

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

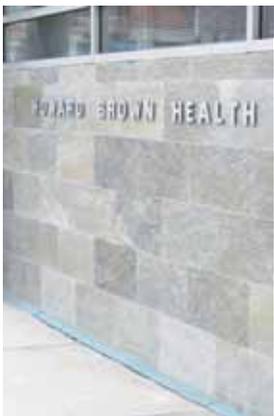
MAY 29, 2013
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GAY SOCCER PLAYER ROBBIE ROGERS MAKES HISTORY
PAGE 34

Former diver impacts thru TV

BY ROSS FORMAN

Jhonmar Castillo has led a wild, roller-coaster life, certainly worthy of a TV documentary—which he likely would produce.

Castillo was an Olympic diver, and once was stranded in a foreign country, jilted by his gay lover. Castillo has been broke and heartbroken. He's been in love multiple times—and proudly walked, hand in hand, to his civil union ceremony with Ryan Witmer on June 2, 2011. Castillo has been a waiter by need, a hairdresser of fame, and an art dealer who flourished and then one who struggled with the economy. He now is a pioneer in the gay media world. He's enduring bullying, though not to himself directly, and admits he himself was a bully.

Castillo never had an official coming-out because, he said, "I never was in [the closet.]"

He is an international sensation, now living in suburban Evanston, often working to further promote the LGBT community into the wee hours of the morning—in an unpaid job that has been his focus since August, 2011.

"I like that [my life] has been a roller-coaster ride; I think I'd be more afraid of a smooth ride," Castillo said. "Just bring it on, whatever comes my way."

The early years

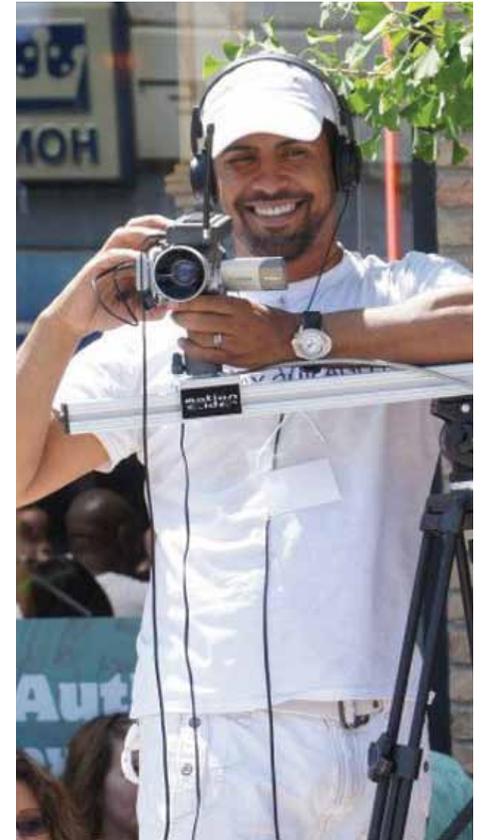
The story starts in his native Venezuela, where Castillo was a competitive diver at age 8 and, by age 12, he won his first National Championship. Castillo eventually won 14 international diving competitions in the 10-meter platform event, and he even represented his native country at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea.

When diver Greg Louganis had one of his most infamous dives of his illustrious career, hitting the back of his head on the diving board, Castillo, then 16, was right there, in his swimming trunks, on the pool deck.

While living in Venezuela in his early-20s, Castillo spent a couple years working as a flight attendant for American Airlines, mainly as a route out of the country.

"I didn't see myself as a flight attendant at age 40," he

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Jhonmar Castillo manning the camera at a Pride Parade in Chicago. Photo from Castillo

FEEL THE HEAT

OF WINDY CITY TIMES' **SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT PREVIEW**

page 18

Windy City Times is providing tips on the hottest performances and people to catch this summer, including (left to right) Sir Ari Gold (photo by Mike Ruiz); The Bear Suit of Happiness by The New Colony at Theater on the Lake (PR photo); and Bonedanse (photo by Carl Wiedemann). See the entertainment special starting on page 18.



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Photos on cover (left, from top): IML photo by Tracy Baim; pic of Howard Brown Health Center by Andrew Davis; (criminal legal series pic); Robbie Rogers photo from his Twitter page

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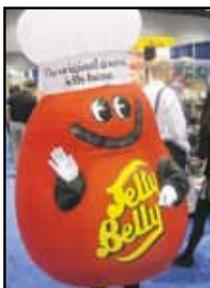
STIRRING THE POT
Windy City Times profiles Kevin Tindell (left), an out Chicagoan who is on this season of the Fox show MasterChef.

Photo of Tindell by Andrew Davis



Fawzia Mirza dishes on being Kam Kardashian.

Pic by Amanda Clifford Photography



See photos from the Sweets & Snacks Expo.

Photo by Andrew Davis

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS
Jeff Guaracino writes about mixing business with pleasure when traveling to Las Vegas.

LOVE JONES
Darlene and Amirah Watkins-Brown have been together for a quarter-century. Read about their journey.

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS
Find out the latest about Fallon Fox, Paula Deen and Janet Jackson.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

PROM AND MERRY



The Queer Prom recently took place at the National Museum for Mexican Art.

Photo by Mel Ferrand

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Panelists, left to right: Jesus Aguais, Mark Brennan-Ing, Ph. D.; L. Jeannine Bookhardt-Murray, M.D.; Jim Eigo, Joe "JoeMyGod" Jervis and Peter Staley. Perry Halkitis, Ph.D. (not shown) moderated. Photo by Frank Pizzoli

Letter from NYC: An AIDS reunion

BY FRANK PIZZOLI

By the time the first national AIDS education campaign was launched in 1988, when 107 million brochures entitled "Understanding AIDS" were mailed to every U.S. household, there were 83,000 U.S. AIDS cases, and more than 45,000 people had died.

Twenty-four years later on May 9 in New York City, 500 people, mostly Caucasian men, gathered to discuss both long-term survival and alarming data by University of Pittsburgh researcher Ronald Stall suggesting that if current trends continue 50 percent of African-American men who turned 18 in 2009 and have sex with men will be HIV+ by age 35. Fifty-four percent of all men who have sex with men will be HIV-positive.

Before the panel discussion began for *Is This My Beautiful Life? Perspectives from Survivors of the AIDS Generation*, Windy City Times talked to individuals filtering into the auditorium of Baruch College's Mason Hall, in Chelsea.

Many in the room lamented the fact that AIDS service organizations have all but abandoned regular support programs for long-term survivors. So have national gay organizations, like HRC and the nation's network of "equality" organizations panelists said.

Worse yet, gay/bi men are only about 2-6 percent of the U.S. population (depending on who you ask), but are the fastest growing group of new infections, 63 percent of total infections in recent years. There has been a 12 percent rise in HIV transmission for men who have sex with men between 2008 and 2010, the year for the latest estimates. The rise occurred even as rates dropped in all other populations.

Originally from Chicago, Yvonne Ghareeb, a 23-year staff veteran of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, one of the evening's sponsors, said in a voice tinged with concern that she's saddened so many survivors are forgotten. "And suicides are up with long-term survivors," said the former Off-Broadway theater coach.

In fact, it was the Dec. 18, 2012 death of Spencer Cox, 44, early ACT UP participant, who apparently had stopped taking his HIV medicines, that moved his friends to act. Cox was featured in the Oscar-nominated documentary *How to Survive a Plague*. His unexpected death pushed friends to revamp The Medius Institute for Gay Men's Health, originally active in 2006-2007, and now reconstituted as the Medius Working Group, and a program sponsor. His medical proxy, Carly Sommerstein, said, "Early in the epidemic activists were in media's face. That needs to happen again. Survivor support is down. Infections are up."

The Medius Institute for Gay Men's Health advocated for research into the emotional, mental, and physical stresses facing gay men in midlife. Two papers by Cox, one on gay men in midlife and the impact of AIDS, and another on the role depression plays in risk-taking behaviors are online under Writings by Spencer Cox at <http://www.treatmentactiongroup.org>.

In media interviews after his untimely death and on the night the NYC meeting, Cox's friends wondered aloud if their buddy lost his way. A New York Times blog at the time of his passing asked if Cox had succumbed to "pill fatigue," since doctors indicated he apparently had stopped taking HIV medications.

"I've been lost since surviving," said Pennsylvania native Sean McKenna, now an NYC resident. At one point, McKenna authored *Love Danny, Advice from a Positive Perspective*, which ran in WCT and other publications. McKenna said in a concerned voice, "I'm always waiting for the other shoe to drop, especially with my health." He feels too old to begin a new career and too young not to have one.

HIV stigma has stymied McKenna too: "I feel treated like the 'bad gay' who got infected, not the 'good gay' who didn't." He readily cites reported low levels of safer sex being practiced by g/bi men and asks "How do we close the gap, where's the disconnect?" One disconnect McKenna talked about with resentment is how Gay, Inc., devoted exclusively to equality issues, has abandoned gay men, a theme panelists also explored.

The formal panel opened with a segment from *How to Survive a Plague*. A local screening of the film is set for Center on Halsted June 6, 5 p.m. when Chicago Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Public Health and ViiV Healthcare hosts an HIV testing seminar. The film covers the dark days of 1987, when the country was six years into the AIDS epidemic, a crisis that was still largely being ignored both by government officials and health organizations—until the sudden emergence of the activist group ACT UP in Greenwich Village, largely made up of HIV-positive participants who refused to die without a fight.

The June 6 event offers free, rapid HIV testing available all day in observance of National HIV Testing Day at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., Chicago. The program begins at 5 p.m. with keynote speaker Dr. Robert Dodge, University of North Carolina School of Medicine. Free dinner will follow followed by the film at 7 p.m. in the Center's Hoover-Leppen Theatre. For information and registration, contact HIVrsvp@centeronhalsted.org; 773-472-6469 ext. 403.

Panel moderator Perry Halkitis set the NYC evening's tone by commenting that if World War II's generation was the "greatest" the AIDS generation was the "bravest."

Peter Staley delivered the evening's most dramatic indictment, echoing what audience member McKenna said privately. "I feel abandoned by Gay, Inc., by the same organizations who built their national platform on what was originally put into place by AIDS organizations, something they now forget," Staley argued. He wondered how much lower HIV infections might be, instead of rising so rapidly in recent years among gay men, "if HRC devoted 5 or 10 percent

GUEST VIEWPOINT

No, LGBT people are not richer than straights

BY BEN FRANCISCO MAULBECK



Chronicle of Philanthropy recently published an article by Raymund Flandez entitled, "As Wedding Bells Ring, Charities Seek Support From Newly Visible Same-Sex Couples."

Despite the title, the article has little to do with the freedom to marry. It focuses on the idea that gay couples are wealthier than straight couples and have "extra cash" that nonprofits should pursue. It leads with a quote from Stephen Phelps, a gay donor who says, "No matter who you are, you are missing an opportunity if you're not reaching out to

Defense of Marriage Act, Chief Justice Roberts asked, "You don't doubt that the lobby supporting the enactment of same-sex-marriage laws ... is politically powerful, do you?" His implicit assumption is that gays are wealthy and powerful, and therefore do not warrant what jurists call "strict scrutiny" in cases of equal protection. The stereotype that gay people are wealthy is serving as a potential rationalization for continued discrimination.

The same damaging stereotype is undoubtedly one of the reasons that philanthropic support for LGBT communities

is so dramatically low. After all, why would a foundation want to invest its precious resources in a community that's (allegedly) already wealthy? According to our research at Funders for LGBTQ Issues, only one-quarter of one percent of foundation grant dollars went to LGBT communities in 2011.

Given that LGBT people

"The most pernicious thing about the gay-wealthy stereotype is that it has been used for decades to rationalize the systematic marginalization of LGBT people."

this diverse group because gay men have money and lots of it. Lord Dorothy, we've got money."

The idea that gays are wealthier than straights is an inaccurate stereotype that undermines the struggle for equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people. The best data we have on this is from a study conducted by Gallup in partnership with the Williams Institute, based on interviews with more than 120,000 people—the largest survey of LGBT Americans ever conducted, and by far the most robust methodologically. This study found that LGBT people are poorer than the population at large: 35 percent of LGBT adults have incomes of less than \$24,000 a year, compared to 24 percent of the general population.

It's unfortunate that the Chronicle didn't include a caveat about the evidence of high levels of poverty in LGBT communities, and instead cherry-picked data from the Census indicating that gay couples earn more than straights.

I'm sure Flandez and the Chronicle meant no malice. To be fair, the statistic they cite is true: same-sex couples in which both partners work do indeed have higher median household incomes than straight couples in which both partners work. But the specificity of the statistic is a sign that it doesn't tell the full story about gay people and wealth.

The Census is not the best source for understanding the LGBT population, since it only captures those who are in couples—and often reveals more about gender inequality than anything else. For example, lesbian couples (unmentioned in the Chronicle piece) have lower household incomes than straight couples. That's not surprising at all, since women on average make less than men. Census data also show that gay men in couples have lower individual incomes than do men in straight couples.

The most pernicious thing about the gay-wealthy stereotype is that it has been used for decades to rationalize the systematic marginalization of LGBT people. Just a few weeks ago, when the Supreme Court heard arguments on the

are 3.4 percent of the population—and 5.1 percent of the low-income population—that makes us one of the groups most under-funded by the philanthropic sector.

A related—and equally false—stereotype about LGBT communities is that we don't have families or raise children. More than one foundation staffer has told me, "Oh, we don't fund LGBT. We fund families." Again, the myth is not borne out by facts: in the U.S., about two million children are being raised by LGBT parents. All foundations that care about families have a duty to make sure that those two million children have a safe educational environment and opportunities for healthy, fulfilling lives.

As the movement for LGBT equality continues to gain momentum, it's time for the Chronicle and the philanthropic sector to get beyond stereotypes and start looking at the real and urgent needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities:

— LGBT youth make up 40 percent of homeless youth—largely because of family rejection.

— Gay and lesbian couples raising children are more likely to be poor than straight couples with children.

— LGBT seniors, especially women, are poorer on average than straight seniors, in part because marriage inequality prevents same-sex couples from receiving the spousal social security benefits that straight couples get.

— Transgender Americans face double the unemployment rate of the general population, and 90 percent report harassment or discrimination on the job.

These are not just LGBT problems, they're American problems. If philanthropy hopes to achieve its noble goal of the betterment of humanity, then we need to recognize and address the unique needs of LGBT communities.

The original Chronicle article <http://philanthropy.com/article/Same-Sex-Couples-Get-New/139309/>.

Ben Francisco Maulbeck is president of Funders for LGBTQ Issues, see www.lgbtfunders.org.

Turn to page 5

Boy Scouts to allow gay youths

BY KATE SOSIN AND ANDREW DAVIS

After more than two decades of being turned away, openly gay youth will be allowed to join from The Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

The national organization voted to repeal its 22-year ban on openly gay scouts in a historic vote May 23. The resolution takes effect Jan. 1, 2014.

The repeal comes after years of pressure from LGBT groups, although the ban on openly LGBT scout leaders remains.

"While people have different opinions about this policy, we can all agree that kids are better off when they are in Scouting," BSA said in a statement. "Going forward, our Scouting family will continue to focus on reaching and serving youth in order to help them grow into good, strong citizens. America's youth need Scouting, and by focusing on the goals that unite us, we can continue to accomplish incredible things for young people and the communities we serve."

LGBT groups praised the move but said that the work is not over.

"[The] vote is a significant victory for gay youth across the nation and a clear indication that the Boy Scouts' ban on gay adult leaders will also inevitably end," said GLAAD spokesperson, Rich Ferraro, in a statement. "The Boy Scouts of America heard from religious leaders, corporate sponsors and so many Scouting families who want an end to discrimination against gay people, and GLAAD will continue this work with those committed to equality in Scouting until gay parents and adults are able to participate."

BSA has been ensnared in controversy over the

ban for months, after reports surfaced that the organization was considering ending the ban but then backed away from that proposal.

In April, BSA announced an official resolution to allow gay youth into the scouts.

Supporting that proposal was BSA Northeast Illinois Council, which represents parts of Cook and Lake County. Mike Hale, the council's scout executive, said that the local board drafted a statement of support for the repeal at the urging of the most of the group's members.

The BSA Chicago Area Council did not take a stance on the repeal.

More than 1,400 members voted on the national proposal at BSA's annual meeting in Grapevine, Texas.

The vote overturned the ban on openly gay scouts that was based on a line from the 1911 Boy Scouts of America oath: "On my honor I will do my best ... to keep myself physically strong, mentally alert and morally straight."

In 1990, James Dale, a gay scoutmaster, was forced out of BSA and filed suit in New Jersey. The case made it to the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld the ban in 2000.

But LGBT activists continued to challenge BSA on the policy.

Openly backing the repeal were BSA national executive board members James Turley, CEO of Ernst & Young and Randall Stephenson, CEO of AT&T.

But conservative groups also applied pressure to the scouts, stating that a change in policy would fundamentally alter the culture of scouting.

BSA said in a statement that the organization is done weighing the policy, at least for now.

"The Boy Scouts of America will not sacrifice its mission, or the youth served by the movement, by allowing the organization to be consumed by a single, divisive, and unresolved societal issue," the group said in a statement. "As the National Executive Committee just completed a lengthy review process, there are no plans for further review on this matter."

Several LGBT organizations praised the vote.

"Today's vote ending discrimination of gay Scouts is truly a historic moment and demon-

strates the Boy Scouts of America's commitment to creating a more inclusive organization," said Zach Wahls, Eagle Scout and founder of Scouts for Equality, in a statement. "Scouts for Equality is honored to be a part of the movement that has achieved a tremendous victory towards the fight for equality in America and we are proud to call ourselves Scouts."

Still, others argued that the ban on openly gay adults continued to send a homophobic message to scouting youth.

LETTER from page 4

of their budget to prevention and education."

Staley also touched on the big AIDS elephant in the room—current HIV drugs are easier to take and produce fewer side effects making HIV treatment a vastly different experience for younger men. "The death and dying, the constant diarrhea, body changing lipodystrophy (loss of facial and limb fat, distended belly), they ain't seen it," Staley said. "We need to meet young men where they are. Listen to them and their concerns."

Connecting his thoughts to both Staley and audience member McKenna,

Joe "JoeMyGod" Jervis noted how guys in their online bios refer to themselves as "clean" which means "I'm not infected. If you are you're dirty."

ACT UP veteran Jim Eigo, who has returned to weekly meetings, said his experience with younger men has been positive, especially when they discuss Plague and United in Anger, another history of AIDS film. Eigo said, "It really registers when I explain how we used to say to each other 'Will the last man in Chelsea turn out the lights.'"

Jesus Aguais, who was 20 years old in 1988 when he learned he was infected shared that empowerment comes "when your political mind wakes up. You're not supposed to wit-

ness all that death so young," telling the audience how he transported the ashes of four friends back to Venezuela. He underscored what Staley noted: That's not the experience of younger infected men today. HIV is no longer a death sentence. It's successfully treatable, although as was murmured from the audience "That doesn't mean you want it."

Collectively, panelists weaved data, and the lack of it, around the themes of unresolved grief and guilt for survivors; the lack of data on HIV-related suicide, and "syndemics," a clustering of pressures faced by individuals—old age, HIV, isolation, depression. "Much of what we need to know just isn't collected or studied," said Mark Brennan-Ing.

L. Jeannine Bookhardt-Murray, M.D. brought a moment of laughter to a sometimes-somber evening. "I expected to witness two events in my life, the election of an African-American president and a cure for AIDS. We got one. Now it's time for the other!"

Program sponsors were ACRIA; The Actors Fund; Aid for AIDS International; Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS; Callen-Lorde Community Health Center; Center for Comprehensive Care; Center for Health, Identity, Behavior and Prevention Studies at NYU; Friends in Deed; Gay Men of African Descent; GMHC, Harlem United; the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center; SAGE; Sero Project; and Treatment Action Group.

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Howard Brown still facing struggles

BY YASMIN NAIR

Howard Brown Health Center's (HBHC) former CEO and president Jamal Edwards departed the organization in August 2012, amid a flurry of complaints and questions about his management style and strategies.

Since then, both the Chicago LGBTQ community and the larger healthcare community have been watching the organization to see what its future might look like.

Recent news—such as the abrupt cancellation of a planned move of some services to a new location and a report on its recent audit—have raised old concerns. All of this has brought renewed attention to the questions around its leadership and staff, particularly the appointment last year of Karma Israelsen, interim CEO and president.

The delay in the move of HBHC's Triad Health Practice (renamed Aris Health) to 3245 N. Halsted St., a space formerly occupied by Northwestern Memorial Physicians Group, has been the more public glitch in the organization's way forward.

Amid much fanfare, HBHC announced that this new space would allow it to expand its services, particularly to pediatric populations. The move had been initiated under and announced by Edwards, and Israelsen had spoken proudly of it to WCT. She spoke of the advantages of a larger space and of the expansion of pediatric services to a community whose needs are rapidly changing.

In February, the news media received an invitation to a ribbon-cutting in March. But then came an announcement, almost a week prior, that the March 25 ceremony and the move had been postponed until further notice.

The cancellation caused consternation and questions, including some long-simmering ones about the ability of Karma Israelsen to lead Howard Brown. In September 2012, following Edwards' departure, Israelsen—then board chair—took over as interim president and CEO, with an annual salary of \$180,000. The choice of Israelsen as HBHC leader raised eyebrows, since many felt that the storied institution was, once again, choosing someone with no experience in healthcare.

Israelsen's salary, while nowhere as high as the \$265,000 made by Jamal Edwards, was still high enough to be questioned. Like Edwards, she had no previous experience in healthcare, and had left her position at Career Education Corporation. She was, at the time of her appointment, in the midst of taking a six-month period off to travel and decompress, as she told WCT in October 2012.

In that same interview, Israelsen emphasized that hers was not a permanent appointment, and that her major task was to initiate changes in the culture at HBHC and to ensure the hiring of a new CEO and president.

Several insiders and former employees had asserted that Edwards' tenure had been one of surveillance and high tension, and HBHC at the time was marked by a large turnover in staff. In past years, some of HBHC's leaders have come from within internal ranks, often with little to no experience in healthcare management.

When contacted by WCT in the wake of the cancellation of the Aris move, Israelsen acknowledged that the sudden change did not help the organization, and that it was both "unfortunate" and "embarrassing."

Asked for details on what had transpired, Israelsen said, "The agency had signed a 30-year



Howard Brown Health Center. Photo by Andrew Davis

lease with Northwestern University Memorial for the space. When we started the process in October/November of last year, we thought there would only be minor updates to carpeting and paint. We hadn't planned on dramatic construction, only some cosmetic touch-ups which wouldn't require any permits."

According to Israelsen, as HBHC continued talks with Walgreens, its longtime pharmacy partner, "it became clear that, to meet capacity, we needed additional changes to the building. A pharmacy has very specific security, temperature and security requirements, for instance."

Israelsen added that HBHC realized it did not have the requisite permits and decided to postpone the opening rather than have visitors see an unfinished space. HBHC is now hoping for an opening in early summer; the Triad Health Practice is still operational.

She acknowledged, "At the end of the day, we still have a way to go in getting our planning done a little bit better, but at the end of the day we strongly believe that the fact that we're going to take the time and do the additional construction on our side of the building for our patients is going to be really, really impactful and really the right kind of investment to do for our clients long-term."

HBHC also had to make additional changes to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, which have changed since the building was built.

WCT asked if HBHC—a large, multimillion-dollar agency—had a committee or a subgroup specifically designated to oversee the construction over these past many months, which could potentially have prevented the late realizations. Israelsen responded, "We only own one building [on Sheridan] so any kind of construction issues are covered by our landlords."

She added that, with Walgreens, "because this was a new process for them, the Walgreens process for getting a lease established takes several weeks as we started to work through the lease negotiations, since they will be subletting the space, it actually takes a long time."

"Having to arrange for their architecture firm and our own to come in, there was a significant amount of building, electrical, and plumbing inspections that had to be done. Unfortunately, these things take time. I completely understand how people would perceive that if we knew about this, we should have planned better. We agree. Unfortunately, it's not a core competency of ours—my team is a medical team; we don't always deal with the city."

Asked about the impact of the late opening, she said that the Triad Practice at the Illinois Masonic space was still running and there was no disruption of services there. Illinois Masonic is allowing HBHC to continue the lease on a month-to-month basis. (It was to have ended Feb. 28.)

HBHC is also currently undergoing a search for its next CEO, aided by Kittleman and Associates, a search firm that specializes in the hunt for leaders of nonprofits.

Soon after news of the postponement came a report from Crain's Chicago Business titled, "Audit dings Howard Brown financial controls," which stated that the most recent audit, for the

fiscal year that ended June 30, 2012, found areas of weakness, including a failure to reconcile its books and track petty-cash payments.

Contacted for comment on this, HBHC Board Chair Duke Alden said that he was "very disappointed" in the Crain's article. He said that the board of directors had been very pleased with the audit "in not only firming up our bottom line, but with better controls."

Alden pointed out, "In 2010, when we had the first independent audit after the financial mismanagement, there were 41 findings. We've been working systematically to get that whittled down as soon as possible [with the current number being seven]. We would love to see zero, and that's my pledge as board chair [to bring down the number]."

He said, "Crain's looked at it backwards/forwards, and the implication was that we had somehow slipped. Even our auditors at Crowe-Horwarth read the article and were taken aback by how negative and skewed it was, focusing only on those few instances."

The audit is available online on the Howard Brown website. In most instances where the auditors report on areas of weaknesses, HBHC's response is, "We agree," followed by a summary of what will be done to rectify the problem.

Alden said that the report needed to be read "from stem to stern, not just for the last few pages" and that the article was "like a kick in the teeth."

Howard Brown has not, in its more recent years, had people with expertise in healthcare. Edwards was appointed under circumstances that have long been controversial: the board chair who oversaw the process at the time was Mark Andrews, who also worked for Career Education Corporation. Israelsen, then only a board member, was at the time a vice president of regulatory operations in the same corporation.

Andrews stepped down as board chair in the wake of a clean sweep, leaving only Israelsen and Frank L. Buttita as remaining board members because they had been newly appointed to the board. Israelsen stepped in as board chair in January 2011, after Edwards became CEO. She and Edwards worked closely together to oversee a board selection committee, according to an interview Edwards gave to WCT in February 2011.

All of this has led to several people questioning if HBHC can ever move out of its circular form of appointments, where important selections appear to be made based not on qualifications but on how people deploy their affinities and ties with current board and staff.

