



MEGAN RAPINOE INTERVIEW

PAGE 30

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GOING TO VERMONT
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Counting down to election night

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

There are many key votes on the line next Tuesday, Nov. 6: The first real prospect for electing an openly gay person to the U.S. Senate, the probability of winning a marriage equality vote in at least one of five states, and the possibility of the partisan majority changing hands in either the House or Senate. Altogether, they make for an edge-of-your-seat, hold-your-breath drama.

But no contest will have a greater impact on the LGBT community this year than the presidential one, and with just days to go before the Nov. 6 voting, the

polls show a close race. Each side can point to some data that signal promise for its candidate. Republican challenger Mitt Romney can point to the average of polls calculated by RealClearPolitics.com and say he's almost one point ahead in the popular vote. He can point to the Gallup Poll's daily tracking that, as of Oct. 28, showed him the choice of 50 percent of 2,700 likely voters, compared to 46 percent for incumbent Democratic President Barack Obama.

Obama can point to that same poll, however, and say Romney's down two points from where he was two weeks ago. He can say the Investor's Business Daily/TIPP poll shows him up by one over Romney as of Oct.

27. And he can note that the New York Times' respected fivethirtyeight.com site has calculated a 74-percent chance that the president will hang onto the White House, securing 296 electoral votes when he needs only 270 to win.

For most LGBT people, who wins the White House spells the difference between a candidate who has said he believes one should treat gay people "the way you would want to be treated" and a candidate who has said that he does not discriminate against "people who have different sexual orientation."

Turn to page 5

'OUT' FOR YOUR VOTE

Along with our 2012 general election charts, we feature LGB candidates in local elections; including (left to right) Kelly Cassidy for State House, 14th Dist.; John Dalton for 16th Circuit Court, Kane County; Mike McHale for Cook County Judge (retention); and Andrea M. Schleifer for Cook County Circuit Court Judge, 12th Subcircuit.

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- Christopher



Christopher (left) has lived with HIV since 2011.

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Megan Rapinoe playing for the Chicago Red Stars in 2009 by Chicago Red Stars/David Durochik; photo of Jonas Bagas from the IGLHRC; Indigo Girls publicity shot; photo of Vermont by Jerry Nunn

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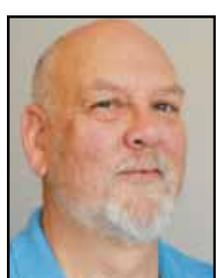
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ELECTION GAY
Read more news about LGBTs and the election, including a piece on gay GOP candidate Richard Tisei (left).

Photo by Chuck Colbert



Read Jim Edminster's latest column, The Fairy Gardener.

Photo from Jim Angrabright



See photos from Night of 100 Drag Queens at Sidetrack.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

NEWS YOU CAN USE
There's even more news online, including an article on a man suing a company for sexual orientation-based harassment, and a conference for LGBT veterans.

FIRST BLOOD
Read the latest Ask Lambda Legal column, which is about blood donations.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT
Read entertainment news about Johnny Weir, Justin Timberlake and Oprah.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

COVER-UP



See photos from events such as Project VIDA's masquerade ball (above), the Cat Power concert and Joffrey's Couture and Cocktails.

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

- Appellate Judge**
James Fitzgerald Smith
- Circuit Court Judges**
- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Martin S. Agran | Paul A. Karkula |
| Patricia Banks | Joseph G. Kazmierski, Jr. |
| Ronald F. Bartkowicz | Robert Lopez Cepero |
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| Daniel Patrick Brennan | Marcia Maras |
| Cynthia Brim | Jill C. Marisie |
| Rodney Hughes Brooks | James Michael McGing |
| Mary Margaret Brosnahan | Michael B. McHale |
| Gloria Chevere | James Patrick Murphy |
| Matthew E. Coghlan | Thomas W. Murphy |
| Maureen Elizabeth Connors | Marya Nega |
| Grace G. Dickler | Joan Margaret O'Brien |
| Christopher J. Donnelly | Patrick W. O'Brien |
| Loretta Eadie-Daniels | Ramon Ocasio, III |
| Kathy M. Flanagan | Stuart E. Palmer |
| Ellen L. Flannigan | Lee Preston |
| Peter Flynn | Mary Colleen Roberts |
| Raymond Funderburk | Thomas David Roti |
| Joyce Marie Murphy Gorman | Lisa Ruble Murphy |
| Catherine Marie Haberkorn | Drella C. Savage |
| Orville E. Hambright | Colleen F. Sheehan |
| Pamela E. Hill-Veal | Diane M. Shelley |
| Carol M. Howard | James M. Varga |
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ELECTIONS 2012

The LGBT guide to election night 2012

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

It's a close race for the White House, a close race for Tammy Baldwin's bid to the U.S. Senate, five unpredictable outcomes on marriage-related votes and an openly gay caucus in Congress that could total either three or six by the end of the evening.

The stakes and the consequences of the results are so high that many LGBT people will be staying up late Nov. 6 to watch it all unfold.

The National Election Pool, a coalition of mainstream media organizations who conduct exit polling in order to project results, is doing things differently this year to accommodate the increase in early voting. They predict, as a result of their modifications, projections may trickle out more slowly this year than in the past. But this guide will give political enthusiasts some idea of when the most important results will start becoming apparent.

6 p.m. Central

Polls close in the first six states, including the crucial swing state of Virginia. All six states hold a total of 60 electoral votes and, chances are, 44 will go to Romney and three to Obama. The wild card is Virginia, a state with 13 electoral votes that has been hard to predict for weeks. If those votes go to Romney, Democrats will need to get a drink. But if they go to Obama, Republicans might start pacing. Another important race in Virginia will be the outcome of the race



Elizabeth Warren. Photo by Chuck Colbert

for Virginia's open U.S. Senate seat: If pro-gay Democrat Tim Kaine wins, another sigh of relief, but if anti-gay George Allen wins, Democrats will have to start worrying about the majority in the Senate.

Best-case scenario: Romney wins Indiana, Kentucky, Georgia, South Carolina and Obama wins Vermont and Virginia.

Electoral count: Romney 44, Obama 16

Senate marker: Good news if Kaine beats Allen

6:30 p.m. Central

The most important news to listen for at 6:30 p.m. is who's winning Ohio. This has become perhaps the most important of the battleground states and its 18 electoral votes are seen as ab-

solutely critical to Romney's chances of counting up to 270—the total electoral votes needed to win the White House.

Best-case scenario: Romney wins North Carolina and West Virginia, Obama wins Ohio

Electoral count: Romney 64, Obama 34

7 p.m. Central

Seven o'clock is when the big kahuna of electoral votes comes flooding in—210 in all. Of those, 96 are expected to go to Obama, including 20 from Illinois. Romney is likely to pick up 81, including 38 from Texas. The big question is who will pick up Florida's 29 and New Hampshire's four.

Also at 7 p.m., polls close in Maine and Maryland, where voters are being asked to determine whether the state can begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. LGBT supporters want a "Yes" vote on Question 1 in Maine and a "Yes" for Question 6 in Maryland.

And the Senate race between incumbent Republican Scott Brown and Democratic challenger Elizabeth Warren has been seen as a very important factor in determining who will control the Senate.

Likely scenario: Romney 174, Obama 134

Best-case scenario: Maine votes "Yes" on Question 1 and Maryland votes "Yes" on Question 6

Best Senate scenario: Warren beats Brown

Best House scenario: Openly gay U.S. Rep. David Cicilline wins re-election from Rhode Island and openly gay Richard Tisei wins his bid for a U.S. House seat from Massachusetts' 6th Congressional district, becoming the only openly gay Republican in Congress.

7:30 p.m. Central

Arkansas' six electoral votes will almost certainly go to Romney.

Likely scenario: Romney 180, Obama 134

8 p.m. Central

At 8 is when the second largest number of electoral votes come online. Romney will likely pick up 30, Obama will pick up 60. The question marks are Wisconsin and Colorado, with 10 and nine respectively.

Add to Wisconsin this twist: Liberal openly gay U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin has a real chance of becoming the first openly gay person to be elected to the U.S. Senate. She's in a very tight race against popular former Governor Tommy Thompson.

And add to Minnesota, with 10 electoral votes, hosting a vote on a ballot measure—Proposed Amendment No. 1—to amend the state's constitution to ban same-sex marriage. Except for the ballot measure, which can attract a large turnout from conservatives, Minnesota can lean Obama.

Best-case scenario: Romney 210, Obama 213

Best Senate scenario: Baldwin wins

Likely scenario: Minnesota votes "Yes" for Proposed Amendment 1

Best-case scenario: Openly gay State Rep. Marc Pacon wins Baldwin's old seat, openly gay U.S. Rep. Jared Polis wins re-election from Colorado, newcomer Sean Maloney wins a U.S. House seat from New York's 18th District, and newcomer Kyrsten Sinema wins the U.S. House seat from Arizona's 9th.

9 p.m. Central

Only 27 electoral votes are up on the boards after 10 and Romney has a good hold on 15 of them. Up for grabs are six electoral votes in Iowa and six in Nevada. Obama has campaigned heavily in both states and has a good chance to

pull those to his column.

Also of interest is the vote on Iowa Supreme Court Justice David Wiggins who—like three colleagues before him—must survive a retention vote but one in which anti-gay forces are determined to oust him.

Best-case scenario: Romney 225, Obama 235

Best-case scenario: Wiggins wins

10 p.m. Central

This is the hour when, if all goes well in the first three hours, President Obama takes the White House with the electoral escort of California's 55 electoral votes, putting him well over the 270 needed. In fact, at 10 p.m., Obama will likely rake in 78 electoral votes—from California, Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii. Romney will pick up a total of only seven from North Dakota and Idaho.

Also of interest in this hour will be the vote in Washington state on Referendum 74. A "Yes" vote will preserve a marriage-equality law the legislature passed earlier this year.

Best-case scenario: Romney 232, Obama 313 and secures the White House

Best-case scenario: Washington votes "Yes" for Referendum 74

Best-case scenario: Openly gay Democrat Mark Takano wins the U.S. House seat for California District 41, representing southern California. His victory could, if Mark Pacon wins Baldwin's seat, bring the openly gay caucus in Congress back up to four (with the loss of retiring Rep.



Allyson Robinson. Photo from Robinson

Trans Army veteran to lead SLDN, OutServe

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) and OutServe, the association of actively serving LGBT military personnel, announced the selection of transgender Army veteran Allyson Robinson to lead the newly combined organization, according to an SLDN press release.

A native of Scranton, Pa., Robinson is a 1994 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, where she majored in physics. After an internship at Los Alamos National Laboratory, she was commissioned as an officer in the Army and commanded PATRIOT missile units in Europe and the Middle East. She also served as a senior trainer/evaluator for NATO and as an advisor to the armed forces of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar.

She earned a master of divinity degree in theology with an emphasis in social justice from Baylor University in 2007. Most recently, she was the first deputy director for employee programs of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation's Workplace Project.

HRC President Chad Griffin said, "Allyson Robinson is strategic, passionate, and committed. She's the right person to lead this

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NATIONAL NEWS

—Gay activist Rispoli (left) dies from vicious beating

—Gates donate \$500K to marriage equality

—Suggs memorial set for Dec. 8

Barney Frank and Senate hopeful Tammy Baldwin)

11 p.m. Central

Alaska's three electoral votes will come in for Romney, but the party will be over.

Best-case scenario: Romney 235, Obama 313
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organization. She's a graduate of West Point and a decorated military officer, which makes her uniquely qualified for this position."

Robinson lives with her wife of 18 years and their four children in Gaithersburg, Md.

The combination of the two organizations was announced in July. It was finalized Oct. 27 at a meeting held during the 2012 International Leadership Conference.

Study: Adopted foster kids fare the same in same-sex households

BY KATE SOSIN

Foster kids adopted into same-sex families fare no worse than kids adopted by heterosexual people, according to a new study that University of California-Los Angeles researchers issued.

Psychologists said that of the 82 "high-risk" children studied, those whom gay and lesbian parents adopted made similar progress as those their heterosexual peers adopted, even though they had higher risk factors.

The study, which looked at children adopted in Los Angeles County, proves that there is no scientific reason to discriminate, said researcher Letitia Anne Peplau, in a statement.

"The children adopted by gay and lesbian parents had more challenges before they were adopted and yet they end up in the same place, which is impressive," said Peplau.

The study looked at 60 kids placed with heterosexual parents and 22 with same-sex parents. Overall, kids in both sets showed cognitive improvement over time.

Kids placed with heterosexual people saw their IQs jump from about 90 to 97 points. Kids placed with lesbian and gay people reported an increase from approximately 86 to 94 points.

The study also found that same-sex parents were more likely to adopt children with risk factors and kids whose ethnicity was different from their own.

The research was not without limitations, however. Researchers noted that their sample size was relatively small and that participating families were eligible for support services not necessarily accessed by all adoptive parents.

ELECTION from cover

No one in either major party would likely dispute the notion that President Obama has done more to help the cause of equality for LGBT people than any president in history. His administration actively pursued and secured repeal of the military ban on gays, issued a memorandum requiring hospitals provide visitation rights to the partners of patients, enforced (as required by law) but refused to defend in court as constitutional the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), appointed an openly gay man as head of the Office of Personnel Management and a lesbian to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, nominated several openly gay people to federal court seats, and solicited a nationally televised interview to explain to the American people why he supports allowing gay couples to marry.

In April, the Obama campaign officially opposed the Minnesota ballot measure to ban same-sex marriage. On Oct. 25, the campaign issued statements saying the president supports efforts on the ballots in Maine, Maryland, and Washington to secure marriage equality for gay couples. And on Oct. 26, in response to a question on MTV's "Ask Obama Live," he reiterated his position in support of allowing gays to marry, albeit with a nod of respect toward the right of each state to decide the question for itself.

Romney has a record of saying he is against discrimination based on sexual orientation and then days or years later supporting laws that would disadvantage people based on their sexual orientation if it's gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

Romney opposes marriage equality, opposes gays as parents, and opposes gays in the military. He opposes the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act, opposes funding for a hate crimes law that includes protections for gays, and supports a federal constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage everywhere.

As governor of Massachusetts, he frequently wielded his power to oppose equal rights for



President Obama.
Photo by Rex Wockner

gays. He tried to orchestrate legislative opposition to the state supreme court ruling for marriage equality and then, according to a recent Boston Globe discovery, asserted executive approval over any birth certificate for the child of a same-sex couple. There also emerged during the campaign a well-documented report from the Washington Post that, as a student in prep school, Romney led an attack on a fellow student because the young man's haircut was not sufficiently masculine, in Romney's view. (Romney denied he thought the student was gay.)

During a Republican primary debate, he was asked how he has tried to influence other Republicans on "gay rights."

"I don't discriminate in the appointments that I made as governor of Massachusetts," said Romney, adding that "a member of my cabinet was gay."

"I appointed people to the bench, regardless of their sexual orientation, made it very clear that we should not discriminate in hiring policies, in legal policies. At the same time, from the very beginning, in 1994, I said to the gay community, 'I do not favor same-sex marriage. I oppose same-sex marriage,' and that has been my view. But, if people are looking for someone who will discriminate against gays or will in any way suggest that people who have different sexual orientation don't have full rights in this country, they won't find that in me."

In recent days, reports surfaced that Romney and/or his campaign may have made some effort

to woo gay Republicans through a 15-minute unpublicized, closed-door meeting this month. Log Cabin Republican leader R. Clarke Cooper did not respond to inquiries from Keen News, but told the Washington Blade that the Romney campaign initiated a meeting with him and former U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe, who is gay. Kolbe told the Blade that Romney said he opposes discrimination in the workplace but that he did not endorse ENDA. Cooper told the Blade the Romney administration would "work on desirable outcomes for workplace non-discrimination."

Both Log Cabin Republicans and the gay conservative group GOProud announced their endorsements of Romney last week. GOProud Executive Director Jimmy LaSalvia pointed to a Harris Interactive poll in August that compared 1,190 self-identified LGBT voters against a similar number of "residents from the general population," with both groups identifying as registered and likely to vote in November. Asked to identify the most important issue for deciding whom to support as president, 37 percent of the general population and 32 percent of the LGBT population said either the economy or jobs. In both groups, 12 percent cited health care. Not surprisingly, 9 percent of the LGBT group and only 1 percent of the general population group identified "gay rights in general" as their most important issue.

Asked for whom they would vote, 67 percent of the LGBT group said Obama, 23 percent said Romney, 3 percent said the Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson, 3 percent said others and 3 percent said not sure. The results were similar to LGBT votes for candidates in 2010 when between 26 percent and 29 percent of LGBT voters supported Republican candidates. Looking at data going back to 1990, the lowest gay vote for Republicans came in 2008, when only 19 percent of gay voters supported then Republican presidential candidate John McCain.

The national board of the Log Cabin Republicans issued a "qualified endorsement" of Romney Oct. 23, saying it thinks Romney will "move

the ball forward" on gay issues "compared to past Republican presidents."

"If LGBT issues are a voter's highest or only priority, then Governor Romney may not be that voter's choice," said the Log Cabin's endorsement statement. "However, Log Cabin Republicans is an organization representing multifaceted individuals with diverse priorities. Having closely reviewed the candidate's history and observed the campaign, we believe Governor Romney will make cutting spending and job creation his priorities, and, as his record as governor of Massachusetts suggests, will not waste his precious time in office with legislative attacks on LGBT Americans."

How LGBT people vote in this presidential election won't be known until a few days after the election, through analysis of exit poll data and specific precinct results in heavily gay neighborhoods. So the numbers to watch on election night are simple: the popular votes of individual states and the electoral votes nationwide.

As of Monday, fivethirtyeight.com was showing Obama likely to win 243 electoral votes to Romney's 206, with 89 electoral votes largely uncertain. Realclearpolitics.com, shows a much closer contest, with Obama with 201 votes to Romney's 191, and 146 in the toss-up pile.

The toss-up states holding those 146 electoral votes are Florida (29), Pennsylvania (20), Ohio (18), Michigan (16), North Carolina (15), Virginia (13), Wisconsin (10), Colorado (9), Iowa and Nevada (6 each), and New Hampshire (4). (For the fivethirtyeight, take away Pennsylvania and Michigan, which are said to be leaning Obama.)

Ninety-nine of those 146 toss-up electoral votes will be decided by 8 p.m. Eastern time Nov. 6, when polls in most Eastern states close. Another 32 will be decided by 9 p.m., when polls close in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Michigan. Colorado's nine will be done by 10 p.m. and Nevada's six by 11 p.m.

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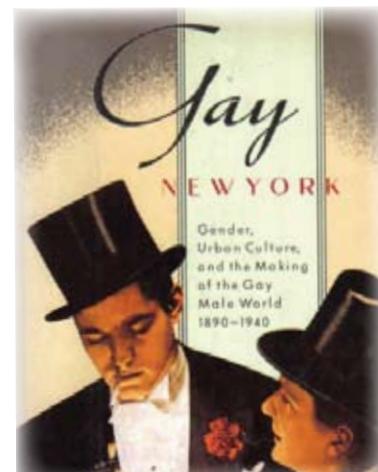
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ELECTIONS 2012

Report: Romney tried to block parental rights for same-sex couples

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

A new revelation surfaced about Mitt Romney Oct. 25, revealing yet another step he took as Massachusetts governor to thwart equal treatment of gays in the state.

The Boston Globe said it was able to obtain records from an anonymous source this month that shows then-Gov. Romney tried to block the state's Registry of Vital Records and Statistics from complying with a state supreme court decision that allowed same-sex couples to marry. The court decision required all state agencies to revise documents necessary to comply with the court's ruling and, for the registry, that meant revising birth-certificate forms to accommodate the designation of two same-sex parents instead of only a "mother" and a "father."

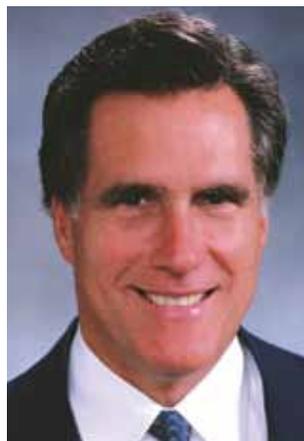
The Globe said the registry sought to change the word "father" on the birth certificate form and have it say "father or second parent" instead, in recognition of the fact that many lesbian couples were and would continue to use the forms. The Globe said Romney rejected the plan and instructed his legal staff to individually review the birth certificate applications of every same-sex couple.

"Only after winning approval from Romney's lawyers," said the Globe, "could hospital officials and town clerks...cross out by hand the word 'father' ...and write in 'second parent.'"

The Globe said it discovered the effort after reviewing dozens of emails and legal memos sent between the governor's office and lawyers at the state's department of health, which includes the registry. In a Dec. 13, 2004, email to Romney's general counsel, Mark Nielsen, the health department's deputy general counsel, Peggy Wiesenberg, warned that Romney's instructions violated state law and compromised "the integrity of the vital record-keeping system."

According to the Globe, Wiesenberg warned the Romney administration that his plan would likely pose problems for the children of same-sex couples later in life when they registered for school, applied for a passport or driver's license or registered to vote.

The Globe found few instances of Romney's actions leading to a denial of a proper birth certificate for a child of a same-sex couple. Wiesenberg's email refers to at least 23 cases of lesbian couples giving birth to children conceived using anonymous donors. But in all 23 of those cases, according to Wiesenberg's email, Romney's gen-



Mitt Romney.

eral counsel "instruct[ed] the hospital to list mother & same sex spouse as the second parent on the child's birth certificate."

However, the Globe did find one instance in which a lesbian couple asked that the second parent be identified as "wife" instead of "second parent." That request, according to the Globe, was denied. And in a second case, Romney's chief legal counsel Brian Leske rejected a request to list both same-sex parents on the birth certificate because the parents were not married.

