgender activist. Scientologist. Father. Husband. Playwright. Author. These are just some of the hats Kate Bornstein has donned over the last 64 years. In her new memoir, *A Queer and Pleasant Danger*, Bornstein documents her evolution from nice Jewish boy to outspoken activist.

Dedicated to her estranged daughter, a prominent member of the Church of Scientology, the book is candid and revelatory. *Windy City Times* recently caught up with Bornstein to talk TomKat, life on a yacht and why she believes it doesn't get better.

Windy City Times: What motivated you to write an autobiography?

Kate Bornstein: This book is my way of reaching out to my daughter, who I haven't seen in years. She's in Scientology, so she's not allowed to talk to me [because I left the church].

WCT: Has it worked? Has she reached out to you?

KB: Oh, goodness, no. Scientology is undergoing huge upheavals right now as more and more of its [private information] gets exposed on the Internet—especially with this whole TomKat [Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes] thing. But that's not going to end [Scientology's] stance that members in good standing cannot talk to members who aren't in good standing.

I have higher hopes now than when I wrote the book because I see how far it's getting into people's hands. So maybe someday someone will know someone who knows someone who knows [my daughter] Jessica Leah Baxter, and they will say: "Hey, your dad wrote you a book." That would be cool.

WCT: What initially attracted you to Scientology?

KB: I grew up trans in a world where the only trans figures were Christine Jorgensen and Tula. ... All the really out, brave trans people were in Europe—not the United States—so I didn't really know what to do with my life as a trans person.

[Before joining], I always thought it made sense that life goes on after death—that we keep repeating things. That's logical to me because everything else transforms into something else. There's no evidence of stasis in the physical universe. I assumed spirits would behave in the same manor.

What Scientology brought to the table was: Not only are you an immortal, spiritual being, but you also remember all of your lifetimes, and you've spent lifetimes as men and women.



Kate Bornstein. Photo by Barbara Carrellas

I was like, "Wait a minute. So this spiritual being that you say I am—Scientologists call it a thetan—does it have a gender? Are there male thetans and female thetans?" They just laughed. 'No, of course not. Gender is for bodies.' Well, holy shit. That makes sense. And it still makes sense to this very day.

WCT: That seems like a welcoming concept.

KB: You'd think that, but here's where it goes off the rails: Scientologists are extremely homophobic and transphobic, and I could never get them to explain to me why. If thetans have no gender, what does it matter who we fuck, or how we fuck, or what we clothes we put on our bodies? What does it matter? But for L. Ron Hubbard [the founder of Scientology], homophobia was completely implanted.

WCT: Speaking of Hubbard, you write in your memoir about being first mate on his yacht.

KB: In the early days, maybe around 1970, Hubbard had kind of outlasted his welcome in a whole lot of countries. He moved his headquarters aboard this huge yacht.

I started out as a deck hand, and honestly, the first five or six months I was on that ship were probably some of the best times of my life. All I did was physical work all day long—out at

sea, under the stars. That was a terrific time, but it all went to hell in a handbasket when I got transferred to marketing and public relations, and I got into the inner workings of how Hubbard really dealt with people, and how he manipulated people.

At one point, I was first mate of the fucking yacht. [Laughs] I was second only to the captain, and I didn't know anything about it. They tell you: 'Well, you've done it in your past life. Remember it.' I swear to God that's what they told me.

WCT: So you had never sailed before?

KB: No! No. No. [Laughs] I knew how to tie some sailor knots, but that's it. One of the things the first mate is in charge of is the lifeboats—we had eight of them—so I said, okay, let's see how they're doing. Five of them wouldn't lower; two of them lowered and kept on going under the water. The only one that worked was L. Ron Hubbard's lifeboat. It was the only one with a motor.

And we didn't fix anything. We didn't have money to. Oh, well. [Laughs]

WCT: You mentioned TomKat earlier. What's your take on their situation?

KB: I'm what's called a suppressive person, or an enemy of the church, because I left. There are lots of us now, but Katie Holmes is the biggest suppressive person they've ever had to face. She stood up to them like no one else has, and she got what she wanted... Scientology really wants this one swept under the carpet. It brought a whole lot to light. For example: the leader of Scientology, David Miscavige—his wife hasn't been seen for over seven years. There are plenty of theories, but the church isn't saying, and neither is David.

Another thing: The divorce settlement gave Tom visitation rights with Suri. Now, if it wasn't Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes ... let's say it was just a regular Scientology couple like I used to be part of [with my ex-wife and daughter],

and one spouse leaves the church and takes the kid—well, that child is now a potential trouble source, so the Scientologist parent can't see them.

Tom Cruise has been given special dispensation to see Suri. So why isn't the church giving that same dispensation to the rest of us who have relatives in Scientology? That's a little storm that's brewing right now.

WCT: You posted an "It Gets Better" video in 2010, but you originally said you wouldn't.

KB: There were a whole lot of times in my life that weren't better, and it was during one of those times when that campaign started. Four years before that, when I wrote *Hello, Cruel World*, [Bornstein's self-help book] I wanted the whole back cover to say nothing but "It gets better."

But the fact is, it doesn't. You get better at making it better. You get to break rules in order to make it better. You get to break laws in order to make it better. You get to abandon systems of morality and ethics in order to make life better. Because really the only rule that matters is: Don't be mean. Other than that, you can do whatever the fuck you want.

But that kind of permission hasn't been given to the queer community—hasn't been taken by the queer community—until recently. In the past ten years, people have been giving themselves more and more permission to live their lives bravely, but there's still so much shame connected with it. [With the video], I was saying: No, no, no. Feel free.

Bornstein will perform "On Men, Women, and the Rest of Us" at the Center on Halsted Saturday, Aug. 4, 6:30-8 p.m. Bornstein will also be at Women & Children First Bookstore Thursday, Aug. 2, 7:30 p.m. with Sabrina Chap and Stephanie Howell. To learn more about Bornstein, visit katebornstein.typepad.com. For performance info, visit www.centeronhalsted.org.

NU issues brief statement about Howard Brown

BY YASMIN NAIR

Northwestern University has just issued a statement regarding the MACS at Howard Brown. Dated July 30, it confirms what *Windy City Times* reported five days earlier.

It states that "Northwestern University cancelled the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) subcontract with the Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) effective July 2, 2012." The statement also confirms what WCT speculated may have been a turning point in the process leading to this decision: "The decision was made in conjunction with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) after a breach of patient confidentiality by an employee of HBHC. An independent ethics panel, called an institutional review board, suspended the study at HBHC both to protect the MACS participants and to preserve the integrity of the research."

The press release categorically states that, "Northwestern University formally requested that HBHC return all research records relating to the study and contact information for the active participants. However, to date Howard Brown Health Center has not provided the research records to Northwestern in accordance with established federal guidelines for contract cancellation. As a result, the government-funded AIDS research is being jeopardized."

This confirms WCT's reporting that even patients who have specifically asked for their records to be transferred—such as Harlan Fleming, who previously spoke to the paper—may not have had their requests honored.

The exact ways in which this research is

being "jeopardized" is still to be confirmed. In a preliminary note to *Windy City Times*, which has asked for more details about that and other matters, university spokesman Alan Cabbage wrote that they "[w]ould prefer not to go into details."

The university is calling for MACS participants from Howard Brown to contact the school's MACS staff at 312-908-MACS (6227). According to the statement, study visits will take place at Northwestern University in Chicago or the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center.

Windy City Times is continuing to follow this story.

ABA confab to cover DADT, gender equity

Gender equity and the impact of the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" on the military are among the issues related to diversity that will be discussed at the 2012 American Bar Association (ABA) annual meeting taking place Aug. 2-7 in Chicago.

Among the conference's many diversity programs are "LGBT Service Members and the Armed Forces One Year After the End of Don't Ask, Don't Tell"; "and "Visible Invisibility: Women of Color in Fortune 500 Legal Departments."

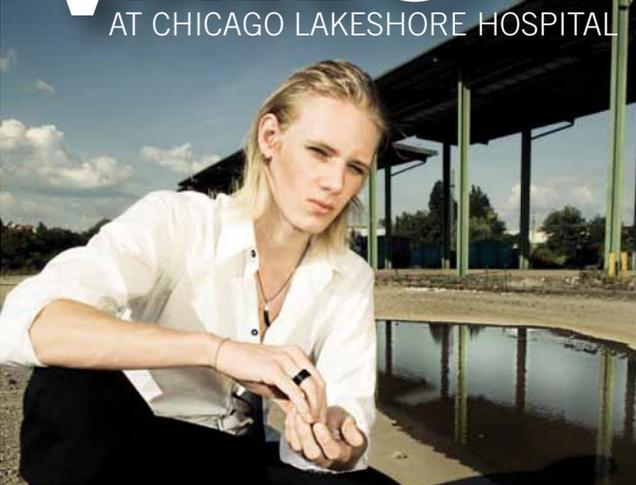
Notable speakers include Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, and Theodore B. Olson and David Boies, co-chairs of the ABA Task Force on Preservation of the Justice System and co-counsel in the lawsuit challenging California's Prop 8.

See www.abanet.org.

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Martin Dorsey. Photo courtesy of Consandra Wright

PASSAGES

Martin Dorsey

BY KATE SOSIN

Martin Dorsey, a young man who fought the stereotyping of LGBT youth of color in Chicago, died July 18, just two days before his birthday. He was 20 years old.

Dorsey was born and raised in Chicago. He attended Bogan Computer Technical High School and went on the study at Columbia College.

In 2008, Dorsey participated in a job program with the Coalition for Justice and Respect. Through the program, he became involved with Youth Pride Services (YPS), eventually volunteering for the organization.

Frank Walker, who founded YPS, said that Dorsey embodied what the organization strove for in its membership.

"Martin was actually quite brilliant in his own way. If he was on your side, he was 100 percent loyal," Walker said. "He also was very outspoken and had big dreams and ideas."

In 2009, Dorsey started working on the organization's Code Red project, which was formed to highlight the voices of Black gay youth who were opposed to the perceived increase of violence in Lakeview.

Dorsey put together the organization's first block party event on Halsted Street, working with the Northalsted Business Alliance to begin conversations between business owners and LG-BTQ youth, according to a statement from YPS.

In addition to working with youth, Dorsey had a passion for music and acting.

"He had so much talent," said his mother, Consandra Wright. "I am certain if he were still here, that one day I would have sat next to my son receiving awards at the Oscars, Grammys and every notable artistry organization [event]."

He performed in productions of Rent and Romeo and Juliet, Wright said, and he directed his church choir at The Gate Called Beautiful Ministries.

Dorsey moved to Las Vegas to pursue his dreams of performing and started attending college there. Celebrating his upcoming 21st birthday, Dorsey went swimming in Lake Mohave, Nev., where he drowned accidentally.

Wright remembers her son's commitment to remain true to himself and to have pride. She said he was picked on as kid for being gay and discriminated against by adults in his grammar school. But he took inspiration from Lady GaGa's message that it was good to be different, and he spread that message to young people he worked with.

"In spite of all those obstacles and emotional pain, Martin refused to hide his identity," Wright said.

YPS honored Dorsey with a performance of "Take Me to the King" at services held July 27.

In addition to his mother, Dorsey is survived by father Rory Dorsey, stepfather Anthony Wright and siblings Samson, Ira and Latina as well as his grandparents, cousins and friends.

PASSAGES

Alan Mora

Alan Mora passed away July 29 at age 36.

Mora was born March 7, 1976 in Fostoria, Ohio, to Albert and Lynn Mora.

At 17, he moved to Chicago, where he could be himself—a young gay man and first settled in Boystown. He worked at various jobs and made lots of friends. He met Jeff Tiritilli and Lindsey Hooppaw, and instantly they became a family unit; they adopted each other and became inseparable. They were put into the Chicago Gay History site a few years ago.

Then in his 20s, he became venue coordinator for the Chicago Beef Dancers. Upon leaving that job, he worked at several downtown hotels before finally working at Days Inn on Diversey as night clerk.

Mora had a passion for old B-movies, including everything from John Waters. He loved to make people laugh and smile. He also adopted Franki Scinto, his roommate, as his brother. They, too, were inseparable.

For over a year he bravely fought cancer until succumbing to it. He was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his mother and his adopted grandparents, George and Mary



Alan Mora. Photo courtesy of Thom Hooppaw

Hooppaw. Surviving are his father and stepmother, Shirley; his adopted parents; two sisters; a brother; and several cousins, aunts and uncles, both biological and adopted. There are also a grandmother and his adopted brother and roommate, Frankie Scinto.

There will be a memorial Friday, Aug. 17, at Nookies on Halsted, 3334 N. Halsted St. RSVP at Frankie042172@gmail.com.