Asked directly about Israelsen's qualifications in light of recent reports, Alden said, "We were incredibly lucky to have Karma take over this role [of interim CEO] because we had so many in-flight projects that it would have taken an act of God to find someone who could have taken over the reins of the organization and seen through those projects and all the changes related to the Affordable Care Act." He said that Israelsen was the only option that made sense to the board.

He acknowledged that she does not have healthcare experience, "but she did have an executive sense of what needed to happen next." On the hiring of former CEOs, he said that

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STRUGGLES from page 6

though he had not been there during the tenures of Edwards or Michael Cook before him, "I can anecdotally affirm that traditionally Howard Brown has looked to executives who have not had dramatic, deep expertise in the healthcare field, and that has to change."

Alden emphasized the importance of a CEO with experience in healthcare in light of the changes coming through the Affordable Care Act: "We can literally go to bed at night and wake up the next morning with dramatic changes because everything is changing so rapidly. So our next CEO will have that experience."

Both he and Israelsen have emphasized that the current search is a national one.

Internally, HBHC still has changes in place, some of which have to do with its storied institutions like the Broadway Youth Center (BYC) and the Brown Elephant, its highly profitable set of second-hand retail stores.

BYC, according to Israelsen, is set to move to a new location; the announcement is expected soon. (See sidebar for details.) In December 2011, WCT reported that the majority of approximately 50 Brown Elephant employees had been reduced to half or part-time in order for HBHC to save on expenses related to their costs of healthcare (with no clear evidence as to how much this actually saved).

At the time, only approximately nine employees retained full-time positions. Asked recently about the plans to reinstate healthcare for HBHC employees, Senior Communications Director Alonzo Brown responded, "Five Brown Elephant part-time employees have been converted to full-time which began in January."

As HBHC moves forward toward a new space and new regulatory mechanisms and expenses linked to the Affordable Care Act, it does so in a healthcare field with a small but increasing number of agencies more attuned to the needs of LGBTQ patients.

The challenges in the months ahead for the organization will be to finally ensure that its new CEO can navigate the changing landscape while also providing services to the larger community and taking care of its own employees.

Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) announced May 22 that several programs and services that the Broadway Youth Center (BYC) provides will begin moving from Broadway United Methodist Church (BUMC) to Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ (WAUCC), 615 W. Wellington Ave., beginning Monday, June 3, at 12 p.m.

"The Broadway United Methodist Church (BUMC) has been an amazing partner and we thank them for assisting us in our efforts to meet the needs of the youth who access and depend on BYC's critical services," stated Karma Israelsen, interim president and CEO, Howard Brown Health Center. "The Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ has a long history of working with community organizations to provide services and programs to youth and we are elated to join forces to continue to work for this underserved population."

According to HBHC, the move to the Wellington Avenue Church of Christ will allow BYC to have a dedicated space to expand basic needs services for young people experiencing homelessness and housing instability. In addition, beginning July 1, testing and medical services will move from BUMC to WAUCC.

"This an exciting time for our staff and the youth we serve," states Lara Brooks, director of the Broadway Youth Center. "This collaboration will provide a dedicated location for BYC to engage more LGBTQ youth and youth experiencing homeless in Chicago."

Services located at HBHC's Lakeview office will not be affected, according to HBHC.

Advocates: Sex-ed bill will positively impact LGBT youth

BY KATE SOSIN

The Illinois General Assembly has passed a sexual education bill that advocates say will positively impact LGBTQ youth.

HB 2675, a comprehensive sex-education bill that mandates medically accurate teaching in grades six through twelve, cleared the Senate March 22. The bill already passed the House March 17. It now heads to the governor's desk.

While the bill is not LGBT-specific, advocates say it will benefit LGBTQ young people.

"This area of medical accuracy, I think, is very important for LGBTQ youth," said Brigid Leahy, director of government relations for Planned Parenthood Illinois.

The bill mandates that schools offering sex education include information on contraception and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases in addition to information on abstinence. The bill allows parents to opt their children out of the curriculum without consequence to the student.

Under old rule, schools could offer abstinence-only sex education. Now, schools that teach sex education will be required to offer information about contraception in addition. The bill does not require schools to offer sex education or to adopt a specific curriculum. Rather, schools that do will have to teach both about abstinence and contraception.

According to Leahy, several Illinois schools had been previously been under the impression that they were prohibited from offering comprehensive sex education because it had not been written into law. The new rule will change that perception, she said.

For LGBT youth, especially, abstinence-only programs have presented a problem, said Leahy.

"The programs tend to have a lot of biases in them about men and women," Leahy said, adding that those programs often assume that youth will grow up to have monogamous heterosexual marriages.

Now, she said, schools will be more likely to offer safer sex information that is useful for both heterosexual and LGBTQ youth.

The new law will force school districts using outdated textbooks and other teaching materials to offer current medically accurate information on HIV and STD prevention, among other things.

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago, which also pushed for the bill's passage, applauded Wednesday's Senate vote in a statement.

"Young people need medically accurate, age-appropriate sexual health education that stresses abstinence as well as contraception," said David Ernesto Munar, president/CEO of AIDS Foundation of Chicago. "The majority of cases of sexually transmitted infections are among youth, who are also at higher risk of unintended pregnancies. We're glad the Illinois Senate has sent a message to the people of Illinois that they can't stick their heads in the sand anymore."

State Rep. Camille Lilly and state Sen. Heather Steans co-sponsored the bill.

"The message that only abstinence is 100 percent effective is not inconsistent with telling young people that there are ways they can minimize their risk if they become sexually active, as half of all high school students do," said Steans in a statement.

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Community forum spotlights LGBT immigration issues

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The panel discussion "Comprehensive Immigration Reform and You: The New Bill and the LGBTQ Community," featuring legal experts and LGBTQ persons affected by federal immigration policies, took place May 21 at the Center on Halsted. Approximately 30 people attended the panel discussion that the LGBT Immigrant Rights Coalition of Chicago hosted.

The LGBTQ Immigrant Rights Coalition is, according to its website, "a collaboration between organizations serving the primarily LGBTQ populations and institutions advocating for immigrant rights."

Joy Messinger, community advocate and deputy director at Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health, served as the event moderator. Panelists included Michael Jarecki, an attorney focusing on U.S. immigration and nationality law across the United States and at United States consular posts worldwide and former chair of the American Immigration Lawyers Association National Working Group for LGBT immigration issues; Keren Zwick, supervising attorney for the LGBT Rights Initiative at the National Immigrant Justice Center; Nebula Li, outreach chair at Invisible 2 Inevitable: Asian and Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago and co-chair for the National Lawyers Guild Queer Caucus; and Yunuen Rodriguez, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient and research assistant at Northwestern University.

Following an introduction by Messinger, the panelists spoke about legislative efforts to reform the U.S. immigration system and how these reforms will impact LGBTQ people.

Jarecki spoke about the issues that same-sex binational couples face when it comes to immigration. "When we talk about immigration benefits for gays and lesbians it's not just a gay and lesbian issue it's a family issue," said Jarecki. Then Jarecki shared a story about two of his clients who are fighting for the right to stay together in the United States. The current immigration bill that was negotiated by the gang of eight and passed by a Senate panel doesn't include LGBT people, Jarecki explained.

Zwick and Jarecki explained the details of the bill. The good parts of the immigration bill, Jarecki noted, include establishing a path to citizenship, ending deportations, getting some criminal records expunged, ending the one-year filing deadline if returning to a country of origin poses a risk to your life and having DREAMers (beneficiaries of the DREAM Act) represented with no age restriction.



Joy Messinger. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

The bad parts of the bill, Zwick noted, include the creation of a militarized zone on the border, harsh prosecutions for people who enter illegally, an increase in penalties, possibly prohibitive fees to establish residency, no access to health-care coverage under the Affordable Care Act, no ability to switch paths to achieve citizenship once the process begins, no siblings sponsorships and diversity VISA's have been removed.

In Rodriguez's remarks she shared that as a queer she has a sense of humanity is the ability to move freely, participate in government, attend college, build an economic cushion, have a job, live a morally righteous life and have her romantic relationship recognized (she identifies as queer). Then Rodriguez explained that as a formerly undocumented immigrant she was denied a sense of humanity due to her status, however, as a DACA recipient she has gained a sense of humanity.

Regarding the current immigration bill, Zwick (her practice is exclusively LGBT-focused) noted that there is additional good news about due process and detention. The bill limits the use of solitary confinement when someone is detained pending an immigration hearing. Alternatives to detention will be expanded and government-appointed lawyers will be allowed for those who can't afford attorneys, according to Zwick.

Li said the four words she uses to describe immigration and LGBT issues are "sacrifice," "journey," "love" and "family." Then Li shared her story as a bisexual second-generation immigrant whose parents came to the United States legally from Hong Kong via Canada. Li's immigration story doesn't stop there, she noted, because without sibling sponsorships Li's mom and uncle wouldn't have been reunited in the

United States.

During the Q&A the panel was asked if the immigration bill has to be budget neutral. Zwick said yes and that the filing fees are supposed to offset the cost of the bill. Another question focused on pushing back at organizations that say LGBT inclusion is a poison pill. Li used the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) that was recently passed with LGBT-inclusive language while Jarecki said people need to look at the

trend toward LGBT equality.

Other questions and comments focused on an AP article that outlined Catholic bishops warning President Obama about LGBT inclusion in the immigration bill, the three strikes rule in the immigration bill, the bill will likely face dramatic changes when it arrives in the House of Representatives, and how VAWA got passed.

See www.almachicago.org/immigration.php for more information.

Marriage advocates talk final push on bill

BY KATE SOSIN

Two hundred phone banks, 500 volunteers, over 12,000 post cards and more than 70,000 emails. That is what has gone into passing Illinois' equal marriage bill this far, according to advocates.

LGBT groups revealed some of their behind-the-scenes efforts to pass equal marriage at a community meeting May 22. Those efforts have included massive phone banks, outreach to political funders and an intense social media campaign, they said.

The meeting, held at the Chicago Urban League, drew approximately 35 people.

Organizers shared that they had facilitated several lobby days, operated phone banks almost daily and worked closely with faith leaders throughout the state to build support.

Karen Sheley, attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, noted that the Illinois Unites for Marriage coalition had used social media extensively to promote its message. She also explained that the coalition had pushed for editorials in favor of the bill; an effort that led to endorsements for equal marriage from major papers throughout the state.

Caroline Staerk, field director at Equality Illinois, detailed thousands of calls, post cards emails and other grassroots efforts to build support for equal marriage among Illinois voters.

Jim Bennett, Midwest regional director for Lambda Legal, reiterated his comments earlier in the week that the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act has the support it needs to pass by the end of session.

"We are as certain as we can possibly be that this will pass by May 31," he said.

Lindsey Clark, phone bank administrator for the Illinois Unites for Marriage Coalition, said that the tone of phone bank calls has shifted in recent weeks. An increasing number of people against equal marriage have expressed hesitation, Clark said.

"We ask [on the calls], 'Do you support same-sex marriage?'" said Clark. "One of my favorite responses is, 'I'm so sorry, I don't.'"

Bennett pointed to another shift. The conversation in Illinois about equal marriage started with a message about benefits. Now, he said, the message is about love.

"Our messaging is so simple," he said. "A person should be able to marry the person they love. The other side has not found a way to counteract that."

That's a message that has translated over to competing marriage demonstrations, Clark said. Anti-gays have largely outnumbered pro-LGBT protesters at a series of rallies held over the last month to pressure undecided lawmakers. But, Clark said, the difference between those opposed to the bill and those backing it has been the vibe, with pro-LGBT demonstrators sending a message of love.

However, some attendees also questioned if messages coming from LGBT groups adequately represented communities of color, after reports suggested that Black lawmakers said that equal marriage had been presented as a white issue.

Roderick K. Hawkins, vice president of external affairs for Chicago Urban League, has done outreach to the Black Caucus on the marriage issue. He reported that Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus and others have been working to make sure that Black lawmakers and voters hear from Black LGBT people who support the bill.

Bennett added that The Civil Rights Agenda has also done significant work with Latino representatives and constituents.

But, Bennett said, some of that work will remain under wraps until the bill passes.

Kim Hunt, executive director of Affinity Community Services, also raised the question of future organizing from groups. She asked what would happen to LGBT organizations after the bill passed.

Bennett said that Lambda Legal had already drafted fact sheets on the proposed law and would be working to educate community members should to the bill pass.

For breaking news on the marriage bill, visit www.windycitytimes.com.

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From left: Mike Hogan, Steve Forst, Chris Pett, Dignity Chapter president; John Parro, Rev. Barbara Zeman and Mike Cook. Photo courtesy of Pett

Dignity holds 41st-anniv. liturgy

Dignity Chicago held its 41st-anniversary liturgy and award presentations at at Broadway United Methodist Church May 19.

The organization presented the John Michie Award to Equality Illinois in recognition of its Faith & Freedom Initiative. John Parro, a member of the Equality Illinois board of directors, accepted the award.

Pictured left to right are Mike Hogan, Steve Forst, Chris Pett, Dignity Chapter president; John Parro, Rev. Barbara Zeman, Mike Cook. Photo courtesy of Pett



LGBTs, allies march in Memorial Day parade

LGBTs and their allies marched in Chicago's Memorial Day Parade Saturday, May 25, along State Street downtown. American Veterans for Equal Rights Chicago chapter, GLASS (Gay, Lesbian and Supporting Sailors) of Great Lakes Naval Base, and Lakeside Pride band members marched in the annual tribute to members of the military and those lost in battle.

The Chicago's Memorial Day parade is one of the largest in the nation. The LGBT veteran contingent has been included in the parade for 17 years and GLASS joined shortly after it was formed following the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Photos and text by Jean Albright.

A Windy City Times video by Albright is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5MfoQL7iJg&feature=youtu.be. More photos are online at www.WindyCity-MediaGroup.com.



'My God Is Not a Bully!' launch party May 29

The Church Within A Church Movement (CWACM) and E3 Radio share personal stories from the LGBTQ community in the project "My God is Not a Bully!"

CWACM Executive Director cathy knight said in a press release, "What began as an urgent need to offer words of hope, is now a full-

bodied message of love. CWACM wants LGBTQ youth to know there is another side to the story."

The launch party will take place Tuesday, May 29, 6-8 p.m., at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

One video will be released each day in the month of June to celebrate LGBTQ Pride month. The videos will be released on the "My God is Not a Bully!" YouTube channel and then shared on the "My God is Not a Bully" Facebook page.

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said. "While a flight attendant, I traveled [personally] as much as possible, my way of scoping out the perfect place to live."

Chicago was it. "I found this city to be amazing, wonderful—the people, the architecture, the culture, even the weather," he said.

Castillo eventually had a boyfriend, though living internationally. They talked about their future together and, in early 1992, Castillo was ready to make it a reality.

He quit the airline job and sold most of his belongings in Venezuela. Castillo had \$800 cash, the most he could bring at the time. All of his remaining belongings were packed into two suitcases, and he was heading to America.

Castillo arrived at O'Hare International Airport April 12, 1992, and then made his made to his boyfriend's apartment in the Uptown neighborhood. Castillo knocked on the door and was told he could not come in or stay—his boyfriend was with another man.

It was a rainy day and Castillo knew no one else in Chicago.

He sat on a nearby curb for two hours, filled with emotions.

Castillo eventually started walking north along Broadway and spotted a "For Rent" sign at an apartment on Carmen Street. He told the landlord that he was a flight attendant for American and even showed his airline identification and his passport. He went on to say that he wouldn't be getting his first check for two weeks, but would give \$800 cash on the spot for the one-bedroom, first-floor unfurnished apartment—and then give the remaining \$50 monthly rent in two weeks.

The landlord agreed, and Castillo at least had a roof over his head.

Next, Castillo needed food. So he talked to the owner of a nearby Guatemalan restaurant, and he was immediately put to work as a waiter.

His first day as a Chicago waiter, Castillo left with \$12.50 from tips.

"That was enough to buy breakfast the next day," said Castillo, who was given a complimentary dinner after his shift as a waiter.

"I wasn't afraid of the situation at the time," he said.

His next major adventure started the day he walked into a Lakeview hair salon that had a "Help Wanted" sign hanging for all to see.

"I thought I was going to be washing hair," he said.

But instead, the salon manager asked how long he had been cutting hair. In what he then called "survival mode," Castillo answered, "six years," though his next hair cut would, in reality, be his first.

Sure enough, the salon hired him, saying he was responsible for walk-in customers.

Castillo's first customer was a Russian man, about 65, with wild, shaggy hair and even bushy eyebrows.



Jhonmar Castillo. Photo by Ross Forman

"I had never cut hair in my life, but just thought [the process] was logical and remember that they often use two fingers [in the cutting process.] I just figured I'd do the best for him, as I would for myself," Castillo said.

That first cut took 90 minutes, "and when he got off that chair, he looked great, like he was 35 years old."

Castillo received a \$7 tip.

So started his haircutting career, which spanned two years. He even once was voted third among the Top 10 Chicago Hair Dressers by Chicago Magazine. Some customers waited two months to sit on Castillo's chair and he ultimately charged up to \$350.

"As I watched other hair dressers, I was learning. It was a crash, self-taught course," he said, laughing. "The hair cutting was a fun time."

Castillo's next job was coaching at the University of California, San Diego, where he stayed from 1996-2000. He also then coached other area teams.

He returned to Chicago in 2000 and began working in the real estate industry through his partner at the time. He specialized in video production, motion graphics, and more—again, all self-taught. He produced commercials and banners for clients, among other jobs.

In 2003, Castillo accepted the job as diving coach at the University of Kansas, a job he held for one year.

He was back in Chicago in 2004, when he opened Moka Gallery in the Pilsen neighborhood. He moved the art gallery to Roscoe Village in 2005.

Then, in late 2007, the economy swoon hit hard, thus Castillo was forced to switch the focus at Moka, pushing the video production to the fore-front as opposed to art.

Hamburgers, hot dogs and a plan

On Aug. 12, 2011, Castillo had friends over at his home for a bar-b-que, and the talk turned to the popular "It Gets Better" campaign and the videos produced around the world to, hopefully, help troubled LGBT teens.

"We were discussing what might be the next logical step for the It Gets Better campaign, which definitely was/is a good thing that has done marvelous things for our community. But it isn't enough. Heck, I didn't think I could make a video for a 17 year-old with the simple message that, yes, it does get better," Castillo said.

"My answer was, I wish I could open a window to these troubled kids, to show them my community, the way I see it."

The light went on, instantly, inside Castillo's ever-creative mind.

Right then, at that instant, Gay Chicago TV was born.

"The goal initially was to create a network that would show a positive outlook on the LGBT community. It was not going to be sex-driven, or just [feature] shirtless men, or the negative aspects [of LGBT life]," Castillo said. "I just thought it would be a great opportunity to show that [the gay community] is so much larger, so much more complex than just what people might see on mainstream TV."

"I wanted to create content not just for LGBT people, but also for mainstream people and the mainstream media, to tell the stories from our point of view."

"I wanted a clear, clean, positive, responsible portrayal of the LGBT community. We wanted to serve as a platform for creative people who want to have a place to tell their stories."

Castillo's vision for the then-future gay TV station was driven by his past.

"I came from a place where it was a tough, tough country to be a gay, but I never was bullied, even though I was always out—that's because I was the bully. It was who I needed to be in order to survive. If I didn't beat someone [up], they were going to beat me," said Castillo, who tagged himself as the "Robin Hood bully, [meaning], I wouldn't let the other bullies pick on anyone, regardless of the reason why."

Although Castillo wasn't bullied for being gay, he said his parents and younger brother endured anti-gay bullying. "Other ladies would make my mom feel uncomfortable, and my brother got beat up—because I was gay. I felt so bad because I couldn't help them," he said.

"My mom's biggest fear was that I was not going to find happiness, not that I was gay."

So Castillo planned Gay Chicago TV as an outlet to talk to the LGBT community, and beyond.

Gay Chicago TV was officially launched Dec. 1, 2011.

"When people hear what Gay Chicago TV is all about, they get excited. It's a great project, with a very clean mission that we can all relate to," Castillo said.

Gay Chicago TV offered a variety of short TV segments—from news, to personality profiles, to gab sessions and more—for its first seven months, a test-run of sorts to see what viewers liked and wanted.

Gay Chicago TV formally launched on June 25, 2012—the day after the annual Gay Pride Parade—and its website had more than 150,000 visits that day alone, no doubt thanks to the truck in the parade that announced the station's plans for that Monday.

Through last December, Gay Chicago TV had more than 220,000 unique visitors to its web-

site and more than 1.1 millions views on Vimeo. Gay Chicago TV has been seen in more than 150 countries.

On Jan. 14—Castillo's vision, created casually at an informal summertime barbecue—launched its next season, this time as a national station. In addition to Chicago, there are regional gay TV stations for news in New York City, Miami, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"When I first thought of Gay Chicago TV, everything was done with the national network in mind, even the logo," Castillo said. "I want each of the regional stations to be their own, not just a copy of another."

So each has local anchors, produces local content.

Gay TV On The Go is the mother of Castillo's vision, which now has national and international LGBT news meshed with local content.

"It was just not enough for me to do five stations because, let's face it, can the LGBT person in, say, Kansas City truly relate to Gay Chicago TV, or any of the other [regional stations]? So we now are expanding the coverage," he said.

Gay TV On The Go operates on a purse-string budget, but a high-dollar look and feel. The Chicago show, for instance, features three Nikon 5100 cameras, that's it. Many of the shows, including the widely popular Gay Report Chicago, anchored by TJ Chernick, are taped, produced, edited, marketed and released from Castillo's home.

"If you look at what we're doing, and how we're doing this, without any [incoming] money, I think people will freak out," Castillo said.

The current season of Gay Chicago TV offers nine distinct shows on topics ranging from news and opinions to sports, cooking and travel.

"Jhonmar is a true asset to the LGBTQ community," said Brian Felder, a host/producer for the station. "From the beginning, his vision for the network has been to show the breadth of this community in an easily accessible way. He has a deep passion for sharing stories that matter, to those inside and outside of the LGBTQ community."

"Jhonmar shows Mainstream [America] that those of us who are LGBTQ have many more similarities to them than differences."

"Working with Jhonmar over the past year has been an amazing experience. I have met very few people [who] are more passionate in life and work. Whether it's finding and developing talent within the network, promoting local businesses or sharing those stories affecting our world, he has a unique vision and follows his passion every day to better the network and its shows, but more importantly, the LGBTQ community."

Added Waymon Hudson, a Gay Chicago TV host: "Working with Jhonmar has been an amazing experience. He is so passionate about the LGBTQ community and the issues we face. His driving force is always getting information about our collective struggles and triumphs out to a larger audience. Visibility—truly telling the story of our lives as LGBTQ people—has been the focus of our work together and has really inspired me."

Despite the growth of Castillo's LGBT television creation, he isn't making millions—or even pennies. In fact, no one is. All on-air talent, and the limited production staff, are volunteers.

"We're not here for the money [yet], but [rather,] this is a social enterprise, thus, we are doing things that we hope will make a difference within the LGBT community," said Castillo, who estimated he's invested \$250,000 into the project, which includes time spent on the station that he could have, instead, put toward money-making projects at his gallery.

Is it worth it?

Definitely, he said without hesitation. "I believe in this [project]."

Olympic glory

The 1988 Summer Olympics were a difficult experience for Castillo, due to financial turmoil in his native country, which sent 18 athletes to South Korea—Castillo was the lone diver.

Turn to page 12

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GAY in the LIFE

Marcy Rae Henry

TEXT BY JANEAN L. WATKINS



Age
42

Relationship status
Dating

Neighborhood
Ravenswood Manor

Hobbies
Reading, writing, biking, playing music, traveling, cooking, making mischief

Favorite Films
Prospero's Books, Aimee and Jaguar, La Cienega.

Job Title
Associate Professor of Humanities and Fine Art

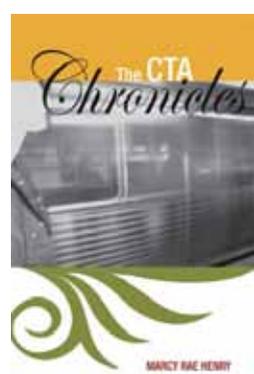
Like Marcy Rae Henry's hometown of Pueblo, Colo. during its infancy—her life is an epicenter of activity. She is constantly growing, learning and traveling for many miles to find her slice of the American Dream. Henry is a professor of Humanities and Fine Arts at Harold Washington College. She is also the author of the book CTA Chronicles, and many other short stories featured in publications like The Garland Review and The Advocate.

She has travelled extensively, even spending two years living in the Himalayas of India, but her voyage into the world of literature started well before then. Her writing began with journaling for her English teacher and escalated to writing poetry in Science class and erasing the text in word bubbles in comics, replacing them with her own vulgar dialogue, during middle school.

She wrote on many topics – things like heartbreak and sensuality, all the while growing to hone her skills in the art of storytelling.

"My abuelita [grandmother] was the best storyteller I ever met. She would drag out a story for days, weeks, even years for a conclusion. She told me her stories and I became the receptacle." She shares this with readers in her upcoming book, "Cumbia Therapy". "I've got one more chapter to go. I feel like now is the right time to release her stories."

The stories are told from the perspective of the twenty-something narrator, Emily, as she deals with heartbreak over a woman. "It's an intergenerational, non-linear story that focuses on four generations of women, starting in Mexico during the Revolution," said Henry.



She shares this passion for writing on a more personal level with her students at Harold Washington College downtown where, she says, the students are the best part of the job. "I have an awful lot of respect and admiration for a lot of them who are non-traditional; who continue their intellectual journey despite tremendous hardship," she said.

It's not very often that a professor can show students how to live life to the fullest by example alone. After graduating from the University of New Mexico with a bachelor's degree in Political Science, Henry deferred her acceptance to Columbia Law to travel the world. After three years, she finally made the decision to forego a law degree to pursue a Master's in art, instead. It was this path that eventually led to teaching.

When she isn't playing music, seeing the latest Indie film or finding mischief with her very large and diverse group of friends, Marcy Henry writes. She tells the stories that, often, go untold. She provides valuable lessons about body positivity and activism, and does her part to entertain and educate tomorrow's leaders.

"I love to encourage people to be authentic. Find an authentic voice and use that voice to bring positivity, progress and curiosity into the world. Look at the things that unite us and be supportive of each other," said Henry.