Romney led an unsuccessful effort as governor to push the legislature to try and overturn the historic 2003 state supreme court ruling in Goodridge that said the state constitution requires treating same-sex couples the same as straight couples in the issuance of marriage licensing. He also testified before Congress in favor of a U.S. constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. And he quashed an existing governor's council to advise ways to help LGBT young people.

The Globe said birth certificates revised to comply with the Goodridge decision did not become available until after Democratic Governor Deval Patrick took office in January 2007.

The Globe said that, in June, it formally requested records related to the Romney administration's deliberations on birth certificates but that the Department of Public Health "withheld most of the documents," saying they reflected information protected by the attorney-client privilege. The documents were later provided to the Globe from "a source who requested anonymity."

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Supreme Ct. sets date for marriage cases

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The U.S. Supreme Court docket on Oct. 29 announced that the eight DOMA cases, the Prop 8 case and a case involving benefits for gay employees in Arizona have all been scheduled for discussion by the justices on Tuesday, Nov. 20. That means the court will likely announce on Nov. 1 or soon thereafter if it intends to take up one or more of the historic cases this session or allow the lower court decision to stand.

The DOMA cases distributed to the Nov. 20 conference include *BLAG v. Gill*, *HHS v. Massachusetts* and *Massachusetts v. HHS*, *OPM v. Golinski*, *U.S. v. Windsor* and *Windsor v. U.S.*, *Pederson v. OPM* and *OPM v. Pederson*.

The court has also scheduled for the conference the Prop 8 case, *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, and a case involving state benefits in Arizona, *Brewer v. Diaz*.

The justices originally scheduled the Prop 8 appeal for their Sept. 24 conference but, without explanation, did not act on that case. Instead, on Sept. 26, they posted a notice in the press room at the U.S. Supreme Court building, stating only that the case was "rescheduled" for a later conference meeting.

Ted Olson, a lead attorney on the American Foundation for Equal Rights legal team that has won court victories striking down Proposition 8, said at the time he assumed the court wanted to discuss the California same-sex marriage ban case in the same conference with the Defense of Marriage Act cases.

Therese Stewart, chief deputy city attorney for San Francisco who also opposed Prop 8 in court, said the rescheduling of *Hollingsworth* may also have been a move to ensure their handling of the marriage cases don't have "any impact on the election."

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Ky. men acquitted of hate-crime charges

In Kentucky, cousins Anthony Ray Jenkins and David Jason Jenkins were found not guilty of a hate crime in the first case prosecuted that involved the sexual-orientation provision of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, according to Advocate.com.

However, the defendants were found guilty of kidnapping openly gay resident Kevin Pennington. Federal prosecutors said that the

Jenkins planned to kidnap, beat and kill Pennington because of his sexual orientation.

President Obama signed the act in 2009. The legislation expanded federal hate-crimes law to cover attacks spurred by sexual orientation, gender identity, gender or disability.

Judge finalizes new transgender birth-certificate rule

BY KATE SOSIN

A Cook County Judge has approved a court agreement that will allow transgender people to change their Illinois birth certificates without undergoing genital surgery.

Judge Michael Hyman has approved the new rule, previously reported by Windy City Times in July: www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Agreement-on-Illinois-birth-certificate-change-for-trans-people/38827.html.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Illinois sued the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) on behalf of three trans people last year, after the three were told they would need to show proof of genital surgery in order to change the gender markers on their birth certificates.

IDPH released new rules on the policy and granted plaintiffs Lauren Grey, Victor Williams and Nicholas Guarino new birth certificates.

John Knight of the ACLU said the court order prevents IDPH from going back on its word. ACLU sued IDPH previously over the same issue but the settlement did not yield a change in practice.

"It is critical that our clients and others are able to get birth certificates that accurately reflect who they are without being required to undergo costly surgery that they may not want or need," said Knight in a statement. "The state never should have involved itself in these private decisions about medical care."

The new policy, while not mandating genital surgery specifically, does require some form of transition-related surgery, a sticking point for many activists, who have advocated against a surgical mandate in the policy.

Many trans people cannot afford or do not want transition-related surgeries, a fact trans activists have argued throughout the case.

Knight said that while the final agreement is an important first step, ACLU will likely push for a better rule.

"I think we will look at a way to either persuade the legislature or go back to court at some point, asking that the surgical requirement be removed completely," Knight said.

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Joshua H. Ehrlich, DMD

Northalsted Halloween parade has new route

The Northalsted Halloween Parade will take place Wed., Oct. 31, but will feature a big change—a new route.

The 16th Annual Parade will step off at 7 p.m. from Waveland and continue south on Halsted to Belmont.

MacCray Huff and Katrell Mendenhall from the Style Network show *Chicagolicious* will serve as judges for the costume contest. The duo decides the top three finalists in four categories: Most Original, Scariest, Best Drag and Best Group. Participation is free.

All costume participants must register at Circuit, 3641 N. Halsted St., 4-6 p.m. the day of the event. Participants strut their stuff on a catwalk in front of the judges, have their photo taken and are invited to stay for the pre-party before the parade sets off at 7 p.m.

To be eligible for the contest, participants MUST register at Circuit. There will be no judging on the route of the parade.

Miss Foozie does the judging honors for the Pet Costume Contest. Owners with pet entries can register their furry friends outside of Circuit at 6 p.m.

At 8 p.m., Miss Foozie will emcee a stage show featuring Chicago Fire Tribe, Environmental Encroachment and the Chicago Spirit Brigade.



Halloween 2011.
Photo by Susan Mattes

Activists from Turkey and the Philippines report to the UN

BY MATTHEW C. CLARK

Recently, activists from Turkey and the Philippines reported on the state of LGBT affairs in their respective countries before the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

The reports are a compliance review of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), one of the core human-rights treaties that expand and enforce the UN's founding principles.

Countries periodically go for review before the commissions, submitting their own official reports on human rights. These reports are supplemented by "shadow reports," intended to shadow the official reports with anecdotal and experiential evidence collected by activists.

From Turkey, Seval Kilic, a representative from trans-rights organization Istanbul LGBTT, spoke before the commission on Oct. 18, according to a transcription of the remarks. She cited everyday violence, laws that allow perpetrators of violence to get reduced sentences, censorship and an overall lack of protections against discrimination as some of the most pressing concerns for LGBT people in her country.

"The Turkish LGBT community is not asking for exceptional privileges or special rights. All we are asking for is for the government of Turkey to respect its international obligations under international treaties, including ICCPR, and provide LGBT individuals with the same level of rights and protections that all human beings are entitled to," she told the committee.

This was Turkey's first report before the commission.

In 2011, revisions of the Turkish constitution originally included anti-discrimination measures based on sexual orientation and gender identity that were later left out.

In an interview with Windy City Times, Kilic said that even if material is not pornographic, it can be subject to censure because it is considered to encourage others to be gay. She said most trans women are forced into sex work because there are no alternatives, and because prostitution is subject to a fine but not arrest, it creates a climate of abuse.

"We get used to it, unfortunately," she said. "I want to believe that time is on our side; some day some things will change."

From the Philippines, Jonas Bagas, director of LGBT-rights group TLF Share, spoke before the commission Oct. 15, according to a transcription of the remarks. He discussed the Supreme Court's decision to ban the changing on one's gender in official documentation, discriminatory policies in the government and the executive branch's ability to take immediate action.

"The president has broad powers to provide for rules to execute his or her constitutional or statutory mandates," he said.

This was the Philippine's fourth review before the committee.

Bagas told Windy City Times about the "grave scandal" law, which allows citizens to file a criminal complaint against anything they find to be indecent, and the constant raids the police conduct on bars and clubs.

In 2010, a court ruled in favor of the allowance of the Philippine's first LGBT political party, Ang Ladlad, which means "coming out" in English.

Bagas hopes this case could be the basis for more progress.

As a result from the reports in Geneva, Bagas was able to establish a meeting with the Secre-



Jonas Bagas. Photo courtesy of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission

tary of Justice of the Philippines, an executive cabinet official.

"It is refreshing to see public officials from the Philippines say that they're willing to step up. But it's really now a question of removing the distance between the official reporting and what's happening on the ground," he said.

Jessica Lynn Stern is the executive director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), an advocacy and human rights documentation organization that partners with other groups and activists around the world.

She said many of the groups are gathering this information for the first time, and it is a way for LGBT people to document the realities of their lives in an impactful way.

"People around the world depend on these bodies for justice," she told Windy City Times. "When you can't achieve justice in local courts, when your country lacks the rule of law, it is essential that you have a place to turn for help. For LGBT people specifically, international human rights norms and standards for our safety are paramount to our ability to achieve dignity."

The UN Human Rights Commission will issue its own concluding observations within several weeks.

The commission is slated to review the United States in November 2013.

Trikone-Chicago showing films Nov. 3

Trikone-Chicago will screen Onir's film, I AM, and Fawzia Mirza's short film, Queen of My Dreams, on Saturday, Nov. 3, at 3 p.m. at Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark St.

A panel will follow the screenings. The panel will consist of Rape Victim Advocates Executive Director Sharmili Majmudar; Mirza, an actress and film director; and independent filmmaker and member of the humanities program at the University of Chicago, Tom Silva.

To RSVP for this event, contact Moses Tulasi at mostetulasi@gmail.com. For more information about Trikone-Chicago, visit www.trikonechicago.org.

LOCAL NEWS

Chicago Bar Association backs marriage equality

BY KATE SOSIN

In a move that could have far-reaching implications Illinois' legal community, the Chicago Bar Association (CBA) has announced its support for marriage equality.

The association announced Oct. 24 that it adopted a resolution supporting marriage equality at a Sept. 25 board of managers meeting.

"The CBA sees this issue as a simple one," said CBA President Aurora Abella-Austriaco, in a press statement. "The policy statement is just one line, 'The Chicago Bar Association supports marriage equality for same-sex couples.'"

According to David Amen, chair of the CBA LGBT Committee, the move is significant.

"Any court case that was to come up... the CBA can now support a position because we have this," said Amen.

Amen said the decision to endorse marriage equality was motivated by a desire to file a brief in support of the Lambda Legal and American Civil Liberties Union lawsuits that seek marriage equality in the state. Amen said that without the policy, CBA would have been unable to file the brief.

The new policy will also be applied to legislative efforts to achieve same-sex marriage in Illinois, said Amen. The board of managers voted Oct. 24 to back current efforts by State Rep. Greg Harris to pass a marriage equality bill, according to Amen.

The new policy was approved unanimously with one abstention, said Amen.

CBA represents 22,000 lawyers and judges, according to its website.

Remembrance for Flashy Trash owner Nov. 3

There will be a remembrance for Harold Mandel, the late owner of the Boystown store Flashy Trash, on Saturday, Nov. 3, at 2 p.m. at Foster Avenue Beach.

Mandel, 58, died Oct. 22 at St. Joseph's Hospital, according to friends. The cause was complications from AIDS.

Flashy Trash, a vintage store located most recently at 3524 N. Halsted, closed several years ago, but its customers—from LGBTs to North Shore heterosexual women to Hollywood elites—will remember it for its wide range of clothing, reinforced from Mandel's 500,000-object, 5,000-square-foot warehouse collection.

Kenneth Cole at Nov. 2 Chicago House event

Designer and social activist Kenneth Cole will be the featured speaker at Chicago House's 4th Annual Speaker Series Luncheon. The event will take place Friday, Nov. 2, at 11:30 a.m. at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave.

Tickets are \$150-\$500 each; see www.ChicagoHouse.org.

OPALGA gala Nov. 3

The Oak Park Area Lesbian & Gay Association (OPALGA) will hold its 10th annual gala Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Nineteenth Century Club, 178 Forest Ave., Oak Park. Activities start at 6:30 p.m.

RSVP by emailing info@opalga.org.

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Rep. Joe Walsh once backed gay rights

BY TRACY BAIM

U.S. Rep. Joe Walsh, a right-wing Republican facing a strong challenge from progressive Democrat Tammy Duckworth in the northwest suburban 8th Congressional district, once claimed to be progressive on gay and other issues.

When he ran against staunch progressive Rep. Sidney Yates in the 9th Congressional District in 1996, Walsh claimed to be supportive of gay rights. Yates scored 89 percent on the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC's) Congressional ratings.

Reporters Trudy Ring and Shamara Riley covered the race for Outlines newspaper, a gay paper that later purchased and merged with Windy City Times newspaper. They wrote:

"Walsh also has indicated he would support

poses federal funding of abortions; and supports increasing federal funds for research on breast cancer. He is undecided about federal affirmative action programs ..."

That same year, Windy City Times also covered the race. He told WCT, "If there's a more gay-friendly Republican around, I'd like to meet them." He said he favored domestic-partner benefits and would take a leadership role pushing for gay rights.

Walsh lost that race but later won election to Congress in the suburbs. He has a zero rating from HRC in the last Congress. He voted against ENDA and other gay issues.

Tracy Baim is co-founder and publisher of Windy City Times, and she was co-founder of publisher of Outlines newspaper.



U.S. Rep. Joe Walsh. Official headshot

gay rights, but Yates has taken a leading role on the issue for many years. ... Walsh, endorsed by Log Cabin, said he would support ENDA and other federal gay-rights legislation, and would be willing to co-sponsor it. Like Yates, he opposes restrictions on gays in the military.

"He supports maintaining current federal funding for AIDS-related programs and would favor an increase 'depending on how much money there is to go around for other diseases'; believes the federal government should 'lead an education offensive' to fight AIDS; favors reforming Medicaid but supports maintaining mandatory coverage for people with HIV/AIDS. He is undecided on same-sex marriage. He supports abortion rights in the first trimester; op-

EQ IL PAC makes record candidate contributions

BY KATE SOSIN

Equality Illinois Political Action Committee (EQ IL PAC) announced that it donated more to pro-LGBT candidates this year than in any previous election.

The PAC, which is associated with LGBT policy organization Equality Illinois, said it contributed \$127,500 in 2012. That number far outpaces its 2010 spending, which totaled \$68,450, according to a news release the PAC issued.

"The fact that we were able to raise that amount of money from major donors, at numerous fundraising events and through the generosity of many individuals indicates the seriousness with which our community and allies take this election," said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois, in a statement.

The statement notes that while the presidential race is important to LGBTs, local races will determine the fate of LGBT rights in Illinois.

Ald. Reilly jabs at Moreno, orders Chick-fil-A

BY KATE SOSIN

Chicago's 42nd Ward alderman ordered 1st Ward Ald. Proco "Joe" Moreno an unwelcome lunch treat: Chick-fil-A sandwiches.

Ald. Brendan Reilly chose the controversial chicken sandwiches lunch during Friday's budget hearings, a jab at Moreno, who has threatened to block the fast-food chain in his ward over the company's purported anti-gay stance.

Reilly posted about the sandwiches repeatedly on Twitter.



Leppen, Hoover host birthday benefits

Philanthropist Michael Leppen and aunt Miriam Hoover, who have both contributed to a wide range of mainstream and LGBT causes, hosted birthday benefits this past week. Hoover is turning 99, and Leppen 60. One benefit, at minibar, contributed to a charity Leppen started many years ago to provide bears to patients (mostly children) in area hospitals. Operation Bear Hug is an outreach ministry of Bishop Anderson House. The second event, featuring lesbian singer Ann Hampton Callaway, benefitted the Center on Halsted and was held at the Hoover-Leppen Theatre at the Center. Pictured are Hoover, Leppen and Callaway. Photo by Hal Baim



Ald. Proco "Joe" Moreno. Photo by Kate Sosin

"I hope @Alderman_Moreno will join me for our lunch break during today's budget hearings for a special treat!" Reilly wrote, later writing that aldermen had consumed 75 sandwiches and posting a picture of Chicago aldermen consuming the food.

Moreno did not appear to appreciate the joke, shooting back on Twitter, "Thanks Ald. Reilly, but since I am vegetarian and I don't think homophobia is funny, I'll have to reject your gift."

Moreno's spokesperson, Matthew Bailey, sent Windy City Times an interview with Reilly on the Chick-fil-A controversy, which engulfed Chicago for weeks after the company's COO said he was "guilty as charged" of objecting to same-sex marriage.

In the interview, conducted by WTTW's Chicago Tonight, Reilly said he "vehemently" disagreed with Chick-fil-A's stance but said, "That should not be barrier into entry into a market as big as Chicago."

PASSAGES

Sharon R. Lawrence

Sharon R. Lawrence of Chicago—a retired self-employed real estate appraiser, theater aficionado and member of the senior (SAGE) group at the Center on Halsted as well as the senior group at Howard Brown—passed away peacefully Oct. 12. She was 65.

Lawrence was the cherished sister of Marc Lawrence and dear niece of Jeanette Layton of Story City, Iowa. She was preceded in by her parents, Lyman B. & Marie E. Lawrence.

There will be a celebration of her life Sunday, Nov. 4 at Unity in Chicago, 1925 W. Thome Ave., Chicago, 2-4 p.m.



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Windy City Times General Election Guide

Welcome to the 2012 Windy City Times General Election Guide.

Many of the races have already been decided locally—although there are a few tight ones still up for grabs (such as the Congressional races between Tammy Duckworth and Joe Walsh; Bill Foster and Judy Biggert; and Robert Dold and Brad Schneider).

This week's issue features our Guide to the Gays, which lists LGBT candidates. There are several still in the running for everything from judicial posts to Metropolitan Water Reclamation commissioner.

As always, there are political charts that show recommendations and endorsements from various organizations and associations as well as candidates' scores on our questionnaire. (Windy City Times does not endorse any candidates.)

Lastly, please do not forget to vote; everyone's voice deserves to be heard. And please feel free to take our charts into the voting booth with you.

Early voting through Nov. 3

For the Nov. 6 presidential general election, early voting will take place through Saturday, Nov. 3.

Voting locations and hours are listed at www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections/earlyvoting/Pages/EarlyVotingLocations.aspx. In Chicago, visit www.chicagoelections.com/page.php?id=9 for sites and times.

People who vote early must vote in person.

Guide to the gays

The Nov. 6 elections feature several openly gay and lesbian candidates for office. (All of the candidates are in the Democratic party.)

—Kelly Cassidy

Race: State House (14th District)
Web site: CitizensForKellyCassidy.com

The skinny: An incumbent, Cassidy defeated another lesbian, Paula Basta, in the March primary. Cassidy is unopposed in the general election.

—Greg Harris

Race: Illinois State Representative (13th District)
Web site: GregHarris.org

The skinny: Harris' district includes Uptown, Ravenswood, Lincoln Square, North Center and Bowmanville, and was first elected in 2006. He is currently running unopposed.

—Deb Mell

Race: Illinois State Representative (40th District)
Web site: DebMell.org

The skinny: A staunch advocate for marriage equality, Mell faces Republican Antoinette "Toni" Puccio-Johnson in the general election.

—John Ehrlich

Race: Cook County Circuit Court Judge (Eighth Subcircuit, Cole vacancy)
Web site: EhrlichForJudge.com

The skinny: As deputy corporation counsel in the City of Chicago's law department, Ehrlich oversees almost three dozen attorneys and a staff of 15. He's personally handled cases such as the Wrightwood porch collapse and the E2

nightclub tragedy. However, he is now set to become a judge, as he is running unopposed.

—John Dalton

Race: 16th Circuit Court, Kane, "A" vacancy
Web site: JohnDaltonForJudge.com

The skinny: Dalton would be the first openly gay judge elected outside of Cook County if he prevails. He's pitted against Republican John N. Walters.



Debra Shore.

—Debra Shore

Race: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District board
Web site: DebraShore.org

The skinny: Shore has been on the board since 2006. One of nine elected commissioners, she chairs the committees on stormwater management and state legislation and rules.

—Andrea M. Schleifer

Race: Cook County Circuit Court Judge (12th Subcircuit, Rochford vacancy)
Web site: ElectJudgeSchleifer.org

The skinny: A resident of Des Plaines, Schle-

ifer has been serving as a Cook County judge at the Richard J. Daley Center for more than a year. She is running against Republican James Pieczonka.

—Sam Yingling

Race: State House (62nd District)
Web site: SamYingling.com

The skinny: Yingling is a native of central Lake County and lives in Round Lake Beach, and is running in what he calls an "independent" district. He attended DePaul University, studying public policy and administration, and metropolitan land use (urban planning). He's running against Republican incumbent Sandy Cole.

—Chris Boyster

Race: Sangamon County auditor
Web site: ChrisBoyster.com

The skinny: If he wins, Boyster will be the second out person in Illinois to hold a non-judicial county-wide seat. (Shore is the only one so far.)

—Mary Colleen Roberts

Race: Cook County judge (retention)
Web site: None

The skinny: Roberts, a judge on the Cook County 11th Subcircuit, was elected in 2006.

—Mike McHale

Race: Cook County judge (retention)
Web site: None

The skinny: Like Roberts, McHale was elected in 2006.

—Colleen Sheehan

Race: Cook County judge (retention)
Web site: None

The skinny: Sheehan was first elected in 2000.

ELECTIONS 2012

Illinois Congressional candidates talk marriage equality

BY KATE SOSIN

Congressional candidates Judy Biggert and Bill Foster—battling to represent Illinois' 11th District—recently sparred over a number of issues during a WTTW political debate, and hot among them was the question of same-sex marriage.

Biggert, a Republican, and Foster, a Democrat, disagreed on the program Chicago Tonight over whether same-sex couples should be able to marry; however, both identified themselves as supporters of LGBT rights.

Foster said he supports marriage equality. Biggert said she is close.

"I think that this is a matter for the state," said Biggert. "And I think that with the court case that's coming up right now that there will be some movement on that. I support civil unions. I'm close to reaching for gay marriages."

Asked to clarify or elaborate, Biggert said that, as an attorney, she had concerns about what marriage equality would mean in terms of estate planning and other legal issues.

Foster said his views on LGBT support are clear.

"I support marriage equality," he said. "It's not ambiguous. Congresswoman Biggert's stance in the past has not been ambiguous."

