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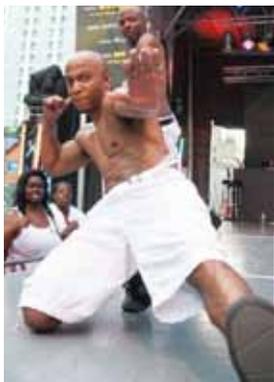
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LISA MADIGAN ON MARRIAGE



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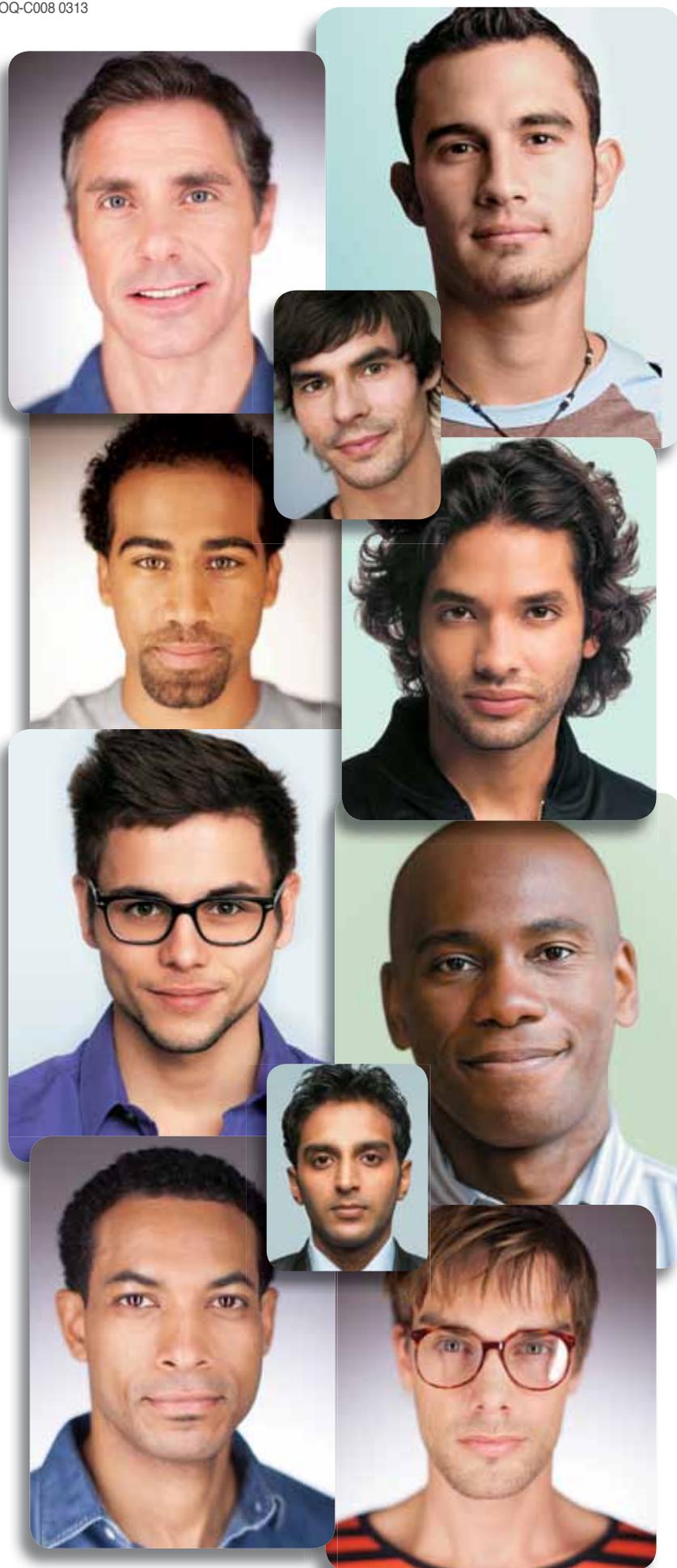
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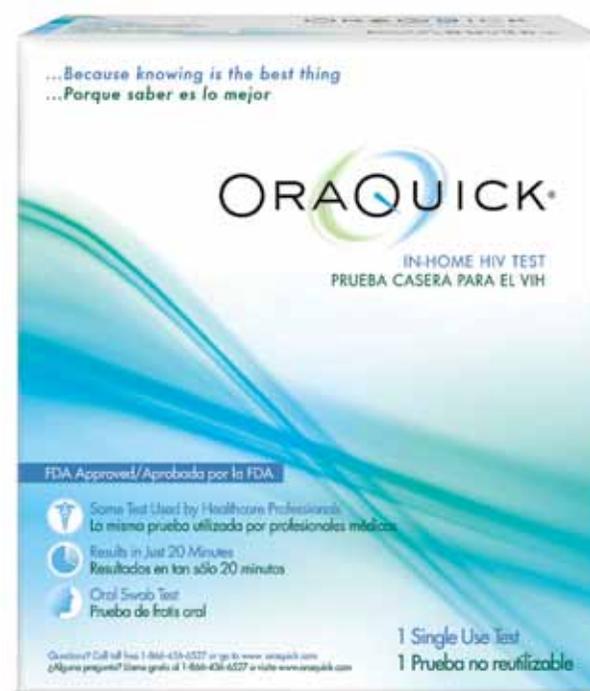
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this week in
WINDY CITY TIMES

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Photo of Lisa Madigan by Tim Carroll; photo of Chicago Pride Fest by Ed Negron; photo of James Baptist by Ross Forman; photo of Ola Wolan by Ross Forman; Troy Pery and Phillip Ray De Blicke from national Gay History Project

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LIVING HIS 'TRUTH'
In a candid interview, actor/dancer/speaker Carlton Wilborn (left) talks about everything from dealing with abuse to dancing with Madonna in the film Truth or Dare.

Photo from Wilborn



It was dance fever as the Joffrey Ballet and Dance for Life held events.

Photo by Jerry Nunn



A panel looked at negative body image and eating disorders within the LGBT community.

Photo of Joe Camper by Melissa Wasserman

STRONG AND THE MEEKS
Marcus Davis writes that the Rev. James Meeks—known for his anti-gay leanings—does not represent the Black Church.

SOUNDING OFF
Readers make their thoughts known about Cardinal George and the Illinois House's Black Caucus.

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS
Find out the latest about Project Runway, Alan Ball and Paris Barclay.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

(BIRD)HOUSE PARTY



See photos from Chicago House's annual birdhouse auction.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

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Forget the 'Berlin Patient' and meet Timothy Ray Brown

BY SARAH TOCE

Timothy Ray Brown didn't seek fame. In fact, it was quite the opposite. Brown, originally from Seattle, Washington, was enjoying his youth—meeting friends, experiencing life via various sexual partners, making his way through university—when the unthinkable happened. He contracted the HIV virus.

Surely you've heard of Brown. No? Let's try another name: the "Berlin Patient." Now have you heard of him? We thought so. That's because Brown (a.k.a. the "Berlin Patient") was the first human ever functionally cured of his HIV-positive status. And therein lies both the blessing and the curse for the man who stumbled into an accidental life in the spotlight.

Windy City Times: In your own words, please tell us how you contracted HIV.

Timothy Ray Brown: I believe I contracted HIV in Barcelona, Spain through unprotected anal sex with a male partner. I am actually not completely sure that is true because one time during passive anal sex a condom broke.

WCT: What was your life like before the diagnosis?

TRB: Before moving to Europe, I took part in several ACT-UP Seattle demonstrations even though I was not yet HIV-positive. One was a demonstration at a Nordstrom Fashion Show at the Seattle Sheraton because Nordstrom had fired a salesman because he was HIV-positive. This was my first small taste of HIV and AIDS activism. Although I have always been politically concerned and aware, I did not get back into that until I was cured even as an HIV-positive person.

I decided in 1990 following a trip around Western Europe and Greece with two female friends of mine that I wanted to live in Europe. One year later, I moved to Barcelona with a good friend from Seattle and worked as an English teacher. After moving to Barcelona, I took a month-long trip to Berlin, Germany, returned to Barcelona, lost my room in my apartment there and ended up moving to Berlin.

I had always been rather sexually active; I just enjoyed sex. When not using a condom for anal sex as a passive partner, I would always ask my partner not to ejaculate inside of me. That always worked except once in Barcelona.

WCT: How did you learn you were HIV-positive?

TRB: I worked for the British Military until I moved back to Barcelona because of a relationship with a German man who wanted to live in another large European city. I worked again as an English teacher. When I moved back to Berlin by myself about a year later, I started working at a Café Adler at Checkpoint Charley (former border crossing point between West and East Berlin). I took a university preparation course of studies in German to be able to attend university in Germany.

About one week before I finished, a former partner, Joerg, told me that he had tested positive for HIV and suggested that I should also get tested. I had tested regularly in Seattle before moving to Europe and had always tested negative. I got tested and it was positive.

WCT: How did your life change post-diagnosis?

TRB: My first HIV specialist at the clinic talked me in to starting AZT directly post-diagnosis. She prescribed a very low dose of it due to my concerns about it. I would look for men who appeared HIV-positive to me because pre-HAART, they were much more obvious than they are today. I certainly did not want to be responsible for infecting anyone else. I started university as planned. I met my long-term boyfriend in December 1996. We became extremely close and stayed together until January 2008. I remained

monogamous for the first two years but then I could not do it any longer so I would secretly have sex on the side. I quit university and later started working as a German to English translator because my knowledge of German had become very good. The ARVs that I took once combination treatments began becoming available in 1996 allowed me to live a relatively normal life with an almost normal life expectancy.

WCT: You have been recognized as the first person to ever be functionally cured of HIV. Could you explain, essentially, what this means?

TRB: I was the first formerly HIV-positive person in the world to have his entire immune system replaced by one from a donor who is immune—or at least highly resistant to HIV. I have been poked and prodded from head to toe, had biopsies done of my gut, brain tissue and lymph nodes as well as my blood tested hundreds of times. No sign of HIV has been discovered anywhere. I no longer have any antibodies to HIV. I am told that I am not only functionally cured but also have a sterilizing cure although the former would be enough to end HIV because, on a larger scale, patients would no longer require medication.

WCT: How does one carry that status without feeling isolated within his own community?

TRB: When conversing with people, I show a complete attachment with the HIV-positive community. I was HIV-positive twice as long as I have been cured. I definitely understand being HIV-positive. I refuse to lose that feeling and empathy. I may not completely keep up with the available medication at any given point. My boyfriend is HIV-positive so I talk to him about this all the time. Most of my male gay friends are HIV-positive. I feel completely connected with POZ people.

WCT: Where did the name "Berlin Patient" originate?

TRB: Because I was having difficulty recovering after my second stem cell transplant, I was not ready to be open to the public about who I was. Medical scientists were discussing my case and needed a way to talk about me without using my name. I remember agreeing to do an interview with Die Welt, a German New York Times-style newspaper. I told the professor of Oncology that I did not want my real name used; nor did I want photos to be taken of me or used.

On a side note—a bit off subject, the reporter asked me if I had sex with anyone since the transplant. I told him that I had unprotected anal intercourse with an HIV-positive friend. The professor said excitedly that this was proof that the transplant had worked and that I was now immune to HIV. Since then, I have learned that people with undetectable viral loads are highly unlikely to transmit HIV.

WCT: How did you/do you feel about being referred to the "Berlin Patient?"

TRB: Considering the fact that I am not German and not from Berlin but rather Seattle, I prefer people to refer to me by my name: Timothy Ray Brown or Timothy for short. That was the principle reason to name my non-profit The Timothy Ray Brown Foundation rather than using another name for it.

WCT: Naysayers have speculated in recent history that your HIV status is positive, thus debunking your statements to the contrary. What might you say to them now?

TRB: Like I have pointed out, almost every



Timothy Ray Brown. Photo from Brown

part of my body has been biopsied, including my brain. My blood has been tested countless times. No researcher has found any living replicable virus anywhere in my body. The proof that I have been cured is in that I have never taken any HIV medication since my first transplant February 6, 2007. My T-cell level (CD4 count) has continuously increased to that of a person who never had HIV. The US National Institutes of Health (NIH) can verify that I am cured.

WCT: Since your two bone marrow transplant surgeries for leukemia treatment in 2006 and 2007, two other HIV-positive men may have been cured of HIV, according to reports. Is this progress, in your opinion? Should it continue to be a method of treatment and, ultimately, a cure?

TRB: I believe that this is definitely progress. I am not doing this just to be famous for being the only person to be cured. My message is that I want all HIV-positive people in the entire world to be cured of this disease. The cure of these two is a start but I want many others to follow. My cure was expensive and dangerous. I am blessed to still be here. Dr. Gero Huetter, the oncologist who had the idea to look for a CCR5 Delta 32 negative donor and replace my immune system with that donor's immune system told me last year that prior to my second transplant, statistically I only had a 5 percent chance of survival. Therefore, I believe that my case represents a proof of concept that a cure is possible.

Dr. Huetter told me in December 2010 that he had tried to replicate my case on a dozen further patients. None of the patients survived succumbing to the effects of their primary illness like leukemia, lymphoma or other serious blood conditions. However, my case has raised the hopes of other possible less expensive possible treatment or even cures. Prior to my cure, the word cure in relation to HIV really was considered a four-letter word. Afterwards, medical scientists dealing with HIV actually believed that HIV can be cured and are looking for a cure.

WCT: What do you feel about PrEP [pre-exposure prophylaxis]?

TRB: At first, I thought that we should not "waste" money on treating HIV-negative people while many HIV-positive patients do not have access to life-saving medication. However, my thoughts on PrEP have evolved to thinking that it is important to stop this disease in any way possible. If PrEP is successful in preventing just one HIV infection, then it was worth the funds for it.

WCT: Shouldn't we be further along already than we are now?

TRB: Yes, we should be further along. Unfortunately, funding amounts for cure research are too low in this country. Promising and motivated young medical researchers are not able to find work. Biotech companies are not able to afford to pay scientists. Most of the research that is done in this country is publicly funded on the federal or state level.

Nevertheless, progress on HIV has gone comparatively quite rapidly as opposed to other diseases such as polio. We managed to take it from a rapid death sentence to a manageable disease in a couple decades and now we have the first cure of it with more to follow. This may not be of

any consolation to people who have lost loved ones or are lying on deaths bed without any viable treatment. I am deeply troubled about that but medical science is making progress!

WCT: In 2012 at the XIX International AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C., you publicly announced the Timothy Ray Brown Foundation. Was it important for you to give back to the HIV/AIDS community? What was behind the initiative to create this organization?

TRB: During my time in recovery, I began to realize how amazing my case was in bringing back the desire by the medical scientific community to find a cure for HIV along with other diseases which could benefit from a better understanding of stem cells and how they work. I was encouraged in my college course in 1985 that all diseases would someday be curable through the use of stem cells. I believed that. Once I made the decision to release my name and image to the media, I began traveling in North America and Europe to tell my story and show people that a cure for HIV is possible.

I met Dave Purdy and Chad Johnson of the World AIDS Institute in Washington, D.C. in June 2012 and told them that I wanted to step out as a leader to advocate for the cure of HIV. We decided together that we would do make an announcement during the XIX International AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C. in July 2012. The planning began.

WCT: Have you ever felt negatively about being the only cured HIV-positive patient in history?

TRB: Initially, I had a feeling of guilt of being the only person cured of HIV. Whether intentional or not, I felt a sense of envy from a couple of my friends who were still HIV-positive. My decision to start the Timothy Ray Brown Foundation was in part my desire to deal with this sense of guilt, whether it was rational or not.

For the full version of this interview, go to www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

LGBT groups slam Supreme Ct. ruling

On June 25, the U.S. Supreme Court, by a vote of five to four, struck down a key part of the Voting Rights Act of 1965—the map that determines which states must get federal permission before they change their voting laws, according to NBC News.

"Our country has changed, and while any racial discrimination in voting is too much, Congress must ensure that the legislation it passes to remedy that problem speaks to current conditions," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court.

Under the law, nine mostly Southern states (as well as 12 cities and 57 counties elsewhere) must get permission from the Justice Department or a special panel of three federal judges before they make changes.

LGBT organizations were among those criticizing the court's ruling. A coalition of groups that included Human Rights Campaign, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Lambda Legal and others issued a statement that read, "We, America's leading LGBT advocacy organizations, join civil rights organizations—and indeed, all Americans whom this law has served to protect—in expressing acute dismay at today's ruling."

"Voting rights protections, which have long served our nation's commitment to equality and justice, should not be cast aside now. The court has done America a grave disservice, and we will work with our coalition partners to undo the damage inflicted by this retrogressive ruling."

However, conservatives applauded the decision. Horace Cooper, co-chair of the Black leadership network Project 21, said in a statement, "Federalism and state sovereignty are the big winners today—and, once again, Eric Holder's Justice Department was the loser."



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Dr. Saul Levin on steering the APA into the 21st century

BY SARAH TOCE

On May 15, the American Psychiatric Association's (APA's) board of trustees announced that CEO and medical director Dr. James H. Scully, Jr. would be succeeded by psychiatrist Dr. Saul Levin—the first openly gay head of the Department of Health in Washington, D.C. With this historic selection, Levin would become the first out gay head of the national medical specialty society.

"I have known Saul for over 20 years. He brings extraordinary intelligence, vision and great energy to the challenges ahead for our profession. I look forward to working together with him as we transition to new leadership," Scully said in an official statement.

Levin's history with the APA is a long one, beginning in 1987. At the time, he was a member himself and served on the American Psychiatric Association Delegation to the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association PAC Board, the Scientific Program Committee, and as a consultant to the Finance and Budget Committee.

As the interim director of the District of Columbia Department of Health, Levin led efforts to promote access to quality health care for D.C. residents, including provision of school-based nursing services and implementation of an electronic health information exchange since July 2012. He oversaw the merger of the Department of Health's Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration and Department of Mental Health into D.C.'s Department of Behavioral Health.

Levin's connection to substance-abuse addiction treatment led him to the District's Addiction and Recovery Administration alongside the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Before his employment with the District of Columbia, Dr. Levin was the Vice President for Science, Medicine and Public Health at the American Medical Association. He is also a member of the Maryland Psychiatric Society.

Windy City Times: Dr. Levin, you shattered the glass ceiling by becoming the first openly gay head of the D.C. Department of Health in 2012. In what ways did the weight of that historical title sink in during your tenure?

Dr. Saul Levin: I always feel responsible to the LGBTQ community—because I'm part of that community and I live in that community. So, obviously I view my day-to-day existence as a gay man sees it through that prism—being an openly gay man.

In terms of me being the first openly gay head of the Department of Health and the American Psychiatric Association, I think one of the wonderful things with the LGBTQ movement has occurred over the last 10-15 years: It's no longer an issue of you being openly gay in that position. It's that we, just like anyone else, are appointed to a position because we have the expertise to do the job. And one of the added things we bring to it is the fact that we do have, if you are LGBTQ, some minority component to that and, therefore, you have in some ways a prism that makes sure you always look at it from the perspective of the minorities as well as the majority.

WCT: Given the responsibility of carrying the torch, so to speak, were there initiatives that stood out as more critical than others during your time with the DOH?

Dr. Saul Levin: I looked at what was good for the city as a whole. But then obviously you do have different populations, different illnesses, different socioeconomic situations that impacts their health as well—the biosocial determinants



Dr. Saul Levin. Photo courtesy of the APA

of health. In Washington, D.C. we know that we have a much higher incidence of cancer and diabetes in the African American population and, therefore, we need to make sure we have programs to really look to take care of them. Likewise in the LGBT community, we would have programs that took care of some of the big issues that occurred in the LGBT community ... in terms of HIV, in terms of substance abuse, in terms of mental health, and psychological issues. So I think it isn't that I focused particularly on a population—I looked at all the populations that make up the District of Columbia.

WCT: Fast-forward to July 2013 when you will begin the transition period to step into the shoes of Dr. James H. Scully Jr. at the American Psychiatric Association. What is your background with Dr. Scully?

Dr. Saul Levin: I've known Dr. Scully now for close [to] 15 years. I started off as—obviously I'm a psychiatrist—a resident in psychiatry, so I joined the American Psychiatric Association. He worked there at one point as the senior person on the staff, so I got to interact with him there. I also interacted with him once he became the medical director, and was also involved with the American Medical Association, that I've been involved both as a resident and then a psychiatrist and a physician involved with the American Medical Association.

And then when I became the vice president of science medicine and public health for the American Medical Association, obviously mental health and substance abuse was a big part of science medicine and public health that the American Medical Association looked at, so I worked with him as well. He has been a mentor, friend, colleague, and above all, an exceptional leader. It's my privilege to follow in his footsteps. He's a great man. He has a great sense of humor, also great intellect.

WCT: Why did this specific position and organization speak to you at this juncture in your career?

Dr. Saul Levin: I think—as I look at my career from my psychiatric training, looking at having been a clinician, and then realizing that policy and administration were just as important for psychiatry and for medicine and ensuring that those parts were taken care of—it became clear [to me] that policy and administration was where I showed a very particular aptitude. I began to do those jobs that looked to lead the people that you were representing.

As a psychiatrist, particularly in the Affordable Care Act of today—and health-benefits exchanges and health-information exchanges that clearly the country is moving toward—I hope that I've been able to help the American Psychiatric Association and our members, all 38,000 of them, become familiar with what we need to do as psychiatrists in this country providing the expert care we give to patients. This job enabled me to do that, so it was a privilege to be chosen and selected.

WCT: How might your approaches to the profession of psychiatry differentiate from that of your predecessor?

Dr. Saul Levin: I'm not too sure our approaches are going to be different. I think times are different, though. And with the Affordable Care Act, the whole nation is looking at the health care delivery system and the physicians and practitioners that practice care is going to change. So, I think it's all the same basic tenets that we have to look at: research, particularly in the neurosciences that we obviously are literally at the beginning of the threshold of the brain that we truly are going to understand what are the illnesses of the brain, bio-psycho-social. The genetic components of it, the psychological, and also the social component of it.

The research has to be done to find those biomarkers of an illness that we will be able to give treatment for that particular illness. And then you've got education, which Dr. Scully had to deal with and I will—how do we ensure, in this time of exploding knowledge from our researches and expeditions, that we're able to teach everyone—medical students, residents and life-long learning of those practicing psychiatrists—about those changes? I think in some ways it's going to be the same things he faced and then we will also have additional looks around the Affordable Care Act and the health information and electronic health records that will add to some of the things we're going to do.

WCT: As a psychiatrist specializing in substance-abuse treatment, what can you tell us about the correlation between LGBT youth homelessness and substance abuse? Are they completely separate issues or do they work together in a distinct way?

Dr. Saul Levin: I believe that they do work together. If you are homeless or facing the stress of having to live on the street, aware that your safety may be at risk, where are you getting your sleep? Where are you getting your food? How are you taking care of yourself health-wise and also your mental health? And, in some ways, if you are on the street where you can't go into an air conditioned place or where the temperature rarely drops, the natural inclination would then be for someone to say, "How do I get some relief to what I'm feeling, this horrible place I feel that I'm in right now?" Therefore, there is an increase in substance use amongst the homeless and particularly amongst our adolescents and young kids that use—and many of them are LGBT. We need to look to what programs we can do for them, both in terms of finding them shelter, finding them a safe place to stay, but also helping them if they do have a substance abuse problem.

WCT: In your opinion, what strides have we collectively taken over the past 10 years to further social understanding of the mental health and stability of gay individuals?

Dr. Saul Levin: Well, as many of us know in the community, for many years—generations and decades—LGBT people were really stigmatized, were abused mentally, physically and sexually at time. As society began to realize that that was inherently discriminatory and wrong, the American Psychiatric Association looked at it and ultimately removed homosexuality [from the guide] as it became clearer that it wasn't something that you voluntarily chose.

The Diagnostics Statistics Manual removed homosexuality in 1973, which was the first very big step for health care providers and physicians to understand that you should not look at a gay or lesbian person [as if they] had a disorder; that these were people who needed the respect and equal treatment just like you would give anyone else. Look how proud we are of seeing where

even marriage equality has come about in some of the states. Look at the data coming out of the nation where the majority of people today are very positive to say that there should be LGBT marriages allowed.

WCT: What actions do we still need to take to arrive at a place of compassion and understanding for our fellow man, despite classifications and acronyms?

Dr. Saul Levin: I think one of the wonderful things about the United States is that this country is clearly looking at all the different groups that have been discriminated against and are beginning to move under the rubric of our Constitution is that we're all created equal and that we all should be able to pursue happiness. And I think that's the wonderful thing of where we are coming to in terms of compassion and understanding for our fellow man. We're not quite there yet, but I think we're at least in a very positive trajectory to ensure that everyone in this country is treated without discrimination and have the best opportunities afforded to them.

WCT: Is there evidence available that supports that raising a child in a same-sex household is detrimental to said child? It seems to be the fallback argument we hear from anti-gay groups like the Family Research Council and the National Organization for Marriage—but is it actually true?

Dr. Saul Levin: A study that has summarized data from 30 years of research into the wellbeing of children being raised by gay and lesbian parents was released by the American Academy of Pediatrics in March of 2013. That study found no detrimental effects from being raised by gay parents and suggests that it is the quality of the relationship between the child and his/her parents that affect their resilience in regards to their social, psychological and sexual health rather than the gender of the parents.

However, the study also suggests that marriage strengthens families and has a very positive effect on children, which therefore suggests that permitting gay parents to legally marry would also most likely have a more positive effect on the children. They would then get to see a very committed relationship to the full extent of the law and equality of this country. The argument that same-sex households should not be able to have kids or raise kids I think is in some ways a very opaque view of what true love and parenting is for a kid.

WCT: Lastly, the transgender community has its own unique challenges within the larger LGBT community. Can you address how the American Psychiatric Association will address the evolving needs within this group?

Dr. Saul Levin: Well, you're right. They are in some ways—the last discriminated groups from the LGBT continuum in our community. The American Psychiatric Association just released its Diagnostics Statistical Manual and has basically removed Gender Identity Disorder, which was used to describe the feelings of some of the transgender people. And they've now replaced it with what's called Gender Dysphoria—and that category does not medicalize the state of identifying with the opposite-sex in who they are, but provides a pathway to treatment for the distress that can accompany feelings that one has been born into the wrong body. The new category is not intended to stigmatize the transgender person, but to provide a way for the insurance companies—Medicare and Medicaid—to provide supportive services, including possible gender reassignment surgery, hormonal treatment, or other forms of treatment for the transgender person. The American Psychiatric Association has said it's time for us to realize that transgender people need to get treatment and they should have their insurance pay for their treatment just like any other health condition—primary care, mental health, substance abuse—should have equity in having access to that treatment.

The American Psychiatric Association confirmed that Dr. Saul Levin will join the organization in mid-July as CEO-designate and work closely with Dr. James Scully until his retirement in this fall, when Levin will make the transition to his role as CEO and medical director of the APA.



Susan Fredman (left) and Terri Hawley. Photo by Tracy Baim

HRC officer attends PNC reception

Jeff Krehely, the chief foundation officer for Human Rights Campaign, was in Chicago June 20 at an event PNC Bank hosted.

Prior to joining HRC, Jeff was the vice president for LGBT research and communications at the Center American Progress, a multiissue think tank and advocacy organization in Washington, D.C.

The event was part of Citywide Pride, a series of LGBT-related presentations and networking events that Chicago-area companies and organizations sponsor. The Out & Equal Chicagoland Leadership Council organized Citywide Pride this year.

The last Citywide Pride event, "Herman Miller: 4th Annual Chicago Pride Celebration and Networking Event," will take place Thursday, June 27, at Showroom 321 at Merchandise Mart, 5:30-7:30 p.m.



Jeff Krehely at PNC event. Photo by Ed Negron

Ms. Foundation honors Fredman

The national Ms. Foundation for Women honored a trailblazer in the civil-rights movement—Susan Fredman—in recognition of the organization's 40th anniversary. The Chicago event was held June 20 at the William H. Reid House, 2013 S. Prairie Ave.

Fredman received the Fearless Award for her work and philanthropic leadership. As founder of Susan Fredman Design Group and Designs for Dignity, Fredman is an example of women's leadership through action, the foundation stated. More details on the foundation are at www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Ms-Foundation-celebrates-40-Years-of-work-at-Chicago-benefit/43159.html. Photo by Tracy Baim

MB Financial hosts Pride reception

During Pride Month, many Chicago-area businesses reach out to their customers, the community and their own employees to celebrate. MB Financial Bank hosted a Pride Open House June 18 at its 3179 N. Clark St. location. Pictured are employees of the bank getting ready for the event. Photo by Tracy Baim



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MCC conference to focus on global justice

BY CHUCK COLBERT

For all its 45 years of ministry and 25th General Conference, the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) has never held its tri-annual gathering in Chicago. That is about to change when MCC's General Conference 2013 convenes July 1-5 at the Fairmont Chicago. The theme of the conference is "Believe."

Conference director Jennifer Justice said this year's gathering is the largest in the Christian denomination's history, with more than 1,100 people already registered and hundreds more will attend the free worship events.

Truly a global church, MCC will have people attending General Conference from 22 countries outside the United States, she said, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Uganda, United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

U.S. attendees hale from 39 states and the District of Columbia, Justice added.

"We live in such a different world," MCC moderator, the Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy L. Wilson said recently over the telephone. At the time of MCC's founding, she explained, "We didn't know if there were gay people in many other places in the world. We were so ignorant in so many ways about sexuality and cultural differences. Now we have this burgeoning LGBT movement everywhere. There is hardly a country or place without it."

MCC has churches or ministries in 43 countries around the world, said Wilson. "In some of those places it's dangerous to be out" insofar as the "struggle for human rights is elemental," she added. "In many of those places people of faith are on both sides of the issues. Religion is part of the problem or an inspiration for change."

The Rev. Elder Troy Perry founded the first MCC congregation in Los Angeles in 1968. At the time most Christian denominations were hostile to gay men and lesbians.

Perry served as the denomination's first moderator. Wilson is only the second. MCC now encompasses 230 to 240 churches, with 80 to 90 in process. Membership in the MCC numbers anywhere from 20,000 to 25,000, said Wilson.

MCC, also known as the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, has a specific outreach to LGBT people. And yet MCC is more than the "gay church," it is also "passionate for justice beyond LGBT issues," said Wilson.

As one measure of MCC's commitment to social justice, the denomination will present its most prestigious Human Rights Award to retired Ugandan Bishop Christopher Senyonjo, an outspoken straight ally and advocate of LGBT rights. Senyonjo served the Anglican Diocese of Western Uganda from 1974 to 1998. But his gay-rights advocacy prompted the church to expel him as bishop. Nonetheless, Bishop Senyonjo continues his ministry with LGBT people through the St. Paul's Reconciliation and Equality Centre in Kampala.

At the same plenary honoring Senyonjo, MCC will introduce its newly formed Global Justice Institute, which is done in partnership with the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, an organization committed to a "theology of radical inclusivity." The plenary will explore how the institute shapes MCC's global ministry.

Daniel B. Baer, deputy assistant secretary of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the U.S. State Department, will also speak at the same plenary. President Obama recently nominated Baer, who is gay, as the next ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Two other highlights of General Conference include the Rev. Dr. James Alexander Forbes Jr. of Riverside Church in New York City. Rev. Forbes, an African American from a Pentecostal back-



The Rev. Troy Perry (left) with his spouse Phillip Ray De Blicke in 2003. From the national Gay History Project 2006 article series

ground, is considered the dean of preachers in the US.

The gathering's keynote speaker is Bob Johansen, distinguished fellow at the Institute for the Future, based in Palo Alto, Calif. His most recent book is *Leaders Make the Future: Ten New Leadership Skills for an Uncertain World*.

A few days before and during General Conference, MCC will also host a roundtable on LGBT Hispanic Ministry.

During the phone interview, Rev. Wilson also discussed the role of MCC in the landscape of faith. "Most of our people come from one of three backgrounds," she explained. "About 40 percent were Roman Catholic, another 35 to 40 percent were evangelical, Pentecostal conservative Christian. The rest have no church background."

"MCC has always been a bridge between people who are nervous about church, didn't like church necessarily but wanted community, wanted a place where they were spiritually accepted," said Wilson.

Another characteristic of the MCC, she said, is the tendency of members to be from working class backgrounds, with "a lot of cross over racially, class-wise."

MCC people "want an experience of faith that matches their intensity of experience but without authoritarian, judgmental rules that are very crushing or unwelcoming," Wilson added.

That welcome is expressed in a local MCC congregation called AChurch4Me (www.achurch4me.org) and is located in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago. Rev. Rachelle Brown serves as interim pastor. What makes the congregation distinctive, she said, is its non-traditional approach, what she termed "low liturgy," including "contemporary praise music."

"Our niche," Brown "is those edges of people who don't want to go back to the religious back-

grounds where they came from and want to create new spirituality and think about spirituality but not in a dogmatic religion."

"We go with the vision of the people who are coming" to worship, she said. "Organic is the word used."