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2003 TOYOTA PRIUS BASE ONE OWNER - CLEAN - LOADED.....	\$7,960
2003 TOYOTA CAMRY 4DR SDN LE AT ONE OWNER - WELL MAINTAINED - MUST SEE.....	\$8,558
2005 SCION TC 2DR LIFTBACK MT AUTOMATIC - FULL POWER.....	\$8,642
2006 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT FAMILY FUN FOR UNDER 10K!.....	\$8,993
2006 SCION XB 5DR SDN 5 SPEED - CLEAN IN AND OUT.....	\$9,873
2005 DODGE DURANGO SLT 4WD, LOW MILES & LOW PRICE!.....	\$9,963
2005 VOLVO V70 2.5T A LEATHER - MOONROOF - KEYLESS ENTRY.....	\$10,861
2006 TOYOTA CAMRY 4DR SDN ALL TOYOTA QUALITY - LOW LOW MILES.....	\$11,704

2007 FORD FIVE HUNDRED LMT EXTRA CLEAN - WELL MAINTAINED.....	\$11,760
2009 CHRYSLER SEBRING TOURING SUMMERS HERE - AUTOMATIC - DROP TOP.....	\$11,972
2006 CADILLAC DTS 4DR SDN SUPER SHARP - VERY CLEAN - VOGUES.....	\$12,270
2005 TOYOTA AVALON 4DR SDN TOUR AT EXTRA CLEAN - NEWER TIRES - ONE OWNER.....	\$12,897
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Activists talk 'Butch Careers and Femme Follies'

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

About 30 people attended "Memories of the (Ongoing) Revolution: Butch Careers and Femme Follies" featuring longtime couple Esther Newton and Holly Hughes at the University of Chicago May 23.

The LGBTQ Studies Project at the University of Chicago's Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality sponsored the event.

The project, according to its website, "organizes research projects and conferences and provides fellowships to graduate students. It provides an interdisciplinary locus for Chicago faculty and graduate students who study the historical, cultural, and textual construction of LGBTQ identities, cultures and politics; analyze those formations or the dominant culture and social theory from the perspective of queer theory."

A graduate of the University of Chicago (UChicago), Newton is an author and lecturer in women's studies and American culture at the

University of Michigan. Hughes is a writer, performer and associate professor at the University of Michigan in art and design, theater and drama, and women's studies.

Lauren Berlant, director of the LGBTQ Studies Project, introduced both Newton and Hughes.

Prior to reading from her autobiography *My Butch Career*, Newton shared stories about her mother, Virginia, who left UChicago three credits shy of graduating in the 1930s; her father took her out of school after she was outed as a member of the Communist Party. Newton's mom was also very active in the emerging civil-rights movement.

Newton shared photos of her mother and herself with their respective dogs and noted that they shared a love of pure bread dogs and dog shows. Reading from her memoir, Newton described her childhood spent around pure bread dogs. "The contradiction [of loving pure bread dogs] doesn't escape me and is as much a part of me as my mixed-up heritage [she is part Northern European by way of her mother and Jewish



From left: Holly Hughes, Esther Newman and Lauren Berlant. Photo by Tracy Baim

by way of her father]. Whether or not this should be true, it is certainly not something I would've conscientiously chosen. Pure bread dogs give me more pleasure than mixed breed ones," said Newton.

"I married into dogs," said Hughes about her life with Newton. Then Hughes performed a spoken word piece "Too Much Sky" that she previously performed at the Moth Mainstage. The piece chronicles her role in the NEA 4 (National Endowment for the Arts) case and her story as an emerging artist in 1980s New York City. Hughes spoke of attending the New York Feminist Art

Institute which was just a series of empty rooms that they furnished by way of dumpster diving for discarded furniture and other objects. "I think this was an important moment in my life, my artwork and my political philosophy of taking this stuff [out of the dumpsters] and making artwork out of it," said Hughes.

Hughes said she realized she could not keep asking her friends to help her for free. This is what led to her apply for an emerging artist grant through the NEA. At the same time, Hughes explained, the impact of AIDS was causing dramatic changes in the gay community, and conservatives were going after queer culture.

The AIDS crisis "makes queer, marginalized people visible," said Hughes. As a result of this visibility the government "decides to go after art ... and passes a law banning the NEA from funding what they call gay or homoerotic art," said Hughes. Hughes recounted that although she and the rest of the NEA 4 (Karen Finley, Tim Miller and John Fleck) were eventually awarded NEA funding through lower court rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the ruling. Meanwhile, the NEA stopped funding individual artists due to pressure from Congress.

During the Q&A session, an audience member asked whether LGBTQ people in previous generations were more united across other classification boundaries. Hughes said there were race and class divisions among LGBTQ people in the past, however there was a sense of being a part of an outlaw world among all LGBTQ people. Newton added that she didn't come out to any straight people when she was in college, preferring a separate world where she was out.

See www.hollyhughesperformance.com and gendersexuality.uchicago.edu/projects/lqsp.

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DIVER from page 10

He was 16 at the time and two months before he was set to leave for Seoul, Castillo was told he wouldn't be going due to a financial crisis in Venezuela's Olympic sports community.

Castillo was devastated and angry; he then stopped practicing. He was planning to retire from the sport for good. But, behind his back, his mom and his coach were seeking alternative routes, financially, to get to the Games.

Two weeks before the Games started, Castillo was told that, yes, he was going.

In protest, Castillo chose not to wear the Venezuela colors at the Opening Ceremony or while diving. "That was my personal decision, my way of protesting," he said.

Castillo ultimately finished 13th of about 40 in his event, and a first-hand memory of the sight, and long-lasting sound, of, arguably, the most memorable moment from those Summer Olympics. Of course, that was the near-tragedy involving Greg Louganis.

"When Greg hit his head [on the diving board,] that was like God hitting his head," Castillo said in reference to the adulation all divers carried for Louganis. "When he hit his head, it impacted everyone else's dives because there was Greg, and then the rest of us.

"Personally, Greg Louganis was such an inspiration to me."

Castillo's diving career also included winning multiple medals at the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago. He plans to dive next summer at the 2014 Gay Games in Cleveland. In fact, Gay TV On The Go is an official media partner for the 2014 Games, and Castillo said the station's on-site coverage will include a nightly recap show a la the Summer and Winter Olympics.

"I'm very excited for the 2014 Gay Games—for the overall event, as an athlete, and to celebrate my community," Castillo said.

CRIME

LGBTQs and the Criminal Legal System

OUT

When we talk about LGBTQ people and the courts today, we're often referring to the seemingly endless stream of LGBTQ victories coming out of judicial systems across the country.

But in the criminal courts, LGBTQ people have long faced a different reality. Perhaps nowhere has that been more visible than in Cook County,

historically a model for criminal legal systems throughout the country.

Next week will be the last in this series about how LGBTQ people get caught in the system and the challenges they face once there. We will continue to cover these issues after the series concludes.

Additional editing provided by William B. Kelley.

A Windy City Times Special Investigative Series: Week Four

Daniel Kirk: Out in the prosecutor's office

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Daniel Kirk characterizes his relationship with Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez quite simply: "From the moment I wake up in the morning and open my eyes, she's generally the first person I talk to, other than my partner, and when I go to sleep at night, she's the last person I talk to."

He has been chief of staff in Alvarez's office since 2008, when she was sworn in, and is her primary adviser in all matters. "My job is as varied as the state's attorney's job," he said. "Any subject she has to address, I'm going to have to address as well. That can range from charging decisions on a criminal case to dealing with the media to dealing with other units of government."

The Cook County state's attorney's office is the second-largest prosecutor's office in the United States, after Los Angeles. It prosecutes all crime violating state statutes that takes place in Cook County—about 34,000 felonies and 190,000 misdemeanors each year. The office also has a civil division that represents the county in lawsuits.

"If we were a law firm, we would be the largest law firm in the state of Illinois and one of the largest in the United States," Kirk said.

While attending Chicago-Kent College of Law, Kirk decided he wanted to be a prosecutor. He applied with the state's attorney's office after graduation and was hired as an assistant state's attorney in 1997, working his way from unit to unit. Alvarez was his boss when he was in the narcotics bureau.

He left the office in 2002. "I went to a firm downtown, Querrey & Harrow, and got hired as an associate," said Kirk. "I really learned a whole other area of the law I wasn't familiar with—quite frankly, I never thought I would leave."

But in 2008, State's Attorney Richard A. "Dick" Devine left office, and Alvarez contemplated running. Kirk, who'd remained in touch with her, encouraged Alvarez to run. She agreed to do so if he ran the campaign. After her election, she asked him to be her chief of staff.

"Five years later, here we are," he said. "It's very broad-ranging. I have a calendar that sets out what I'll do every day, but by the end of the day, that doesn't reflect what I actually did. There are a lot of emergent issues you can't anticipate. That's just the nature of our job."

Kirk has been out as gay professionally since the early 2000s. "The world had changed—I saw no reason to make any effort to conceal it," he said, adding that being open about being gay has probably made him a better lawyer. "I think that when you come to terms with who you are, it creates empathy for all sorts of people whom you may not have taken a moment to understand before."

Having some measure of control over how the state's attorney's office operates, Kirk said he has worked diligently to make sure that LGBT employees are comfortable working there. "It should be somewhere where everyone feels they have a place if they have a passion for public service and what it means to be a prosecutor," he added.

The state's attorney's office makes a number of outreach efforts to the LGBT community each year, both by participating in the National LGBT Bar Association's annual Lavender Law conference and by giving out the Pride Award selected by its LGBT Advisory Council.

According to Kirk, the agency takes its responsibilities to LGBT Cook County residents seriously as well. "LGBT citizens should know that they are going to be treated fairly by this office if they are a victim of a crime. Or, if they are a witness to a crime, they shouldn't feel any reticence about coming forward. We're going to take their case seriously and treat them with dignity and respect."

Prosecuting hate crimes is "obviously something near and dear," he said.

In 2011, Kirk pursued charges against three Evanston men who were accused of beating a man on the El because of his sexual orientation. The men were acquitted, however, after the judge questioned the reliability of the victim's testimony.

"When that [crime report] was brought to my attention, I personally took the case as the lead



Dan Kirk.

prosecutor at 26th and California," Kirk said. "Hate crimes need to be called out as such when they occur."

He also said he was not convinced that hate-crime legislation might have long-term negative effects by keeping perpetrators in prison longer.

"Sometimes the hate crime is not the highest crime the person is being charged with," Kirk said. "But a hate crime victimizes both the individual and the community. If you're a victim of a crime because of your perceived sexual orientation, not only have you been victimized, but your entire community is going to become aware of what happened to you, and that entire community will be caused to feel fear."

"I don't know of anyone spending a significant amount of additional time in prison because of that, but if they are, they earned it themselves," Kirk added.

In 2012, Alvarez's office decided that it would not fight a lawsuit filed against Cook County Clerk David Orr on behalf of a group of gay Illinoisans seeking the right to marry. The lawsuit presented a quandary since Orr and the state's attorney's office, which was tasked with defending him, both were in favor of allowing the residents to marry.

"We had to devise a legal strategy," Kirk said. "I remember it was on my mind all weekend. I

was walking my dogs, and I thought to myself, 'When someone files a complaint, the defendant has to file an answer, admitting or denying the articulated allegation, so why don't we just admit everything the plaintiffs allege in the complaint?'"

Alvarez and Kirk consulted with Orr, who agreed to simply admit that the charges in the complaint were true.

"Which then caused this panic among the anti-marriage-equality entities," Kirk said. "They feared that if we're going to just [lie] down on this thing, that creates marriage equality—but the catch is that it would create marriage equality only for Cook County. Ultimately, other parties intervened, and they're sort of carrying the torch for the other point of view."

Reflecting back on his work, Kirk said that working with people needing help was what drew him to being a prosecutor and remains the most satisfying component of his job.

"Of all the people in the criminal-justice system, the person who I think is the most sympathetic character is the victim," said Kirk. "As a prosecutor, you feel a deep sense of pride advocating for that character. The main focus is that you do something for someone who needs a legal voice and a skilled mind to get something for them that's intangible, and that's justice."

CRIME
OUT

For the Windy City Times
Crime Out series, see
articles posted here:

www.windycitymediagroup.com/gaynewsarticles.php?k=Crime

LGBT judges seek fairness on the bench

As part of our Windy City Times criminal justice series, we wanted to provide a look at the openly LGBT judges in the Chicago area. This region has come a long way since 1994, when Tom Chiola was elected as the first openly gay person to win any office in Illinois.

The Alliance of Illinois Judges is the professional networking

organization founded by the LGBT Judges of the Circuit Court of Cook County. It is open to all Judges (gay and straight) throughout the State of Illinois. While most of the LGBT Judges reside in Cook County, there is an openly gay judge in Kane County. For more information about the Alliance go to <http://theaij.com>.

Below is an alphabetical listing of the openly LGBT judges in this area. Some work in the civil courts, others in the criminal system. Note, Eileen Brewer chose not to have her photo with this article.

Eileen M. Brewer

Circuit Judge,
Circuit Court of Cook County
Law Division, Motion Judge

Brewer preferred not to be pictured due to the nature of her work.

Photos by Hal Baim, in addition to photos provided by the judges.



Cheryl D. Cesario

Associate Judge,
Circuit Court of Cook County
Probate Division



Tom Chiola

Retired after 15 years as Circuit
Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook
County



John G. Dalton

Circuit Judge, Circuit Court of Kane
County (16th Judicial District)
Civil Division



John H. Ehrlich

Circuit Judge,
Circuit Court of Cook County
Chancery Division



Sophia H. Hall

Presiding Judge, Circuit Court of
Cook County, Juvenile Justice and
Child Protection Department



Nancy Katz

Associate Judge, Circuit Court of
Cook County
Domestic Relations Division



Stuart Katz

Associate Judge,
Circuit Court of Cook County
Juvenile Justice Division



Patricia Logue

Associate Judge,
Circuit Court of Cook County
Domestic Relations Division



Noreen V. Love

Circuit Judge,
Circuit Court of Cook County
4th Municipal District



Mike McHale

Circuit Judge,
Circuit Court of Cook County
Criminal Division



Sebastian T. Patti

Presiding Judge,
Circuit Court of Cook County
Domestic Violence Division



Sherry Pethers

Circuit Judge,
Circuit Court of Cook County
1st Municipal District, Civil Litigation



Mary Colleen Roberts

Circuit Judge,
Circuit Court of Cook County
Criminal Division



Mary M. Rowland

Federal Magistrate Judge
United States District Court for the
Northern District of Illinois



Andrea M. Schleifer

Circuit Judge,
Circuit Court of Cook County
Domestic Relations Division



Colleen F. Sheehan

Circuit Judge,
Circuit Court of Cook County
Juvenile Justice Division



James E. Snyder

Associate Judge,
Circuit Court of Cook County
1st. Municipal District, Supervising
Judge, Civil Jury Division



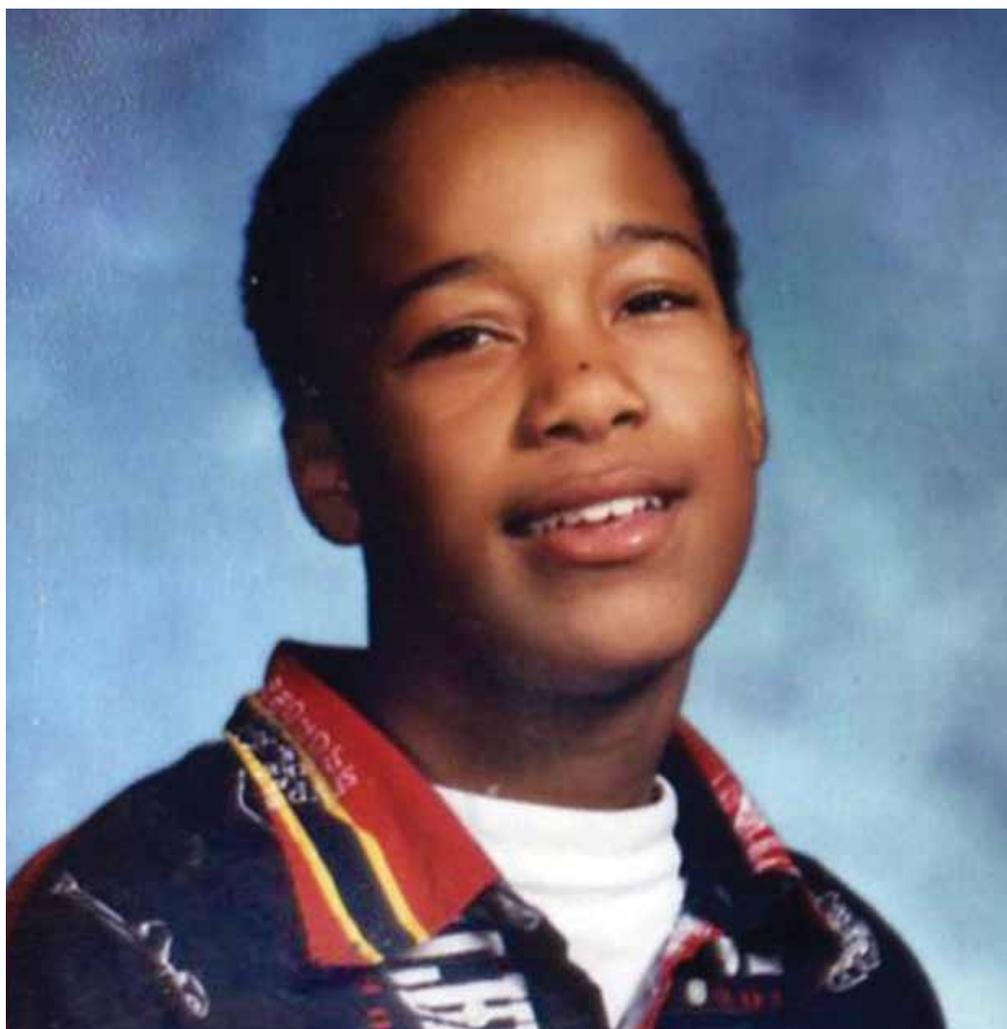
Mary Susan Trew

Associate Judge,
Circuit Court of Cook County
Domestic Relations Division



Lori M. Wolfson

Associate Judge,
Circuit Court of Cook County
Juvenile Justice Division



Left: Sakia Gunn, killed May 2003 in Newark, NJ. Right: Mark Carson, killed May 2013 in New York City.

Remembering Sakia Gunn:

The news coverage and homophobic murder

BY REV. IRENE MONROE

This May 11 marked the tenth anniversary of the murder of Sakia Gunn of Newark, N.J. And her murder is mired, at best, by myths and, at worst, malicious intent.

Depending, however, on the LGBTQ circles you run in and where you get your news, you may or may not know who she was. For many, Gunn was and still is a small blip on the gay and national news radar screen.

While a nation cried out in horror in 1998 over the brutal killing of Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old white gay male student at the University of Wyoming, and the murder of Teena Brandon, a 21-year-old white Nebraskan transgender man (the inspiration for the 1999 movie *Boys Don't Cry*) untold numbers of hate crimes against LGBTQ people of color not only went unreported in mainstream papers, but they rarely saw the light of day in queer ones as well.

Gay and national media have also paid attention to homophobic bullying. The bullying that led to the suicide of LGBTQ youth was on its way to becoming a national epidemic. For example, in the month of September 2010, nine teen suicides were tied to sexual orientation or gender expression, highlighting the disproportionate bullying of our LGBTQ kids and those perceived to be LGBTQ.

One of the suicides that September was that of 18-year-old Rutgers University freshman Tyler Clementi. Clementi jumped to his death from the George Washington Bridge after finding out that his college roommate and another classmate had secretly used a webcam to broadcast his sexual encounters with another male, highlighting the dangers of “cyberbullying”—teasing, harassing, or intimidating with pictures or words distributed online or via text message. The story of Clementi’s suicide, and the many others that happened that month, went viral and saturated the media.

However, the suicide of Joseph Jefferson, a

26-year-old African-American activist for LGBTQ youth, went largely unnoticed.

“I could not bear the burden of living as a gay man of color in a world grown cold and hateful towards those of us who live and love differently than the so-called ‘social mainstream,’” Jefferson posted on his Facebook page the day he killed himself.

Issues of race, gender identity, and sexual orientation trigger a particular type of news broadcasting on major network channels. With many of these network channels’ objective to provide viewers with “infotainment” rather than fair and balanced reporting, discerning television viewers—straight and gay—are most often incensed and insulted by the news than informed by it.

Case in point: in 2007 *The O’Reilly Factor* with Bill O’Reilly on FOX News, which is one of today’s highest-rated talked shows, tipped its scales on purportedly delivering fair and balanced reporting. The O’Reilly Factor carelessly brought defamatory news to its viewers about an allegedly nationwide epidemic of Black lesbian gang violence terrorizing neighborhoods and schools in large urban enclaves across the country.

According to Rod Wheeler, FOX News crime analyst, these Black lesbian gangs recruit and force kids into homosexuality. “There is this national underground network, if you will, Bill, of women that’s lesbian and also some men groups that’s actually recruiting kids as young as 10 years old in a lot of the schools in communities across the country,” Wheeler told host Bill O’Reilly on the show.

And the notorious Black lesbian gang, “Dykes Taking Over” was purportedly a pedophilic gang carrying weapons and violently attacking and raping girl victims they recruited. “As a matter of fact, some of the kids have actually reported that they were actually forced into you know, performing sex acts and doing sex acts with some of these people,” Wheeler continued.

Although Bill O’Reilly had to apologize for

the egregious errors and lies about a national epidemic of Black lesbian gangs coming after female children, the story had nonetheless achieved the desired goal of “info-taining” its audience by perpetuating both frighteningly racist and homophobic stereotypes.

“We overstated the extent of gay gangs in the Washington Area Detective Wheeler has apologized,” Bill O’Reilly stated on his show.

However, the story about this purportedly increasing trend of Black lesbian gangs terrorizing the neighborhoods and schools across the country derives from a myth affixed to the Sakia Gunn murder.

The real story about Sakia Gunn is that on the morning of May 11, 2003, Sakia Gunn, 15, was stabbed to death when she and her girlfriends rebuffed the sexual overtures of two African-American men by disclosing to them that their disinterest was simply because they were all lesbians.

Around 3:30 a.m. Gunn and a group of her girlfriends, ages 15-17, were taking a train from Greenwich Village, a noted LGBTQ enclave in New York City, to Newark. While waiting for the bus two African-American men in a white station wagon harassed the girls. “At some point during their interaction, they made their sexual orientation known. They made it clear that they weren’t interested,” Lt. Derek Glenn, a spokesman for the Newark Police Department, told the Associated Press.

Incensed that the girls rebuffed them—and by lesbians no less—the two assailants reportedly jumped out of their car and got into a scuffle with the girls.

Stabbed by one of the men, Gunn dropped to the ground and died shortly after arriving at University Hospital in Newark.

Not enough is ever accurately reported about hate crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people of color, and how issues of race, gender identity, and sexual orientation trigger the type of violence against

them. Nor are the reasons for the silence around such violence often explored.

The first reason is the “politics of silence” in LGBTQ communities of color to openly report these kinds of attacks unless it results in death (such as happened May 18 with the murder of Mark Carson, 32, a Black gay man, in New York City*). With being openly queer and often estranged if not alienated from our communities of color, reporting attacks against us by other people of color can make victims viewed as race traitors. And because of the “politics of silence” that run rampant in our LGBTQ communities of color we end up colluding in the violence against us.

The second reason has a lot to do with the dearth of LGBTQ reporters of color writing for both straight and queer white media. Those papers and television networks sensitive to race issues but don’t have LGBTQ people of color working at them, often engage in the “politics of avoidance” and won’t broach the topic for fear that the paper won’t bring the right angle or sensitivity to the topic. With the objective of newspapers and networks to report the news, those media that engage in the “politics of avoidance” when it comes to people of color do a disservice not only to the profession, but also to the entire LGBTQ community.

The third reason has a lot to do with the media view the topic of violence and people of color as synonymous. With such a skewed view, for these newspaper and networks, there is no news to report. And if so, it’s both defamatory and sensationalize.

In 2011, Gunn’s story inspired the musical *One Girl’s Story*. I’m hoping future new reporting will inspire better coverage on us girls like Sakia.

[* In New York City May 20, thousands of protesters of anti-gay violence held a march in Greenwich Village that began at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center and ended at the site where Mark Carson, 32, was fatally shot May 18, according to *The New York Times*. The police filed murder and weapons charges against Elliot Morales, 33, who was arraigned in Manhattan Criminal Court. However, *Advocate.com* reported that multiple attacks on gay men, including nightlife promoter Dan Contarino, occurred in the city hours after the rally.]

Florida lesbian teen won't take plea on sex crime charge

BY YASMIN NAIR

A Sebastian, Fla., teenager is being charged with a crime that could potentially place her on the state's sex offender registry. At the same time, some publicly disseminated statements about her case appear to be inaccurate.

The Indian River County state attorney's office arrested Kaitlyn Hunt, now 18 years old, on a charge of "lewd and lascivious battery of a child 12 to 16 years of age" because of her relationship with a younger woman. The charges are that Hunt was in a sexual relationship with a minor, then aged 14, starting in 2012.

On Friday, May 24, the lawyers for Kaitlyn Hunt sent out a statement that their client "is choosing not to accept the current plea offer by the State of Florida." The plea deal would have allowed her to avoid registering as a sex offender if she had agreed to plead guilty to lesser charges of child abuse; Colton had recommended two years of house arrest followed by a year's probation.

Refusing the plea offer means that the case will now go to trial. If Hunt is convicted of "lewd and lascivious battery," there is a possibility of her having to register as a sex offender, although she could be exempt from registration under the "Romeo and Juliet" exception.

The lawyers also pointed to the statutory nature of the crime: "If this incident occurred 108 days earlier when she was 17, we wouldn't even be here." They added, "Along with Kaitlyn and her family, we are going to fight to have the law changed so no other teenager finds themselves in this same position created by the State of Florida and prosecuted unfairly."

The case has recently gained attention from large numbers of people after Hunt's father, Steven Hunt, created a page on Facebook, "Free Kate," and then a petition on Change.org. The petition had already seen nearly 150,000 signatures at the time this went to press. The original goal was 1,406 signatures.

The public outrage has been fueled by a strong viral campaign, and the signatures of celebrities—the author Anne Rice and the actor Evan Rachel Wood. Most recently, the group Anonymous, famous for its online guerrilla-style take-downs of those it sees as needing to be held accountable, has apparently voiced its support. Press reports say the group has "vowed" to collect 200,000 signatures to demand that the officials in charge be made to resign.