'Latina/o Pride Picnic' Aug. 4

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

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

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

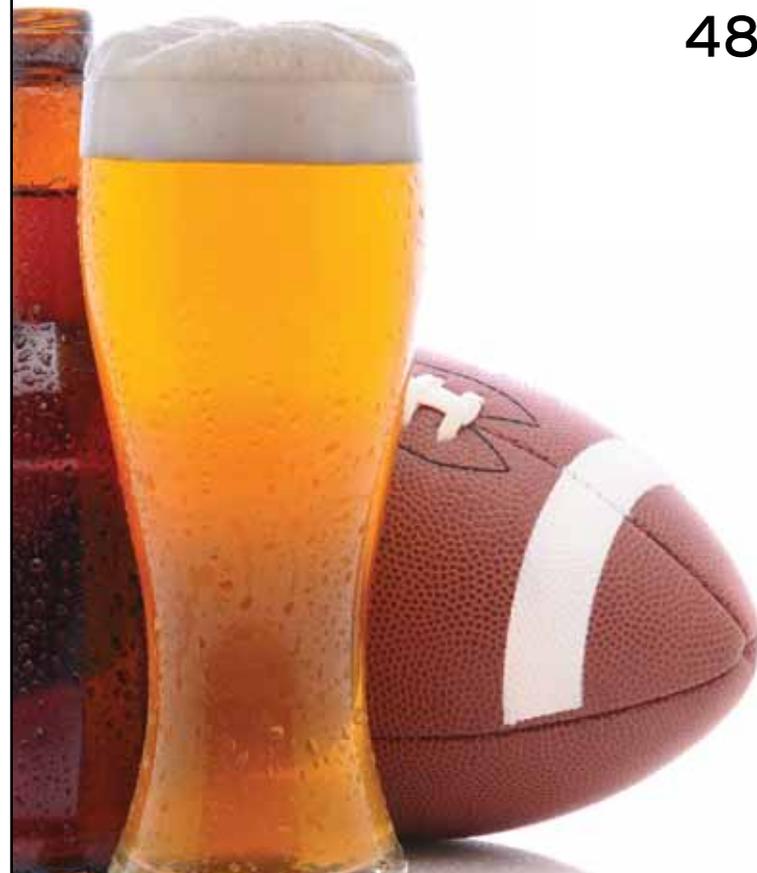


Photo from Orgullo en Accion's 2011 picnic by Emmanuel Garcia

Fall Men's Flag Football Open Registration Party

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Season begins
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Check out our website for more info on our flag football league:

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ACLU represents Illinois couples in marriage fight



Carlos Briones and Richard Rykhus

Evanston couple Carlos and Richard reside in Evanston with their 7-year-old son, Ty'rith (Ty). A couple for eleven years, Richard and Carlos held a commitment ceremony in front of 120 family and friends in July 2005. "We wanted to tell the world that we are committed to one another," said Carlos. "It was important to make a statement that our love was permanent, lasting."

During a visit to Richard's parents a few months later, Carlos and Richard were married in Canada. Now, they make a point of calling one another "husband." "I think it is crucial for me to identify Carlos as my husband," says Richard. "The word 'partner' never has worked for me—it sounds so transactional. We are not in a business relationship. We are in a life-long committed relationship."

Carlos and Richard share a love of education. Recently, Richard saw that he could make a difference in the local elementary schools by running for the local school board; he was elected. Carlos teaches philosophy at a local college.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Illinois is representing nine couples who are seeking the freedom to marry in their home state. (The organization joins Lambda Legal, whose 16-couple roster of clients was shown in last week's issue).

Names are listed left to right, corresponding to each individual's position in the photos. All photos courtesy of ACLU

Ross "Randy" Walden and Robert "Bob" Carey

This couple resides in Springfield, where Randy works for the Army National Guard and Bob works for a major power company.

Bob and Randy had their first date at a local Mexican restaurant—a place they still frequent to this day. They soon will celebrate seven years together as a loving, committed couple. They share many interests together. They care for rescue dogs and cats and share a deep love of the outdoors, spending many weekends camping near Springfield and across the Midwest. Randy and Bob also are active in their local synagogue.

For Randy, meeting Bob was part of a process of recovery after he lost his long-time partner Curt to cancer. That experience made all too clear the harm that can arise from not having one's loving relationship recognized.



Lynn Sprout and Kathie Spegal

Champaign couple Lynn Sprout and Kathie Spegal are all about family. When their family gathered this past Easter, there were 22 children, grandchildren (aged from 22 to 6), spouses and guests.

Lynn is a registered nurse and works at a federally qualified health center. She met Kathie in October in 2001 at church, where Lynn was attending a support group after losing her long-time partner, Linda, after an extended illness. Linda's death was very difficult for Lynn. She lost her job at a local hospital after they denied family leave to care for Linda, and faced challenges to her ability to make decisions about Linda's body and have their family recognized in an obituary after Linda passed away.

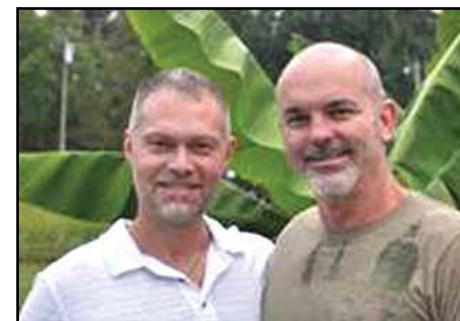
"We are in love," says Kathie, a case manager. "We want to be married. That is what people in our family who are in love do."



Tanya Lazaro and Elizabeth "Liz" Matos

Tanya Lazaro and Elizabeth "Liz" Matos live on Chicago's far Northwest side with their two children, Jaiden (2), and a newborn daughter, Sophia. Since meeting more than 15 years ago, Tanya and Liz have built a life together, based on what they describe as their "shared values and a common commitment to one another and their family."

Tanya initially worked with Chicago Public Schools; however, she decided she wanted something that was "easier," so she joined the Chicago Police Department, where today she is a Detective in the Violent Crimes Unit. Liz, whose family is from Puerto Rico, works as a senior software analyst at a software company that supports trading firms in downtown Chicago.



Tim Kee and Rick Wade

Tim, a teacher, and Rick, an office manager, live in Marion; having been together for 15 years now, they are well-recognized and regarded in their hometown. Though they kept their relationship secret when it began, traveling to St. Louis and environs on their first several dates, they no longer try to hide that they are a couple.

For Rick and Tim, tradition and stability are critical. They live in a house built on land that was Rick's great-great-grandparents' homestead that was passed on to Rick by his grandmother, a house that they have made into their home. Among the values that Tim and Rick also have in common is their faith. They attend (and are active in) the church in Johnson City where Tim was baptized and confirmed.

On June 2, 2011, Rick and Tim went to the Williamson County courthouse to get a civil union. Since they were only the second couple to receive a civil union, the county clerk insisted on coming out to help them, saying that she needed to learn the forms and the process for herself.



Ed Hamilton and Gary Magruder

Walk into the home that Ed Hamilton and Gary Magruder have shared (in fact, built together) in Plainfield, and one easily spots their shared passion. For example, the walls of the home are filled with art work that Gary painted.

They met at the party of a mutual friend in 1964 and began what Gary describes gleefully as a "courtship." Gary grew up in Kankakee County and spent time on his grandparents' farm as a youth, so he was impressed when Ed took him to the theater and to the opera. After a few months, they found an apartment together and remained inseparable.

Both Ed and Gary are retired educators, and both still love teaching and sharing their knowledge with others. At the urging of friends, Gary and Ed travelled to Canada in January 2004—on the 40th anniversary of their meeting—to be married. Gary smiles when talking about saving the lapel flowers from the wedding. They want their marriage, which is the pinnacle of their nearly half-century relationship, to be recognized in Illinois.

Tanya and Kirsten Lyonsford

Aurora couple Tanya and Kirsten have known they were right for one another since almost the first moment that they met, during a September 1999 mandatory diversity training program for AT&T, for whom they worked at the time.

During a game called "Diversity Bingo," Tanya and Kirsten both chose the gay/lesbian box. That public revelation led to a date, a strong friendship and then a deeper relationship. In October 2002, Kirsten and Tanya held a commitment ceremony—a Christian wedding ceremony—including family, friends and colleagues. For Tanya, it was moving that her 84-year-old grandfather not only attended (even though he didn't know she was a lesbian until he got the announcement), but that he made a point of saying that he was there to represent Tanya's late grandmother. It was painful, however, that after that ceremony and all its joy, Kirsten and Tanya heard some say that their celebration was nice "but not legal."

"We are a family," says Kirsten. "We love one another. We love our children. We have built a life together where we are responsible to one another and for one another."



Danielle Cook and Suzanna Hutton

When they first met, Suzanna Hutton and Danielle Cook could not imagine that they would be spending the rest of their lives together. Teachers in Bloomington, Ill., Suzie says that she and Danielle were almost "complete opposites." After more than a decade together, now they want to be recognized as married in their home state.

In June 2011, they entered into a civil union. However, Danielle and Suzie both feel that the civil union "falls short" of being married, sometimes because it is not respected and often because it is not understood by others. Suzie has noted, for example, that when she goes to a doctor's office, a dentist office or another professional service, she is exasperated by the forms she is asked to fill out.



These forms ask the patients or customers to designate whether they are married, single, widowed or divorced—the expected and easily recognizable choices.

Maybe more troubling is that many people—even well-educated and well-intentioned people—don't always know how to react to someone with a civil union. In the schools where Suzie and Danielle both now work, teachers gather to welcome new staff and celebrate births and weddings; the couple had to resort to humor, describing the relationship as "civilized." "Our relationship status should not be the source of laughter," says Danielle.



Corynne Romine and Michelle Mascaro

Like a lot of couples in our busy society, Michelle Mascaro and Corynne Romine met at work—when they were both in a chaplaincy internship at Rush Presbyterian Hospital. Since that time, in early 1991, Corynne and Michelle have created a loving, giving relationship that now incorporates their three children, ages 14, 12 and 11.

"As our children mature, we are trying to teach them important life lessons about honoring relationships and respecting the family unit," said Michelle. "It is difficult to communicate a message about the importance of marriage when we are denied the right to enter into one."

Michelle and Corynne had a private celebration and affirmation of their love at their home in 1995. After making that commitment, they began a family, adopting the first of their three children.

After Illinois approved civil unions, Corynne and Michelle were not certain about seeking that status; they wanted to be married. After six months, on Jan. 6, 2012, Michelle and Corynne, along with their children, traveled to downtown Chicago to obtain a civil union. The date was significant to them; it marked the 20th anniversary of their living together as a couple. However, they don't feel their civil union is sufficient.

GAY in the LIFE

Keesha Brooks

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN



Age
"I'm legal."

Nickname
Taz

Job title
Licensing representative/social worker, Unity Parenting & Counseling

Hobbies
Martial arts and real estate

Favorite professional teams
Chicago Bears and Chicago Bulls

Little-known fact
"I'm quiet, like to keep to myself. Even my [football] teammates might be surprised at that."

Favorite pro athletes
Magic Johnson and Ray Lewis

Keesha Brooks helps people and hurts people—and does both very well, though not on/in the same field.



Brooks spent her seventh season this year as an offensive guard for the Chicago Force, a tackle football team that has shined in the Women's Football Alliance (WFA).

"The Force is a lot of fun. I get to hit people and knock 'em out. It's like legalized assault," she said, smiling. "When I first started with the team, I took it as a challenge. I never thought I'd be able to do it and didn't think I was big enough.

"But I love football, especially the contact [element] of the sport."

She is a Chicago Bears fan, and also has cheered for the Detroit Lions and San Francisco 49ers—mostly because of its former start wide receiver, Jerry Rice.

Brooks' playing highlight—at least as of this interview, which was done before the Force played its first playoff game this season—was the 2008 championship game loss.

"I'm very optimistic for the 2012 team. I don't think there's a team out there that can stop us," Brooks said.

Brooks' day job involves recruiting foster parents and more, a gig she's had for about 18 years. She started as an outreach worker with troubled kids and gang members. She then became a social worker. She now works with 15 or 20 kids per week, every week, from infants to 18 year-olds and some even as old as 24.

"It's [a] rewarding [job], but also taxing," said Brooks, who often has to endure abuse cases and deaths.

There also have been memorable moments over the years, such as the youngster she met while an outreach worker. She ultimately graduated from high school and college and, years later, thanked Brooks for, "not allowing me to fall through the cracks," according to Brooks.

Brooks also tells of the male she worked with who went on to Cornell University, despite a troubled home life.

"Sports are my whole life; I relate it to everything I do," Brooks said. "I always want the kids [I work with] to go to [Force] games, especially girls, so they know about another opportunity in their lives."

Brooks said her agency will be starting a program for LGBT youth, especially homeless youth.



T in the LIFE

COMPILED BY KATE SOSIN



Gloria Allen

Pronouns
She

Identifies as
Female

Career
"I'm a retired LPN. I worked in nursing for about 32 years. I was at the University of Chicago Hospital. I also worked at Michael Reese [Hospital] on the South Side."

What work do you do in the LGBT community?
"I have a charm school at the Center on Halsted, and it's going great. I love my group and the people that come in. They're really sweet."

Hobbies
"I love to sing. I used to be a jazz singer in the '70s. I traveled with the band, and I toured in New York for a little bit and here in Chicago. And I used to model a little bit. I listen to jazz. I read books because I am in the process of writing a book now, my life story, a tell-all book."

Do you consider yourself an activist?
"Yes, I do. I cater to the trans [community]. I encourage them to do better things. I am always out there fighting for our rights."

When did you start questioning gender?
"I never questioned it. I was really born to

be a girl, and my family tried to say 'oh you're just going through a phase.' After so many years, when I got to be like 9 or 10 and I was really into it, my family just embraced me ... the whole family loved it. Coming up it was so much fun because they didn't try to stop me from being who I wanted to be. They said, 'well, if you're going to do it, be a good one.' And I am."

Do you have any coming out stories that you want to share?