"It's pretty much led by the laity," which is "the beauty of it," said Brown.

Previously, MCC in Chicago had been a very traditional liturgy, she said.

The day before General Conference gets underway is Chicago's Pride parade. That Sunday

morning, MCC plans a worship service at the Fairmont, where the legendary activist and MCC founder, Rev. Elder Troy Perry is preaching.

All conference worship services are free and open to the general public.

MCC will also have several contingents marching in the Pride parade, including an entry for marriage equality and another for global justice.

For more about the conference, see <http://believe.mccchurch.org>.

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Two attacks take place in Lakeview

BY KATE SOSIN

A man in his 30s was left in critical condition June 23 after an early morning stabbing in Lakeview. The stabbing occurred on the same night as Pride Fest, the annual Northalsted Business Alliance street fair held leading up to the Pride Parade, but it is not known if the incident was related to the fest.

According to Chicago Police News Affairs Officer Michael Sullivan, the man suffered a stab wound to the back of his head. The incident occurred at the 700 block of West Sheridan at approximately 2:25 a.m.

The man was transported to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in critical condition, said Sullivan.

Sullivan could not say whether the incident was related to Pride Fest.

Community activist and entertainer Cyon Flare came upon the victim, stumbling down the street, Flare said. Flare was leaving Pride Fest when he saw the man slump against a wall.

"He was bleeding profusely," said Flare. "He was literally covered in blood."

Flare said a cyclist tried to help the victim while a cab driver dialed 911. Flare also called 911.

Flare said he did not know if the incident was related to Pride Fest, but added that he saw multiple fights after the fest closed.

According to Sullivan, no one is in custody. A description of an offender was not available, Sullivan said, because the victim was not cooperating with police.

Flare added that he did not believe the man could communicate.

"I saw a man that was convulsing, breathing heavily and couldn't speak," Flare said.

A second incident occurred later that morning at 5:10 a.m. said Officer Jose Estrada.

According to Estrada, two men were sitting on a curb on the 900 block of West Belmont Ave., when three male offenders approached them and stole a cell phone. The two victims chased down the group and tried to detain one man.

"They were attacked by several additional offenders," said Estrada, adding that the victims were struck with bottles. It is not known how many attackers were part of the group, said Estrada.

The two were transported in serious condition to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. Police arrested three alleged offenders.

Area North detectives are investigating.

In 2011, a series of high-profile violent crimes leading up to the Pride Parade in Boystown sparked intense fear and controversy in the city's official gay neighborhood.

Overcrowding, fighting and public intoxication at the parade preceded the creation of a Facebook page called "Take Back Boystown." The page set off an intense debate over safety and racial profiling in the neighborhood.

Parade organizers made several changes the Pride Parade after crowds nearly doubled from the previous year, and the changes seemed to

ease many of the problems in 2012. However, residents reported problems in the neighborhood later that evening and early the next morning.

This year's Pride Parade is scheduled for June 30.

Complaint pending over gay couple's cab-kiss situation

BY KATE SOSIN

A gay couple is exploring legal options after a Chicago taxi driver allegedly expelled the two for kissing May 30.

Steven White and Matt McCrea have filed a complaint against Sun Taxi Associates and are exploring other legal options after a cab driver allegedly refused them service May 30.

According to White and McCrea, the two were headed to McCrea's from O'Hare Airport at 11:30 that night. White showed McCrea a video on his phone.

"After the video, he leaned over to give me a kiss," said White. "A peck was really what it was."

The couple said that the driver pulled over on the Kennedy Expressway and told them to get out.

"He said we were making sex in the back seat," White said.

"I was in shock, and I was like, 'We're not getting out here,'" McCrea said. "I was not going to get out on the expressway, and I made that explicit to him."

McCrea said that after they refused to exit on the side of the expressway, the cab driver pulled back into traffic and started to drive erratically.

"He was speeding on the expressway in rain in the dark," said McCrea.

The driver pulled off the expressway at the first available exit where the couple called police.

The two have filed a consumer cab complaint with the city, and have contacted Lambda Legal and the American Civil Liberties Union, they said.

Sun Taxi and Associates did not respond to a request to comment by press time.

AFC, Rand release antiretroviral report

RAND Europe and AIDS Foundation of Chicago have released a report that stresses that, in order to make an impact on new HIV infections globally, antiretroviral (ARV)-based HIV prevention strategies need to be closely tailored to local contexts and cultures.

Mapping Pathways is a community-led research project on the strategic use of ARV drugs for HIV prevention, involving RAND Europe, AIDS Foundation of Chicago and other partners in India, South Africa and the United States. The project involved more than 1,000 community respondents taking an online survey and interviews with several dozen key stakeholders, including policy experts, program implementers, health care professionals and advocates.

The report is at <http://www.rand.org/randeurope/research/projects/aids-treatment-prevention.html>.

Augies bar co-owner Donna Pomerance dies

Donna Pomerance, 73, passed away peacefully at her home in Lakeside, Mich., June 16. Arrangements have been entrusted with Sommerfeld Chapel of New Buffalo, Mich.

Donna was born in Chicago Jan. 5, 1940, the daughter of Estelle and Morris Pomerance. Donna was an entrepreneur and a pioneer of her times. She was a co-owner of Augies bar, and a strong supporter and contributor of the LGBT community.

She and her beloved companion, Bonnie Friend, opened one of the first women-owned businesses in Chicago. DP Productions was a successful advertisement specialty company for 33 years. Donna and Bonnie lived a great life surrounded by friends and family. Donna went out of her way to meet people and always made them feel special. She loved a party, played a mean tambourine and loved to dance.

Donna is survived by her beloved life companion, Bonnie Friend and sisters Joan (Martin) Harris and Elise (Steve) Siegel; nieces and nephews Andrea Buchanan, Jamie Donahue, Brooke Siegel and Evan Siegel.

The family wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to Hospice At Home and Comfort Keepers, with a special thanks to Victoria Montgomery, for their outstanding care and compassion during the past weeks.

For those wishing to honor Donna's memory, in lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the American Cancer Society. Friends may also leave a message of condolence at www.sommerfeldchapel.com.

Plans for a memorial will be announced at a later date.



Donna Pomerance.

PASSAGES

Maria Jacinto

Maria Jacinto, well known in the Chicago lesbian bar community, has died at age 54.

She leaves behind two sisters, Esther and Emma, and two brothers, Juan Pablo and Alfredo, as well as her lover, Caroline, and many nieces and nephews.

She started bar-backing at Augie & C.K.'s, then went on to Paris after Augie's, then Star Gaze after Paris. She has touched many lives with her kind soul and will be truly missed by many.



Maria Jacinto.



Erland M. Parnell.

PASSAGES

Erland M. Parnell

Erland M. Parnell, 73, passed away suddenly at home June 15.

Born in Weiser, Idaho, Erland moved to Chicago, where he embarked upon a long and fruitful career training and managing at various Baker's Square restaurants.

Erland was very social and active at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lakeview, where he served altar for many years.

Erland was preceded in death by his beloved partner of 33 years, Schelly Stephens.

He will be missed by his family in Whitesboro, Texas—sister Marlene (Phil) Bunnell, niece Linda (Jim) Cude and nephew Philip Bunnell.

Erland was also the great-uncle of Lauren and Caleb Cude and Riley and Haley Bunnell.

Memorial services have been held at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Interment of cremated remains is being planned at Rosehill Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made in his name to St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 621 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, Ill., 60657.

Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or www.cremation-society.com

Harley McMillen memorial July 13

The family of Harley McMillen will host a reception to honor his legacy on Saturday, July 13, at Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd, 2-4 p.m.

McMillen, a former executive director of Chicago's Howard Brown Health Center, died March 23 in Viroqua, Wis., at age 70. McMillen was a pioneer in the early gay men's health movement, on issues of sexual health, hepatitis and AIDS.

He was also very involved in the leather community, and bartended for gay bars. He was also part of the Pride Chicago Motorcycle Club, and bartended at clubs owned by Jim Flint and Chuck Renslow. He also worked for Renslow at GayLife newspaper in the early 1980s.

For more info, email DDodd@howardbrown.org.



Harley McMillen. Photo by Patrick Duvall

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ABOUT PREZISTA[®]

PREZISTA[®] (darunavir) is a prescription medicine. It is one treatment option in the class of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) medicines known as protease inhibitors.

PREZISTA[®] is always taken with and at the same time as ritonavir (Norvir[®]), in combination with other HIV medicines for the treatment of HIV infection in adults. PREZISTA[®] should also be taken with food.

- The use of other medicines active against HIV in combination with PREZISTA[®]/ritonavir (Norvir[®]) may increase your ability to fight HIV. Your healthcare professional will work with you to find the right combination of HIV medicines
- It is important that you remain under the care of your healthcare professional during treatment with PREZISTA[®]

PREZISTA[®] does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. You should remain under the care of a doctor when using PREZISTA[®].

Please read Important Safety Information below, and talk to your healthcare professional to learn if PREZISTA[®] is right for you.

Once-Daily PREZISTA[®] (darunavir) isn't just an HIV treatment, it's an HIV treatment experience as unique as you. That's why you should ask your healthcare professional if the PREZISTA[®] Experience is right for you.

Once-Daily PREZISTA[®] taken with ritonavir and in combination with other HIV medications can help lower your viral load and keep your HIV under control over the long term.

In a clinical study* of almost 4 years (192 weeks), 7 out of 10 adults who had never taken HIV medications before maintained undetectable† viral loads with PREZISTA[®] plus ritonavir and Truvada[®].

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about PREZISTA[®]?

- **PREZISTA[®] can interact with other medicines and cause serious side effects. See "Who should not take PREZISTA[®]?"**
- **PREZISTA[®] may cause liver problems.** Some people taking PREZISTA[®] together with Norvir[®] (ritonavir), have developed liver problems which may be life-threatening. Your healthcare professional should do blood tests before and during your combination treatment with PREZISTA[®]. If you have chronic hepatitis B or C infection, your healthcare professional should check your blood tests more often because you have an increased chance of developing liver problems
- Tell your healthcare professional if you have any of these signs and symptoms of liver problems: dark (tea-colored) urine, yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes, pale-colored stools (bowel movements), nausea, vomiting, pain or tenderness on your right side below your ribs, or loss of appetite

(continued)

Please read the Important Safety Information and Patient Information on adjacent pages.

Ask your healthcare professional about the PREZISTA[®] Experience. And be sure to visit DiscoverPREZISTA.com for tools and helpful information to find out if the PREZISTA[®] Experience might be right for you.

*A randomized, open-label, Phase 3 trial comparing PREZISTA[®]/ritonavir 800/100 mg once daily (n=343) vs Kaletra[®]/ritonavir 800/200 mg/day (n=346).

†Undetectable was defined as a viral load of less than 50 copies per mL. Registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

- **PREZISTA® may cause a severe or life-threatening skin reaction or rash.** Sometimes these skin reactions and skin rashes can become severe and require treatment in a hospital. You should call your healthcare professional immediately if you develop a rash. However, **stop** taking PREZISTA® and ritonavir combination treatment and call your healthcare professional immediately if you develop any skin changes with these symptoms: fever, tiredness, muscle or joint pain, blisters or skin lesions, mouth sores or ulcers, red or inflamed eyes, like “pink eye.” Rash occurred more often in patients taking PREZISTA® and raltegravir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild

Who should not take PREZISTA®?

- **Do not take PREZISTA® if you are taking the following medicines:** alfuzosin (Uroxatral®), dihydroergotamine (D.H.E.45®, Embolex®, Migranal®), ergonovine, ergotamine (Cafergot®, Ergomar®), methylergonovine, cisapride (Propulsid®), pimozone (Orap®), oral midazolam, triazolam (Halcion®), the herbal supplement St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), lovastatin (Mevacor®, Altoprev®, Advicor®), simvastatin (Zocor®, Simcor®, Vytorin®), rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®), sildenafil (Revatio®) when used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension, indinavir (Crixivan®), lopinavir/ritonavir (Kaletra®), saquinavir (Invirase®), boceprevir (Victrelis™), or telaprevir (Incivek™)
- Before taking PREZISTA® tell your healthcare professional if you are taking sildenafil (Viagra®, Revatio®), vardenafil (Levitra®, Staxyn®), tadalafil (Cialis®, Adcirca®), atorvastatin (Lipitor®), rosuvastatin (Crestor®), pravastatin (Pravachol®), or colchicine (Colcrys®, Col-Probenecid®). Tell your healthcare professional if you are taking estrogen-based contraceptives (birth control). PREZISTA® might reduce the effectiveness of estrogen-based contraceptives. You must take additional precautions for birth control, such as condoms

This is not a complete list of medicines. Be sure to tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you are taking or plan to take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

What should I tell my doctor before I take PREZISTA®?

- Before taking PREZISTA®, tell your healthcare professional if you have any medical conditions, including liver problems (including hepatitis B or C), allergy to sulfa medicines, diabetes, or hemophilia

- Tell your healthcare professional if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding
 - The effects of PREZISTA® on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. You and your healthcare professional will need to decide if taking PREZISTA® is right for you
 - **Do not breastfeed.** It is not known if PREZISTA® can be passed to your baby in your breast milk and whether it could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV should not breastfeed because HIV can be passed to your baby in the breast milk

What are the possible side effects of PREZISTA®?

- High blood sugar, diabetes or worsening of diabetes, and increased bleeding in people with hemophilia have been reported in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines, including PREZISTA®
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking HIV medicines, including PREZISTA®. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time
- Changes in your immune system can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden
- The most common side effects related to taking PREZISTA® include diarrhea, nausea, rash, headache, stomach pain, and vomiting. This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. If you experience these or other side effects, talk to your healthcare professional. Do not stop taking PREZISTA® or any other medicines without first talking to your healthcare professional

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

Please refer to the ritonavir (Norvir®) Product Information (PI and PPI) for additional information on precautionary measures.

Please read accompanying Patient Information for PREZISTA® and discuss any questions you have with your doctor.

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IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

PREZISTA (pre-ZIS-ta)
(darunavir)
Oral Suspension

PREZISTA (pre-ZIS-ta)
(darunavir)
Tablets

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

Also read the Patient Information leaflet for NORVIR® (ritonavir).

What is the most important information I should know about PREZISTA?

- **PREZISTA can interact with other medicines and cause serious side effects.** It is important to know the medicines that should not be taken with PREZISTA. See the section **"Who should not take PREZISTA?"**
- **PREZISTA may cause liver problems.** Some people taking PREZISTA in combination with NORVIR® (ritonavir) have developed liver problems which may be life-threatening. Your healthcare provider should do blood tests before and during your combination treatment with PREZISTA. If you have chronic hepatitis B or C infection, your healthcare provider should check your blood tests more often because you have an increased chance of developing liver problems.
- Tell your healthcare provider if you have any of the below signs and symptoms of liver problems.
 - Dark (tea colored) urine
 - yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes
 - pale colored stools (bowel movements)
 - nausea
 - vomiting
 - pain or tenderness on your right side below your ribs
 - loss of appetite

PREZISTA may cause severe or life-threatening skin reactions or rash. Sometimes these skin reactions and skin rashes can become severe and require treatment in a hospital. You should call your healthcare provider immediately if you develop a rash. However, **stop** taking PREZISTA and ritonavir combination treatment and call your healthcare provider immediately if you develop any skin changes with symptoms below:

- fever
- tiredness
- muscle or joint pain
- blisters or skin lesions
- mouth sores or ulcers
- red or inflamed eyes, like "pink eye" (conjunctivitis)

Rash occurred more often in people taking PREZISTA and raltegravir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild.

See **"What are the possible side effects of PREZISTA?"** for more information about side effects.

What is PREZISTA?

PREZISTA is a prescription anti-HIV medicine used with ritonavir and other anti-HIV medicines to treat adults with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1) infection. PREZISTA is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

When used with other HIV medicines, PREZISTA may help to reduce the amount of HIV in your blood (called "viral load"). PREZISTA may also help to increase the number of white blood cells called CD4 (T) cell which help fight off other infections. Reducing the amount of HIV and increasing the CD4 (T) cell count may improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

PREZISTA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. You should remain under the care of a doctor when using PREZISTA.

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 infection.

- **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**
- **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.**

- **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

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

Who should not take PREZISTA?

Do not take PREZISTA with any of the following medicines:

- alfuzosin (Uroxatral®)
- dihydroergotamine (D.H.E. 45®, Embolex®, Migranal®), ergonovine, ergotamine (Cafergot®, Ergomar®) methylergonovine
- cisapride
- pimozone (Orap®)
- oral midazolam, triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herbal supplement St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- the cholesterol lowering medicines lovastatin (Mevacor®, Altoprev®, Advicor®) or simvastatin (Zocor®, Simcor®, Vytorin®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®) only when used for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension.

Serious problems can happen if you take any of these medicines with PREZISTA.

What should I tell my doctor before I take PREZISTA?

PREZISTA may not be right for you. Before taking PREZISTA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have liver problems, including hepatitis B or hepatitis C
- are allergic to sulfa medicines
- have high blood sugar (diabetes)
- have hemophilia
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if PREZISTA will harm your unborn baby.
- **Pregnancy Registry:** You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if taking PREZISTA is right for you. If you take PREZISTA while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can be included in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry. The purpose of the registry is follow the health of you and your baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed.** We do not know if PREZISTA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk and whether it could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV-1 should not breastfeed because HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in the breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Using PREZISTA and certain other medicines may affect each other causing serious side effects. PREZISTA may affect the way other medicines work and other medicines may affect how PREZISTA works.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- other medicine to treat HIV
- estrogen-based contraceptives (birth control). PREZISTA might reduce the effectiveness of estrogen-based contraceptives. You must take additional precautions for birth control such as a condom.
- medicine for your heart such as bepridil, lidocaine (Xylocaine Viscous®), quinidine (Nuedexta®), amiodarone (Pacerone®, Cardarone®), digoxin (Lanoxin®), flecainide (Tambocor®), propafenone (Rythmol®)
- warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
- medicine for seizures such as carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Eptol®), phenobarbital, phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
- medicine for depression such as trazadone and desipramine (Norpramin®)
- clarithromycin (Prevpac®, Biaxin®)
- medicine for fungal infections such as ketoconazole (Nizoral®), itraconazole (Sporanox®, Onmel®), voriconazole (Vfend®)
- colchicine (Colcrys®, Col-Probenecid®)
- rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
- medicine used to treat blood pressure, a heart attack, heart failure, or to lower pressure in the eye such as metoprolol (Lopressor®, Toprol-XL®), timolol (Cosopt®, Betimol®, Timoptic®, Isatolol®, Combigan®)
- midazolam administered by injection
- medicine for heart disease such as felodipine (Plendil®), nifedipine (Procardia®, Adalat CC®, Afeditab CR®), nicardipine (Cardene®)
- steroids such as dexamethasone, fluticasone (Advair Diskus®, Veramyst®, Flovent®, Flonase®)
- bosentan (Tracleer®)
- medicine to treat chronic hepatitis C such as boceprevir (Victrelis™), telaprevir (Incivek™)

IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

- medicine for cholesterol such as pravastatin (Pravachol®), atorvastatin (Lipitor®), rosuvastatin (Crestor®)
- medicine to prevent organ transplant failure such as cyclosporine (Gengraf®), Sandimmune®, Neoral®), tacrolimus (Prograf®), sirolimus (Rapamune®)
- salmeterol (Advair®, Serevent®)
- medicine for narcotic withdrawal such as methadone (Methadose®, Dolophine Hydrochloride), buprenorphine (Butrans®, Buprenex®, Subutex®), buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone®)
- medicine to treat schizophrenia such as risperidone (Risperdal®), thioridazine
- medicine to treat erectile dysfunction or pulmonary hypertension such as sildenafil (Viagra®, Revatio®), vardenafil (Levitra®, Staxyn®), tadalafil (Cialis®, Adcirca®)
- medicine to treat anxiety, depression or panic disorder such as sertraline (Zoloft®), paroxetine (Paxil®, Pexeva®)
- medicine to treat malaria such as artemether/lumefantrine (Coartem®)

This is **not** a complete list of medicines that you should tell your healthcare provider that you are taking. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one that is listed above. Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show your doctor or pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking PREZISTA without first talking with your healthcare provider.

How should I take PREZISTA?

- Take PREZISTA every day exactly as prescribed by your healthcare provider.
- You must take ritonavir (NORVIR®) at the same time as PREZISTA.
- Do not change your dose of PREZISTA or stop treatment without talking to your healthcare provider first.
- Take PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®) with food.
- Swallow PREZISTA tablets whole with a drink. If you have difficulty swallowing PREZISTA tablets, PREZISTA oral suspension is also available. Your health care provider will help decide whether PREZISTA tablets or oral suspension is right for you.
- PREZISTA oral suspension should be given with the supplied oral dosing syringe. Shake the suspension well before each use. See the Instructions for Use that come with PREZISTA oral suspension for information about the right way to prepare and take a dose.
- If your prescribed dose of PREZISTA oral suspension is more than 6 mL, you will need to divide the dose. Follow the instructions given to you by your healthcare provider or pharmacist about how to divide the dose. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure.
- If you take too much PREZISTA, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

People who take PREZISTA one time a day:

- If you miss a dose of PREZISTA by less than 12 hours, take your missed dose of PREZISTA right away. Then take your next dose of PREZISTA at your regularly scheduled time.
- If you miss a dose of PREZISTA by more than 12 hours, wait and then take the next dose of PREZISTA at your regularly scheduled time.

People who take PREZISTA two times a day

- If you miss a dose of PREZISTA by less than 6 hours, take your missed dose of PREZISTA right away. Then take your next dose of PREZISTA at your regularly scheduled time.
- If you miss a dose of PREZISTA by more than 6 hours, wait and then take the next dose of PREZISTA at your regularly scheduled time.

If a dose of PREZISTA is skipped, do not double the next dose. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of PREZISTA at any one time.

What are the possible side effects of PREZISTA?

PREZISTA can cause side effects including:

- See **“What is the most important information I should know about PREZISTA?”**
- **Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia).** Some people who take protease inhibitors including PREZISTA can get high blood sugar, develop diabetes, or your diabetes can get worse. Tell your healthcare provider if you notice an increase in thirst or urinate often while taking PREZISTA.
- **Changes in body fat.** These changes can happen in people who take anti-retroviral therapy. The changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the back, chest, and stomach area. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.

- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Call your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.
- **Increased bleeding for hemophiliacs.** Some people with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors including PREZISTA.

The most common side effects of PREZISTA include:

- diarrhea
- nausea
- rash
- headache
- abdominal pain
- vomiting

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

These are not all of the possible side effects of PREZISTA. For more information, ask your health care provider.

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

How should I store PREZISTA?

- Store PREZISTA oral suspension and tablets at room temperature [77°F (25°C)].
- Do not refrigerate or freeze PREZISTA oral suspension.
- Keep PREZISTA away from high heat.
- PREZISTA oral suspension should be stored in the original container.

Keep PREZISTA and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about PREZISTA

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

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about PREZISTA. If you would like more information, talk to your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about PREZISTA that is written for health professionals.

For more information, call 1-800-526-7736.

What are the ingredients in PREZISTA?

Active ingredient: darunavir

Inactive ingredients:

PREZISTA Oral Suspension: hydroxypropyl cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, methylparaben sodium, citric acid monohydrate, sucralose, masking flavor, strawberry cream flavor, hydrochloric acid (for pH adjustment), purified water.

PREZISTA 75 mg and 150 mg Tablets: colloidal silicon dioxide, crospovidone, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose. The film coating contains: OPADRY® White (polyethylene glycol 3350, polyvinyl alcohol-partially hydrolyzed, talc, titanium dioxide).

PREZISTA 400 mg and 600 mg Tablets: colloidal silicon dioxide, crospovidone, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose. The film coating contains: OPADRY® Orange (FD&C Yellow No. 6, polyethylene glycol 3350, polyvinyl alcohol-partially hydrolyzed, talc, titanium dioxide).

PREZISTA 800 mg Tablets: colloidal silicon dioxide, crospovidone, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, hypromellose. The film coating contains: OPADRY® Dark Red (iron oxide red, polyethylene glycol 3350, polyvinyl alcohol-partially hydrolyzed, talc, titanium dioxide).

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

Manufactured by:

PREZISTA Oral Suspension
Janssen Pharmaceutica, N.V.
Beerse, Belgium

PREZISTA Tablets
Janssen Ortho LLC,
Gurabo, PR 00778

Manufactured for:

Janssen Therapeutics, Division of Janssen Products, LP, Titusville NJ 08560

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Online parenting resource offers Pride playlist

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

Online parenting resource Kids in the House is celebrating Pride month with a special Pride video playlist, which culls together several videos focusing specifically on topics of concern for LGBT parents or parents of LGBT kids.

Mother and entrepreneur Leana Greene started Kids in the House to help provide access to experts on a slew of parenting topics to every parent.

"The purpose is to give parents quick and easy access to information," Greene said. "You want to be a great parent, you want to read all the books and take all the seminars but you don't have time to do it, this way you can have access to any experts in a very quick way."

"This way everybody has access to the number one guy from Harvard who talks about ADHD [attention deficit hyperactivity disorder], and everybody has access to all these great experts that they probably wouldn't have access to otherwise."

The special Pride playlist addresses common LGBT topics of interest such as dealing with harassment, learning acceptance, LGBT teens and depression, same-sex adoption processes, identity and much more.

Greene said that being inclusive of LGBT parents and LGBT kids was important to her from the get go and she is glad to be able to offer parents this resource.

"I think it's really important to educate parents that you are born gay or transgender," Greene said. "I think if the child does not get seen for who they are from the beginning and to really get appreciated for who they are, it's a very devastating thing. So it was very important



Kids in the House's Leana Greene. PR photo

to us to have a very strong both transgender and LGB help for parents to really help educate parents.

"We have worked really hard to include all kinds of parents, gay parents, straight parents, young parents, single parents, both from the parents perspective, but also its important to note, a lot of times gay children or transgender kids have a straight parent, so that is where we also really want to focus."

Greene sought out well-known experts to ensure that each topic had the most relevant and

up-to-date information.

Some of the experts who's advice can be found on the Pride playlist are: notable same-sex parents and adoption experts Bill Horn and Scout Masterson, of *Tori & Dean: Home Sweet Hollywood*, Wendy Walsh, co-host of the hit CBS show *The Doctors*, and a variety of experts and parents with personal experience in the areas of adoption law, the benefits same-sex parenting, discussing gender roles, LGBT myths, sexual identity in teens and more.

Greene noted that one of her personal video favorites is one in which gay father Chris Rice talks about how he feels like any other parent until he walks out his door and then he feels like he has to be a better parent because he feels the pressure of having to prove that being a gay parent is the same.

In addition to being a resource for parents to learn more about topics they are interested in Greene said that the website also has a social media aspect, which helps parents dealing with similar issues to connect.

"Two of my favorite features, the parent-to-parent community, where you can actually create your own community or you can search for people who might have similar interests or who might be dealing with similar problems," she said. "So if your kid is being bullied you can search for other parents that are dealing with that same issue."

"And also you can create playlists to send somebody. If you are dealing with a certain issue you can put together a playlist, your friends baby is not sleeping, you can put together a playlist for that person and share that playlist so the person doesn't have to do the search themself."

All the videos are free to watch and are between one to two minutes in length, with most of the experts and parents included having multiple videos on their respective topics.

To watch videos, visit <http://www.kidsinthehouse.com/#>.

Obama includes gays, lesbians in Berlin speech

In a speech at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate June 19, President Obama included the gay community.

Addressing people such as German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Berlin Mayor Boris Wowerit, who is openly gay, Obama said, in part, "When we stand up for our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters and treat their love and their rights equally under the law, we defend our own liberty as well. We are more free when all people can pursue their own happiness."

Among other things, Obama discussed world peace and renewable energy.

HUD releases historic study

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the nation's first-ever national study examining housing discrimination against same-sex couples in the private rental market.

The study, "An Estimate of Housing Discrimination Against Same-Sex Couples," measures the treatment same-sex couples receive from rental agents when inquiring about apartments advertised online, compared to how otherwise similar heterosexual couples are treated.

A key finding is that states with legislative protections show slightly more adverse treatment for gays and lesbians than in states without protections.

The report is at http://www.huduser.org/portal/publications/fairhsg/discrim_samesex.html.

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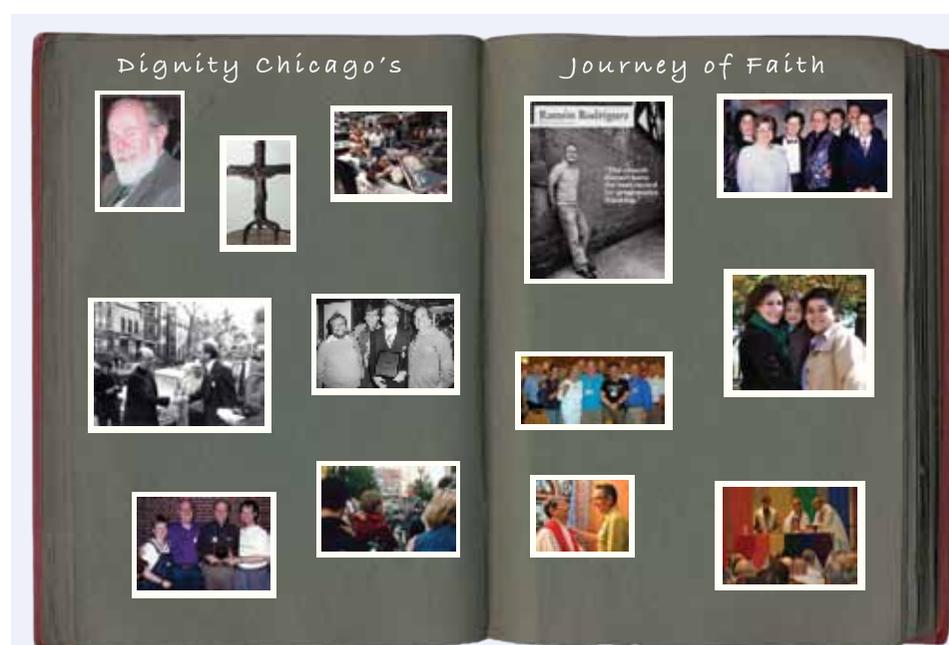
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Brad Edwards: Midwestern boy makes good as TV reporter

BY L. MICHAEL GIPSON

When CBS 2 Chicago news reporter Brad Edwards was a boy in Grand Rapids, Mich., watching the evening telecasts, there were no “out” gay journalists reflecting from his screen. Unless sitting in the center square on a game show or serving as a sitcom’s ascot-wearing comic relief, conventional wisdom dictated that no one trusted the gay person in his or her home.

The evening news was an invitation into the viewers’ most sacred space. Anchormen were to be authorial, worldly, above reproach, with perfect hair and a calming presence, everyone’s trusted father. Even investigative reporters were expected to be adventurous justice seekers who dug up the truth for the common man, to be our local hetero heroes.

With an award-winning career spanning across two decades, Brad Edwards has since been both an anchor and an investigative reporter as an “out” gay journalist in Michigan, Indiana and, most recently, here in Chicago—one who has never strayed far from that Midwestern boy parked in front of his TV’s beckoning glow.

“My ‘gay’ window growing up in conservative Grand Rapids was solely television news and it was bleak—Jeffrey Dahmer, Ryan White and a beloved local teacher threatened with ouster because he was gay,” said Edwards during an online interview with Windy City Times. “They were all lives calibrated to different degrees of horror followed by premature death. That was my gay paradigm.”

“I was also a deeply empathic child. I had a keen sense of others pain and it was magnified

by the knowledge I was different from other kids. From that, I developed an earnest sense of what’s just and that’s now my professional compass. The microphone is a great apparatus of accountability and it can give voice to the unheard.”

Edwards giving voice to the marginalized has earned him four Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards, including one in 2013 for a compilation of CBS original reports. With national broadcast talent from Don Lemon to Anderson Cooper, Edwards has joined a movement of critically acclaimed journalists at every level permanently breaking the mold of dated conventional wisdom.

In the last decade, the news has come a long way from the years of ABC World News anchor Max Robinson and his controversial death from AIDS-related complications, an illness shadowed by rumor and Robinson’s effusive denials of homosexuality. In contrast, Edwards has been open about his sexuality and largely received support for the decision to walk in his truth, but “coming out” wasn’t always an easy call to answer.

“I struggled with it; in hindsight it paled in comparison to any childhood struggle with sexuality,” Edwards said. “I now feel it’s my responsibility to own it. It’s me. I professionally demand transparency from others so it seems only right. The stigma is certainly not what it was—though, it’s still alive. Chicago is a great place to be gay, but Chicago is an exception.”

Despite getting support from fans and the top brass alike in many of his media markets, Edwards cautioned standing in the spotlight as gay hasn’t come without any career sacrifices.