The backlash against the state attorney's office, and against the parents of the younger person who made the original complaint, is a result of the case's being widely read as homophobic. Anonymous and several commenters on the petition insist that the prosecution is a result of "intolerance." The American Civil Liberties Union of Florida posted a statement about the matter at <http://aclufl.org/2013/05/21/aclu-of-florida-statement-on-prosecution-of-18-year-old-kaitlyn-hunt/>.

However, a Windy City Times investigation indicates that "facts" in the case have been misrepresented and that those misrepresentations have largely undergirded the criticisms of charging Hunt with a crime.

Furthermore, while there has been a furor about charging an 18-year-old for a consensual relationship and her possibly being placed on Florida's sex offender registry, there is less questioning or backlash against such registries' existence or their rationale.

The story of Kaitlyn Hunt first came to public attention a week ago when her parents began making the case to the press that their daughter had been singled out by her high school basketball coach for being involved with the younger

student. Hunt had been arrested in February. Several news stories, based on her father's Facebook page's account, reported or led readers to believe that the younger student was 15 and that Hunt was arrested on or after her 18th birthday.

On May 19, someone identifying himself as Hunt's uncle, Andrew Kenneth Gay, attempted to correct the misinformation that he said was floating around. On the Facebook page "Free Kate," he wrote, "We are not arguing that Kate is being prosecuted by the State of Florida because of her sexual orientation. The law is the law, but the law is unjust. Many 18-year-old men have also been unjustly prosecuted for dating under-age girls in their high schools. We are arguing that it is unfair to expect high school students in the same school not to fraternize. It certainly shouldn't be grounds for criminal prosecution."

Gay also stated that Hunt turned 18 in August 2012. He wrote, "As much as we want your support, we also want to keep things accurate and free of exaggeration, even when it engenders sympathy."

Still, at the time of this article's going to press, Steven Hunt's petition insists that "Kaitlyn's girlfriend's parents are pressing charges because they are against the same-sex relationship, even though their daughter has stated that this is a consensual relationship. The two girls began dating while Kaitlyn was 17 but her girlfriend's parents blamed Kaitlyn for their daughter's homosexuality. They waited until after Kaitlyn turned 18 and went to the police to have charges brought against her."

In an interview with WCT, State Attorney Bruce Colton said the complaint did originate with the parents of the younger person, who went to the sheriff's office. From there, "law enforcement did an investigation and confirmed that under the law the defendant had violated a felony statute and got an arrest warrant and arrested her."

Asked if that was after she turned 18, Colton responded, confirming Gay's words, "That's one of the pieces of misinformation going around. She was 18 before this relationship began, before she started talking to this young lady. She turned 18 in August of 2012."

He continued, "Based on the law enforcement investigation, they started talking with each other in September or October 2012, in school, and started a sexual relationship in November or December. So she was already 18 and considered an adult under the law when they began even talking to each other."

Colton added, "It's been reported the victim was 15. The picture that's been painted is that this was a 17-year-old and a 15-year-old. It's actually an 18-year-old and a 14-year-old. The victim was 14 at the time this began and was 14 throughout. She did not turn 15 until two months after the arrest."

About the nature of the investigation, Colton said that "they interviewed the victim and they interviewed the defendant and they looked at text messages. There was a controlled phone call [legal under Florida law, and not a wiretapping]. The victim, with her parents present and along with law enforcement, made a call to the defendant, and that call was recorded. In that phone call, the defendant talked about the sexual relationship."

Many of the press reports and Steven Hunt's petition state that the now-15-year-old was against filing charges. Asked about that, Colton responded, "I really don't know what she's saying in that regard, but the victim is a minor, and in this case, like any criminal case, while the victim is taken into consideration, the victim's wishes aren't what necessarily control the outcome of the case."

He expanded on the issue of consent: "It was a consensual relationship, but the law specifically states that consent by the victim is not a defense for this crime. When the legislature made the law, its purpose was to protect children from being influenced by older adults, so consent was specifically put in there as not being a defense."

Asked what he thought of the public response, Colton said, "I have no real response—it doesn't change anything. The problem I have with the public response is that many of the people who are making this response are under the impression that this had been an ongoing relationship from the time that they were both juveniles. That's not true. And also the misinformation is that this case is only being prosecuted because they're gay, which has absolutely nothing to do with it."

Colton emphasized that "at no time" was his office told that the parents' main objection was

As WCT's prior coverage has reported, such instances—of teens placed on sex offender registries, or even of adults charged with a crime for consensual sexual relationships they may have had with minors just two or three years younger than they at the time—are in fact very common. LGBTQ people are particularly prone to being watched and criminalized both for their presence in Internet chat rooms devoted to porn and for "public" sex—both are common activities among straight people, but LGBTQ people in particular tend to be targeted.

Contrary to claims that Hunt's case would never have arisen if she or the other person had been male, instances of such arrests among heterosexuals are in fact so common that they are commonly referred to as "Romeo and Juliet" instances, referring to the fact that both parties were young at the time of the sexual encounter. There are even specific "Romeo and Juliet" exceptions to statutory rape laws in various states,



Florida teen Kaitlyn Hunt. Photo from her Facebook page

because the two are both female. He also stated that none of the facts indicated any reason to change the statute. Asked if there had been other instances where the perpetrator was an adult man and the victim a minor, Colton responded, "Absolutely, yes, I can't give you a number, but I can tell you we [the state attorney's office for the 19th Judicial Circuit, which includes Indian River County] cover a four-county area. We don't have as many as we do burglaries or thefts, but we do have them on a somewhat regular basis, cases like this, of hetero relationships, and even gay relationships. Those are far fewer, but we do have cases of this nature."

At this point in time, if Hunt is convicted of the charges that have been brought against her, she would have to register as a sex offender. Additionally, she faces anywhere from 7-1/2 to 15 years in prison.

But, said Colton, "if the judge withholds adjudication of guilt, then she can petition the court to be exempted from registration as a sex offender [under the state's "Romeo and Juliet" law]. But we've offered a plea in this case that would eliminate all of that, that hasn't been accepted or rejected yet."

He added, "The media is presenting the case as if we have two young kids in love who are in love and are being persecuted—which isn't the case, but that doesn't sell papers."

WCT tried repeatedly to get in touch with the Hunt family and Kaitlyn Hunt's attorney. Their only response has been a statement that "[o]ur family is scared for our daughter Kate and are doing everything we can to prevent an unjust law from ruining her life Kaitlyn did nothing wrong and certainly nothing that warrants the type of punishment she faces." It added, "It's clear that people around the world feel our daughter is being unfairly prosecuted and that we really need to examine how these laws are negatively impacting young people in our country."

including Florida. These are designed to provide recourse to alleged perpetrators when the situation concerns consensual sex between minors or an adult 18 years and a minor 14-16 years of age.

WCT also contacted the ACLU's Florida office. In its statement published online, it said, "The ACLU of Florida condemns the prosecution of 18-year-old Kaitlyn Hunt. The facts as we understand them suggest that the state is prosecuting Kaitlyn for engaging in behavior that is both fairly innocuous and extremely common."

The ACLU also stated, "Application of this law to Kaitlyn's conduct is another example of the troubling trend in Florida and across the country of criminalizing teenagers." When WCT asked if the ACLU had a statement on the case or a statement on the merits of sex offender registries, it did not respond.

The ACLU also said it was not representing Hunt. However, hours later, A. Julia Graves, the attorney for Kaitlyn Hunt, sent out an email message echoing the ACLU statement almost exactly and stating that she is now working with the organization and with Equality Florida on the case.

In her email, Graves said, "It is my hope that Kaitlyn will be able to move forward with her life and an important dialogue begins in this nation about adolescent relationships and the age of consent regardless of sexual orientation." She added, "Kaitlyn and her parents have been given until Friday [May 24] to decide whether to go to trial and have the most intimate details of the relationship played out in public or to take a plea agreement that includes forever having a record even if adjudication is withheld. In addition with the sex offender conditions, Kaitlyn would be subjected to sitting in group counseling meetings with legitimate convicted sex offenders that the law was truly meant for."

WCT also called the Sebastian, Fla., school district office but did not receive a response.

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**REV.
IRENE
MONROE**

Tom Joyner's anti-gay message to the Black community

On May 1, Jason Collins, the 7'0" center for the Washington Wizards, and a former Boston Celtics, came out. His statement, "I'm a 34-year-old NBA center. I'm black. And I'm gay" made the cover story for the May 6 issue of *Sports Illustrated*.

On May 2, three Morehouse College basketball athletes were accused of raping an 18-year-old Spelman College student. The story didn't hit the airwaves as the Collins story.

Many in the African-American community were silent on both incidents because they view both as poxes on the community.

But for those who did speak out on what the African-American community's order of preference, focus and concern should be about—Collins' coming out story versus the Spelman rape—it, sadly, revealed where they stood in terms of valuing and devaluing members in the community.

"While too many of us were concentrating on an NBA player's sexuality despite the fact that most of the population had never heard of him, some much bigger news was transpiring. Four Morehouse athletes were arrested in connection with sexual assaults," Tom Joyner wrote in his May 3 op-ed, "Reading, Writing and Rape? Sexual Assaults on Campuses Must End" on his nationally renown website "BlackAmericaWeb.com."

While Joyner is nowhere in the league of a Rush Limbaugh or a Rev. Rick Warren in terms of spewing homophobic vitriol, he isn't also just your run-of-the-mill homophobe. When Joyner

speaks, Black America is listening. He's the founder of Reach Media, the largest media platform reaching African-Americans in the country and the Caribbean. Joyner reaches as many African-American homes as does the Black church, and he does it more often—and some would say more effectively, too, because he's the nation's number-one syndicated urban radio jock. His jewel, "The Tom Joyner Morning Show," airs weekdays in more than 100 markets and reaches a listenership of more than 8 million—approximately one in four African-Americans.

While incidents of rape always need to be called out, as Joyner did, and addressed immediately, it shouldn't be brought to attention at the expense of denigrating another minority group within the same population, as Joyner also did.

But Joyner is not alone in his views concerning Collins' coming-out story and the Spelman rape.

Rather, he points to the ongoing struggle in the African-American community with its unresolved homophobia and misogyny that falls on the backs of its women and LGBTQ population, and how the Black community, like Joyner, pits one disenfranchised group against another.

Violence against both groups is an ongoing problem whether within the hallowed halls of one of America's historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) or on urban streets.

Morehouse College Office Of Communications released a statement that stated in part, "Morehouse has a zero tolerance policy related to violence of any kind. Violence is the very antithesis of the Morehouse ethos and the values of a Morehouse Man."

Morehouse is lauded as the jewel of Black academia. Founded two years after the end of the Civil War by William Jefferson White in the basement of Springfield Baptist Church in Augusta, Ga., Morehouse continues to confer degrees on more men of African descent than any institution of higher education in this country.

Morehouse's recent rape incident points to an ongoing problem on college campuses nationwide, especially among male athletes. And within this rape culture is also violence against its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) students as well. (It's one of the reasons why LGBTQ fear coming out, especially ath-



House-bound

Note: Dignity/Chicago sent the attached letter to a group of Catholic Illinois House Representatives to urge them to support the Marriage Equality Bill SB10.

Dignity/Chicago, the advocacy organization for LGBT Catholics, joins more than 250 religious leaders from across the state in support of marriage equality in Illinois.

As an authentic voice for LGBT and supportive Illinois Catholics for more than 40 years, Dignity/Chicago has been consistent in its mission to affirm the sanctity of same-sex relationships and all expressions of gender identity. We recognize that stable families are vital to a healthy society and believe that all of society benefits by enlarging the circle of those who can receive the rights and responsibilities of civil marriage. Dignity/Chicago, like the majority of Catholics, both lay people and clergy, believes that all couples and families that come together in love are "natural" families.

As a community rooted in the Catholic tradition, Dignity recognizes the sacred nature of the life-long commitment of marriage and we believe that religious organizations can and should bless and celebrate such unions for LGBT

VIEWPOINTS

letes on team sports. i.e. Collins)

And Morehouse has had its share of incidents.

For example, its highly publicized 2002 gay-bashing incident where a student sustained a fractured skull from his classmate, sophomore Aaron Price, and not surprisingly the son of an ultra-conservative minister. Price uncontrollably beat his victim on the head with a baseball bat for allegedly looking at him in the shower.

In the 1980s and 1990s it was more dangerous to be openly gay and bisexual on Morehouse's campus than it was on the streets in Black neighborhoods.

Jafari Sinclair Allen, a professor at University of Texas, was an openly gay student at Morehouse in the late 1980s and early 1990s. He recalls fleeing campus one evening after a forum to address homophobia turned violently homophobic. And throughout the 1990's Morehouse was listed on the Princeton Review's top 20 homophobic campuses.

Collins coming out story is good news especially in light of the Spelman rape because both women and LGBTQ people are frequent subjects of violence in our community.

Joyner's derisive comment about Collins reminds me of Morehouse sophomore Aaron Price's bat-wielding incident, because Joyner's remark serves as a reminder of how frequently LGBTQ people of African descent are figuratively as well and physically bashed on the head by members of our community who deliberately want to strike out our existence.

Since its inception in 1867 Morehouse College is noted as the bastion of Black male leadership and masculinity. Embodying W. E.B. DuBois's theory of "The Talented Tenth," where "exceptional Black men" would be the ones to lead the race, Morehouse College has produced unquestionably a pantheon of noted Black men; its most famous alumnus Martin Luther King, Jr., graduated from Morehouse in 1948

And its alums maintain the "Morehouse mystique" the college is renowned for—"images of strong Black men."

And as strong Black men they need to both stop violating women and beating up on LGBTQ men.

LETTERS

people, as we have done throughout our forty-year history. However, the issue at hand is civil marriage, a matter we believe is about extending the rights and responsibilities of the marriage contract to same-sex couples by the state of Illinois. We strongly support this expansion of equality in our state.

We recognize that our position is in opposition to that of our church hierarchy. But polls show that the majority of lay Catholics support opening civil marriage to LGBT couples. For lay Catholics and for many religious, this is an issue of justice and an issue of family. While we respect the right of Cardinal George and other religious leaders to speak out in opposition to marriage equality for same-sex couples, their position does not reflect the full truth on this issue. It does not reflect the lived experience of LGBT couples in committed relationships, nor the experience of their families.

Dignity Chicago calls upon all people of good faith to join with us in affirming a just and caring society that recognizes the rights of all people, including those in committed same-sex relationships. We call on our legislators to support passage of the Illinois Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, which grants the full legal and societal recognition that same-sex couples seek in justice and in support of their families.

To borrow a quote from Cardinal George, we also believe that, "This proposed legislation will have long term consequences because laws teach; they tell us what is socially acceptable and what is not..." Indeed this is true and Dignity/Chicago hopes that most people will learn through this law that LGBT families are not "less than," but are rather full members of our society with all the rights and responsibilities that entails.

For more information about Dignity's support of same-sex marriage from a Catholic perspective, please visit www.dignityusa.org.

As independent organizations created to support LGBT Catholics and our families and friends, DignityUSA and Dignity/Chicago envision and work for a time when LGBT Catholics are affirmed and experience dignity through the integration of their spirituality with their sexuality, and, as beloved persons of God, participate fully in all aspects of life within the Church and society. We minister through education, advocacy and worship and believe that same-sex relationships are loving, life-giving and life-affirming.

We urge you to vote in favor of SB10 and allow same-sex couples to be fully recognized in the state of Illinois.

Christopher Pett
 President, Dignity/Chicago

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

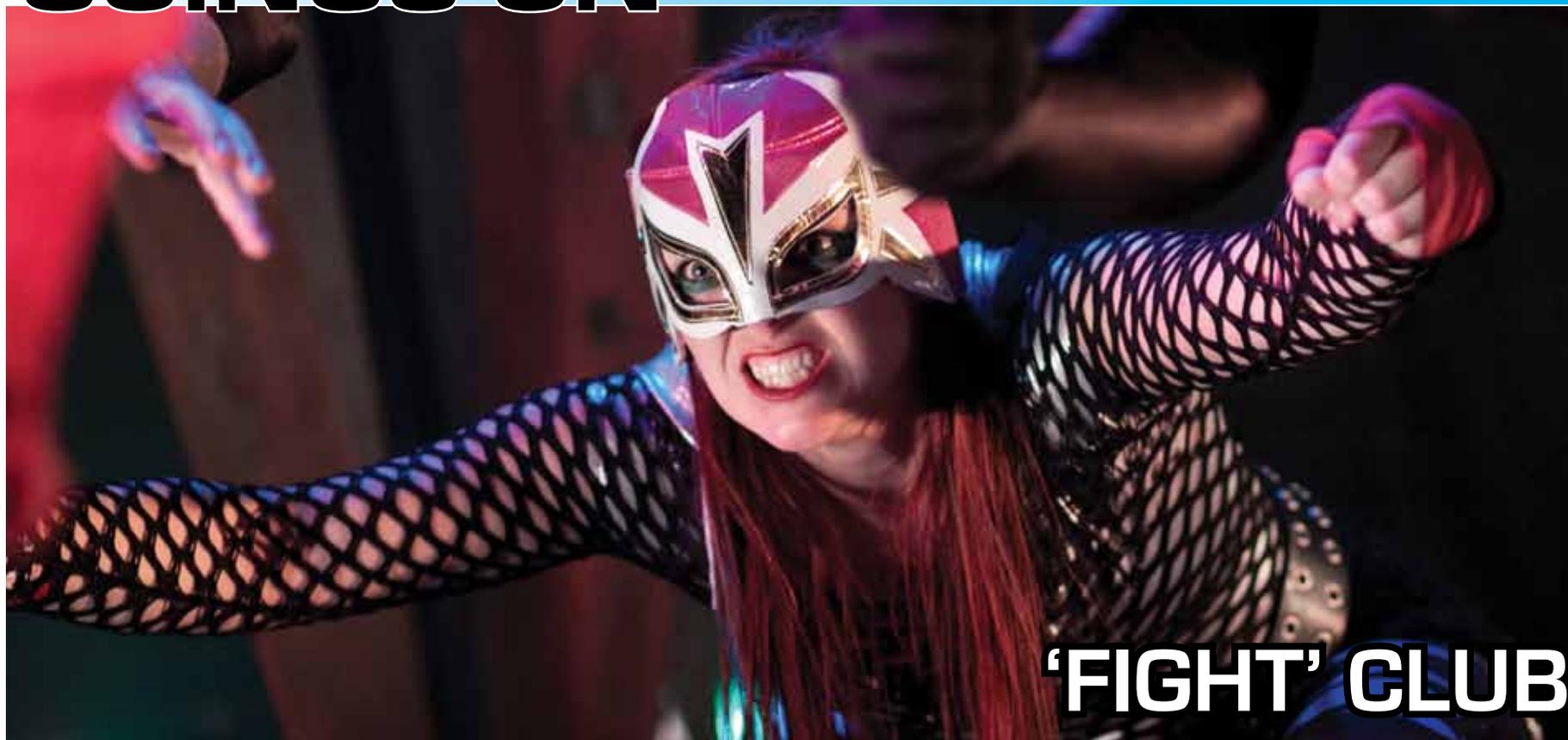


Photo by Johnny Knight

'FIGHT' CLUB

Windy City Times reviews the production Fight Girl Battle World on page 20.

DISH

Shellfish endeavor.
Page 30

PR photo of oysters at Vu Sua



BOOKS

Getting a read on.
Page 32Photo of Judith Markowitz at Lambda
Literary reading by Tracy Baim

SPORTS

Tree and easy.
Page 29Photo of Tree Rollins
from Chicago Sky

SUMMER THEATER

No summer
'learning loss' in
Chicago theater

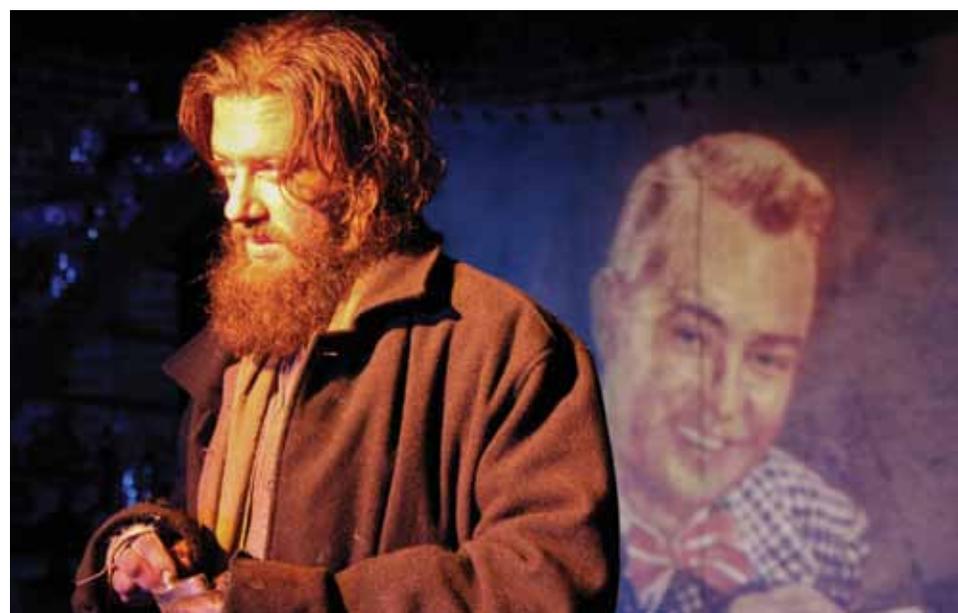
BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Summer theater is traditionally lightweight: fluffy comedies, chirpy musicals—even Shakespeare comes on picnic grounds. Not in Chicago, though. Oh, the 2013 schedule includes nostalgic tune-filled revues like Theo Ubique's double-header **Cole Porter Songbook** at the No Exit (June 6-July 21; 800-595-4847) and **Smokey Joe's Cafe** at the Royal George (through June 30; 312-988-9000) along with minimal-stress fare like Lifeline's **The Three Musketeers** (June 10-July 21; 773-761-4477), Black Fox's **The Brothers Beckett** at the Athenaeum (June 6-30) and Eclipse's **Bedroom Farce** (directed by Nick Sandys, on loan from Remy Bumppo, also playing at the Athenaeum July 28-Sept. 1; 773-935-0860). What's noteworthy about the outlook for the skillet-temps season, however, is the number of star appearances, premiere productions and heavyweight classics braving the warm weather.

Headlining the big-timers home from Hollywood are William Peterson, returning to portray the expat dad of a teenage girl in **Slowgirl** at Steppenwolf (July 31-Aug. 25; 312-335-1650), and Michael Shannon, teaming up with his long-time scene partner Guy Van Swearingen at Red Orchid for some harness-racing flimflam in **Simpatico** (July 8-Aug. 24; 312-943-8722). You can still see Rhea Perlman in the world premiere of Bruce Graham's **Stella & Lou** at Northlight

through June 9 (847-673-6300). Veteran Big Shoulders playwright Keith Huff premieres his latest grit-and-spit Chicago-noir drama, titled **Big Lake, Big City**, at Lookingglass through Aug. 11 (312-337-0665). Luis Alfaro, author of the 2012 mean-streets **Oedipus El Rey**, reimagines Colchean queen Medea as an undocumented immigrant seeking refuge in Pilsen for **Mojada** at Victory Gardens (July 22-Aug. 11; 773-871-3000). Steppenwolf's other auditorium houses **Belleville**, Amy Herzog's tale of Americans likewise adrift in foreign lands (July 6-Aug. 25; 312-335-1650).

It's not all new plays: Mary-Arrchie's late-winter sleeper production of **The Glass Menagerie**, after having to turn away eager crowds from the Angel Island loft, reopens at Theater Wit to run through June 30 (773-975-8150). House Theater brings back its perennial crowd-pleasing **Death and Harry Houdini**, starring dazzlemaster Dennis Watkins, June 30-Aug. 11 (773-278-1500), and Wayward Productions extends its innovative motorcycle-gang **Richard III**—now featuring Carlo Lorenzo Garcia as Richard and Jude Roche as Buckingham—at The Den through June 29 (866-468-3401). Freshly-mounted classics include racial-bending repertory stagings of Moliere's **Misanthrope** (through June 9) and **Tartuffe** (June 20-July 14) at Court Theatre (773-753-4472) and Timeline's production of Lorraine Hansberry's American classic, **A Raisin in the**

Hans Fleischmann in Mary-Arrchie Theatre Co.'s production of *The Glass Menagerie*. Photo by Emily Schwartz

Sun, to start off its fall line-up (Aug. 20-Nov. 17; 773-281-8463).

Moving out into the neighborhoods, theatergoers can still find plenty to exercise their brains: For those who didn't get enough of khaki-clad soldiers with heavy accents in **Black Watch**, Signal Ensemble premieres **This Is War**, Hannah Moscovitch's account of Canadian troops in Afghanistan (Aug. 22-Sept. 28; 773-347-1350). Profiles presents the Midwest premiere of **In God's Hat**, Rhett Rossi's parable of two jailbird brothers (Aug. 23-Oct. 13; 773-549-1815) while just up the street, Mary-Arrchie—back on its home turf—revives **Uncle Bob**, Austin Pendleton's controversial tale of an elderly AIDS-infected recluse and his self-destructive young nephew (June 13-July 21; 773-871-9442). Speaking of elders, Don Bender and Vincent Lonergan, two of the storefront circuit's most popular—let's just say—*mature* leading men, will

put their gray heads together for the premiere of Sherod Santos' **Lives of the Pigeons** at the Side Project (June 2-30; 773-340-0140).

Even the musicals (listed in more detail elsewhere) are more ambitious than standard seasonal repertoire, Boho Theatre delving into survival tactics of prisoners in **Kiss of the Spider Woman** (June 1-30) and Haven Theatre examining transgender identity issues in **Hedwig and the Angry Inch** (July 5-Aug. 11), both playing at Theater Wit (773-975-8150). Black Ensemble's **Ain't No Cryin' The Blues**—starring the charismatic Rick Stone—pays homage to the late Howlin' Wolf (June 9-Aug. 11; 773-769-4451), as **Othello: The Remix** continues its hip-hop tragedy at Chicago Shakespeare to June 15 (312-595-5600). Finally, look for Mary Zimmerman's adaptation of **The Jungle Book** at the Goodman (June 21-Aug. 4; 312-443-3800) to brim over with surprise and wonder.