At a post-debate press conference, reporters pressed Foster on his changing views on same-sex marriage, noting that he had previ-



Judy Biggert.

ously opposed it. Foster said that he had supported civil unions during his last campaign and that his priorities had been on the financial collapse.

Reporters also dogged Biggert on her stance, to which she replied, "It is a state issue. You know, we don't have polygamy and bigamy in the federal government. It's the states that take care of that."

The Judy Biggert for Congress campaign later issued a statement regarding marriage equality. "As like many Americans, the Congresswoman grapples with the idea of marriage for same-sex couples," the press release states. "The point she was making in the debate is that states—not the federal government—give out marriage licenses and make the determination about parameters for marriage, like they do for example in terms of age."

"The reference to polygamy and bigamy were in that context and she certainly did not mean to make a comparison between that and loving same-sex couples. She remains committed to the LGBT community and opposes efforts to write discrimination into the Constitution to take rights away from people."

Biggert has enjoyed some support from gay-rights activists, including a \$500,000 donation from American Unity PAC, pro-gay Republican super PAC, according to Crain's Chicago Business. She also called for support of the LGBT-inclusive reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.



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Election 2012

Welcome to the 2012 Windy City Times General Election Guide.

Many of the races have already been decided locally—although there are a few tight ones still up for grabs (such as the Congressional races between Tammy Duckworth and Joe Walsh; Bill Foster and Judy Biggert; and Robert Dold and Brad Schneider).

This week's issue features our Guide to the Gays, which lists LGBT candidates. There are several still in the running for everything from judicial posts to Metropolitan Water Reclamation commissioner.

Of course, the battle getting the most exposure is the race between President Barack Obama and GOP challenger Mitt Romney (as well as their respective vice-presidential running mates, Joe Biden and Paul Ryan). Ryan is a current member of the U.S. House, and the latest Human Rights Campaign scorecard (for the 112th Congress) gave him a score of zero. (When Obama was a U.S. senator, his scores in the 109th and 110th sessions were 89 and 94, respectively.)

As always, there are political charts that show recommendations and endorsements from various organizations and associations as well as candidates' scores on our questionnaire. (Windy City Times does not endorse any candidates.)

Lastly, please do not forget to vote; everyone's voice deserves to be heard. And please feel free to take our charts into the voting booth with you.

Also, don't forget that early voting ends Nov. 3. Voting locations and hours are listed at www.cookcountyclerk.com. In Chicago, visit www.chicagoelections.com for sites and times.

People who vote early must vote in person.

COOK COUNTY RACES

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization

PPAC = Personal PAC

EI = Equality Illinois

AIDS Foundation of Chicago also does a survey of candidates, but the results were not ready in time for the WCT Election Guide.

In addition, the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund endorses Debra Shore for Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

| | WCT | IVI | PPAC | EI |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|-----|------|----|
| COOK COUNTY CLERK | | | | |
| Dorothy A. Brown (D) | 11/12 | Y | Y | |
| Diane S. Shapiro (R) | | | | |
| RECORDER OF DEEDS | | | | |
| Karen Yarbrough (D) | 9/9 | Y | Y | Y |
| Sherrri Griffith (R) | | | | |
| STATE'S ATTORNEY | | | | |
| Anita Alvarez (D) | | | Y | Y |
| Lori S. Yokoyama (R) | | | | |
| METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT | | | | |
| Debra Shore (D) | 6/6 | Y | Y | Y |
| Kari Steele (D) | | Y | Y | |
| Patrick Daley Thompson (D) | 6/6 | | | |
| Harold "Noonie" Ward (R) | | | | |
| Carl Segvich (R) | | | | |
| Dave Ehrlich (G) | | | | |
| Karen Roothaan (G) | 6/6 | | | |
| Nasrin R. Khalili (G) | | | | |

US CONGRESS RACES

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization

HRC = Human Rights Campaign 112th Congress, ratings are a percentage of total 100% based on HRC tracking of how candidates voted in the 112th Congress

PP = Planned Parenthood

LCR = Log Cabin Republicans

NOW = NOW PAC

AIDS Foundation of Chicago also does a survey of candidates, but the results were not ready in time for our WCT Election Guide.

| | WCT | IVI | HRC | PP | LCR | NOW |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|
| 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Bobby L. Rush (D) | | | 94 | Y | | |
| Donald E. Peloquin (R) | | | | | | |
| 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (D) | | | 100 | Y | | |
| Brian Woodworth (R) | | | | | | |
| Marcus Lewis (I) | | | | | | |
| 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Daniel William Lipinski (D) | | | 30 | | | |
| Richard L. Grabowski (R) | | | | | | |

| | WCT | IVI | HRC | PP | LCR | NOW |
|------------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|
| 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Luis V. Gutierrez (D) | | | 100 | Y | | |
| Hector Concepcion (R) | | | | | | |
| 5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Mike Quigley (D) | 19/19 | | 100 | Y | | |
| Dan Schmitt (R) | | | | | | |
| Nancy Wade (G) | | | | | | |
| 6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Leslie Coolidge (D) | 17/19 | | | Y | | Y |
| Peter J. Roskam (R) | | | 0 | | | |
| 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Danny K. Davis (D) | 18/19 | | 88 | Y | | |
| Rita Zak (R) | | | | | | |
| John H. Monaghan (I) | | | | | | |
| 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Tammy Duckworth (D) | | | | Y | | Y |
| Joe Walsh (R) | | | 0 | | | |
| 9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Janice D. Schakowsky (D) | 19/19 | Y | 100 | Y | | |
| Timothy Wolfe (R) | | | | | | |
| 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Brad Schneider (D) | | | | | | |
| Robert Dold (R) | | | 35 | | Y | |
| 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Bill Foster (D) | | | | | | |
| Judy Biggert (R) | | | 70 | | Y | |
| 12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| William L. Enyart (D) | | | | | | |
| Jason Plummer (R) | | | | | | |
| Paula Bradshaw (G) | | | | | | |
| 13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| David M. Gill (D) | | Y | | Y | | Y |
| Rodney Davis (R) | | | | | | |
| John Hartman (I) | | | | | | |
| 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Dennis Anderson (D) | | Y | | | | |
| Randy M. Hultgren (R) | | | 0 | | | |
| 15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Angela Michael (D) | | | | | | |
| John M. Shimkus (R) | | | 0 | | | |
| 16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Wanda Rohl (D) | | | | | | |
| Adam Kinzinger (R) | | | 0 | | | |
| 17TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Cheri Bustos (D) | | | | Y | | Y |
| Bobby Schilling (R) | | | 0 | | | |
| 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
| Steve Waterworth (D) | | | | | | |
| Aaron Schock (R) | | | 0 | | | |

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RACES

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization

PPAC = Personal PAC

EQIL = Equality Illinois PAC

PP = Planned Parenthood

AIDS Foundation of Chicago also does a survey of candidates, but the results were not ready in time for our WCT Election Guide. We will be doing charts again next week and will update as more information becomes available.

| | WCT | IVI | PPAC | EI | PP |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|------|----|----|
| 1ST SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Antonio "Tony" Munoz (D) | | | Y | Y | |
| 2ND SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| William "Willie" Delgado (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 3RD SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Mattie Hunter (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 4TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Kimberly A. Lightford (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 5TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Patricia Van Pelt Watkins (D) | | | Y | | |
| 6TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| John J. Cullerton (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |

| | WCT | IVI | PPAC | EI | PP |
|---------------------------------|-------|-----|------|----|----|
| 7TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Heather Steans (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 8TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Ira I. Silverstein (D) | | | Y | | Y |
| 9TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Daniel Biss (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| Glenn Farkas (R) | | | | | |
| 10TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| John G. Mulroe (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 11TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Martin A. Sandoval (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 12TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Steven Landek (D) | | | | | |
| 13TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Kwame Raoul (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 14TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Emil Jones III (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 16TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Jacqueline "Jacqui" Collins (D) | | | Y | Y | |
| 17TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Donne E. Trotter (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 19TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Michael E. Hastings (D) | | | Y | | Y |
| Edgar Montalvo (R) | | | | | |
| 20TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Iris Y. Martinez (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 22ND SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Michael Noland (D) | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Cary Collins (R) | | | | | |
| 23RD SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Thomas E. Cullerton (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| Carole Pankau (R) | | | | | |
| 25TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Corinne M. Pierog (D) | 16/17 | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Jim Oberweis (R) | | | | | |
| 26TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Amanda Howland (D) | 17/17 | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Dan Duffy (R) | | | | | |
| 27TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| David R. Page (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| Matt Murphy (R) | | | | | |
| 28TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Daniel W. Kotowski (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| Jim O'Donnell (R) | | | | | |
| 29TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Julie A. Morrison (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| Arie Friedman (R) | | | | | |
| 30TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Terry Link (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| Don Castella (R) | | | | | |
| 31ST SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Melinda (Willen) Bush (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| Joe Neal (R) | | | | | |
| 34TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Steven "Steve" Stadelman (D) | | | Y | | Y |
| Frank M. Gambino (R) | | | | | |
| 36TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Mike Jacobs (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| Bill Albracht (R) | | | | | |
| 38TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Christine Benson (D) | | | Y | | Y |
| Sue Rezin (R) | | | | | |
| 39TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Don Harmon (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 40TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Toi W. Hutchinson (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| Joseph C. "Tuck" Marshall (R) | | | | | |
| 42ND SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Linda Holmes (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| Peter Hurtado (R) | | | | | |
| 43RD SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| Pat McGuire (D) | | | Y | | |
| Sandi Johnson (R) | | | | | |
| 46TH SENATE DISTRICT | | | | | |
| David Koehler (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| Pat Sullivan (R) | | | | | |

| | WCT | IVI | PPAC | EI | PP |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|------|----|----|
| 49TH SENATE DISTRICT Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant (D) Garrett M. Peck (R) | | | | Y | |
| 52ND SENATE DISTRICT Michael W. Frerichs (D) John Christian Bambenek (R) | | | Y | | Y |
| 54TH SENATE DISTRICT Danny L. Stover (D) Kyle McCarter (R) | | | Y | | Y |
| 57TH SENATE DISTRICT James F. Clayborne, Jr. (D) Dave Barnes (R) | | | Y | | Y |
| 1ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Daniel J. Burke (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 2ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Edward J. Acevedo (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 3RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Luis Arroyo (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 4TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Cynthia Soto (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 5TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kenneth Dunkin (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 6TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Esther Golar (D) | | | | Y | |
| 7TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Emanuel "Chris" Welch (D) 17/17 | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 8TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT La Shawn K. Ford (D) | | | | Y | |
| 9TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Arthur Turner (D) | | | Y | | Y |
| 10TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Derrick Smith (D) Lance Tyson (10th Dist. Unity) | | | Y | | Y |
| 11TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Ann M. Williams (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 12TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sara Feigenholtz (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 13TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Gregory Harris (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 14TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kelly M. Cassidy (D) 17/17 | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 15TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT John C. D'Amico (D) | | | Y | | |
| 16TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Lou Lang (D) 17/17 Vincent William Romano (R) | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| 17TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Laura Fine (D) Kyle Frank (R) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robyn Gabel (D) Eric Joseph Lieberman (R) | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| 19TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robert F. Martwick, Jr. (D) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 20TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Bruce Randazzo (D) Michael P. McAuliffe (R) | | | Y | Y | Y |
| 21ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Silvana Tabares (D) | | | Y | | |
| 22ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael J. Madigan (D) Robert Handzik (R) | | | | Y | |
| 23RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael J. Zalewski (D) | | | | Y | |

| | WCT | IVI | PPAC | EI | PP |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|------|----|----|
| 24TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez (D) | | | | Y | Y |
| 25TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Barbara Flynn Currie (D) | | | | Y | Y |
| 26TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Christian L. Mitchell (D) 16/17 | | | | Y | Y |
| 27TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Monique D. Davis (D) | | | | Y | Y |
| 28TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robert "Bob" Rita (D) | | | | Y | Y |
| 29TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Thaddeus Jones (D) | | | | Y | Y |
| 30TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT William "Will" Davis (D) | | | | Y | Y |
| 31ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Mary E. Flowers (D) | | | | Y | |
| 32ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Andre Thapedi (D) | | | | Y | |
| 34TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (D) | | | | Y | Y |
| 35TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Frances Ann Hurley (D) Ricardo A. Fernandez (R) | | | | Y | |
| 38TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Al Riley (D) | | | | Y | Y |
| 39TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Maria Antonia "Toni" Berrios (D) 17/17 | | | | Y | Y |
| 40TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Deborah L. Mell (D) Antoinette "Toni" Puccio-Johnson (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 42ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT William R. Adams (D) 15/17 Jeanne M. Ives (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 43RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Keith Farnham (D) | | | | Y | Y |
| 44TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Fred Crespo (D) Ramiro Juarez (R) | | | | Y | |
| 45TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Joann Franzen (D) Dennis M. Reboletti (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 46TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Deborah O'Keefe Conroy (D) Daniel J. Kordik (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 50TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Andrew Bernard (D) Kay Hatcher (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 51ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Ed Sullivan, Jr. (R) | | | | Y | |
| 52ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT David McSweeney (R) Dee Beaubien (I) | | | | Y | Y |
| 53RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Curt Renz (D) David Harris (R) | | | | Y | |
| 54TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Richard S. Rudd (D) Tom Morrison (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 55TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Martin J. Moylan (D) Susan Sweeney (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 56TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michelle Mussman (D) John R. Lawson (R) | | | | Y | Y |

| | WCT | IVI | PPAC | EI | PP |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|------|----|----|
| 57TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Elaine Nekritz (D) Jonathan L. Greenberg (R) | | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| 58TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Scott Drury (D) Mark Shaw (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 59TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Carol Sente (D) Sidney H. Mathias (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 60TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Rita Mayfield (D) 15/17 Jackie Burlison (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 61ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Ed Erwin (D) JoAnn D. Osmond (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 62ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sam Yingling (D) Sandy Cole (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 67TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Charles E. "Chuck" Jefferson (D) | | | | Y | Y |
| 68TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Carl R. Wasco (D) 14/17 John M. Cabello (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 71ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Mike Smiddy (D) Richard Morthland (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 72ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Patrick Verschoore (D) Neil Anderson (R) | | | | | Y |
| 77TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kathleen Willis (D) Angelo "SKip" Saviano (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 78TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Camille Y. Lilly (D) | | | | Y | Y |
| 80TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Anthony DeLuca (D) | | | | Y | Y |
| 84TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Stephanie A. Kifowit (D) Patricia "Pat" Fee (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 85TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Emily McAsey (D) | | | | Y | Y |
| 90TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Thomas Boken, Jr. (D) Tom Demmer (R) | | | | | Y |
| 92ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jehan Gordon (D) | | | | Y | Y |
| 95TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Brad Gillespie (D) Wayne Arthur Rosenthal (R) | | | | Y | |
| 97TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Tom Cross (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 98TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Natalie A. Manley (D) Robert "Bob" Kalnicki (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 103RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Naomi D. Jakobsson (D) 15/17 Robert A. Meister (R) | | | | Y | Y |
| 104TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael Langendorff (D) Chad D. Hays (R) | | | | | Y |
| 112TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Marleen Suarez (D) Dwight D. Kay (R) | | | | Y | |
| 114TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Eddie Lee Jackson (D) Ryan Stookey (R) | | | | Y | Y |

JUDICIAL RETENTIONS

See key on page 12 for abbreviations.

| | CCL | CCBA | DSL | ISBA | LAGBACWBAI | CBA |
|-------------------------------|-----|------|-----|------|------------|-----|
| Appellate Ct-1st Dist. | | | | | | |
| James Fitzgerald Smith | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Circuit Ct-Cook Co. | | | | | | |
| Carole Kamin Bellows | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Kathy M. Flanagan | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Moshe Jacobius | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Stuart F. Lubin | Y | NE | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Marvin P. Luckman | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Raymond Funderburk | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Stuart E. Palmer | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Martin S. Agran | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Patricia Banks | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Ronald F. Bartkovicz | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Robert Lopez Cepero | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Garritt E. Howard | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Joseph G. Kazmierski, Jr. | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| E. Kenneth Wright, Jr. | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Cynthia Brim | N | N | N | N | N | NR |
| Rodney Hughes Brooks | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | NR |
| Maureen Elizabeth Connors | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Christopher Donnelly | N | N | Y | N | N | Q |
| James D. Egan | N | N | N | N | N | NR |
| Catherine Marie Haberkorn | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Lisa Ruble Murphy | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | NR |
| Marya Nega | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Lee Preston | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Drella C. Savage | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| James M. Varga | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Richard F. Walsh | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Camille E. Willis | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |

| | CCL | CCBA | DSL | ISBA | LAGBACWBAI | CBA |
|---------------------------|-----|------|-----|------|------------|-----|
| Marcia Maras | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Peter Flynn | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Paul A. Karkula | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| P. Scott Neville, Jr. | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Maura Slattery Boyle | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Mary Margaret Brosnahan | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Matthew E. Coghlan | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Loretta Eadie-Daniels | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | NR |
| Joyce Marie Murphy Gorman | N | Y | N | Y | Y | Q |
| Joan Maragret O'Brien | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Thomas David Roti | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Colleen F. Sheehan | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Pamela E. Hill-Veal | N | N | N | N | N | NR |
| Orville E. Hambright | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Michael J. Howlett | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Carl Anthony Walker | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Daniel Patrick Brennan | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Gloria Chevere | N | N | N | N | N | NR |
| Grace C. Dickler | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Ellen L. Flannigan | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Carol M. Howard | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Jill C. Marisie | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| James Michael McGing | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Mike McHale | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| James Patrick Murphy | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Thomas W. Murphy | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Patrick W. "Pat" O'Brien | Y | NE | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Ramon Ocasio III | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Mary Colleen Roberts | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |
| Diane M. Shelley | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Q |

GAY in the LIFE
Patrick Tassoni
TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ANDREW DAVIS



Jobs
College counselor at Northside College Prep; teacher at DePaul University in the school counseling department

Hobbies
Art (mixed media), volleyball and Bikram yoga

Favorite snack food
"I eat protein bars like they're going out of style."

Relationship status
"Happily single"

Favorite vacation spot
Miami

Colleges
Brigham Young University-Hawaii; Lawrence University; DePaul University

Favorite musicians
Alison Moyet, The Killers and Imagine Dragons. "I listen to Shirley Horn's 'Here's to Life' every morning."

Talking with Patrick Tassoni, one is struck by his boundless energy and optimism.

Both of those qualities come in quite handy at Northside College Prep, a public four-year selective enrollment magnet high school that's in Chicago's North Park neighborhood. Tassoni works there as a college counselor, and says that his biggest role is "being a student advocate."

Tassoni became a counselor by way of teaching. He initially taught fifth-, sixth- and ninth-grade biology—and liked the "counseling component; the social and emotional components. You do that anyway as teachers," he said. He also wanted to get his clinical license. He started working at Northside in 2001.

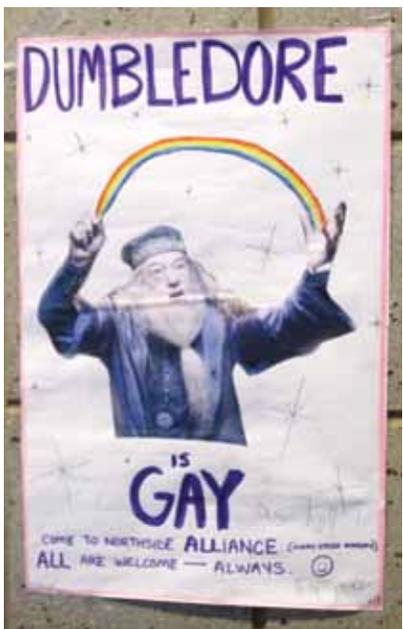
However, something else that was striking was the genuine adoration the students seem to hold for Tassoni—and he adores them in return. "I love this place," he said. "There are some really great, really bright kids. You just have to be sure to keep these really bright kids engaged and stay one step ahead of them."

Tassoni is also an advisor for Northside Alliance, the school's LGBTQA organization. "We have three amazing student co-leaders here this year," he said. (For more on Northside Alliance, go to the group's page on Facebook.) "The feedback has been incredible; 60 people showed up for the first meeting."

With October being National Coming Out Month, Tassoni told his own coming-out story: "If you saw me as a kid, you wouldn't need a story; I was so posed in my picture. But I met someone during college, when I worked as a lifeguard. My friend and I would go to [the now-defunct Chicago club] Vortex, while I lived in Rockford. I met this gorgeous guy and I was like, "What is going on?" It didn't work out but it was this tipping point in understanding who I am.

"One day I told my mom, 'I think I'm gay.' She said, 'Well, you don't have to try everything.' But I've always been outgoing, and my family has always been very supportive of who I am."

By the way, what would he advise his own kid about education? "Be passionate about something," he said. "Find things that interest you, and do more of that."



Friday, Nov. 2
7:30 p.m.
Hannah Gamble
Your Invitation to a Modest Breakfast

Thursday, Nov. 8
7:30 p.m.
Deborah Niemann
EcoThrifty: Cheaper, Greener Choices for a Happier, Healthier Life

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(773) 769-9299

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Tassoni with his artwork (left) and his dog, Bodhi (above). Photos courtesy of Tassoni

VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY
TIMES

VOL. 28, No. 4, Oct. 31, 2012

The combined forces of Windy City Times,
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Nightspots Deadline Wednesday prior to street date.
OUT! Resource Guide ONLINE
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www.WindyCityQueercast.com
www.QueerTVNetwork.com**"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
BAIMObama: Four
more years

Despite evidence to the contrary, the Republican Party in recent decades has continued to live off the notion that it is the better party on the economy, jobs and related topics. Anyone paying attention to the economic catastrophes and their causes knows that we have done far worse under Republicans than Democrats. Every few years the Republicans seem to step back and let the Democrats fix their mess and then successfully position the Democrats as the spendthrifts.

While Democrats may not have all the answers, and they certainly have many of the same conflicts of interest when it comes to regulating industries that donate heavily to their campaigns, the Republican Party has no moral standing when it comes to fiscal issues.