"I was in grammar school and we always had Halloween parties when Halloween time would roll around. One particular Halloween, I think was about 10 years old ... I decided I wanted to go as my mother because my mother was a Jet centerfold model, so I wanted to go and be like her. She had some dresses, and I snuck me a dress and got some makeup ... we went to the party and that started it. I had so much fun being my mom."

What do you think is the most pressing issues facing trans people?

"Violence against trans [people.] And trans [people] now, they have a tendency to fight and bicker amongst themselves, and it's so sad to see that. It's difficult. I hate to see that, and I hate for them to be out in the streets... because some of them are really smart and brilliant, and they need to bring that out and let people know 'we're decent.'"

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

BOWLERS Wanted!

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GLBT Tuesday Night
Mixed Bowling League

Waveland Bowl
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Registration Night:
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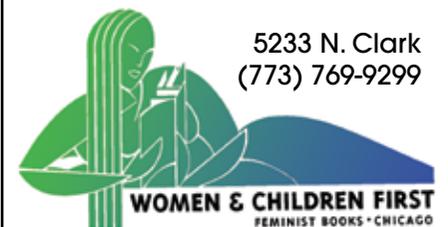
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Wed., Aug. 10
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Poetry Reading
Daniela Olszewska
Stephanie Anderson
Melissa Severin



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VIEWPOINTS

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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.

TRACY
BAIMThe right to
be stupid and
offensive

I won't ever give my business to a Chick-fil-A, and I know that many LGBTs and our allies will also stay away.

But Chick-fil-A has every right to be in business, in the city of Chicago and elsewhere. I would never want their bigotry to keep them from getting a business license.

I respect Chicago Ald. Proco Joe Moreno immensely for his courage in trying to fight the bias of Chick-fil-A by stopping it from building in his ward. I also applaud Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino for their comments against the chain. I have a list of other anti-gay companies if you feel like making more public statements about homophobia, and I would also appreciate your lobbying for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act in Congress.

But it is time we step back and assess what is the correct way to respond to Chick-fil-A's corporate bile.

Imagine if the Internet, Facebook and Twitter existed in the 1950s and 1960s.

@RosaParks: These ignorant #racists need to learn manners. I am sitting right here, right now. Boycott the #Montgomery buses!

@Greensboro: This #Woolworth lunch counter is going to be occupied NOW. Come on down to join in.

Then everyone spread the news on your social networks. Add in a mix of politicians joining each side of the bandwagon, racists throwing sticks and stones, religious groups justifying separate water fountains, and the list goes on.

This may have caused even wonderful, rational people to perhaps go beyond what the legal response would be, just to please their constituents. In order to confront the bigots, they may have stooped to their level. In fact, many people on both sides did resort to dramatic response, and some on the right side of history gave their lives for justice.

But the best answer to the Woolworth company's racism in the U.S. South was to sit in and protest. Not to deny them the right to exist. If a company is racist or sexist in its hiring or service, the answer is to sue it—and to picket, boycott and spread the word.

Windy City Times has been covering the bigotry of Chick-fil-A for more than 12 years. Our first report was Feb. 9, 2000. Our news coverage: If you're a guy who likes to wear an earring, don't bother applying for work at any of the nation's 850 Chick-fil-A restaurants, the founder and chairman of the company said Jan. 31, reports The Mobile Register. "If a man's got an earring in his ear and he applies to work at one of my restaurants, we won't even talk to him," S. Truett Cathy said after a speech to more than 300 people at the University of Mobile. After the lecture, Cathy was asked if he would hire gay people at his fast-food restaurants. He hesitated, then said, "It depends on the circumstances." That means he would have to consider the applicant's appearance, history and reputation, he said.

There was more where that came from, but somehow the most recent comments by Chief

Operating Officer Dan Cathy were what set off a firestorm. Cathy told the Baptist Press his goal is to operate the fast-food chain "on Biblical principles." He said the company had an established position against marriage equality.

Let us set aside for now the comments about the Bible they use as a crutch, despite the really horrible stuff the Bible sanctions (slavery) and despite the fact that the meat-lover's paradise is likely not following the Bible's food preparation and serving instructions.

If the company follows the law, they should be allowed to exist. I do have some questions about if they indeed are operating within the law. For example, does their corporate policy discriminate against potential gay franchise owners? I believe it does and there should be a lawsuit (not that any gays would want to buy in now). Does the corporate culture result in discrimination in hiring or service? Then by all means sue.

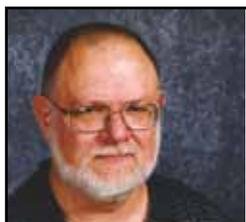
Chick-fil-A has the right to follow a Bible that authorizes the killing of children who talk back to their parents. They just can't actually do that. They have a right to oppose same-sex marriage—and I am really glad they are boasting about it because many company leaders feel the same way but hide their positions. That means our gay dollars go to haters and we don't even know it.

We absolutely can't have a religious or moral litmus test for getting a business license. Because in the past (or a potential future) that would mean some LGBT businesses might not qualify.

So go on Chick-fil-A; act like the sky is falling just because two people want equal access to marriage. But watch out if you step over any legal lines in franchise rights, hiring or service.

In the meantime, my friends and I will flock to another restaurant.

Tracy Baim is publisher of Windy City Times.

MARK
ZUBROA visit to
Wisconsin

I've finally been part of an author event that got protested by the right wing. I've had 23 books published, five short stories, been to numerous conventions, talked on panels, attended author events in books stores, done a million things for publicity, but it wasn't until last Saturday, June 16, that protesters finally showed up.

Took them long enough.

I was at the Southeast Wisconsin Festival of Books at the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha. It is a wonderful campus. All the people I met connected with the event were kind, friendly and helpful. They were stunningly well-organized; for example, for intervals between panels there was entertainment such as a bell choir and a brass ensemble. It was just an event filled with pleasant amenities and people.

The theme of the festival was "Freedom to Read." Every hour and a half from Friday afternoon until Saturday evening there were numerous literary panels to choose from such as: Writing in Wisconsin: A Wisconsin Writers Association Panel; Finding Your voice; Make Room for Romance; Wisconsin Women of Mystery; Defining (And Loving) Literary Fiction, and many many more. It was a literate person's buffet of delights.



Anti-gay protesters at book festival. Photo courtesy of Mark Zubro

I was part of two panels. One in the morning, "Macho Men of Mystery," had male panelists with a female moderator. I think I need more butch lessons to really fit in on that one. The panel consisted of pleasant, intelligent, well-read people guided by a great moderator into discussing what the real definition of being a macho character in a mystery novel means.

The other forum, in the afternoon, was titled "Outfront: A LGBT Author Panel." The authors were Anne Laughlin, Elizabeth Ridley, C.P. Rowlands, myself and our moderator, Timothy Thering.

We discussed the intricacies of being a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender writer, the prejudiced we dealt with in terms of being published and getting published. The comments were trenchant, well-thought out, and relevant to the issues at hand.

Then about 55 minutes into the panel, someone came into the room and told us there was a group outside protesting against us. I'd never been protested. So right after we were done, I hurried out to see them.

I guess protests aren't what they used to be. There were nine protesters, seven of whom seemed to be adults.

They had signs about us that read, "Homosexuality is Sin," "Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out," "Flee Sexual Immorality," plus one saying something about us being the epitome of sin.

I've been working on that "epitome of sin" thing, trying my best to get it right. Frankly, being the epitome of sin kind of sounds like a lot of fun. As for fleeing sexual immorality, hell, I'd just like to get someone to go home with me from a bar sometime this century. It's the other guys who keep fleeing.

The protestors stood on a sidewalk across a parking lot from the building we were in. A few cars rode past on the road behind them. The sun shone down.

One of them had a bullhorn being used to call out I'm not sure what. As with most bullhorns used in the outdoors at rallies and events, I've found that if you're more than about ten feet

Turn to page 18

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Lauren Greenfield

GAME OF THRONES

David and Jackie Siegel—and their 90,000-square-foot would-be house—are profiled in *The Queen of Versailles*. See page 18.

DISH

French connection.
Page 22.

Photo of the pork belly and fries at Troquet by Andrew Davis



MUSIC

Pure Garbage.
Page 19.

Photo of Shirley Manson by Autumn de Wilde



SPORTS

Getting their kicks.
Page 26.

Photo by Sam Hamilton



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Law and the playwright

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

A gay love story is at the heart of the new play *Airline Miles*, and its out playwright, Hank Perritt, wouldn't have it any other way.

"I've been told that writers should always draw from their own experience," Perritt said during a recent telephone interview around rehearsals.

To that end, Perritt said he always incorporates gay characters into his fictional writing, which would range from his contributions to the 2010 Chicago show *You Took Away My Flag: A Musical About Kosovo* to his recently published novel *Arian*.

Perritt also incorporates his life's work experience—which has largely been locally as a professor of law and former dean at Chicago-Kent College of Law into his writing—into his writing. (Perritt also notably ran as an openly gay Democratic candidate for Illinois' 10th Congressional District in 2002, ultimately losing to Mark Kirk.)

So it should come as no surprise that a slightly off-the-wall court case, based upon actual recent lawsuits that have been filed, would be the jumping off point for Perritt's latest play.

Airline Miles involves a failing businessman with family problems named Richard Ginsburg (Gary Houston), who suddenly becomes so obsessed about losing his first-class privileges from a frequent-flyer program that he decides to hire a lawyer and sue the airline. That initially unlucky lawyer Ginsburg hires is Brendan Scope (Brandon Thompson), a brash and up-and-coming young lawyer whose career successes up to this point also hide some personal relationship failures with his ex-partner, Bobby (Jordan Phelps).

"The bizarre nature of the legal dispute allows me to show the character of Richard as being

kind of kooky at the beginning to later becoming a loving surrogate father to Brendan," Perritt said. "And with Brendan, he initially appears to be professionally perfect while he his personal life has fallen apart."

Airline Miles also focuses on the difficulties people face at the end of relationships and issues of spousal abuse, something Perritt seems to hint at in a brief online biography when talking about his late partner, Mitchell Bergmann, who passed away in July of 2010.

In that biography about Perritt, it says, "He has known that he was gay since he was about four years old, but was too terrified to tell anyone until he was in his mid-thirties. He was blessed by being in a loving, but tumultuous, relationship with Mitchell Bergmann for 25 years."

Perritt sees playwrighting as a natural for him as a lawyer and law professor, since he says practicing law involves a lot of storytelling and framing facts to get across a particular and convincing narrative, be it for a jury or in teaching hypothetical situations to law students.

And in recent years Perritt has increasingly sought out more opportunities to be a part of Chicago's theater scene. He is producer and a managing member of Modofac Productions, LLC, which is co-producing *Airline Miles* along with The Artistic Home (of which Perritt is vice president and a member of the board of directors).

"I just love the collaborative process of theater," Perritt said. "At rehearsals, it's spine-tingling to see and hear something that I've written come to life by actors who make it flow and increase the depth and meaning of the dialogue."

Modofac Productions and The Artistic Home present *Airline Miles* Aug. 3-12 at The Second Stage Theatre, 3408 N. Sheffield Ave. Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays with



Jordan Phelps and Brandon Thompson rehearse a scene from Hank Perritt's new play, *Airline Miles*. Photo courtesy of Modofac Productions

5 p.m. matinees on Sundays. Tickets are \$20 and \$15 for students; visit www.airlinemilesplay.com for more information.

Latino solos

Collaboration and Teatro Vitsta have teamed up to create the new Yo Solo Theatre Festival of Latino Solo Shows, which is currently running through Aug. 12 on the third floor of the Flat Iron Arts Building in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood.

Taking a page from the defunct Live Bait Theater's former Fillet of Solo Festival, the festival consists of three programs rotating in repertory featuring two solo works apiece.

Program A features Febronio Zatarain's *La Risa de Dios* (which focuses on how the Windy City's Latino immigrant community sees the city of Chicago) and Lisandra Tena's *Guera*, which consists of four-to-six-minute "meal menu" performance pieces drawn from her experiences with her father.

Program B features KJ Sanchez's *Highway 47*, which is about the 15-year legal battle over the New Mexico land grant of Tome. Also on the bill is Sandra Delgado's *para Graciela*, which is inspired by the playwright's maternal grandmother and is drawn from interviews with Delgado's mother and aunts.

However, it's Program C that already comes with plenty of acclaim, since it includes Juan Francisco Villa's award-winning New York piece *Empanada for a Dream*, which looks at a family from the Lower East Side that is torn apart by a terrible secret. Also on that bill is Rey Andujar's *Antipoda*, which is described as "a journey across the Americas' landscape through the lens of racial identity, crime and sexuality through Corporeal Mime and bilingual Spoken Word."

Yo Solo Theatre Festival of Latino Solo Shows continues through Aug. 12 at the Flat Iron Arts Building, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave. Call 312-226-9633 or visit www.yosolofestival.com for more information.



WTC View. Photo by Kat Dennis

THEATER REVIEW

WTC View

Playwright: Brian Sloan

At: Project 891 Theatre Company

at Chemically Imbalanced,

1422 W. Irving Park Rd.

Tickets: 773-835-3210;

www.brownpapertickets.com; \$20

Runs through: Aug. 12

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

We all remember the jumpers after the planes crashed the Twin Towers, but do we ever think about the office drone who started down the elevator to the ground floor seconds earlier and stepped out on the sidewalk to find himself surrounded by a rain of falling bodies? How about the Upper West Side matron who, hearing of a “fire” in faraway lower Manhattan, kept her hair appointment, only to be later reviled for unconscionable vanity? What about the hotel concierge reduced to sleeping in his workplace’s banquet room when stranded travelers occupy every available bed in Manhattan? Or a 33-year-old gay male looking for a roommate to share rent on an East Village apartment with a panoramic view of the—you guessed it—World Trade Center?