Peter Oylo in *Reverb*. Photo by Jan Ellen Graves

THEATER REVIEW

Reverb

Playwright: Leslye Headland

At: Redtwist Theater, 1044 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

Tickets: 773-728-7529;

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

Runs through: June 23

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The rock-and-roll ethos is a romantic one (we are told), so at first it's easy to mistake Dorian for just another pasty-faced young singer/songwriter exploiting the myth. We soon learn that his pain is genuine, stemming from a childhood marked by a mother who abandoned her family, leaving her son to protect his little sister from their abusive father. Dorian's muse, June (the "June Gloom" of his song lyrics), also claims a broken home and crippling adolescent guilt as her legacy, rendering her the perfect match for a withdrawn boy enamored of, literally, beating himself up.

Well, doesn't art often flower in tainted soil? Dorian's fellow band-members may focus on their careers, courting coolhunters in their quest for that holy-grail recording contract, but Dorian's sister Lydia, having found peace and forgiveness in God, is out to save her brother's soul. The news that their hated sire is dying of a deservedly agonizing disease drives Dorian to further flight from his conflicting emotions, and when Lydia demands a catharsis following the funeral

("You might as well feel it now, and get it over with," she exhorts him), it does not come without risks.

Playwright Leslye Headland declares her play to be part of a series on the seven deadly sins, this one being "wrath," while Redtwist's publicity bills it a "darkly comic, brutal dissection," and pop-cult buffs can always view it as a satirical commentary on the necrophilic L.A. music scene. Ignore them all—the most compelling dramatic question we are asked to ponder is whether the phrase "*ars longa, vita brevis*" ("art is long, life is short") justifies everything, or, as a character asserts, "What you *are* is more important than what you *make*." And then there are the odds of having it both ways.

Walking the thin e-string between teen soap and gritty SoCal noir is an all-star storefront-circuit cast director Jonathan Berry assembles, featuring heroic performances from Peter Oylo and Mary Williamson as the star-twisted lovers, with intelligently uncondescending support from Brittany Burch as the born-again Lydia and Ashley Neal as the hipper-than-thou Ivy, flanked by Chris Chmelik and an almost-unrecognizable Nick Vidal as nerdy sidemen Shane and Hank. The tech is uniformly first-rate, but note especially Ryan Bourque, currently nominated for a Jeff, whose smack-and-throttle choreography for the desperado lovers delivers skin-stinging battery without ever endangering spectators seated barely inches away. (Guitar enthusiasts are also warned that a Gibson Les Paul is mistreated horribly in the course of the action.)

THEATER REVIEW

Fight Girl
Battle World

Playwright: Qui Nguyen

At: InFusion Theatre Company

at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.

Tickets: 773-975-8150;

www.infusiontheatre.com; \$25

Runs through: June 16

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

A playwright affiliated with an existing theater company enjoys the luxury of an artistic staff already attuned to their resident wordsmith's literary voice. The disadvantage is that resident scribblers can grow lazy, writing scenarios rather than finished scripts, while trusting to the performers' familiarity with their author's aesthetic to bridge any gaps.

Qui Nguyen has forged his career on satirical action-movie parodies whose comic-book violence is a vehicle for serious social messages. The allegorical arc in this midwest premiere spoof of space opera epics, however, risks being obscured by a plethora of motifs: zoologically diverse standards of beauty (our babelicious heroine has never had a boyfriend, the reptilian community where she was raised finding humans "unattractive") and gender-bending aliens (a character who looks like a female earthling in every way is actually male). We also get cute androids with prissy English accents, starship dogfights, grotesque mutant villains, road-runner chases, and a

lesson in extraterrestrial cussing before the denouement reveals the purpose of it all.

This is a lot of metaphor to absorb in one sitting. (Did I mention the shout-out to Isaac Asimov? Or the lucha libre wrestling match with the many-eyed and tentacled wide-mouth monster?) It's better, instead, to suspend your disbelief across the board and embrace the spectacle offered by a dramatic genre where characters are shot multiple times, only to return unharmed in the next scene, assisted by a "flying" squad of black-clad koken and a stageside foley operator supplying aural punctuation. The endlessly inventive design team serves up a kaleidoscopic collage encompassing strobe lights, life-sized puppets, video projections, acrobatic combat, and a day-glo spandex wardrobe—courtesy of, respectively, Charles Cooper, Kimberly G. Morris, Rasean Davonte Johnson and Anna Henson, David Blixt and Rachel Sypniewski.

You wouldn't expect such a tech-heavy show to ask anything of its actors beyond the stamina and agility to stay the course to the end—certainly not the charm of the anime-adorable Sheila O'Connor and Zach Livingston as a reluctant couple assigned the task of preserving their species, nor the dry humor dispensed by their allies, Rob Grabowski, Kimberly Logan and Josh Hambrook (but look for the femme-and-butch dialectic of Elise Mayfield and Meredith Rae Lyons' gleefully "blarky" villainesses to steal the show). Anyway, it's summer, and if blasting rayguns, ass-kicking chicks and bug-eyed monsters dying in spasms like cockroaches is your cup of Casiopeia, this is your kind of entertainment.

THEATER REVIEW

The Misanthrope

Playwright: Moliere

At: Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Ave.

Tickets: 1-773-753-4472;

www.CourtTheatre.org; \$45-\$65

Runs through: June 9

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Director Charles Newell must be tired of reviews complimenting the insightful intelligence of his work. He's done it again with this lucid and visually rich staging of Moliere's 1666 play about a man too incorruptibly honest for his own good. Alceste (Erik Hellman), a gentleman of leisure, condemns hypocrisy and pretense wherever he finds it, and rejects the cordial falsehoods and politesse of well-bred society. As his reputation for candor grows, more people ask for his frank opinions only to be offended by his usually-correct judgments, which eventually cost him advancement at the royal court and his lover, Celimene (Grace Gealey). When she proves as frank and judgmental as he is, Alceste forgives her infidelity and proposes a life of well-heeled solitude with him, only to be rejected because Celimene enjoys her lively social life and the exercise of ridicule, both of which Alceste considers crushing burdens.

Many critics view Alceste as near-tragic, an obsessive character who refuses to compromise and who is as passionate as he can be scathing. But the play itself is a comedy, albeit a dark comedy, and what's missing from this production is laughter. It's not solemn and the pace is lively, but very little is played for comedy although there are opportunities to do so. There's plenty of wit and trenchant cleverness in Moliere's script, especially in Richard Wilbur's justly-acclaimed translation which brilliantly preserves Moliere's rhymed couplets, and it's delivered with force and passion (and linguistic mastery) by Hellman, Gealey and others, but it's not comedic passion even when it might be at no disservice to the play's more profound ideas.

The only performer who develops some of the comic possibilities is Allen Gilmore, a proven master of style, playing in drag as Arsinoe, a woman both devious and no-longer young. It's a matter of taste or opinion, of course, but I believe the exaggerations of situation and charac-



The Misanthrope. Photo by Michael Brosilow

ter in *The Misanthrope* can fall more forcibly on an audience if leavened with appropriate laughter, of which this company certainly is capable. Then again, perhaps I attended a performance with a serious-minded audience, which sometimes happens.

This production is drop-dead gorgeous with design elements split between classical France and contemporary times. The lines of Jacqueline Firkins' costumes—all of them in black with extravagant gold trim—feature ruffles and lace coupled with goth-rock and military flourishes. John Culbert's thrust set of ebonized woods and furniture is deep, glossy and luxurious and will be utilized for Moliere's *Tartuffe* opening in June, also directed by Newell.

Tartuffe employs physical comedy as well as comedic dialogue to leaven a message far bit-terer than *The Misanthrope*. It will be interesting to see if Newell really uncorks the farce elements.

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WRITERS' THEATRE

About Face's 'The Pride' June 6

About Face Theatre will kick off LGBTQ Pride Month with the Chicago premiere of the Olivier Award-winning drama *The Pride* by Alexi Kaye Campbell June 6-July 13 at Victory Gardens Richard Christiansen Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

Artistic Director Bonnie Metzgar will direct.

"The Pride maps the progression of the gay-rights movement from the repression of the fifties to the freedom of today through the fate of two twisted love tri-

angles," according to a press release. Tickets are \$15 (students)-\$30; visit www.aboutface theatre.com or call 773-871-3000.



SPOTLIGHT



Previously seen at North Central College in Naperville, Organic Theater Company brings its recent productions of Alexander Camus' *Caligula* and Slawomir Mrozek's *The Emigrants* in to Chicago. Director Alexander Gelman helms both productions, the first which is Camus' introspective drama about an inexperienced and pliable emperor, while Mrozek's dark two-man comedy concerns impoverished exiles alternately hoping for and pessimistically picturing a return to their homeland. Organic Theater Company's productions of *Caligula* and *The Emigrants* play in repertory now through Sunday, July 7, at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. Tickets are \$19; call 773-404-7336, or visit www.organictheater.org or www.greenhousetheater.org. Photo from *The Emigrants* courtesy of Organic Theater Company.



The cast of *Lipstick Goes on Last*. Photo by Ron Larson Jr.

THEATER REVIEW *Lipstick Goes on Last*

Playwrights: Cheryl Thomas, Gary Malinowski and Kathleen Lawlor

At: 3 Squares Productions and Richard Pryor Jr. at Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Tickets: www.lipstickgoesonlast.com; \$30
Runs through: June 23

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Someone should ask the three playwrights behind the world-premiere play *Lipstick Goes on Last* these important questions:

Is *Lipstick Goes on Last* supposed to be a campy, adultery-filled sex farce set in the late 1970s? Or is it meant to be a tender Lifetime TV-style movie drama dealing with a mother's destabilizing alcoholism and a conflicted 13-year-old girl who wants more independence and a happier home life?

Are we supposed to laugh at all the male characters' rampant and deceitful bisexuality (complete with dated visual jokes equating homosexuality with cross-dressing and disco dancing), or be horrified by the end of the play at the prospect of the forthcoming AIDS crisis on the play's families?

And why has actor/co-producer Richard Pryor Jr. (son of the late, legendary comedian) decided to make *Lipstick Goes on Last* his Chicago stage debut when he only has a minor supporting part?

Now playing at the Den Theatre in a middling production directed by David Zak and Natalie Sallee, *Lipstick Goes on Last* feels about 20 years behind the curve when it comes to simultaneously poking fun at and feeling nostalgia for 1970s fads, slang and style. And though the play lasts just under 90 minutes without an intermission, its meandering pace and unfocused dramatic scenes make it feel much longer.

It's also annoying to spot all the anachronistic props and costume accessories throughout the show. Modern-day water bottles, Girl Scout cookie boxes and the prominent appearance of an early 1980s Rubik's Cube all take you out of the play's late 1970s setting, and make you question the choices of prop and wardrobe coordinator Kari Warning.

On the acting front, there isn't much to write home about since playwrights Cheryl Thomas, Gary Malinowski and Kathleen Lawlor didn't create fully rounded characters. The plot mechanics also aren't that believable, especially with everyone appearing so chummy and happy by the

too-easily resolved ending.

And with such quirky characters like an alcoholic former beauty queen named Meredith (Lawlor); her cookie-obsessed best friend, Rita (Ashley J. Dearborn); an adulterous Girl Scout leader named Vicki (Suzy Black); and a drag-dressing bisexual husband named James (Pryor), *Lipstick Goes on Last* is strangely devoid of solid laughs. If the playwrights involved took a much campier approach to their material, *Lipstick Goes on Last* might have inspired more mirth and fun rather than feeling like an undercooked comic drama of diverse families.

So just what is the point of *Lipstick Goes on Last*? Sadly, it comes off as a misbegotten exercise in tone confusion and fuzzy nostalgia for the dying days off the disco era. Pryor really should have found another property for his Chicago debut.

CRITICS' PICKS

Blood and Gifts, TimeLine Theatre, through July 28. We got into the Afghani hell of Islamic politics and blood revenge by doing to the USSR in the 1980s what they did to us in Vietnam: backing their enemy, who became the Taliban. It's a sad story written and acted with passion. JA

By The Way, Meet Vera Stark, Goodman Theatre, through June 2. You might think that you're watching an actual bio-drama documenting the career of a long-ignored African-American actress in the early days of the Hollywood film industry, instead of Lynn Nottage's pinpoint-wicked parody satirizing fashions in prejudices. MSB

In the Company of Men, Profiles Theatre at The Main Stage, through June 30. Provocateur playwright and filmmaker Neil LaBute transforms the controversial 1997 film that launched his career back into a juicy stage drama. This fine production shows the underhanded lengths two men go to manipulate an unwitting woman's affections in a morally corrupt game. SCM

Othello: the Remix, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, through June 15. Hip-hop Shakespeareans, the Q Brothers, tackle their first tragedy and come up with a four-actor precision version that's clever, joyful, musical, extremely funny and yet respects the original. Their best work yet. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

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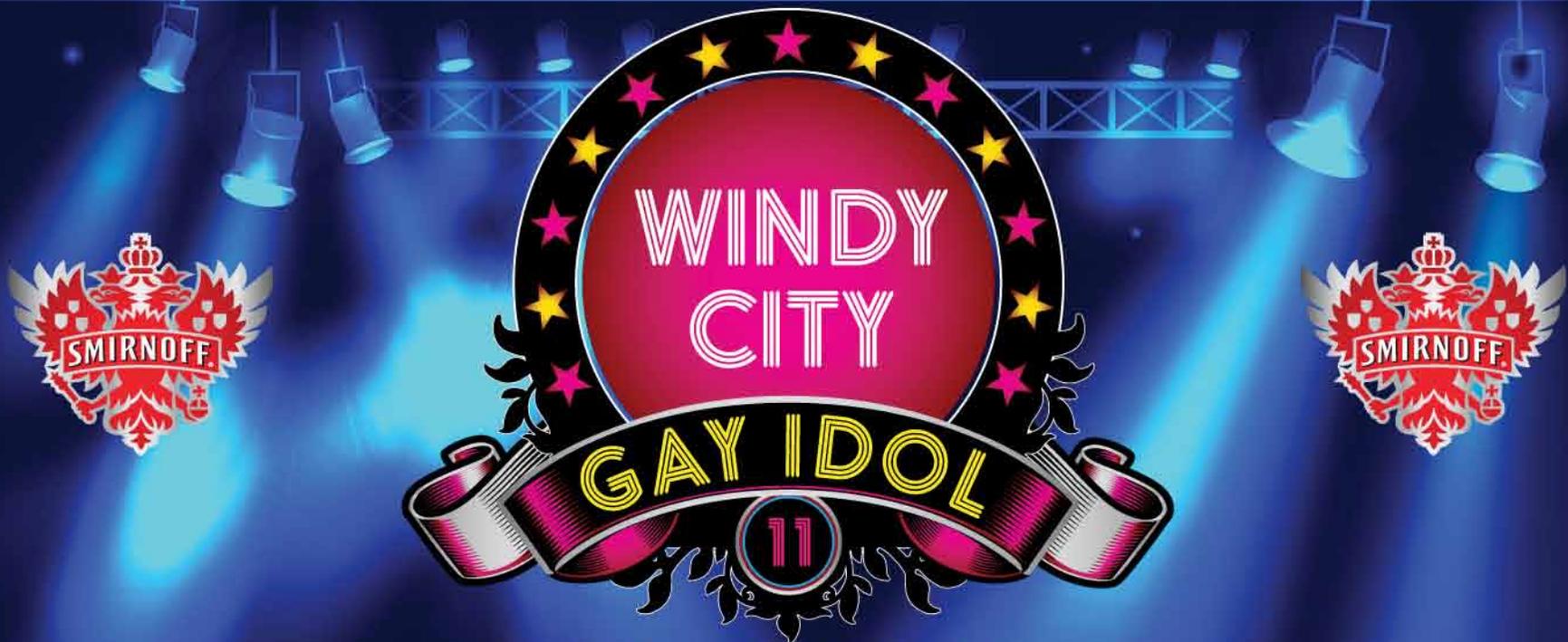
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SUMMER THEATER

A hot summer of LGBTQ shows

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Chicago-area theaters are cooking up a variety of LGBTQ shows this summer, ranging from splashy musicals to low-key readings. Take in some theater and show your cultural Pride side. All shows in Chicago unless otherwise noted.

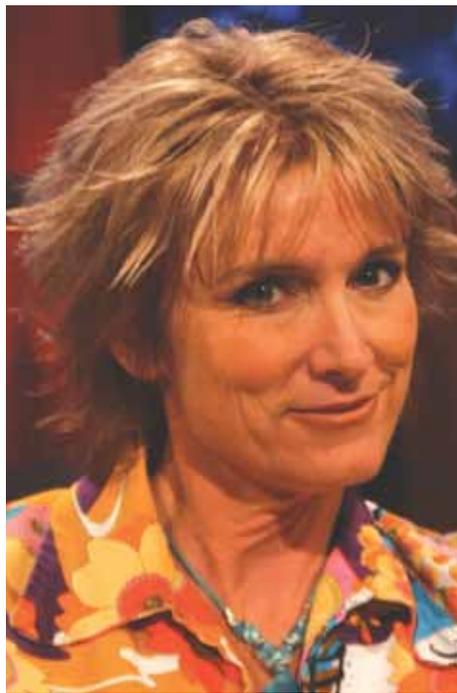
New to Chicago

The Bachelors, Pride Films and Plays at Stage 773 on May 29, then at Mineral Point Opera House in Wisconsin on June 2. Continue with the creative process of this semifinalist from Pride Films and Plays' Great Gay Screenplay Competition about two bachelors who help to create an artists colony in 1930s Mineral Point, Wisc. 800-838-3006 or 608-987-3292 or www.pridefilmsandplays.com

Seek and Ye Shall Find, Mortar Theater at Apollo Theater Studio, ongoing through June 8. Sentell Harper's sharp and funny one-man show details his struggles of feeling part of the Black gay community. 773-935-6100 or www.mortar-theatrecompany.org

Lipstick Goes On Last, 3 Squares Productions and Richard Pryor Jr. at Den Theatre, ongoing through June 23. A comic drama involving an alcoholic former beauty queen, her cookie-obsessed friend and lots of deceitful bisexual husbands. www.lipstickgoesonlast.com

A Cole Porter Songbook, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre at No Exit Cafe, May 31-July 21. Hear the brilliance of late gay composer/lyricist Cole Porter in this new Broadway revue performed in an intimate dinner-theater setting. 773-347-1109 or theo-u.org



Poppy Champlin will head *Queer Queens of Qomedy* June 14 at Mayne Stage.

The Pride, About Face Theatre at Victory Gardens Theater, June 6-July 13. Bonnie Metzgar steps down from her position as About Face Theatre artistic director by directing the Chicago

premiere of Alexi Kaye Campbell's acclaimed 2008 drama. The *Pride* shows the struggles of both repression and freedom on British gay relationships separated by a 50-year time span. 773-871-3000 or www.aboutface theater.com

Jillian Erickson, Prop Thtr, June 7-29. Get a dose of expressive performance art when the co-producer/director of *Beast Women* performs a mix of music, belly dancing, sketch comedy and more. 800-838-3006 or www.brownpapertickets.com

Circus Circus, Den Theatre, June 7-16. This new drama shows what happens when a pot-smoker gets imprisoned in a dark and dangerous prison. 800-838-3006 or www.brownpapertickets.com

Queer Queens of Qomedy, Mayne Stage, June 14. Famed comedian Poppy Champlin recruits fellow lesbian funny women like Gwen LaRoka, Dana Austin and more for an evening of queer comedy. 773-381-4551 or www.maynestage.com

Kevin Newhall, Davenport's Piano Bar & Cabaret, June 15. Out songwriter and musician Kevin Newhall performs music from his latest CD, "If I Had My Way With Words," for this intimate Pride Month concert. 773-278-1830 or www.davenportspianobar.com

Mahal, Bailiwick Chicago at Stage 773, July 1-Aug. 11. Danny Bernardo's new play deals with cultural identity, homophobia and more in this work showing how a diverse Fillippino-American family copes with the loss of their treasured matriarch. 773-327-5252 or www.bailiwickchicago.com

Let's Misbehave, Fox Valley Repertory, St. Charles, Aug. 29-Oct. 20. Another revue celebrating the music of gay composer/lyricist Cole Porter is in the cards this summer. 630-584-6342 or www.foxvalleyrep.org

Return engagements and revivals

What's the T?, About Face Youth Theatre at Victory Gardens Theater, ongoing through June 2. A return engagement of Sara Kerastas and the About Face Youth Theatre Ensemble's comic drama exploring the struggles of diverse LGBTQ youth trying to find safe spaces and community in Chicago's Boystown neighborhood. www.aboutface theatre.com

Kiss of the Spiderwoman the Musical, Bohemian Theatre Ensemble at Theater Wit, May 31-June 30. Kander and Ebb's Tony Award-winning 1993 musical is inspired by Manuel Puig's Argentinian tale of a gay prisoner who dreams of movie musicals to help him and his fellow inmate endure their bleak situations. 773-975-8150 or www.bohotheatre.com

And the Winner Wasn't III, Pride Films and Plays at Sidetrack, June 4. A fundraising gala that features performers like Amy & Freddy, Scott Gryder and more performing songs from musicals that didn't win the Tony Award for Best Original Score Written for the Theatre. 800-838-3006 or www.pridefilmsandplays.com

Uncle Bob, Mary-Arrchie Theatre at Angel Island Theatre, June 11-July 21. An AIDS patient is visited by his nephew and a slew of family tensions are brought to the fore in this 2001 off-Broadway drama by Steppenwolf Theatre Ensemble Member Austin Pendleton. 773-871-0442 or www.maryarchie.com

The Bear Suit of Happiness, The New Colony at Theater on the Lake, June 12-16. A return of the World War II-set drama about soldiers who have been assigned to put together a comedy drag show to entertain the troops. 312-742-7994 or www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

The Little Dog Laughed, Kid Brooklyn Productions at Den Theatre, June 20-July 13. Douglas Carter Beane's scathing comedy about a closeted Hollywood star who falls in love with a bisexual hustler, despite the protestations of his scheming agent. www.kidbrooklynproductions.org

Southern Baptist Sissies, Ludicrous Theatre at Greenhouse Theater, June 20-July 1. Del Shore's beloved comic drama that shows how four different gay men react to growing up religiously in the South. 773-404-7336 or www.ludicroustheatre.com

Rent, Bright Side Theatre at North Central College's Meiley-Swallow Hall, Naperville, June 14-30. Lesbian, gay and bisexual characters are in

the mix of this Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning rock opera about New York artists coping with AIDS in 1990s New York. 630-637-7469 or www.brightsidetheatre.com

Hedwig and the Angry Inch, Haven Theatre at Theater Wit, July 5-Aug. 11. A transgendered rock performer with a botched sex change operation defiantly recounts her event-filled life from East Germany to America in John Cameron Mitchell's acclaimed 1998 off-Broadway musical. 773-975-8150 or www.haventheatrechicago.com

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Theatre at the Center, Munster, Ind. July 11-Aug. 18. Out composer/lyricist William Finn (Falsettos) wrote the score to this acclaimed 2005 musical about quirky kids in a high-stakes spelling bee. One of the kids has two gay dads. 219-836-3255 or www.theatreatthecenter.com

Next Fall, Village Theatre Guild, Glen Ellyn, ongoing through June 15. If you missed Aston-Rep's recent production of Geoffrey Nauffts' 2010 Broadway drama involving faith and sexuality in a gay relationship, here's another chance to see it in the suburbs. 630-469-8320 or www.village-theatreguild.org

The Glass Menagerie, Mary-Arrchie Theatre Company at Theater Wit, ongoing through June 30. Director Hans Fleishmann's re-imagining of this seminal drama by late gay playwright Tennessee Williams is back for another acclaimed run. 773-975-8150 or www.maryarchie.com

Music makers

It's About Time, Windy City Performing Arts (Windy City Gay Chorus and Aria) at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, June 1. Songs capturing the spirit of love, romance and marriage from around the world are featured, including the world premiere choral setting of the song "It's About Time." www.windycitysings.org

Amazon Women Rise, Artemis Singers at Broadway United Methodist Church, June 1. A concert and dance to celebrate lesbian community and culture. 773-764-4465 or www.artemissingers.org

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus 30th Anniversary Alumni Reunion, various locations, June 21-23 and June 30. It's a series of singing and mingling events for past and current choristers to participate in at the end of July. www.cgmc.org

Isle of Klezbos, Mayne Stage, July 21. This quirky all-women klezmer sextet perform folk dances, Yiddish swing and more in this special concert. 773-381-4551 or www.maynestage.com

'And the Winner Wasn't' June 4 at Sidetrack

The third edition of "And the Winner Wasn't" will take place Tuesday, June 4, at the Boystown nightspot Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the program 7-8 p.m.

The evening pays tribute to memorable Tony Award-nominated musicals that did not take home the coveted trophy. The scheduled performers include Amy & Freddy (Amy Armstrong and Freddy Allen), Scott Gryder, Paul Oakley Stovall, Danni Smith and Lili-Anne Brown, among others.

Tickets are \$20; visit <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/351228> or call 800-838-3006.



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SUMMER DANCE

Smaller companies have larger presence

BY VICKI CRAIN

As the summer months finally reach the Windy City, the traditional dance season (late September through early June) ramps down. While the larger companies are on break (for the most part), there is an abundance of smaller, independent companies and artists that continue to perform throughout the summer season. Look for tap, jazz, flamenco, Cuban, contemporary, dance theater and dance festivals in the coming months.

June is busting out all over

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago lets its dancer create the dances for *danc(e)volve*: New Works Festival presented over two weekends at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago on the MCA Stage, 220 E. Chicago Ave., Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, June 6, 8 and 9; as well as Thursday-Sunday, June 13-16. Performance times vary. Tickets are \$35 (MCA Members \$28, students \$10); call 312-397-4010 or visit www.mcachicago.org.

Links Hall launches the Midwest Nexus Program at the new Constellation venue (3111 N. Western Ave.) featuring Synapse Arts and Minnesota choreographer Penelope Feeh. Friday-Sunday, June 7-9, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12-\$25; visit www.linkshall.org.

The Dance Center of Columbia College brings back the Dance Improvisation Festival this month featuring workshops, showings, discussions and performances. Performances include a community showing at Links Hall (3111 N. Western Ave.) on Monday, June 3, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10-\$15. Jennifer Monson performs her *Live Dancing Archive* at the Dance Center (1306 S. Michigan Ave.) on Thursday, June 6, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5-\$15. For more information, call 312-369-8330 or visit www.colum.edu/dance-center.

Celebrating 20 years of dance education, the **Hyde Park School of Dance** presents "En Avant," featuring dancers and alumni from Tyego Dance Project, Memphis Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Joel Hall and Dancers and Deeply Rooted Dance Theater II at the Logan Arts Center, 915 E. 60th St on Friday, June 14, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, June 15, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$35-\$75; call 773-493-8498 or visit www.hydeparkdance.org. There will be a post-show reception on Saturday, June 15. Ticket required.