If you are an LGBT person voting for Romney based on his sound economic plans, this is a fallacy in search of a non-existent savior. The truth is, it's going to take a lot of very smart economic advisors, and some cross-party cooperation, to make true change. And given how beholden Romney will be to his "cut taxes on the 1%" base, there won't be compromise coming from him.

Let's set aside red-herring issues that are being used to distract from the true differences between the two main presidential tickets this election. Romney has morphed so many times in this election that whiplash set in long ago, even in the primaries. If someone is voting for Romney based on his policies, they are lying to themselves as much as Romney is lying to the

public. He makes a comment one day and takes it back the next; sometimes within hours. As soon as his handlers (donors) text him, he snaps back in line.

What we can base our vote on is someone's actions, and as an LGBT American, I have watched Obama become the most pro-LGBT president in our nation's history, at the same time stopping one war and winding down another, ordering the killing of Osama bin Laden, passing healthcare reform, and coping with an oil spill, an economy in collapse and a Congress that is filled with obstructionists who put their party (and Grover Norquist) first.

Obama has certainly made mistakes (Guantanamo, Bradley Manning, drones, etc.), and has not followed through yet on some 2008 promises. No one occupying the White House will match all of our ideals.

But make no mistake—there has never been a president who has been as supportive of LGBT issues. And LGBT issues are not just about our community—these administrative and legislative changes do have a much wider impact on society. And mainstream issues also benefit LGBTs (for example healthcare reform helps people with HIV/AIDS and other pre-existing conditions).

Focusing just on the larger LGBT issues, Obama has done more for this community than every previous president combined. Some say that's because our community is stronger now, but that is naive. If John McCain had been elected, Don't Ask, Don't Tell would still be in place, there would be no federal hate-crimes legislation, McCain would still be defending the Defense of Marriage Act in the courts, his Supreme Court picks would have been far different, and he would not have made nearly as many openly LGBT appointments.

Obama's list of changes is impressive and too long to present here. When I wrote my book, *Obama and the Gays: A Political Marriage*, in 2010, he had already made significant progress on the LGBT agenda. In 2012, there are certainly more things we want (especially the Employment Non-Discrimination Act), but I don't see

how any LGBT person, or our allies, could say that Obama does not deserve our support based on his legislative, administrative and even personal progress on LGBT issues. It was great he came out for marriage equality this year (moving back to his 1996 position he stated to my newspaper), but even prior to that, Obama's first term saw monumental accomplishments for LGBT rights.

LGBT issues are American issues, but we know they are not the only issues that matter. However, they can be a litmus test for politicians who claim to be for equality, but hesitate or step back when it comes to the more difficult decisions. Romney has backed off any remnant of his minimally moderate past. He will have no backbone to stand up to the right wing of his party once elected, as he has proven time and again during the campaign.

So those who are leaning Romney, and still undecided, ask yourself who you want to direct the next four years of your life. Someone who is beholden to Karl Rove and his right-wing billionaires, someone who gets reprimanded in the Oval Office by its true owners if he strays from the party line? Or someone who has handled himself with an amazing consistency these past four years, calm and purposeful, moving our arc of justice forward, not backward. Someone who is human and fallible—but consistent, practical and reliable.

While our publication, *Windy City Times*, does not endorse in any elections (we leave that up to our readers to decide), I personally support Barack Obama for president of the United States. I have studied him since 1996 and I have watched him do what he says, even when the tasks are very hard. (Eliminating DADT was a Herculean effort.) He has more to do, and he deserves more time to complete his agenda.

Four more years.
Tracy Baim is co-founder and publisher of *Windy City Times*. She is the author of *Obama and the Gays: A Political Marriage* and the upcoming *Gay Press, Gay Power: The Growth of LGBT Community Newspapers in America*.

around election time—may make us forget. I was reminded of this while driving through my neighborhood with my 9-year-old son. Near our house, a homeowner set up a giant "Mitt Romney" campaign sign, at least 10 feet long by six feet wide. My son, who knows I support Obama, said that he wished he could tear it down.

Much as part of me dislikes seeing neighbors cheer for the opposing candidate, my Democratic (big "D") leanings do not trump my understanding of what really matters in our democracy (small "d"). "You can't do that," I told my son. "Everyone is entitled to express his or her opinion. That's one of the key freedoms we enjoy in this country."

No matter our political persuasions (and I don't presume that every LGBT person is a Democrat), explaining emotionally charged political issues to our kids is never easy. Conveying freedom of speech at the same time is even harder. It is essential to do so, though, if we don't want our children to grow up believing people should restrict ideas simply because they don't agree with them. That attitude leads to people trying to ban books like *Uncle Bobby* from libraries.

What the next four years will bring, we can only guess. Regardless of the outcome of the election, however, we will grow more as people and as a country if we teach our children compassion and respect for different viewpoints. Leave gay guinea pigs in the library and political signs in the yards. That will leave us with our core values as a nation—and that is what will ground us as we press forward into the future.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of *Mombian* (www.mombian.com), an award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBT parents.

DANA
RUDOLPHElection menagerie:
Donkeys, elephants
and guinea pigs

I'm having a feeling of *déjà vu*. Four years ago, I was waiting to see if Barack Obama would be elected president; waiting to see the outcome of a ballot measure in California that would decide the legality of marriage equality in that state; and baffled that a patron of a Colorado library had asked for the removal or reshelving of the children's picture book *Uncle Bobby's Wedding*, claiming it was "inappropriate for children" because it showed two anthropomorphic male guinea pigs getting married.

It's now 2012, and I am one again waiting to hear whether Obama will win the election; whether voters will allow marriage equality in their states; and baffled that yet another library patron (in Missouri) has recently asked that *Uncle Bobby* be removed from a local library.

Has nothing changed in four years?
Fact is, a lot has changed. Since the last election, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York and the District of Columbia have begun allowing same-sex couples to wed. Polls show an increase in support for marriage equality across the country. Gay men and les-

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo
courtesy
of West
End Films

Christopher Walken is one of the stars of the movie *A Last Quartet*. Read the review on page 22.

DISH

Southern discomfort.
Page 26.

PR photo of skillet cornbread
at Carriage House



THEATER

'Wedding' plans.
Page 16.

Photo from *Funeral Wedding*
by Tyler Core



EVENTS

Talk 30 to me.
Page 18.

Photo by Kate Sosin



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Comedy couple goes solo together

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Solo shows can be extremely stressful and risky for some actors. On one hand, there is no one else on stage to help out if something goes wrong. And if a solo show is a comedy, then it becomes very apparent to the audience if a performer hasn't perfected his or her comic timing.

Yet two prominent out performers and writers in Chicago's comedy scene, Andy Eninger and John Loos, are planning to go it alone—albeit together via a double bill show at the Annoyance Theatre this November. Eninger is revising his one-man multi-character improv comedy *Sybil*, while Loos is offering his first-ever solo sketch comedy show: *Adorable Disasters*.

Eninger and Loos, who met and became a couple while performing together in Chicago's LGBT sketch comedy troupe *GayCo*, are staging their solo shows in addition to other Annoyance Theatre duties. Both Loos and Eninger have been starring in the hit adults-only show *Steamwerkz: The Musical* (which they also helped to co-write), and they have been a part of the rotating cast of another long-running male-flesh-filled Annoyance show: *Skinprov*.

"We both thought that it would work at the Annoyance" Eninger said about pairing their half-hour shows on the same bill. But more practically, "we're also splitting the cost and the rent."

Eninger originally developed *Sybil* about a decade ago with a friend as a two-person long-form improv comedy show, but she bailed when a well-paying corporate job in London came up. So Eninger decided to go it alone.

Although Eninger says there is some behind-the-scenes structure to *Sybil*, the show develops as a long-form improv piece where he "asks for people's suggestions and objects from the audience and that inspires the first character's monologue and I spin a series of multi-character scenes where I play all the characters."

That includes some LGBT characters, although Eninger admits that some of his comedy coaches have asked him to clarify "when you're playing a gay character or playing a lady, because there are a lot of ladies in there as well."

Including LGBT characters is a given for Eninger, who also works at The Second City full-time as head of the writing program. (For disclosure's sake, this writer took a Second City writing course led by Eninger earlier this year.)

Loos is still formulating which characters and sketches will make it into his sketch show *Adorable Disasters*, potentially including one about a German porn star.

"It will be everything from a bunch of little kids to crazy old ladies to people who work in candle stores," Loos said about his character line-up. "But the crux or theme of my show that I've latched onto is the destruction of the 'American Dream' and what that means to gay Americans as well. I think that gay people are keenly more aware of what they have and don't have in terms of rights."

Although Loos and Eninger are gearing up for their upcoming solo work, they're both extremely proud of the continued success of *Steamwerkz: The Musical*. Every weekly performance has been a virtual sell-out, and the show has been extended multiple times, giving Loos and



Andy Eninger
(front) and John
Loos (back).
Photo
courtesy
of Loos

Eninger hopes that *Steamwerkz* might become another long-running Annoyance attraction like *Co-Ed Prison Sluts*.

"We've definitely have had lots of straight couples, parents of cast members and friends show up and they have had a really great time," Loos said about some of the untypical demographic audiences turning out for this gay bathhouse-set comedy. "I think as it keeps going it attracts new audiences who discover it so it expands beyond just the gay community."

The double bill of Andy Eninger's *Sybil* and John Loos' *Adorable Disasters* runs 9:30 p.m. Sundays from Nov 5-25 at the Annoyance Theatre, 4860 N. Broadway. Tickets are \$10.

Steamwerkz: The Musical continues 10 p.m. Fridays through Dec. 28. Tickets are \$20. Call 773-561-4665 or visit www.annoyanceproductions.com for more information on both of these shows.

Metzgar says so long to About Face Theatre

The board of directors of About Face Theatre announced last weekend that About Face Theatre Artistic Director Bonnie Metzgar is stepping

down from her post at the end of the 2012-13 season.

"I came to About Face with three goals—to create financial stability in uncertain economic times, build a vibrant core of Artistic Associates and lead the organization through a strategic plan to develop a 3-5 year vision for the company. I am so proud that during my tenure at the helm of this important artistic institution that I accomplished these goals," said Metzgar in a news release about her five-year tenure with the company. "With a terrific board of directors, artistic associates and staff, About Face is positioned perfectly for ongoing success in one of the greatest theater cities in the world."

The news release didn't offer any reasons for Metzgar's departure, nor if she had anything lined up after she steps down from About Face Theatre.

About Face's board of directors has formed a search committee to lead to national search for the next artistic director, as well as a transition committee to oversee the artistic leadership transition.



Burn This. Photo by Sean Park

THEATER REVIEW

Burn This

Playwright: Lanford Wilson
At: Shattered Globe Theatre
 at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.
Tickets: 773-795-8150;
www.shatteredglobe.org; \$27-\$32
Runs through: Nov. 18

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

"This isn't opera! Why should love be tragic?" cries a character as he schemes to reunite a pair of reluctant sweethearts. Indeed, if the tone of Lanford Wilson's 1987 drama weren't so gosh-durn gloomy, it could almost be a comedy. After all, what's the goal of comedy, if not the life-affirming harmony of true minds unobstructed by guilt and regrets?

There's no denying the sad occasion that launches the dramatic action—in this case, the untimely death in a boating accident of a talented young dancer. His boho-artist roommates mourn his passing, each according to individual temperament—gay Larry channels his grief into compulsive waggery, while het Anna turns hers inward despite the comfort offered by her screenwriter fiancé. Then one night, the deceased's brother invades their melancholic torpor—Jimmy, or "Pale" as he insists on being called, is a boisterous, vulgar, hard-drinking, coke-snorting schlemiel who vomits forth his anger with the willful intractability of an infant in a tantrum. Surprisingly, Anna—who has just declared "mother love" to be an alien concept to her—finds herself curiously attracted to this visceral oaf.

How attractive we find these ultrasensitive waifs is almost wholly dependent on the degree of empathy generated by actors playing them. When staged in small spaces, as this play often is, the dialogue is frequently reduced to talking-heads-on-the-couch. The opportunities for physical movement offered by Andrew Hildner's replica lower-Manhattan loft, however, coupled with the emphasis on text analysis and body language director Linda Gillum demands of her cast, renders the plot progression in this production more lucid than any other in recent memory.

It's badly needed, too, to sell the go-with-your-impulses school of romanticism to audi-

ences wiser now than in 1987. Jake Szczepaniak's ever-so-slight pause after Larry delivers another knee-jerk quip bespeaks a self-awareness we find immediately endearing, as does Brad Woodard's charmingly clueless portrayal of Burton the dilettante. Both help Kate LoConti to liberate Anna from Wilson's Victorian view of womanhood, but can do nothing for Ryan Kitley, who plays Pale as a standard-issue palooka with none of the animal magnetism necessary to justify our indulging his propensity to make a mess of whatever he touches. You don't need to be an advice columnist to recognize a restraining order waiting to happen.

CRITICS' PICKS

44 Plays for 44 Presidents, Neo-Futurists; **Assassins**, Viaduct Theatre, both through Nov. 10. Enjoy a satiric skit, song or comedy bit for each of our chief executives, then see the Sondheim-Weidman dark musical about folks who've shot them (or tried), both well-staged. Then vote. JA

Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, Bailiwick Chicago at National Pastime Theater, through Nov. 10. This gleefully vulgar musical about our seventh president's controversial career is a perfect fit for Pastime's big new room in Uptown—and so are the cigarette jeans worn by Matthew Holzfeind, as the frontiersman-turned-pol. MSB

Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom, Strawdog Theater, through Nov. 12. We never see the zombies infiltrating the quiet suburban community in the video game lending this Rod Serling-style sociological fable its title, but to the isolated teenagers defending their brains from attack, the walking dead are disturbingly familiar. MSB

Night Over Erzinga, Silk Road Rising at Chicago Temple Building, through Nov. 11. Adriana Sevahn Nichols' gripping time-shifting drama adeptly looks at two survivors of the early 20th century Armenian Genocide and how they (and their descendants) struggle to cope as refugees in America. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

Funeral Wedding: The Alvin Play

Playwright: Emily Schwartz
At: Strange Tree Group at Signal Ensemble Theatre, 1802 W. Berenice Ave.
Tickets: 773-598-8240
 or www.strangetree.org; \$25
Runs through: Nov. 17

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Audiences who love whimsy and the macabre heavily blended together are strongly advised not miss Strange Tree Group's world premiere of Emily Schwartz's *Funeral Wedding: The Alvin Play* at Signal Ensemble Theatre. Schwartz also strings audiences along with the promise of a mystery to be unraveled, though by the end of the play, what's revealed might not be all that certain or pleasing to ponder.

Funeral Wedding: The Alvin Play is centered around the title character (Daniel Behrendt), a once promising doctoral student who has sequestered himself in his family's attic following his questionable involvement in the discovery of two twin girls (Kate Nawrocki and Amber Vaughn Robinson) who were found stabbed to death on a beach.

The Fisher family (that Alvin belongs to) was never popular in town, and in the time since the unsolved murder scandal, their reputation has floundered in the community. That is why the family is so keen to marry off Alvin's petulant sister, Anne (Delia Baseman), to the prominent Dr. Robert Elliot (Scott Cupper), Alvin's former friend.

THEATER REVIEW

Wasteland

Playwright: Susan Felder
At: TimeLine Theatre,
 615 W. Wellington Ave.
Tickets: 1-773-281-8463;
www.timelinetheatre.com; \$32-\$42
Runs through: Dec. 30

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Authors of the Greatest Generation produced novels, plays and films about World War II for 50 years after 1945, so a new work about Vietnam is not surprising a mere 40 years after we dishonorably extracted ourselves from that messy, costly (58,000 Americans dead) and probably-avoidable mire of post-Colonial, anti-Communist warfare. I wonder, however, what's to be gained by revisiting the politics and national divisions of that war, which is what Susan Felder does for a substantial portion of her new play, *Wasteland*.

The play is set in North Vietnam circa 1972, where two U.S. grunts, both named Joe, are held in underground prison cells roughly carved out of raw earth and separated by a tangle of roots, hard-packed earth and a portion of board wall. The cells are open to the sky above—just a little too high for escape—allowing light and tropical rain to come down. The play's gimmick is that we see only one cell and one GI Joe (Nate Burger) while we only hear the other (Steve Haggard).

They are completely different Joes: a Yankee and a Southerner, one pro-war and pro-Nixon and the other anti-war and anti-Nixon, one a draftee and the other an enlistee, one straight and one gay (at least with proclivities), one religious and one not, one a little bit country and the other a little bit rock 'n' roll. Through their sometimes-opposing discourse, Felder lays out all the homefront disputes over Vietnam—history in which I have little interest, frankly. Hey, I was there.

For me, *Wasteland* is far more potent, skillful and successful as an exploration of the desperation, hopelessness, isolation and

Although Alvin is initially presented as an agoraphobic and overly medicated recluse (coming complete with an ever-present and symbolic vaudevillian played by Zachary Sigelko), it's eventually revealed how more maladjusted his parents truly are. We come to find out why the over-controlling and haughty mother Myrna (Jennifer Marschand) holds such a spell over the accommodating and seemingly not-so-bright father Sylvester (Ron Thomas).

Director Jess McLeod coaxes great comic and dramatic performances from her strong cast, who all rightfully play up all the quirkiness of their characters while also remaining grounded to all their sad and unfulfilled outcomes in life so far. Behrendt's Alvin is particularly good, showing off his character's debilitating eccentricity while also trying to be a voice of reason that most would prefer to ignore.

Once again, Strange Tree Group's creative team deserves kudos for its wonderfully creepy atmospherics, which stretches all the way from the lobby and adjoining hallway (decked out like a 19th-century family parlor) to the zigzagging attic set designed by Scott Davis this is spookily lit by lighting designer Becca Jeffords. In addition to playing Anne, Baseman has assembled a wonderful assortment of period costumes that help lock the play into its bygone era.

Where *Funeral Wedding* doesn't completely satisfy is what seems to be the ultimate revelation of the mystery, which deliberately leaves some loose ends dangling about. Although Schwartz probably didn't want to end everything so neatly and pat, the blossom of doubt that she leaves behind will probably leave audiences more unsettled than truly happy at the conclusion of a show that stylistically leans more on the whimsical side than truly serious.



Wasteland.
 Photo by
 Lara
 Goetsch

mind-numbing boredom of captivity, along with the stress of not knowing from day-to-day if you'll live or die. This is the territory of universal truth irrespective of war, era or politics. It could as easily be Gitmo or a gulag or Andersonville Prison as Vietnam—any place in which captivity is combined with lack of access to information. Under these circumstances, the growing companionship and life-saving co-dependency of the two Joes give *Wasteland* power, as does Felder's carefully crafted and actor-savvy language, which never bores, not even during the exchanges of cliché opinions.

This world premiere also is elevated by an excellent production that benefits from caring and lucid direction by William Brown, a superbly realistic and gritty scenic design complete with rain by Kevin Depinet (lighting by Jesse Klug) and—above all—an honest and remarkable performance by Burger, who is totally immersed in his wet and filthy environment and completely committed to Joe's reality. Haggard's voice-only support is varied, effective and absolutely vital, but Burger is the one whose award-worthy work carries *Wasteland*.

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The Opponent. Photo by Michael Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW

The Opponent

Playwright: Brett Neveu

At: A Red Orchid Theatre, 1531 N. Wells St.

Tickets: 312-943-8722;

www.aredorchidtheatre.org; \$25-\$30

Runs through: Dec. 2

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

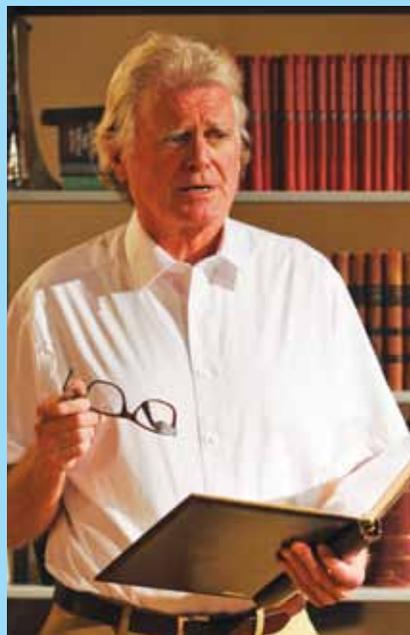
When the only two people in a gymnasium are a boxer and a trainer, and the former is paying the latter \$30 an hour for the privilege, they don't usually waste time in idle chat. Fortunately, playwright Brett Neveu has endowed the avuncular Tremont "Tre" Billiford and ambitious Donnell Fuseles (this is Louisiana, obviously) with

the ability to swap confidences *while* they drill, their conversation punctuated by the smack of leather on leather and the pungent smell of fresh sweat.

Since physical movement always dominates verbal repartee, our comprehension of Neveu's trademark elliptical dialogue—in this case, liberally laced with jargon and insider references reflecting its milieu—is spotty at best, but gradually we come to learn that Tre once lost a championship match and that Donnell is facing a career-making engagement that night. Act two takes us forward five years, to an uneasy reunion between mentor and pupil, both weathered by defeat and disillusionment, the younger in need of advice on how, when you're down, to get up again—and why.

Bring your hankies, all you manly-men—not

SPOTLIGHT



Physics and theater combine in Peter Parnell's **QED**, an up-close portrait of Nobel laureate Richard Feynman, who is credited with being a pioneer in the field of nanotechnology and an eager advocate for creativity and originality in science. Collaboration and theatre4humanity team to present the Chicago premiere of QED, which continues through Dec. 9 at Collaboration Theatre, Third Floor, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$25; call 866-212-4077 or visit www.theatre4humanity.org. Photo courtesy of theatre4humanity and Collaboration



just for mopping up big-boy tears, but for the testosterone fumes spurring you to jump into the ring yourself. What this tough/tender tale may lack in originality, it more than redeems in the visceral thrill engendered by live performance in a space as small as Red Orchid's alleyway storefront. Kamal Angelo Bolden (whom audiences may recall as the title character in *Victory Gardens* in *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*) is in top athletic form for the role of Donnell, while company regular Guy Van Swearingen, a real-life ex-firefighter, lends the phlegmatic Tre a sturdy stoicism. Technical consultant Alfonso Ortiiz has instructed his actors thoroughly in the minutiae

of the sweet science, while director Karen Kesler and fight designer John Tovar ascertain that text and fists tango skin-tight for every minute of the play's two 45-minute rounds.