Brad Edwards.

“[Coming out] has come at some cost in my life—while we are worlds from where we were, it’s not without challenges,” admitted Edwards.

Being among the first for any minority group generally gets accompanied by plenty of community pressure to be a spokesperson for the movement, a tricky expectation of one committed to telling the story, not being the story. Edwards is no exception. When questioned about this dance, Edwards proved as media savvy as some of his subjects.

“My politics are private, but my heart is public. I don’t do bullhorns, but I pick up many a mic to emcee a worthy cause,” Edwards shared. “There’s no burden in being a role model. LGBT youth need to know it does get better.”

As a role model, Edwards’ stories have leaned toward social justice, positively impacting the lives of several subjects and ensuring those young people he’s considering can witness a superhero without a cape.

“In my career, I’ve done stories that have

helped free the wrongly convicted, catch a killer, a serial rapist, and lead to a 40-percent expansion of what was one of the bleakest places in the U.S.: the Detroit morgue,” said Edwards, whose most recent personally prized report was the compassionate tale of a man trapped in a burgeoning gang war.

These types of stories place Edwards’ brand of journalism squarely in the hard news category, far from the entertainment and lifestyle beats the public has grown more accustomed to seeing gay broadcasters working in. Committed to traditional journalism, Edwards’ decision to work in a town with a “hard news” reputation wasn’t by accident, having turned down two other opportunities to work here.

“I didn’t just want to come to Chicago, I wanted to come to CBS 2 and work with this cast and its “original reporting” philosophy. Reporting is my wheelhouse,” admitted Edwards.

A passionate professional with strong philosophical beliefs and self-professed Midwestern values, one could expect Edwards to be ready for nuptials should Illinois get marriage equality come summer. However, the elusive Edwards is decidedly single, but remains mum on whether he’s looking and how the Chicago dating scene has treated him to-date. Preferring the role of storyteller, this public personality is still somewhat private.

“There’s an insecure teenager with braces lurking somewhere inside me, so be gentle,” joked Edwards, not used to being in the hot seat. “Frankly, I’m used to controlling the content—what’s in, what’s out, the appropriate shading, contrast. That said, this is me: open with who I am, to new experiences and meeting people.”

Having journeyed a ways from that awkward teen with broadcast news aspirations and few models, this humble transplant is far from done, recognizing he’s part of a long, pioneering LGBT tradition of paying it forward.

“It’s a momentous time. My generation and younger owe our valiant elders a monumental debt of gratitude. Those props are due now.”

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State Sen. John Cullerton. Photo by Kate Sosin

State Sen. Cullerton talks marriage progress in Illinois

BY KATE SOSIN

State Senate President John Cullerton is ready to pass the state's equal marriage bill a second time.

Cullerton, who backed Senate sponsor Heather Steans in passing the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, said that his work on equal marriage will not end until the House passes the bill. He added that if the bill needs to be amended (to change the effective date to next June, satisfying a rule about passing bills after spring session) he will push the bill in the Senate a second time.

The Senate easily passed the bill on Valentine's Day, a date Cullerton selected.

Cullerton sat down with Windy City Times to talk about progress thus far, how he plans to keep pushing for equal marriage and why the bill passed the Senate so comfortably but got snagged in the House.

Windy City Times: So, my understanding is that the Senate vote on Valentine's Day was actually a coincidence.

John Cullerton: Well, first of all, my commitment was to pass the bill as soon as possible. I got re-elected a third time in January, and I knew Heather [Steans] was going to be the sponsor and that had been negotiated with Senator Koehler. He wanted it to happen and Heather wanted it to happen, and she's a great sponsor.

We made this one of our top priorities. The other was the expansion of Medicaid because

Valerie Jarrett called me, and she was with the president and wanted me to try to pass Medicaid expansion. So those two issues were the top items.

So, I was at the Sun-Times editorial board, trying to get editorial support. They asked about the timing. There were some people missing on Feb. 13. So, I said, I think it will be Feb. 14, and they were like, "oh, that's Valentine's Day." Some of the opponents, they...

WCT: Did not like that.

JC: [Laughs] did not like that. I kinda enjoyed that a little bit. But, we have been taking so many tough votes in the last five years. We have been taking things away from people. We've been cutting budgets. We've been threatening to take away people's pensions. ... It's all been really negative stuff.

And the three votes, where it was such a personal vote, and it was so profound. One was abolishing the death penalty. For the people that voted yes, it was a huge emotional involvement. Civil unions though was celebratory, and Koehler being the sponsor was so perfect. It was so uplifting. And the same thing was true, obviously, of marriage.

I am committed. To brag a little bit—there's no one around to refute this so it makes it pretty easy—I am fairly certain I have sponsored more bills that have become law in the last 34 years and probably in the history of the state. I really want to pass this bill. It's incomplete by just passing it out of Senate and saying, "Hey, I've done my job." We have to pass the bill.

WCT: Sure.

The reason why I'm so hopeful that this is going to pass is, we knew we had enough votes to pass this bill. One of my closest friends who happens to be a state senator was my chief of staff, Andy Manar. I worked tirelessly to get him elected from a district that is very conservative. He's a Democrat, but he's from a little farm town, Bunker Hill, and he's up for election. I said, "Andy, you know, we've got 30 votes here." I just assumed he was not going to vote for this bill. He goes, "I'm voting for it." And I go, "you're up for election." And he goes, "I'm voting for it." I said, "you don't have to." I didn't lobby him. I'll be honest with you. I would have lobbied him if he was number 30, but he said, "Everybody I know who is under 40 years-old is for this."

Next door to him is a freshman Republican. I drew the maps. It's the most Republican senate district out of 59. And Jason Barickman ... when he voted for it, adjoining district to Andy. I went up to him, I said, "Thank you so much." He said basically the same thing. "It's the right thing to do."

WCT: So, Barickman voting for it was a surprise?

JC: Oh, yeah; it was a shock. I expected no Republicans. We worked some Democrats, but Heather was great. Obviously it helps to have the largest Senate caucus in America and the largest Senate Democratic caucus in the history of Illinois.

WCT: Heather Steans said that it didn't take a lot of arm-twisting, that senators really wanted to do this.

JC: Andy is the perfect example. As it sinks in to these legislators that their younger constituents are not just marginally in favor of this, this is overwhelming. It's such a generation gap here. And that has to be a positive thing. Just think, if you're for a position but it's just the older people are for it, and there's more and more younger people coming up, you'd much rather be in the other position.

WCT: Why do you think the bill passed comfortably in the Senate and then was such a difficult push in the House?

JC: I'm not into the blame game because I'm into results. I think that some people don't realize that we had a spectacular election last year. We have a lot of Democrats. If you compare us to the House, it's as if we have 80 Democrats, and they have 71 [currently]. So obviously, I have more Democrats to work with.

The first chamber to vote on a bill that passes it, it makes it easier on tough votes. On the other hand, opponents tend to wait for the second chamber.

But it seems to me is that the best thing is not to blame anybody but to just go out and get the votes.

WCT: Are you at all worried that senators that took a chance in voting for this have now made their positions public on a bill that hasn't passed? What are you hearing from senators?

JC: It's this hope that the future will only be creating more and more support.

WCT: Heather Steans said she was not worried about amending this bill and passing it again in the Senate if that needs to happen.

JC: That's right. And that is another tactic that we would use. I used to be in the House for 12 years. There's a protocol. If the Speaker was working against the bill, it would be a problem.

But since he's for it, I can go over there and work with the House members. I would be more than happy if he wants us to vote on it again to push it to do that.

WCT: What do you think LGBT people should be doing right now to help that push?

JC: This is kind of elementary 101 lobbying. The first thing that's extremely frustrating for people from the Chicago media market is that nobody knows who the hell we are. You can go to Rockford and Decatur and Springfield and Rock Island, and the state senators and state reps are, like, 82-percent name recognition. In Chicago, it's like they know their alderman.

So people have to know who their state reps are. It's the swing areas where people have to know who their state senators are and then contact them politely. Not an email blast. It's personal contact. It's humanizing an issue.

Exodus International closes its doors

Exodus International, a Christian ministry dealing with faith and homosexuality, announced June 19 that it is closing its doors after 37 years, according to a press release.

"We're not negating the ways God used Exodus to positively affect thousands of people, but a new generation of Christians is looking for change—and they want to be heard," said Tony Moore, board member of Exodus. The message came less than a day after Exodus released a statement apologizing (www.exodusinternational.org/apology) to the gay community for years of judgment from the organization and the Christian Church as a whole.

Rev. Cindi Love, executive director of Soulforce—an organization that works to free LGBTQ people from religious and political oppression—said in a statement, "This announcement is a good start but not nearly enough. We hope that [Exodus Executive Director Alan] Chambers will reinvent himself and his ministry. We hope he will join those of us who confront programs in which [LGBT] persons are targeted for 'fixing' [or] 'inclusion' or 'affirmation' or 'reconciliation.' God already included us, affirmed us and reconciled us. We don't need fixing."

Everest4Equality kickoff party June 27 at Primitive

The Everest4Equality Kickoff Party will take place Thursday, June 27, at Primitive Gallery, 130 N. Jefferson St., 5:30-8 p.m.

Everest4Equality is the Mount Everest climb that gay Chicagoan Joe Rudy is embarking on in 2014 to support marriage equality and raise awareness and funds for LGBT rights organizations, Equality Illinois Education Project and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

Also, see www.everest4equality.org.

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LGBTs to march downtown for marriage equality

BY KATE SOSIN

A deciding vote on equal marriage may not be expected in Illinois for months, but LGBT activists are mobilizing now to put the heat on lawmakers.

Activists are planning two large demonstrations demanding equal marriage, after the Illinois House failed to vote on the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act before spring session ended May 31.

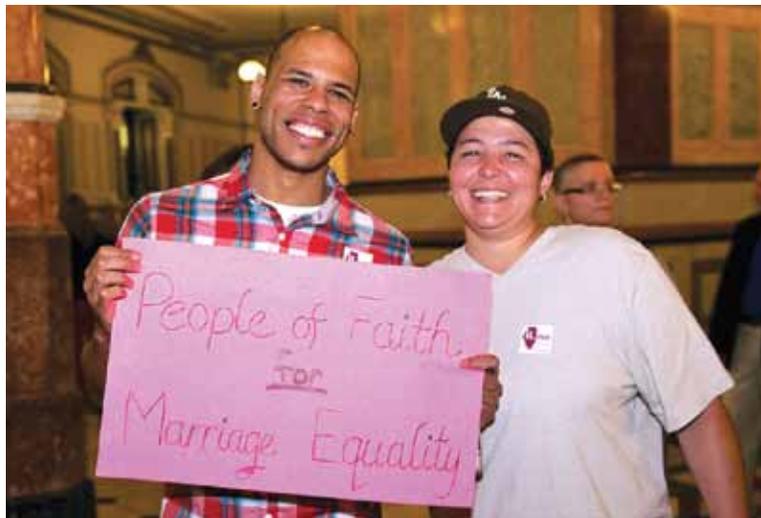
A loose group of activists calling themselves "This is Not Over" began meeting earlier this month to plan a response to the non-vote. That group is operating independent of the Illinois Unites for Marriage Coalition, which is composed

of more than 30 organizations working to pass the bill.

This is Not Over has scheduled a downtown march for July 13, the details of which have yet to be announced. The permitted march will begin at the northeast corner of Michigan Avenue and Congress Parkway.

The group also voted to back planning efforts by a group of activists to hold a massive rally outside the Illinois State Capitol on Oct. 22. Among the organizers is Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim. Plans for that rally are still in the works.

This is Not Over will meet again on Wed., June 26, at the Center for Inner City Studies, 700 E. Oakwood Ave. The group is open to the public.



Marriage-equality activists during the recent push in Springfield. Photo by Tim Carroll

Springfield march for marriage equality Oct. 22

ILLINOIS—Equal marriage advocates today announced a "March on Springfield for Marriage Equality" for Tuesday, October 22, 2013, the scheduled first day of the fall veto session of the Illinois state legislature.

A majority of Illinoisans support marriage equality. The "March on Springfield" is part of a broad grassroots strategy to secure final passage of Senate Bill 10, the "Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act." SB10 has already been approved by the Illinois Senate and Illinois Governor Pat Quinn has said he will sign it. Once adopted, Illinois will become the 13th state, plus the District of Columbia, to treat all of its citizens equally under state marriage laws.

The "March on Springfield" will be coordinated by an independent team of diverse co-chairs from across the state, in partnership with grassroots groups, politicians, religious groups, corporations, unions, and individual community organizers. LGBT and allied volunteers are needed.

More details on the "March on Springfield" will be announced July 1. Details will be available on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MarchOnSpringfieldForMarriageEquality> and on Twitter at @IllinoisMarches.

Marcha sobre Springfield para la igualdad matrimonial 22 de Octubre

ILLINOIS—Defensores de la igualdad matrimonial anunciaron hoy una "Marcha sobre Springfield para la Igualdad Matrimonial" el Martes, 22 de octubre 2013, el primer día programado de la sesión de veto de la legislatura del estado de Illinois.

La mayoría de los residentes de Illinois apoyan la igualdad matrimonial. La "March on Springfield" es parte de una amplia estrategia de base para asegurar la aprobación definitiva del Proyecto de Ley Senatorial 10, el "Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act." SB10 ya ha sido aprobado por el Senado de Illinois y el gobernador de Illinois Pat Quinn ha dicho que lo firmará. Una vez aprobada, Illinois se convertirá en el 13° estado, además del Distrito de Columbia, a tratar a todos los ciudadanos por igual bajo las leyes de matrimonio estatales.

La "March on Springfield" será coordinado por un equipo independiente de diversas copresidentes de todo el estado, en colaboración con grupos de base, políticos, grupos religiosos, empresas, sindicatos y organizadores comunitarios. Se necesitan voluntarios y aliados LGBT.

Más detalles sobre la "March on Springfield" se darán a conocer el 01 de julio. Los detalles estarán disponibles en Facebook en <https://www.facebook.com/MarchOnSpringfieldForMarriageEquality> y en Twitter en @IllinoisMarches.



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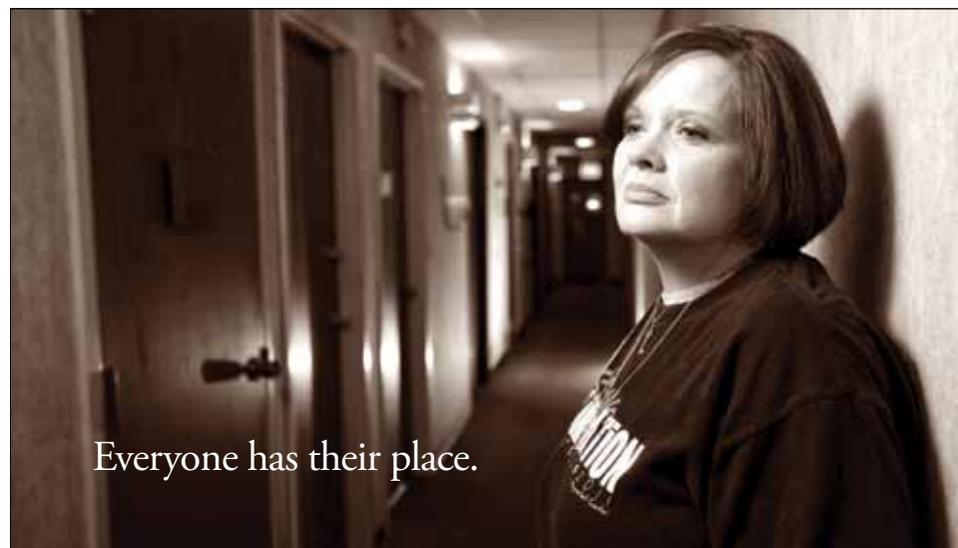


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Lisa Madigan on state marriage push

BY KATE SOSIN

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan has been dogged by the marriage question all year. It's not that she doesn't support equal marriage—but that much has long been clear—but her stance on the issue has been closely watched, first when she intervened in favor of lawsuits seeking equal marriage and then when her father, Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan, took up the issue in the House, where he supported efforts to legalize same-sex marriage.

Michael Madigan has drawn scorn from some LGBT activists who feel did not do enough to pass equal marriage before session ended in May. And some of that anger has been directed at Lisa Madigan, a possible gubernatorial contender and longtime equal marriage supporter.

Windy City Times caught up with Lisa Madigan and asked her about why she intervened in favor of same-sex couples in court, what she did to help the marriage bill and how she feels about the anger resulting from that shortfall.

Windy City Times: So, you put out a statement after the session ended without a vote on equal marriage about why you think the ban is unconstitutional. How are you feeling now that some time has passed?

LM: I think I'm much more positive now than I was on the last day of session. I think everybody who has worked hard to see the gay marriage bill pass was both upset and disappointed that it didn't. At this point, what I am hopeful of is that we are going to take our negative emotions and turn that into positive energy that's going to be necessary to ultimately pass this bill in Illinois.

WCT: You came out very early in the lawsuits seeking equal marriage and took the position that the ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. How did you come to that position?

LM: For many years now, personally, I have been supportive of gay marriage. As those debates started taking place in state legislatures, but also in state courts around the country, I followed very closely the legal arguments that have been made and the ultimate resolution of those cases. For anybody who has done that, you see that the legal landscape has been changing relatively rapidly.

You had a situation that in the mid-to-late '90s, you started to see a lot of state legislatures pass bans on same-sex marriage and then it was really more in the early 2000s, mid-2000s, you started seeing legal challenges to those statutes. You have numerous courts at this point that have ruled that those bans on same-sex marriage are unconstitutional in large part because they violate equal protection provisions.

In particular, the case out of Connecticut is very similar to the situation that Illinois is in. There was a challenge to the ban. They had passed a civil unions law, and ultimately their supreme court said that it was unconstitutional



Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan at last year's Pride Parade. Photo by Tim Carroll

to have these two different types of recognition of relationships.

I think if you're true to the legal analysis of equal protection case law, you find that these bans on same-sex marriage simply are violative of equal protection.

WCT: This, of course, is going to be very important with the Supreme Court decision on the Defense of Marriage Act expected. What do you think are some of the ramifications for Illinois depending on the outcome?

LM: I shouldn't prognosticate because that's never a wise thing to do, but I think there's certainly both hope and believe that the U.S. Supreme Court will strike down DOMA [the Defense of Marriage Act], in large part simply because marriage has always been something that is determined at a state level and not at the federal level.

If there are favorable decisions out of the Supreme Court, I think that adds momentum to work that is taking place in states around the country to pass gay marriage law.

WCT: As I understand it, you had conversations with some lawmakers about supporting this bill.

LM: Yes, throughout session, and even in particular the last several days when people were hopeful that we were only a handful of votes away. Then, it started looking as if it was far more than that because some members of the legislature had been put under so much pressure

that while at some point they may have indicated a possible willingness to be supportive, they were now indicating essentially the opposite. So I spent many hours on the phone that Thursday and Friday with legislatures, reassuring them of several things.

One is, from my experience being in the state Senate, you end up having to vote on controversial bills, but once they're passed, much of the controversy dies down [and] goes away, and everybody moves forward—certain threats that may have been made to be or concerns that they may have had about elections that maybe did not need to be so concerned about that.

WCT: Do you remember the first moment that you knew the bill might be in trouble?

LM: I think I got a call probably that Wednesday, maybe it was Thursday before the end of session [Friday]. I think it was late in the game. Like many people, we had been doing a lot of work. We were very hopeful. My understanding was we never had a firm 60 votes. We were close and the momentum was going the right way, and it really turned.

WCT: Obviously, there has been a lot of anger over this, even at supportive representatives. Do you think that anger is fair, and how do you feel that some of that has been directed as you as the daughter of Speaker Madigan?

LM: I think anger is understandable. Everybody who was working toward passage of this bill was

certainly disappointed, upset that it did not have the votes to pass at the end of session. So, I can understand anger. I think the useful way to channel that anger is into working harder and assuring ourselves that we do get commitments from representatives that we will vote for this bill when it is called. I don't think that anger for anger's sake is useful at the end of the day. But, again, I understand that there are a lot of people who are very disappointed, myself included, that the votes weren't there to pass it at the end of session.

WCT: Do you have any plans for Pride?

LM: We always go to the parade, so we'll be out at the parade.

WCT: Is there anything you want to add?

LM: This is something I have been supportive of ever since I ran for public office. I put a little bit of in because I remember commenting on this when we signed the civil unions bill a number of years ago that it took a very, very long time for the Human Rights Act to be amended to include sexual orientation as a protected class. Larry McKeon [the state's first out gay rep] was one of my state representatives. I remember the work that he did on this to amend the Human Rights Act. I remember the disappointment and the frustration and anger that was directed at him in years that it didn't pass.

We're always in a battle over something, and what pays off ultimately is perseverance and developing relationships and connections. We will pass marriage equality in Illinois. It may not happen fast enough for a lot of people, but it is coming.

Hollendoner CDPH deputy commissioner

CHICAGO—This week, Chicago Public Health Commissioner Bechara Choucair, M.D., announced the appointment of Joe Hollendoner as First Deputy Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), effective July 8.

In this role, Hollendoner will oversee CDPH's day-to-day management, providing direction over operational and budgetary decisions as well as supervision over the implementation of Healthy Chicago, the City's ambitious public health agenda dedicated to making Chicago the healthiest city in the nation.

Hollendoner joins CDPH after serving as the senior vice president of programs at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC). Prior to his work at AFC, Hollendoner spent 10 years at Howard Brown Health Center, serving as the organization's vice president and chief program officer 2010-2012.

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Rabbi Larry Edwards praises LGBTs, congregation

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Another chapter ends for Rabbi Laurence "Larry" Edwards as he prepares to retire from his 10-year role at Congregation Or Chadash. Unsure of exactly what the future holds, he plans to continue with his passion of teaching and focusing on the Jewish religion. (June 30 is his last day, with the Pride Parade being his last official "duty.")

A Glencoe native, Edwards grew up attending Congregation Solel, a reformed synagogue located in Highland Park, with his family. His parents were active in the synagogue as they were among the founders. However, Edwards said he and his family were not observant of Judaism in a traditional way, as they celebrated certain holidays.

Edwards describes his decision to be a rabbi as an evolution beginning when he was a child. His influences mainly came from watching Rabbi Arnold Jacob Wolf lead services as he was growing up and from regularly attending Friday night services with his father, which looks at as a fond memory.

Edwards spend his undergraduate years at the University of Chicago. Realizing during those years he had an interest in religion and wanted to continue studying it, the most logical answer for his next step was rabbinical school where he attended Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York and was ordained in 1975.

"For me, I mostly love the study and teaching aspects," said Edwards. "It is such a rich

inheritance of thoughtful people over a long period of time, wrestling with not only philosophical ideas, but more with question of 'what are we here for and what am I supposed to do for this limited amount of time I'm visiting the earth?' and it's about obligation. So there's just so much. I've learned how much I don't know [about Judaism and life in general]."

His career continued as he served as Hillel Rabbi at Dartmouth College for six years and then Cornell University's as Hillel Rabbi for 16 years. Edwards, along with his wife, Susan, and daughter, Sarah, returned to Chicago in 1997 to be closer to his aging parents. Since their return, Edwards held a position at KAM Isaiah Israel in Hyde Park and in 2003 he learned about Or Chadash's through his sister, an out lesbian and rabbi of Or Chadash's sister congregation in Los Angeles. The 2003 pride parade marked his first event with the congregation as rabbi.

"In terms, of mastery, it's not something one masters," Edwards said of the religion. "One tries to serve it, convey it, pass it along, not necessarily in tact, that is to say I don't think of my job as trying to make sure Judaism in the next generation is exactly the same as it was in the previous generation, but to participate in the creative shaking up where necessary, preserving where necessary, the study of it."

Edwards said he is proud to have been part of Or Chadash for 10 years and will continue to be rabbi emeritus. Standing as Chicago's only LGBTQ identified synagogue, located in Edgewater, Edwards explains since it was founded in 1975



Rabbi Laurence "Larry" Edwards. Photo from Edwards

and began holding religious services in 1976, it has historically been a place where Jews have felt they could come out and participate safely.

"We have a number of members who have told stories about that," said Edwards. "Especially for members a half a generation ago for who it was a real risk to be out and maybe something that would really change their life around and maybe it would mean leaving a marriage, it could mean a lot of things, but this was a place where they could work through that in a Jewish environment and that was good for them. That's not so much the case anymore."

According to Edwards, the concept of an LG-

BTQ identified synagogue was formed as a support group for Jewish LGBTQ members who felt excluded and not embraced in the mainstream congregation, but still wanted to partake in a congregation to practice religion. To today's generation, being part of the LGBTQ community is not as much of a shock as it was previously. Edwards questions whether such a thing would happen now because other congregations have become more welcoming. Although, he noted people do say it does make it difference being in a place where they feel like they are in the majority.

Sometimes I say we're the Jewish voice of the LGBTQ community and the LGBTQ voice in the Jewish community," said Edwards. "I don't know if we always succeed, but we really try hard to put at the center our understanding of Torah, the commandment that's repeated 36 times the rabbis say, 'remember you were strangers. You were strangers in the land of Egypt, you know what it is to be on the margins. Love the stranger who is like you.' Sometime people quote, like Jesus, 'love your neighbor as yourself,' but the same chapter of Leviticus also says, 'love the stranger as yourself.' So, whatever we can do to connect gives meaning."

However, within the Jewish community, Edwards said he has heard a range of opinions from other rabbis in regards to having an LGBTQ-identified synagogue. Some conservative and orthodox rabbis he has spoken to are opposed to the changes in the conservative movement such as the ordination of LGBTQ rabbis, which he adds the conservative seminaries allow, and another being rabbis officiating same-sex wedding ceremonies. Although said respectfully and in a friendly tone, some have said they do not understand his participation with a synagogue of this nature. In turn, he has also met some rabbis who are in favor of being more open and inclusive. Edwards has officiated a few LGBTQ weddings, including his sister's wedding.

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



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Sun-Times writer receives Damski award

BY VERN HESTER

This year, the Jon-Henri Damski award was given early. Generally the award is given it is Nov. 1, the date of Damski's passing; however, longtime activist and friend of Damski Lori Cannon felt otherwise. "I'm confident that Jon-Henri would be tickled with this year's recipient," remarked Cannon.

The award which is given to individuals with a "life's work that is in keeping with the Damski ethic and service to the community," was awarded to Sun-Times columnist and author Neil Steinberg, an ally of the LGBT community. Steinberg not only raised his family in Lakeview but has continuously supported the LGBT community through his high profile newspaper column.

The small gathering, which took place at Sidetrack June 18, was attended by a who's who of past recipients, including Charlotte Newfeld, Arthur Johnston and Rick Garcia.

With Steinberg as the recipient and a room filled with Damski's friends, there was a lot said that made it clear that the community and the world has missed an icon since his passing 15 years ago.

Malone Sizelove, publisher of one-time local LGBT magazine Gab, called Damski an "humanitarian anarchist," and that "he taught me what queer thinking was." Upon receiving his award, Steinberg noted that he found it easy to embrace one of Damski's mottos as his own: "Why make a friend when you can make an enemy?"

See more photos online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.



Jon-Henri Damski award recipient Neil Steinberg. Photo by Vern Hester



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Hillary Clinton to be at Chicago House event

The fifth anniversary of the Chicago House Speaker Series will feature former First Lady and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The event will be Wed., Sept. 18, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave., 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Tickets will be available for purchase beginning June 25; see www.ChicagoHouse.org.

Welcoming Churches host Pride service

Kevin Tindell, below, speaks to a group gathered for the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches Ecumenical Pride Worship 2013, "Draw the Circle Wide," at First UMC Chicago Temple June 23. The event paid special tribute to Rev. Greg Dell, who could not attend due to his ongoing health issues.

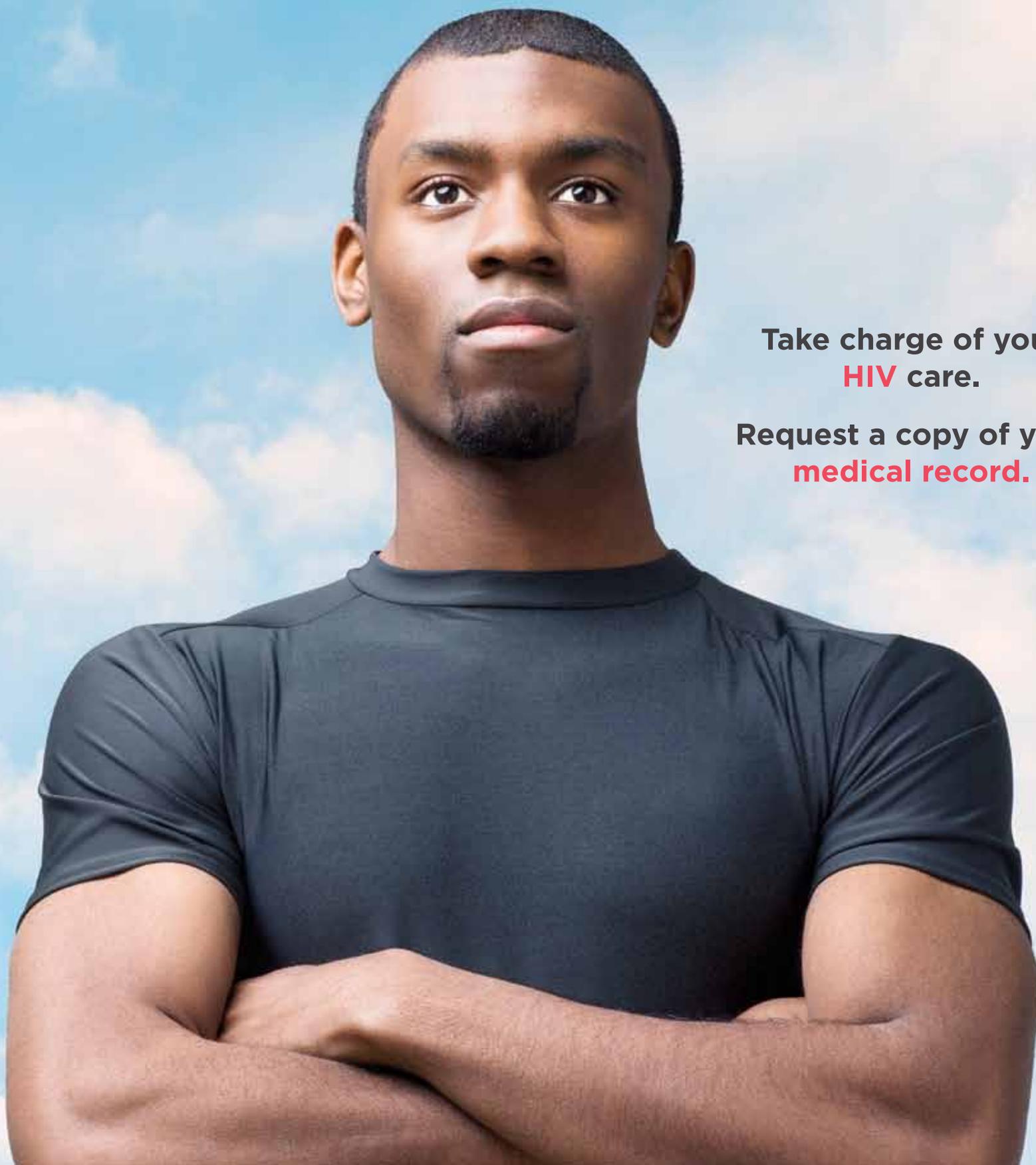
Also addressing the crowd were Bishop Wayne Miller (Evangelical Lutheran), Bishop Sally Dyck (Methodist), Rev. Lois McCullen Parr (Methodist), among others. Dozens of churches and groups were represented in the audience. The coalition will march together in Chicago Pride Parade June 30.

Spokespersons for the two non-profit beneficiaries of the night's offering also addressed the crowd: Aidan McCormack of The Crib and Bonn Wade of TransLife Center.

Photo by Tracy Baim; see more photos and video online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



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Lesbian wins prom king at Lane Tech

BY ROSS FORMAN

Ola Wolan planned for her senior prom at Lane Tech High School all school year—because she wanted to wear a tuxedo, not a dress. She researched how much the tux rental fee would be (\$100) and planned accordingly.

And as the school's prom—held Saturday night, June 8, at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel in downtown Chicago—rapidly approached, the out lesbian opted to run for prom king, not prom queen.

"Honestly, I don't fit the gender stereotypes of a girl and I'm not trans[gender]; I know who I am and wouldn't feel comfortable winning 'Queen' and then having to dance with a boy," Wolan said. "So I just thought, why not break gender expectations and stereotypes and run for 'King.'"

In fact, her initial plan was to run for King, while a gay male student was going to run for queen—and that plan was OK'd by the school, but he was not the ballot at first.

So it was just Wolan, 17, seeking the King title, to be voted by students attending prom.

She ran against five straight boys.