Get ready to punk out when **Bonedance** presents "bully.punk.riot: a rebellion vent inspired by our collective herding tendencies" at Links Hall/Constellation, 3111 N. Western Ave., Thursdays-Sundays, June 20-30, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18-\$20; visit www.ticketfly.com/search/?q=BONEdance. For more information, visit www.breakbone.com.

Hedwig Dances and **DanzAbiera**—the latter a special guest from Havana, Cuba—perform together for two nights at the Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave., Friday-Saturday, June 21-22 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$30; call 773-871-0872 or visit <https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pr/921245>.

Ensemble Español presents "Flamenco Passion" as part of its 37th annual American Spanish Dance and Music Festival. The show features also celebrates the 20th anniversary of founder/director Dame Libby Komaiko's Bolero, plus three world premieres, a U.S. premiere and a first-time festival performance. Performances are Friday-Saturday, June 21-22, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 23, at 3 p.m. at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd. Tickets are \$26-\$46; call 847-673-6300 or visit www.northshorecenter.org.

Hot tickets for July

The inception for **Hubbard Street's danc(e)** involve performances starts with its annual In-side/Out choreographic workshop. In its 12th year, they present two performance at the UIC Theatre, 1040 W. Harrison St., Saturday, July 6, at 5 and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$35 for VIP and \$20 for general admission. Tickets will be available beginning Tuesday, June 4; call 312-850-9744 or visit www.hubbardstreetdance.com.

Pursuit Productions presents *Blood Wedding*, an adaptation of Federico Garcia Lorca's poem at Studio Be, 3110 N. Sheffield Ave., Thursdays-Sundays, July 18-Aug. 11 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20; RSVP required. Visit www.pursuitproductions.co/events/blood-wedding-event.

Chicago Human Rhythm Project presents JUBA! Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance as part of its annual Rhythm World tap conference. Performances are at the Edlis Neeson Theater at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave., Wed., July 31-Friday, Aug. 1, and Saturday,

Aug. 3, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25-\$32; call 312-397-4010 or visit www.mcachicago.org.

Festivals of dance in August

Dance for Life—the annual dance performance benefiting the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, The Dancers Fund and Chicago House—takes the stage at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., this month. Companies scheduled to appear are Giordano Dance Chicago, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, The Joffrey Ballet and River North Dance Chicago. The one-night-only show is Saturday, Aug. 17, at 8 p.m. The gala reception before will be at the Hilton Chicago at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$50-\$500; call 312-922-5812 or visit www.danceforlifechicago.com.

This will be the seventh year for the **Chicago Dancing Festival** presented at the Pritzker Pavilion stage in Millennium Park. The all-free fest running Wed.-Saturday, Aug. 21-24, includes some of the best dance companies around. As of press time, this year's line up of performers had not been released. For more information, visit www.chicagodancingfestival.com.

Big shows coming in September

In late September, the fall dance season starts to sizzle with **Susan Marshall & Co.** leading off the 2013-2014 season at the Dance Center of

Columbia College and the Joffrey Ballet's Russian Masters program featuring the revival of Nijinsky's *Le Sacre du Printemps* (The Rite of Spring) at the Auditorium Theatre.

For future listings, send to vic@vickicrain.com or andrew@windycitymediagroup.com.



Bonedance. Photo by Carl Wiedemann

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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

LGBT summer movie preview

Summer is heating up, both on and off the screen, as Hollywood trots out its latest crop of action behemoths. As always, there's plenty of queer tinged stuff tossed in for good measure—as well as a nice assortment of local screening events to keep avid filmgoers happy. Highlights:

June

I Do—I'm sneaking one May title in as this gay-themed dramedy, after making the film-festival rounds, is only playing one theatrical date in Chicago on Friday, May 31, at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St. David W. Ross plays a British expat and a handsome gay twentysomething bachelor who weds his widowed sister-in-law (The Sopranos' Jamie Lynn Sigler) in a green-card marriage only to then find himself falling for a hot Spanish architect. www.siskelfilmcenter.org May 31

Celebrating Diversity film series—Several branches of the Chicago Public Library team with the Queer Film Society to present three LGBT movies and one book reading/signing. How Do I Look, a 2006 indie about Harlem's voguing scene; the 2012 lesbian coming-of-age romance *Mosquita y Mari*; and 2004's *On the Downlow*, from local out filmmaker Tadeo Garcia, are the films. Queer Film Society member Rob Christopher, author of *Queue Tips: Discovering Your Next Great Movie*, reads selections from his how-to guide, and performance artist David Kodeski reads from his chapter on discovering homoeroticism in movies. All four events are free. Complete information (library branch location, time, etc.) is at www.queerfilmsociety.org. June 4, 12, 18, 19

Joshua Tree, 1951: A Portrait of James Dean—Out director/writer Matthew Mishory's lyrical, homoerotic ode to James Dean, gorgeously shot in black and white (and sexy as hell), plays the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., for three dates. Scrooge & Marley star David Pevsner plays Dean's acting coach. www.siskelfilmcenter.org June 7, 8, 11

Lesbiana, A Parallel Revolution—After a decade of programming the popular lesbian-themed *Dyke Delicious* series at Chicago Filmmakers, Sharon Zurek of Black Cat Productions is moving on. Her tenure concludes with this Chicago premiere of Canadian filmmaker Myriam Fougere's empowering documentary examination of the rise of worldwide rise of lesbian culture throughout the 1980s. A 6 p.m. social hour precedes the 7 p.m. screening at Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark St., on Saturday, June 8. <http://chicagofilmmakers.org/cf/genre/17>

Man of Steel—The team that brought you 300 and *The Dark Knight* combine efforts to offer a new, darker reboot of the Superman franchise, this time with super-hot Henry Cavill donning the blue cape and form-fitting uniform. Michael Shannon, Kevin Costner, Diane Lane, Amy Adams, gay audience fave Christopher Meloni and Laurence Fishburne round out the cast. June 14

World War Z—Brad Pitt's apocalypse-sized zombie epic is finally here after lots of reshoots and much studio executive hand wringing over the less than stellar test screenings. But if the



I Do (above); Oz: The Great & Powerful, which stars Michelle Williams, will be out on DVD (right)

trailer's any indication, the wait has been worth it. Lost's Matthew Fox co-stars. June 21

I'm So Excited—Spain's queer auteur Pedro Almodóvar returns to his blazing Technicolor comedic roots with a movie he has dubbed his gayest in years. Most of the action is set aboard a jet plane circling the runway in Mexico City in what looks to be a spoof of the Airport disaster movies. Antonio Banderas and Penelope Cruz head the cast. Opens in NY/LA June 28 (Chicago dates TBD)

White House Down—After falling on his arse going the literary route with the Shakespearean epic *Anonymous*, gay director Roland Emmerich (*Godzilla*, *Independence Day*, 2012) thankfully returns to the mega-sized safety of his blockbuster, disaster roots. When bad guys attempt to break into the White House and kidnap the president (Jamie Foxx), it's up to muscle-bound Channing Tatum, as his bodyguard, to kick butt. June 28

Notable DVD releases—*Cleopatra* (50th anniversary limited edition), *Beautiful Creatures*, *Identity Thief*, *Stoker*, *Oz: The Great & Powerful*

July

The Lone Ranger—Armie Hammer (Hoover's reputed gay lover, Clyde Tolson, in *J. Edgar*) stars as the masked Wild West hero in a rare attempt to build a western movie action franchise. Gay audience fave Johnny Depp plays his Indian sidekick Tonto. July 3

Twenty Feet from Stardom—This inspirational, rousing documentary looks at the stellar voices of the women who for decades have vocally supported superstars like Bette Midler, Mick Jagger, Sheryl Crow (who all appear) and others. July 5

Girl Most Likely—Kristen Wiig plays another a lovable loser in this promising comedy about a failed playwright forced to move back in with her mother (Annette Bening) in suburban New Jersey, only to find ma has a new boyfriend (Matt Dillon) and that someone is sleeping in her old bedroom (*Glee*'s Darren Criss). July 19

The Wolverine—Hot off his successful turn in the movie version of the megamusical *Les Misérables*, Hugh Jackman returns to his signature role as the X-Man with the retractable steel blades and a propensity for walking around shirtless. This time Logan heads to Japan for, no doubt, plenty of chop-socky action. July 26

Notable DVD releases—*In the Family* (at last!), *The Curtis Harrington Short Film Collection*, *Jeffrey*, *White Frog*, *Cloudburst*

August

300: Rise of an Empire—A prequel to the movie that made the use of green screen—not to mention Gerard Butler and his pecs—bona fide stars. Plenty more graphic warfare among those hot Greeks is promised and Rodrigo Santoro returns as the super queer-friendly bad guy, the bejeweled Xerxes. Aug. 2

Lovelace—Amanda Seyfried stars in a biopic

of Deep Throat '70s porn star Linda Lovelace. Peter Sarsgaard plays her Svengali Chuck Trainer and James Franco appears in a cameo role as Hugh Hefner. Co-directed by queer documentary filmmakers Jeffrey Friedman and Rob Epstein, this is the follow up their narrative feature debut *Howl*. Opens in NY/LA August 9 (Chicago dates TBD)

Elysium—Director Neil Blomkamp's long away follow-up to his breakout hit, 2009's *District Nine*, this epic sized sci-fi actionfest pits poor vs. rich (ain't it always the way?) in a futuristic thriller that finds the wealthy ensconced in

a luxurious space station circling a decimated earth. But not for long, of course. Matt Damon, Sharlto Copley, Alice Braga and Our Gal Jodie Foster (as the corporate baddie) co-star. Aug. 9

The Butler—Oprah Winfrey returns to the movies after a long hiatus as the tart tongued wife of Cecil Gains (Forest Whitaker), the man who served eight Presidents from 1952 to 1986. Gay director-writer Lee Daniels follows-up his wildly divisive exploitation picture *The Paperboy* (which I dug) with this much safer bet come awards time. A virtual Hollywood Who's Who play the Presidents and their First Ladies—including Melissa Leo as Mamie Eisenhower and Jane Fonda as Nancy Reagan. Aug. 16

Notable DVD Releases—*I Killed My Mother* (at last!), *Seconds* (Criterion Collection Special Edition)



CD REVIEW

Looking at Mark Winkler's 'The Laura Nyro Project'

BY RICHARD KNIGHT JR.

The late bisexual singer/songwriter Laura Nyro is at last starting to get her due over 15 years after her untimely death in 1997. Nyro, the most idiosyncratic of the crop of singer/songwriters to burst onto the scene in the late '60s (personally and artistically), was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame last year; a documentary on her life and career is finally underway; and her intricate songs—hybrids of Broadway, rock, soul, doo-wop and jazz—are once again increasingly being recorded by an array of performers.

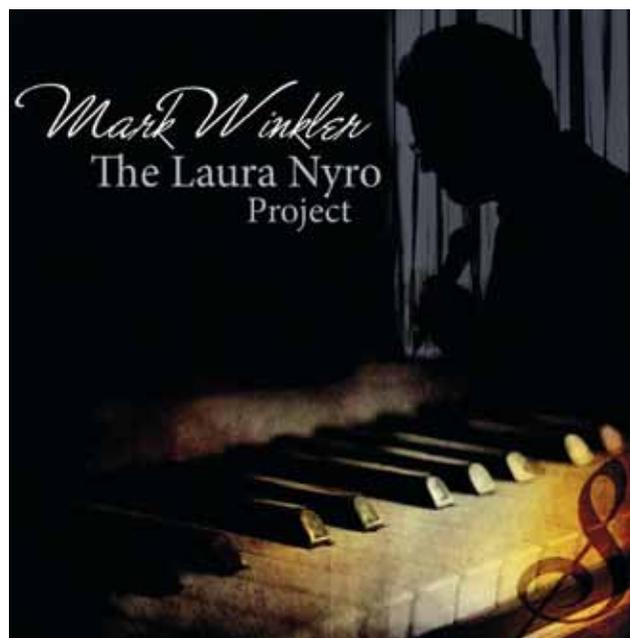
Mark Winkler, the out singer/songwriter whose silky smooth jazz baritone has graced a myriad of interesting albums, has now

turned his lifelong passion for Nyro's songs into a scintillating jazz-infused recording—dubbed *The Laura Nyro Project*—that is both a worthy tribute to the eclectic Nyro and a lovely showcase for Winkler's incomparable vocal stylings. Working with pianist-arranger Eli Brueggemann on the majority of the selections and Rich Eames on the balance, Winkler, expertly backed by these pianists and a bevy of jazz sidemen, weaves a contemporary cocktail-lounge sound—with some softly driving funk here, some light gospel there—that envelops the listener in its warm, playful embrace. The ballads especially are served well by the tasteful yet creative arrangements over which Winkler's emotive voice soars. ("Billy's Blues" is a highlight.)

The line-up includes several of Nyro's most

renowned compositions—"And When I Die," "Stoned Soul Picnic," "Time & Love" and "Save the Country" among them. But Winkler and crew reimagine these chestnuts in new, vibrant ways that are very refreshing. (The upbeat "Time & Love," made famous by Barbra Streisand's cover, for example, is reinterpreted as a wistful ballad.) Winkler also successfully puts his unique stamp on several of Nyro's lesser known songs—"Upstairs By a Chinese Lamp," "Emmie" and "Buy And Sell"—whose inclusion, for this longtime Nyrotic, is a decided plus.

See www.markwinklermusic.com.



'How Do I Look' filmmaker Busch talks ball culture

BY RICHARD KNIGHT JR.

Not long after openly gay Wolfgang Busch arrived in New York City from his native Germany in the mid 80s he found himself working as a party promoter for the nightclub Limelight.

Eventually, he became aware of Harlem's house-ballroom scene, immortalized in the Jennie Livingston's 1991 documentary *Paris Is Burning*. According to Busch, even as Livingston's film was released and being hailed by the mainstream (and co-opted by artists like Madonna), many in the ball community—largely composed of gay African-Americans and Latinos—were incensed at being misled about the original intention for the film. Financial issues were at the core of the complaints.

Busch, who had made music videos, agreed to make a new documentary on the subject at the behest of the community's leaders. He sub-



Wolfgang Busch. Photo by Marshala

sequently spent more than 15 years videotaping the balls, becoming friendly with its superstars and finally releasing his effort, entitled *How Do I Look*, in 2006. The goal of the film, Busch says, was and is to provide the public with a deeper look at the ball culture and its colorful inhabitants while emphasizing the prevalent issue of HIV/AIDS which still continues to decimate that community. Busch, who lectures around the world, will be in town Tuesday, June 4, for a one-night-only free screening of *How Do I Look* at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St., at 6 p.m. as part of the Queer Film Society and Chicago Public Library's Celebrating Diversity pride month series.

Windy City Times: What a fascinating movie—there are so many things that culturally collide in the ball culture, I think. And what a huge commitment from yourself to this project—15 years!

Wolfgang Busch: I just felt it was really important to document properly—with the cooperation of the individuals involved—the scene and the issues that are important to them. I made it clear I wanted everyone's input and I got it. The motivation was to make a historically correct film. The idea was also to maybe empower the community financially. The film hasn't made money yet—but it might—but it might still. If the film makes money it will be divided by the community.

WCT: Was there also an interest in having you do something like a sequel to *Paris Is Burning*?

WB: They use the word "balance." There are elements in *Paris Is Burning* that are definitely correct but they felt that they were also being portrayed as a bunch of thieves, prostitutes and drug users—not to say that these are not elements in the community but a) these elements are in every community and b) it's how you present it. It just wasn't well-presented.

WCT: So the main thrust of the film is to address these issues but also to illuminate; give us more of the ball scene as well—at least that's what I got from the film.

WB: Oh, yes.

WCT: After seeing *Paris Is Burning*, it is nice to see what many of these individuals were up to in the years after that movie. It's great to see *Willi Ninja* and *Octavia* and *Pepper LaBeja*—who have all since passed.

WB: So many have passed away.

WCT: Does this all have something to do with HIV/AIDS?

WB: Yes. Pepper passed away from diabetes but everyone else from HIV related illnesses. It's really decimated the community. This group has lost their entire leadership; the entire organizing body of their community and no one knows how horribly this has affected this group.

WCT: After the film came how, it was shown in New York, obviously, and I'm assuming in other parts of the country. And you now take the film out and lecture on it as well—which brings you to Chicago next week.

WB: Yes. The film has been shown in Amsterdam, Berlin, Greece, Australia, England—it went around the world. As a result of the film, I've been invited to several universities including Yale. I lecture on the issues the film addresses. After spending 15 years of making the film I've become an expert on the history of ball culture. While everyone was getting ready for their various categories, I was talking to the historians of the scene! [Laughs] That was my interest to begin with.

WCT: Was part of the initial attraction to this cultural underground scene because you yourself came to a country and felt a bit disenfranchised?

WB: That was definitely one of several attractions. When I learned about the inclusiveness within the ball community because you can go to a ball and see a category that includes prostitutes and celebrities on a panel; I mean the range of diversity of what we call classes of society, there is really no exclusiveness to be found there. I have worked with several other aspects of the gay community—sports or the arts or whatever—and I've always experienced some sort of cliqueishness and that does exist within the ball community but there is still an inclusiveness that I don't see anywhere else.

To me, this is something that I personally learned about how to have a lot more tolerance and acceptance among the people I'm involved with—including my own family. That to me is the best thing the ballroom community, on a human level, has to offer to me. They might rip each other's hearts out one minute but two weeks later there they are breaking bread together again. That human process is really something—it took me a while to understand but it's really made an impact on me.

WCT: Do you still go to the balls?

WB: I do. I've just been invited to judge a ball again. I will always happily return to the ball scene.

<http://www.howdoilooknyc.org/>



Alison Moyet. Photo by Tom Martin

MUSIC

The return of Alison Moyet



Essex singer Alison Moyet has always had a memorable androgynous contralto voice. She burst into the '80s in the group Yazoo, also known as Yaz, where she teamed up with former Depeche Mode member Vince Clarke. The duo created hits together such as "Only You," "Don't Go" and "Situation."

Clarke moved on to another duo, forming Erasure, while Moyet became a solo act. Her debut solo album, *Alf*, was a hit, reaching number one on the charts.

This year she returns with a new record entitled *the minutes*. This makes her eighth album to date and a return to her roots in electronic music.

We spoke about touring, the creation of the new music, and her loyal gay fans over the years.

Windy City Times: Hi, Alison. How are you today?

Alison Moyet: Excellent, I'm just having some tea here.

WCT: What kind of tea do you drink?

AM: English breakfast tea.

WCT: Let's start talking about music. The new album *the minutes* is in lower case. What was the reason behind that?

AM: The whole premise of using the words *the minutes* is getting to that place in your life where you were led to believe all of your life to be aiming for this seamless stream of joy that will go through your loves and everything but in failing to get that you have been cheated in some way. That someone else is doing it perfectly well but you are not able to achieve it. I think you get to a point of understanding. I certainly did, where it was never about this whole continuum. It was about these sporadic points in time, these little gems that are suspended in pedestrian years.

The reason I put them in lower case is because to put them in upper case infers that there is just one set of minutes, almost like a romantic statement where in truth these minutes happen throughout your life and can relate to everything and anything.

WCT: Speaking of gems, there are some

on the album. It starts off very atmospheric sounding then moves into songs that people will listen to for a long time.

AM: I am actually delighted about that because for me the great joy in working with electronica again is it allows you to use a wide pallet. People have related this back to my Yaz work and I would say the only connection to that truly is the fact that we used electronic acoustic instruments. Back then the music was sourced from many varied areas. It was the production values that held it together. I think that is what I have been allowed to do with this album. It is what I have wanted to do.

I am constantly like a kid in a candy store that is chewing one finger and looking what to put in her mouth next. It is that kind of thing. I always feel quite cheated. I have the old ADHD thing going on. I get bored very quickly and like to be looking at different things. I looked for a way to put the whole thing together so it was a continual album.

Am I running on too much?

WCT: No, not at all.

AM: So many pop albums are made with huge songwriting teams that don't want to commit to making an album they just want to write a hit song. They get a collection of singles. Someone at my age has no interest in singles at all. I wanted to make a body of work that was conceptual in itself.

WCT: Someone like Beyonce sometimes has 10 writers on a song. Freddy Mercury never did that back in the day.

AM: Exactly—and where is that coming from? I don't know why they need a team of people to correct something. I don't understand what that is and why you write a song with 10 people.

My area of control on this album is pretty much the lyrics and the melody. Debating that with 10 people is too tedious to imagine.

WCT: Any plans to tour with the album to Chicago?

AM: I am touring in the autumn. My management is going over European and North American tours as we speak so I am really hoping that it will be a big yes.

I have a lot of family in Chicago both from my French and my English side. The French live in Kalamazoo and the English side lives in Skokie. Chicago is a big place for me!

WCT: It must feel amazing to be making music 30 years later.

AM: It is amazing because you can actually start to enjoy it. It is nice to be famous but still have a normal life. I am a musician, as opposed to a pop star, and I love that.

Visit alisonmoyet.com to keep up with the tour and new music. Read the entire interview online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

SUMMER MUSIC

Natalie Maines gets real

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Dixie Chicks singer talks lesbian hair, Rachel Maddow crush and 'fake' country music

To quote a Dixie Chicks song, fearless frontwoman Natalie Maines has "been a longtime gone."

Seven years after one of the most successful country music acts released *Taking the Long Way*, and its unapologetic single "Not Ready to Make Nice" in response to the singer's political dig at then-President George W. Bush, Maines goes her own way for her first-ever solo album, *Mother*. Parting with longstanding bandmates Emily Robison and Martie Maguire for the album (don't worry, she says there's a "50/50" chance for a reunion LP), it's also decidedly not country.

In our recent chat, Maines revealed why she



Natalie Maines. PR photo

went rock (country "seemed so fake"), how being disowned—and her new short hair—made her feel closer to the gay community and whether now, a decade after her Bush outburst, she's ready to make nice.

Windy City Times: You're sporting that punkish 'do; before, with the Dixie Chicks, it was the long, blond locks.

Natalie Maines: I know. Well, with the Chicks, I definitely felt like I was playing dress up a bit—but I liked it!

WCT: Are you conscious of your look and how it represents the music?

With two kids, there's not enough time in the day to spend on what I look like; this is a much easier look. And it fits my personality more. I had short hair growing up, and it always felt right for me.

WCT: Has the short hair scored you more lesbian cred?

NM: [Laughs] I barely leave my house. So maybe. But the lesbians liked me already! Yeah, this is definitely a lesbianish haircut I've got going on. I don't mind. I love Rachel Maddow. She

would be my lesbian girl crush.

WCT: Why Rachel?

She's hot! And she's smart and beautiful ... and I like her hair.

WCT: I could see it working out between you two.

Yeah, I think that would work. I don't know if my husband or her girlfriend would think so. [Laughs]

WCT: You've always had a really loyal gay fan base, even before you publicly chastised George W. Bush. How do you explain your connection with gay fans?

We had some very costume-y, over-the-top looks that the gays do appreciate. [Laughs] But after the controversy, I feel like there was even more of a connection, and that's just because we both know how it feels to be hated just for who we are—not for doing anything, bothering anyone, murdering anyone or being arrested. Just

people—and that was all really positive. I was always able to separate business from personal—and my friends weren't fellow country artists, so I really didn't care about that. What I cared about was being banned at a corporate level; it felt very un-American and very not OK to me, so that was my issue. And that is my issue with country music.

I don't have an issue with country music fans. I don't have an issue with country music artists. I was very honest about my influences and the kind of music I came from—and country was not it. I say that now and people think, "Ooh, she's mad at country," and I never listened to country. I would say that if ever asked, but I was never asked as much as I am now. But ... I can't remember what I was talking about. [Laughs]

WCT: You were talking about not being fond of the country-music industry.

Oh, you asked if I felt let down. I mean, it did suck to see all these radio stations cave so quickly to emails and phone calls they were getting and feed the controversy, which was so really nothing and ridiculous. That did feel like a stabbing in the back, just because I felt like we waved that country flag and we had country pride for all those years. But everyone jumped on board. We were fun to hate.

WCT: That's because you were ahead of your time.

Exactly. Always have been.

WCT: When hardly anyone in country music was speaking out about equal rights and gay marriage, you were.

Well, that's why I was so shocked that people were so shocked that I was a Democrat and wasn't for the war! I mean, I did not ever feel like I was hiding something. To be in country music, I felt like we were accepted because of our differences, really, and we went beyond your typical country fan base, and I feel like it was because we were different. It was a real surprise to me that people thought I was something that I wasn't. I felt disappointed in myself! How could I let anyone think anything else?! [Laughs] But we did always answer questions if we were asked them, and I always supported women's rights and gay marriage and everything.

WCT: Why do you think more country music artists haven't taken that step in publicly supporting equal rights—even though some of them might?

Well, they weren't speaking out about it before, either. But I'm sure some do. How I always viewed country music growing up—why I didn't really relate to it or why I wasn't drawn to it—was because, to me, it seemed so fake. Everyone was putting on these fake smiles, nobody had any anger and they were all just happy to be there. I just did not relate to that. Shoot. What was your question again? I get so on a soapbox! [Laughs]

WCT: About the lack of country artists advocating for equal rights.

I just think that's the nature of country music. I don't know. I just don't feel like they ever have. I have to think that Faith Hill has answered that question, honestly, and that she's for gay marriage. I don't know that she is, but I've spoken to her some and I know that she's a pretty liberal person. I don't keep up with her press so I don't want to assume these people haven't spoken out.

WCT: Will there ever be another Dixie Chicks album?

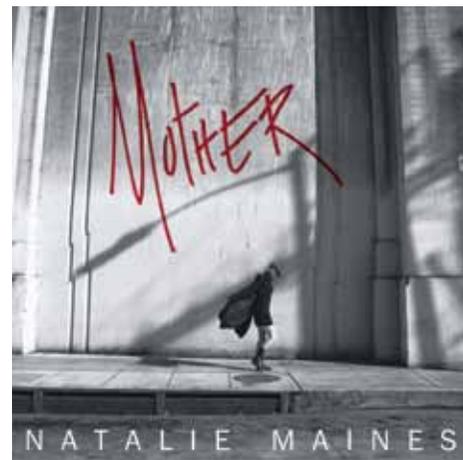
I don't know. It's possible. I'd say 50/50. [Laughs] I try to not predict the future or project; I just really try to live in the now, so I'm open to it. I have no ill feelings about the Dixie Chicks. I think right now, it's logistics. There are eight kids among the three of us and, for me, making an album takes a lot of focus and a lot of concentration and a lot of time, and I'm not willing to go to Texas to do that. I wouldn't expect Martie and Emily to leave their families and

come here to do that, either. I just think it's really hard right now.