With so many images facilitating heaps of weeps, who cares about these minimally damaged survivors? Playwright Brian Sloan does—that’s who. The protagonist of his play is the aforementioned apartment’s leaseholder, already in emotional turmoil following a rift with his Brooklyn-based boyfriend, suddenly endowed with a ringside seat of the holocaust. As prospective co-tenants—many displaced from their own lodgings by the upheaval—respond to his now chillingly ironic advertisement, they bring with them their own experiences, observations and, sometimes, comfort.

That’s right—comfort. For us, as for distraught subletter Eric, the ease with which we become so focused on the cataclysm that we allow its after-effects to fester within its victims until they erupt in full Post-Traumatic-Stress collapse. Eric ignores his own reactions, rejecting his girl-pal’s advice and his ex-lover’s offer of company, and listening impassively as others are compelled to share their personal recollections. When a trivial incident triggers a full-out breakdown, his sole witness is a bewildered college student seeking new quarters after vowing not to join his peers

in fleeing the devastated city.

Any play invoking the events of 9/11 risks becoming an exercise in hankie-wringing, but a good cry is not director Michael Rashid’s goal. If Sloan’s characters serve to illustrate the steps leading to recovery from sudden loss, the actors portraying our damaged survivor’s rescuers likewise emphasize the roll-up-your-sleeves-and-deal-with-it kind of resiliency that subverts terrorism more effectively than any amount of flag-waving “get the bastards” oratory. In a universe beset by the unexpected, are these skills not always handy to have?

CRITICS’ PICKS

Death and Harry Houdini, The House Theatre of Chicago at Chopin Theatre, through Aug. 17. Every time this five-time revival is remounted in a different space, it gets more dramatic and more exciting. But stunt-illusionist Dennis Watson can’t risk his health for our entertainment forever, so see it now before it disappears for good. MSB

Moment, Steep Theatre, through Aug. 18. A modern-day Irish clan is still dealing with the fallout of a rash teenage moment years ago in the U.S. premiere of Deirdre Kinahan’s powerful drama examining family dynamics and resentments. SCM

Three Sisters, Steppenwolf Theatre, through Aug. 26. Despite a few reservations, I find this production is handsome and heartfelt in a vigorous, clear new English version by Tracy Letts. A fine cast and director Anna D. Shapiro dispel the notion that “nothing happens” in Chekhov. JA

What’s the T?, About Face Youth Theatre at National Museum of Mexican Art, through Aug. 5. Notions of “safe spaces” for diverse LGBT youth in Chicago’s Boystown neighborhood are insightfully and entertainingly explored in this wonderfully collaborative and very timely piece by playwright Sara Kerastas and the About Face Youth Theatre Ensemble. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

The Dumb Waiter

Playwright: Harold Pinter

At: TUTA Theatre, 2010 W. Fulton

Tickets: 1-800-838-3006;

www.tutato.com; \$25 (suggested donation)

Runs through: Aug. 18

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Earlier this season, Writers’ Theatre presented Harold Pinter’s *The Caretaker* with the audience seated inside the claustrophobic four walls of the play’s one-room set. Now, TUTA offers an environmental take on another seminal Pinter work, his 1957 one-act, *The Dumb Waiter*. This time the one-room setting is a 9’ x 9’ x 9’ cube, with the audience (limited to 25) standing above and looking into the room as if through the ceiling. As with *The Caretaker*, the tight quarters and intimate audience dynamics demand focused acting, and TUTA’s production delivers just as Writers’ Theatre did so brilliantly.

With *The Dumb Waiter*, Pinter was the first writer after Samuel Beckett (yet at the same time as Beckett) to promote an absurdist world view in which there are no answers to fundamental questions (“Why are we here?”), and in which the rules of the universe are both unknowable and arbitrary. We exist and—eventually—suffer through the forces or whims of things/beings we cannot comprehend. Placing the audience in a god-like position emphasizes this aspect, just as random noises from the floors above the TUTA studios (in an old loft building) add a myste-

rious and threatening element to the audience experience.

The Dumb Waiter concerns professional assassins Ben and Gus, longtime partners, waiting in a small room for details of an impending job. Gruff senior partner Ben (Andy Hager) has a short fuse and a know-it-all air until abnormal things happen, while Gus (Trey Maclin) seems softer and more curious about the who, what and why of their work which aren’t wise inquiries. *The Dumb Waiter* occurs in an hour of real time, but you know that Ben and Gus have spent hours and hours waiting like this.

Under master director Zeljko Djukic (TUTA co-founder and artistic director), Hager and Maclin offer beautifully calibrated performances, with Hager especially effective in registering Ben’s fear and panic when things become odd, while Maclin’s Gus has a fitting puppy-ish quality. Both sport very good London East End accents, especially Maclin. Assisted by designers Joey Wade (scenic) and Christopher Kriz (sound), Djukic’s dollhouse-like staging concept is most effective.

Djukic injects several things not found in Pinter, most notably the brash use of two pieces of music, the first an over-the-top Italian song (Neapolitan?) that accompanies the activation of the titular device, and the second the Bee Gees’ “Staying Alive,” which covers physical action and provides a metaphysical comment. The music is a surprising, effective and enjoyable flourish but not a necessity. More curious is the suggestion in the closing seconds that space aliens are the unseen controlling force, which seems too easy an answer for the existential despair central to *The Dumb Waiter*, even if funny.

THEATER REVIEW

The American Plan

Playwright: Richard Greenberg

At: Artistic Home at Stage 773,

1225 W. Belmont Ave.

Tickets: 773-327-5252;

www.stage773.org; \$15

Runs through: Aug. 26

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

She’s Jewish, the beautiful daughter of an expat dowager dubbed “the Duchess” by her neighbors. He’s a handsome WASP to whom, she asserts, “nothing has ever happened.” Lili Adler summers in the Catskill Mountains on a private estate, while Nick Lockridge is a guest at the fashionable resort across the lake boasting “American Plan” accommodations—lodging, meals and entertainment all in a single package. From the moment they first meet, they both lie—a reflex response acquired from parents and peers who also lead lives rooted in deception.

The year, you see, is 1959—a time when, following the upheaval of the recent war and the economic Depression preceding it, the return to peace and prosperity was predicated on conformity to “American” values as defined by those in power. (Grace Metalious’ novel, *Peyton Place*, had exposed the underside of THAT culture three years earlier, but denial has an enduring shelf life.) When your mother fled Hitler’s Germany only to be widowed by American anti-Semitism, when your father committed corporate crime and then suicide, when your gay schoolboy chum arrives seeking a more permanent arrangement, when the servants also conspire to shelter you from the truth—well, is it any wonder that this pair of lonely young people see in one another an escape from the secrets that cripple their spiritual growth?

Nothing good can come of romance founded in mutual humbuggery, of course—the lesson addressed in countless fables of love vs. money (Henry James’ *Washington Square*, Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*, Friedrich Dürrenmatt’s *The Visit* among them). Unlike his predecessors, Richard Greenberg spares his

ill-starred pilgrims a tragic end to their charade. Ten years later, Lili and Nick reunite in the city for the funeral of the Adler matriarch. The habits bred of an upbringing based in hypocrisy are hard to break (“Happiness is for other people,” Lili concludes in Chekhovian mode), but the clamor of youthful protesters in the streets outside the posh apartment hints at future deliverance.

Most theater artists approach a play as a series of scenes, but what distinguishes Artistic Home productions is its holistic view of its material. To illustrate: When the lights dim to indicate passage of time or change of locale, the actors don’t drop their personae and march offstage, but continue the previous dramatic action even as they exit. This creates three-dimensional characters quickly engaging our hopes for, if not happy, then kinder days ahead for all.



The American Plan. Photo by Brian McConkey



The Vortex. Photo by Peter Bosy

THEATER REVIEW The Vortex

Playwright: Noel Coward
At: Dead Writers Theatre Collective
at Greenhouse Theater Complex,
2257 N. Lincoln Ave.
Tickets: 773-404-7336
or www.deadwriters.net; \$30
Runs through: Aug. 26

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Gay British playwright Noel Coward launched to stardom in 1924 when he penned and played the leading man in his (then) shocking drama *The Vortex*. But nowadays, the play's controversial subject matter barely registers a shrug or two.

Still, *The Vortex* is an important document of Coward on the cusp of international renown before his comedies like *Blithe Spirit*, *Private Lives* and *Design for Living* would elevate him into cannon of essential 20th-century British playwrights. Dead Writers Theatre Collective offers up a rare and ravishing-to-the-eye revival of *The Vortex* for its inaugural production, but it's ren-

dered here more as a historical curiosity rather than a gripping flesh-and-blood drama.

As with the milieu of many Coward comedies, it's the foibles and failings of the upper crust on display in *The Vortex*. The fashionable Florence Lancaster (Bonnie Hilton) clings to her youth by flaunting the latest art deco designs for her wardrobe and London town house and by surrounding herself with a series of younger men, of which Tom Veryan (Danny Pancrantz) is the latest. Yet Florence is also mother to a handsome concert pianist, Nicky (Kaelan Strouse), who is back in London after performances in Paris where he rashly became engaged to the flip-pant flapper Bunty Mainwaring (Skye Shrum).

However, the artfully constructed façades to both Florence and Nicky's lives come crashing down at a gathering at the Lancaster's country estate. Nicky is confronted over his drug abuse by family friend Helen Saville (Teri Schnaubelt), while Nicky confronts his mother over her habitual infidelity to his father, David (Noah Sullivan).

Coward devotee Jim Schneider clearly is relishing his chance to direct *The Vortex*, and it shows in the ingenious art deco set designs of

Edward Matthew Walter (complete with a white baby grand piano in the second act) and the exquisitely expensive-looking costumes of Elizabeth Wislar. But one wishes that Schneider and his cast could have scratched deeper beyond the sumptuous surface of the production design to show a more compelling portrait to these idly rich and emotionally troubled characters.

But perhaps the fault lies in part with the play, which deceptively comes off like one of Coward's classic comedies before it veers into heaving and teary-eyed melodrama.

Still, there are smaller turns to be treasured

in *The Vortex*. Betsy Pennington is a pistol as a Zoe Wanamaker-sounding hypochondriac recital singer Clara Hibbert, while Bradford Lund's befuddled playwright Bruce Fairlight is fun. Rob Cramer is also a delight as the catty (and obviously gay) friend Pouncefort Quentin.

Dead Writers' *The Vortex* may be more style over substance, but its style and historical importance as a Coward landmark certainly can't be denied.

SPOTLIGHT



Gay playwright Tennessee Williams scored his first major success in the late 1940s with his semi-autobiographical "memory play" *The Glass Menagerie*. See this classic drama with super-intimate proximity at Redtwist Theatre, which includes recent Jeff Award-winner Jacqueline Grandt in its cast. *The Glass Menagerie* continues through Sunday, Sept. 2, at Redtwist Theatre, 1044 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays with 3 p.m. matinees on Sundays. Tickets are \$25-\$30; call 773-728-7529 or visit www.redtwist.org for more information. Photo by Jan Ellen Graves



Museum honors TV legend Mary Hartline

The Museum of Broadcast Communications hosted TV icon Mary Hartline July 28. Hartline was a 1950s TV icon and the star of the show *Super Circus*.

As one of the first female television personalities, as well as one of the first television stars to hail from Chicago, museum president Bruce DuMont told *Windy City Times* that Hartline has a special place in the museum and that Chicago is very proud of her iconic status.

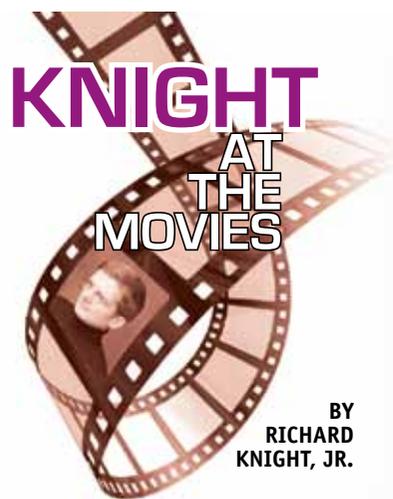
See www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Museum-to-honor-TV-legend-Mary-Hartline/38793.html

She is pictured here with one of her outfits on the show, on display at the museum. Photo by Hal Baim; more online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

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BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

The Queen of Versailles; DVD notes

To paraphrase F. Scott Fitzgerald's quote in *The Great Gatsby*, "The rich are different from you and me." One would suppose that to be the case at the outset of Lauren Greenfield's entertaining and strangely compelling documentary **The Queen of Versailles**. A profile of self-proclaimed timeshare king David Siegel and his Barbie-doll third wife, Jackie, as they construct what they tout as the largest home in the United States, the film opens with footage of the Siegels and their brood (they have eight children) living large and bragging about the power their wealth has brought them.