"I wasn't really worried about their reactions because most of them were OK and supportive, and each actually told me I likely would win," said Wolan, a popular student who crosses into many student cliques. "I try to be really nice to everyone and really don't have a set group of friends; I just try to be pleasant to everyone."

Wolan attended the prom in her rented tuxedo with Amber Lynn Phillips, a junior at the school this year, who she has been dating since late



Ola Wolan. Photo by Ross Forman

March. Phillips wore a dress.

The two were part of a prom group of about 30, and they were the lone gay couple.

"I couldn't eat [dinner at prom] because I was so nervous," Wolan said. "I thought it would be a wonderful night, even if I didn't win [the title of King because] of my journey to self-acceptance and self-love."

She also didn't eat dessert, though now admits it looked incredible. She still was too nervous for the announcement to indulge. After dessert, it was time for senior notables, honors for such awards as Best Hair, Best Eyes, Best Smile, etc.

Next came the prom prince and princess, and the prince was selected from the list of king candidates.

"After they announced the prince, it probably was one of the most surreal moments of my life when everyone started chanting my name. Never in a million years would I have expected that, hearing so much love toward me for who I am and being open [about my sexuality]. It was incredible, a moment that will stick out in my head forever; I was tearing up," Wolan said.

Finally, the announcement came: The 2013 Lane Tech prom king is Ola Wolan.

Everyone started cheering.

"I was so relieved; that's the best way to describe it. I couldn't stop smiling; I was so thrilled," she said.

The prom queen (a straight girl) was then announced.

Wolan and Phillips danced, as did the queen and her date.

"I think that night shows how far things have changed, how the movement has progressed and how incredibly accepting my generation is going to be," Wolan said. "I think this school is the very epitome of diversity, acceptance and love; I think that's remarkable."

She is king

Wolan grew up in a conservative, Catholic, Polish home, where being gay was never a topic at the family's Belmont Heights home. But as a high school freshman, she now admits she "started getting the idea" that she might be gay. She learned that year that a senior girl liked her, and another friend suggested Wolan pursue the senior. But Wolan said no, saying she was not gay, that she was not attracted to girls.

Ultimately, they started talking and then it

developed into something more, Wolan said.

"As a freshman, I went through a dark phase and wasn't very happy with myself for who I was; I never thought people would accept me, or like me," she said. "In fact, when I first learned about gay people, same-sex relationships, I was kind of traumatized; I thought, 'why is this happening to me?' I went through a 'Why me?' phase."

However, Wolan now says she knew she was gay in the sixth grade because, well, "I didn't like boys," she said. "When you're in grade school, you're sort of pressured into tagging along with the girls and talking about how cute this boy is, or how much you really want to like that boy, etc. You're sort of pressured into those things, those scenarios, especially if you don't know that you're allowed to be another way, that there's more that you can be. I don't feel like I found myself until high school because I wasn't exposed to it in grade school."

As a freshman, she started taking an interest in girls and didn't hide her feelings. But, she started telling people she was bisexual. "That kind of was my cover because I guess I kind of wanted a possibility that I could have a 'normal life,'" Wolan said.

But when she returned to Lane Tech as a sophomore, she came out as gay. She was open about her sexual orientation and outspoken about it, and she refuted the past claims that she was bisexual. "That was a turning point," Wolan said. "I decided it was just time to be honest with others, honest with myself."

And she's found acceptance at school ever since.

Well, other than from one senior girl, "Diana," who opposed a female running for king, based on her religious beliefs. Diana went through Facebook to state that she thought it was completely immoral and that she lost respect for Lane Tech for allowing it.

"I'm not oblivious to the fact that people are not always accepting [of same-sex relationships]. But it still hurt because that was the

Thank you Dr. David Blatt!

Howard Brown Health Center salutes Dr. David Blatt for over 30 years of tireless dedication and commitment to changing the lives of those affected by HIV/AIDS. A true visionary who's compassion and humanity is engrained in the care he unselfishly provided to the LGBTQ community throughout Chicago.

Happy Pride Month

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first time I felt personally attacked by someone," Wolan said.

The two students didn't know each other before Diana's social media posting—and she quickly received backlash for her opposition to Wolan's run for king.

Diana then reached out to Wolan privately on Facebook to say that she did not mean to personally attack Wolan, just that those are her beliefs.

At prom, Diana actually approached Wolan to congratulate her. "She was very polite and nice about it," Wolan said of Diana, and she even danced with Wolan and Phillips.

At the end of the night, Wolan went up to Diana and hugged her.

Wolan and Diana continued to interact on Facebook after prom, and they soon learned they have similar interests, including soccer. Diana even asked if Wolan wanted to have lunch to continue the dialogue.

They did have that lunch.

"It was a learning experience for both of us," Wolan said.

Will they stay in touch? Maybe, Wolan said.

Wolan confirmed that the two are planning to go to a Chicago Red Stars soccer game together sometime this summer.

"We now have mutual respect between us; everything sort of worked out," Wolan said.

Wolan is heading to Normal in the fall, to attend Illinois State University. She's considering a career in law enforcement, perhaps as a detective—or maybe as a gay-rights activist. "I am very interested in gay rights and civil rights," she said.

She will be a working this summer as a life guard, and of course spending more time with Phillips.

The two met on the school's lacrosse team, though they didn't truly bond until one day in the halls at Lane Tech.

Wolan went to the school library one afternoon on a half-day of school, but was told the library was closed. So she just sat in the hallway,



Ola Wolan (right) and girlfriend Amber Lynn Phillips. Photo by Ross Forman

Phillips then tried to enter the library and the door was locked, so she asked Wolan if she could sit with her.

Wolan admits now she was nervous, worried that there might be that awkward silence between the two. Instead, they talked for two hours, "and the conversation flowed easily," Wolan said.

Phillips, who had a boyfriend at the time, asked Wolan a lot of questions about being gay because she said she didn't know anyone who was gay. They also talked about their families, and more.

They later learned that the library had been open the whole time.

"If we both went into the library, not both think it was closed [at the time], we probably never would have met," Wolan said, laughing.

A few days later, while at a pizzeria for a la-

crosse team function, the text messaging between the two started.

And it hasn't stopped.

Wolan was a four-year varsity lacrosse player at Lane Tech and she said the team was "very accepting and loving" with a gay teammate. There were no issues, she said.

Wolan was not part of Lane Tech's GSA due to her sports commitments.

Wolan said she will once again be attending the Chicago Gay Pride Parade. In fact, she said it's "awesome and I'm very excited for that Sunday."

Supporting Ola

Courtney Feuer was all smiles when Wolan was named king, and still smiling at the honor weeks later.

Feuer is one of about 10 LGBT teachers at Lane

Tech, she said, each out to varying degrees.

"I felt it was a huge thing. First, that it was safe for her to run, and second, that she won," said Feuer, married to fellow CPS teacher Kris Himebaugh. "I went to an all-girls private [high] school. I have since learned that six or seven [classmates] also are gay, and I didn't know about any of them [while in school]."

"The fact that Ola was comfortable enough to do this ... wow."

"Kris and I were so excited [when Wolan was announced as king]. I was so emotional about it."

Feuer and Himebaugh not only attended prom, but they also danced at times alongside Wolan and Phillips.

"That was incredible," Feuer said.

"Sure, the LGBT community still has a long way to go, with marriage rights and more, but the fact [Wolan was named king] and they were safe, and that I was able to attend with my wife ... that's awesome."

Feuer and Himebaugh, together for nine years, had a large wedding, eight years ago this summer, performed by Feuer's sister and Himebaugh's best friend. "It was wonderful, fantastic; we had a blast ... it's just not legal," Feuer said.

Same-sex marriage laws in Illinois will be different, eventually, for Wolan, Feuer said.

"By the time Ola wants to get married [to a woman], it won't even be something she'll have to think about," Feuer said. "Seeing Ola as the king made me really proud of the school. The cheers for her that night were just amazing."

Wolan and Phillips were confident at prom, and also have shared intimate moment on campus, kissing in the hallways at school.

Feuer busted their PDA, with a smile.

"It's a pleasure, sort of, to say to you two to stop that, which is something I say to straight couples too," Feuer said. "But the fact they feel safe to do it in school is incredible."

Read about out lesbian Lane Tech teacher Courtney Feuer on page 24.

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Lane Tech teacher out and proud

BY ROSS FORMAN

It's been a decade of extreme differences for Courtney Feuer, a teacher at Lane Tech High School on Chicago's North Side—on the personal front, that is.

During her first few years at Lane Tech, she hid her sexual orientation from almost everyone—students, administrators, parents and even fellow teachers.

"I was very careful about how much [information] I shared about myself," said Feuer, originally from Columbus, Ohio, and a Chicago resident since 1997. "I definitely did not tell students [about my sexual orientation], and was very careful about what I told colleagues."

And when she brought Kris Himebaugh, her wife, to events, they were friends, that's it, nothing more. They didn't hold hands in public, and Feuer never introduced Himebaugh as her wife.

"I was careful about that for a while," said

Feuer, 38, who came out as a sophomore at Miami (Ohio) University in 1994.

Feuer and Himebaugh, also a CPS teacher, have been together for nine years. They have twin children, two dogs and a cat, and live in the Edgewater neighborhood.

As Feuer built seniority at the school, she also started coming out more and more, perhaps to a student or a teacher here or there.

Then she became pregnant, and there was no hiding anymore, she said.

"I just thought, 'How can I bring children into the world and not be honest about my family?'" Feuer said.

Since coming out, the second time, "I have only had positive responses."

No negative responses from parents, students, faculty, or anyone.

"It's been surprisingly comfortable," she said.

In fact, a few years ago, a student came out to Feuer—and she had no idea or even a suspicion that he was gay. He told her, "Since you've



Courtney Feuer.
Photo by Ross Forman

been so out about your life, I had the courage to come out to my mom."

Feuer added, "If that's the only thing [positive] to happen because of being out, that's fantastic."

Feuer participated in an It Gets Better video, produced by broadcast students. Himebaugh and their kids (Byron and Leona) also were in the

video, filmed on campus and ultimately aired on the school news.

Feuer taught British literature and women in literature this year, her 10th at Lane Tech.

"The dialogue at school has gotten so much better," said Feuer, who has photos of Himebaugh and their kids on display in her classroom.

"I have never had an issue [being gay], which is so refreshing. It's also something that I never envisioned. When I first started here, I'll admit, I was terrified about being discovered as gay."

The principal at the school when she started was very religious, so Feuer said he felt forced to remain silent about her orientation. The next principal, "I think she knew [that I was gay], but don't know [for certain]," Feuer said.

When Feuer told school administrators that she was on going on maternity leave, she met with the assistant principal who was known for being very religious, very conservative. "When I left her office that day, she said, 'Congratulations and please tell your husband congratulations, too,'" Feuer recalled.

For the first time with an administrator, Feuer then came out.

Feuer said, "Actually, it's my wife."

The administrator was very apologetic, Feuer said. In fact, the administrator went out of her way to show how accepting she was with Feuer and her sexual orientation; she has repeatedly asked about Himebaugh and sent gifts when the babies were born.

Feuer's coming-out to students was spurred by the annual Chicago Marathon. She had been training to run the event with her sister in 2007, and was fundraising for a student group that she sponsors, which raises awareness of domestic violence.

Many students went to the marathon, even though Feuer was not able to run. They cheered for Feuer's sister, who many had met.

Himebaugh was there, too.

"After the race, a few students asked who Kris was," Feuer said. "I thought I had to be honest at that point. After all, these are kids who trust me with a lot of their thoughts, their ideas."

Feuer was admittedly emotional when she came out to students.

They were fine with a lesbian teacher. "To them, it was like, whatever," Feuer said.

Feuer is not part of the Lane Tech gay-straight alliance (GSA), mostly because of the time constraints due to her children. The Lane Tech GSA has been around for about 12 or 13 years, she said, and it was started by a straight teacher who just saw a need, she said.

Feuer estimated there are about 25 LGBT students at Lane Tech—equally split, gay and lesbian. She recalls at least one transgender student in recent years, though Feuer was not sure if the student had graduated.

There are about 4,500 Lane Tech students, and more than 250 teachers.

Feuer said there are other gay teachers at Lane Tech, perhaps about a dozen. One Spanish teacher, for instance, has a photo of himself and his husband on his desk.

"It's been pleasantly surprising," she said.

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Emotional 80 years for gay Chicagoan

BY ROSS FORMAN

Bill Rydwell turned 80 years old Oct. 9, 2012, but he wasn't celebrating. In fact, he hasn't celebrated a birthday in almost 30 years.

Back on July 13, 1985, Rydwell and Pedro "Franco" Prieto, partners of 17 years, went together to be tested for HIV. Both learned they were HIV-positive.

Less than three months later, on what was Rydwell's 53rd birthday, Prieto died.

Rydwell's world truly changed.

"I got in the car after [Prieto's] funeral, called my family and said I was coming to Chicago," Rydwell said in an interview at his Lakeview apartment. "I didn't tell them what was wrong, or how Franco died. I didn't want to say much."

Rydwell drove to Chicago, "and I was expecting, within one year, to be dead."

Instead, Rydwell has been instrumental in changing the lives of countless others living with HIV/AIDS.

In 1987, Chris Clason placed an ad in Gay Chicago, looking to start a support group for HIV-positive people. Rydwell was one of 17 who attended the first meeting with Clason—this was the beginning of the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN).

Within a year, the group had more than 200 members. They had meetings on Tuesday and Friday nights, plus picnics around Memorial Day, Labor Day and Pride.

"What Chris did was, he arranged to have doctors, lawyers, social workers and others come and talk to us. He had professional people talk, all donating their time," Rydwell said. "We determined what we needed, how we were going to be run, etc."

Rydwell was one of four who welcomed all newcomers to the group, and each of those newcomers was required to first attend an hour-long meeting. "We'd give them a presentation of who we were, tell them that we have no [concrete] answers," Rydwell said.

Of the 17 who started the support group, only four or five are still living, Rydwell said.

"It was an absolutely horrendous period," Rydwell said of the 1980s when almost everyone in the LGBT community was impacted, somehow, by HIV/AIDS. Deaths then were more common than recovery once diagnosed, if ever diagnosed.

Rydwell said that there was no outside signage mentioning the TPAN support meetings—because some members requested there not be a sign since they didn't want to be seen going in somewhere associated with HIV/AIDS.

"[Through] every person who has died [from HIV/AIDS], we've lost something. We had doctors, lawyers, social workers, poets, painters, actors [and other professionals] all die from AIDS.



Bill Rydwell. Photo by Ross Forman

What did we lose? So, so many," Rydwell said.

Thus, before he goes to bed, Rydwell prays. "I find it necessary in my way of praying, to name those who I can remember [who died from AIDS] every night.

"They never should be forgotten."

Rydwell, born in Chicago and a 1950 graduate of Carl Schurz High School. He then went on to Northern Illinois University.

Rydwell retired in 1988, and was forced to start using a walker to get around in 2012. Still, he's mobile, active, watches a lot of TV and his mind is sharp. He still enjoys traveling, and does so regularly.

Rydwell also has battled cancer twice.

"I believe very much in a God. I really believe there has to be someone there because I shouldn't be here, and yet everything has worked out so perfectly for me," he said. "I think it's sad that we still haven't learned to respect and work

with another, to the best of everyone's benefit.

"The only thing I think I did [through TPAN] was, show people that, if you take care of yourself and follow the rules, you can still be here and have a life."

Rydwell still regularly participates in TPAN's twice-a-week support group for older adults, Daytimers, and held every Monday and Thursday morning. The group originally was formed for people who couldn't make it to evening meeting because they didn't have the energy at night due to their sickness, he said. "It was where we went to talk, be together," Rydwell said. "As things improved [medically for those infected], we no longer needed that [time for the group], but we still use it now to stay in contact."

They joke and laugh today, cry about years past.

"We were the pariah [years ago], but one of the great things to come out of TPA was that I realized I wasn't the pariah any more than any

other sick person," Rydwell said. "Slowly, over time, people began to see us and respect us."

So what is gay Chicago like, circa 2013, for someone who has seen the city longer than many Sidetrack regulars on a Saturday night have even been alive.

Comfort—in his community, he said.

Rydwell sees younger gays walking along Halsted Street holding hands. He shakes his head and admits it kills him because he wanted to do that years ago, but never could.

"What I see [nowadays] is what I wish would have happened for me," he said. "In my day, I felt badly to even tell my family, 'Hey, Franco and I are celebrating our 15th anniversary. We're having a party; do you want to come over?'"

And when asked about LGBT now getting married, Rydwell again shakes his head, astonished.

"I never really told my dad how much I loved him ... because he was a man," Rydwell said. "That's the era I grew up in."

Lavender University launches LGBTQ series

CHICAGO—Windy City Times and Center on Halsted are launching a nine-month series of LGBTQ educational programs featuring prominent scholars known nationally for their innovative research and work.

Lavender University is modeled on a project of the same name that operated for several years in the 1970s and 1980s, providing a wide range of interesting educational and skills-building programs.

"While some high schools and colleges are doing a better job at including LGBTQ issues in their curriculum, there is still a vast amount of LGBTQ work and history that is not being taught to youth and adults," said Tracy Baim, publisher of Windy City Times. "I really liked the Lavender University model and approached the Center on Halsted about partnering on a 9-month series. If it is well received, we hope to expand these programs for 2014, including to other areas of the city and suburbs."

"We are excited to present a diverse set of education programs," said Lynnea Karlic, director of programming for Center on Halsted. "We think this will appeal to teenagers, college students, adults and seniors, with such an incredible lineup of LGBTQ experts from our community."

Following are the speakers and topics in the first 9-month series. All of the programs are the first Saturday of the month at 11 a.m., except for the November program, which is a Sunday. The bottom of this press release gives more details on each program.

The lectures are at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St. Each lecture is \$25; there are

discounts available for multiple lectures, and a limited number of scholarships will also be available.

For reservations see: <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/lavenderuniversity>. Questions can be directed to publisher@windycitymediagroup.com or lkarlic@centeronhalsted.org.

—Sat., Sept. 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.: John D'Emilio—No Race-Baiting, Red-Baiting, or Queer-Baiting: The Marine Cooks and Stewards Union from Depression to Cold War

—Sat. Oct 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.: E. Patrick Johnson—Gathering Honey: Oral Histories of Black Southern Women Who Love Women

—Sun. Nov. 3, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., Golda Goldbloom—Working For Queer Acceptance: Finding Love Amongst the Religious Right

—Sat., Dec. 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Owen Daniel-McCarter—Constitutional Law as it Applies to Transgender Prisoners

—Sat., Jan. 4, 2014, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Hyacinth Piel—Ethical Problems in Gender Identity Construction

—Sat., Feb. 1, 2014, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.: Beth Richie—Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence and America's Prison Nation

—Sat., March 1, 2014, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Lourdes Torres—Making Familia from Scratch: Towards a History of Latina Lesbian Organizing in Chicago

—Sat., April 5, 2014, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Anne Balay—Steel Closets: Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Steelworkers

—Sat., May 3, 2014, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Timothy Stewart-Winter—From Civil Rights to Gay Rights in Chicago

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Harley McMillen photo by Patrick Duvall for Windy City Times. Ad space donated by Windy City Times.

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Legacy Project bridges historical gaps with education initiative

BY MATTHEW C. CLARK

Legacy Project Founder and Executive Director Victor Salvo will admit that history isn't sexy, and that what most people know about the past is what they learned from high school.

For him, that is why it is so important to give people pause to think about history, especially the history of the LGBT people.

"It's particularly hard for gay and transgender people growing up, who have had everything redacted," he told Windy City Times. "This is a community that had to fight its way to get people to embrace its own history."

Salvo said it's more difficult to marginalize the LGBT community it is aware of its collective experiences and continuity.

And now the Legacy Project is devoting those resources to young people.

The Legacy Project announced this year the launch of the Legacy Project Education Initiative (LPEI), a comprehensive, LGBT educational resource for educators, young people and parents.

Originally conceived the same time as the Legacy Walk, a walking tour of LGBT history makers located along Halsted Street in Lakeview, the LPEI is based on the biographies of the history makers, and provides lesson plans for educators and material for young people.

"The idea of there being an educational component had always been there from the begin-

ning," Salvo said.

After spending years developing the material, the LPEI announced its launch in April during the Night of Noise, a commemorative celebration at the end of the Day of Silence.

The LPEI makes the Legacy Project's over 200 biographies of LGBT history makers available to young people on their website, while also providing lesson plans on the 18 inductees of the actual Legacy Walk, which students can tour on trips.

According to Salvo, the LPEI will have a hard launch this year, beginning in the fall term, after receiving feedback from students.

The LPEI is co-sponsored by the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, which has helped connect the initiative with Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) networks in schools to coordinate tours of the Legacy Walk.

"[The Legacy Walk] was always created to be an outdoor classroom," Salvo said. "That's where the rubber meets the road with the Legacy Project."

School groups can take a daylong trip to tour of the Legacy Walk that begins at the Center on Halsted, which donates its space.

Students are provided a packet of material, taken on a guided tour of the Legacy Walk, and break into groups for discussion and activity sessions.

The Legacy Project has already conducted several tours for both high-school and college-aged youth.



Lyons Township High School Gay-Straight Alliance with Legacy Project Founder and Executive Director Victor Salvo (front right in brown coat). Photo courtesy of Salvo

The tours and materials fill a need for historical information about the LGBT community that youth are not getting, while also providing an opportunity for intergenerational dialogue within a community where relationships between adults and youth have been negatively stigmatized.

"To a kid, to go on an actual trip where you can learn about people like themselves is just astounding," Salvo said. "There is such a hunger for this information that kids can't get anywhere else."

In December of last year, the LPEI conducted a tour with students from Lyons Township High School GSA, from La Grange.

Project Shout Out of Northwestern University has used the material to initiate conversation in some high schools and provide educators with their own materials to create mock-up plaques of the inductees in their own schools—one of the many activities in development that Salvo hopes the initiative will be able to tour at high schools across the region.

Salvo said the biographies have been centered on themes and arcs in the individuals' lives that speak to experiences of youth.

"If somebody is struggling with some other thing that's happening in their life besides being gay," he said. "They all overcame and that's the thing we really try to stress with the kids."

Salvo said the project also helps to address bullying based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

"When people know better they do better," he said. "If you can catch kids that can still be reached, and give them any kind of information that can give them pause, you can potentially change the way they think about people."

Salvo said the LPEI is especially important because there are no existing age-appropriate matters for young people.

He said one high school student from a rural, Christian family, who recently toured the Legacy Walk on a GSA-sponsored tour, was thankful for being able to spend three hours on the LPEI's online archive with his mother.

"There's no other website where he could do that without coming across an underwear ad within two clicks," Salvo said.

LPEI Co-Director Gerri Spinella is an educational consultant with a long history of working on gay and lesbian rights, who helped develop the resources for schools.

Spinella said she remembers herself trying to look books up on being gay when she was a young person, in a small library in a small town.

"I really think it provides a role model for all

students, whether they're gay or straight," she told Windy City Times. "But it's been my experience that it holds a special place for those students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender."

Spinella said the biographies take a deeper look at who the individuals are.

"Society needs to know that there's this layer, because it provides a whole other layer by which people learn about culture, families, and communities on a deeper level," she said.

Spinella, whose dissertation addressed educator's attitudes towards homosexuality, says that teachers don't have the knowledge base to deal with gay students, and that this material gives them that knowledge, promoting the well being for all students.

LPEI Co-Director Gabriel Gomez, who helped develop the resources with Spinella, told Windy City Times he hopes the Legacy Walk can be an education opportunity for all who feel connected to the neighborhood.

"We hope that this project will not only encourage people to understand our history, but also encourage local youth who come to the neighborhood to see themselves reflected in this civic expression, one that mirrors the cultural diversity we really represent as a community," he said. "Our LGBT community is truly diverse"

Gomez will be presenting two papers on the LPEI in July at international conferences in Barcelona and Athens.

LPEI researcher Carrie Maxwell (who is also a reporter for Windy City Times) said that the project is particularly important to her, as a history teacher.

Maxwell said the initiative helps breakdown some of the inherent biases in histories about white, straight men.

"Teachers also won't have to worry about creating their own education initiatives," Maxwell said. "This has been vetted."

LPEI is a volunteer project, with an upcoming publication in the Journal of Museum Education for its focus on a non-profit, community-driven education project.

Fifth Third Bank has become the official sponsor the LPEI, providing a grant for multimedia material, but the project is hoping to become a fully-funded, community supported nonprofit.

LPEI is currently looking into possible revenue streams for funding, including tourism. The North Halsted Business Alliance will be conducting a private tour June 27. For more information visit <http://www.northalsted.com>.

For more information on LPEI, visit <http://legacyprojectchicago.org>.

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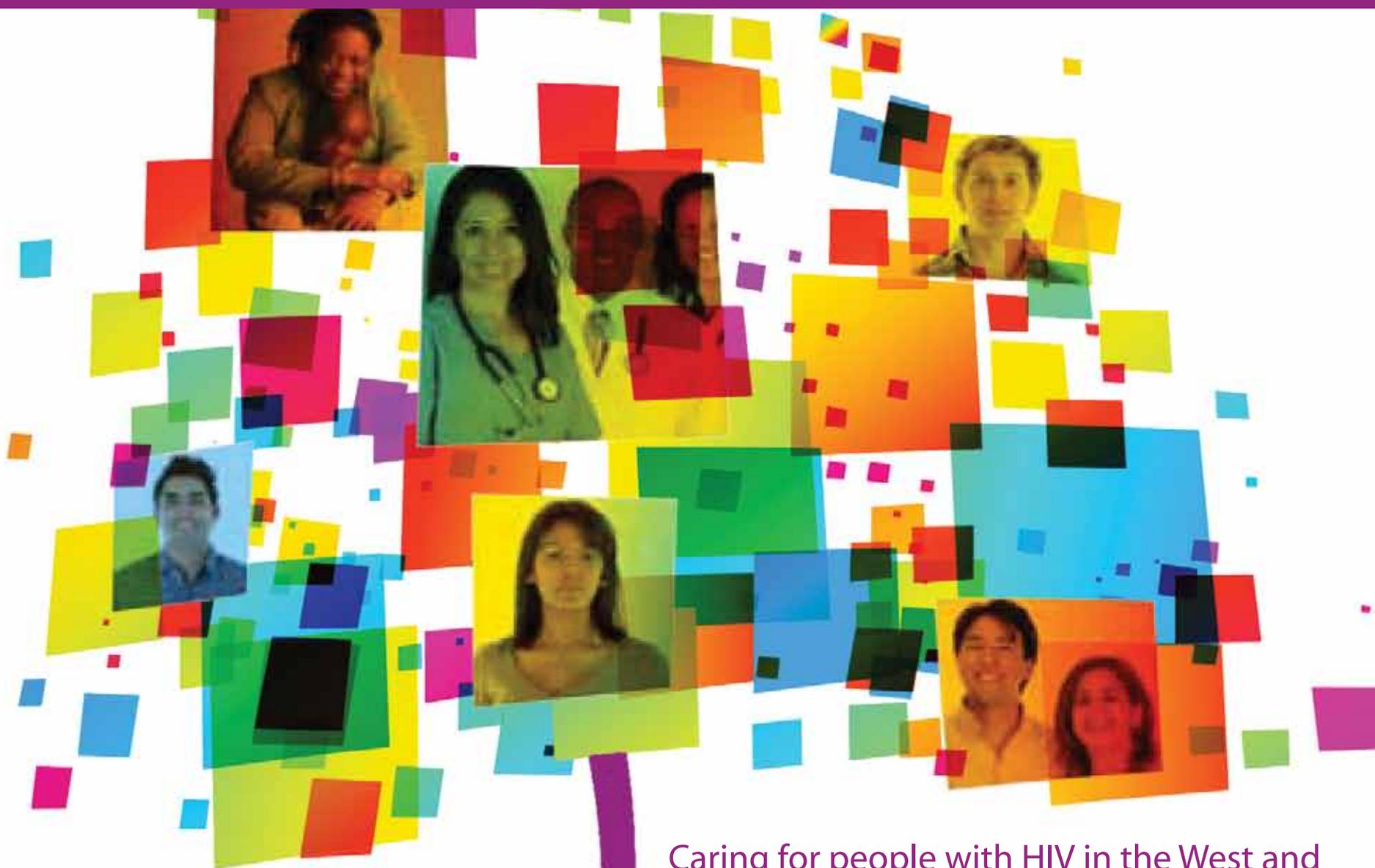
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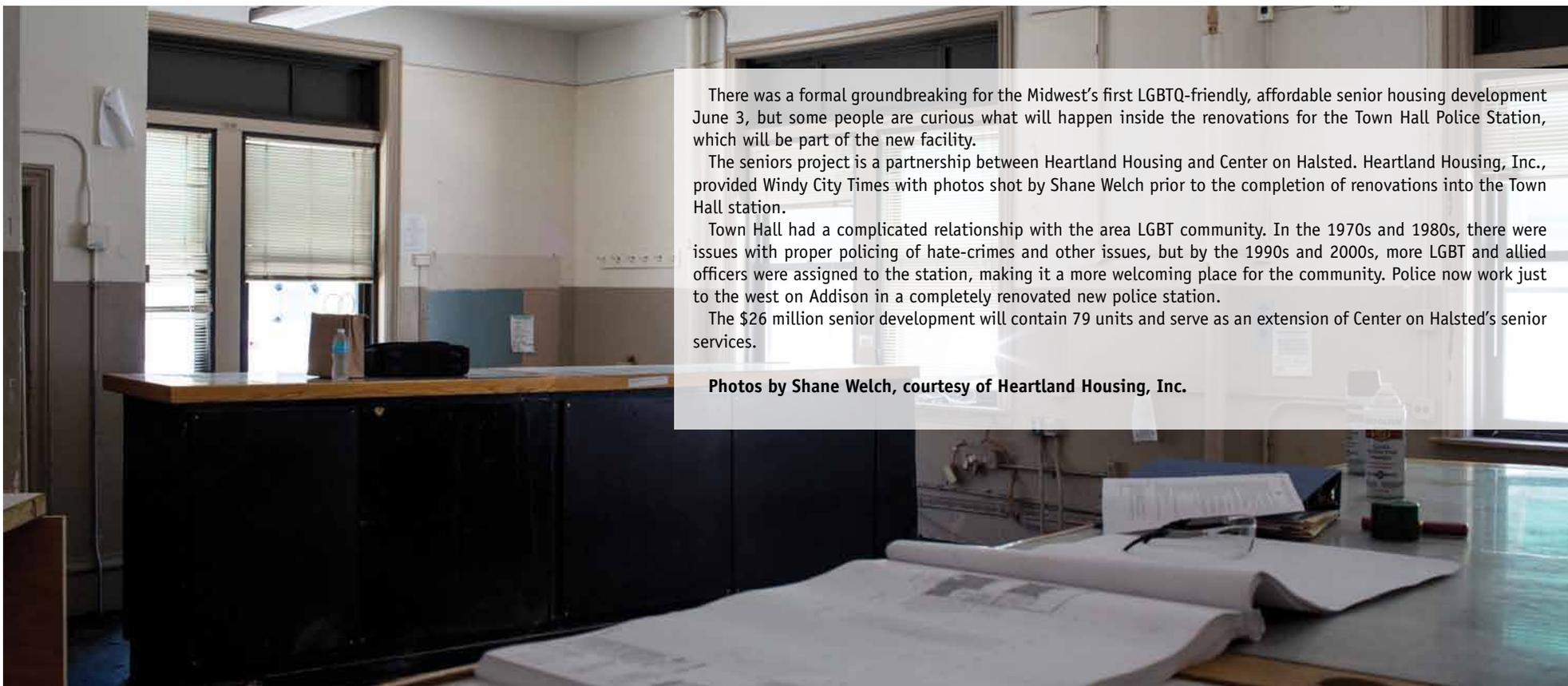

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Town Hall Police Station: A look inside the past



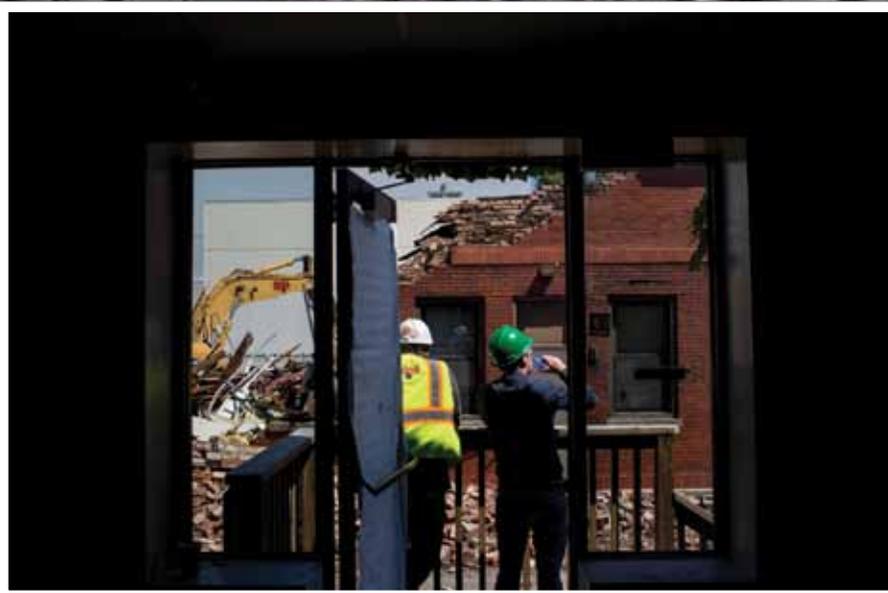
There was a formal groundbreaking for the Midwest's first LGBTQ-friendly, affordable senior housing development June 3, but some people are curious what will happen inside the renovations for the Town Hall Police Station, which will be part of the new facility.