Playgoers fearing excessive violence will be reassured to hear that even in the inevitable final showdown, when our surrogate father and son dispense with the focus-mitts to mix it with gloves on, contact-sport precision never gives way to sloppy brutality. Indeed, after viewing the range of psychological levels conveyed in this much-misunderstood activity, spectators may want to drop in on the Golden Gloves tournaments at Gordon Tech for further research.

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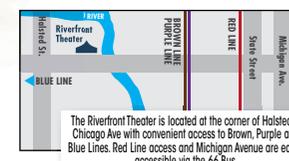
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RIVERFRONT THEATER

Indigo Girls: Better than ever after 25 years

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

With 14 studio albums under their belt, the latest being 2011's *Beauty Queen Sister*, and a career spanning more than 25 years, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers (Indigo Girls) continue to bring the high energy and authenticity they have always been known for to the stage.

Ray suggested that anyone who hasn't been to an Indigo Girls concert in a few years ought to come see them on this tour, because she said they are still at it, delivering the same quality performances they gained attention for in the beginning. The only difference is they have many more songs to choose from.

"We definitely rotate different songs in and out of the set," Ray said. "We change the set list every night, but certain ones we always do. We always do 'Share the Moon,' that song always

to have keyboard and guitar parts that are extra and lots of vocals, but it's us, they are sort of contributing to it."

Ray is looking forward to performing the rock songs with the backing band, specifically mentioning "Go" and "Tether" as favorites on this tour.

Ray said that after so many years of touring it is the collaborative aspect that she still finds the most exciting about touring. It brings a new experience to the music and the performance, she added.

Indigo Girls have had a longevity that most bands don't get. Ray attributes this to a number of factors, including their touring schedule, the people they've surrounded themselves with and their creative structure and process.

"There are a lot of things that go into it on the business side that kind of give you more



Indigo Girls. Publicity shot

gets a good response. That's one that seems to be a favorite.

"I guess it's the energy, and the set list is kind of a balance between the things that we want to play and the things that we know the audience wants to hear. We don't play anything we don't feel like playing."

Ray said her personal favorites really depend on the musicians her and Saliers are playing with. On this tour, The Shadowboxers are opening the show as well as joining Indigo Girls on stage as their backing band. The band sang on two songs on *Beauty Queen Sister*.

"They're from Atlanta and we met them a while back and just kind of morphed into this," Ray said. "It's really great to play a show with a backing band. They have three great harmony singers, so we have all the harmonies. We can do electric songs if we want to and songs that have bigger background vocals."

"When they play with us they play some of the parts that are on the records, and they sing a lot of the harmonies we wrote. As players they have a really wide range, from a straight up rock band to a soul kind of almost R&B kind of flavor. Stevie Wonder kind of mixed with REM, maybe Dylan. They have three song writers so there are a lot of different styles going on in their band, which is one of the reasons we thought they could play with us really well, because they can kind of tap into anything. It gives us the chance

longevity. For us, I think it's having a team of people that we work with that are like a family, that we've been with since the beginning, since we started," Ray said. "Since we had to get a manager and a booking agent, which I guess we were around 23, before that we did everything ourselves, those have been the same people the whole time. That really helps."

"We write separately so we give each other a lot of creative space and that is a really good thing. We don't tour for more than a few weeks at a time. We go for three weeks and then we come home for a week so it gives us that grounded kind of thing and keeps us from driving each other crazy. I think along the way we've taken care to create space and maintain integrity. The other thing is always trying to evolve musically and have new experiences and fresh experiences, and make new records and keep writing and keep the writing process going. Not just rest on your laurels, because you totally can't do that, and who would want to. It's kind of boring to not constantly be reinventing yourself. We have a certain sense of how we should always evolve and that includes when systems change and time changes and the way records are put out there. When that stuff changes you try to adjust to that and look at it as a fresh experience."

Ray also said that the fans have made a huge difference. Indigo Girls have gained a large group of diehard fans who have remained loyal

over the years, passing on their music to siblings, friends, significant others and their children.

When she is touring, Ray is also often writing music. She said that she is writing about eight months out of the year, usually five days a week and that includes when they are on the road.

Her message to those attending the Aurora

show is that she hopes everyone has a really great time and enjoys the concert.

The show is on Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd. in downtown Aurora. Tickets are \$45-\$55; for tickets and information, visit www.paramountaurora.com.

Kylie releasing 'Abbey Road' Nov. 6

Pop singer Kylie Minogue has announced that she will release *The Abbey Road Sessions* in the United States Nov. 6.

The album—recorded in London's legendary Abbey Road Studios with Kylie's band and a full orchestra—features 16 classic Minogue tracks, all radically reworked and spanning her 25-year career. The album features many of Kylie's best-known hits including "I Should Be So Lucky," "Can't Get You Out Of My Head" and "The Locomotion."

19th Annual SOFA exhibit Nov. 1-4

The Chicago-based Art Fair Company will present the international art fair SOFA (Sculpture Objects & Functional Art + Design) CHICAGO 2012 at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave., Friday, Nov. 2-Sunday, Nov. 4.

There will also be an opening-night preview Thursday, Nov. 1, 5-7 p.m., for VIP passholders only.

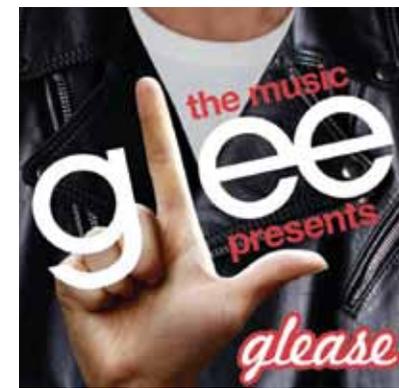
SOFA CHICAGO 2012 will feature nearly 70 art galleries and dealers from 10 countries along with special exhibits by museums, universities and arts organizations as well as an extensive lecture series, all included in the admission price.

Tickets are \$15 for single day general admission and \$25 for a three-day pass; preview tickets are \$50. See www.sofaexpo.com.

Glee's take on 'Grease' out Nov. 6

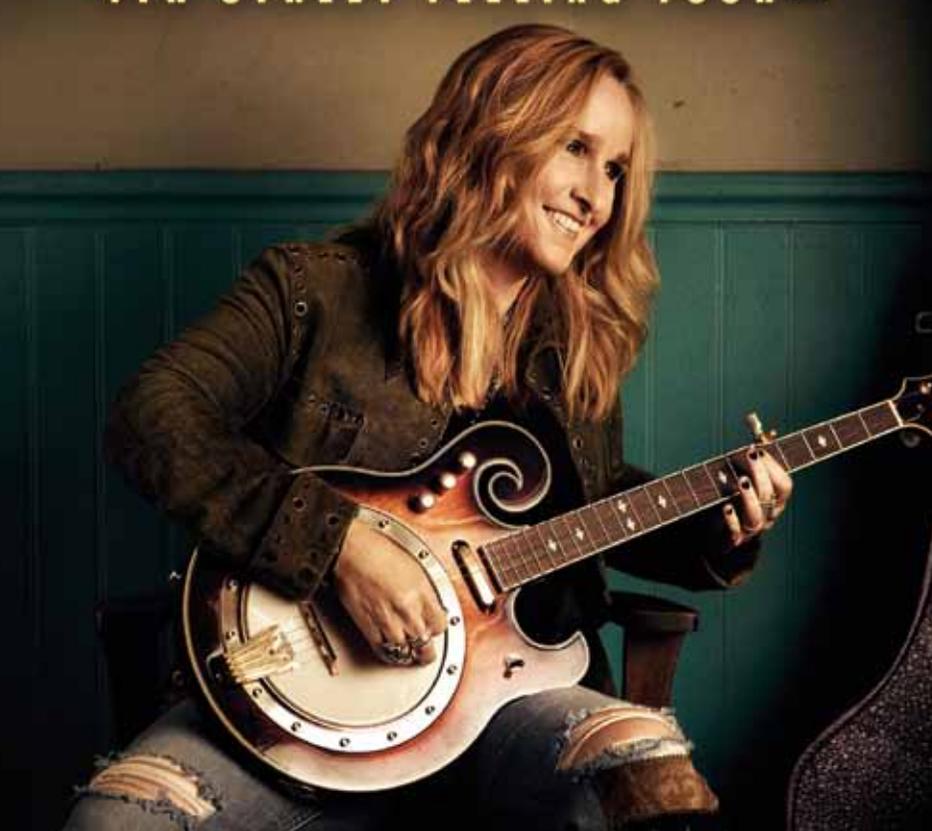
McKinley High School's glee club—the centerpiece of the show *Glee*—will take on the musical *Grease* with the release of *Glee: The Music Presents Grease*, available Nov. 6.

This release will give fans a sneak peek of new songs from the *Grease*-themed episode airing Nov. 15. *Glee: The Music Presents Grease* showcases the cast taking on hits such as "Hopelessly Devoted To You," "Beauty School Dropout," "You're The One That I Want," "Greased Lightning" and more.



Melissa Etheridge

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BOOK REVIEW

Victory: The Triumphant Gay Revolution

Victory: The Triumphant Gay Revolution

by Linda Hirshman

\$27.99; hardcover; 444 pages; Harper

REVIEW BY CHRIS RIDDIOUGH

Reading *Victory: The Triumphant Gay Revolution* by Linda Hirshman is a lot like going to the fun house at a carnival. You see yourself in the mirrors but it doesn't really look like you.

From the title to the epilogue you can see the LGBT movement in this book, but it doesn't really look like the movement I've experienced over the last 40 years. The vignettes of gay life in the early part of the 20th century are fascinating to read. The descriptions of Harry Hay's efforts to form the Mattachine Society and how much he took from his Communist Party activism are quite striking. But where is the description of Henry Gerber's attempt in Chicago in the 1920s to start the first known U.S. gay rights organization—the Society for Human Rights? Hirshman's description of Harvey Milk's extraordinary role in the gay movement is stirring, but what of the elections of Kathy Kozachenko, the first openly LGBT elected official in the United States, and Elaine Noble, the first openly LGBT state legislator, both elected in 1974?

Perhaps these omissions and others like them would not be so egregious if Hirshman were writing only about the gay movement in New York and California, but a book that purports to tell the story of the 'Triumphant Gay Revolution' should not leave out these and many other key elements. In fact her focus throughout the book on New York and California is disturbing. While she gives a nod to the efforts in Washington, D.C. (after all one can hardly write a history of the LGBT movement without mentioning Frank Kameny) and to a few other non-coastal locations, her single-minded attention to the activities on either coast results in the omission of many key players and events over the last century.

That's not the only problem with this book, however. Her fawning portrayal of the gay men she interviews is disquieting. Combined with her apparent disregard for lesbians, it results in an unbalanced portrayal of life and activism in the LGBT community. She only briefly mentions Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, the founders of the Daughters of Bilitis. Barbara Gittings gets even less of a nod in the book and others from those early days (like Barbara Grier of the Ladder) are not even mentioned.

This disdain for lesbians and women more generally is well reflected in her comments on feminism. Her perspective on the feminist movement and the civil-rights movement (which she persists in calling the "racial civil-rights movement") reflects a complete lack of understanding of those movements and their relationship to the LGBT movement. She says, for example, that

"At the end of the day, both these modern movements got most of their traction from maximizing their similarity to dominant political and social hierarchies. By definition, people involved in the gay revolution could not replicate majority behavior."

Hirshman wants to distinguish (and perhaps elevate) the gay movement from the civil-rights and feminist movements. And there certainly are distinctions, but not the ones she makes. In many respects, gay men have been much better able to replicate the majority behavior, politically and socially, of their heterosexual counterparts than women have. And while, as Hirshman points out, morality in the United States is generally sexual morality, to suggest as she does that "few would have argued that skin color reflected character" is simply not true. Though not as explicit as the moral indignation of the

right when it comes to the LGBT community, it is clear that even today in our "enlightened" 21st century, it is an offense to the morals of some simply to be Black.

Later she states, "The women of the feminist movement differed more dramatically from the politically and socially dominant males [than did those from the civil rights movement] if only by virtue of their tie to childbearing. They, too, however, had a path to integration by virtue of their value as sexual companions and mothers."

To suggest that integrating women into political and civil society is achieved by virtue of sex and childbearing is a complete misunderstanding of the aims of the women's movement. Rather, they have been part of the basis for women's "special status" (read: oppression) in our society. In addition, those roles, particularly that of sexual companion, offer no path to integration for lesbians. In fact it is the very idea of women's sexuality that most strongly links feminism to the LGBT movement.

Years ago, I had a conversation with someone from Integrity, the gay Episcopalian organiza-

tion ranging from lesbian feminist separatists to lesbian socialist feminists to lesbian feminists in NOW.

But Hirshman seems more intent on denigrating the women's movement, stating, for example—"By 1969, the poisonous feminist slogan, 'The personal is the political,' characterized a strong movement of younger, Sixties-influenced women's liberationists."—rather than truly exploring the vital role that lesbian feminism has played in both the LGBT and women's movements.

In fact, that "poisonous" slogan pertains at least as much to the struggle for LGBT rights as that for women's rights. What could be more personal than the intimate relationships we have? At the same time, for lesbians and gay men those personal relationships underlie the political and social oppression we have faced. Her failure to understand the links between the women's movement and the LGBT movement underlies her devaluing of the role of lesbians in the movement. Certainly there were elements in the women's movement who would prefer to

This completely misunderstands what revolutions are about. Anyone who has been an activist in any movement knows that no movement has included in its ranks every member of the group it is fighting for. My goal when I became an activist for feminism and LGBT rights was not to just change things for myself and others in the movement, but to change things for women and all members of the LGBT community. I never expected that all women or all LGBT people would be involved. While I would have liked every woman to be active in the women's movement, I knew that there were often reasons that women, even supportive women, couldn't or wouldn't get involved. The same is true for the LGBT movement.

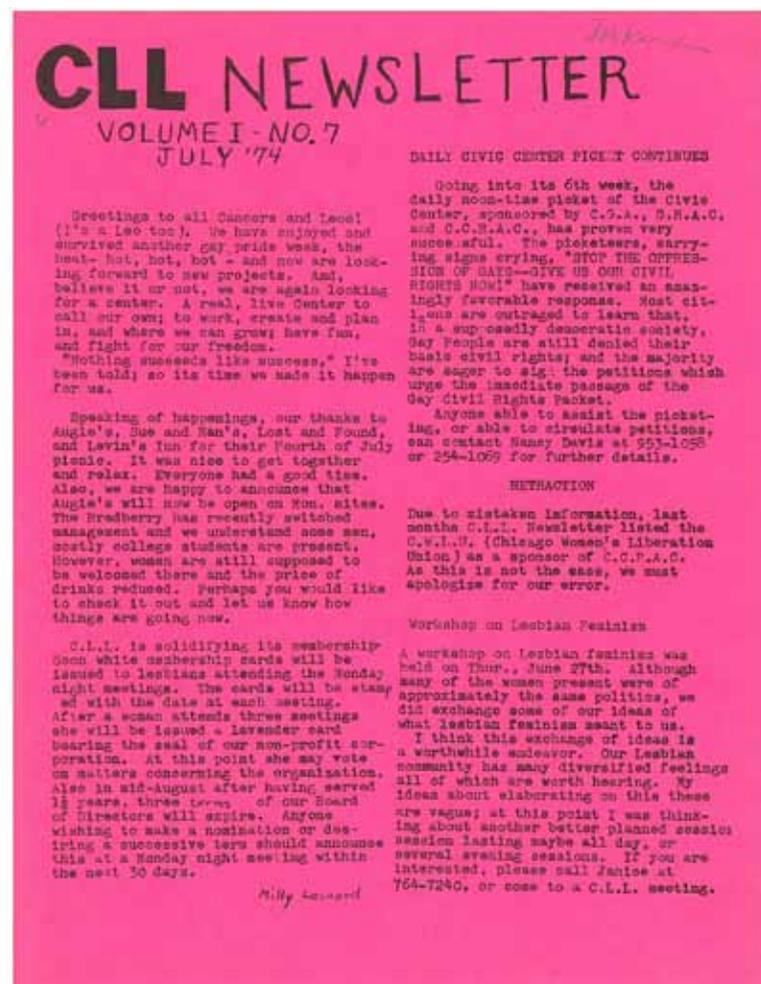
Hirshman emphasizes the role of lawyers and the legal system in the recent victories on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and marriage equality, but neglects the roles of grassroots activism and political activism. Over the last 40 years one of the critical strategies for LGBT activists has been coming out. Hirshman acknowledges this in other places but doesn't really discuss the small, everyday acts carried out by many local activists. In Chicago, for example, teams of gay men and lesbians from at least the 1970s on acted as a speakers' bureau, participating in high school and college class discussions, in police academy training programs and community group events, just talking about what it meant to be gay. Many others would go to different Chicago neighborhoods and circulate petitions for a bill for gay and lesbian rights, while others lobbied the mayor and members of the city council day-in and day-out. And this happened not just in Chicago, but in cities and towns across the country. All of this, not just the efforts of lawyers in New York and California, ultimately resulted in the dramatic attitude changes that we see today.

Forty years ago I would not have thought it possible that the president of the United States would support marriage equality for lesbians and gay men. Twenty years ago it would not have been conceivable that the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff would support gay men and lesbians serving openly in the military. These changes, which reflect changes in the views and attitudes of the majority of Americans, were not made possible by only by "the exquisitely careful planning of the long-sighted, obsessive gay legal establishment" nor by the ability of "lawyers to see through the easy appeal, so powerful in other realms, to the 'natural' or the traditional."

Years of grassroots activism, of coming out, of speaking openly about what it means to be gay, of lobbying elected officials, of electing openly gay men and lesbians to public office made it possible to get where we are today. Perhaps not 'Victory', but closer to victory than might have seemed possible a few short years ago.

Hirshman's description of the pre-Stonewall gay community, her discussion of ACT UP and the AIDS crisis and her description of the legal proceedings that have culminated in recent changes in on military and marriage issues were all interesting and thought-provoking. They might have each made a useful contribution to the compendium of works on LGBT history and politics. Unfortunately, this is not that book.

Chris Riddiough lives in Washington, D.C., where she teaches computer programming and statistics with her partner of 30 years, Judith Nedrow. From 1968 to 1983 she lived in Chicago, where she was a leader in the Chicago Women's Liberation Union, the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Metropolitan Chicago. She moved to Washington in 1983 to work as lesbian rights director for the National Organization for Women. She has been involved in the LGBT community there as president of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club and as an activist in other organizations and political campaigns.



A July 1974 edition of the Chicago Lesbian Liberation Newsletter shows the activism and coalitions happening with lesbians and gay men working together on civil-rights issues, and also women doing their own thing on lesbian-feminist issues. Courtesy M. Kuda Archives

tion. He was forcefully in favor of ordaining gay priests but just as forcefully opposed to women priests. History has passed him by in both cases, but one can look back and see that those two positions, common to all too many gay men, were simply contradictory, just as is the position of feminists who believe that support for women's rights does not include support for LGBT rights.

Hirshman's willingness to sustain this perspective results in her leaving out of her analysis a significant segment of the LGBT movement—the 'L' part. Lesbian feminism is almost completely missing from Hirshman's discussion of the gay movement. Perhaps it is no accident that the subtitle of the book references the "gay" revolution for, indeed, it is focused on the efforts of gay men. A mention of RadicaLesbians, of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, of lesbian involvement in the AIDS crisis is not a substitute for a more thoroughgoing discussion of lesbian feminism. In the '70s and later, there was a vibrant lesbian feminist movement around the United States. It was not embodied in one large national organization nor in a few individuals but in many

ignore or dismiss the involvement of lesbians (just as this was true in the gay movement), but neither movement would have become what it did without the efforts of lesbians. Most lesbian activists recognize that our liberation has to involve both women's rights and gay rights.

One final note related to this topic: Hirshman feels it necessary within the first few pages of the book, even before the introduction, to proclaim her heterosexuality. This need is, at best, irritating and could have been left to the acknowledgments (in which she does, in fact, acknowledge the support of her husband). It does suggest that the author is at least uncomfortable with the idea that she might be taken for a lesbian.

Yet another problem with the book is her characterization of what constitutes the movement and her failure to understand basic organizing principles. She says, for example, "Unlike the other major civil rights movements, the gay movement was still saddled with free riders, people passing as heterosexual while the out activists labored to make the world a better place."

Victory: Less than the whole

Victory: The Triumphant Gay Revolution

by Linda Hirshman

\$27.99; hardcover; 444 pages; Harper

REVIEW BY TRACY BAIM

If I don't have anything nice to say about a book, I usually just avoid reviewing it. And while I actually do have some positive comments about this new non-fiction look at the gay movement, *Victory* by Linda Hirshman, most of my impressions are not good.

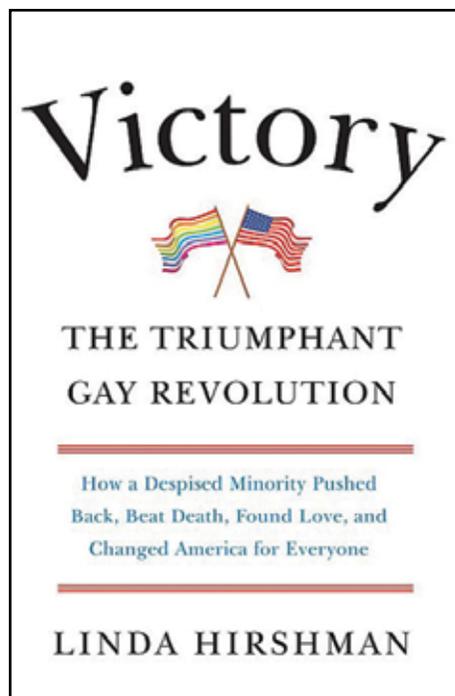
I am quite torn about going so negative on a project that is clearly needed. But what I would most like to say is if you want to get a better look back at our LGBT U.S. history, you probably should read a bunch of books, not just *Victory*.