However, the tight-jawed, old money snobs with their rigid WASP lifestyles that Fitzgerald wrote about in *Gatsby* have nothing to do with the Siegels, whose lack of pretension and zest for stuff (and more stuff) are nothing if not the American dream writ large. These are not people who worry about dinner seating charts or fussing about good penmanship on handwritten thank-you notes. Jackie—a 46-year-old former Mrs. Florida America with breast implants, blonde highlights and other obvious cosmetic enhancements—is a woman who has her chauffeur go through the McDonald's drive-up, who wears a fur coat around the house and who brags about her \$17,000 designer boots. David, 31 years her senior, crows early on in the movie that he was responsible for securing Bush's place in the White House and that the real reason for building the 90,000-square-foot home in Orlando is "Because I can."

Nothing about the Siegels and their rags-to-

riches story seems atypical (with the exception, perhaps, of David's billion-dollar success) and these modern-day Clampetts—with their lack of taste and avid desire for more, more, more—are as familiar as all those instant lottery millionaires seemingly profiled on the news every other day. Nor is the Taj Mahal-sized "house" they are building out of line for consumers on this scale. The "need" for all that closet space, a separate wing for the children and the nannies, the ice-skating rink and endless bathrooms—these are familiar McMansion talismans.

What sets this look at the *nouveau super-riche* and the film apart is that the Siegels let Greenfield and her crew continue filming when the dream began to collapse. This was after the disastrous mortgage crisis in 2008 that struck at the heart of Westgate Resorts, David Siegel's timeshare business. Relying on selling timeshares on margin to risky buyers—not unlike the junk mortgages favored by the housing market—the company's inability to get cash to cover the defaults put the Siegels in financial hot water. Within months of the financial meltdown the unfinished dream palace (which we never see being worked on), inspired by a trip to the real Versailles, was on the market for \$100 million (\$75 million unfinished), along with just about every other Siegel asset.

Forced to financially "conserve," the shopping-mad Jackie makes do with buying Christmas presents at Wal-Mart and letting most of the staff go. David, sullen and depressed, withdraws to his man cave, snarling or indifferent each time Jackie attempts to pull him out of his funk. No doubt Greenfield knew she had hit pay dirt with scenes like the one in which Jackie is forced to fly commercial air and asks the car rental agent (in all seriousness) the name of her driver.

There is also the scene in which David's highly touted company office tower in Las Vegas, newly opened, sits eerily empty only months later. But Greenfield also captures moments that aren't so easily predictable—like the one in which a neglected pet lizard is found dead and is quickly forgotten within the cluttered and filthy McMansion, or the scene in which Jackie decides to "help out" with the cooking for David's birthday dinner. Jackie seems unflappable, a cheerful but benign narcissist who never really seems to connect with her husband, kids or what remains of her staff while David stubbornly rejects any culpability over his actions (he constantly blames "the banks" for his changing fortune) and seems to only come alive when involved in a business transaction.

It's easy to tag The Queen of Versailles as nothing more than a portrait of wretched ex-

cess, and the kitsch factor is admittedly high. But there's something also subtly but powerfully disturbing going on underneath that has more, I think, to do with the strange combination of soullessness, anxiety and a sense of some profound intangible irretrievably lost that stays with you long after the movie is over.

DVD notes:

Here's a laundry list of recent DVD/Blu-ray releases of interest:

—Bravo network staple, recent Emmy nominee (once again) and the gay community's BFF Kathy Griffin is showcased in **Pants Off/Tired Hooker**, two of her most recent, patented dirty, gossipy stand up concert specials.

—The odd crime-noir thriller **Bound** from 1996 is equally notable for its red hot love scenes between Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon. The movie is now out on Blu-ray.

—Both classic and camp cinema fans will rejoice with the news that Nicholas Ray's 1954 western **Johnny Guitar** has finally been released on DVD and Blu-ray. The movie stars Joan Crawford—at her butchest—going head to head with tough-as-nails, crazy conservative zealot Mercedes McCambridge while a host of male sy-

cophants stand around watching the two go at it. Big fun.

—Lisa Kudrow and Mira Sorvino enliven the underrated but very funny 1997 **Romy & Michele's High School Reunion** (out in a 15th-anniversary Blu-ray edition) which also features gay star Alan Cumming in one of his first film roles and a hilarious supporting turn by Janeane Garafalo.

—**Mary Marie** is a new lesbian romantic drama in which an intense long-term friendship between two women blossoms into the Love That Dare Not Speak Its Name.

—**Sebastiane**, the 1976 first feature from late queer auteur Derek Jarman, is coming to Blu-ray in a remastered edition. The film, which details the life of the Roman soldier who eventually became Saint Sebastian, is a wash in male sensuality and is gorgeously photographed. This is an instant queer classic that, given its release date, was unsurprisingly the subject of plenty of controversy in its day. Jarman's debut announced the arrival of a major talent.

Check out my archived reviews at www.windycitymediagroup.com or www.knightatthemovies.com. Readers can leave feedback at the latter website.

Glamorama's 'British Invasion' Aug. 10

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

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

Singer Robin Thicke and the duo Karmin will be the featured performers.

The event will take place Friday, Aug. 10, at 8 p.m. at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St.

Ticket prices are \$50 and \$75 for the show only; \$175 and \$285 for show and after-party (also at Harris); and \$1,000 for the VIP show and after-party. For more information, visit www.macys.com/glamtickets or www.HarrisTheaterChicago.org.



Models at last year's Glamorama. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald



The Queen of Versailles. Photo by Lauren Greenfield

VISIT from page 14

away, whatever is being said sounds like gibberish. Presumably whatever they were saying was in fact gibberish, but the acoustics of outdoor planet Earth were working against them. I caught not a word.

So a few of us stood and looked at them standing in their feeble line. It was pathetic. We talked about how sad they were. We laughed a little bit, too. I guess because of the absurdity of what they were doing. Really? Threatened by a gay and lesbian literary panel? But to some, it is, alas, so.

Then somebody took a picture of them. Then we went back inside. Later I couldn't find anybody who knew when they left because nobody stayed to watch them.

The problem, however, was this: There were no television cameras, no sound trucks, no reporters so no live reports from remote locations, no helicopters circling overhead, no real cops, no campus cops—and no fake cops, for that matter. It was really a genuine mess. Can't these protesters do anything right?

Worse, I've never been able to get anyone to denounce my books and their gay characters and gay themes—or, better yet, have someone go on national television and call for them to be banned. Sales would soar, but

no such luck.

But by golly, I've finally done an event that got protested. A good reporter would have rushed across to interview them, gotten their names, the name of their organization and then represent their views in an article in some kind of fair and balanced way. I didn't want to get that close to them. I was not about to underestimate the vitriol of the right wing based on how pathetic the protest was. We have seen our politeness and attempts to understand used as weapons against us. They would get no forum from me.

I wondered (and still wonder): What did these people expect to gain? What was the point in their being at that spot on this planet at that moment? Did they feel better about themselves? I guess so.

Did they feel they'd made their statement? I presume so. Did they make the world a better place? I don't think so. Did they contribute to making the world a kinder and gentler place where each of us does the best he or she can in a universe that is ultimately indifferent to our existence? Not so much.

And they passed up a chance to make me rich. Sigh.

Mark Zubro is a local author whose next book, **Too Stupid to Live**, will be out later this year.

NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Garbage's Shirley Manson on new CD, being an outsider

BY JERRY NUNN

The rock band Garbage was originally formed in Madison, Wis. Made up of Shirley Manson, Butch Vig, Steve Marker and Duke Erikson, the group has had massive success over the years, releasing five studio albums. The band's latest, *Not Your Kind of People*, returns the act to its original rocking roots. Garbage will play live at the Metro for a 30th-anniversary date at the venue.

Manson talked Nunn on One about the new album and how he's a longtime fan making him "the queerest of the Queer."

Windy City Times: Hey, Shirley. You are not going to believe this.

Shirley Manson: Uh, oh.

WCT: I met you years ago at a Tower Records signing in Chicago.

SM: Oh my God. Did I have a small child on my lap by any chance?

WCT: No, you didn't.

SM: Aw that's a shame. [Laughs] What the hell were you doing there?

WCT: I was getting my CD signed. I had been a big fan for a long time.

SM: That is so cute I can't stand it!

WCT: You and the guys were so nice I couldn't get over it.

SM: We are nice! It's nice to be nice, no?

WCT: Of course. I even listened to your band before [the side project] *Angelfish* on cassette.

SM: That is amazing. I feel I owe you a great thanks, then, for sticking by us.

WCT: I am excited about you coming to the Metro.

SM: We are, too. I love the Metro.

WCT: The show sold out in 20 minutes. Did you know that?

SM: I [did] know that. That's incredible. The Metro is a very special place for us because that was, more or less, where our band began. Being Midwesterners, it is practically a hometown show for my band. We are very excited.

WCT: You opened for The Smashing Pumpkins there a long time ago.

SM: We did, yeah.

WCT: So let's talk about this new album, *Not Your Kind of People*. What does the title refer to?

SM: For us, it is a war cry and an inversion of feeling left out and, instead, standing still and inviting listeners who relate to what we are saying to come and join us.

WCT: The song "Felt" sounds like a classic Garbage song. I love that song.

SM: I love that song, too. It is divine.

WCT: Is there a certain track you like to play live yet?

SM: To be honest and not to be glib, but being able to play live all the new songs is really exciting. We are playing to the record and feel very proud of the songwriting—the fact that new songs seem to go down as well as some of the old songs—which is incredible because the album has only been out for a few weeks. To get the kind of response that we are getting to the new material is really gratifying and exciting to us.

The one song that stands out for me on the new record is "Battle in Me" because that was the first song we wrote when we reunited basically after being six years apart. I remember when we were jamming the first day "Battle in Me" presented itself as sometimes ideas do—they sometimes come out of the ether. I remember as the words were spilling out of my mouth, I remember thinking, "This is exactly how we should sound right now. If we can keep this kind of energy and intent throughout the whole recording process we are going to make a great record."

WCT: I like "Beloved Freak" a lot.

SM: That song is a message to ourselves, in a funny way. I think we have all felt, in the course of our lives, a little misunderstood. We, as a band, have been guilty of being hard on ourselves and not feeling good enough. Now I think we have gotten to that point of just accepting who we are as a band and who we are as individuals. Realizing all the things that make us different actually are real strengths.

WCT: I know you have been bullied in the past, driving you to being depressed and cutting.

SM: I have always felt like an outsider, to be honest—being a middle child, being a redhead, being the only female in an all-male band my entire life, even before Garbage, being a Scot living in America. So I have always been a little bit of an outsider.

WCT: I think many of your LGBT listeners can relate to that.

SM: I hope so. As a result I think I really relate to outsider status and people that don't always fit in with the mainstream. People who weren't the cheerleaders and the first to be picked for slow dances or to be on football team. I think our listeners share that feeling. We have enjoyed a huge gay following our entire career; from the very beginning, the gay community has been incredibly supportive of us. I don't know if it is because some of our songs deal with sexual curiosity and experimentation.

WCT: There's the song "Androgyny."

SM: "Androgyny," "Queer," "Sex is Not the Enemy"—and "Cherry Lips" is about a transsexual. Those are a lot of songs. So I don't know if that



Garbage's Shirley Manson. Photo by Autumn de Wilde

is the reason or if gay people still feel like they are treated like outsiders. I don't know; I can't answer that question but all I know is any band that has a gay following is a lucky band because the gay community is incredibly loyal and passionate. Also, [they're] always willing to have a great time a show, which makes for a great show with any band.

WCT: I just like your boots!

SM: [Laughs] Hilarious!

WCT: My favorite Garbage story is the one where the label was trying to get rights to use part of a Pretenders song called "Talk of the Town" on the track "Special," and Chrissie Hynde faxed you saying you can use her sound, voice or her ass!

SM: That's right. She did do that. She's amazing. I love her dearly. She's been so generous to us as a band and to me personally. She is one of my musical heroes so it was a great experience for me.

WCT: You did a huge tour with U2 so that must have been a big deal for you as well.

SM: Yeah, we have toured with almost every big act at this point in the music industry. You mentioned The Smashing Pumpkins earlier. That was an incredible tour right at the beginning of our career. The Pumpkins took us all over North America. That was our first experience at a stadium tour, which was fucking mind-blowing for us. We have played with No Doubt, Alanis Morissette and the U2 tour, where we traveled in a private jet. We saw how the real rock stars live!

WCT: Do you want to do more acting? I know you did [the TV show] *Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles* not too long ago.

SM: I would love to do more acting, definitely. Right now I certainly don't have the time but it is something that I would love to do more often. I found it really inspiring. Life is short; you should do whatever you can get away with.

WCT: You worked on a solo album for a while that wasn't finished. Was that a frustrating experience?

SM: I feel very grateful that I had the experience. Yes, it was frustrating at times and, ultimately, was a doomed experiment but I think it really helped to develop my songwriting and help me develop some confidence. It helped me to polarize what I wanted to do with my life as a musician.

WCT: I am looking forward to this show. It will be a madhouse.

SM: I hope so. We always have great shows in Chicago so we are looking forward to it immensely.

Take in the Garbage Tuesday, Aug. 7, at Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. Visit www.metrochicago.com. See www.garbage.com for more on the group.

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Singer-songwriter Ferron to mark the big 6-0

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

As a child, Ferron (no last name) said that she quickly realized music meant fun. Now, as she prepares to celebrate her 60th birthday with a special reunion concert this weekend, she told Windy City Times that the meaning of music hasn't really changed much for her over the years.