The seniors project is a partnership between Heartland Housing and Center on Halsted. Heartland Housing, Inc., provided Windy City Times with photos shot by Shane Welch prior to the completion of renovations into the Town Hall station.

Town Hall had a complicated relationship with the area LGBT community. In the 1970s and 1980s, there were issues with proper policing of hate-crimes and other issues, but by the 1990s and 2000s, more LGBT and allied officers were assigned to the station, making it a more welcoming place for the community. Police now work just to the west on Addison in a completely renovated new police station.

The \$26 million senior development will contain 79 units and serve as an extension of Center on Halsted's senior services.

Photos by Shane Welch, courtesy of Heartland Housing, Inc.



GAY *in the* **LIFE**
Matt Herek
 TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN

Age
36

Relationship status
Single

Neighborhood
Sheridan Park

Hobbies
Has played piano since 3rd grade; reading historical non-fiction.

Dream job
Chief of staff to the president of the United States. "I'm at my best when I'm the guy that 'the guy' depends on."

Favorite TV show
Modern Family

Favorite movie
Hoosiers

Four people (living or dead) who you'd like to have dinner with
Steve Martin, Jim Henson, Thomas Edison, and Mark Twain.

Little-known fact
"I've been on the summit of Machu Pichu with the actress who has played Monica Quartermain on General Hospital. I also had to row her through the floating islands on Lake Titicaca."

Matt Herek was forced into the suit as Dibs the Blue Demon, the mascot for DePaul University, during the 2005 NCAA women's basketball tournament. DePaul was playing Liberty University in the second round and, well, even Dibs has to use the bathroom at times.

Herek had to ask the chancellor of Liberty for assistance with his zipper. The chancellor at the time was, Rev Jerry Falwell. Herek is now at Northwestern University and though he's no longer strutting around as a mascot, he's still intertwined in the sports world—collegiately, professionally and certainly within the LGBT community.

Take, for instance, the annual Pride Bowl flag football tournament, which is played Friday and Saturday in Chicago. Herek could carry the title "Director of Small But Important Things."

"Our tournament director Brian Kupersmit has done a great job for the past four years growing this tournament to the second-largest LGBT flag football event in the country," Herek said. "So, I look at my role as one that keeps the knucklehead stuff off his desk so that he can concentrate on the perpetual whitewater created by 28 football teams playing 80-plus games over two days."

Herek also will be on the fields officiating.

"I started refereeing men's flag football two years ago as a way to stay involved in the football league without the bruising," he said. "Since then, I have come to really enjoy being on the field with the other refs and the players from the league. Officiating creates a few hours during the week that I don't have to worry about words like 'metrics' and 'budget.' Plus, the stripes are slimming."

Herek added, "I met all of my close friends through CMSA, and they really have become family to me. By officiating, I like to think I'm keeping the league operational and I hope another generation of athletes has the same dumb luck I did."

Herek's sporting passion also extends to sports entertainment, as World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) calls it. To Herek and the rest of the world, it's pro wrestling—and that's his body-slaming fun.

"When I was in grade school, my cousins and I would always get together to watch [wrestling] pay-per-views at my grandparent's house," he said. "We'd sit in the basement and cheer our brains out for The Ultimate Warrior, Hulk Hogan, etc. I never lost my ability to enjoy it."

In fact, he often hosts parties at his home for various WWE events, including WrestleMania. "I think that [WWE owner] Vince McMahon was, and is, a visionary who never gets credit for being the forerunner for the way we watch and talk about sports today," Herek said. "Watch College Gameday some Saturday and pay attention to the way those guys develop a storyline or narrative. The only thing that's different is that outcome isn't [pre-determined]."



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TIMES

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Community Marketing, Inc.

ROBERT
KINGETTThe offensive
divide

The restaurant bustles with activity as my date and I sit opposite each other, talking about ourselves and what we do.

To my immediate right, a woman is talking to her mom on her cell phone about the baseball game she missed. Different smells bounce off my nose as men and women pass us making their way to their tables. Dishes clatter in the kitchen behind me, and my date's cologne, masked over with deodorant, sprays my sense of smell as I gaze toward his ebony-accented voice. We're chatting jovially, our laughter dicing holes in conversations around us, making people stop, and, I'm sure, stare at this interracial gay couple.

When the dishes come, we get into the topic of careers. He's a teacher. With a mouth full, and hesitation dotting his syllables like rain, he asks me a very important question.

"If you're blind, how can you be a journalist?"

Instantly the talons rise, and my fingers toy with the idea of creeping toward his throat. A dozen retorts bang into my head as if it were a chamber full of bullets, ready to blast this rude insensitive sighted person away. After a split second, however, I suddenly realize that he's never seen adaptive technology, and he's never seen a Braille display, and he's certainly never seen a Victor Reader Stream or a computer with a screen reader. He's not in my world and he never was. Taking a deep breath, I explain how I'm a journalist when I'm blind, all with a huge smile on my face. The reason I choose to answer all his questions, and many others, instead of following my gut instinct to be sarcastic is, he may not be in my world, but I know he can be if I just teach him.

Whenever I hang around blind people and we make jokes about speech synthesizers that sighted people wouldn't understand, a sentence

is uttered without fail. Sooner or later, we get to talking about sighted people and their lack of blindness knowledge. The words fly at me like sharp bullets that are not meant for me. They're angry at the sighted people who ask us how we type on a computer. It's an angry question that's become a common one in the blindness community.

"They should know better. Why are they so stupid?"

When that's uttered, I immediately see things through the sighted point of view. The truth is, they won't be an expert about blindness ways or technology. They shouldn't know better because no one knows everything, especially about a different way of living. They shouldn't know better. Instead, we have to get angry less, and educate more.

Education is the key of knowledge that will turn itself, unlocking the right doors if the right direction is given. Among the disabled community who tend to get angry when they're asked to educate, this applies to people with HIV and AIDS as well.

I've seen countless instances where someone with HIV or AIDS gets offended when a potential partner asks him if he will contract if they exchange saliva. The contracted person became offended, and stormed off, hurt. Upon further investigation, I learned that his date didn't even know what HIV did. He didn't even know that it didn't have a cure.

A lot of people say ignorance is bliss, but it's also a divider. Even today, the biggest hurdle that we all have to overcome is inclusion and acceptance, even among the gay community, disabled community, and HIV community. In today's day and age, just simple curiosity could ruin a good friendship or relationship because of "offensive questions." That divide grows because we are easily offended at the questions we asked ourselves at one point.

When I was learning the bus route for my daily commutes, I wondered if it would even work, me having to travel on the bus for field reporting. I've asked the same question as my restaurant date. "How am I going to be a journalist?" with patience, and persistence, I figured out the answers with trial and error and learning from my own past mistakes. If I would have let my own question offend me, then I wouldn't have figured out the answer.

I don't have HIV but I had to ask the above question in order to find out that you can't get

HIV from a small exchange of saliva. I know now how to better do my job as a blind journalist because I had to find an answer. I couldn't let those two questions go unanswered. If I did, then how blissful would I be, ignorant about knowledge that would help someone else as well as me in the future.

I don't think anyone should remain in the dark if I have an answer to a question. Answers, with all their simplicity sprinkle awareness along with their validity. Not far behind awareness comes understanding, and soon, acceptance. An answer to a seemingly offensive question doesn't just satisfy curiosity but it opens up a door to understanding. There are a lot of other positive things behind that door even if they're not visible immediately. Some effects are immediate, such as inclusion, and others are far off, such as advocacy born from awareness.

When I look around and see a world that's divided as it is, I don't want to divide it even more just because someone asks me how I use a computer. If education breeds positive results then people who live in different conditions should educate others how they do it. It's the only way to end these "offensive questions."

The goal of inclusion is to do just that, include. My sighted date lives in an ethnic world I'll never completely understand because I've never lived through the discriminatory history but I can ask questions, and with each answer, I'm no longer on the outside anymore. We're together. With every answer I give about my adaptive life, we're coming together in a way that offended people won't be able to do for a very long time. He understands me now and that's the most valuable education I could ever give.

If people really want to have us unite to stand for a positive voice then we can't widen the distance because we're offended at questions. Instead, we should open our world to people and share as much as we can, if asked. If we keep doing that I know that the door will open wide enough to let all of us through to a better world, a world where we all know each other, stand for one another, and unite for equality and embrace the best teacher of all, differences.

That would make a beautifully educated world, one where I'd be happy to say that this positive change was the result of answering offensive questions.

LETTERS

Time to apologize

Letter to the Editor:

This letter is in response to Cardinal Francis George's visit to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel June 16 for the Archdiocesan Gay and Lesbian Outreach (AGLO) 25th anniversary.

I will be marching with the Gay Liberation Network in the Pride Parade because of its long-standing commitment to social-justice issues. I would like to invite other LGBT Catholics, couples with their families and our allies to join me in giving visible support to an organization who understands what faithfulness and commitment is all about when it comes to the issue of human rights. Since there will be no Catholic parishes present in the parade my choices were limited.

Yes, I would even like to invite those who attend AGLO to join me. While I understand the board of directors could not stand with me in both being denied Communion and turning its back to the cardinal during his sermon, perhaps the members can muster up the courage to march in the Pride Parade with me.

The young woman who brought me Commu-

nion showed those members of the AGLO board and clergy what courage and faith are all about despite the cardinal's instructions to his priests to deny me Communion. I wish to thank her publicly for responding with hope, charity, faith and compassion. She was a priest to me in my time of need. Her name is Brenna C. Cronin.

I also wish to thank the other women who showed their courage in publicly supporting my efforts. These are all examples of profiles in courage, and they honor both their faith and Church by their presence.

I will be returning to the AGLO Mass after the parade to reclaim the dignity of our faith that was taken by those who support and promoted George's brand of homophobia in Church. Bigotry only grows in the church because good people choose to remain silent.

We are all frail human beings, and make mistakes. It is time for the AGLO board to issue a public apology for its betrayal of the LGBT community in siding with the cardinal on the issues of gay marriage and homophobia in the Church.

Joe Murray
Chicago

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GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



A BLOODY GOOD TIME

Saoirse Ronan (above) sinks her teeth into her role in *Byzantium*. See page 42.

DISH

Holding all the curds.
Page 86

PR photo of poutine



THEATER

'Mine' field.
Page 22

Photo from *Mine*
by Claire Demos



SPORTS

It's training, men.
Page 94

Photo by Ross Forman



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Danny Bernardo works through identity issues, loss of father

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Out Filipino-American playwright and actor Danny Bernardo is well aware that his world-premiere play, *Mahal*, is opening at a charged time in the Chicago theater community—particularly regarding how Asians are depicted onstage.

Before Bailiwick Chicago Theater selected *Mahal* for its 2012-13 season, the play had one of its developmental readings through Silk Road Rising, a Chicago company led by artistic director Jamil Khoury and famed for its dedication to dealing with Asian and Middle Eastern stories.

Khoury recently was incensed over Tony Award-winning director Mary Zimmerman's dismissive comments regarding Rudyard Kipling's colonial views in a *Chicago Magazine* article in advance of her adaptation of *The Jungle Book* at the Goodman Theatre. In an online blog, Khoury accused Zimmerman of building her career on cultural appropriation and "Orientalism." The two artists have since had a lengthy follow-up interview, to try and help clear the air.

But it isn't just in Chicago that the question of Asian authenticity onstage has come up. In 2012, Great Britain's Royal Shakespeare Company came under fire for not hiring a majority of Asian actors for its 2012 adaptation of the famed Chinese play *The Orphan of Zhao*, as did La Jolla Playhouse in California for a new musical adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Nightingale* staged by out director Moisés Kaufman.

"As a kid, I always dreamed that I'd be able to find a way to marry my cultural experience with my theatrical life," said Bernardo in a telephone interview.

But Bernardo didn't write *Mahal* solely to redress the lack of Asian-American works or actors on U.S. stages. He wrote the play as a way to personally grieve and with the loss of his father a few years ago.

At that time, Bernardo was assistant directing a 2011 Silk Road Rising production of David Henry Hwang's play *Yellow Face*, which has its own share of familial and father issues in addition to exploring Chinese-American cultural identity.

"I really took inspiration from how David Henry Hwang dramatized how his father was dying and I put all my feelings about my family, my culture and tried to give my dad this legacy in this play," Bernardo said.

Another major inspiration for Bernardo was being part of the very first About Face Youth Theatre ensemble in the late 1990s. About Face Youth Theatre is famed for developing new works based upon the feelings, experiences and needs of LGBTQ youth.

"The big focus was to take your personal stories and make them into a piece where you still felt connected to it, but also look at it objectively," Bernardo said. "So a lot of the lessons I learned from About Face, gosh almost 15 years ago, really apply."



Danny Bernardo. Photo courtesy of Bailiwick Theater

In *Mahal*, Bernardo depicts the extended Filipino-American Reyes family as they deal with the loss of the matriarch and a long forgotten secret from their cultural homeland. Issues of assimilation, homophobia and interracial relationships are all brought up in the drama, along with the question of what truly constitutes an American family.

Bernardo is proud of the fact that *Mahal* marks the first time that Bailiwick Chicago is working under an Equity union contract. That's due to the casting of Jeff Award-winning actor Joseph Anthony Foronda (*Miss Saigon*, *Yellow Face*), who portrays the father role of Roberto. Foronda has been involved with *Mahal* since its early reading stages and he specifically cleared his schedule to ensure that he could follow the show through to its eventual production.

"[Foronda] is one of the best actors I've ever seen. When I was in high school, I saw him as the Engineer in the national tour of *Miss Saigon*, and then I got to work with him almost 10 years later," Bernardo said. "And now I've worked with him so much in my adult life, I couldn't imagine anyone else in the role."

With the recent issues brought up in regards to Asian heritage casting and cultural authenticity in the theater world, Bernardo is glad that he's contributing to the conversation with *Mahal*.

"In Chicago at the very end of the season, I've got this play where there are five Filipino-American characters played by Filipino-American actors and that shouldn't be such a novel thing—but it is," Bernardo said. "I feel very strongly about being able to create opportunities for as many diverse actors as possible—not just for the actors but for the audiences to see themselves reflected in the plays."

Bailiwick Chicago Theater's *Mahal* plays at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. Previews are Wednesday and Thursday, June 26 and 27, with an official press opening at 8 p.m. Friday, June 28. The regular run through Friday, Aug. 2, is 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays with 2 p.m. Sunday matinees.

There are special Monday night industry shows at 7 p.m. July 1 and 7:30 p.m. July 15. There is also an extra Saturday matinee on July 27. Preview tickets are \$25. Regular run tickets are \$35 (\$30 for groups of 10 or more). Call 773-327-5252 or visit www.bailiwickchicago.com.

WINDY CITY TIMES THEATRE SERIES 2013-2014

A RAISIN IN THE SUN*

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013
7:30pm

By Lorraine Hansberry

Directed by Ron OJ Parsons

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2013
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Directed by Gary Griffin

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TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2014
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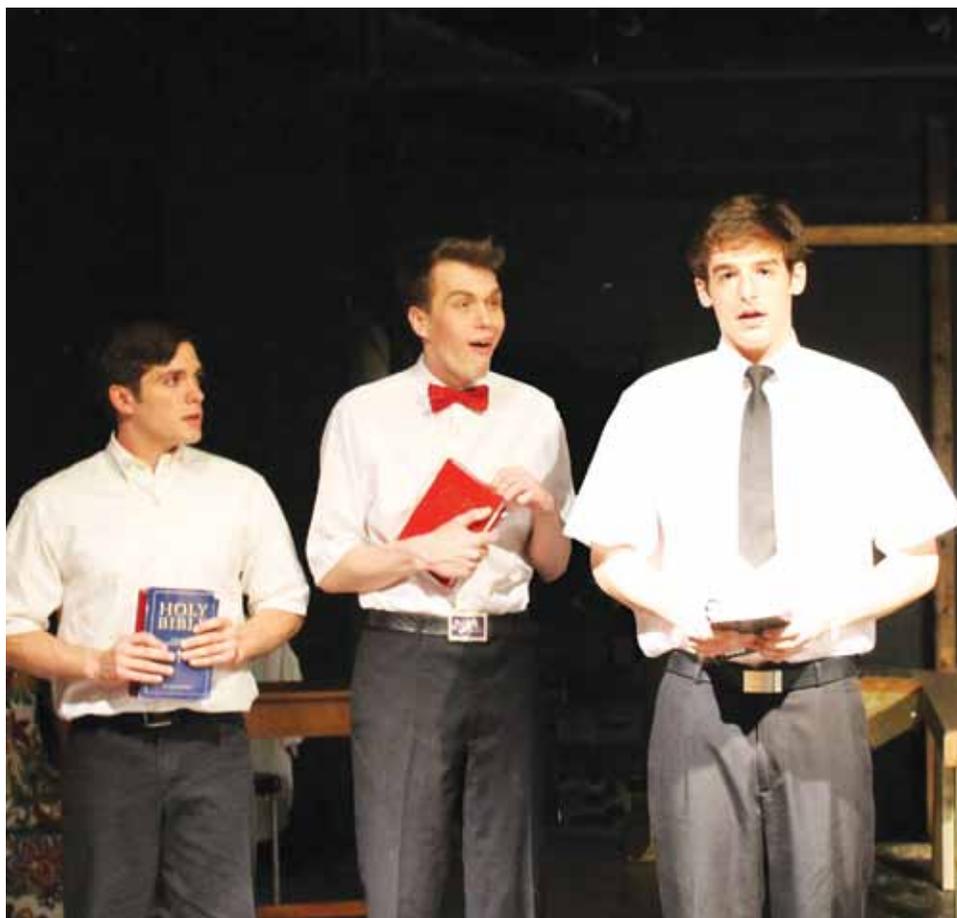
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Southern Baptist Sissies. Photo from Wayne Shaw

THEATER REVIEW

Southern Baptist Sissies

Playwright: Del Shores
At: Ludicrous Theatre-Chicago at the Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.
Tickets: 773-404-7336;
www.greenhousetheatre.org; \$20-\$25
Runs through: July 1

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

When a church's doctrine is shaped, not just by the tenets of its individual sect, but those of the surrounding secular culture, its liturgy may differ from those of its neighboring denominations on theological minutiae, but its social prejudices are likely to be substantially similar. So despite our four Southern Baptist boys' distress over unorthodox urges arising from their *community*, rather than their *religion*, it comes as no surprise that playwright Del Shores should lay the blame for their limited options on Jesus (whom the teenage lads find sorta sexy, nevertheless).

Our chief agnostic is angry young author Mark Fuller, who recounts for us the story of his spiritual epiphany, as well as those of his three comrades: Benny, who embraces his hormonal manifestations to forge a career as a cross-dresser (and whose act includes a charming lip-sync turn to Connie Vonett's "Pussy Cat Song"). Andrew will ultimately find comfort and acceptance in his Savior—albeit at a terrible price—while TJ will reject Mark's affections to armor himself in homophobic zealotry. Offering a more detached view of these crises are been-around-the-block barflies Odette and Preston, who comment on the procession of sexual fugitives seeking salvation in dim lights and liquor.

A theater company calling itself "Ludicrous" leads us to anticipate broad satire, but there's nothing camp or slapstick about this production. Suzanne Bracken's trio of concerned moms may revel in Lone Star mannerisms, but never do we question their love for their troubled sons. In the roles of Odette and Preston, Catherine Thomson and Michael Pacas likewise resist the temptation to Statler-and-Waldorf caricature to deliver comic relief steeped in a profound compassion whose source is revealed in a stunning reversal of expectations. Even J. Lance Williams

makes his preacher less of an amen-snorthing fanatic than a humble pastor carrying out his duties, however crippling restrictive they may be.

Shores' personal connection to his material makes for occasional lapses into the kind of agitprop fervor he professes to deplore, but the cast assembled by director Wayne Shaw wears its personae with winsome grace and unflinching conviction, frequently reaching out to us past the stage's fourth wall with a confidentiality inviting response from a bigger audience than the one attending the final preview—a condition that should be easily remedied as the play continues its unfortunately brief run.

CRITICS' PICKS

The Book of Mormon, Bank of America Theatre, through Oct. 6. Time is running out to catch this comically profane Broadway musical that not only mocks Mormons, but finds time to emphasize the importance of faith and belief to do good works. SCM

The Liar, Writers' Theatre in Glencoe, through July 28. Don't believe a thing a man tells you! A 17th Century French verse comedy, by tragic author Corneille, is sheer delight as freely adapted by modern American David Ives and performed "con brio" by an attractive, energized cast. JA

Reverb, Redtwist Theatre, through June 30. Should artists embrace their personal pain if it makes for good art, or is it okay to let old wounds heal—to quit ripping them open, anyway. Redtwist's in-your-lap staging provides the sizzle in Leslye Headland's sermon on the subject. MSB

Smokey Joe's Café, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre at Royal George Theatre, through June 30. This is your last chance to hear the Leiber & Stoller songs ensuring in the 1950s and 60s that rock 'n' roll was here to stay, delivered with fresh energy by an exuberant young ensemble. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

Married, but Still Slutty

Playwrights: The ensemble
At: GayCo at Playground Theater, 3209 N. Halsted St.
Tickets: www.gayco.com or www.the-playground.com; \$12
Runs through: June 29

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

It's a dodgy proposition to review improv comedy shows. What happens on opening night is not going to be the same material that subsequent audiences see at later performances.

Yet thought I should take a look at GayCo's Pride-timed show *Married, but Still Slutty* at the Playground Theater. Instead of a written and refined sketch revue, *Married, but Still Slutty* offers members of GayCo, Chicago's oldest and best-known LGBT sketch comedy troupe, a chance to flex their improvisation muscles. There's also the added bonus of anecdotes from special guest "gay-lebrities," whose own stories are seized upon to inspire on-the-spot material for the ensemble.

Married, but Still Slutty kicks off with a fun song and dance number called "One Last Summer to Slut." Clearly it was written with the hopes that same-sex marriage would have been passed this year in the Illinois General Assembly, giving a deadline for LGBT couples to celebrate their slutty side before officially settling down. Oh, well—there's hope for the fall veto session to make same-sex marriage a reality, although I'm sure that "sluttiness" won't be going out of

style.

Windy City Times publisher Tracy Baim was the opening night "Gay-lebrity" for *Married, but Still Slutty*, and she recounted two tales from her start in LGBT journalism and of her recent coverage of the Rainbow Sash Movement in Chicago.

Baim's first story touched upon her days working at the long-gone newspaper *Gay Life* as a typesetter (being one of two women working in an overwhelmingly male environment), while the second involved her coverage of the protest to Archbishop Francis Cardinal George's appearance at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Chicago's Lakeview to mark the 25th anniversary of the Archdiocesan Gay and Lesbian Outreach (AGLO) June 16.

Alas, the members of GayCo only used Baim's stories tangentially to create on-the-spot skits. Many scenes were really funny, especially Chris Kervick blithely creating a nebulous movement around glow sticks. (His understated interjections of "GLO!" was a wonderful touch.)

Yet there were also times that you wished the ensemble would have gone for the jugular of serious issues that Baim provided for them, instead of lightly tiptoeing around them. But when you're thinking and performing from the seat of your pants, it might be difficult to fully articulate a comic riff on topics like exclusion, faith and freedom of the press.

Nonetheless, *Married, but Still Slutty* allows many GayCo performers like Kelly Beeman, Kathy Betts, Clay Goodpasture and to show off their comedy skills in a more unstructured way. And who knows? The improvised skits and sketches devised in the moment for *Married, but Still Slutty* might transform into a more polished form in future GayCo revues.



Mine.
 Photo by
 Claire Demos

THEATER REVIEW

Mine

Playwright: Laura Marks
At: Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Tickets: 1-773-283-7071;
www.thegifttheatre.org; \$25-\$30
Runs through: Aug. 11

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Mari gives birth at home using a birthing pool, assisted by a midwife and her husband, Peter. Mere hours later, the baby never having left her side, Mari declares to Peter, "That is not our baby!" Switched at birth by whom and how? With increasing concern, Peter, the midwife and Mari's mother tell her it's impossible. Mari appears to be undergoing an immediate and extreme case of postpartum depression (PPD), which quickly morphs into much rarer postpartum psychosis: Mari is convinced that the baby she is nursing is a changeling—a fairy infant magically exchanged for her own.

At first, you think this short, intense play by up-and-coming author Laura Marks is a realistic drama about post-birth emotional trauma; about a mother with such deep feelings of guilt and inadequacy (typical PPD symptoms) that she becomes a danger to her infant and, possibly, herself. Peter, the midwife and Mari's mom share this attitude and even Mari questions her own sanity.

But PPD isn't really Marks' game. By careful degrees she spools out *Mine* as a thriller when Mari meets Amy in the park, an empathetic young woman wearing an odd diadem

... who just might be a fairy. Through multiple scenes, *Mine* builds for 75 minutes to a shocking penultimate action involving the baby, reminiscent of notorious moments from Edward Bond's *Saved* (Great Britain, 1965) and Judith Thompson's *The Crackwalker* (Canada, 1980). However, unlike those hyperrealistic plays, *Mine* uses realism to question reality as we perceive it.

This is a smart, sober little show, nicely designed (on the wide but shallow Gift Theatre stage) by Stephen H. Carmody, with lighting by Mac Vaughey, and capably performed by a five-person cast, headed by Hillary Clemens as Mari. It's a tricky role: is Mari psycho or sane? It's difficult for an audience to maintain sympathy for a psycho but Clemens holds on to us even as Mari spirals into a deeper hole.

Parts of *Mine* are difficult to watch—which is good—but much of it is difficult to hear, which isn't good. Memo to directors and actors: whispering and pretending to whisper aren't the same thing. Even in a small storefront theater, you exclude your audience when you play a scene of quiet, intimate conversation by actually having a quiet, intimate conversation. In real life, I could not hear such a discussion if you were 20 feet away and the same applies in a playhouse if I'm sitting 20 feet away from you. Please, just a few more well-enunciated decibels! Also: A doll is used for the baby who never cries or gurgles. Because the baby nearly is ever-present, eventually this becomes a non-realistic distancing device. Presumably this is what Marks intends.

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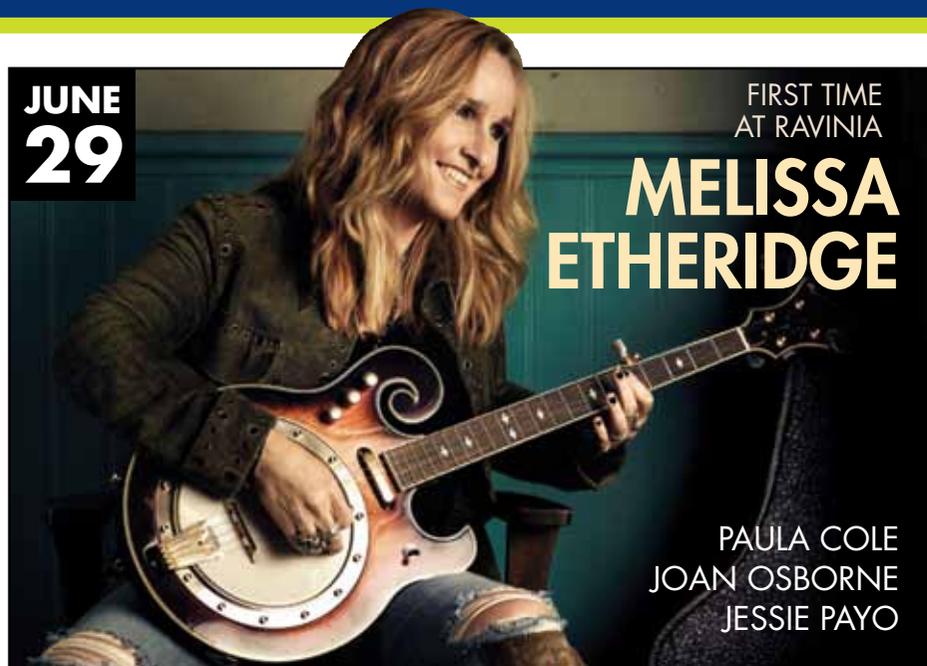
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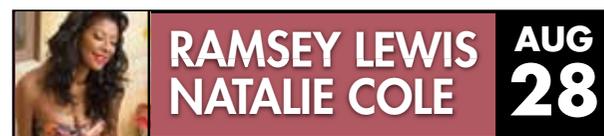


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The Little Dog Laughed. Photo by William Moran

THEATER REVIEW

The Little Dog Laughed

Playwright: Douglas Carter Beane

At: Kid Brooklyn Productions

at The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/379775; \$15-20

Runs through: July 7

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

"The little dog laughed/To see such sport/And the dish ran away with the spoon." Douglas Carter Beane's play borrowing its title from the fourth line of that classic nursery rhyme suggests that tabloid fodder is "such sport," as his play follows the tumult of a closeted movie star, his overdramatic no-nonsense agent, the rent boy he falls for and that rent boy's—girlfriend.

Sounds like the makings of a farce, but Beane's humor is far from situational, coming more from his razor-sharp wit. Each of the characters gets a handful of killer lines, especially the snarky agent, Diane (Stephanie Monday), a lethal character mix of cynicism, didacticism, hopeless romanticism, Hollywood BS, wisdom, poetry and cold hard truth. Monday exaggerates her character greatly, and it's rarely dull when she's on stage. She adds theatricality to what's otherwise a very introspective play from Kid Brooklyn Productions.

The other three characters do much more soul-baring. Truthfully, the scope of the drama is especially intimate and Beane very much wants to make some sense out of the fog that sexual identity can so often be. Mitchell Green (Carl Lindberg) is a movie star, yes, but we have no context for that. Instead, the play presents him to us as just a man torn between career ambition and exploring who he is and what he wants. His young lover Alex (Michael Manocchio), strug-

gling with the demoralizing path he's chosen for himself and his denial of his own sexual identity, has no idea of Green's stardom at first and is drawn to him inexplicably. Movies, Hollywood tinsel—these are influential forces, complicating factors, even a satirical lens with which to view the play's essentially human ideas, but not its core.

Everything takes a little bit of time to really lock into a zone, but by some point in the second act, all four actors have hit their stride and the balance between humor and thoughtful reflection feels more natural. Fittingly, the play has its own identity crisis in this sense, but it's unquestionably smart and surprisingly perceptive.

Director and Kid Brooklyn founder Evan F. Caccioppoli keeps the staging visually interesting and uses it to help create smoother transitions between the play's external scenes and internal moments, placing certain scenes closer to the audience and using lighting to make the distinctions between character asides and actual dialogue.

Given the way Kid Brooklyn has marketed their production and chosen to emphasize the Hollywood components and the play's humor, audiences might be disappointed that The Little Dog Laughed never reaches a comedic apex. Or, perhaps they will be pleasantly surprised that this production does especially well with the stuff that isn't meant to be funny. That's just the nature of a play that has some contradictory components. Yet Beane enjoys playing with that irony in this play, and this production hits on some of the discoveries he undoubtedly intended to make when he wrote it.

I could see more venerable theater companies taking this material and knocking it completely out of the park, but Kid Brooklyn Productions finds enough moments of both the hilarious and the profound in this rangy play for its take to be considered a success.

SPOTLIGHT



The Neo-Futurists colors its flagship show into shades of the Pride flag with **Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind: 30 Queer Plays in 60 Straight Minutes** for the end of June. Some of the troupe's favorite plays that touch upon queer sexuality and gender-bending themes are culled together for this special show. Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind: 30 Queer Plays in 60 Straight Minutes plays 11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 28 and 29, and 7 p.m. Sunday, June 30, at the Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland Ave. Standard ticketing is \$9 plus the roll of the die factoring into the cost. Advance tickets are available for \$20 with a "roll-back refund" at the door. A special benefit performance at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 29, is \$20, with all proceeds going to benefit UCAN's LGBTQ Host Home Program. Call 773-275-5255 or visit www.neofuturists.org. Photo courtesy of The Neo-Futurists.

NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

Andre De Shields navigates the theater 'Jungle'

BY JERRY NUNN

Andre De Shields is a natural born performer and a triple threat with acting, singing, and dancing. He is also accomplished in directing, writing and teaching.

After college he choreographed Bette Midler's concert and starred in *The Wiz* on Broadway. He continued on *The Great White Way* with *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *The Fully Monty*.

He performed in the Goodman Theatre's production of *Camino Real*, where he only simulated sex but was murdered onstage. He follows that with a return to that venue as King Louie in *The Jungle Book*. Windy City Times went backstage at the iconic theater's gala dinner to chat a bit with the entertainer.

Windy City Times: Hey, Andre. How long have you been in the biz?

Andre De Shields: Forty-five years. I started here in Chicago. You need to know that fact.

WCT: Are you from Chicago?

ADS: No, but when I graduated from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, my first gig was in Chicago the very month I graduate. That was the Chicago production of *Hair* at the Shubert Theatre, now called the Bank of America Theatre.

I worked here for four years then I went to New York and they assumed I was Chicago talent, which I was in terms of how I honed my talent but I wasn't born and bred in Chicago. I get welcomed back here like a favorite son and I am happy about that.

WCT: How was it working with Bette Midler?

ADS: My relationship with Bette Midler is important because I was the first person to choreograph her Harlettes. This was in 1971. when it was Merle Miller, Gail Kantor and Melissa Manchester—three white women.

WCT: You have done so many shows in the past, like *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *The Wiz*. What part did you play in that?

ADS: Want to guess?

WCT: I could see you playing a few different parts.

ADS: I was *The Wiz*.

WCT: What did you think of the movie?

ADS: There are easier ways of losing 33 million dollars!

WCT: How did you become involved with *The Jungle Book*?

ADS: Mary Zimmerman was casting and came to New York. She asked to interview me. We had a sit down conversation and we spoke for a half hour. We bonded rather quickly and then I got the call.

WCT: How do you make the role your own?

ADS: Didn't you just witness what I did tonight? [Laughs] That is how I make it my own.

WCT: It would just be easy to emulate the Disney cartoon.

ADS: I saw the Disney *Jungle Book* many years ago in my formative years. Because it is in the canon of American fairy tales, I am left with some impression of it. When I knew I would be doing this role I went back to 2004 when briefly I performed in a play on Broadway called *Prymate*. Google it and you will understand my next statement. I wanted to finish the work that I started in *Prymate*. That is what I am doing with *King Louie* in *The Jungle Book*.

WCT: Were you always a ham? I saw some hamming up at this preview.

ADS: I suppose that is a fair way of describing me, but I would never describe myself as a ham. What I would say is I am happiest when I am onstage in a follow spot singing my ass off.

WCT: I like how you interacted with the crowd. Do you do that in the stage version?

ADS: This is a concert, so especially in these

gala performances—with the audience so far away from us and [with them] eating and drinking—you really want them to understand this is participation. This isn't television. This isn't passive entertainment. You have to be involved in order to see what it is you came to get!

WCT: How was the last show you did at the Goodman *Camino Real*?

ADS: It was a very significant experience not only because it opened a window onto Tennessee Williams that I believe he had been cheated of these many years that he has been playwright laureate of the United States of America. What I understood about his canon, and iconic characters they are all alter egos of Tennessee Wil-

liams. I am positive about this now that I have been in *Camino Real*.

The other reason that it was significant for me is that theater is the place to take risks. That doesn't happen very often or as often as I think it should but in that production it was risk repeatedly taken. It made people uncomfortable but you have got to understand that is part of the reason of coming to the theater, to be challenged and be taken out of your comfort zone. The covenant that we make with the audience is that we will challenge you but we won't harm you so take the trip with us.

WCT: You have a few projects coming up, including one with Victory Gardens Theater.

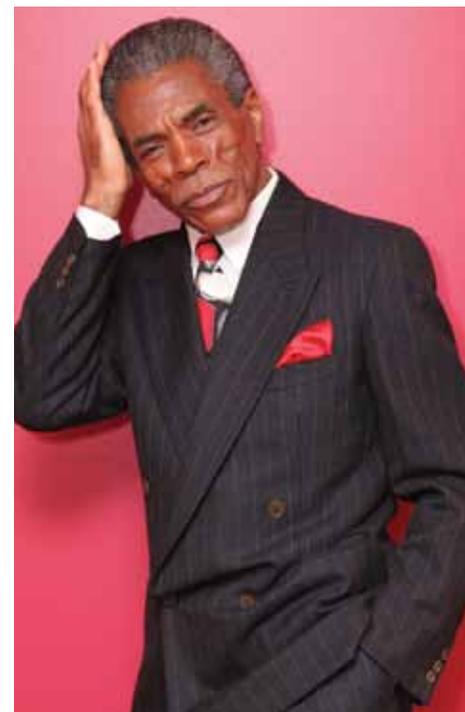
ADS: They are happening simultaneously. I have a residency and Victory Gardens is my host theater. So when I am not at the Goodman I will be there.

WCT: How do you do it all?

ADS: I don't get much sleep!

The new musical based on the Disney film and stories by Rudyard Kipling runs now through Aug. 4 at the Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.

For tickets and information, visit www.goodmantheatre.org.



Andre De Shields. Photo by Lia Chang

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LET THEM
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Openly gay Indian Ayush Maheshwari hosts local online talk show

BY JASON CARSON WILSON

Openly gay Windy City-based online talk-show host Ayush Maheshwari is among the best living definitions of inspiration. Maheshwari has given unsung everyday heroes their props on the I Am Big Show for three seasons, so far. The first episode debuted in Nov. 2012.

"I'm on a life mission to create platforms for people to be themselves," he said. "A lot of people struggle with getting appreciated and acknowledged."

Maheshwari knows lack of acknowledgement all too well. He's a native of Calcutta, India—a place where being gay isn't generally accepted and males face certain expectations. Born to a successful businessman, Maheshwari carried the burden to succeed.

Then, there's the expectation of being like other boys. Maheshwari's "unconventional" ways inspired plenty of banter. Most of it took place behind his back. However, Maheshwari never let others' reaction to his unique approach to life get him down.

"I've always believed that different isn't less than," he said.

Being gay wasn't the only challenging difference. Maheshwari's dark skin and large size were liabilities. Not meeting Indian society's standard of beauty opened him up to more ridicule.

At around age 13, he immersed himself in music and performance. Maheshwari, a soprano, began singing female roles and earning a following.

"People were drawn to me," he said.

The response fueled Maheshwari's desire to re-

cord an album. The elder Maheshwari embraced his son's dream and sent him to Mumbai. He produced a demo, which he and shopped around to all the recording companies. They all soundly rejected it, leaving him dejected.

"I was really depressed," Maheshwari said, "[I said to myself,] 'I've got nothing to offer.'"

Alienation, bullying and teasing added to the idea that he was supposedly useless.

"They don't mean to," Maheshwari said, "but they make fun of you."

After watching his recording career apparent demise, he studied hotel management. Maheshwari was drawn to the industry, since it allowed him to be around people. But, Maheshwari learned he'd never leave the kitchen.

After all the false starts, Maheshwari's father decided it was time for a change. So, Ayush headed to America to live with his brother, Amit. Amit attended Marquette University. Ayush graduated with a technology degree and gained a best friend.

"I remember the American girl, [who] told me I'm beautiful," he said, referring to Erin McDougal of Peshtigo, Wis. "There's no similarity between her and I. She was my classmate's sister."

Their friendship began during a McDougal family Thanksgiving dinner. That moment symbolizes the message Maheshwari now shares.

"One human being has the power to make another human being be big," he said.

The degree led to a job at small company that a Fortune 200 business eventually purchased.

Maheshwari stressed talking to people, especially car dealers, was the best promotion. His interactions earned him a moniker he still



Still from Maheshwari's online talk show, the I Am Big Show. YouTube still

uses—Big Indian—courtesy of a New York car dealer.

Hard work earned him the honor, at 24, of becoming one of that Fortune 200 company's youngest directors in 2001. Maheshwari returned to India, in order to help it expand there. Regret over not recording an album began building.

So, he accepted the internal challenge and went to Mumbai to produce an album at Virgin Records. Maheshwari recorded the single, "Fat-tty." It had a simple, but powerful message—no matter who you are, you're cool.

Maheshwari engaged in some guerilla marketing. He waited for an MTV executive outside his

He spent three years trying to make the "Big Indian Show" a reality. Several production houses expressed interest. Even so, Maheshwari learned that "India wasn't ready." The experience taught him a valuable life lesson.

"You can never be somebody else. You can only be you," he said. "I'm not Oprah. I'm not an African-American woman. I'm a gay, Indian man."

So, the journey to be Ayush began. He pitched something to the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN). The opportunity basically evaporated after two phone calls. It only yielded a one-second clip within a video montage.



Ayush Maheshwari.
Photo from Maheshwari

office, in order to get the song played on the air. It brought him media attention and various opportunities.

"If you're in Bombay Times, you've made it," Maheshwari said.

Those other opportunities included writing gay columns for the Deccan Chronicle. Maheshwari would also create his own opportunity, creating the Karma Yatrasm (which means "journey of deeds," according to karmayatra.com) Human Relationship Management Principle in 2002.

Maheshwari created the program, in order to help empower companies and employees.

"The program was designed to get people to do thing they've never done before," Maheshwari said.

Being influenced and inspired by Oprah Winfrey enhanced his natural ability to reach and teach people. Maheshwari would become more than an Oprah fan.

"I almost got convinced that I was Oprah," he said.

"I got closure that I'm not Oprah," Maheshwari said.

He returned to Chicago and took a job at another technology company. Eventually, the need to help people beckoned. Maheshwari placed a Craigslist ad and the I Am Big Show was born.

"The show is about sharing what's working in people's lives," he said, repeating one of the lines in the show's introduction.

Topics have included animal rights, foster care, Alzheimer's disease, genocide and drag shows.

"We are really breaking the boundaries," Maheshwari said. "We are humanizing the experience."

Bullying and child abuse are among topics that Maheshwari would like to explore next. However, he's suspended his summer filming schedule and plans to head back to India until August.

Episodes can be seen at www.iambigshow.com or on YouTube. For more information about Karma Yatra, visit www.karmayatra.com.

Rustin focus of library series

The newly opened Chicago Public Library's Edgewater Branch, 6000 N. Broadway, has launched an ongoing series called "Modern Lives & Movements."

Focusing on a different topic every two months, Modern Lives & Movements is an interrelated series of film screenings, book discussions and author talks. Through July and August, the series will focus on civil-rights activist and organizer Bayard Rustin.

The events will be:

—Saturday, July 13, at 2 p.m.: There will be a screening of *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin*.

—Tuesday, Aug. 6, at 6:30 p.m.: There will be a discussion of John D'Emilio's book, *Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin*.

—Saturday, Aug. 17, at 2 p.m.: There will be a conversation with D'Emilio, who will discuss how Rustin's career as a social justice and peace activist speaks to the current moment. D'Emilio is a professor of gender and women's studies and history at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and author of numerous books such as *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America*.

See www.ChicagoPublicLibrary.org.

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Food Network dumps Deen after admission

The Food Network said it is not renewing the contract of Southern chef Paula Deen, according to CBS News.

The development happened shortly after the celebrity cook posted the first of two videotaped apologies begging forgiveness from fans and critics troubled by her admission to having used racial slurs in the past.

Deen also acknowledged she briefly considered hiring all Black servers for her brother's 2007 wedding.

Deen, 66, has been embroiled in controversy since court documents revealed she told an attorney in a deposition that she has used the N-word. "Yes, of course," Deen said, although she added, "It's been a very long time."

In the second apology video, she said, "Your color of your skin, your religion, your sexual preference does not matter to me."

Las Vegas-based Caesars Entertainment, which has Deen's restaurants in some of its casinos, said that it "will continue to monitor the situation," according to USA Today. Publisher Balantine, which has a Deen book scheduled to roll out this fall, issued similar words.



Paula Deen. Photo by Steve Becker

Could 'The Fosters' help LGBT parents gain acceptance?

VIEWPOINT BY ELLA VINCENT

The new ABC Family drama *The Fosters* is about a "new kind of family," as the channel's tag line says. The show features a multiethnic lesbian couple that has a mixed family of foster and biological children. *The Fosters* will hopefully shed some light on the issue of LGBT parents bringing foster children into their homes and broaden the definition of a family.

The Fosters captures the complexity of being a unique family with plenty of drama between the troubled foster child (Maia Mitchell) and the parents (Teri Polo and Sherri Saum). Even though there is a lot of tension between the teen and the parents, Polo and Saum are the stable and calming leaders of the family. Although the family is unconventional, the *Fosters* are shown as just a typical family battling typical teen issues like lying and keeping secrets. The drama is able to deal with homophobia from an ex-husband and other issues with heartfelt emotion.

Executive producer Jennifer Lopez said in an interview with the Associated Press, "You can't keep spoon-feeding the idea of what the perfect family is. It just doesn't exist." Families have changed from the old-fashioned nuclear family ideal of the 1950s. A study by UCLA shows that 6 million U.S. families are headed by LGBT parents and only about 14 percent of foster children have LGBT parents.

Only a handful of states expressly allows gay adoption/foster care while there is more ambiguity in many other states. There are an estimated 400,000 children entering, in or exiting the foster care system, according to a 2011 Child Welfare Information Gateway study. Those children could find loving homes in same-sex families. While there is rightly much focus on marriage equality, laws have to be changed to allow more adoption equality as well.

LGBT parents are not only caring, but more open-minded when it comes to adoption and foster care. They adopt children that are often ignored, like older, minority, and special needs children. Countless studies, including a recent Australian study from the University of Melbourne, have shown that children of gay parents are just as well-adjusted as kids with heterosexual parents. They even get along better with their parents, undoubtedly because of more open communication with



The Fosters. Image from ABC Family

children and encouraging their children to be themselves.

The Fosters could be the type of show to bring a cultural shift to acceptance of LGBT parents. Shows like *Will & Grace* 15 years ago and *Modern Family* today have helped bring gay people into people's living rooms and into "mainstream" acceptance. TV has a way of personalizing the experiences of diverse groups of people. Showing LGBT parents as just ordinary parents will continue to help their causes in the court of public opinion and in legal courts. The show's target audience of teenagers could bring about legislative change when they reach voting age.

The Fosters has had a growing audience since its recent debut, even though the show has caused controversy among the usual right-wing groups, like One Million Moms. However, the controversy has been ignored by the already devoted fans of the show. A more important measure of its success with its young viewers is how popular the show is on Twitter. Millennials are the most open-minded generation because they have been exposed to diverse images of families and have unique families themselves. Young people can be the key to moving progress forward in adoption equality.

There is already a bit of a shift in attitudes toward LGBT parents. New York City recently launched a public service campaign to encourage gay people to become foster parents to offer a safe space for LGBT children. The campaigns reassure the parents that they won't face discrimination when trying to provide a home for children. LGBT parents need all the support and resources they can get to be the best parents they can be. Shows like *The Fosters* demonstrate that the most important thing for a child is not a perfect family, but a loving one.

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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

Byzantium; White House Down; note

Nearly 20 years after *Interview with the Vampire*, director Neil Jordan returns to the land of the living dead with **Byzantium**, the tale of a mother-daughter vampire duo whose 200-year history is threatened when their existence comes to light. Though much surer in tone than its predecessor, this is not quite as far from the Tom Cruise-Brad Pitt, big-budget razzle-dazzle as it would appear on the surface. While certainly made on a much smaller scale, *Byzantium* shares the earlier movie's gorgeous look, signature Jordan lyrical touches and the material again focuses on the brooding nature of its central character.

Instead of Pitt moaning for two hours about the curse of being turned to the dark side, we have the sober-faced Saoirse Ronan as Eleanor Webb, a perpetual 16-year-old who is also deeply conflicted about her eternal fate. Ronan is surely one of cinema's most gifted young actors: With her ginger locks and freckled, milky skin, she shares many of the same qualities as the young Sissy Spacek. Also, Ronan's Eleanor, while no wallflower, shares with Spacek's Carrie White a tentativeness and the palpable, aching loneliness of the outsider. Ronan telegraphs more with a lowering of her cornflower blue eyes or a gentle touch on the arm than Pitt did with the entirety of his less-than-memorable performance in *Interview*.

To be fair, the source material—which comes from *A Vampire Story*, a play by Moira Buffini—is less pulpy, less melodramatic than the Anne Rice novel. Like Pitt's Louis and Barnabas Collins, the central character in the gothic *Dark Shadows* TV series and various film incarnations, Eleanor, is a vampire by default. During the Napoleonic wars Eleanor's mother, Clara (the voluptuous Gemma Atherton), is forced to abandon her. Years later Clara, who had stolen the secret of eternal life from a strictly male group of vampires called the



Jamie Foxx and Channing Tatum in *White House Down*. Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures

Brotherhood and became a bloodsucker herself, turns Eleanor in order to save her from certain death after Eleanor has been attacked by the evil Captain (played by Jonny Lee Miller).

Women aren't supposed to make vampires, so Clara and Eleanor have been on the run ever since. Clara, who for reasons I couldn't quite fathom, works as a prostitute in the neon night world of the boardwalk and local strip joints, trolling for victims (with sensual cinematography by Sean Babbit). When she meets Noel (played by Daniel Mays), mourning over the death of his mother, Clara and Eleanor move into his nearly deserted seashore resort hotel the *Byzantium*. In no time, Clara has turned the place into a house of ill repute and Eleanor—in between drinking the blood of elderly folks at death's door, prepared for her to take their lives to be at peace—falls hard for young waiter Frank (Caleb Landry Jones), identifying with his similar outsider status (thanks to his physical challenges).

Eleanor feels compelled to share her story with Frank and after putting it on paper, it falls into the wrong hands. Soon both the Brotherhood, led by Sam Riley as Darvell, and social services come calling, and it's time for Clara and Eleanor to again hit the road. (They're like a vampire version of Cher and Winona Ryder in *Mermaids*.) But this time Eleanor doesn't want to go and the stage is set for a final confrontation.

Although audience fatigue regarding vampires has surely set in, thanks in part to the

mawkish, juvenile *Twilight* series, *Byzantium* is a really great addition to the genre—and not unlike Jordan's other excellent films that tackle the otherworldly (*Ondine* and *The Company of Wolves*), this is a romantic, sensual, bloody good time of a movie for sophisticated adults. *Byzantium* plays exclusively in Chicago at the Landmark Century Cinema, 2828 N. Clark St. www.landmarktheatres.com

The sight of the White House being blown up in *Independence Day* had the effect of genuinely shaking audiences up in 1996. But in the 17 years since, a huge cultural shift has taken place. So when out director Roland Emmerich, he of the massive blockbuster *Fourth of July* movies, takes out both Congress and Air Force One in his new popcorn flick **White House Down** it's really no surprise—or that these beloved institutions are destroyed in asides and quickly dispensed.

Emmerich himself can take plenty of the blame

for numbing audiences—here is a filmmaker who has previously destroyed just about the entire world in 2012, frozen the Northern Hemisphere in *The Day After Tomorrow* and given Manhattan a big clean-up bill in *Godzilla*. Emmerich's pictures are junky and pleasurable in the way that disaster pictures have always entertained audiences but the bar has been set so high with such a surplus of these bigger is better movies that it's next to impossible to be dazzled by any of them anymore. Left with the cardboard characters and situations that are sprinkled in between the violent set pieces, how can these movies not become a parody of themselves?

Although the destruction count in *White House Down* is much less than usual, that turns out to be a misstep. Instead of having the Smithsonian or the Washington Monument or the Pentagon get blown to smithereens, we are stuck in all 132 rooms (or rather, three or four and a creaky elevator) of the White House with a batch of those cardboard characters. In a plot that seems to have been freely cribbed from *Die Hard*, Channing Tatum (fit as ever, stripped to a wife-beater throughout) improbably finds himself protecting Jamie Foxx as the president from violent (but hunky) terrorists within 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. while searching for his snarky, puffy-lipped 11-year-old daughter at the same time.

Locking in at close to two and a half hours—at least 40 minutes past its expiration date—and featuring dialogue like, "Do not hit me with a rocket launcher when I'm trying to drive!" *White House Down* is instant blockbuster camp as it teeters between solemn, preachy uplift one moment, brutish violence the next, while adding in healthy dollops of WTF plot, dialogue and implausibilities in-between. Is this hybrid entertaining enough to make the trek to the six-plex? Kinda.

Film note:

Helen Mirren won the Oscar for her sensational portrayal of Queen Elizabeth in 2006's *The Queen* and the movie also got a nomination for its screenwriter Peter Morgan. Now the two have reteamed for the rapturously received West End production of **The Audience**, in which Morgan imagines what has taken place behind closed doors between The Queen in her weekly meetings with her 12 prime ministers (from Churchill to Cameron) over the 60 years of her reign. National Theatre Live is broadcasting a performance of the play (helmed by out director Stephen Daldry) at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., on Sunday, June 30, at 1:30 p.m. and again on Wed., July 3, at 7:30 p.m. www.musicboxtheatre.com

Nat'l Women's Music Festival July 4-7

The National Women's Music Festival will take place July 4-7 in Middleton, Wis., at the Madison Marriott West.

Among the many singers/comedians slated to perform are Cris Williamson, Melissa Ferrick, Big Bad Gina, Voices of Africa, June & Jean Millington, Gina Yashere and Kristen Ford.

The festival also nurtures new performers with a talent competition; last year's winners, comedian Barb Nelligan and singer-songwriter Ginger Doss, will perform July 4.

Visit www.wiaonline.org for more info.

Comic Cameron Esposito in Chicago July 5

L.A.-based lesbian comic Cameron Esposito will return to her hometown, Chicago, on Friday, July 5, for a one-night-only performance at The Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave.

Since relocating to Los Angeles in Fall 2012, Cameron has been named one of the top 12 comedy acts to watch by LA Weekly. In addition, she won the OutLoud Chicago Queer

Comedy at Zanies in 2012, and has performed at the Chicago Women's Funny Fest and the Bridgetown Comedy Festival.

Tickets are \$10 each; see www.hideoutchicago.com/event/281695-cameron-esposito-chicago.

Steppenwolf hosting behind-the-scenes events thru August

Steppenwolf Theatre Company is hosting two initiatives giving behind-the-scenes looks at the process of developing and producing new plays.

As part of the eighth annual First Look Repertory of New Work, Steppenwolf continues First Look 101 through Aug. 10. In addition, Steppenwolf hosts a Professionals' Weekend Aug. 8-11, during which theater practitioners join Steppenwolf in conversation about new plays as well as attend First Look productions and readings in addition to special industry events.

Enrollment in First Look 101 (\$100) is currently underway; call 312-335-1650. Registration for Professionals' Weekend is \$75; for more information or to sign up, e-mail firstlookinfo@steppenwolf.org or call 312-654-5610.



ACTING

Marc Anthony Samuel on 'General Hospital' and 'Hot Guys with Guns'

BY TERRI-LYNNE WALDRON

Marc Anthony Samuel is burning the candle at both ends. The on-fire actor is playing for keeps on the small screen with his portrayal of gay male nurse Felix Dubois on the daytime soap *General Hospital*. On the big screen, Samuel is starring in the out-of-the-box, gay-themed action/comedy/thriller *Hot Guys with Guns*, currently making the rounds on the film festival circuit.

Windy City Times: You have been playing Felix Dubois, the gay male nurse, on the daytime soap opera *General Hospital* since December 2012. How did you get the role?

Marc Anthony Samuel: My management team set me up on an audition with *General Hospital* casting director Mark Teschner. We had a great read; then they called me a couple of days later and said they want to do a screen test for me. I went in and did the screen test and connected with actress Teresa Castillo (Sabrina Santiago) who is one of my best buddies now. I felt a great connection to her on camera as a person. And a few days later they offered me the role.

WCT: There was some backlash against Felix, where viewers saw him as the stereotypical sassy Black character.

MAS: I completely understand. When you have a character that is introduced as a minority, you're going to have, as a minority, a greater sensitivity to make sure you have fair representation in the media. Some people may have been ready to see another stereotype played out and maybe they jumped a touch fast.

My father was one of the people who said, "Look, son—I'm happy that you got this job but I want to make sure that you're not playing a stereotype. I wouldn't want you to do it as a Black man and I wouldn't want you to do it for the LGBT community. It has to be an honest representation." And I had no fear of it because Executive Producer Frank Valentini and Head Writer Ron Carivati had already talked to me about what they were looking for and I was on the same page with them.

WCT: Felix has some of the funniest lines on the show. Do you ever get to ad-lib?

MAS: Ron can write the stuff! Granted, they let me have a little fun, too. I think what they've done is study what I bring with my personality to the character and they change the writing and the character says stuff the way I would say things.

WCT: Felix has not had to confront homophobia. Would you want him to deal with some type of gay-bashing?

MAS: Honestly, I think that would be great. It does exist out there and there are those people who are, for lack of a better term, scared, uninformed, and they may have a limited understanding or education of what it means to be gay, lesbian or transgendered in the world. We have to reflect that part of the world too because even though we have TV shows which are fantasy and they take you to another place, you also have a responsibility to show what's out there and an alternative way to deal with it.

WCT: You did two episodes of the gay-themed Web series *Old Dogs & New Tricks*. Will you be doing more episodes in season three?

MAS: I don't actually know. I told them that I'm open to it, depending on what they need. That goes for any type of work I do, if I'm the one that fits the bill, then I'm always down and we just work it out. I just love being able to play different kinds of people whether it's sassy Black nurses [laughs] or soldiers or husbands.

WCT: Doug Spearman—who wrote, produced and directed your new film, the gay action/



Marc Anthony Samuel.

comedy/thriller *Hot Guys with Guns*—also appears on *Old Dogs & New Tricks*.

MAS: Doug is not only a fantastic actor; he may even be a better director and writer. *Hot Guys with Guns* is really a great movie. Most of these films prior have been about a summer when the young kid comes out or the young woman comes out and nobody in her family accepts it. Those are important stories but sometimes you've got to have fun stories too and action films.

WCT: Describe *Hot Guys with Guns* and your character.

MAS: [The character] Danny Lohman is an actor and he's actually trying to prep for this hot cop show called *Crime And Punishment*. In order to properly prepare for it, Danny enrolls himself into a detective course to learn how the character thinks and feels. He comes to find that he's really good in this class.

His ex—Pip Armstrong, played by Brian McArdle—is a trust-fund baby and a very popular person within the gay scene. Pip asks Danny if he could find his missing jewelry after he is the victim of a robbery. Everything unfolds from there and there's a whole lot of stuff that nobody knew about, that was going on behind the scenes in Hollywood.

WCT: *Hot Guys with Guns* has been at film festivals in Miami, Boston, Kansas City and Toronto, where it had its international premiere. Any plans for it to come to Chicago?

MAS: I don't know, but I most certainly hope so because that's my hometown. Nothing would make me happier than to come back to Chittown and see my family. I also lived in Oregon too so it would be great if it could get to Oregon.

WCT: *General Hospital* celebrated its 50th anniversary this past April. What do you want to say to the fans?

MAS: For those people who have been enjoying it, supporting it and watching it, we more than appreciate them. It's great to be able to have them as our base. We love our fans.

For *General Hospital* updates, go to www.beta.abc.com/shows/general-hospital. To see more on *Hot Guys with Guns*, visit www.hotguyswithguns.com.

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WT WRITERS' THEATRE

TELEVISION

Brooke Elliot, Josh Berman on 'Diva' coming back from the 'Dead'

BY JERRY NUNN

Drop Dead Diva was literally dead after four seasons when it was cancelled only to be brought back to life for a new fifth season on the Lifetime Channel.

The series revolves around a blonde model who is brought back to life in the body of a lawyer. Actress Brooke Elliot plays this part with gusto, as Jane Bingum has changed over the years in her quest for love and peaceful eternity.

Elliot had an impressive list of Broadway roles before landing the show, with shows such as as Taboo and The Pirate Queen.

Executive Producer Josh Berman created the series and is known for producing CSI: Crime Scene Investigation and Bones.

Windy City Times spoke with them both on the phone recently about the new season of Diva.

Windy City Times: Hi, Brooke. I spoke to you last season about the show. It was a great interview.

Brooke Elliott: Oh, good.

WCT: What is there in store for our LGBT television watchers?

Josh Berman: You know, we're so proud of the gay storylines we've done already on Drop Dead Diva. We've been nominated for GLAAD Awards three years in a row, and we won one of those years. The themes of the show are always about feeling like you don't belong, and as a gay man it's something that I certainly felt growing up. And so we absolutely will be tapping into those teams, both through gay story lines and just general fish out of water stories. This season we do have an important episode that will tackle a very cutting-edge issue within the gay community. I don't want to give out more about it right now, but it's a story that we absolutely feel confident we will be nominated for a GLAAD Award again this year, and I think that the gay and lesbian fans are going to love this episode.

WCT: You have had some great musical numbers in the past. What do you have on this season?

BE: We are not singing this season so it is a song-free season.

WCT: There might be some backlash, Josh!

JB: Well, Brooke is probably not singing this season, but there are certainly some musical elements coming up that we want to keep as a surprise.

WCT: How do you portray these different people while in the same body, Brooke?

BE: When I'm Deb, Deb in Jane's body—which is the Jane everyone knows, and hopefully loves—it's really fun. I get to be Deb, but I get to figure out when Jane's qualities are influencing here, which is a lot of fun. I always come from Deb's perspective because it's Deb's soul in Jane's body, but a lot of times Jane's brain kind of affects her and makes her decisions possibly different than what she would normally have decided.

Playing old Jane was very challenging to figure out who this person is and how she's different. And because I'm the body of both, that's an even bigger challenge because when you just figure out just exactly how old Jane stands and behaves, and how does she gesture and where is her emotional life living, as opposed to Deb, which we're so familiar with. You know the hair flipping and how Deb walks and all those things. So, it's one of my most favorite parts of doing this character.

WCT: How has it been getting a second chance with the show?

JB: The story of Drop Dead Diva is coincidentally about someone who gets a second chance. When you literally come back from the dead, whether we're talking about Deb who comes



Brooke Elliot. Photo from Lifetime

back as Jane, or our show coming back for season five, you really kind of make the most of it, and I think that's what we're doing. We don't take it for granted. I think everyone is working 110 percent this season. It feels good.

There is a new joy coming to work that I haven't felt since season one where we want to make every moment count, because you don't know when it's your last, so to speak.

I've seen the first three episodes and so far so good. When the editors call me out of my office to come have me look at a scene that Brooke is acting in so beautifully and makes you cry or makes you laugh, it's such a great feeling. And I think the fans are going to go crazy when they see our season premier and what comes next.

WCT: How do you feel about it, Brooke?

BE: I'm really, really excited about it, and I'm eager to see the shows. I haven't seen them or seen dailies or anything like that, so I hear really great things about it. I'm very eager to see because you know shooting it is such a different feeling than how the product actually comes out. I always love to see what we get. I'm really excited that we were brought back.

WCT: Josh, are you writing season five with the possibility that season six will not be picked up again?

JB: I really now believe in my gut—and Brooke and I are close and have talked about this—[that] the show will continue beyond season five. We haven't written the season finale yet for season five but we have a model in place and a fan base that's still growing. Last season we grew between season three and four, and we're

hopeful that we'll grow again with season five. I don't think it's been announced but Lifetime is actually, starting today, running all of season four for free on their website, on MyLifetime.com. It's a reward to the fans and it's for our fans to spread the word.

WCT: What do you want, Brooke, in terms of growth for your character for the future?

BE: It's incredibly important that we just focus on the love part of her life and leave career and everything else out of it for the moment, it's incredibly important to me that she finds, whether it's Grayson or Owen or somebody else, that she finds someone that loves her for every part of her being. In terms of an emotional love life existence, I've always wanted that for her. I've always wanted that complete story for her.

WCT: There have been some great guest stars. Who is coming up this season?

JB: Reiko Aylesworth, we can mention. She was a regular on 24, and was Brigid Brannagh on Army Wives. There are a couple of names that

are either shooting, or we're discussing right now that we haven't announced yet.

BE: And John Ratzenberger comes back, right?

JB: Yeah. He comes back as Kim's dad; Barbara Corcoran and Sandra Bernhard, too.

WCT: Do you have a favorite?

BE: This question is always a hard question, because I've been so lucky and starstruck every single time I've met know our big huge guest stars, and our lesser-known guest stars I just adore. They're all such good people.

I really love it was Rosie O'Donnell is on. She's one of the easiest actresses to work with. She's phenomenal. I love when Faith Prince is on, who plays Jane's mom. I love Faith. She's such a good being. It was amazing to have Liza Minnelli and Delta Burke, and my mind just gets filled with everyone of their names. I'm just starstruck and lucky to have met all of them.

Season four is currently available on DVD and season five has just begun on Lifetime.



Black LGBTQs to host Black Alphabet Film Festival July 2-3

In the inaugural launch of the Chicago-based Black Alphabet's debut event, the community-based group is launching its first annual Black Alphabet Film Festival (BAFF) July 2-3 at the Center on Halsted and Inn of Chicago.