As Hirshman makes clear several times in the book, she is a straight woman writing about the gay movement. The book has been getting a lot of press, and I can't help but think it is because she is straight, because there are so many great gay books that come out each year that are ignored by *The New York Times* and other media.

She hammers home the point of her being straight with a quease-inducing story at the start of the book about a longtime activist hugging her just hours after they first meet and saying "You can do this, Linda ... Tell them our story." Um, ugh. So be it—it's often the case that outsiders get more attention when they write about a group.

Hirshman does a good job at bringing together tales of the movement's behind-the-scenes workings and its successes, including fighting back against AIDS, and legal battles, though most of these stories have been told elsewhere. Some are so condensed as to give credit to an incomplete list of activists and groups. The role of Barbara Gittings is almost ignored—especially the role she and her partner Kay Lahusen played in helping change the American Psychiatric Association diagnosis of homosexuals. (This is well documented in a March 2012 *Gay and Lesbian Review* article by Margaret Rubick.)

There are numerous examples of summarized or overlooked critical people and events. One of the most glaring is Henry Gerber, who founded the first known gay group in the United States, in Illinois in the 1920s. He is out of the narrative (even though Mattachine Society founder Harry Hay has said he knew of that group when he started his in 1950), and he is not even on the summary timeline in the back. There are too many omissions to name them all, but suffice to say that this book should more appropriately have been titled *A Coastal Victory for Gay Rights*, since the vast majority is about New York, Los Angeles or San Francisco. There are a few good exceptions, including Colorado's battle against Amendment 2, but not enough to justify



this being seen as a book about the national gay movement.

Victory clearly is not meant to represent the entirety of gay U.S. history (no one book or even 20 could), but by leaving out key people and events in the history she relates, it tells a very incomplete story of the "gay revolution" in the title.

Hirshman also has a very rosy and simplified picture of where we are today, hence the words on the cover: "How a Despised Minority Pushed Back, Beat Death, Found Love, and Changed America for Everyone." Well, the LGBT community did in fact do most of those things, but many did not beat death or find equality, and the fight is far from over. There are still LGBTs killed by hate, committing suicide, refused employment and child custody, and denied access to federal benefits. Hirshman justifies her title in the epilogue, but it doesn't quite work. Yes, we can all use some good news and have the right to celebrate our victories, but the revolution is far from over. It feels as if she decided on a thesis and then set out to prove it, by leaving off parts that didn't fit her philosophy. But my quibble with the title is very minor compared to what's between the covers, which was an incomplete summary of the stories that brought us to 2012.

Perhaps the most frustrating is her insistence that single-issue politics was the means by which gay rights were achieved. This argument is so off-base as to be laughable. It wasn't true in her favorite coastal cities of New York, San Francisco or Los Angeles, and it was certainly not true in Chicago, Atlanta, Detroit or any cities in between. Yes, single-issue groups played an important role, but so did multi-issue groups

Henry Gerber started the first known gay-rights group in the U.S., in Chicago, but he is ignored in the *Victory* book. The Society for Human Rights operated in the mid-1920s until it was harassed by authorities.



and most importantly, multi-issue people. Gay rights have not been achieved in a single-issue vacuum and it is insulting to have the work of critical movement groups and leaders dismissed and ignored so cavalierly in *Victory*.

I also felt the book was sometimes condescending, and Hirshman's judgmental tone can get in the way—and is totally unnecessary to the story. For example, she chastises activist Jim Fouratt: "He claims to be a feminist and his political history supports him. Yet he has never read 'Sex and Caste.'" Neither have I, but I have been a feminist since I was 13 in 1976.

The book is lacking the true depth of our history, whether that is the role of people of color, lesbians, LGBT literature, cinema, newspapers, religion (though Troy Perry is there), sports, Marches on Washington, Philadelphia's early pickets, certain critical LGBT leaders and organizations, or any diversity at all. And it's not like there aren't numerous sources to find this information easily these days—online and in books and documentaries.

I may be either the best or worst person to

review this book, since I have read most of the major books on LGBT history, and I have been working in gay media since 1984. That means I know too much to be satisfied with this book; but maybe for most readers, this skimming of important events and people, no matter the narrow scope or distorted conclusions, will be satisfying enough.

Let me end by saying something positive: I still think it is important when any LGBT books get published in the mainstream (this one by Harper), and get attention. So students of LGBT history can still find some interesting stories in here; just make sure to read beyond *Victory* if you want a more accurate and complete picture.

I am offering to send anyone who emails me a list of recommended books and websites for getting a better look at our history. The list will also run at the end of this review in the online edition. Email me at editor@windycitymediagroup.com.

A complete bibliography for this article is online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

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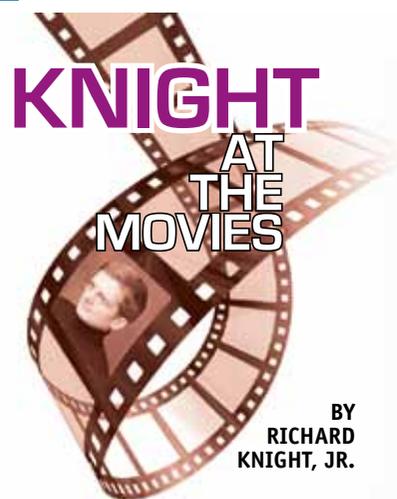
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A Late Quartet; Jack & Diane; film notes

Two indie Manhattan melodramas—one opening in Chicago theaters this week and one available OnDemand—both offer proof that glittering and sometimes gritty New York City remains a vital backdrop to frame stories of the heart.

In the first of these, Peter, Robert, Juliette and Daniel—the members of a renowned string quartet—are about to embark on rehearsals for their 25th season when Peter, their cellist and elder statesman, announces that he has been diagnosed with Parkinson's and wishes for their first concert of the season to be his final one. The other three respond with compassion and a

what is essentially the Dad part) is still recovering emotionally from the death of his supportive wife when he receives his diagnosis, and he's prepared for the worst. However, the impact of his announcement brings to light the dissatisfaction of Robert (Hoffman), who hasn't really been happy playing second violin in support of the egotistical Daniel (Ivanir), who has always played first violin in the quartet. And when Juliette (Keener), Robert's wife, doesn't immediately get behind his desire to take the lead at least on occasion, the strength of their marriage is called into question. Bereft, he spirals out of control—leading to a dalliance with a pretty dancer.

Still further complications arise when Robert and Juliette's gorgeous daughter Alexandra (Imogen Poots), a reluctant but extraordinarily talented violinist with mom issues, becomes involved in a heated affair with Daniel, which leads to further trouble that leads to something else, etc. A few less familiar twists might have helped disguise the abundance of subplots (by making Daniel gay and excising the daughter altogether, for example). The soap opera comes to a grinding halt at the climax of the film during the concert when Beethoven's glorious Op. 131 takes blissful focus, leading to an emotionally, very satisfying conclusion. A delicately balanced film, driven by these glorious actors and a gorgeous soundtrack, *A Late Quartet* will certainly reward filmgoers looking for melodrama gussied up with sophisticated trappings.

The heart of Manhattan also pulses through the odd little lesbian romance that is **Jack & Diane**, from writer-director Bradley Rust Gray.



Jack & Diane. Still courtesy of Magnolia Pictures

few tears but, just as quickly, a long-dormant dissent becomes evident. Herein lies the theme of director Yaron Zilberman's dramatic chamber piece, **A Late Quartet**. Will the power of the musicianship these four have shared be enough to overcome the melodramatics that have suddenly threatened to dissolve the group?

Any film that includes Philip Seymour Hoffman, Catherine Keener and Christopher Walken—along with the unfamiliar but very talented Mark Ivanir—engaged in wrestling with a dilemma like this is bound to have genuinely touching moments; there are also insightful and bitter ones filled with regrets and emotional pain. We get plenty of these—not to be unexpected as we are most decidedly in Woody Allen territory—as the story is set in Manhattan's posh Upper East Side and covers much of his usual emotional terrain as well. But Zilberman's film (which he co-wrote with Seth Grossman) could have used some levity and, more importantly, lost one or two of its predictable, multiple subplots.

Peter (Walkin, who is tremendously moving in

Juno Temple plays Diane, who, after starring roles in *Dirty Girl* and *Kaboom*, seems to have become queer cinema's *It Girl*. Kristen Stewart look-a-like Riley Keough plays Jack. (She co-starred with Stewart in *The Runaways* and is the daughter of Lisa Marie Presley.) The names define the relationship; the strange, feral-like Diane with her out-of-control blond mane, blank, open-mouthed stare, baby smile and voice is the femme and just what the tough-talking, short-haired brunette butch Jack has been looking for.

After an accidental meeting in which Jack plays savior to Diane, the relationship slowly proceeds. Jack is fascinated by the dainty little Diane, and Diane is touched by Jack's almost immediate willingness to drop the bravado and reveal a deep vulnerability and aching loneliness. The romance proceeds in fits and starts as the two wander around the city, mooning when they're apart and being a tad sunnier when they're together. (During one of their "off" moments, Kylie Minogue has a cameo as another potential love interest for Jack.)

But the course of young love, ever fraught, is naturally complicated—this time by intermittent nightmares and stop-motion animated segments (done with expected finesse by the experimental filmmakers the Quay Brothers, although they seem out of place). These seem to suggest that pretty and delicate Diane is a werewolf who is between lunar cycles. The sullen mood of the film, livened by some canny musical choices, never really moves beyond or does much to develop this sorta cool premise that suggests that it will elevate the otherwise familiar material but then never really does. But again, good performances from this lovelorn duo and a sure feel for location help separate Jack & Diane from the typical lesbian romantic fare.

Film notes:

—Department of shameless self-promotion: Attention, all you roller-disco/leg-warmer/Olivia Newton-John/Gene Kelly/Michael Beck/Muse-loving queens! My alter ego, Dick O'Day, is hosting yet another edition of **Camp Midnight**, the film series dedicated to presenting "the best of the worst." I'm once again teaming with David Cerda of Handbag Productions and the Music Box for a return engagement (our third!) of **Sing-Along Xanadu**.

The 1980 flick is one of the most fabulously hideous musical car wrecks in cinema history.



Jesus Christ Superstar. Photo by Tristram Kenton

'Jesus Christ Superstar' in theaters Nov. 1

NCM Fathom Events, Omniverse Vision and The Broadway League present *Jesus Christ Superstar UK Rock Spectacular* in select cinemas nationwide Thursday, Nov. 1, at 7:30 p.m. (local time).

Jesus Christ Superstar UK Rock Spectacular will be broadcast to more than 575 select movie theaters across the country through NCM's Digital Broadcast Network. Tickets are available at participating theater box offices and online at www.FathomEvents.com.

Theaters in Chicago, Evanston, Niles, Batavia, Crystal Lake, Naperville and other places will be showing the film. For a complete list of theater locations and prices, visit www.FathomEvents.com.

Alan Cumming film wins ClIFF award

The film *Any Day Now*, starring Alan Cumming and Garret Dillahunt, was one of the winners of the Chicago International Film Festival's Audience Choice Award for Best Narrative Feature.

We'll have a jam packed pre-show, complete with contests, surprise performances, prizes and more beginning at midnight followed by the movie, which will feature easy-to-follow lyrics on the screen, an interactive audience guide, live commentary by *moi* and Michael Hampton of Handbag, complimentary glow sticks and, of course, actual roller skaters whooshing up and down the aisles! www.musicboxtheatre.com

—On Monday, Nov. 5, at 8 p.m. the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., is presenting an evening of nine short films under the blanket title **The Great Refusal: Videos Taking on New Queer Aesthetics**. The evening is being designed as a companion piece to the School of the Art Institute's "first-ever" queer-themed art show (first ever—really?), which features more than 50 contemporary artists from the school and is dedicated to exploring queerness in today's culture. The film shorts, according to press materials, "focus on the power of the perverse, the sexual, and the potentially violent" which, natch, means the S&M subculture. The majority of the filmmakers will be present for a Q&A following the 65-minute program. www.siskelfilm-center.com

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

Any Day Now's plot revolves around an abandoned mentally handicapped teenager who a gay couple—a drag performer (Cumming) and a closeted attorney (Dillahunt)—take in. However, once the unconventional living arrangement is discovered by authorities, the men must fight a biased legal system to adopt the child.

The other winner in the narrative department was *Quartet*, directed by Dustin Hoffman.

The Central Park Five was the documentary winner. The film looks at the five Black and Latino teenagers who were arrested in 1989 and later convicted of raping a white woman in New York City's Central Park. Each spent between six and 13 years in prison before the actual criminal's confession led to their exonerations.

The festival ran Oct. 11-25.

John Barrowman in Naperville Oct. 31

Openly gay actor John Barrowman—best known for his role as Captain Jack Harkness on the science-fiction series *Doctor Who* and *Torchwood*—will be in Naperville Oct. 31 to promote the book *Hollow Earth*, a fantasy/science-fiction novel for young adults he co-wrote with sister Carole, Playbill reported.

Aladdin Books, the children's division of Simon & Schuster, has released the novel.

The Barrowmans will be at Anderson's Bookshop, 123 W. Jefferson Ave., Naperville, Wed., Oct. 31, at 7 p.m. (They will also be in Milwaukee and St. Paul, Minn.)

The siblings also authored *Torchwood: Exodus Code*, which was released in the U.K. Sept. 13.

Dorothy Allison event Nov. 3

Writer Dorothy Allison will speak in the Harold Washington Library Center's Cindy Pritzker Auditorium Saturday, Nov. 3, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

She is the author of the prize-winning novels, *Bastard out of Carolina* and *Cavedweller*, as well as *Two or Three Things I Know for Sure*, *Trash*, *Skin* and a book of poetry, *The Women Who Hate Me*. Her new novel, *She Who*, is forthcoming from Penguin.

Admission is \$5-\$10.

MUSIC

Country-music star Josiah Carr talks coming out, industry

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Josiah Carr, 22, has joined the ranks of musicians such as Chely Wright, Matt Alber and Frank Ocean in being an out performer. Carr, like Wright, is a country-music performer, and he recently talked with Windy City Times about his genre, coming out and more.

Windy City Times: Where are you right now?

Josiah Carr: I'm in North Carolina right now. I go back and forth to Augusta, Ga. and Wilmington, N.C.

WCT: What was it like growing up in Augusta?

JC: The only thing in Augusta that's exciting is the club where the Masters golf tournament. Other than that, everything else is pretty much country, day-to-day life.

Growing up, my dad taught elementary-school music for 35 years and my mom taught art. I'm just thankful I was born into that household instead of a really athletic family but I'm not good

CDs, recording—I've been doing it on my own.

WCT: So when did you know this was what you wanted to do?

JC: Since I was 6 or 7. My dad has a recording studio in the house I grew up in, and I have recordings all the way back to when I was 6, singing "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" and "Jesus Loves Me." I wrote my first song when I was 8, and came out with my first CD when I was 12. When I was 15, I recorded another CD and they were Baptist hymns. (My dad is a Southern Baptist pastor and the hardest worker I know.)

When I was 20, I recorded another CD. I paid for 100 percent of the production, found the musicians, wrote the music—everything. That CD [Tangled Up] is available on iTunes.

I was about to come out in January 2011, when that CD came out. So that CD has songs, except for one, that are written like, "Girl, you look so beautiful..." It doesn't sound authentic to me at all. It was a starter project.

The new songs I have I'm really excited about.



Josiah Carr. Photo by Theo Milo

at sports at all. There are five kids in my family, and I'm the third; we grew up in Evans, right outside of Augusta.

Josh Kelley out of Lady Antebellum went to my high school, and James Brown is from Augusta. Some pretty reputable musicians have come from that area; I'm just trying to be the next one. [Laughs]

WCT: Your siblings are musical as well?

JC: Yes, except for the youngest—he didn't get the music gene, I guess. The brother underneath me plays drums and guitar; I play piano and guitar, and I sing; and my sister plays harp, flute, violin, cello.

I'm in a place where I can freely pursue my musical dreams. My dad chased his dreams but got to the point where he had to go for job security; he had mouths to feed. He actually just retired two years ago. My mom has been cheering me on, too. When they saw music was my passion, my dad's direction turned and he said, "Give it all you got." My parents have helped me some, financially, but for the most part—with

The Tangled Up CD was piano-driven, pop-rock music, like Gavin DeGraw. I've changed back, and am doing the country thing.

WCT: So when you record songs now, are your lyrics gender-neutral or do you use "he" and "him"?

JC: Everything from the time I came out until now, and going forward, is gender-neutral. One song talks about getting married and driving off into the sunset, and it never says anything like, "You were wearing a white dress." My thing, growing up, if I heard a Brad Paisley song that said, "I can't believe the way I feel about you, girl," that completely eliminates that song for any two gay guys.

All the songs I write now is more about "If you're in love with somebody, then you're in love with somebody." It's not about being straight or gay or bi. It's like, "I'm Josiah and I believe in love, and these are my love songs." I want straight people to think of their [significant others] as well. I want everybody to feel love through my music.



BETTY at City Winery Dec. 19

The cult band BETTY will return to Chicago (after a four-year absence) with a performance Wed., Dec. 19, at City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph St.

BETTY—lifelong friends and collaborators Amy Ziff, Elizabeth Ziff and Alyson Palmer—have been touring Europe as well as most of North America in support of the most recent release, Bright & Dark. The Chicago show will be a BETTY twist on the holidays, incorporating songs from the band's holiday CD, Snowbiz, as well as new material from its upcoming CD.

See www.CityWinery.com. Photo of BETTY by Lara Yanovska

WCT: It's also more commercial that way.

JC: Yeah, that's true. But if I don't sing in a gender-neutral way, that eliminates a lot of people.

Another song of mine that's in pre-production says, "I want to be with you so ... I'll go pick out a ring and come back to you/ And I'll pick you up in my daddy's truck/ Take you to the church and announce our love." When I first started writing it, it sounded Taylor Swift-ish ... but I painted a story [talking] about our memories. At first, I was going to write about someone picking out a dress, but that would eliminate the gay community. I would pick out a ring for my husband like somebody would for a wife.

WCT: What do you feel is the country-music industry's attitude toward gay people? Do you see it changing?

JC: I don't know. [Laughs] As if it's not a big enough dream to try and become a famous singer, I'm an openly gay country singer—that's the hardest genre, as far as being [out]. There are a lot of country singers who are against homosexuality.

My dad's a pastor, and I actually went to seminary in North Carolina...

WCT: What?

JC: I was a pastor of a church for about a year before I came out, and I still go to church. I'm not immersed in the "gay scene," getting wasted; that's not my thing—but I don't judge people who are.

If I was on TV and someone asked me about being gay, I would say that I am—but it's not like my videos are going to be Brokeback Mountain. I'm writing about love, and these songs are from my heart. If a guy loves a guy, let [that happen]. I am super-big on equality and [issues] like that, but it's a big dream of mine to be an openly gay country singer—and I feel that dreams can come true.

I was watching [the NBC show] The New Normal and I was telling someone I'm not sure that even a year and a half ago if there was an openly gay character like that—besides a character who was like those in Will & Grace. But you have Modern Family, The New Normal and Partners. They're not on Logo or channel 800. I do feel like times are changing, and the approach to a gay singer who's not like Adam Lambert (again, not judging) is good for a genre that's [traditionally] closed-minded.

WCT: Since October is National Coming Out Month, can you tell me your coming-out story?

JC: I talked to my sister first and came out to

my parents later. I didn't know how well they were going to receive it because of the religious background that I have.

I talked with them on the phone. It was a bit intense at first, with my family not being able to understand at first. I will tell you this—and this is specific to Chicago—but Andrew Marin of [Chicago's] Marin Foundation wrote Love Is an Orientation, and that changed my family's life. I knew that their love for me was always there. My mom literally bought 15 copies of this book and bought it for her friends.

Find out more at www.JosiahCarr.com. His newest single, "Drivin' Me Wild," is now available for download on iTunes and is also available for streaming on Spotify.

Esthero's new CD, tattoo promotion

Esthero has dropped a new CD, Everything Is Expensive, via both Universal Music Canada and through crowd-funded efforts by Pledge Music.

The album includes her new single, "Never Gonna Let You Go" (written and produced by Esthero and Adam 12). The Canadian singer is using crowd-funding to tour and for promotion, and is offering fans lullabies, fine art and even a chance to have a name tattooed on her bottom.

Visit www.esthero.net or www.facebook.com/esthero, or follow her on Twitter at @theRealEsthero.

Rihanna's newest, 'Unapologetic,' out Nov. 19

Rihanna has announced the global release of her seventh studio album for Island Def Jam, as Unapologetic arrives in stores worldwide Monday, Nov. 19.

The single "Diamonds" has already been released. It debuted at number 16 in the United States while becoming her sixth number-one song in the United Kingdom.

The recipient of six Grammys and seven Billboard Music Awards, Rihanna has sold more than 37 million albums and 146 million digital tracks worldwide.

TRAVEL

Vacationing in Vermont

BY JERRY NUNN

Vermont may be known for being the leading producer of maple syrup, but there is a lot more going on around there than watching tree sap drip.

Lying in the New England region, The Green Mountain State is centrally located for tourism and travel.

The state is so acclimated to the LGBT community that every bar has the possibility to be a gay establishment. While some of the population is conservative, most people here were found to be very open-minded and liberal. Civil unions were passed back in 2000—way ahead of the rest of the United States—and Vermont was the fourth to legalize same-sex marriage.