"This birthday party show for me means fun, that's what it's about," Ferron said. "I just want to be with everybody and enjoy it. ... Music still means fun, but it also is power, to have your own voice, to say your own truth, even if you're only saying it to one other person, it's valuable."

At 15, Ferron left a difficult home life with little more than a bag of belongings. She has since become one of the most enduring singer-songwriters in folk music. She has recorded 16 albums during her lengthy career and has inspired many female musicians, including the Indigo Girls, Ani DiFranco, Bitch, J.D. Samson, Julie Wolf and Sam Parton. She has also received many accolades and praise throughout her career for her authentic voice and working class tales.

Rolling Stone has written of her, "Ferron writes of love with the relentless introspection of Leonard Cohen, and, as with classic Bob Dylan, her songs' tough, questioning attitude sometimes gives way to the unexpected."

Fellow musician and friend Bitch said of Ferron's songs, "Hearing them for the first time was

like hearing someone name an unnamed part of myself."

Although she doesn't perform often anymore, Ferron said that her girlfriend asked her, "If you could have anything for your birthday, what would you want?" Ferron quickly replied, "a week with my band."

On Saturday, Aug. 4, her birthday wish will come true as her band joins her on stage at the the Riviera (50 N. Main St.) in Three Rivers, Mich. She will be joined by Bitch, who will open the show.

"It's an old Art Deco theater that these young guys resurrected and put back together," Ferron said. "I don't think they ever get a full house and I want to show them what a full house looks like, because they have worked so hard and it's a beautiful theater. So far we have half the house is sold in advance already with people coming from all over the country."

Ferron said that the audience can expect to hear some songs that haven't been played live in many years.

"I am throwing in a few loops this time, because if we never get together again then there's some songs that I've wanted us to play and we haven't played them for a really long time. So we'll see how that goes."

When performing older songs Ferron has said that they never seem outdated to her, but instead retain a fresh-ness and a new-ness. She said that this might be in part because she writes in the present tense, so her songs are always happening in the present.



Ferron. Press photo

"When we speak in the present tense, we live in the present tense," Ferron said. "So it all happens for me all over again, because the songs are written from images and the images sort of happen in a certain order that I don't think about until I am in the song and then I am off going through whatever it is I am going through now and whatever I was going through then. It's really, really an interesting experience."

One of the greatest compliments Ferron has received during her career has been, "this song saved my life." She thinks that it's in part because she writes songs that she calls "transition" or "process" songs, where she is desperately trying to cling to a philosophy of some sort for dear life. Audiences, especially women, seem to relate deeply to those songs.

"All humans need reflections of themselves," Bitch said. "We are social creatures. Because women musicians are less visible in our media we have had to name something 'women's music' as if everything else is 'men's music.' Ferron's music moves men to tears too - but unfortunately they don't have the access to her music because they don't see themselves as part of 'women's music.'"

Her music has also been incredibly important to the lesbian community, especially since Ferron has always been out during her career.

"There was one year Driver came out," Ferron said. "It was number two on Stephen Holden's list for the year, and there were all these pictures—Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Paul Simon and me. Underneath my picture they put 'lesbian singer-songwriter' and I thought that was really

strange because they didn't specify the sexuality of anybody else. I think what they were probably trying to honor is that lesbian is a political position as well as a personal preference, but it meant that I couldn't elbow the guy next to me on the plane and show him my picture, because then I had to come out to him at the same time. Even if it is a political statement they didn't say 'Communist' or 'Socialist' or 'right-wing.' I don't think they would bother doing that anymore."

Ferron has seen many changes during her career. In addition to the lessening importance of a musician's sexuality, she has also seen a great opportunity for folk musicians arise through social media and computer software. She said that the folk-music community has really grown over the years to be quite large as more and more people are able to connect with one another and have increased ability to get their music out to the world.

As she celebrates her 60th birthday she is showing no signs of slowing down. She still performs occasionally, but is more focused right now on Fen Fest, an annual, weeklong retreat now in its seventh year. She invites artists from all walks of life to come join her Aug. 14-19. She is also hoping to open a coffee house in Kalamazoo, Mich., in the fall for musicians to come play to crowds of 25-40 people.

For concert information, visit www.ferrononline.com/events/ferrons-60th-birthday-party. For information regarding Fen Fest email ferronferron@gmail.com or visit www.ferrononline.com/events/fenfest-2012.



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Levi Kreis. Press photo

Levi Kreis: On acting, songs and his spiritual journey

BY STEPHEN SONNEVELD

Accomplished openly gay musician Levi Kreis has had quite an eventful career, including winning a Tony for his role in Million Dollar Quartet and expanded into movies with such films as 2001's Frailty. He recently talked with Windy City Times, saying (among other things) that he wasn't sure he wanted to continue as an independent artist until a friend convinced him otherwise.

Levi Kreis: So I reluctantly decided to put up the Kickstarter campaign and give it a shot—and my fans spoke. In the interim, it has brought me intimately closer to the people that have been supporting me for the past six years. Some of them even closer than I would have even imagined, as [12] of them became the inspiration [for the] songs on the album.

Windy City Times: I can't think of another project where an artist has reached out to their fan base like that.

LK: It cultivated a bond, I think. My fans have always been more like friends. They were the reason why I've been able to do this as my only job. That was the answer I needed, and that's why I ended up with a new album.

WCT: What's your process for creating songs?

LK: I love writing pop music. I love everything that is very easy to remember, very hooky and simplified. Upon first listen ya know it, ya love it, you're playing it again. With this new album, I've stayed true to the R&B world, I've just wrapped it in this (laughs) late-'70s/early-'80s disco-infused R&B.

I think a lot of the reason why is because I wanted to have a joyful album; something that

depicts the joy and celebration I have right now in life. A lot of it has to do with being three years sober. A lot of it has to do with clearing out a lot of bullshit in my life. I haven't experienced this kind of positivity in my life before.

WCT: Is acting/musical theater something you want to do anymore?

LK: Absolutely. It took me the last year to find out where it fit in my life. I went back to where my first experiences in acting began. [A]fter that first movie [with director Max Myers], and then Frailty, that's where I realized that film is really what I loved.

Ironically, stage is where I kept getting a lot of work. And I loved it, too. It's an entirely different type of experience, so I can't negate one for the other. I'll probably always do both. But right now, definitely film is priority. I now think it all can live together quite nicely, but it did take me about the last year and a half to figure that out.

WCT: When you think about the old Hollywood stars, the actor had to know how to dance, how to perform on stage as well as film...

LK: I know and I love that you bring up that reference because that's always been the one thought that has helped me stop doubting who I was.

WCT: You grew up Christian, didn't you?

LK: A fundamental Baptist, born and raised.

WCT: Can you tell us about the spiritual journey you've undertaken?

LK: I think if I really subscribe to anything at this point in my life, the whole of it can be articulated by two words, which is self-love. I think that is the bottom line.

I look back on people like Louise Hay who has this really incredible book called You Can Heal Your Life. [It] basically says the things that show up in our physical body may have a correlation with something in our emotional body. I realized the emotional disease that was showing itself as Crohn's disease had a lot to do with the six years of reparative therapy I had to become straight—the Exodus International, the "healing of the homosexual"—all that stuff I had not forgiven, hadn't let go of [and] that I still felt anxious about.

Once I started to do a lot of work to let that go, I went off my medication, and I have not had a problem with Crohn's disease since. [The AIDS patients at Hay House] would meet and begin to rebuild their own ability, some of them to heal themselves, through the gift of self love. They said, "I am good enough. No matter if the government, the world, Anita Bryant, Ron-

ald Reagan and everybody tells me that I'm an abomination to God, I am perfect just the way I am." I think there's an incredible power in that.

If there's any power I subscribe to at all at this point, it's simply knowing that you are a perfect expression of the divine, just as you are, period. The more you know that, the more you know that you're supported by a universe, because that universe needed to express itself as you—period. That's a real healing thing and I don't think it needs to get any deeper than that, actually. I'm really grateful to sort of shed the confines of religiosity and get down to a simple core that we are all here exactly as we are, for a reason. And to love it. To love it, love it, love it—to love me for everything that I am.

Levi Kreis will perform at Northalsted Market Days Saturday, Aug. 11, at 3:30 p.m. For more on Kreis, visit www.LeviKreis.com.

Ndegeocello at 'Garden of Eve' Sept. 14

Howard Brown Health Center/Lesbian Community Care Project's annual "Garden of Eve" gala will take place Friday, Sept. 14, 6 p.m.-12 a.m., at the River East Art Center, 435 E. Illinois St.

The VIP reception (hosted by Ted Allen of the Food Network's Chopped) is 6-7 p.m., with the gala taking place thereafter. Grammy nominee Me'Shell Ndegeocello and singer Chris Bruce will perform.

Tickets are \$250 to the reception (\$300 after July 31) and \$125 to the gala (\$150 after July 31). See www.HowardBrown.org.

Those interested in getting involved in the event should email willardd@howardbrown.org or call 773-572-8368.

Marc Anthony in Chicago Aug. 20

Local music/event promoter Henry Cardenas is bringing in singer Marc Anthony as part of a series of fundraisers to benefit the Maestro Cares Foundation, according to ChicagoBusiness.com.

The foundation provides children in developing Latin American countries with housing and food and offers academic and recreational programs.

Anthony's Chicago appearance will take place at the Sofitel Chicago Water Tower Hotel, 20 E. Chestnut St., on Monday, Aug. 20. Tickets are \$1,000 each; see www.maestrocares.org.

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SAVOR

French connection

BY ANDREW DAVIS AND JOE FRANCO

Restaurateurs Stephan and Nicole Outrequin Quaisser have launched several French eateries throughout Chicago. This week, we take a look at two of them: Troquet and Brasserie by LM.

Paris is known for its local brasseries or, as we might call them, local pubs. They serve a bit of food, a decent cocktail and maybe a fresh cup of coffee. Some of us are fortunate enough to live near our own brasserie; some, not so much. **Troquet** in Ravenswood (TroquetChicago.com; 1834 W. Montrose Ave.) allows those lucky locals to sample a bit of Paris right there.

Troquet, at first, seems a bit campy. Too new to feel established and worn. Too many black-and-white pictures of La Tour Eiffel or Notre Dame. But past that lies a drink menu so delightfully French and a food menu so simple but delicious that you won't even notice the showroom-new ambience.

Not many restaurants in Chicago can pour a proper kir and even fewer know what this is. For those with that certain *je ne sais quoi*, the drink is crème de cassis mixed with a medium-bodied white wine. Next to abducting some Parisian kid and sitting him on a bike with baguettes in a basket, this is Parisian as you can get. J'adore!

Brasseries have simple but tasty food and Troquet is no exception. La Charcut or Troquet's take on the classic meat tray is really quite good with numerous locally made products. My personal favorite on any proper petite assiette is a cornichon or the French version of the deli dill. I highly recommend the plate particularly on a warm, summer day.

As for the main courses, Troquet offers only a few, but each packs a wallop. Le Confit du Ca-



Pork belly with fries (above) and bread and charcuterie at Troquet. Photos by Andrew Davis



The sunny interior of Troquet. PR photo



A selection of hors d'oeuvres and server Lukasz at Brasserie by LM. Photos by Andrew Davis



nard is a small miracle. I've always known duck, no matter how prepared, to be a bit greasy, like an insurance salesman but here, it's perfect and full of flavor. Le Petit Sale, or pork belly, so entranced by dining companion that he took his home and wrote poetry to it.

A proper French meal is incomplete without dessert. You have your choice of Mousse Troquet, a traditional French mousse made from chocolate and Nutella. (Yes, I said Nutella. You'll go crazy. I did.) There is also Teurgoule, a traditional cinnamon rice pudding. I sampled both and couldn't honestly choose one as better over the other if my life depended on it.

Go to Troquet for a kir. Go to Trouquet for fantastic French brasserie cuisine. But most importantly, go because there are few places in Chicago where Paris feels so close.

Late last year, Savor profiled Tribute, a contemporary American spot that offered kick-ass lobster mac-and-cheese. I rooted for it to succeed, but had doubts—primarily because of its location at 800 S. Michigan Ave., a relatively dead area in between two active districts. Unfortunately, it closed mere weeks later.

Now, the Outrequin Quaisser are trying their luck at the Essex Inn with **Brasserie by LM** (Brasseriebylm.com). The restaurant seems pleasant enough—but, overall, it pales in comparison to Troquet.

The decor retains some of the details from Tribute (furniture and fixtures), but there are added touches such as a huge blackboard that reveals the day's specials.

Things started nicely enough, thanks to a fantastic mojito and smiling service from an engaging fellow named Lukasz. Regarding salads, mesclun (warm goat cheese, walnuts and balsamic vinaigrette) and Lyonnaise (topped with bacon, egg and grainy mustard vinaigrette) were fine, although my dining companion said her mesclun was "slightly off-balance."

My friend selected mussels and frites (which has three different options) for her entree while I went with the hanger steak frites (with shallot jam, herb butter and French fries). While we both enjoyed our dishes, there was nothing that stood out. My companion has been to France several times and she wasn't overly impressed with the place, although—say it with me—it was pleasant enough.

Don't get me wrong: I enjoyed my time at Brasserie by LM, and it's a fine casual stop after work. The problem was I subsequently went to Troquet—and the Loop eatery suffers by comparison. Maybe I should've tried the pork belly at Brasserie.