WCT: With the Dixie Chicks, you covered several Patty Griffin songs, and Mother features Griffin's song "Silver Bell." What is it about Patty and her songwriting that resonates with you so much? The darkness? The realness?

It's all of that. I'm bad putting into words things like that, but I love her songwriting. And I hate her because, not only has she written a million songs that are out there, she's got all these songs that we've never even heard. It's so hard to write a song for me! And I'm so jealous that she has, like, back stock.

WCT: Why was the seven years between Taking the Long Way and this new solo album a necessary break for you?



Basically because kids take a lot of time. [Laughs] I just decided to dive into motherhood and do that 100 percent—just try to enjoy this time and my life and my kids' lives and be, you know, a stable force in their lives.

I definitely felt like I had worked really hard and been on the road for over 10 years, so I did want to slow down and just get real for a while. So there was a lot of self-realization and a lot of things that went on, but yeah, I needed a long while to just ... be.

WCT: Why was the distinction between this album and your work with the Dixie Chicks important to you?

It's just bugged me whenever I would see lead singers do a solo album that sounded exactly like their band. It always seemed to be a way to get all the money for yourself. [Laughs] So I did want to be different. But I didn't have to be conscious of that; this is just what I'm naturally drawn to.

When we went into the studio, we didn't even know we were making a record. I was very upfront about that with Ben [Harper's] band, just because they were basically coming [to the studio] for free every day; they enjoyed music and they wanted to experiment and see what happens—but I wasn't telling my management or my label, so there was no money coming from anywhere.

It was really like a band starting from scratch, everybody putting in the same amount of time and hard work ... and they got paid eventually. [Laughs] There just wasn't a discussion; it was just very organic in what naturally comes to me musically or appeals to me.

WCT: Are you ready to make nice yet?

I don't sit around stewing over it or thinking about it at all, but if making nice means making a country record and going back to that, then no, I'm not ready.

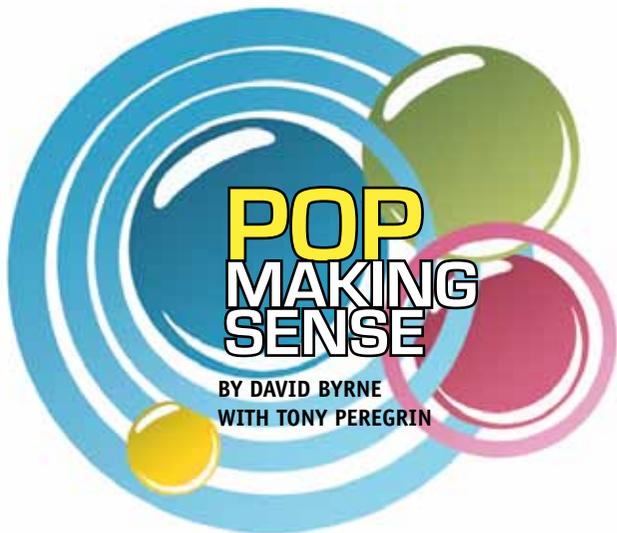
WCT: Has there been a peace agreement between you and Toby Keith?

Sure, I've got no issues. I don't even think about any of these people. [Laughs] I wouldn't have even thought of Toby Keith if he hadn't put out a picture of me and Saddam Hussein cuddling.

WCT: He could've at least had you cuddling with Rachel Maddow. Gosh.

NM: [Laughs] Exactly!

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



NBC's *The Voice* distinguished itself from American Idol by having openly gay contestants. Prior to the competition, some of the hopefuls have released albums and appeared on other similar programs. One of the standouts from the first season of *The Voice* is **Vicci Martinez**.

The out lesbian from Tacoma, Wash., released the album *Vicci* on Universal Republic. The set opens with a welcoming message in "Come



Vicci Martinez.

Along." This duet with her mentor Cee-Lo Green boasts a video worthy of the "It Gets Better" campaign. The same positive vibe appears on the radio-ready tracks "Touch That Fire" and "Little Faith." Martinez shines on the killer rock song "I Can Love," which reminds us what made her stand out on *The Voice*. The album is rounded out with the playfully sexy "I Want Your Kiss" plus the more introspective moments "Hold Me Darlin'" and "Let Go." Although she already released multiple albums, Vicci serves as a great introduction to a broader audience. Martinez will perform at Summerfest in Milwaukee on Thursday, July 4.

Nicky Click makes a long overdue return with *Metaphorically*, of Course on her label, Crunks Not Dead Records, with her dazzling signature wigs, lingerie and garter belts in tow. Keeping in tune with her prior works, Click oozes sex appeal on the bouncy electro-dance cuts "Booty," "Move It Around" and "Dirty and Filthy." "Dear Diary" is insightful spoken-wordcut that recalls the ad lib from Deee-Lite's "Call Me."

This comeback outing has a few rewarding surprises too. Click delivers a fun reworking of Rocky Horror Picture Show's "Creatures of the Night" and the Erasure hit "Love 2 H8 U." It has been five years between albums, now Click relies less on beats and breaks character by heading into country territory, most notably with the stunning, intimate number "Easy Way Down."

Metaphorically, of Course is available digitally.

Select tracks from Click's catalog like "Two Femme Girls" and the interview "Dykes on Mykes Radio Feature" can be downloaded for free at www.nickyclick.com. The openly queer DIY artist will be taking to the stage at Toronto Pride and Montreal Pride this summer.

In the year that she would have turned 70, Ladies of the Canyon Presents pays tribute to **Janis Joplin** on Thursday, May 30 at Fitzgerald's, 6615 Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn. This collective of talented Chicago-based musicians proved they can rock when they previously celebrated

female icons like Blondie, Heart and Pat Benatar. For tickets, visit www.fitzgeraldsnightclub.com.

Legacy Recordings released two special collections of the influential psychedelic-blues siren's works. *Live at the Carousel Ballroom 1968* by Big Brother & the Holding Company featuring Janis Joplin contains the staples "Summertime," "Piece of My Heart" and "Coo Coo." The posthumous album *Pearl* was reissued as a double-disc set with demos and alternate takes of classics like "Cry Baby," "Woman Left Lonely" and the chart-topper "Me and Bobby McGee."

Baz Luhrmann directs **The Great Gatsby** in an over-the-top fashion, just as his did with William Shakespeare's *Romeo + Juliet*. Both films serve as extended commercials for the companion soundtracks, yet leave me reaching for the previous adaptations that were more loyal to what I read in high school.

The soundtrack to *Great Gatsby* follows the same model as the director's previous remake. The film's sense of extravagance is captured by having music royalty Jay-Z performing "100\$ Bill" and Beyonce taking a stab at Amy Winehouse's best track "Back to Black." For the livelier moments, will.i.am continues to successfully reduce dance music to the lowest common denominator with "Bang Bang." On "A Little Party Never Killed Nobody (All We Got)," Fergie is joined by Q-Tip and Goonrock to follow the same pattern as her solo material by sampling and referencing classics with catchy hooks and big vocals. Surely, Florence and the Machine's "Over the Love" mindlessly will be pegged as amazing, simply because she oversings and slurs her words, as Winehouse did.

The *Great Gatsby* soundtrack does have strong points, like Lana Del Rey's well-written slow burner "Young and Beautiful" and the new arrangement of "Love Is the Drug" by Bryan Ferry with the Bryan Ferry Orchestra. Nero sheds its dubstep sound for the impressive drum 'n' bass number "Into the Past." The set closes on a high note with Sia's James Bond-inspired power ballad "Kill and Run."

Acclaimed DJ and producer **Peter Rauhofer** lost his battle to cancer. The Vienna-born talent remixed the works of many, including Cher's "Believe," Mariah Carey's "We Belong Together" and Adele's "Skyfall." He also provided one of Madonna's best remixes with his magical tweaking of "Nothing Really Matters." In the late '90s, his remixes were unavoidable. Yet, what he did with Depeche Mode's "It's No Good" felt like the same beat was on an endless loop, leaving me wanting something better.

Rauhofer also fronted his own projects. Club 69 delivered sassy pop songs with a driving beat like "Let Me Be Your Underwear" and "Diva." Chicago's very own Suzanne Palmer provided her powerful vocals to Club 69's hits "Much Better" and "Muscles." "Walk" by Size Queen captured the tribal sound that Rauhofer was known for spinning during his residency at New York's Roxy. His pairing with Pet Shop Boys produced a tremendous spin on the club classic "Break 4 Love."

The out artist opened up about being diagnosed with a brain tumor less than a month before his passing.

Sidebar

Noteworthy new releases:

- Alison Moyet: Minutes
- Bitch: In Us We Trust
- John Grant: Pale Green Ghosts
- Kelly Rowland: Talk a Good Game
- Music from the Original HBO Film: Behind the Candelabra
- Natalie Maines: Mother
- Original Cast Recording: Kinky Boots
- Pet Shop Boys: Electric
- R.E.M.: Green 25th Anniversary Edition
- Sigur Ros: Kveikur
- Susan Werner: Hayseed
- Tylan: One True Thing

Upcoming concerts:

- Ladies of the Canyon Presents the Music of Janis Joplin on Thursday, May 30, at Fitzgerald's
- Darren Criss on Saturday, June 8, at House of Blues

Joan Baez and Indigo Girls on Sunday, June 9, at Ravinia

Glen Hansard and Lisa Hannigan on Sunday, June 9, at The Metro

Jewel on Sunday, June 16, at Ravinia

John Reilly with Becky Stark, Tom Brosseau and Andru Bemis on Saturday, June 22, at Old Town School of Folk Music

Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings on Tuesday, June 25, at Ravinia

John Grant on Thursday, June 27, at Schuba's
Melissa Etheridge with Joan Osborne, Paula Cole and Jessie Payo on Saturday, June 29, at Ravinia

Yeah Yeah Yeahs with Bush and Awolnation on Saturday, June 29, at First Midwest Bank Amphitheatre

Susan Werner's Hayseed Project on Friday, July 5, at City Winery Chicago

Artemis Singers to present 'Amazon' June 1

The local lesbian feminist chorus Artemis Singers will present "Amazon Women Rise," a Pride concert and dance, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 1, at Broadway United Methodist Church, 3338 N. Broadway.

The chorus will perform lesbian parodies of two well-known songs. "Favorite Dyke Things" is a twist to "My Favorite Things" from "The Sound of Music." The song, "I Enjoy Being a Dyke" is a take-off on "I Enjoy Being a Girl" from the Broadway musical *Flower Drum Song*.

There are suggested donations of \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door for adults as well as \$10 for seniors (65+) and children age 12 and younger; see www.ArtemisSingers.org or call 773-764-4465.

Matthew Morrison in PBS special

In an upcoming PBS special, Matthew Morrison—who plays Mr. Scheuster on TV's *Glee* and is an accomplished singer—is the subject of *Where It All Began: Live from the Bushnell*, which shows him live in concert at the Connecticut venue, according to a press release.

Where It All Began is first release from 222 Records, the newly formed label from Adam Levine, Maroon 5 frontman and vocal coach on *The Voice*. Morrison's special will premiere June 1.

Among the songs Morrison performs are "Send in the Clowns," "Younger than Springtime" and "Singing in the Rain."

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International Mr. Leather XXX5 takes over the Windy City

Chicago was the center of the gay universe this past weekend, playing host to International Mr. Leather XXX5, in addition to Bear Pride 19 and The Grabbys. Windy City Times was there. Look for many more photos from all these events online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com and in this week's issue of Nightspots.

A new International Mr. Leather is chosen

Andy Cross (Mr. San Francisco Leather 2013; far right) was chosen as the new International Mr. Leather on Sunday, May 26, at the Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph. First runner-up Thib Guicherd-Callin (Mr. Santa Clara County Leather 2012) and second runner-up Robert Miller (Mr. Leatherman Toronto 2013) shared the spotlight at the contest, now in its 35th year. "Oil Tan Sam" Sklover took the title of International Mr. Bootblack 2013 and the Windy City's own Mr. Chicago Leather 2013 Nick Zuko (second from left) placed ninth in the final tally. Photos by Verdell Shannon



Check out www.youtube.com/windycitytimes for IML XXX5 videos, such as ...

IML founder Chuck Renslow speaks during the contest



IML 2013 Andy Cross is chosen



Browsing the Leather Market

Vendors hawked their wares (and underwears) at the IML Leather Market in the 5th and 7th floor ballrooms of the Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, 540 N. Michigan Ave. Photos by Jerry Nunn



Celebration at the IML XXX5 Victory Party

Images from the official International Mr. Leather XXX5 Victory Party, Sunday, May 27, at House of Blues. Above, left to right: First runner-up Thib Guicherd-Callin, International Mr. Leather 2013 Andy Cross; second runner-up Robert Miller; International Mr. Bootblack 2013 "Oil Tan Sam" Sklover. Photos by Anthony Meade



LGBT SPORTS

A woman in the NBA? It will happen, says Chicago Sky coach

BY ROSS FORMAN

Jason Collins kicked open the closet door, revealing in late April that he is gay—becoming the first out, active male on a major professional team sport. President Obama responded to the news, Oprah reacted and water-coolers worldwide were abuzz.

So what's next—a woman on the roster of a National Basketball Association (NBA) team? More so, a woman actually playing in a regular-season NBA game?

That could happen, and sooner than most would imagine, said Wayne "Tree" Rollins, who played 18 seasons in the NBA and now is a first-year assistant coach for the Chicago Sky in the WNBA.

"There's going to be a day when we have a female in the NBA, when a female is able to compete with the men," Rollins said. "It's no different than women officials," now working in the NBA.

Who might it be?

Perhaps Elena Della Donne, the Sky's 6-foot-5 rookie from the University of Delaware; or maybe the WNBA's No. 1 overall pick in the 2013 Draft, Brittney Griner, the 6-foot-8 standout from Baylor University who now plays for the Phoenix Mercury. Griner revealed she is gay before playing her first WNBA game.

"Playing in the NBA, size helps, definitely," said Rollins, who stands 7-foot-1 and played for five NBA teams during 1977-95. "Maybe in the

next 15 or 20 years, there's gotta be one [female in the NBA.]

"Back in my day, I don't think a female could have withstood the punishment that she would have taken, especially in the paint. But with the rules now, it could happen. A woman can now safely compete with the men."

The Chicago Force is one of the best women's tackle football teams in the nation, with convincing wins in its first six games this season, including an 82-20 thrashing of the Indy Crash. The Force roster features 12 openly gay players, including quarterback Sami Grisafe. Other out Force players include Tricia Charbonneau, Dawn Pederson, Darcy Leslie, Brandy Hatcher, Latoya Kiner, Jen Kelly, Bethany Evans, Kim Marks, Carolyn Lee, Jamie Menzyk, and Liz Okey.

Plus, there are five Force staff members who are openly gay: Ro Soper, Yvette Holt, Linda Bache, Jen Thompson and Sam Powell.

"The world that we live in now, [coming out] may be important to that individual, but it's not important to me; you're still a human being and I'm going to treat you like any other human being, regardless of sexual orientation," Rollins said. "For me, I looked at [Collin' coming-out] as not really a big deal."

Rollins said Collins likely will not have any problems next season if signed by an NBA team—and he will most assuredly be signed for the 2013-14 season, Rollins said. (Collins is now a free agent.)

"I get my real information from the barber



Wayne "Tree" Rollins. Photo from the Chicago sky

shop," Rollins said, laughing. "I got my haircut around the time [Collins] came out and [his coming-out] came up, and yet no one [in the barber shop] was negative about it."

But, back when Rollins played, being openly gay probably would have been a problem, he said.

Times have changed, on and off the court.

"I have bisexual friends, gay friends, heterosexual friends ... and there's really no difference. And that's a positive thing," Rollins said. "[Collins] can now live his life the way he wants to live it with no fear of being treated differently. I think that's one step where the human race has moved forward on."

"There are bigger things in the world, such as the issues with North Korea, than a person's sexual orientation."

The Sky home opener is Friday, May 31, against Connecticut. Tipoff is 7:30 p.m., at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont.

CLLAW XVI June 7

The ladies of the Chicago League of Lady Arm Wrestlers (CLLAW) are celebrating their "Sweet 16" Friday, June 7, at 10 p.m. at Logan Square Auditorium, 2539 N. Kedzie Ave.

Brought by Sideshow Theatre Company, CLLAW's 16th match will feature lady arm wrestlers decked out in over-the-top outfits, a cash bar, shady referees and audience participation. All proceeds from CLLAW XVI will benefit Sideshow and this match's partner charity, C4: Community Counseling Centers of Chicago.

Tickets for CLLAW XVI are \$10; visit www.cllaw.org.

the DISH

WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES



Vu Sua

BY MEGHAN STREIT

There's a positively lovely new restaurant in Lakeview that I think will quickly become a favorite of people in the neighborhood and a destination spot for the rest of us. **Vu Sua** opened earlier this year and is turning out beautifully presented French-Vietnamese cuisine. The food here is among the most elegant I've eaten in quite some time, making the prices, which are reasonable to begin with, seem like downright bargains.

The Halsted Street space, which Erwin formerly



Asparagus pudding at Vu Sua. PR photo

occupied, has been given a pretty and modern makeover. The refined dining room is washed in ivory and anchored by dark wooden floors. Lighting is soft and artwork is minimal. It's a simple palette that lets the food take center stage. Vu Sua is awaiting its liquor license, so it's BYOB for now. Coming soon is a mixologist crafting cocktails to match the food.

The menu is a mix of Vietnamese classics with

subtle culinary upgrades (think spring rolls with pork belly and foie gras) and inventive Asian-inspired dishes that you'd never find on Argyle Street, like a sashimi "pizza." The latter is made with a savory crepe-like "crust" that is topped with an assortment of fresh seafood tossed with bufalina mozzarella. I didn't know how well raw fish and cheese would play together, but I enjoyed this clever dish quite a bit.

You can easily make a delicious meal out of several of Vu Sua's small plates. In addition to above average spring rolls, there's an assortment of soups, salad and sashimi. The asparagus soup is creamy and rich. The flavorful soup is studded with crab and corn and laced with an Asian pear reduction. For a more classic Vietnamese soup, try the beef noodle, a traditional pho packed with tender slices of beef and lots of fragrant fresh herbs. If you enjoy oysters, they'll dazzle you here. A trio of oysters, each drizzled with a different sauce, is served atop of bed of salt. The presentation is beautiful—and indicative of the kind of attention to detail that is going on back in the kitchen. Speaking of which, you can get a glimpse of the action by peering into the open kitchen in the back of the restaurant.

You can fill up on small plates, which creates a problem because there are also some not-to-miss entrées. Chief among those is the filet mi-

Turn to page 31

CLASSIFIEDS

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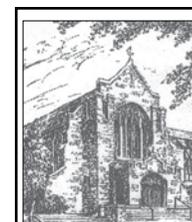
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SUMMER MUSIC

Gold Standard:

Sir Ari Gold on remixing his past and his naked ambition

BY TERRI-LYNNE WALDRON

Bronx native Sir Ari Gold does not mince words on the title of his sixth CD, *Play My F**kn Remix*, out June 4.

As one of the few pop singers who was out in his music from the start of his career, Gold is still breaking ground. He bares it all in the 3-D teaser video for the first single "Play My F**kn Record"—no small feat for this Billboard top 10 recording artist, who received a Visionary Award from the LGBT Recording Academy (LARA) at the OUTMusic Awards in 2012.

Windy City Times: Was the title of your upcoming CD *Play My F**kn Remix* inspired by the line in the Jennifer Lopez song "Play," where she yells "Play my mutherf**kn song!"

Sir Ari Gold: Not at all. *Play My F**kn Remix* is the name of the album, but the single is "Play My F**kn Record." It's a calling card and positive song. From what I've seen, there is a growing acceptance of LGBT people and, even in music, we finally have a lot more openly gay artists out there. So they are playing our F**kn records.

WCT: Is there enough acceptance?

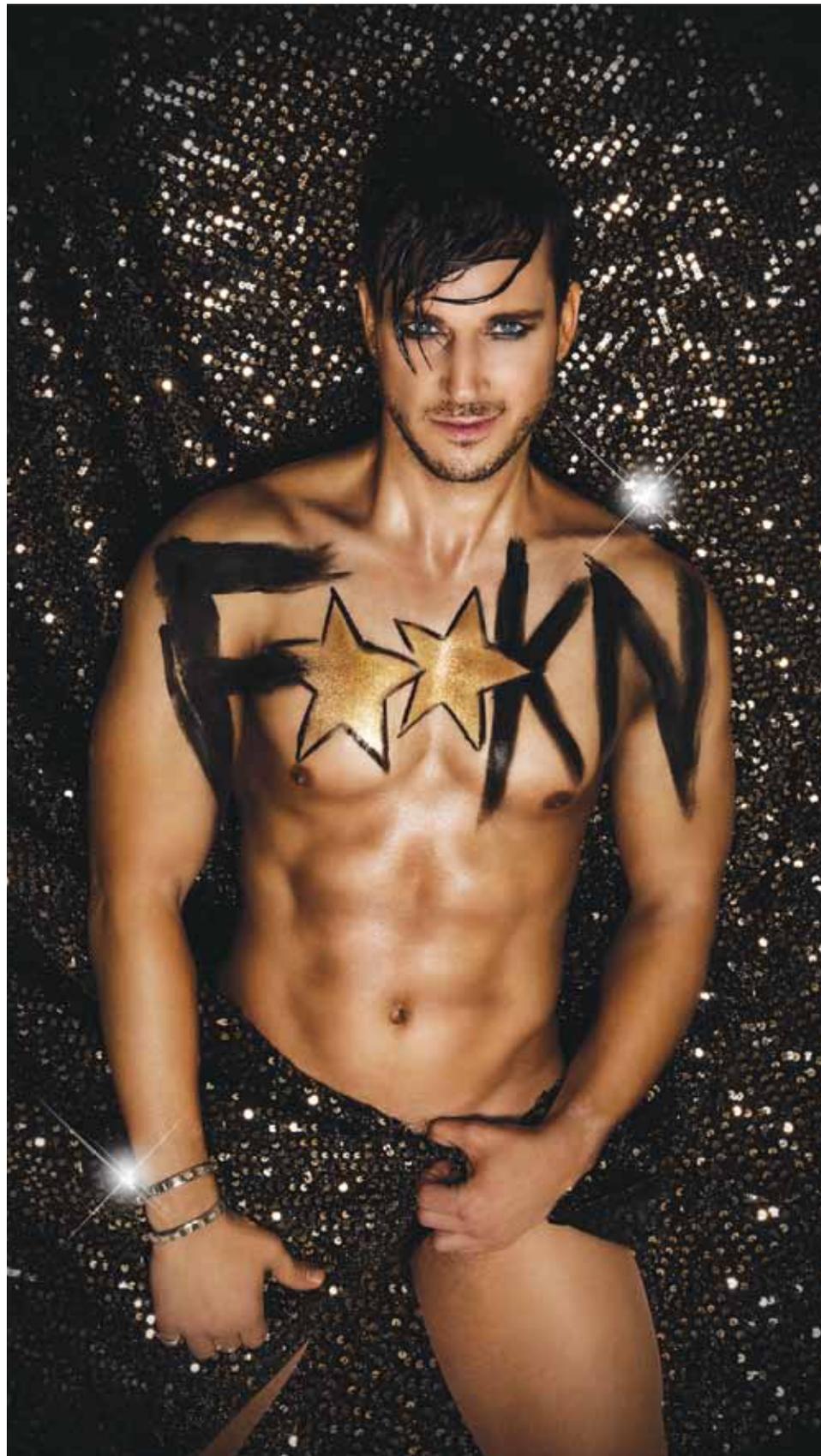
AG: Not really. Even though we have some people that came from *American Idol* and have had that platform, there is still a dearth of openly gay artists and certainly gay content in pop music and on the radio.

We've seen for quite some time now characters on TV and we've seen gay films in the theater. When I came out with my first self-titled album in 2000, there was really nobody on the pop-music scene that was singing about being gay. I just recently came to the realization that there was a 20-year gap between the time that artists like George Michael, Elton John, Boy George and Melissa Etheridge all came out after they were big superstars. In my eyes, they paved the way for an artist like myself to be openly gay from the beginning of my career. So when people in the music industry told me that I should be in the closet and then come out, I felt that that was disrespectful to the work that these superstars had done in order to pave the way. So I thought that I could be openly gay from the beginning of my career and singing about it in my music.

WCT: Why do you think that so many artists don't come out?

AG: Maybe because there is still a lot we're fighting for in terms of visibility and our civil liberties. The music industry has been going through change and turmoil and people have been very scared about taking any kind of risks. I think one of the biggest reasons is probably because of AIDS. Right after all those superstars came out, instead of that propelling us into positive change, it kind of scared everybody back into the closet. and we also lost a good amount of allies or role models.

WCT: Last December you posted a teaser



Ari Gold. Photo by Mike Ruiz

3-D video on YouTube for *Play My F**kn Remix* where you run through the streets naked, holding a sign over your private parts. Whose idea was it?

AG: All mine. [Both laugh.]

WCT: Were you nervous about doing that?

AG: I didn't know what all the laws were and I found out afterwards and I'm just grateful that I wasn't arrested. I'm happy that I didn't know all the rules because I thought that I was being fairly cautious. But I wasn't scared and it was quite liberating.

WCT: Tell me about growing up as a gay orthodox Jewish kid.

AG: I was definitely made fun of in class throughout my childhood, maybe in part because I liked *Wonder Woman* and I twirled around in class. There were even some moments when I felt that I was not accepted by teachers. I was certainly well-liked by the girls, and the boys had a hard time with that.

WCT: Can you give us a hint of which songs are going to be on the new remix CD?

AG: It's sort of a mixture between some of my personal favorite music tunes that I've had over the years and tunes that I never had a chance to release for one reason or another. I have an entirely new version of "Wave of You," where we re-recorded the vocals. Then there's two brand new songs as well. It's really kind of a music retrospective and I like the idea of that because it pays respect to the past with an ear to the future.

WCT: You were nude in the video for the song "My Favorite Religion." Were you ever asked to compromise your artistic vision?

AG: Some of my videos are nothing that you don't see on prime-time network TV. We have submitted videos to programs that did not pick them up because of the gay content. They may not say so outright but they would say that it's "not mainstream enough." But I'm sure that when it comes down to it, they were uncomfortable about the gay content.