Flying JetBlue was a breeze, with snacks and drinks for the short hop from Chicago to New York City's JFK Airport to Vermont, where I lost an hour with Eastern time. Renting a car right out of the airport was convenient and necessary in this part of the world, where things are spread out on a scenic highway with foliage at every turn.

We drove to our lodging at the Moose Meadow Lodge, which was tucked onto the side of a mountain. This homey bed-and-breakfast was full of taxidermal wildlife and paintings. We stayed in the cozy creel room, which is dedicated to fly-fishing—complete with a private steam room and balcony overlooking the forest. The only thing that was missing was a fishy smell, which was okay by me.

The gay owners continue to expand with a treehouse chalet in the works overlooking a pond. Don't miss a glorious uphill hike to see the mountains from an overhang pavilion that is not for the faint of heart.

Before dinner we visited the Grunberg Haus, with its strong Austrian style; Jeff Connor, a former member of the LGBT tourism board, and his wife, Linda, own the venue. More than 10 rooms, along with separate outside cabins, provide suites for guests. Watching the bird-feeder from their living room never got boring.

The Cider House BBQ & Pub had some of the best pulled pork I have ever tried, but bring a bib for those messy tasty ribs. Don't forget to spread some bourbon sauce on any morsel in sight and ask for Bubbles the server, who will show you one-of-a-kind service.



Vermont. Photo by Jerry Nunn

For lunch there is probably not a better hot spot than Simon Pearce's The Loft, named after the famous Irish glass blower. Located over a historic woolen mill, diners can watch the hydroelectric turbine and waterfalls while consuming calamari salads or a delicious shepherd's pie. The lamb burger was a treat after fans demanded its return to the menu—but watch out for the juice!

Downstairs tourists can peruse the massive gift shop and watch a glass-blowing demonstration. After a devastating flooding from Hurricane Irene, this place bounced back after only three weeks to maintain its historic look.

There are so many welcoming places for LGBT visitors to stay in Vermont, including all-green gay-owned Deer Brook Inn in Woodstock. A moose even felt right at home there recently when he charged across the property to surprise guests. Where was that moose-crossing sign

when they needed it?

Just a two-minute drive from there was the Farmhouse Inn, where dozens of hens ran out to greet us upon arrival. A huge barn was turned into a party room, projecting movies on the wall and hosting local bands to entertain folks that stay there. With bees and trees, honey and syrup are served fresh for breakfast for visitors staying in the seven rooms. Remove your shoes upon entering and no pets please—there are enough on the farm!

Speaking of parties, Killington was the place to be for drinking and carousing. The Killington Resort has the complete getaway package for any taste. Stretching across six mountains, these snowmakers extend the amount of ski time on their 3,000 acres, thanks to secluded areas. Jam-packed with activities, the Winter Pride Slide has revelers in a downhill parade and competing in a costume contest after hitting the

slopes from Feb. 1 through the weekend. Stay in The Grand Resort Hotel to enjoy spa treatments and a spacious golf course while you are there.

One of my favorite locations to visit was the Red Clover Inn. The farm-to-table dinner menu looked delicious with butternut squash soup for starters and garlic Portuguese steak to satisfy. The rooms were named after past owners and were just the right taste of modern mixed with historic architecture.

Later in the day we drove to the most populated part of the state, Burlington, for Gay Pride Weekend (or Northern Decadence, as some called it). Within walking distance of our centrally located Marriott Hotel accommodations, we found the VGSA Pride Cruise on Lake Champlain.

The ferry left the harbor with attendees covered in Hawaiian leis setting sail on the Love Boat or more appropriately titled Gilligan's Island since it was a three-hour tour. The drag queens joked that there were a Ginger and Mrs. Howell, but no one wanted to be Mary Ann. Maybe she was too innocent for the partygoers?

Patrons ate a light buffet after boarding, including an anniversary cake. A DJ played tunes that got people dancing, and a live singing drag show provided more entertainment for the evening. One unlucky fellow tossed his cookies overboard either from being seasick or having too many cocktails at the bar.

After, the Vermont Pride Parade kicked off on Church Street. There were no barricades or stumbling drunkards on the street for this short but sweet celebration. Afterwards, many walked to Battery Park to show their true colors with tents full of rainbow merchandise, clubs to join and square-dancing. Performers sang from a local production of Rent after drag queens lip-synched with gusto in the pavilion. Former Gov. Madeleine Kunin spoke of equality and changes in the government while Adam Bouska took NOH8 photos close by. Some rain sprinkled down to cloud the festivities, but that didn't stop the after-party—called Farm Fresh, complete with a Southern theme—that lasted until the break of dawn.

On the way up Route 100, visit the Ben & Jerry's factory, where the company not only has incredible ice cream but the company is active politically and in the gay community, having a presence at the aforementioned festivities. Lake Champlain Chocolates and the Cabot Cheese Annex have enough samples on the highway to fill anyone. Also, make a pit stop at the Hollow Cider Mill for a drink of cider along with apple doughnuts and soaked hot dogs.

There are so many places to stay, such as the Commodores or Timberholm Inn; however, tourists simply must trust the only gay-owned B&B in Stowe at the Arbor Inn. Renovated and adorable, this place was prepared for the upcoming Foliage Week with a new porch.

Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa supplied a relaxing reprieve with a total immersion into a world of massage and luxury that worked out the aches and pains of driving.

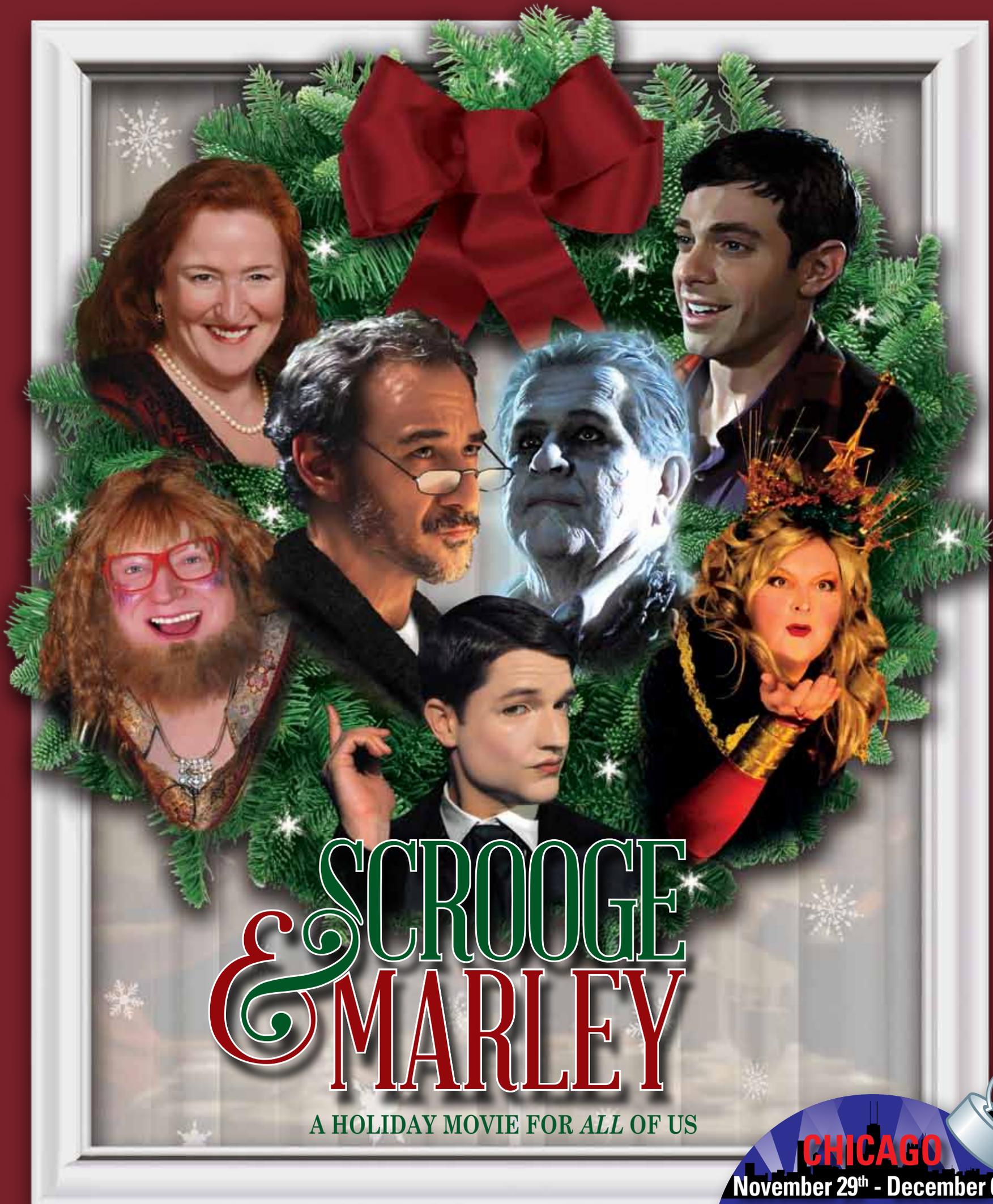
The music lover should head uphill to Stowe, where the Von Trapp family still remains to this day running the Trapp Family Lodge. The hills were alive with the Sound of Music as the great-grandchildren keep their Austrian past alive with 96 rooms styled in classic yet modern looks. From the exercise room and pool to the restaurant, everything is within reach and was top-notch for families with no need to leave a fireplace and balcony in their rooms.

It is fairly inexpensive to live in this region but gas prices were on par to Chicago. The population appears to be growing in leaps and bounds. After talking to some locals, many have moved here for a better way of life and the legalization of same-sex marriage. With ceremonies and honeymoon opportunities at every turn in Vermont, when are the other states hopping on this economic stimulating train and getting with the program?

Visit www.vermontgaytourism.com for details on planning a trip today!



Left: The fare at the Cider House BBQ & Pub. Right: Pride attendee. Photos by Jerry Nunn



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WINDY CITY TIMES



Carriage House

BY MEGHAN STREIT

If there's one cuisine we could use some more of in Chicago, it's Southern food. Who wants to venture into a red state just to sink his or her teeth into buttermilk biscuits and cornbread, or enjoy some authentic shrimp and grits and chicken fried only the way a Southerner can fry it?

I crave the cozy comfort of good 'ole fashioned Southern grub and I'm always interested when talented chefs put new spins on classic dishes. So I was tickled pink when I heard about Carriage House, a new Wicker Park restaurant that promises both "lowcountry" specialties and some modern-day culinary flair.

Carriage House certainly has all of the ingredients to become a Chicago hot spot—a chef from South Carolina who honed his craft at Hot Chocolate in Bucktown, a celebrated mixologist who spent some time at Graham Elliot and a handsome space on a bustling Division Street corner. This is the kind of place you want to love. That's why I'm disappointed to say there was no love at first bite for me at Carriage House. A few tastes and sips did delight, but too many other things just fell flat. Sigh.

The space is truly lovely, and that is just one reason I hope this talented team can pull it together and serve the kinds of meals that keep Chicagoans coming back (and keeps them in business). The interior has a Southern vibe, but you don't feel like you've stepped into a period piece. Stately brown leather banquettes and modern dark concrete floors are offset by light wooden tables and darling teal Bentwood chairs that looked like they were plucked directly from the kitchen of a quaint Southern home. Tables are set with white and red-striped kitchen towels instead of napkins—a cute and subtle nod to lowcountry dining.

One of the first things I tasted the Lionel Hutz cocktail, which is made with single-barrel bourbon, sweet tea, Creole lemonade and agave, and garnished with a slice of peach. The sweet tea and agave take the bite out of the bourbon, making the refreshing concoction that

goes down easy. It reminded me of the kind of beverage you'd be served on a front porch by a sweet Southern granny (the fun kind who keeps single-barrel bourbon around the house). The Singapore Sling, a gin-based cocktail with citrus flavors, was also good, but not quite as memorable as the Lionel Hutz. Less impressive was the Angry Orchard Mule, one of the selections from the punch section of the menu. I love that a mixologist is making old-school punches, but the one I tried just missed the mark. It was made with vodka, pear, cider vinegar and sparkling apple cider. Sadly, the vinegar overpowered the other flavors making it unpleasant at best and undrinkable at worst.

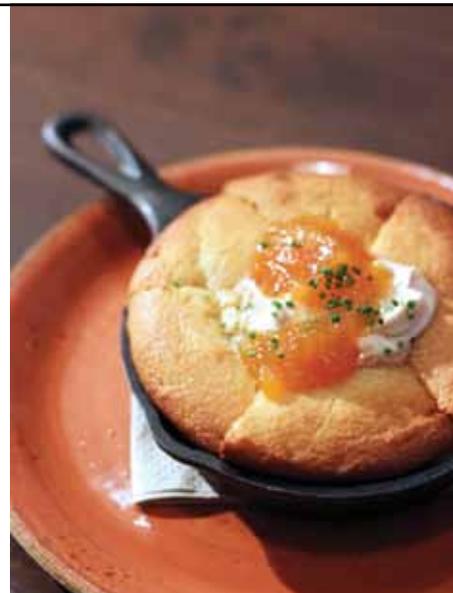
Carriage House's menu is made up of 12 small plates—half of them labeled "traditional" and the other half marked "reimagined"—and four meat and fish suppers. My waiter recommended two people share three to four small plates and one supper. With small plates averaging about \$12 and all of the larger entrées hovering around \$30, your tab can add up mighty quickly, especially if you're indulging in the \$11 cocktails.

In true Southern fashion, I started my meal with some fried green tomatoes from the traditional side of the menu. I wish they tasted more like the traditional fried green tomatoes I've eaten south of the Mason-Dixon line. Unfortunately, these were undercooked in an unremarkable batter and served lukewarm. The hot-sauce vinaigrette was a nice touch, but couldn't compensate for the lackluster tomatoes.

The Charleston she-crab soup drew me back in a bit. The warm and hearty soup had a thick stick-to-your-ribs consistency and was full of crab. The tangy and sweet sherry reduction drizzled on top provided a nice contrast to the creamy soup.

I also sampled a fried chicken thigh from the traditional side of the menu. Like the fried green tomatoes before it, the chicken was a far cry from the traditional kind you'll find in cafés, diners and joints all over the South. The chicken itself was juicy and flavorful, but was fried in a batter that left a lot to be desired, and we all know the breading the supposed to be the best part of fried chicken. Maybe the folks at Carriage House should import a Southern granny to give them a quick refresher course.

My small-plate experience did, however, end on a high note with the lowcountry oyster roast. The tender oysters were served in their piping hot shells and dolled up with cheek bacon, tomato jam and buttermilk aioli, and topped with crispy strips of fried leeks. That was the only



Skillet cornbread with foie gras butter, nectarine marmalade and bourbon smoked salt at Carriage House. PR photos

dish I sampled from the reimagined section of the menu and it was by far the best, so if I were to return to Carriage House, I'd lay off the traditional picks and try more of Chef Mark Steuer's culinary experiments.

My meal carried on in that up-and-down fashion. After the scrumptious oysters came the steak. I'd been eying the buttermilk-marinated ribeye since the moment I laid eyes on the menu. The menu promised smoked salt, blue cheese, marinated heirloom tomatoes, grilled chicory, cornbread croutons and hot pepper vinegar. Frankly, they had me at "buttermilk-marinated ribeye" and all of those other delicious-sounding things just added to my anticipation. Maybe I got a bad cut or perhaps they skipped over the buttermilk-marinating process, but this was the toughest, chewiest steak I've ever had the displeasure of shelling out \$34 for (and I ordered it medium-rare, so it's not my fault!). The blue cheese was plopped on the plate in big cold hunks that, for blue cheese, were astonishingly flavorless. The cornbread croutons may as well have come out of a box because they were that average. I don't even recall the other flavors because I was too fixated on the fact that I couldn't cut my tough steak. The only thing redeemable about this piece of beef was the joy I got thinking how much my dog, who is slightly less discerning about his dinner than me, would

enjoy my uneaten steak when I got home that night.

I ordered a side of cornbread to accompany my steak, and that is where Carriage House truly lost me. If you bill yourself as a lowcountry restaurant, you've got to knock the cornbread out of the park. The best things I can say about the cornbread is that it was served in an adorable mini-cast iron pan and was brought to my table hot. In what should have been dazzling, it was topped with a sweet onion jam and served with foie gras butter. The dollop of onion jam overwhelmed the cornbread and I had no interest in the foie gras butter. In fact, I hope the culinary obsession with pureed duck liver fades soon because I'm just so over seeing foie gras in every conceivable form turning up on restaurant tables everywhere. But back to the cornbread—what I would recommend to the folks in the kitchen at Carriage House is to ditch the fancy-schmancy toppings and focus instead on finding a tried-and-true cornbread recipe and serving it with plain old butter.

After the ribeye and cornbread fiascos, I was ready to call it a night. But, purely in the name of research, I ordered the beignets for dessert so I could report back to you. I'm pleased to say they were divine, and I lived in New Orleans for several years, making me basically a certified beignet expert. Carriage House's beignets transported me right back to my days down South. They were piping-hot, impossibly soft and fluffy on the inside and sprinkled with plenty of powdered sugar. They would have been just fine on their own, but they were made even better by the chocolate and café au lait cream sauce that accompanied them—a lovely update to a classic dessert.

Clearly, there were some big hits and some big misses at Carriage House. If you're looking for a sure bet, this is not the place for you—just yet. I think the team behind this restaurant has the chops to churn out delectable Southern cooking that delights the taste buds of Chicagoans, but I think they're going to need some time to hit their stride. Check back in a month or so when this talented team will hopefully have worked out some of its kinks and perfected a few recipes.

Carriage House is located at 1700 W. Division Street; call 773-384-9700 or visit www.carriagehousechicago.com.

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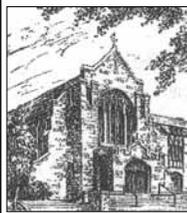
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Chicago Gay Men's Chorus marks 30 years

BY KATE SOSIN

For the last three decades, Chicago Gay Men's Chorus (CGMC) has been the soundtrack for countless milestones in the city's LGBT community. On Oct. 15, the group marked its own milestone—30 years in existence.

The anniversary celebration, held at the Center on Halsted, reflected on the group's connection to Chicago LGBT history—from the AIDS crisis to the present. It also looked toward the organization's future as it continues to grow and attract younger members.

The evening opened with a reception outside the Center's Hoover-Leppen Theatre followed by comments from community leaders and performances from choir members.

Vital Bridges co-founder Lori Cannon remembered the comfort that CGMC offered at the start of the AIDS crisis.

"The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus was like a beacon of hope in the gathering darkness," Cannon said. "Even as AIDS began to claim countless members of CGMC—a devastation to your own lives—without fail, show after show, year after year, you have always come forward and always made sure there was a block of tickets available for us to give our clients, our volunteers, and people who, more often than not, are both volunteers and clients."

State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz recalled the comfort that CGMC provided to her friend after he lost his wife, and the comfort the chorus provided her after that same friend recently passed away.

Sidetrack bar co-owner Art Johnston recalled a cold Valentine's Day in 1989 when the chorus arrived at Ald. Kathy Osterman's house to cheer her because she was ill and the way Osterman included the chorus in city events thereafter.

"I realized that this is what community members do for each other," said Johnston.

Ald. James Cappleman discussed the progress made by LGBT Chicagoans and the way CGMC helped the community grieve and celebrate along the way.

"CGMC gave a voice to our experiences," Cappleman said.

Ald. Tom Tunney read a resolution from Mayor Rahm Emanuel honoring CGMC's 30th anniversary. The chorus also previewed songs from its upcoming concerts with two small-group performances.

Ben Hladilek, president of the CGMC board, announced the hiring of CGMC's first full-time executive director. Kent Bartram, a longtime supporter of CGMC, has been hired for the 2012-2013 season.

"It's amazing to think about everything that's changed in the last 30 years," said Hladilek. "It's also amazing to think about the chorus and how much the chorus has changed."

CGMC ended the evening with a champagne toast.

The Drag Queen Divas of the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus (CGMC) will perform in CGMC's annual "Lipstick & Lyrics: What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Stronger" Saturday, Nov. 3, at Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., at 7:30 and 10 p.m.



Top (from left): Ben Hladilek, Patrick Sinozich, Ald. James Cappleman, Kent Bartram, Lori Cannon, state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, Art Johnston and Ald. Tom Tunney. Above: Members of Chicago Gay Men's Chorus perform. Photos by Kate Sosin

calendar

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Wed., Oct. 31

HIV Support Groups Living with HIV? Join one of our 10-week groups to share experiences, learn from one another and find support in a safe, confidential setting. Wednesdays and Thursdays; noon, Saturdays. Free; 6pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.CenterOnHalsted.org

Northalsted Halloween Parade The 16th annual Northalsted Halloween Parade when a group of creative souls will bare their alter egos, dark sides, or their shadows, to the world on Halloween, parading them from Waveland down through one of Chicago's hottest nightclub districts. 6pm-10pm, North Halsted between Waveland and Belmont (NEW starting point); www.northalsted.com

John Barrowman Openly gay actor John Barrowman (Captain Jack Harkness on Doctor Who and Torchwood) will promote his new book *Hollow Earth*, co-written with sister Carole. The two also authored *Torchwood: Exodus Code*, which was released in the U.K. Sept. 13. 7pm, Anderson's Bookshop, 123 W. Jefferson Ave., Naperville

SCARRIE The Musical, special Halloween show Hell in a Handbag Productions continues to celebrate its 10th anniversary with the show that started it all, SCARRIE The Musical, an unauthorized parody and tribute to the movie *Carrie*. \$15-\$25. VIP Packages: \$35-\$40. 7:30pm, 800-838-3006, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark St., www.brownpapertickets.com/event/264615

Dance of the Dead Killer karaoke, spooky songs, deadly dance and a paranormal performance by the drag sensation Priscilla Darling. 8pm-10pm, 773-209-1474, Gran-

FRIEND OF DOROTHY Saturday, Nov. 3

Writer Dorothy Allison will be at Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald
(MysticImagesPhotography.com)



ville Anvil, 1137 W. Granville Ave., www.innervationdance.org

HyDrag Revue with Tajma Hall Join Hydrate for the world famous HYDRAG REVUE hosted by Tajma Hall, featuring the all star cast of Dida Ritz, Sorraya Dash, Naysha Lopez, Erica Andrews and special guests each week!!! 10pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

Thursday, Nov. 1

Queer Chicago Poet Marty McConnell launches first book, wine for a shotgun Marty McConnell will perform poems from the book, accompanied by the music of John Condron & the Benefit. Guest performers include: Bridget Lyons and Band, Mariah Neuroth, Emily Rose, and the 2012 Green Mill National Poetry Slam team: Shelley Randall, Eric Sirota, and Rik Vazquez. 7pm, Funky Buddha Lounge, 728 W Grand St., www.martyoutloud.com

Open Gym Volleyball Mondays and Thursdays. Co-ed, open court volleyball for players of all levels. \$7/night; \$30/

month; 6pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Barlesque 5 Kick-off Party Chicago's Sexiest Bartenders are at it again...and you're invited to meet the sexy BARLESQUE contestants and help kick off the month long online Strip-A-Thon benefiting Test Positive Aware Network; 8pm-10pm, Scarlet Bar, 3320 N Halsted St., www.tpan.com

Ravenswood HIV Testing All are welcome for a free, rapid HIV test. 6pm-8pm, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W Foster Ave.