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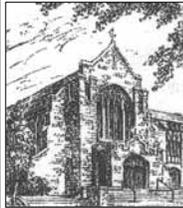
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NEED LEGAL HELP? Pride Law, Andersonville's legal aid clinic for the LGBT community can help. Clinic hours every Wednesday, 5-8:00 p.m. by appointment only. **Call 1-866-703-5509 or send us an email at prideslaw@tsamislaw.com.**

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Pie toss sweet success for Equality Illinois

Pro-LGBT group Equality Illinois raised thousands of dollars July 28 as it hosted a celebrity pie toss at Boystown nightspot Sidetrack in the afternoon. First up to splat was WGN entertainment reporter Dean Richards, who spoke of Chick-fil-A having a record number of sales recently and why this event was so important. (Chick-fil-A is in the midst of controversy after company president Dan Cathy confirmed the fast-food chain's anti-gay stance.) He raised \$600 after bidders with paddles waved them frantically for an opportunity at a pie.

Ald. James Cappleman of the 46th Ward announced his upcoming civil union—with the winner invited to his event as a prize. The LGBT community was truly represented, as local celebrities included transgender sports aficionado Christina Kahrl to lesbian L Stop writer Erica Feliciano all got cream pies to the face. Chicago Fire players Greg Beard and drag queen Debbie Fox were among the others having fun as the pies continued to fly.

Bernard Cherkasov, the CEO of Equality Illinois, went for \$1,250 as employees banded together to get a shot at him.

Real Housewives of New Jersey star Jaime Laurita and partner Rich Lane threw in a signed cookbook by Sarah McLachlan as a prize. They covered up with an issue of Windy City Times—complete with a recent interview of his sister, Caroline Manzo—to block the mess. Toppings were doused over the head of a chicken-costumed man as the point regarding Chick-fil-A was driven home.

Look for more events, such as a Book of Mormon gathering in December. Visit www.eqil.org for more info. Photos and text by Jerry Nunn; more online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



calendar

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Wed., Aug. 1

Gay Liberation Network meeting Chicago's multi-issue, LGBT direct action group calling attention to equality and liberation for LGBTs, against America's wars, supporting labor and immigrant rights, and more. Chicago's multi-issue, LGBT direct action group; 7pm-9pm, 773-209-1187, Berger Park Cultural Center, 6205 N. Sheridan Rd., www.gayliberation.net

Unite: For the Love of Fashion J. Toor, Shah Riaz fashions will be available for sale at event. Benefits. EdgeAlliance. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door; 8pm-10pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., www.edgealliance.org/pages/core_values/125.php

Black Hearts Processional Simply a group of gay Chicago boys who would love to meet other single men. The rules are: 1) Bring another single friend; 2) Try not to bring exes or exes of friends in the club; 3) If you find yourself taken, drop out. 8pm, Big Chicks, 5024 N. Sheridan Rd., www.bigchicks.com

Hydrag Revue Join Hydrate Nightclub for the world famous HYDRAG REVUE hosted by Tajma Hall, featuring the all star cast of Dida Ritz, Sorraya Dash, Mercedes Andrews, Kelly Lauren, Erica Andrews and special guests each week! 10pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.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, Aug. 2

American Bar Association National gathering of legal professionals with more than

ALONG FOR THE PRIDE

Saturday, Aug. 4

Orgullo en Accion's Latin@ Pride Picnic will take place at Humboldt Park.

Photo by Ed Negron



1,400 presentations and events featuring high-profile law experts. Among notable speakers are Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Among diversity topics: LGBT and gender equity, new voter registration laws and Don't Ask, Don't Tell one year later. Open to the public. 10am, Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 E. Wacker Dr, http://gopride.com/z7bg

HIV+ art therapy group Ongoing therapy program that uses art to explore personal and psychological issues related to HIV/AIDS. No previous art skills are necessary. Materials are provided. Register or learn more, Dan Anthon at 847-491-1095 or danthon1@yahoo.com. 1:30pm-3:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

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

Coming Out Support Group This Coming Out Support Group is for women who find

themselves attracted to other women, or may be questioning their sexual identity and are looking to discuss issues of sexuality in a safe and confidential space. 6pm-7:30pm, 773-388-1600, x3319, Howard Brown, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., www.howardbrown.org/lcsp

Pink Ribbons, Inc. Illinois Humanities Council will screen the documentary film about the reality of breast cancer. People walk, run and shop for the cure, millions of dollars are raised in the name of breast cancer, but where does this money go and what does it achieve? Free but reservations are required. Email events@prairie.org; 6pm-8:30pm, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., www.prairie.org

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

Newtown Writers workshop Newtown Writers exist to elevate LGBT literature; 7:30pm, 773-528-3637, private residence

Friday, Aug. 3

Summer Rockin' in the Park The Village of Rosemont presents another Summer Rockin' in the Park music festival on the great lawn in the center of the new MB Financial Park at Rosemont. Admission is free; 6pm-11pm, MB Financial Park at Rosemont, www.rosemont.com/the_park_at_rosemont.php

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. The conversation is led by Paxton Neville; 6:30pm-8pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Fleming's "Under the Stars" Summer Wine Dinner Guests will enjoy a special summer dinner featuring 90-point wines from Napa Valley and Washington state, paired with a five-course menu developed by Chef Partner Roger Abuan. \$100 per person. Call 847-793-0333 for reservations. 7pm-10pm, 847-793-0333, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, 960 Milwaukee Ave., Lincolnshire

Saturday, Aug. 4

Out & Proud Chicago LGBT Tour Out & Proud Chicago, an LGBT tour coordinated by the Chicago Office of Tourism & Culture, is happening this summer on three dates. Led by Tracy Baim, Publisher and Executive Editor at Windy City Media Group. 9:30am-2:30pm, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., http://gopride.com/z6zc

Orgullo's 5th annual LGBTQA Latin@

Pride Picnic All allies, families and kids welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring food and grills to share. 12pm-7pm, Humboldt Park, Division and Luis Munoz Marin Dr., www.orgulloenaccion.org

BACON: Edgewater Edgefest Featuring bacon specialties from your favorite restaurants. 12pm-9pm, Broadway at Thorndale

Kate Bornstein: On Men, Women and the Rest of Us Entertaining introduction to the notion of sex and gender beyond the binary—as well as an affirmation of spirit for sex and gender outlaws. 7 p.m. \$10 at the door. Space is limited. RSVP or learn more from culture@centeronhalsted.org or 773-472-6469; Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Chicago Fire Soccer Club LGBT Pride The Fire will be playing against the Toronto FC. Benefits Equality Illinois' work to educate allies and moderate voters about marriage equality. 7:30pm, 708-496-6779, Toyota Park, Chicago, Tickets: www.chicago-fire.com/pride

WSGA event: Reefer Madness The Circle Theatre gives a campy musical comedy treatment to this over-the-top morality tale from the 1936 cult film where melodramatic events ensue when high school students are lured by pushers to try "marijuana". After the play, WSGA goes to Hideaway Bar 7301 W. Roosevelt. 8pm, Circle Theatre, 1010 W. Madison St., Oak Park, www.wsga.com

D.I.L.F. For men over 35 and the men who want them. Hosted by Jason Hendrix, music by DJ Marc "Moose" Moder. \$3.75 Stella Artois drafts. No cover, no attitude. 9pm, The Sofa Tap, 4923 N. Clark St., www.thesofotap.com

Takin' it to the Beats This is improv – with a tempo! After a two-month hiatus, Chicago's only improvised acapella show is back and better than ever. 10pm-11:30pm, 773-871-3793, The Playground Theater 3209 N. Halsted St., www.the-playground.com/group/1663

Sunday, Aug. 5

Urban Village Church Spiritual worship is about coming together as community to make space for God to move in us. It's a place to receive God's grace and love and to give of ourselves, as well. 10am-11:15pm, Spertus Institute 610 S. Michigan Ave., www.urbanvillagechurch.org

Urban Village Church: Andersonville service Andersonville is a neighborhood full of passion, art, diversity, and eclectic energy, all which makes Urban Village Church thrilled to be joining the community! 10:30am-11:45am, 1602 W. Ainslie (at Ashland), www.newchicagochurch.com

PFLAG regular meeting This month's speaker will be Pastor Don Niswonger of Grace United Methodist Church in Naperville IL. Pastor Don will speak to about his recent sermon on the churches need to welcome the gay community, his congregation's reaction, and the support group he started in his role as a spiritual leader and father of a gay son. PFLAG helpline at 630-415-0622 or Jackie Frett jackief@aol.com; 2pm-4pm, Unitarian Church of Hinsdale, 11 W. Maple St., Hinsdale

Simply Scotty! An evening of song and cabaret. The Emmy-winning Scott Gryder returns to the 3160 for another night of musical mayhem. Accompanied by Nick Sula on piano, and joined by his puppet pals Freddie The Puppet, Laven Deer, and more, Scott shares songs, stories and laughs. No cover. 7pm-10pm, 3160, 3160 N. Clark St., www.chicago3160.com

Madonnarama Single release party for "Turn Up the Radio." DJ Riley York. 10pm, Berlin Nightclub, 954 W. Belmont Ave., www.berlinchicago.com

Urban Village Church: Wicker Park evening service Wicker Park is a neighborhood full of passion, art, diversity, and eclectic energy, all which make Urban Village Church thrilled to be in the community! 5pm-7pm, 1502 N. Hoyle (At LeM-



LEGAL EAGLES

Friday, July 27

The 2012 ABA Annual Meeting will be held Aug. 2-7.

Photo of Gail Morse at 2009 conference by Andrew Davis

oyne), www.newchicagochurch.com

Monday, Aug. 6

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, Chicago, http://www.roscoes.com

Witaske and Hartman Two-Man One-Man Show Seasoned solo sketch comedy performers, Witaske and Hartman present their unique, weird and hilarious characters together in one show for the first time ever. 10:30pm, 312-337-3992, UP Comedy Club, http://upcomedyclub.com/show_right.cfm?id=175265

Tuesday, Aug. 7

2012 NGLCC National Business & Leadership Conference Local and national LGBT businesses and partners such as IBM, American Airlines, Ernst & Young, Wells Fargo, Aetna and UPS as well as many other national and international companies who are committed to developing a positive environment for the LGBT business community. 8am, 221 N. Columbus Dr., www.nglcc.org

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival A woman-only, diverse, intergenerational roster of performers, plus music and art, workshops, films, crafts, dances, and Michigan-style uninhibited pageantry and play. A community forged out of our love and labor that reflects our most essential selves in all things female. Check site for registration deadline and ticket information. 12pm, 231-757-4766, between Hart and Ludington, Mich., www.michfest.com

Wed., Aug. 8

Point Foundation's Chicago Cornerstone Event Meet with scholars and alumni and hear their stories, enjoy cocktails and appetizers. \$100. 6:30pm, James Hotel, 55 E. Ontario St., www.pointfoundation.org/chicago

Sidetrack Tattoo Project Check out the state of skin art on Halsted Street. Show your ink as Sidetrack prepares a new video to hit screens this summer. If you want to add a Sidetrack Market Days temporary tattoo, they've got those too. Special thanks to Sailor Jerry Rum (who will have a great tattoo "app" to play with) and to Guinness Black Lager. No cover. 8pm-11pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., www.sidetrackchicago.com



NEAR AND YET SO FAR

Aug. 7-12

Holly Near (above) is among the performers slated to entertain at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival.

PR photo

BILLY MASTERS

"Albee probably gave us less attention than he has in many, many, many years—which I rather liked because he can be difficult. And he's not as good a director as he thinks he is."—Kathleen Turner tells Alec Baldwin (on his Podcast at WNYC.com) about working with Edward Albee on *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and that he wasn't as hands-on as usual because his partner of 35 years was dying. That's our Kathleen—always looking on the bright side.

The big news of the week is that Mariah Carey has signed on as the latest judge on *American Idol*. Carey is reportedly getting about \$18 million—which is precisely the amount "Idol" refused to pay Jennifer Lopez to stay for a third season. However, Mariah ain't the big winner in this deal. Neither is FOX. The person who benefits the most is Randy Jackson. Why? Jackson had been rumored to be on the chopping block, a situation that has completely changed since he helped broker the deal with Carey. While not expressly written into her contract, my sources



Matthew McConaughey (above in *Magic Mike*) is about to play an anti-gay cowboy.

tell me that Mimi made it crystal clear that she would be unhappy without Randy by her side at the judge's table. Jackson seems to have succeeded in making himself not only invaluable, but also relevant.

Despite the demands of an eight-show-a-week schedule, Ricky Martin is having the time of his life starring in the Broadway revival of *Evita*. And there's been a fringe benefit that he didn't anticipate: "New York is an amazing place to raise children." However, he's not thrilled with everything else going on in the world. When the current reigning Miss Peru, Cindy Mejia, was asked how she'd react to having a gay child, she said, "In my case, the day that God permits me to have children, that wouldn't happen because these things happen perhaps because a child grew up without a father or was molested or lived with his mother and sisters and became effeminate." Thank God she put some real thought into the issue and wasn't just speaking off the cuff. Upon hearing this, Ricky tweeted, "What a shame! Such foolish comments. Complete ignorance." Bravo. However, he may get further if he tweeted it in Peruvian—the language of my dearly departed Yma Sumac.