Featuring a combination of nearly 20 shorts and features from around the world, the two-day event marks one of the first exclusively Black LGBTQ and same-gender-loving (SGL) film festivals in the city.

BAFF will have a few screenings receiving their official Chicago premieres, including Friend of Essex, a documentary meditation on the continuing influence of poet activist Es-

sex Hemphill; Glitterboys & Ganglands, a documentary about transgender life on the South African beauty-pageant circuit; and I Didn't Know Mark Carson, a short on the recent New York City gay hate-crime slaying.

Affinity, the Center on Halsted (COH), Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus (CBGMC) and United Black Pride are co-hosting the event.

The July 2 event begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St. at the Hoover-Leppen Theater; the following night rolls out more adult fare at the Inn of Chicago, 162 E. Ohio St., 6-9:30 p.m. See www.blackalphabet.org or www.facebook.com/blackalphabetChicago.

Bridgforth raising funds for new project

Artist Sharon Bridgforth has just launched a BIG USA Project fundraising campaign for her current work in progress, "River See." Chicago has been home to much of "River See's" development.

The project will return to Chicago for its world premiere at Links Hall in 2014. Meanwhile, full funding from the USA Project Cam-

paign will insure the completion and success of "See."

Set on a juking boat, with blueswomen, queers, deviants and seers, "River See" is the prayer before the Great Migration. Experienced through the heart of See, a young woman-in-training, "River See" explores blues stories as living arrangements of jazz.

This project will only be funded if its goal of \$40,000 is reached by July 15. Visit http://www.usaprojects.org/project/river_see.

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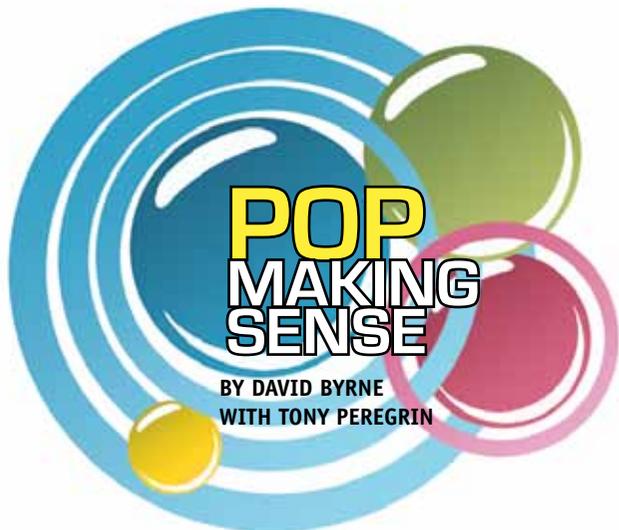
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A friend asked me to recommend some music to be her soundtrack for an upcoming trip to Iceland. She wanted material that would suit the country's mood, terrain and beauty. Other than the obvious choices like Sigur Ros, Bjork and Amiina, I was quick to suggest **John Grant's** Pale Green Ghosts, which was recorded in part in Iceland.

Here, the openly gay artist weaves his stories seamlessly between folk and electronic. The haunting title track and its video easily could serve as a murder ballad. The self-defeating "GMF" is a masterpiece, as Grant nonchalantly sings, "I am the greatest mother fucker you're ever going to meet." Skip the set's only misstep, "Sensitive New Age Guy," and go directly to "Ernest Borgnine," Grant's take on living with HIV.

Last year Sinéad O'Connor covered Grant's "Queen of Denmark." She lends her celestial vocals for harmonies on "GMF," "It Doesn't Matter to Him" and "Why Don't You Love Me Anymore." Pale Green Ghosts is produced by Grant and Biggi Veira of the Icelandic group Gus Gus.

Expect to see Pale Green Ghosts as one of the year's top picks from many critics. On Thursday, June 27, Grant will be at Schubert's, 3159 N. Southport Ave., with Matt Focht and Crystal Hartford.

The Tony-winning musical **Kinky Boots** dazzles fans with its feel-good storyline, outlandish costumes and fantastic music. Here, Cyndi Lauper proved she can "Shine" by handling the music and lyrics, while Harvey Fierstein penned the book. The songs keep the story going, show off the cast's talents and have hit-worthy melodies.

The opening number—"Price and Son Theme/The Most Beautiful Thing in the World"—is big, magnificent and, most importantly, memorable. The showstopper is the power ballad "Not My Father's Son," where the differences between the

leads lessen as they spill their hearts over living up to their parents' expectations. There are also traces to funky classics. "Sex Is in the Heel" has a riff that recalls "Disco Inferno;" the back-up singing on "Everybody Say Yeah" reminds me of those from "Sisters Are Doing It for Themselves;" and "Raise You Up / Just Be" has similarities to "September" by Earth Wind and Fire. The original cast recording to **Kinky Boots** is out now via Masterworks Broadway.

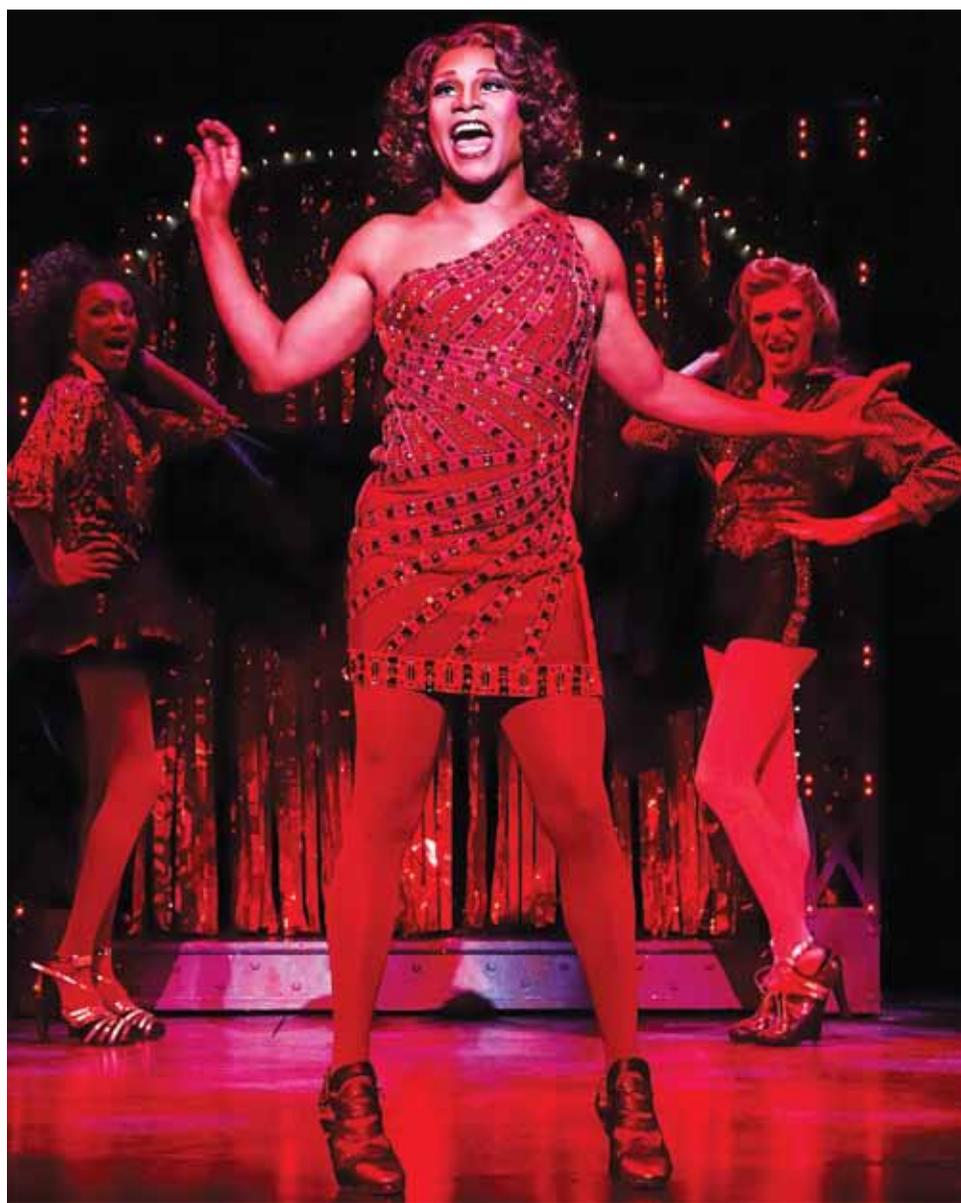
It is a reunion of sorts as **Melissa Etheridge** comes to Ravinia with Joan Osborne, Paula Cole and Jessie Payo on Saturday, June 29. In 1995, Etheridge was spotlighted on an episode of VH1 Duets, where she was joined by Osborne, Cole, Jewel and Sophie B. Hawkins to collaborate on covers from her catalog. The five remarkable singer-songwriters shared the stage together for a tremendous rendition of Joan Armatrading's "Love and Affection."

Mosquito marks the fourth full-length album from **Yeah Yeah Yeahs**. The Brooklyn-based alternative trio reminds us it can rock with the outstanding "Area 52." The title track is as a perfect sequel to 2009's "Heads Will Roll." Sadly, Mosquito's slower numbers "Subway" and "Wedding Song" do not have the same magic as the predecessors "Runaway" or "Little Shadow." On Saturday, June 29 Yeah Yeah Yeahs share the bill with Bush and Awolnation at First Midwest Bank Amphitheatre 19100 Ridgeland Ave., Tinley Park.

The loveable twosome **She & Him** has made another album, Volume 3, showing off its retro-flavored style. Resistance is futile upon hearing the fun "I've Got Your Number, Son" and "Never Wanted Your Love." M. Ward and Zoëy Deschanel's quirky personality is bubbling over in the video to "I Could've Been Your Girl." There is an apparent '60 girl group inspiration "Somebody



John Grant.



Billy Porter in **Kinky Boots**.

Sweet to Talk To" and "Snow Queen," thus making the cover of Blondie's "Sunday Girl" ever appropriate. She & Him comes to Aragon Ballroom, 1106 W. Lawrence Ave., with Camera Oscura on Saturday, June 29.

Also on Saturday, June 29, **CSS** and **IO Echo** will be at Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave. CSS, a Brazilian DIY electro-pop outfit, returns with the CD *Planta*. The female quartet sizzles with cool numbers like "Honey" and "Teenage Tiger Cat." The energetic "Dynamite" features Gossip drummer Hannah Billie. Just try not to snicker over the title on "Frankie Goes to West Hollywood." *Planta* is out now via SQE Music.

Whenever **Susan Werner** steps forth with a new project, I marvel at the album's theme and approach. On her latest venture, *Hayseed*, Werner celebrates growing up in the farmland, as witnessed on "City Kids (The Revenge of Kevin Oberbroeckling)." While "Something to be Said" is an insightful with lessons learned, "Iowa" beams with Midwestern pride. The ode "Egg Money (The Confession of Irene Broghammer)" tells the story of a scorned farmer's wife. On top of coming to City Winery Chicago, 1200 W. Randolph St., on Friday, July 5, Werner also plans to be performing at various local farmers' markets.

The **Wavefront 2013 Music Festival** dances its way to Montrose Harbor from July 5-7. Four stages will host an array of artists and DJs from the eclectic dance music genre. There will be house music icons like Frankie Knuckles, Danny

Tenaglia and Ralph Rosario. Other draws include Fat Boy Slim, Jacques Lu Cont (a.k.a. Kylie Minogue), Lady Gaga and Madonna producer Stuart Price), James Murphy formerly of LCD Soundsystem, Tiefschwarz and Timo Maas. For a complete line-up, schedule and tickets, please visit www.wavefrontmusicfestival.com.



Shelly Torres.

Lesbian Christian/ jazz singer at Uncommon Ground July 3

Shelly Torres and Wave are scheduled for a one-night reunion Wed., July 3, at Uncommon Ground, 1401 W. Devon Ave.

Torres is returning to Chicago for the international conference of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC), which will be meeting at the Fairmont Hotel the first week of July.

Torres started singing contemporary Christian music in 1990, and is a regular soloist and member of the Praise Team of Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Dallas. She resides in the country north of Dallas with her partner of 14 years, Rev. Colleen Darragh, who is an MCC pastor.

Wave and Torres recorded their album, *Take One*, in 1978. Since then, Torres recorded *Next Step* (jazz standards) in 2001, and *My Heart to Yours* (contemporary Christian) in 2008.

Reservations are required for the July 3 event at Uncommon Ground.

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Contact Eric Saldana

773-397-0107 esaldana@LGBTInsurance1.com. Edgewater/ Suburban offices.

Upcoming concerts in Chicagoland

COMPILED BY DAVID BYRNE

Below is a list of upcoming shows that may be of interest to the local LGBT community:

Openly gay singer-songwriter **John Grant** promotes his latest masterpiece *Pale Green Ghosts* with a stop at Schubas' on Thursday, June 27, with Matt Focht & Crystal Hartford opening. www.schubas.com

Lesbian rocker **Melissa Etheridge** is joined by Joan Osborne, Paula Cole and Jessie Payo on Saturday, June 29, at Ravinia. www.ravinia.org

Alternative bands **Yeah Yeah Yeahs**, **Bush** and **Awolnation** come to First Midwest Bank Amphitheatre on Saturday, June 29. www.livenation.com

Zoey Deschanel and M. Ward's duo **She & Him** is joined by Camera Oscura for a date on Saturday, June 29 at Aragon Ballroom. www.jamusa.com

Brazilian all-female electro outfit **CSS** comes to Lincoln Hall on Saturday, June 29, with IO Echo. www.jamusa.com

It's a fun-filled concert as **Go-Gos** and **B-52s** will be at Ravinia on Sunday, June 30. www.ravinia.org

On Tuesday, July 2, stylish, genre-defying duo **Swing Out Sister** comes to House of Blues.

Blending laughs with music, **Jill Sobule** and **Julia Sweeney** share the bill at City Winery Chicago on Wed., July 3. www.citywinery.com

Out Chicago-based singer-songwriter **Susan Werner** brings her Hayseed Project to City Winery Chicago on Friday, July 5. www.citywinery.com

Voice Box with Cathy Richardson will be at SideBar Music Room on Tuesday, July 9. www.fitzgeraldsnightclub.com



Susan Werner.

fun. and **Delta Spirit** kick off Taste of Chicago's concert series on Wed., July 10. www.ticketweb.com

Burlesque icon and pop-culture muse **Dita Von Teese** brings her Burlesque Strip Strip Hooray Variety Show to House of Blues for multiple shows from Thursday, July 11 through Saturday, July 13.

The hitmaker behind the summer smash



fun. PR photo by Lindsey Byrnes

"Blurred Lines," **Robin Thicke** is joined by "American Boy" songstress **Estelle** on Thursday, July 11, at Taste of Chicago. www.ticketweb.com

Soulful favorites **Jill Scott** and **Maxi Priest** come to Taste of Chicago on Saturday, July 13. www.ticketweb.com

Expect lots of screaming underage and gay fans as boy band **One Direction** brings its tour to First Midwest Bank Amphitheatre on Saturday, July 13, and Sunday, July 14. www.livenation.com

Left-of-center acts **Neon Trees** and **The Mowgli's** close out the concert series for Taste of Chicago on Sunday, July 14 www.ticketweb.com

Chicago's celebrated drag and illusion performers Angelique Munro, Miss Sassy Trade, Monique Moyet, Terri Michaels, Wendy Sity, Tiger Sky and Summer Breeze pay tribute to LGBTQ icons at a fundraiser for The Legacy Walk on Sunday, July 14 at Atmosphere. www.legacyprojectchicago.org

On Saturday, July 13, R&B diva **Anita Baker** will be at Ravinia. www.ravinia.org

On Sunday, July 14, Space hosts La Vie en Rose: The Songs of Edith Piaf with **Martha Carés** and **Robert Swan**. www.evanstonspace.com

There will be a Music of Tom Waits Wine Pairing Event, with our very own **JC Brooks** on

Thursday, July 18, at City Winery Chicago. www.citywinery.com

On Thursday, July 18, female indie rock band **Savages** will come to Lincoln Hall with Parquet Courts. www.lincolnhallchicago.com

Female rockers **Savages** will be joined by **Sky Ferreira** and **Johnny Hostile** on Friday, July 19, at Lincoln Hall. www.lincolnhallchicago.com

Acclaimed singer-songwriter and breast cancer survivor **Sheryl Crow** comes to Ravinia on Friday, July 19. www.ravinia.org

Holy boy bands, Batman! **New Kids on the Block**, **Boyz II Men** and **98 Degrees** share the stage on Thursday, July 18, and Friday, July 19, at Allstate Arena, Rosemont.

Double-threat musician and actor **Harry Connick Jr.** will have two dates on Friday, July 19, and Saturday, July 20, at Symphony Center. www.jamusa.com

Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark (OMD) and **Diamond Rings** come to The Metro on Tuesday, July 23. www.jamusa.com

Imagine Dragons with Icona Pop, Brick + Mortar and Kellen + Me have a sold-out show on Wed., July 31 at The Metro. metrochicago.com

Female rock pioneers and sister act **Heart** will be at Ravinia on Monday, July 29. www.ravinia.org

Evenings

CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN
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One of the treasures of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County

What is STRIBILD?

STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. It combines 4 medicines into 1 pill to be taken once a day with food. STRIBILD is a complete single-tablet regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking STRIBILD. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking STRIBILD, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. STRIBILD is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you:

- **Take a medicine that contains:** alfuzosin, dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methylergonovine, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin, pimoziide, sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), triazolam, oral midazolam, rifampin or the herb St. John's wort.
- **For a list of brand names for these medicines,** please see the Brief Summary on the following pages.
- **Take any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection,** or the medicine adefovir (Hepsera®).

What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do regular blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with STRIBILD. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking STRIBILD.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include nausea and diarrhea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start any new medicines while taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- **If you take hormone-based birth control** (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc).
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in STRIBILD can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

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

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with **important warnings** on the following pages.



STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

I started my personal revolution

Talk to your healthcare provider about starting treatment.

STRIBILD is a complete HIV-1 treatment in **1 pill**, once a day.

Ask if it's right for you.

STRIBILD[™] 

elvitegravir 150mg/ cobicistat 150mg/ emtricitabine 200mg/ tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

Patient Information

STRIBILD™ (STRY-bild)

(elvitegravir 150 mg/cobicistat 150 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information, including Patient Information.

What is STRIBILD?

- **STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before.** STRIBILD is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.
- **STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

1. **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIBILD or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**
 - feel very weak or tired
 - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
 - have trouble breathing
 - have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
 - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
 - feel dizzy or lightheaded
 - have a fast or irregular heartbeat

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

2. **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIBILD. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**
 - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
 - dark “tea-colored” urine
 - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
 - loss of appetite for several days or longer
 - nausea
 - stomach pain

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

3. **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
 - Do not run out of STRIBILD. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIBILD is all gone

- Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider
- If you stop taking STRIBILD, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking STRIBILD

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take a medicine that contains:

- adefovir (Hepsera®)
- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergorate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- oral midazolam
- pimozone (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John’s wort

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take any other HIV-1 medicines, including:

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla®, Complera®, Viread®, Truvada®)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine, lamivudine, or ritonavir (Combivir®, Emtriva®, EpiVir® or EpiVir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Kaletra®, Norvir®, Trizivir®)

STRIBILD is not for use in people who are less than 18 years old.

What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking STRIBILD. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take STRIBILD. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

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

- These are not all the possible side effects of STRIBILD. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?**Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including:**

- If you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis B infection
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
 - There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take STRIBILD.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - Two of the medicines in STRIBILD can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in STRIBILD can pass into your breast milk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

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

- STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
 - Hormone-based birth control (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc)
 - Antacid medicines that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD
 - Medicines to treat depression, organ transplant rejection, or high blood pressure
 - amiodarone (Cordarone®, Pacerone®)
 - atorvastatin (Lipitor®, Caduet®)
 - bepridil hydrochloric (Vasacor®, Bepadin®)
 - bosentan (Tracleer®)
 - buspirone
 - carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegreto®)
 - clarithromycin (Biaxin®, Prevpac®)
 - clonazepam (Klonopin®)
 - clorazepate (Gen-xene®, Tranxene®)
 - colchicine (Colcrys®)
 - medicines that contain dexamethasone
 - diazepam (Valium®)

- digoxin (Lanoxin®)
- disopyramide (Norpace®)
- estazolam
- ethosuximide (Zarontin®)
- flecainide (Tambocor®)
- flurazepam
- fluticasone (Flovent®, Flonase®, Flovent® Diskus, Flovent® HFA, Veramyst®)
- itraconazole (Sporanox®)
- ketoconazole (Nizoral®)
- lidocaine (Xylocaine®)
- mexiletine
- oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®)
- perphenazine
- phenobarbital (Luminal®)
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
- propafenone (Rythmol®)
- quinidine (Neudexta®)
- rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
- rifapentine (Priftin®)
- risperidone (Risperdal®, Risperdal Consta®)
- salmeterol (Serevent®) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus®, Advair HFA®)
- sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®) or vardenafil (Levitra®, Staxyn®), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). If you get dizzy or faint (low blood pressure), have vision changes or have an erection that last longer than 4 hours, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.
- tadalafil (Adcirca®), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
- telithromycin (Ketek®)
- thioridazine
- voriconazole (Vfend®)
- warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
- zolpidem (Ambien®, Edlular®, Intermezzo®, Zolpimist®)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.

Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

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

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Abe Akande

Abraham Akande, 18, was born in Chicago. Coming out to friends as early as fifth grade, and eventually his family while in ninth grade, Abraham has struggled with acceptance. But in that journey, he has found that helping others can truly unlock doors to finding out who you are and what you stand for.

Abraham was president of his high school's gay-straight alliance for two years and sat on the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance's Youth Committee for four years. He has done countless LGBT Youth Leadership summits as well as participated in country-wide events like "The National Gathering." He also has worked with other youth all over the country. Having won activist of the year in late 2012, Abraham looks back on his journey as an activist and doesn't regret one moment of it.

Did you know? By day, Abraham is a full-time server at a retirement home located in the western suburbs. However, he also moonlights as the sexy and fun diva Leila Deluxx, his drag alter ego.



Anthony Alfano

Anthony Alfano, 22, grew up as the middle of three children in Lake in the Hills, a far northwest suburb of Chicago. At DePaul University, he studied international studies and political science, concentrating in social justice and international political economy. Currently, Anthony serves as the director of economic development for Chicago's 45th Ward Ald. John Arena.

In 2011, Anthony was elected as DePaul University student body president and became the first openly gay person in that position at a Catholic university in the United States, garnering local and national attention when he was first featured on WTTW's Chicago Tonight.

Today, Anthony continues advocacy work for LGBTQ rights, with a focus on LGBTQ youth and athletes. He currently serves as the vice president of the Chicago Gay Hockey Association (CGHA), and a board member of the Chicago History Museum's LGBTQ Committee: OUT @ CHM. Anthony plans to attend law school, focusing on human rights advocacy and public policy work.

Did you know? After having completed the Chicago Marathon in 2010 and 2012, Anthony plans to train for the Chicago Triathlon.



Louis Bailey

Louis Bailey is a 23-year-old participant on Center On Halsted's Youth Leadership Council—a position he received in part because of his work with Prodigies of Pride, the Center's Mpowerment Project. Louis has been a leader among young Black gay men internationally, making a name for himself in London and in Detroit (Young Brothers United, Michigan AIDS Coalition) before coming to Chicago to pursue his MBA at Robert Morris University.

Louis quickly became a leader in the Center on Halsted's youth community, encouraging young Black gay men to be positive agents of their own solutions. He has vast experiences in leadership regarding people with disabilities, civil rights and social-justice movements, and was responsible for a recent professional panel of young Black gay men in Chicago who provide positive role modeling for youth and young adults.

Did you know? Louis backpacked in Spain and Morocco with only 50 euros in his pocket? He saved money by couch-surfing and sleeping on the beach.



Van Binfa

Van Binfa, 25, is a queer, Chilean trans* individual actively involved in trans* activism for the past three years, working primarily within the Chicago Latin@ community. Van and Ivonne Canellada founded Soy Quien Soy, a trans* empowerment collective based in Pilsen. In addition to being a seasoned public speaker, Van is a board member for The Civil Rights Agenda and The Chicago House. He is vocal and passionate about the representation of trans* people of color. In March 2013, Van was honored to be on the first Trans 100 list.

Van is also an artist. His art emphasizes positive affirmations that the bodies of trans* people of color are beautiful and resilient.

This year, Van is taking time off from community involvement. In January 2013, he was diagnosed with stage one uterine cancer and is a proud cancer survivor. He hopes to do advocacy work centering on trans* masculine individuals and uterine cancer in the future.

Van believes in the individual, everyday acts of activism.

Did you know? Van works at a bookstore and would love to race the carts Roman chariot-style against his co-workers and customers. He is fairly confident he would win (at least a few rounds).

Sarah Brewster

Sarah Brewster, 28, is a social researcher and youth worker who was born and raised in the Midwest. Sarah received her bachelors in sociology and women's studies from Illinois College and an MA in Sociology from DePaul University. Sarah believes deeply in the importance and transformative power of documenting and creating alternate histories, realities and futures through the use of research, storytelling, and science fiction.

After moving to Chicago in 2007, Sarah began volunteering at the Broadway Youth Center (BYC) as a health educator and HIV tester. Sarah's years at the BYC were instrumental in informing the youth-centered framework she applies to all of her work with young people. Sarah currently works as a behavioral research coordinator at the Center for Gender, Sexuality, and HIV Prevention at Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

In addition, Sarah volunteers with Chain Reaction, a participatory research and popular education project with the goal of supporting conversations about alternatives to calling police on young people. Sarah recently became a mentor for the new Lincoln Park Youth Society Mentorship Program for LGBTQ youth. As a volunteer with New Leash on Life, a dog-rescue organization, she works tirelessly to find homes for dogs that would otherwise be at risk for euthanasia.

Did you know? Sarah is the proud owner of a pit bull named Stanley.



Terrence Chappell

Terrence Chappell, 28, is the editor-at-large for ChicagoPride.com, the Midwest's largest LGBT entertainment and news website. As ChicagoPride.com's editor-at-large, Terrence has interviewed community leaders including charity heads, activists, business owners as well as other community influencers, brought in a signature lineup of contributors, and has overall created a presence for the site among mainstream audiences in the city. Terrence also serves as the event chair for the Joffrey Auxiliary Board where he spearheads the board's events in support of the Joffrey Ballet. Terrence also sits on the board of ambassadors for AIDS Legal Council Chicago (ALCC).

Did you know? Terrence learned how to surf during his summer in Australia.



Josh "JDA" Davila

Josh "JDA" Davila, 28, is an androgynous American singer born and raised in Chicago. Last summer saw the introduction of JDA at Chicago's 10th season of Windy City Gay Idol, where his performance of Soft Cell's "Tainted Love" followed with an elimination. Not giving up, JDA went to American Idol held cattle call auditions that same summer, and was given the opportunity to proceed and audition for the celebrity judges of the show: Mariah Carey, Keith Urban, Nicki Minaj and Randy Jackson.

American Idol's Hollywood Week looked promising for JDA's androgynous style, as he channeled pop icons Boy George, Prince and George Michael, as was established one of the Top 20 males of the season. It was, however, the "Sudden Death" challenge in Las Vegas and his rendition of Adele's "Rumour Has It" that resulted in JDA being cut. However, he received, praise from judge Nicki Minaj who said he "owned the audience" and dubbed JDA a "superstar performer." Mariah Carey added that she "loved the vocals" and that his confident brand of showmanship was "major."

Presently, JDA is working with Chicago based DJs to develop tracks for a dance record that will be out this summer.

Did you know? The name "JDA" is a combination of the initial of his first name and the first two letters of his last name.



Joel DeLeon

Joel De Leon, 17, was born on the northwest side of Chicago and has lived there ever since. He is a junior at Northside College Prep, ready to start his senior year in the fall. As a freshman and sophomore, Joel spent most of his time after school practicing on the cross country and track-and-field teams. After coming out to his friends and family, he began to connect more with the LGBTQ youth community in Chicago.

Once he joined the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance Youth Committee (ISSA) last fall, Joel found his voice as an advocate. With ISSA, he has planned two youth summits, spoken at the National Safe Schools Roundtable national conference and emceed the annual Night of Noise. Currently, he is working with the youth committee on a citywide policy to create more accepting school environments for transgender and gender non-conforming high school students.

Did you know? While Joel has a strong interest in LGBTQ advocacy, he also has an affinity for math and science and hopes to one day become a biomedical engineer or computer scientist.



Joe Erbenbraut

Joseph Erbenbraut, 27, is the Chicago editor of The Huffington Post. Born in rural southeastern Wisconsin, he graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a B.A. in journalism and mass communications in 2008 before moving to Chicago to pursue work in media.

In addition to his work with HuffPost, his writing has been featured in publications including the Village Voice, Windy City Times, Chicagoist, Gapers Block and ChicagoPride.com. He is also a co-founding member of Subject to Change, a community-oriented queer DJ collective based in Chicago.

Did you know? When Joe was growing up, he helped raise a small herd of dairy cows that he insisted be named after figure skaters.



De'Borah Garner

De'Borah Garner, 25, grew up in the Rosemont area in Chicago (around 102nd Street) and then migrated through a couple of suburbs before landing in Chicago Heights.

De'Borah, a self-identified lesbian, made national headlines in 2012 when she made an impression among several judges in season three of the NBC reality-competition series The Voice. Her renditions of "Hey Soul Sister," "Message in a Bottle" and "Who Knew" were some of the most notable performances and top downloads of the season. De'Borah credits family for her musical roots, leading her 10 siblings as the young soloist in their father's ensemble, The Bishop's Choir. De'Borah's influences have expanded to include Maroon 5, Tramaine Hawkins, Beyonce, The Fray, Michael Jackson and P!nk.

One of her father's sermons inspired her newest single, "Coming Out Look Good." She told Windy City Times, "I heard him say it and thought it was the best title ever."

Did you know? De'Borah is the fourth of 10 children. Five of her siblings are male, and she is their barber. "I could end up cutting hair all day on a regular Saturday," she added.





Patrick Gill

Patrick Gill, 24, is a Northern California transplant who loves his life in Chicago. He is a writer (of essays, articles, and poetry) and performer. Gill co-founded and is editor of In Our Words: An Online Salon for Queers & Co. (inourwordsblog.com), as well as being a co-founder and producer of the storytelling night Word Is Out.

He is also the co-founder and former producer of the performance series All The Writers I Know. He has been published in the Huffington Post Chicago and HEAVEmedia, and has read work at The Paper Machete Show, Story Club and Write Club. Gill has designed anti-bullying curriculum (with LGBTQ and feminist focuses) and lectured on LGBTQ issues and writing as a method of social justice in Chicago Public Schools. His work is particularly centered on explorations of masculine archetypes and first person narratives on family, blood and chosen.

Did you know? Patrick was in a house on stilts, four stories off the ground, in the middle of the forest.



Leslie Gutierrez

Leslie Gutierrez, 28, was born in the suburbs of Detroit. Leslie earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in 2007 and spent the following year doing volunteer work and teaching English in Costa Rica. In fall 2008, Leslie arrived in Chicago to begin law school at the Loyola University School of Law. After graduating cum laude from Loyola in 2011, Leslie started her legal career with the law firm Clark Hill PLC. At Clark Hill, Leslie is a member of the litigation practice group and her practice areas include: commercial litigation, business torts, property disputes, and disputed trusts and estates. Leslie is passionate about being involved in the LGBT community, acting as a member of the board of directors for the Lesbian & Gay Bar Association of Chicago and the board of ambassadors for the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago. Leslie also volunteers with Equality Illinois and at the legal intake clinic at the Center on Halsted. Leslie's other passions include going to the beach, traveling and watching football.

Did you know? Leslie did not want to be a lawyer when she started law school. Her lifetime goal was to join the FBI and law school was just a stepping stone to achieving that goal. It was not until after her first year of law school that she realized she actually wanted to practice law.



Kyle Hennings

Kyle Hennings, 25, was born in Louisiana but claims Texas as his home. He obtained his bachelor's degree in social work from Texas State University in 2010. Kyle served as the president for the LGBTQ student organization Lambda of Texas State, organizing and leading different educational and social events for the community. During this time he also served on the board for Allies of Texas State as a representative for LGBTQ students, helping to create and fund the first LGBTQ scholarship fund at the university. Kyle completed his field placement in Austin, Texas, where he managed teams of volunteers and provided case management and advocacy for individuals living with HIV and cancer.

He moved to Chicago to continue his education at Loyola University, where he obtained his master's in social work with a concentration in leadership development in social services. Kyle began working at Center on Halsted as a program administration intern, which included coordinating the legal clinic and referral program. Now he has recently begun working at Center on Halsted as a full-time staff member doing HIV prevention outreach with young adults, and will soon finish his certification to conduct HIV testing.