WCT: Music producer Clive Davis recently came out as bisexual. Where do you stand on the idea that people are either straight or gay?

AG: It's anybody's right to claim what sexuality they have for themselves. If someone is being a hypocrite and saying that they are against one thing and doing another, that's a different story. But we should all be allowed to define our own personal sexuality.

WCT: You are also a DJ. What is the appeal of DJing?

AG: I love to be able to play the music that I love and that inspires me, including playing my own music. That way I don't have to worry about the DJ playing my F**kn record!

Sir Ari Gold's new CD *Play My Fkn Remix* is out June 4. To find out more about Gold, visit www.arigold.com.**

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DISH from page 30

gnon. The tender piece of beef is glazed with soy sauce, and served with seaweed salad and fresh uni cream on a plate that truly looks like a work of art. The filet is served with marshmallow mashed potatoes, which were another pleasant surprise. They are light and super fluffy with just a subtle hint of sweetness.

Dessert at Vu Sua is an affair to remember. I highly recommend the white asparagus pudding, a custard with the melt-in-your-mouth consistency of panna cotta. It's sweet with just the lightest trace of asparagus. It's tasted like spring on a plate—a stunning plate that is covered in strawberry coconut puree that is artfully swirled into what looks like yet another edible work of art.

The creativity and passion that goes into every dish at Vu Sua is obvious from the very first bite until the last. You can tell that every flavor has been chosen with purpose and that every ingredient is of the highest quality. I left Vu Sua feeling like I had a super high-end meal for a fraction of the cost that I pay at many Chicago restaurants. It's a great place to celebrate a special occasion because everything—from the way the oysters are served to the way the soup is poured at your table—feels special.

Vu Sua is located at 2925 N. Halsted St.; call 773-360-8816 or visit www.vusua-restaurant.com.

Do you need some more Sugar & Spice in your life? Follow me on Twitter @SugarAndSpiceMS for inside scoop and commentary on Chicago's dining scene.

calendar



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Wed., May 29

CALOR confidential HIV and STI testing

Every Wednesday without charge, regardless of age, ability to pay or residency. The process, from completing the consent paperwork to getting the results, takes 45 minutes. Counselors are available to review the results and provide referrals, as necessary. 12pm-4pm, CALOR, 3220 W Armitage Ave., www.calor.org

Under 35 Health Drop-In Night

Under 35, uninsured, and need some free health services? Join us for our monthly U35 Health Drop-In Night. Event is open to women, trans-masculine, and trans-feminine patients. 5pm, Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N Sheridan Rd, Chicago, http://www.howardbrown.org/

Aaron Belkin, book signing and lecture

Bring Me Men: Military and the Benign Facade of American Empire, 1898-2001 explores the topic of masculinity in the military. Belkin was a leader in the fight to repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. 6pm-8pm, 312-374-9333, The Pritzker Military Library, 104 S Michigan Ave., http://www.pritzkerlibrary.org/home/aaron-belkin.aspx

'My God is Not a Bully!' launch

Video legacy project collaboration between Chicago's E3 Radio founder Anna DeShawn and the Church Within A Church Movement movement. Diverse cross-section of people tell the story that in all traditions God is Love not a bully. 6pm-8pm, Side-

track, 3349 N Halsted St, Chicago, http://www.sidetrackchicago.com/

Portrait of Jason

Restoration of independent documentary. Exuberantly funny, but also crucial missing link between African American and LGBT history. From 1966, when Hollywood could barely acknowledge homosexuality as anything but a joke, the brave, uncensored testimony of a queer, Black hustler who built his life around transgressing the boundaries of segregated, pre-Stonewall America. 7 p.m., Music Box Theater, 3733 N. Southport Ave., www.musicboxtheatre.com

The Bachelors: staged reading of a screenplay

Based on a true story, The Bachelors introduces us to Bob Neal, a London decorator who returns to his failing Wisconsin hometown in 1934 and hires a local man to help him restore a historic rock cottage. \$10 Pride Films & Plays production. 7pm-9pm, 800-838-3006, Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., www.brownpapertickets.com

Thursday, May 30

Eat to the Beat: Chicago Academy for the Arts

The CAA Repertory Dance Company showcases professional training for dancers at the Chicago Academy for the Arts. Outstanding student dancers from grades 9 - 12 learn the works of professional choreographers. 12pm-1pm, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., http://gopride.com/z7q1

GET TANKED! Girl Party

Join Amanda the

last Thursday of the month for \$1 cocktails, featuring 42 BELOW Premium Vodka, Barefoot Wine, Miller Lite and Coors Light drafts and well cocktails. \$5 Bacardi Bombs (any flavor). No cover before 9 pm, \$5 after. 6pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., http://www.spin-nightclub.com

"Out & Proud in Chicago" On the eve of the kickoff of June Pride Month, WTTW repeats the critically acclaimed "Out & Proud in Chicago" featuring historical coverage of LGBTs in Chicago. 8pm on 11.1 WTTW HD. 8pm, http://www.wttw.com

Pride Prom Compete for titles of Stud King and Fem Queen. MC Angel, DJs Fuego and Unknown. \$5 cover. 9pm, Watra Nightclub, 4758 S. Pulaski Rd.

Friday, May 31

Jordan Matter - Dancers Among Us

Join us for a lecture by Jordan Matter on how a collection of dance photographs became a bestselling book and international sensation. 7pm-9pm, 773-549-1631, Chicago Photography Center, 3301 N Lincoln Ave., http://www.chicagophoto.org/lectures/

The Sklar Brothers at Up Comedy Club

From Curb Your Enthusiasm, "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia, Adult Swim's Children's Hospital, Grey's Anatomy and Entourage. They currently host docu-comedy on which statistics tell the story of America, The United States of America. 8pm, 312-662-4562, Up Comedy Club, http://up-comedyclub.com

Sean Wiggins & Ione gOat

Wiggins has done more than 100 songs, been compared to Melissa Etheridge, appeared with Cyndi Lauper and toured with Del Shores' "Sordid Lives". Chicagoan Chandler will be on drums. 8:30pm-10:30pm, Parlour on Clark, 6341 N Clark St., http://www.parlouronclark.com; Tickets: http://gopride.com/z821

Janet vs. Beyonce: Mary's Fight Club

Come out and dance out the battle of Janet vs Beyonce with DJ Voxbox. If you've watch their videos and studied their dance moves, bring your Janet and Beyonce action to the dance floor. Mary's Attic is a

friendly environment without judgement, so BRING IT! 9:30pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St., www.hamburgermarys.com/chicago

Make Knowing Your Thing Today HIV Campaign

Games and prizes related to campaign to encourage people to learn their HIV status. Submit a short video or photo with caption at www.OraQuick.com/knowing about the decision to get tested. Winner will be a part of a future OraQuick® In-Home HIV Test promotion. Contest through July 2013. 11pm, 773-743-5772, Jackhammer, 6406 N Clark Street, Chicago, http://www.jackhammer-chicago.com/

Saturday, June 1

Windy City Performing Arts "It's About Time!"

Windy City Gay Chorus and Aria present songs capturing the spirit of love, romance and marriage from around the world featuring the world premier of the song "It's About Time" sung by Karen Mason. 5pm-8pm, benezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster Ave., www.windycitysings.org

Queer Music Alliance Open Mic

Scott Free will be DJing local queer music before and after the open mic. Open mic 8 pm to 9:30 pm. This is an all inclusive open mic and spoken-word event. We encourage all queer and gender variant folks, their friends, and allies, to bring a song, talent, thought, or rant to share. Each performer gets five minutes to do their thing and we may have time for encores. 7pm-10:30pm, Parlour on Clark, 6341 N Clark

Artemis Singers "Amazon Women Rise" concert

Chicago's lesbian feminist chorus, will present a Pride concert and dance. Accessible. Tickets, suggested donation \$15 in advance for adults, \$20 at the door, \$10 for seniors age 65 and older; \$10 for children age 12 and younger. Dance with live DJ follows the concert. 7:30pm-10:30pm, 773-764-4465, Broad-



'RISE' WINNER Saturday, June 1

Artemis Singers will hold "Amazon Women Rise" at Broadway United Methodist Church.

Photo by Tracy Baim

way United Methodist Church, 3338 N. Broadway, www.artemissingers.org

The Songs of Laura Nyro From the mega hits ("Eli's Coming," "Stoned Soul Picnic") to the lesser-known gems ("Billy's Blues"), Shepley Metcalf and Ron Roy deliver the soulful songs of '60s/'70s legend Laura Nyro. "Emmie," "Save the Country," and "And When I Die" on the set list. Nyro (1947-97) performed a number of times in Chicago, and was inducted last year into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. 8pm-9:30pm, 773-278-1830, Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret, 1383 N Milwaukee Ave, www.davenportspianobar.com

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Aaron Belkin.

'Transvisible' screening May 30 at UIC

Unid@s: The National Latin@ LGBT Human Rights Organization—through its VISIBLE project and in collaboration with UIC Gender and Sexuality Center, Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA), Amigas Latinas, Orgullo en Accion, Project Vida, Vida/SIDA and United Latin@ Pride week—present the film screening of Transvisible: Bamby Salcedo's Story.

A film screening of Transvisible will take place at the UIC Behavioral Sciences Building, Room 140, 1007 W. Harrison St., on Thursday, May 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

A reception with Roland Palencia, the film's executive producer, and the movie's sponsors will take place at 6:30 p.m.; the screening starts at 7:30 p.m.

Salcedo is a long-time Mexico-born trans activist who resides in Los Angeles.

For more information, call 312-925-2132 or email jcestou@aol.com.

Legacy Walk's 'Gay Rub' at Center May 29

The Legacy Project announced that artist and activist Steven Reigns, of the artist's collective known as "The Gay Rub," is coming to Chicago to take impressions/rubbings of the 18 bronze plaques that currently make up the Legacy Walk installation on North Halsted Street in Boytown.

The event will take place Wed., May 29, 3:30-6:30 p.m., at the Center on Halsted (3656 N. Halsted St.), room 200. For more info, email victorsalvo@legacyprojectchicago.org.



Lambda Literary Awards finalists hold readings

Midwest finalists for the 2013 Lambda Literary Awards held a reading and book-signing for their nominated books May 22 at Center on Halsted.

The readers were Anne Laughlin (Runaway), Marty McConnell (wine for a shotgun), Lania Knight (Three Cubic Feet), E.M. Kokie (Personal Effects), Chris Paynter (Survived by Her Longtime Companion), C.P. Rowlands (Jacob's War), Lewis Wallace, and Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim (Gay Press, Gay Power: The Growth of LGBT Community Newspapers in America).

Ramon H. Rivera-Servera (Performing Queer Latinidad: Dance, Sexuality, Politics) was delayed by travel and could not attend.

Photos of (left) Laughlin and McConnell by Tracy Baim; see www.lambdaliterary.org for details on the June Awards in New York City.

Belkin of 'Bring Me Men' at Pritzker Library May 29

Aaron Belkin—author of Bring Me Men: Military Masculinity and the Benign Facade of American Empire, 1898-2001—will hold a book-signing and lecture at the Pritzker Military Library, 104 S. Michigan Ave., on Wed., May 29, at 6 p.m.

Bring Me Men explores the theory that the masculinity of those who serve in the American military is full of contradictions.

RSVP by calling the library at 312-374-9333 or visiting www.PritzkerMilitaryLibrary.org.

BILLY MASTERS

"I have never had a better time than being Liberace's date. We all knew he was homosexual. That was a friend: you know what they love and the people that they love, and what they are."—Debbie Reynolds discusses her friendship with Liberace, whose mother she plays in HBO's *Behind the Candelabra*.

June may be Gay Pride Month, but Long Beach, Calif., got the jump on the Pride celebrations last week, and I had a great time hosting the festivities for the first time. Our climactic line-up included a host of former contestants from *American Idol* and *The Voice*. Since I've worked with many of these singers before, it was a fun reunion for everyone. Frenchie Davis (an alum of both shows) not only showcased her magnificent instrument with high-energy dance songs (like her hit "Love's Got a Hold on Me") but also by opting for guitar accompaniment on a stripped-down version of Katy Perry's "Firework." Likewise, Kimberly Caldwell showed both sides of her range—from rocker chick to pop princess. Paris Bennett is a third-generation diva—her grandmother is Ann Nesby (from "Sounds of



The Backstreet Boys' Nick Carter is "Facing the Music," Billy says.

Blackness") and her mom is Jamecia Bennett. I worked with all three of them a few years ago at Sheryl Lee Ralph's "Divas Simply Singing." For Long Beach, mom joined Paris for "It's Raining Men."

Although I've met hunky David Hernandez before, this was our first time working together. His pop sound is as appealing and smooth as his good looks. Jamar Rogers strikes me as a genuine and unique artist who wants to not only entertain but also help others by sharing his own story of crystal-meth addiction and his HIV-positive status. Then there was Beverly McClellan, who blew me away with both her spirit and her voice. She's the real deal and was a joy to work with. At the end of the show, I couldn't help but note that it was great for Long Beach Pride to feature some truly beautiful women who are not only talented but also proud to say they love the ladies. Bravo!

Speaking of pop singers, Nick Carter is writing his memoirs—if for no other reason than to prove that he can actually write! Facing the Music and Living to Talk About It is slated to

be released Sept. 24. Allegedly, he'll be covering the ups and downs of being a member of the Backstreet Boys, his personal relationships, and his substance and alcohol abuse. I'm curious to see how much detail he'll go into about Lou Pearlman. The imprisoned impresario behind (so to speak) BSB and 'NSync is rumored to have made certain advances on several of his clients. Phoenix Stone (who was very briefly a BSB) said, "This was not something Nick was comfortable talking about. What happened? Well, I just think that he finally, you know, Lou was definitely inappropriate with him, and he just felt that he didn't want anything to do with that anymore." What was "that?" Nick's mom was also cagey on the subject but said, "Certain things happened and it almost destroyed our family. I tried to warn everyone. I tried to warn all the mothers. ... I tried to expose him for what he was years ago." Juicy stuff.

A summer show we can look forward to is ABC Family's *Baby Daddy* coming back for its second season, although I never heard of it. In fact, if it weren't for the recurring role snagged by Matt Dallas, I wouldn't know about it now. Matt will be reunited with his former *Kyle XY* co-star Jean-Luc Bilodeau. (The boys showed a bit of skin for some photos, which I'll post on BillyMasters.com.) At the GLAAD Awards, Dallas spoke for the first time about his upcoming nuptials to singer Blue Hamilton: "We talked about it a lot and we've been doing lots of planning, but there's no official date set yet. We're both like the most easygoing guys. For us, it's more about just having a celebration and throwing a party. Yeah, so no stressing out and getting crazy about wedding plans."

ABC Family is also launching a new show. *The Fosters* comes from Jennifer Lopez and Peter Paige, and follows the exploits of a lesbian biracial couple and their kids. The show debuts June 3.

Our "Ask Billy" question this week comes from David in Boston: "I just saw the new *Star Trek* movie and am in love with Benedict Cumberbatch. I heard there was a nude scene with him that was cut. Can you track it down?"

You may have seen Cumberbatch in *The Hobbit*, *War Horse*, or any number of BBC projects or plays in London. (I saw him in the National Theatre's "Frankenstein", which was also screened in U.S. cinemas in 2011.) If it's nudity you're interested in, you should check him out in "To the Ends of the Earth," where you get quite a view indeed. As to this fabled *Star Trek* nude scene, we learned about it after certain groups complained about the gratuitous shot of Dr. Carol Marcus in her bra and panties. Director J.J. Abrams pointed out that there was also a shirtless scene with Kirk (although I must say Alice Eve is in far better shape than Chris Pine). Abrams revealed to Conan O'Brien that they also filmed a shower scene with Cumberbatch, but it was cut from the film. You can see this clip and others at BillyMasters.com.

When I'm posting nude aliens, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Before closing, I want to congratulate openly gay soccer player Robbie Roberts. His coming-out in February was tethered to his retiring from the sport at the ripe old age of 25 (which I believe is the square root of David Beckham's). However, he's come out again—this time out of retirement. Upon signing with the LA Galaxy, he talked about coming out: "I don't know what I was so afraid of. It's been such a positive experience for me. The one thing I've learned from all of this is being gay is not that big a deal to people." If there's any message to share during Gay Pride Month, that's it. You can get more stories like this at www.BillyMasters.com, the site that's proud 365 days a year. For your more personal needs, drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Jodie Foster makes a cameo on *The Fosters*. So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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CALENDAR from page 32

CAKE CHICAGO, LGBTQ Arts Showcase Ripley Caine & the Full Moon, Chicago-based duo of singer/guitarist and drummer, a balance between singer/songwriter and indie pop/rock. Crumbs off the Table celebrates their debut record, *Ever Changing Hours*, unique, sexy, rhythm-heavy rock/soul arrangements generated by Stones-worthy guitars. 9pm, Red Line Tap, 7006 N Glenwood Ave., www.facebook.com/cakechicago

Sunday, June 2

Urban Village Church-Wicker Park service Wicker Park is a unique neighborhood full of passion, art, diversity, and eclectic energy, all which makes Urban Village Church thrilled to be involved in the community! 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., <http://www.urbanvillagechurch.org>

Northalsted Sunday Funday North Halsted comes alive with Sunday-Funday festivities and activity. See what all of Chicago Land is enjoying. Come straight to Halsted! 11am-11pm, Halsted/Belmont to Halsted/Waveland, <http://www.northalsted.com>

WNBA "Pride Night & the Chicago Sky" The WNBA hosts "Pride Night & the Chicago Sky" Cost is \$25, includes Sky Pride Bag. 5pm-7pm, Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim Rd., Rosemont, IL, <http://www.chicagosky.net>

11th Annual Windy City Gay Idol: Wild Card Invited guests plus open slots for new singers. 8pm sign up, 9pm start, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., <http://goprider.com/z81w>

Asians & Friends First Sunday of the Month Dim Sum Meet for Dim Sum; 12:30pm, Furama, 4936 N. Broadway, <http://www.afchicago.org>

Monday, June 3

TPAN Complimentary Therapy Programs Reiki is offered the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 1pm to 3pm on a first come first serve basis. 1pm-3pm, TPAN, 5537 N. Broadway, Chicago, <http://www.tpan.com> more information

API Coming Out Support Group First Monday of the month for LGBTQ Asian Pacific Americans. 6pm,

Asian Human Services, 4753 N. Broadway, Chicago, <http://www.chicago21.org>

Tuesday, June 4

How Do I Look—Voguing in the New Millennium

The film documentary captures traditions of the Harlem 'Ball' scene that have become such inspirations worldwide. Director Wolfgang Busch brings the spotlight to the icons and legends of this scene and takes you inside the Harlem drag ball competitions where they showcase their talents. Join the director in a Q/A session after the film. 6pm-8pm, Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S State, St., www.chipublib.org

And the Winner Wasn't Celebrates the great music of Broadway with top Chicago talent and music from *Pride Films* and Plays "Under A Rainbow Flag" (Jeff Award Nominee for Best Musical, Best New Work—Leo Schwartz, Best Director—David Zak, Best Musical Director—Robert Ollis, and Best Supporting Actor in a Musical—James Nedrud); Boho's "Kiss of the Spider Woman" (Nathan Carroll as Molina); Mercury's Theatre's "Barnum". \$20 online. 7pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St, Chicago, Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/351228>

Ross Mathews Since 2001 an in-demand television correspondent and host in pop-culture arena today. Endearing, witty, funny since he became known as a correspondent for "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno.": 8pm-10pm, 800-745-3000, Congress Theatre, 2135 N Milwaukee Ave., <http://goprider.com/z89r>

Wed., June 5

Spring Wine Tasting Party An evening in good taste. Sample more than 99 wines from around the world. Your \$20 contribution benefits Equality IL PAC. Bottles and cases will also be available for purchase (subject to availability). 6pm-9pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., www.sidetrackchicago.com

Gay soccer player reverses retirement, makes history

BY ROSS FORMAN

Robbie Rogers is coming out of retirement and returning to the pitch—but not for the Chicago Fire.

Rogers revealed in February that he is gay and then immediately, and surprisingly to some, retired from professional soccer—until May 25, when it was officially announced that the Los Angeles Galaxy had acquired his rights from Chicago in return for Mike Magee, who has played in Major League Soccer (MLS) since 2003, first for New York and the past five seasons for the Galaxy. During his 232-game MLS career, Magee has 42 career goals, including six in seven games this year.

Rogers signed a multi-year contract with Los Angeles, and will sport jersey No. 14 for the Galaxy. He will be added to the Galaxy roster upon the receipt of his International Transfer Certificate (ITC) and had his debut with the club Sunday, when he came off the bench to play for his team in their win against the Seattle Sounders.

"I'd like to thank everyone at Major League Soccer, the LA Galaxy and the Chicago Fire for allowing me to return to playing the game that I love," Rogers said at a press conference. "I look forward to getting back out onto the field and continuing my soccer career as a member of the Galaxy."

Rogers became the first openly gay male athlete to compete in a top U.S. professional team sport. Basketball player Jason Collins came out in late-April to worldwide headlines, yet his 2012-13 NBA season was over and he is now a

free agent.

"I guess for 25 years I've just been afraid to share a secret with everyone and finally I did that. And even though soccer was a place where I could be happy, and not necessarily hide that side, but I could express myself on the field. I kept my secret because I thought I couldn't be both a soccer player and a gay athlete.

"That's not true, but I felt that way. So I was afraid to put myself back in a situation where I felt like I was kind of an outcast or just different than people. But through this whole process, I've realized everyone is a bit different, everyone has their issues. I've learned that OK, this is part of me, I'm a soccer player, Christian, I'm human like everyone else and everyone's got their issues; we all deal with it and I think that's what makes this even better."

Rogers' illustrious career has included five years with the MLS Columbus Crew, where he played 106 regular-season games, with 13 goals and 16 assists. He signed with Leeds United of the English Championship (second division) in January 2012, and appeared in four games. His international career also included time with Stevenage of England's League One (third division).

Rogers also has 18 caps with the U.S. National Team, scoring twice, including the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The Fire acquired Rogers' MLS rights in a trade with Columbus in February that sent Dominic Oduro to the Crew.

"I am proud to welcome Robbie Rogers, a courageous man and a terrific soccer player, back to Major League Soccer," MLS Commissioner Don



Robbie Rogers. Photo from Rogers' Twitter page

Garber said in a statement. "We look forward to Robbie's contributions on and off the field."

Rogers tweeted, "An exciting future lies ahead, not only for me but for our society."

Openly gay soccer player Megan Rapinoe tweeted, "Congratulation[s] society for letting this man know it is okay to be who you are."

Sigi Schmid, who coaches the MLS Seattle Sounders, was Rogers' coach in Columbus. He spoke to the media Saturday and said, "I think it's all about [Rogers] as a soccer player at this stage. It's about him getting back on the field, him playing well, him getting back to the level where he was a national team player, and I think that's what the focus has got to be. Everybody in their personal lives has things that make them different or are unique to them in one way or another, but I think the focus on the soccer field is what you do on the soccer field. For me, I'm happy that Robbie is back. I'm happy that he's playing. It's a great opportunity for him to make a statement. At the end of the day, he's going to get judged by his ability to play the game."

George Saldivar plays in the predominantly gay Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) soccer league, and is a former college soccer player. He said, "Robbie is a good player. It's gonna give [the] Galaxy crazy depth and an even better chance of winning it all once all their pieces fall into place. I'm sure [Rogers] went to a team that he felt would accept him, and I can see the Galaxy being more open than [other] teams [about his sexual orientation]."

Tyler Foerster, who also plays in CMSA's soccer league, among other sports, said he was "upset" Rogers will not be playing for the Fire, "but understand the situation with his family," being from Southern California and Rogers' interest to be closer to them.

"As far as him coming out of retirement to play after announcing [he is gay, he gets] a huge ovation on my behalf," Foerster said. "He's going to be that role model for younger LGBT kids as far as an American soccer player. Robbie and Jason Collins [coming out] is a step in the right direction toward ending homophobia in professional sports.

"I'm absolutely sure we will see more follow suit, even in [professional] baseball and foot-

ball, seeing that there hasn't been too many consequences for them to announce their preference."

Foerster admitted he had an argument Saturday night with a friend about why Rogers had his own segment on ESPN for coming out. "He didn't understand why this was a big deal. I explained the situation of homophobia in pro sports and the purpose of ending this fear," Foerster said.

Robin Lee, a sports fan and sports memorabilia collector/dealer from San Francisco, said the latest Rogers' news is "fantastic for the gay community and for sports."

"We all know there are many athletes who happen to be gay in professional sports," said Lee, an out lesbian. "Thank goodness for people like Robbie Rogers, Jason Collins and [WNBA player] Brittney Griner—role models who, by example, are leading the way for other athletes to find their way out of the closet and to inspire the next generation."

See www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=wd66mD7eXf4.



Robbie Rogers. Photo from the Chicago Fire

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DUTY TO DISCLOSE DEFECTS WHEN SELLING YOUR HOUSE

Q. My lover and I are in the process of selling our house. When we bought the house we discovered after the closing that the house had asbestos around the basement heating pipes. We had the pipes wrapped by a heating contractor to prevent any flaking or peeling of the asbestos. What is our legal obligation to inform the buyer of our house of the asbestos?

A. Most experts agree that residential asbestos in good condition is usually not a health risk. For one thing asbestos in homes is usually in minimal amounts and is unlikely to become airborne. However, asbestos can impair the resale value of your home as some mortgage lenders are requiring that the asbestos be removed from a home. With older homes the four things that a buyer is concerned about is mold, the roof, the furnace and the presence of asbestos.

The residential asbestos problem is also a bigger issue for sellers because of the Illinois Residential Real Property Disclosure Act. Under the law all home sellers are required to complete a disclosure sheet advising any potential buyers of problems or known defects with the house. Question number 15 on the sheet asks if the seller knows there to be any "unsafe concentrations of or unsafe conditions relating to asbestos" in the home. All home sellers will have to answer this question yes, no or not applicable.

My advice for the couple in the question is to make a complete disclosure of everything known about your house. Such lawsuits can be avoided by using the following safeguards:

* Sellers should insist that the buyer have the house inspected. If the buyer knows about a defect and there is written evidence such as an inspection report, the chances of a lawsuit decrease.

* At the time the seller signs a listing agreement with a realtor the seller should provide the realtor with a list of all known defects in the house. The list should be shown to prospective buyers so they will be aware of any known defects. The realtor will present the defects to the prospective buyer in a neutral way and at the same time stress the positive aspects of the house. It's the realtor's job to sell the house and put it in the best light possible.

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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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