Drag Idol Season 3 A winner is chosen every week to secure a spot to compete in the Drag Idol Semi-Finals to win a prize package worth over \$10,000! 10pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

Friday, Nov. 2

19th annual SOFA Chicago Popular three-day art event features Sculpture Objects and Functional Art, masterworks of contemporary and modern arts and design, outsider, ethnographic non-traditional folk art and visionary art, plus special art exhibitions and an art lecture series. \$15 admits visitors to the fair, related lecture series, special exhibits and events. \$25 three-day passes and discounted student, senior and group tickets. Through Nov. 4. 11am-6pm, 800-563-7632, Navy Pier, 600 E Grand Ave., www.sofaexpo.com

Pre-Election First Friday Monthly networking social. For November, we will invite candidates for local, state, and federal office to join us, so that you have an opportunity to meet those who might represent you. 6pm-8pm, 773-477-7173, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., www.facebook.com/events/457097421007392/

Andersonville HIV Testing All are welcome for a free, rapid HIV test. 6pm-9pm, The Call (Chicago), 1547 W Bryn Mawr, Chicago, www.centeronhalsted.org

Man Cave A peer lead, casual conversation group, for those 18 and older, who identify as female to male, transgender individuals, or are female bodied and are questioning their gender. First and third Fridays of each month. Free; 6:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

The Living Circle An interfaith GLBT spirituality group that meets weekly for discussion, meditation, prayer. 7pm-8:30pm, 847-581-9136, 825 W. Wellington Ave.

Chicago Premiere of "Moulin Rouge" - The Ballet Through Nov. 4. Based on the world's most infamous cabaret, the ballet features high kicking choreography and a passionate story of love, ambition and heartbreak, transporting audiences to turn

of the century Paris. 7:30pm-10pm, 800-982-2787, Auditorium Theatre, 50 Congress Pkwy, www.auditoriumtheatre.org
Chicago House Speaker Series Luncheon with Kenneth Cole Chicago House hosts keynote speaker, designer, and social activist Kenneth Cole, who will address issues of homelessness and HIV/AIDS. 11:30pm, Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S Michigan Ave., www.chicagohouse.org/event_chicago_house_speaker_series.html

Saturday, Nov. 3

The Power of the Writer's Voice: A Conversation with Dorothy Allison Institute Advisory Board Member, award-winning author Dorothy Allison to present at Chicago Humanities Festival. With tough heroines (Bone in *Bastard Out of Carolina* and *Cavedweller's Delia Byrd* among them) and the vivid worlds they inhabit-visceral, violent, challenging, but marked by poignancy and love-she has established herself as a force in literature. 10:30am, Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S State St., Tickets: <http://goprider.com/z7m5>

Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (GLBT) A weekly peer support group for members of the LGBTQ community with depression, bipolar disorder, or other psychiatric illnesses. Free of charge. Community Room. 11am-12:30pm, 872-216-3272, Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., www.dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com

HOMO RIOT Artists Reception Provocative, Los Angeles-based street artist on a mission to bring a queer cultural sensibility to the world; he works mainly on the street using paint, stickers, and paste up art. 5pm-8pm, Bert Green Fine Art, 8 S. Michigan Ave. Suite 1220, <http://bgfa.us>

Scene-Free LGBT Chicago Meet-up Andersonville Meet-Up at T's every fourth Saturday night. 6pm, T's Restaurant and Bar, 5025 N Clark St., Tickets: <http://www.meetup.com/scenefree/>

Lipstick & Lyrics: What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Stronger Chicago Gay Men's Chorus gives you fierce rag divas singing live, from Madonna to Kelly Clarkson, Pop to Broadway. Serving superstar realness in two shows at 7:30 and 10:30 pm. Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., www.mayne-stage.com

Wiggocalypse 2012 New sketch comedy revue from Wig Bullies, a gay and gay-friendly ensemble who's previous productions include *The Girl With The Drag Queen Tattoo* and *It Takes A Village, People!* In *Wiggocalypse: 2012*, the Wig Bullies comedically explore the end of the world as we know it. 8pm-9pm, 773-327-5252, Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., www.stage773.com/tickets

Indigo Girls, "Closer To Fine" Indigo Girls, Emily Saliers and Amy Ray, live one night only with a full band and special opening guests *The Shadowboxers*. \$45-\$55. 8pm, 630-896-6666, Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora, www.paramountaurora.com

CAKE Chicago LGBTQ Arts Showcase with Ripley Caine. \$5 cover; 9:30pm, Red Line Tap, 7700 N Glenwood Ave

Sunday, Nov. 4

Urban Village: Wicker Park Service LGBT-welcoming worship services at Urban Village Church are eclectic and experiential, practical and intelligent, relevant and, hopefully, inspiring. 10:30am-11:45am, Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division St., www.urbanvillagechurch.org/wicker-park/
Electile Dysfunction: The Kinsey Sicks for President America's Favorite Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet have set their sights on the White House in this over-the-top a cappella musical event. Watch as the divas present their views on pressing political issues such as education, immigration, unemployment, scandal and corruption - all in glorious four-part harmony. Recom-



BY THE BOOK

Wed., Oct. 31

Out actor John Barrowman will be at Anderson's Bookstore, 123 W. Jefferson Ave., Naperville.

Photo by Frank Ockenfels

mended for ages 16 and older. 2pm, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, Mich., Tickets: http://https://www.acorntheater.com/?page_id=139&e=187

Solo Improv Legend About To Lose His Mind GayCo Productions' founding member Andy Eninger presents his improvised solo show SYBIL opening. He shares the slot with real-life partner John Loos' solo show *Adorable Disasters*. \$10. 9:30pm, Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N Broadway

Monday, Nov. 5

Heart of America Continental Plus and Elite Celebrating a decade of Continental pageantry. Two great pageants in one night. Doors open at 8 pm, pageants start at 9. Featured entertainers include Miss Continental Plus Tanisha Cassidine, Miss Continental Elite Dana Douglas, Miss Heart of America Plus Kara Belle and Miss Heart of America Elite Sheri Payne. Emcee Tajma Hall. And, of course, the infamous Stella buffet. 9pm, Baton Show Lounge, 436 N. Clark St., Chicago, <http://www.stellaproductions2.com>

Cyon Flare presents United House: A Night of Unity in House Music United House "A Night of Unity in House Music" returns to Boystown at a new location where everyone is family, black, white, Latin, Asian, LGBTQI and straight. No matter what your into as long as it is House Music! Presented by Cyon Flare; 10pm, Circuit Night Club, 3641 N Halsted St, www.facebook.com/cyons.unitedhouse

Tuesday, Nov. 6

Intersex Chicago Are you intersex? Have you ever felt you fall between the male and female check boxes? This is a peer-lead casual conversation group for those who identify as intersex or think they might be. It is also open to significant others, family, friends, allies, or anyone with questions. Free; 6:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Wed., Nov. 7

EQ IL Holiday Wine Tasting Party Join Equality Illinois at Sidetrack for their annual evening of wine tasting and education. This super-popular event caters to all palates and budgets. 6pm-9pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., www.eqil.org; Tickets: <http://goprider.com/z7m7>

Team Trivia Wednesdays DS Tequila Co. hosts Team Trivia! Sign up starts at 8pm, free to play. Hosted by Robin; 8pm-11pm, 773-697-9127, DS Tequila Company, 3352 N. Halsted St., www.dstequila.com



SICKS OF ONE...

Sunday, Nov. 4

Kinsey Sicks will perform *Electile Dysfunction* at the Acorn Theater in Three Oaks, Mich.

Photo by C. Stanley

BILLY MASTERS

"David Beckham is a god. Just look at him in those underwear ads. I'm not gay, but I would eat food off his body. Preferably something that needs to be mopped up—like eggs. I'd eat it off his stomach."—Russell Brand discusses his man-crush on Mr. Posh Spice. The funny thing is, I bet David would actually be up for it.

With the election only days away, there's more flip-flopping to report. But this time, it's coming from some celebrities. Both Kelly Clarkson and Lindsay Lohan had previously aligned themselves with the Republican party. However, last week they both came out in support of Barack



Kelly Clarkson is switching sides. Photo by Jemal Countess

Obama. Lindsay took to Twitter to champion Obama after the last debate—but that doesn't really mean much since I don't believe she's registered to vote! As for Clarkson (who earlier endorsed Ron Paul), she's changed her mind specifically because of the gay community: "I'm probably going to vote for Obama again, even though I'm a Republican at heart. I can't support Romney's policies as I have a lot of gay friends and I don't think it's fair they can't get married." Thanks, Kell!

Years ago, a powerful porn mucky-muck gave someone a suggestion—take tons of photos of yourself in various outfits and settings. Lock them away. And then every decade or so, dole them out judiciously as new photos. In this way, you'll never age. No, this is not "The Billy Masters Story." The advice was given to Jeff Stryker.

Given the porn legend's reclusiveness, it was a strategy that might have worked. Instead, he followed his own path. Occasionally he resurfaces—like Haley's Comet. And so, I am pleased to announce that a rare chance to see Stryker in the flesh is once again upon us. This time, it's at The Boardwalk, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.'s, premiere venue for male "entertainment." Stryker will be performing Nov. 21-24—giving South Florida something to truly be thankful for. It should be noted that The Boardwalk does allow you to get up close and personal with the talent. For those of you who REALLY wanna some quality time, there are 25 VIP tickets available each night. You can check out BoardwalkBar.com for more details.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Barry in Chicago: "I was really disappointed in Magic Mike. After all the hype, not enough stripping—especially from Matt Bomer, who almost seemed like an extra. Was there more that we didn't see?"

You're not the only one to have felt duped. Many of my fans expressed disappointment in the lack of any male nudity—to say nothing of

the paucity of screen time for both Matt Bomer and Joe Manganiello. It should be noted that while both of these guys are bona fide TV stars, neither of them are big names at the box office. But now that you mention it, I suppose they didn't have many lines of dialogue—surely no more than Kellan Lutz in any of those Twilight flicks! Be that as it may, much more footage does exist, particularly of Bomer. I went on a bit of a quest and found what you're looking for—his solo strip as the Living Doll. I'm particularly partial to the exposure this sequence gives to his perfect posterior. Or did I prefer his bouncing bulge? Before you rush out and buy it, a word of warning—the DVD and Blu-Ray versions do NOT contain the extended dance sequences (despite some misleading advertising). The only way to see all is to buy the special Blu-Ray+DVD+UltraViolet Digital Copy Combo Pack (and good luck remembering that). Or in a pinch, you could just go to BillyMasters.com.

This leads to a story about Jackie Collins. During an interview with GayDar Radio, she made some claims which I'd like to quote here: "Matt Bomer, who is the most gorgeous-looking guy and the star of White Collar, was up for the role of Superman. He had not come out of the closet, but people in the know knew he was gay. His audition tape went in and he called up the agent. Someone didn't like him and told them he was gay. They said, 'No, no, we can't cast you.' The reason he didn't get cast was because he was gay." There's lots of murky stuff in that quote—and some false information. Since Jax didn't give you many details, let me fill in the gaps, as it were.

First, the film she's talking about is not the upcoming Man of Steel starring Henry Cavill. Jackie's actually referring to what eventually became the 2006 Superman Returns that starred Brandon Routh and was directed by Bryan Singer. The backstory is very long and complicated. Singer replaced director Brett Ratner, who wanted Superman to be played by Jude Law, who was not interested. Next choice was Josh Hartnett—what ever happened to him? He was allegedly offered \$100 million for the film and two sequels. He turned it down. Paul Walker was offered the role. He also declined. Screen tests were given to Ashton Kutcher, Brendan Fraser, Matt Bomer, David Boreanaz and Victor Webster (who was the only one to do a screen test as both Clark Kent and Superman). Ratner thought he struck gold with James Marsden, but by that point he became frustrated and quit, claiming the film was impossible to cast. Then McG came in as director and he did screen tests with Jason Behr, Jared Padalecki and even Henry Cavill. He eventually quit and that's when Bryan Singer came aboard. He made the decision to try and replicate the success of the first movie by casting a virtual unknown (Routh).

When some of these details were brought to Miss Collins' attention, she said a film executive told her this story "ages ago." "You can't trust them I guess. I have more faith in Santa Claus now than I do an exec."

When I'm more reliable than Joan Collins (and Santa Claus), it's definitely time to end yet another column. You'd think I was done, but I've got one more penis up my sleeve ... admittedly an odd place for one. Because some of you asked, I'll also post footage of Chord Overstreet stripping on Glee—it seems to fit with this week's milieu. You can find that and everything else on www.BillyMasters.com—the site that shows all. And tells all, too. So if you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Jeff Stryker reveals that he also auditioned for Superman! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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 /windycitymediagroup

Megan Rapinoe talks Olympics, coming out and Grindr crashing

Megan Rapinoe, a star midfielder for the U.S. Team, spoke exclusively with *Windy City Times* after the team's practice recently on the campus of the University of Illinois-Chicago. She spoke candidly about returning to Chicago where her professional career started, the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, issues she's faced since coming out over the summer and what it might be like for an active male athlete in a major team sport if he came out.

BY ROSS FORMAN

With the world watching, Megan Rapinoe helped lead the U.S. women's national soccer team to the gold medal a few months ago in the London Summer Olympics—with key goals and crucial assists.

As she stood on the platform this past August, a gold medal draped around her neck, Rapinoe truly was an American sensation as she shined in the spotlight of her on-the-field play—and not impacted by her revelation five weeks earlier of her off-the-field lifestyle.

"Anytime you can go to the Olympics, perform well, be happy with the way you performed, and win a gold medal, that's amazing, so memorable," said Rapinoe, 27, who started all six Olympic games this past summer. She scored the game-winning goal against Colombia and had two memorable goals in the semifinals against Canada. She had three goals and a team-high four assists in the Olympics.

"As a team, we accomplished what we wanted to do—and that sometimes is rare in sports. It

was an amazing experience, something I've been dreaming about since I knew what the Olympics were, so it's hard to describe."col

She has played for the U.S. women's national team since 2006—with 17 goals in 61 caps (appearances on a select team, such as a national team).

"I wouldn't say [coming out when I did] was pressure; it was a little bit of a non-event; I assume most people probably assumed that I was [gay because] I led my life pretty openly before [the official coming-out]," she said. "I didn't necessarily do it because of the Olympics, or because of that [worldwide] stage, but I also think it was good to do it then; it did bring a spotlight to it. I think it was a good stage to put out there who I am, and I'm really proud of who I am."

Since coming out, Rapinoe said, "It's been all positive, really."

She said she didn't really have many expectations of what to expect when coming out, although she didn't think it'd be a huge shock to many. "Everyone in my life accepts me exactly as I am," Rapinoe said. "It was cool to be out [at] the Olympics. It's still rare to be an out, [active] athlete, so I'm proud to be one."

There were 23 openly gay and lesbian London Olympians, plus two coaches, including Pia Sundhage, who was the U.S. women's soccer team's head coach. She has since retired from the post, with Jill Ellis replacing her on an interim basis.

"Twenty-three of 10,000 [athletes] ... and I heard the site Grindr crashed when all of the



Megan Rapinoe (right) playing for the Chicago Red Stars in 2009. Credit: Chicago Red Stars/David Durochik

athletes got to the [Olympic] Village, so I'm sure there were more than just 23," Rapinoe said, laughing.

"Hopefully this is a launching pad for athletes to feel like they can be comfortable knowing that, yes, they can come out and eventually it will be an absolute non-issue. I think it's closer in women's sports, whereas it's a little different in men's sports.

"It's going to be a bomb the first time," an active male athlete in one of the big four team sports comes out.

However, she added, "I don't think we're too far off from that happening; I think the country is moving in the right direction."

She scored one goal for Chicago in 2010.

Rapinoe now plays for the Seattle Sounders Women team in the United States W-League.

"It's always special to come back to a place where you've played before, where you have home fans. I feel the same way about Portland, when I go back there.

I had the best of times in Chicago," Rapinoe said. "When I flew into O'Hare [International Airport,] I thought of all the crazy times we had here. It was an awesome franchise, unfortunately it didn't last. So being able to come back and play in front of a home crowd always is special.

"Chicago is a really cultured city that isn't 'typical Midwest.' Chicago has great food, [a] great art scene [and a] great music scene. We had a lot of down time while here, so were able to explore around. In the summer, Chicago is one of the best places. Coming from California, I was skeptical when I heard Chicago also had beaches. Sure, they aren't like California beaches, but they still are fun. The energy in Chicago is really special and unique."

The same can be said for Rapinoe on the field.

"She's got flair," said Ellis. "She's a player who not only can connect our lines, meaning, her passing is very good, but, she also is a creator, so she can take players on, set up goals, etc. She has so much to her game, both in her passing and her creativity in the final third [of the field.] Her crossing [of the ball] has gotten so much better. She's an exciting player to watch. The fans love her because she's unpredictable and plays with great personality. She plays with her personality, because that's how she is off the field.

"Megan's passion for the game translates into how she plays the game."

Rapinoe and her U.S. teammates last played Sept. 19, stopping Australia 6-2 in the final game under Sundhage, who was 91-6-10 in her five-year career with the U.S. women. Rapinoe had an assist in the game and also drilled a corner kick that resulted in a goal.

"When you see [Rapinoe] up close and personal some of the things she can do with the ball and, more importantly, how she impacts the team, how she scores big goals, as she did in the game against Canada [in the Summer Olympics] ... it's just fun to watch her," Ellis said. "Her career is far from over, but she is going to be one of our most talented players. We strive in this country to have technical role-models, to have players who have special qualities, and for the young players out there, they can look at Megan and see the creativity, the confidence that she has on the field, with both feet; that will be her legacy."



Megan Rapinoe. Photo by Mel Ferrand

Still, she said it likely will be another 10 years.

"The big difference is, for female athletes, you don't really have to hide your whole life from everybody. But for a male athlete, it'd be a complete change of their entire life—and I can't really imagine the pressure of that.

"With the intense scrutiny that big-time male athletes [in team sports] receive, from the media and in social media, I can't even imagine what it'd be like to come out and then watch every single move that you make [be scrutinized]; it'd be very tough."

Rapinoe attended the University of Portland and was grabbed second overall in the 2009 WPS draft by the now-defunct Chicago Red Stars of the Women's Professional Soccer League. Rapinoe had two goals and three assists in her 18 games for the Red Stars.

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FILING FOR BANKRUPTCY - A NEW BEGINNING

With the current economic meltdown, the enormous loss of jobs and the upcoming strain of holiday gift giving and spending, financial budgets are being devastated with more and more couples and individuals seeking the advice of credit counselors. Faced with the possible loss of the car and house and an ever rising mountain of bills, consumers have to consider the advantages and drawbacks of declaring bankruptcy if credit counseling can't resolve the financial problems.

The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act, which took effect in 2005, increased restrictions for Chapter 7 bankruptcy filings by applying a "means test" which would disqualify many consumers with higher incomes from discharging their debts. The current income limit for individuals is \$46,983, however, those with higher incomes may still qualify for a Chapter 7 bankruptcy if they have other kinds of debt - it's a case by case determination.

Satisfying the means test can be a difficult process, plus filers are also required to seek mandatory credit counseling and provide proof. All the additional paperwork has further complicated the filing process.

A Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition is referred to as a "straight" bankruptcy and is the most common form of bankruptcy. It is sometimes called a "liquidation" because a debtor loses nonexempt property or its value. In a Chapter 7 bankruptcy, your assets, minus those exempted by your state, are liquidated and given to creditors, and many of your remaining debts are cancelled. Since many Chapter 7 filers don't have assets that qualify for liquidation, credit card companies and other creditors can get nothing.

The new bankruptcy act aimed to push more debtors toward Chapter 13 filings, which require them to repay at least some of their debts within five years. A Chapter 13 bankruptcy or "wage earner plan" is different from a Chapter 7 bankruptcy in that debtors under a Chapter 13 plan pay back all or most of their debts over a specified period of time.

The advantage of a Chapter 13 plan is that it permits debtors with substantial property to keep their assets provided they make the payments under the repayment plan.

For those considering it, bankruptcy should always be a last resort, since it can damage your credit for many years, it can show on your credit report for 10 years.

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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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Kids can enjoy storytelling and musical performances, meet cast members and their puppets, draw, and write stories at the event. They can also submit their stories, reports and poems later to Green Screen Adventures, the only national television show that performs stories written by children at greenscreenadventures.tv

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