Matthew McConaughey recently did an interview for Larry King's new web series, *Larry King Now*. In it, he discusses his next project, *The Dallas Buyers Club*, which is a film about real-life, anti-gay cowboy Ron Woodruff. He contracted HIV via drug use in the '80s and was told he had 30 days to live. After successful homeopathic treatment in Mexico, Ron began smuggling non-toxic drugs across the Mexican border to help other sufferers and, later, took on the FDA to legalize his treatment. McConaughey has been passionate about this project and has even helped with the fundraising: "It was very tough to get the money for that one, being the subject material and it's a period piece." He also talks about how he has lost 15 pounds and hopes to

lose another 15 before he begins filming in September. "I should not look healthy by the time I'm doing this."

Mickey Rourke has gone public with his frustrations in bringing openly gay rugby player Gareth Thomas' story to the big screen. As usual, it comes down to money: "We have probably 80 percent of the money. It's been very difficult because it's not a comic book, it's not a romantic comedy. It doesn't fall in that category to raise money for. Really, it's been difficult but two years to get a movie up and going isn't bad so I've got nothing to complain about." He's hoping to commence filming in February.

Because I'm always thinking of you, I stopped in London to catch the premiere of the latest *Absolutely Fabulous* special—this one focused on the Olympics. Of course, after I got there, Logo decided to run it a few days later in the States. Nonetheless, some of you (read: most of you) don't get Logo. Happily, you can see it (and the other two "AbFab" specials from this year) on *BillyMasters.com*.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Cameron in New York: "I just got my *Attitude* [UK gay mag] and this gorgeous guy Thom Evans is on the cover. I thought he might be some Olympian, but I guess he's a rugby player. What do you know about him?"

When he was 19, Thom was a member of the short-lived British boyband *Twen2y4Se7en*—a group that I believe failed because of its terrible name that no one could spell. Aside from his brief foray into music, Thom and his brother Max are notable rugby players—and they're both gorgeous. My fans will probably recognize them from the 2010 *Dieux du Stade* calendar where Thom's full-frontal nudity certainly got the attention of gays on both sides of the pond. Their homoerotic shoot brought new meaning to the term "brotherly love"—and the outtakes are even hotter. A nice collection of photos and a video from the photo shoot will magically appear on *BillyMasters.com*.

Lastly, Mario Lopez just shot a campaign for his *MaLo* underwear collection, which is apparently different than his Rated M collection. How? Rated M has the slogan "For manful men and their very special guests." For the new line, he tweeted, "*MaLo* is all about masculine with an edge." And, apparently, with a bulge, judging from the photos we've gotten. BTW, for some of the shots he was painted gold. Why? Who knows? Who cares? What's important is they can be seen on our website.

When Mario's going for the gold, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Before ending, we must acknowledge two notable members of our community who passed away—even though their sexual orientation wasn't something they acknowledged in their lifetime. Sally Ride made history as the first female astronaut. After her death, her company issued a press release stating that she was survived by her partner of 27 years, Tam O'Shaughnessy. She may not have ever said she was gay, but I must confess I always assumed she was.

Also, we lost Sherman Hemsley from *The Jeffersons*. Although there's been no confirmation of his sexuality, it was a relatively open secret for years (rumors about the devout Isabel Sanford being troubled by his lifestyle are garbage—Weezy loved her gay boys). Rest in peace. For less morbid news, be sure to check out *www.BillyMasters.com*, the site that's always movin' on up. If you have a question, send it along to *Billy@BillyMasters.com* and I promise to get back to you before Miss Peru gets a job doing commentaries for Fox News. Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Wed, Aug 8 @ 8pm

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<http://www.indiegogo.com/ScroogeMarley?a=396864>

Scrooge & Marley is a modern-day variation on Charles Dickens' classic story of the holidays, *A Christmas Carol*. Recounted from a gay sensibility, with heart, comedy and music, the magic of Dickens' timeless tale of a man's redemption at the holidays—thanks to the help of three ghostly spirits—comes alive from a fresh perspective that will appeal to audiences of every persuasion. The film has already been shot, and we are just completing the post process.

www.scroogeandmarleymovie.com



Chicago Force in an earlier playoff win over Jacksonville. Photo by Hal Baim

Chicago Force: Making history in Pittsburgh

BY ROSS FORMAN

The pursuit of perfection for the Chicago Force has one final stop in 2012: Heinz Field, home of the National Football League's (NFL) Pittsburgh Steelers.

The 11-0 Force battle the 11-0 San Diego Surge Saturday, Aug. 4, in the championship game of the Women's Football Alliance (WFA). Kickoff is set for 4 p.m., and this will be, reportedly, the first women's football game ever played in an NFL stadium. It certainly is the WFA's first game played in an NFL stadium.

This is the Force's second appearance in a title game. Chicago lost to Dallas in overtime in the

2008 championship game.

"We're all super-excited to be part of something so monumental in terms of women's sports and, specifically, women's football," said Tricia Charbonneau. "We're excited that this is the 10-year anniversary of the Chicago Force and the 40th anniversary of Title IX, and just the opportunity to play in an NFL stadium."

"This game really is monumental; it really demonstrates what positive and wonderful piece of legislation Title IX was. This game is a real, tangible benefit of all the hard work and sacrifices made by all of the other female athletes who have come before us."

Chicago advanced to the championship game

with a thrilling 35-34 semifinal win over the two-time defending national champion Boston Militia.

"We're very confident, and I think we can be nothing less than that going in," Charbonneau said. "I think the difference will be the little things, specifically, when the offensive line is blocking people, it has to pancake them and put them on the ground so that there's no opportunity for them to get up and make secondary blocks. Plus, our coverage teams on kickoffs will be keys. It also will be about the defense tackling and the entire team swarming to the ball and trying to [force fumbles]."

"I think the team has grown a lot through the course of the season; we're ready."

Charbonneau, in her eighth season on the Force, is the team's kicker. She is married to Amanda Malsch, who plays on the Force's defensive line. The two also are team co-owners.

"It's really exciting for the both of us," Charbonneau said. "Playing football is a very important part of both of our lives."

Chicago is led by team owner Linda Bache, a former defensive standout for the Force. The Force quarterback is Sami Grisafe and Melissa Smith is the top running back. Some of the other key players on the Force roster are receiver Albi Zhubi, running back Brandy Hatcher, defensive back Emma Finestone, middle linebacker Becky Thuestad, linebacker Darcy Leslie, linebacker Kim Marks, receiver Jeanette Gray and others.

The Chicago Force is offering a charter bus for fans wanting to attend the championship game in Pittsburgh for \$100 round-trip. The bus will leave the Chicago area Friday, Aug. 3, and return Sunday, Aug. 5. Anyone interested can email gm@chicagoforcefootball.com.

The game will be broadcast live (3 p.m. CT) on ESPN 3.



CMSA women's soccer. Photo by Sam Hamilton

Women's soccer has new 11 x 11 format

BY ROSS FORMAN

With about 80 players spread over six teams, the women's soccer league within the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) is playing games this summer outdoors on the turf 11 against 11 for the first time.

It's just the way Angela Bonfiglio, for instance, grew up playing the sport.

Bonfiglio, 33, who lives in Carol Stream and works as a purchasing agent, is a captain for The Orphans, with their orange uniforms. She played four years of high school soccer locally and then moved on to Harper College in Palatine, where he played two seasons.

"It's fun, exciting," Bonfiglio said. "I'm really glad [CMSA] created 11-on-11. There are a lot of good players in this league; you see a lot of good skills, a lot of good athletes. And we definitely have a lot of fun playing."

Maureen Macpherson also played high school soccer in her native Michigan, and she certainly enjoys/appreciates the 11-on-11 format, too.

"The league is a lot of fun. The games really put me on a great high and for me they are a great stress reliever," Macpherson said. "They feel like [how] soccer games were played while growing up"

Macpherson, 30, who lives in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood and is a policewoman, has played in local leagues indoors and outdoors for several years. Her favorite soccer player is Abby Wambach, who she tagged as, "5'11" of gorgeousness."

Macpherson enjoys the competitiveness of the league, and certainly also its social aspect. "It's a great way to hang out with people without [consuming] alcohol," she said.

Sam Hamilton is the commissioner of the 11-on-11 women's soccer league that will

run through the end of August. The top four teams make the playoffs.

Hamilton said a fall outdoor league is being planned.

"There is a spot for everyone in this league, regardless of talent level," Hamilton said.

Players range in age from 20 to 50.

See www.chicagomsa.org.

Olympics has its LGBT moments

LGBT athletes have been increasingly part of the global sports scene, so it should come as no surprise that there have been gay-related moments during the Summer Olympics.

According to Gay Star News, on July 26 spectators cheered Chris Basiurski—who chairs Gay Football Supporters Network in Great Britain—when he kissed partner James during Basiurski's stretch of carrying the torch that lit the giant Olympic flame. Earlier that day, comedy gay icons Edina and Patsy of the TV show *Absolutely Fabulous* also became torch-bearers.

On July 23, gay-rights activist Mark Healey carried the torch. He was chosen because of his work founding a charity set up in tribute to the victims of the London nail-bomb attacks on venues including a gay bar; that attack killed three people and wounded 70.

The July 27 Opening Ceremonies also had some LGBT-related instances, including British director (and ceremony mastermind) Danny Boyle showing the first-ever televised lesbian kiss, which aired in 1993, according to a separate article. Another film clip showed the scene in *Billy Elliot* where his male friend is wearing a dress. Bisexual singer David Bowie was also featured.

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WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR PROPERTY IS TAKEN

Q. My ex-lover and I had a big blow-up and last week and while I was at work she moved out of the apartment taking my stereo, most of my furniture, my family heirlooms, Christmas ornaments (I have a huge collection) and my cat. I don't want to go to the police but I would like to have my property returned. What are my legal rights?

A. One way to create legal property rights and protections for Illinois couples is to enter into a Civil Union. Absent a Civil Union, smart advice for all LGBT couples moving in together (and planning to live happily ever after) is to have a living together agreement contract to cover the possibility that "marital" bliss can end on a sour note.

Even without a written agreement the law provides a fast remedy to an owner of property who wants to recover possession of her property wrongfully taken. The remedy is called an action for replevin which is a special kind of lawsuit to determine who is entitled to possession of personal property.

The replevin statute in Illinois sets forth the procedure to recover personal property. It starts with the filing of a replevin complaint that describes the property, states that the person starting the lawsuit (the plaintiff) is the owner of the property and that the property is being wrongfully detained or withheld by someone else (the defendant).

The Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Richard J. Daley Center, has preprinted form complaints and summons for a replevin lawsuit. There are attorneys on the 6th floor of the Richard J. Daley Center who can offer assistance in completing the forms for the complaint and the summons.

The benefit of the replevin lawsuit is that it provides a fast resolution of plaintiff's property rights without the long delays that are normal in litigation. In a replevin lawsuit the plaintiff schedules the first or preliminary hearing and gives the defendant written notice of the preliminary hearing at least 5 days before its date.

At that first hearing the plaintiff must prove three things to the court. First, that he or she is the owner of the property. Second, it is likely that he or she will win at the trial. And that the defendant has wrongfully taken or withholds the property without the consent of the owner.

- Bankruptcy
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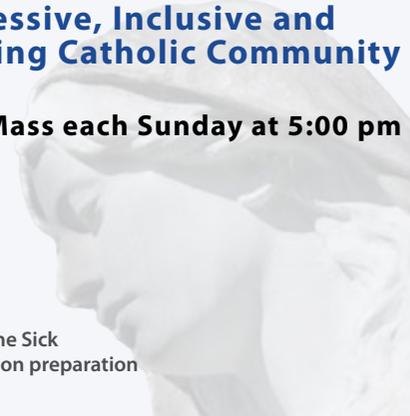


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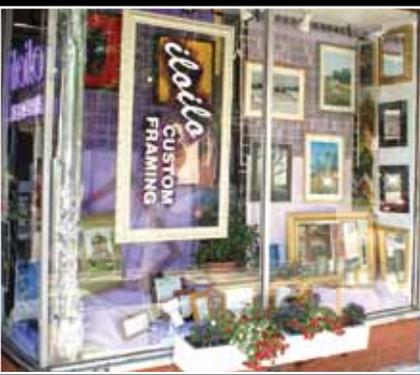
Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, 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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By Stephen Adly Guirgis
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The Tony Award nominated hit comes to Chicago
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GOODMAN THEATRE
THURS FEBRUARY 7, 2013 | 7:30PM

By Christopher Shinn/Directed by Evan Cabnet
From Pulitzer Prize finalist Christopher Shinn,
a campus tragedy makes national headlines
and throws openly gay senior Gabe's world
into disorder.

SWEET CHARITY

WRITERS' THEATRE

TUES MARCH 19, 2013 | 7:30PM*

Book by Neil Simon, Music by Cy Coleman
Lyrics by Dorothy Fields
Directed by Michael Halberstam
Charity's problems aren't unique—a dead end
job and a long string of dates with flawed men!
Musical Director Doug Peck re-imagines this
iconic and stylish show for a live jazz combo.

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PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE

FRI APRIL 26, 2013 | 8PM
By Rodgers and Hart/Directed by Michael Weber
From John O'Hara's hard-as-nails New Yorker's
stories enjoy this Beguiling Broadway Classic with
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VICTORY GARDENS THEATRE
WEDS JUNE 5, 2013 | 7:30PM*

By Marcus Gardley/ Directed by Chay Yew
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