Did you know? Kyle was very accident-prone as a child, visiting the emergency room at least five times; he was hit by a car, split open his head in gym class, fell from a treehouse, and nearly lost his pinky.



Leon Andrew Hensley

Andrew Hensley, 27, was born just outside of Pittsburgh and spent most of his youth in Birmingham, Ala. After studying studio art and photography at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, he relocated to Arizona to pursue his interest in audio engineering at the Conservatory of Recording Arts and Sciences, which landed him in Chicago in 2008 to complete an internship and start a career as a big time record producer—or so he thought.

Since then, he began using his photo skills in nightclubs, at parties and other events in the LGBTQ and Chicago communities. Realizing he had a knack for something unexpected, A/S/L Media was born. A/S/L (which references "age/sex/location" from chat rooms of the 1990s) now serves as a view into Chicago nightlife and communities, a hub for upcoming events, and supports multiple organizations such as Howard Brown, Center on Halsted, Lambda Legal, Mercy For Animals and more. Andrew plans to continue to help the LGBTQ community thrive in Chicago and soon hopes to expand to other outlets of photography and events (maybe even same-sex weddings).

Did you know? Andrew has a pet ferret named Duncan, and has no shame about being an avid crafter and knitter.



Trisha Lee Holloway

Trisha Lee Holloway is a medical case manager for adult trans women at Howard Brown Health Center. Trisha was raised in the Chicago area of Englewood, and later moved to the city of Calumet Park. Trisha is an activist for trans women, and strives to be a role model in her community. Before working at Howard Brown, Trisha was an outreach worker at Ann & Robert H. Lurie's Children Hospital, doing HIV testing and counseling trans women. Trisha is helping to bring awareness to trans women's needs by helping start the first trans housing program in Chicago "Translife Center" with the Chicago House & Social Service Agency.

Did you know? Trisha still can't sleep with her closet door open. She's afraid of what may come out the closet at night!



Nico Lang

Nico Lang, 25, hails from Cincinnati and is a proud fan of the Redlegs and Graeter's ice cream. Lang is finishing a master's in media and cinema studies at DePaul, where Nico received a bachelor's degree in international studies in 2010. Lang is currently working on a documentary about racism and transphobia in Boystown and expects to wrap filming in 2014.

Nico is the co-founder and former editor of In Our Words and the LGBTQ correspondent for WBEZ, Chicago's NPR affiliate. Lang is also an editor at Thought Catalog and a weekend contributor for The Daily Dot, an online publication based out of Brooklyn that focuses on internet culture. Nico's work has been featured in The Guardian, XOJane, Chicago Tribune, Feministing, Everyday Feminism, IndieWire, Washington Post, Windy City Times, the LA Times, the Huffington Post and an astounding number of porn blogs. Lang is also a weekly film critic for HEAVEmedia and a contributor for their weekly film podcast, Pod People. Lang's debut novel, A Formal Apology to the Building I Peed on in Paris, is due out this fall wherever e-books are sold.

In addition to Lang's creative work, Nico is the former president of Spectrum DePaul, the campus' LGBTQ social group and the co-founder of the Queer Intercollegiate Alliance, a city-wide campus initiative that brings together Chicago's queer student groups. Nico is the former associate director of The Civil Rights Agenda, where Lang began as a Change Coordinator in 2010. Lang was the first openly queer resident of the Vincent and Louise House, DePaul's Catholic faith-based intentional community, and is a former Communications Intern for Interfaith Youth Core, a Chicago non-profit focusing on interfaith cooperation and youth engagement.

Nico identifies as genderqueer and bisexual, and prefers gender-neutral or myriad pronouns.

Did you know? Nico speaks four languages, none of which Lang is currently proficient in due to underuse. The only phrase Nico remembers in Arabic is "Where's my baklava?," which (as you can guess) comes up often.

EmmaLeff

Emma Leff, 17, a native Chicagoan, attends Northside College Prep. As co-president of her school's gay-straight alliance she organizes workshops for Northside students on all manner of queer and trans* issues. She also advocates for the implementation of an inclusive safer sex-education curriculum, and works with the school's administration to ensure that the school is a safe learning environment for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Emma is also a member of the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance (ISSA) Youth Committee. As a Youth Committee member, she (among other things) participates in the planning biannual youth summits as well as the Chicago-area Night of Noise, which is an evening of action directly following the Day of Silence. Currently, the Youth Committee is collaborating with ISSA's adult policy committee and Chicago Public Schools to enact policies that would make Chicago Public Schools safer for transgender and gender non-conforming students. Emma also participates in the planning and leadership of a spring weekend retreat called Snowball.

Did you know? Emma accidentally turns every essay she writes for school into some form of feminist or activist criticism of the subject!



SarahLu

Sarah Lu, 28, lives in the Uptown area of Chicago. After graduating from Grinnell College in 2007, Sarah interned at Chicago Public Media. She's since worked her way up to a full time gig at WBEZ, working behind the scenes to make radio happen all day, everyday. Her work has aired on Vocalo.org, WBEZ and Snap Judgment as well as the experimental storytelling podcast Love & Radio. Lu lends her audio production chops to participatory media projects such as Chain Reaction and Uproar Chicago. She's taught "Make your own Radio" workshops at the Broadway Youth Center, Center on Halsted and the Allied Media Conference in Detroit, Mich. She lives with her partner, Jane, and two rescue pups.

Did you know? Sarah did drag in college. Her drag name is Loose Springsteen.



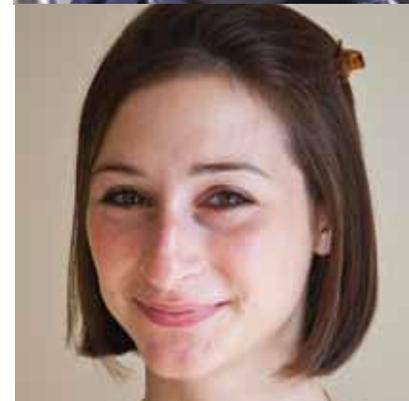
JaneMerrill

Jane Merrill, 22, a native of upstate New York, arrived at Center on Halsted as a fellow of Northwestern University's Public Interest Program. She received her bachelor's degree from Northwestern in 2012, where she studied social policy and classics. Her time at Northwestern sparked a passion for social justice, which she followed to Uganda, Malawi and San Francisco before arriving at Center on Halsted.

As the Center's inaugural Advocacy and Policy fellow, Jane has worked to launch the new Advocacy and Community Engagement department, overseeing the legal and training programs as well as building the capacity of the Center to engage in systems-level change. Jane's day to day activities range from hosting Policy Parties with Center staff to sitting on multiple coalitions and working groups, including the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs and the LGBT Immigrant Rights Coalition of Chicago.

Outside of work, Jane is an avid reader and runner, and lives directly between her library and gym.

Did you know? Jane studied Latin for six years and owns a copy of *Cattus Petasatus*—the Latin version of the Cat in the Hat!



JoyMessinger

Joy Messinger, 30, is five feet of East Coast sass, sex ed and vegan baking. A bisexual South Korean adoptee, Joy is a passionate community activist whose life has been guided by a deep commitment to reproductive and social justice. She volunteers as a birth doula and organizes with several queer, feminist and Asian-American groups, including Invisible to Invincible: Asian Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago, the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, Chicago Foundation for Women's LGBTQ Giving Council, Affinity Community Services' Building Bridges Advisory Council, and the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum.

Joy is also deputy director at the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health, a statewide organization supporting the sexual health, rights and identities of youth, and has graduate degrees from the University of Illinois at Chicago—where she discovered just how beautiful a combination of concrete and brick can be—and the University of North Carolina, where she learned that college basketball and women's soccer are really the only two sports that matter.

In her free time, she can be found tweeting at @msjoyluckclub, cooking or baking for friends, finding a way to make Mean Girls quotes applicable in everyday situations, or leaving her head and her heart on the dance floor.

Did you know? Joy used to be (and sometimes still is) a spoken-word artist and won a poetry slam in Ithaca, N.Y., in 2005.



LarkMulligan

Lark Mulligan, 24, grew up in Grand Rapids, Mich., and moved to Chicago in 2011 to pursue activism as a prison abolitionist. Since then, Lark has volunteered as a collective member at the Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois (TJLP), an organization that provides free, holistic advocacy and legal services to transgender folks targeted by the criminal legal system in Illinois. Among her other roles at TJLP, Lark collaborates with three incarcerated trans women on publishing *Hidden Expressions*, a zine that showcases artwork, writing, poetry, and survival tips created exclusively by and for trans people who have experienced incarceration.

Lark currently works at Howard Brown Health Center as a case manager for young, HIV-positive transgender, queer and gay people.

Did you know? Lark creates mixed media art using materials from old medical manuals, encyclopedias and textbooks. She has an etsy shop called Butterfly Combustion.



RandallOrtman

Randall Ortman, 29, is an associate in the law firm of McDermott Will & Emery LLP. He focuses his practice on general health law matters, including a variety of transactional and regulatory matters, as well as health information technology. In addition to his health law practice, Randall devotes considerable time to supporting the LGBT community through pro bono work and community service.

Through his law firm, Randall coordinates staffing of a legal clinic at Center on Halsted and obtaining birth records for clients of Broadway Youth Center. He serves as a board member of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago and co-chair of its Mentoring Committee, which pairs LGBT law students with local practitioners. Randall also serves as legislative liaison for the Chicago Bar Association's (CBA's) LGBT Committee, commenting on pending legislation that may impact the LGBT community. Through this role, he was instrumental in adoption by the CBA of a policy statement supporting marriage equality, and subsequent action by the CBA on two fronts: lobbying in support of the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act pending in Illinois, and joining an amicus brief in *Darby v. Orr*, a case pending before the Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division.

Did you know? Randall has played the violin since he was 8, and currently plays with the strings ensemble at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Wrigleyville.





Jen Pagonis

Pidgeon Pagonis, 27, was born in Chicago and is an intersex person, activist and graduate student in women's and gender studies at DePaul University. At DePaul, they coordinate a team of interns that works with Chicago high school youth on teen dating violence prevention. They also are the youth leadership intern at Advocates for Informed Choice (AIC), where they head the intersex youth project, Inter/Act. They have made an effort to impact the LGBTQI community by speaking about intersex visibility around the country (and globe) in hopes of creating change. Pidgeon was recently featured in a film titled Intersexion, was a participant at the International Intersex Forum in Stockholm and testified at the OAS I-A Commission Hearing on Intersex Human Rights in Washington, D.C. They are also a photographer, a parent to a Rottweiler and a founding member of Brown & Proud Press, a POC-identified group of Chicago zinesters!

Did you know? Pidgeon once won a trip to Southeast Asia, and used to work for Michael Jordan. Her dream is to see the Chicago Bulls' Derrick Rose come back and beat the Miami Heat—all while Michael Jackson performs the halftime show.



Nikki Pashka

Nikki Pashka, 29, is a Chicago-and native who has been actively serving the LGBTQ community throughout the country in a variety of capacities for the last decade, through school (undergraduate and graduate education) and her career in social services.

Nikki initiates activities within diverse academic and community settings to raise awareness and encourage discussion about GLBTQ experiences and perspectives. In addition to her academic degrees, Nikki holds two credentials: a CPRP (Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner) and a CRC (Certified Rehabilitation Counselor), both of which focus on helping individuals develop skills and access resources needed to increase their capacity to be successful and satisfied in the living, working, learning, and social environments of their choice. In her work as an Employment Training Coordinator at Chicago House & Social Service Agency, she developed and facilitates a four-week training for individuals who are HIV-positive and looking for support in their career development.

This extends from her work at the national level as the chair of the multicultural diversity committee for the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (PRA), where she leads efforts to promote recovery, full community integration and improved quality of life for persons who have been diagnosed with psychiatric disabilities and other mental-health conditions that seriously impair their ability to lead meaningful lives. Nikki is a leader in developing programs that affect hundreds of social service professionals throughout the city, state, and across the nation. In September 2011, Nikki was civilly united with her high school sweetheart in a ceremony on Chicago's lakefront.

Did you know? Nikki was a baton twirler for a number of years and still has all her old sequined costumes—and, yes, they still fit.



Luis Roman

Luis Roman, 23, was born in Zacatecas, Mexico, and grew up in Lincoln Heights, a neighborhood in Los Angeles. He moved to Chicago in 2012 after graduating from UCLA with a degree in Chicana/o studies and women's studies. He received the Ezekiel "Zeke" Webber Leadership in Activism and Education Award during the 2012 LGBT Lavender Graduation ceremony.

He currently works as the Uniting America Fellow with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) and Lambda Legal. In this capacity, he embraces his commitment to build bridges between LGBT and immigrant communities and helps with the integration of LGBT immigrants. Luis helped to manage a creative writing class for LGBT youth at the Center on Halsted, has coordinated several service events throughout the City of Chicago, and helped organize the first annual Latino Institute at the annual social justice conference Creating Change. In addition, he is currently helping to rally the Latina/o community to support marriage equality in Illinois. On Aug. 1, Luis's essay on coming-out—entitled "In Search of my Queer Aztlan"—will be published in the anthology Queer in Aztlan: Chicano Male Recollections of Consciousness and Coming Out.

Did you know? When Luis traveled to South Africa, he stood in the southernmost tip of the African continent, dipped his toes in the Indian Ocean and visited the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls.



Betsy Rubinstein

Betsy Rubinstein, 26, was born in Chicago and raised in the northern suburbs of the city. She graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with her B.A. in philosophy, and went on to pursue her M.A. in social service administration from the University of Chicago.

Over the past six years, Betsy has developed and pursued her passion for women's health, LGBTQ issues and social justice. In January 2012, she became the manager of the Lesbian Community Care Project (LCCP) of Howard Brown Health Center. In this role, she contributes to the development and implementation of women's health services at HBHC, which include breast and cervical cancer screening, support groups, alternative insemination, outreach/education, and more. In addition to her role at Howard Brown Health Center, Betsy is the co-chair of the LBTQ Giving Council of Chicago Foundation for Women, a fundraising group that awards grants to LBTQ organizations and programs in Chicago.

Did you know? Betsy has been playing guitar since she was 18 years old, and recently picked up harmonica lessons to eventually master playing both instruments at once (like her music idol, Amy Ray).



Jen Sabella

Jen Sabella, 28, is a senior editor at DNAinfo.com Chicago, an award-winning news site focused on urban neighborhoods. Before helping launch DNAinfo Chicago, Jen was the Chicago editor for The Huffington Post and a wire reporter for the Chicago Sun-Times.

Jen grew up on the city's Southwest Side and attended Columbia College Chicago, where she learned to write the news at the Columbia Chronicle before scoring an internship at the now-defunct Venus Zine. She has also written for MTV's lesbian pop-culture site AfterEllen.com.

Did you know? Jen is a workaholic, but sometimes dreams of moving to Maine and writing murder mysteries while solving crimes, Jessica Fletcher-style.



Megan Sieberg

Megan Sieberg, 28, was born in Toledo, Ohio. In 2003, she moved to Evanston, where she studied communications and global health at Northwestern University. Megan gained experience in community development and vocational programming through a Northwestern University post-graduate fellowship at the North Lawndale Community News, a non-profit community newspaper on Chicago's West Side.

Megan's professional experience also includes working as an administrator for the U.S. Public Interest Research Group and the Fund for the Public Interest where she helped roll out national environmental and consumer protection campaigns and did citizen outreach for environmental and LGBTQ organizations. Megan is currently the culinary arts program manager at Center on Halsted, working with a team of staff, volunteers and employer partners to run a yearly series of nine-week culinary arts skills trainings for unemployed or underemployed Chicagoans. Megan is also a singer/songwriter who has played at queer venues and events across Chicago, including the 2011 Women in Music Festival, Red Line Tap, Parlour and Tweet.

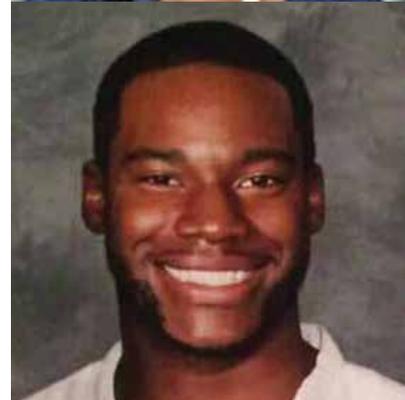
Did you know? When Megan was in college, her girlfriend got her a small green lizard for her birthday—not realizing that the lizard would eventually grow to be a two-foot-long, high-maintenance Chinese water dragon. That water dragon, Wilson, was Megan's large and loveable roommate for eight more years.

Zach Stafford

Zach Stafford, 23, is originally from Tennessee and currently lives in Chicago, where he works in HIV prevention and research at Ann & Robert Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Beyond his professional career in research and prevention, he writes for a broad range of outlets including The Huffington Post, The Good Men Project, Thought Catalog, Bitch Magazine and USA Today, and is a columnist at the Chicago Tribune's daily paper the RedEye.

Over the past year he has been traveling around the country speaking at universities, businesses and special events on LGBTQ issues and new media. He has also been filmed in three documentaries that will premiere in 2013. When he isn't writing and doing research, he sits on the board of the non-profit Fred Says, which raises money for HIV-positive teens, and also helps run an LGBTQ-mentor program for Chicago Public School students.

Did you know? Zach has never stepped one foot in Lake Michigan over the years he has lived here.



Marvin Thompson

Marvin Thompson, 25, hails from St. Louis, Mo. He graduated from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in May 2011 with a double major in agricultural economics and business management with a minor in psychology. He moved here to Chicago in June 2011. On June 22, 2013, Marvin graduated from National Louis University with his master of science in human resource management and development.

Marvin has been HIV-positive since he was 19 years old (June 2007). In May 2012 he was diagnosed with AIDS, and since then decided to get healthier and educate his peers in the community about being accountable for their actions and protecting themselves from different STI's. Right now, he is a peer educator and does public speaking events for the Living POZitively campaign for the University of Chicago. He also works as a patient navigator at the CORE Center, helping people who are newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS to their care services—and has an 89-percent retained-to-care rate. In August 2014, he will be starting his Ph.D. in public health at the University of Illinois-Chicago to help put a stop to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Chicago.

Did you know? Marvin sings, vogues and knows every word to the movies Dreamgirls, Poetic Justice, Harlem Nights and What's Love Got To Do with It.

Crispin Torres

Crispin Torres, 28, grew up in Chicago and splits his time between LGBT activism, music and fashion. Since June 2012, he has worked as the community educator at Lambda Legal's Midwest Regional Office, providing resources and giving presentations on marriage equality, trans rights and intersectionality. Crispin is also the creator and co-promoter for QueerAMP, a monthly rock night held on the second Thursday of the month at Quencher's Saloon. QueerAMP focuses on live music with LGBT, women and trans musicians, and sometimes you can catch Crispin shredding his vintage Fender Jaguar in his own queer-core band, The Recruitment. Crispin has also served as an LGBTQ advocate for Girls Rock! Chicago, The Chicago Freedom School and The LGBTQ Student Services Office at DePaul University.

Did you know? Crispin owns nine pairs of prescription eyeglasses and has a special fondness for pocket squares.

Annie Vulpas

Annie, 26, is a linkage-to-care specialist and advocate for young people living with HIV at the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

Annie double majored in French literature and African languages and literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. During her undergraduate studies, she studied abroad in Senegal, where she worked on a qualitative research project about the religious, social, health and legal implications of sex work in Senegal.

After working as an AmeriCorps Youth Worker in an after school program in Madison, Wis., for a year, Annie moved to Chicago, where she served another year as an AmeriCorps volunteer for the Night Ministry. During this year, she spent time providing HIV testing and counseling for homeless and at-risk individuals on the streets of Chicago at night. This experience increased her passion to work with young people living with and at risk for contracting HIV.

For the past two years, Annie worked to develop a linkage-to-care process at Lurie Children's Hospital that emphasizes her patients' confidentiality and provides them the services they need. She also works with a citywide team of linkage workers who receive referrals from the IL STD/AIDS Hotline housed at the Center on Halsted. This summer, Annie is participating in an eight-session Chicago Prison Industrial Complex Summer Teaching Collective and plans to use this experience to become an active member of Project NIA. In August of this year, Annie plans to get her Masters of Public Health at UIC with a concentration in community health sciences.

Did you know? Although a bit rusty on a few of her languages, Annie can speak French, Italian, classical Arabic and Wolof (spoken in Senegal).

Christy Walker

Christy Walker, 28, is an LGBT ally who grew up in the suburbs of Chicago. As a soldier in the Army, she met many individuals who were not able to be open about their sexual orientation while serving their country. This fueled Christy as she developed her passion for social justice, inclusion and equity during her time at Western Illinois University. Christy was a founding member of a diversity education and advocacy group on campus. She also coordinated the Day of Silence during her senior year and was recognized as Advocate of the Year.

Christy then decided to pursue her Master of Science in Education with a focus in higher education student affairs, with the hope of being able to empower college students to be agents of change. During her time studying at Indiana University-Bloomington, Christy was involved with the university's GLBT office. She served on the conference host team for the 2009 Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference (MBLGTACC), the largest LGBT college conference in the nation. After receiving her M.S.Ed., she worked at Ball State University and remained involved with MBLGTACC.

Christy then moved back to Chicago to accept a position at DePaul University. She then worked as the dean of students at Lincoln Park High School. Shortly after arriving at the school, Christy partnered with the Civil Rights Agenda as well as LGBT activists and educators in the Chicago area to implement the Lincoln Park Youth Society (LPYS), which connected LGBT high school students with a mentor from a Chicago-area college or university. The hope was for this program to be a model for other schools. Christy recently accepted a position with the Illinois Department of Human Services, where she hopes to ensure Illinois residents who are in need have access to medical, food, financial and other support resources.

Did you know? Christy is training with TEAM PAWS Chicago for the 2013 Chicago Marathon, TEAM PAWS is one of the fastest growing charity endurance teams in the nation, raising funds to end the killing of homeless pets

thirtyunderthirty
nuque

honoring the best and brightest individuals in
Chicago's LGBTQIA youth community

thursdayjune twenty-seventh

reception 5:30pm event 6pm

center on halsted
3656 north halsted

Free event. Catering by Polo Cafe & Catering

hosted by
amy matheny & kirk williamson



The **one** for me

Patient model. Pill shown is not actual size.

What is COMPLERA?

COMPLERA® is a prescription HIV medicine that is used as a complete regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have **never** taken HIV medicines before **and** who have an amount of HIV in their blood (this is called “viral load”) that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL. COMPLERA contains 3 medicines – rilpivirine, emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate. It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years.

COMPLERA® **does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.** To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking COMPLERA. Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 to others: always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids; never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them, do not share personal items that may contain bodily fluids. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information you should know about COMPLERA?

COMPLERA® can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold, especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA for a long time. *In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death.* Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking COMPLERA, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

Do not take COMPLERA if you have ever taken other anti-HIV medicines.

COMPLERA may change the effect of other medicines and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses.

Do not take COMPLERA if you also take these medicines:

- **anti-seizure medicines:** carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Epitol); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal), phenobarbital (Luminal), phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek)
- **anti-tuberculosis medicines:** rifabutin (Mycobutin), rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin) and rifapentine (Priftin)
- **proton pump inhibitors for stomach or intestinal problems:** esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo), lansoprazole (Prevacid), dexlansoprazole (Dexilant), omeprazole (Prilosec), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix), rabeprazole (Aciphex)
- **more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone** or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

If you are taking COMPLERA you should not take other HIV medicines or other medicines containing tenofovir (Viread, Truvada, Stribild or Atripla); other medicines containing emtricitabine or lamivudine (Emtriva, Combivir, Epivir, Epivir-HBV, Epzicom, Trizivir, Atripla, Stribild or Truvada); rilpivirine (Edurant) or adefovir (Hepsera).

In addition, tell your healthcare provider if you are taking the following medications because they may interfere with how COMPLERA works and may cause side effects:

- certain antacid medicines containing aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate (examples: Roloids, TUMS). **These medicines must be taken at least 2 hours before or 4 hours after COMPLERA.**
- medicines to block stomach acid including cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), nizatidine (Axid), or ranitidine HCL (Zantac). **These medicines must be taken at least 12 hours before or 4 hours after COMPLERA.**
- any of these medicines: clarithromycin (Biaxin); erythromycin (E-Mycin, Eryc, Ery-Tab, PCE, Pediazole, Ilosone), fluconazole (Diflucan), itraconazole (Sporanox), ketoconazole (Nizoral) methadone (Dolophine); posaconazole (Noxifil), telithromycin (Ketek) or voriconazole (Vfend).
- medicines that are eliminated by the kidneys like acyclovir (Zovirax), cidofovir (Vistide), ganciclovir (Cytovene IV, Vitrasert), valacyclovir (Valtrex) and valganciclovir (Valcyte).

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

COMPLERA is for adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before and have no more than 100,000 copies/mL of virus in their blood.

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

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take COMPLERA. Tell your healthcare provider about all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.

Before taking COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have **liver problems**, including hepatitis B or C virus infection, or have abnormal liver tests
- Have **kidney problems**
- Have ever had a **mental health problem**
- Have **bone problems**
- Are **pregnant or planning to become pregnant**. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- Are **breastfeeding: Women with HIV should not breastfeed** because they can pass HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, COMPLERA may pass through breast milk and could cause harm to the baby

COMPLERA can cause additional serious side effects:

- **New or worsening kidney problems, including kidney failure.** If you have had kidney problems, or take other medicines that may cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do regular blood tests.
- **Depression or mood changes.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself.
- **Changes in liver enzymes:** People who have had hepatitis B or C, or who have had changes in their liver function tests in the past may have an increased risk for liver problems while taking COMPLERA. Some people without prior liver disease may also be at risk. Your healthcare provider may need to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting COMPLERA.

The most common side effects reported with COMPLERA are trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, and depression. Some side effects also reported include vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) and pain.

This is not a complete list of side effects. Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking COMPLERA, and call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.

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

Additional Information about taking COMPLERA:

- **Always take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. (A protein drink does not replace a meal).

Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA and see your healthcare provider regularly.

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with **important warnings** on the following pages.



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

Learn more at www.COMPLERA.com

Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information

COMPLERA® (kom-PLUH-rah) (emtricitabine, rilpivirine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information including Patient Information.

What is COMPLERA?

- **COMPLERA** is a prescription HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) medicine that is used to treat HIV-1 in adults
 - who have **never** taken HIV medicines before, **and**
 - who have an amount of HIV in their blood (this is called ‘viral load’) that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL. Your healthcare provider will measure your viral load.

(HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)).

- COMPLERA contains 3 medicines – rilpivirine, emtricitabine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate – combined in one tablet. It is a complete regimen to treat HIV-1 infection and should not be used with other HIV medicines.
- It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years old.
- **COMPLERA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous therapy to control HIV infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV to other people.** Do not share or re-use needles or other injection equipment, and do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal fluids or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?

COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take COMPLERA or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**
 - feel very weak or tired
 - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
 - have trouble breathing
 - have stomach pain with nausea (feeling sick to your stomach) or vomiting
 - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
 - feel dizzy or lightheaded
 - have a fast or irregular heartbeat
- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take COMPLERA. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**
 - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
 - dark “tea-colored” urine
 - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
 - loss of appetite for several days or longer
 - nausea
 - stomach pain
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA for a long time.**

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

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

Who should not take COMPLERA?

Do not take COMPLERA if:

- your HIV infection has been previously treated with HIV medicines.
- you are taking any of the following medicines:
 - **anti-seizure medicines:** carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Epitol); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal); phenobarbital (Luminal); phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek)
 - **anti-tuberculosis (anti-TB) medicines:** rifabutin (Mycobutin); rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin); rifapentine (Priftin)
 - **proton pump inhibitor (PPI) medicine** for certain stomach or intestinal problems: esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo); lansoprazole (Prevacid); dexlansoprazole (Dexilant); omeprazole (Prilosec, Zegerid); pantoprazole sodium (Protonix); rabeprazole (Aciphex)
 - more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
 - St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- **If you take COMPLERA, you should not take:**
 - Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla, Stribild, Truvada, Viread)
 - Other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (Combivir, Emtriva, Eпивir or Eпивir-HBV, Epzicom, Trizivir, Atripla, Truvada, Stribild)
 - rilpivirine (Edurant)
 - adefovir (Hepsera)

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?

Before you take COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have or had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection, kidney problems, mental health problem or bone problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child.
- **Pregnancy Registry.** There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. **You should not breastfeed if you have HIV because of the risk of passing HIV to your baby.** Do not breastfeed if you are taking COMPLERA. At least two of the medicines contained in COMPLERA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. We do not know whether this could harm your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

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

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

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. If you take an antacid during treatment with COMPLERA, take the antacid **at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after** you take COMPLERA.
- a medicine to block the acid in your stomach, including cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), nizatidine (Axid), or ranitidine hydrochloride (Zantac). If you take one of these medicines during treatment with COMPLERA, take the acid blocker **at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after** you take COMPLERA.
- any of these medicines (if taken by mouth or injection):
 - clarithromycin (Biaxin)
 - erythromycin (E-Mycin, Eryc, Ery-Tab, PCE, Pediazole, Ilosone)
 - fluconazole (Diflucan)
 - itraconazole (Sporanox)
 - ketoconazole (Nizoral)
 - methadone (Dolophine)
 - posaconazole (Noxafil)
 - telithromycin (Ketek)
 - voriconazole (Vfend)
- medicines that are eliminated by the kidney, including acyclovir (Zovirax), cidofovir (Vistide), ganciclovir (Cytovene IV, Vitrasert), valacyclovir (Valtrex), and valganciclovir (Valcyte)

What are the possible side effects of COMPLERA?**COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:**

- See “What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?”
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure**, can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Your healthcare provider should do blood tests to check your kidneys before starting treatment with COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or need to take another medicine that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**
 - feeling sad or hopeless
 - feeling anxious or restless
 - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Change in liver enzymes.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus infection or who have certain liver enzyme changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening liver problems during treatment with COMPLERA. Liver problems can also happen during treatment with COMPLERA in people without a history of liver disease. Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effect of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.

The most common side effects of COMPLERA include:

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

Additional common side effects include:

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

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

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

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

How should I take COMPLERA?

- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA.**
- **Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Always take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink does not replace a meal.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly while taking COMPLERA.
- If you miss a dose of COMPLERA within 12 hours of the time you usually take it, take your dose of COMPLERA **with a meal** as soon as possible. Then, take your next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time. If you miss a dose of COMPLERA by more than 12 hours of the time you usually take it, wait and then take the next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time.
- Do not take more than your prescribed dose to make up for a missed dose.

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

Issued: January 2013



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BOOKS

Ken Setterington on 'Branded by the Pink Triangle'

BY SARAH TOCE

Rainbow flags and pink triangles scream "Happy Pride" to a generation that has never known suppression in the form of concentration camp persecution. But what does the pink triangle really mean and...are we forgetting our history?

Author Ken Setterington sets the record straight—so to speak—about the origin of the pink triangle and why even those in the LGBT community have, at times, overzealously tried to conceal its past. In his new book, *Branded by the Pink Triangle*, Setterington explores German culture during the Holocaust and percolates on the topic of homosexuality specifically relating to the pop-up death camps that exterminated generations in one fell swoop. Utilizing first-person accounts and mastering the art of storytelling through all forms of available media, Setterington bravely delivers a project unlike any other of its time. The result is a haunting narrative that must be shared.

Windy City Times: According to your book, *Branded by the Pink Triangle*, Berlin was one of the most accepting cities for gay people in the world before World War II and the rise of the Nazi regime. Why was this such an important story to tell?

Ken Setterington: I think it is important to remember that there was time in Germany that homosexuals lived in a relatively free and open society. A society that they didn't think was under threat. It is always important to remember that society can change and we must be vigilant in moving society forward with acceptance of the LGBT community and not complacent.

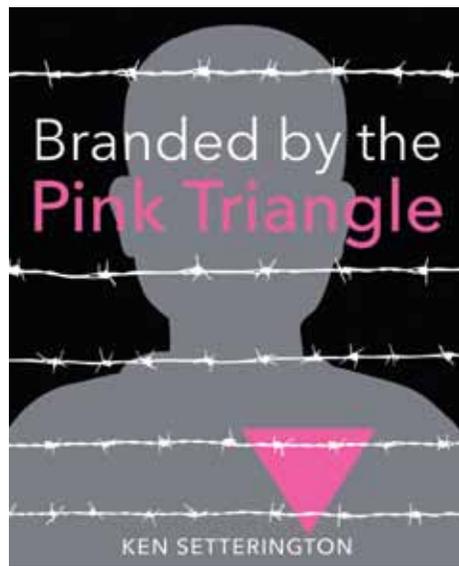
WCT: Is there a specific reason it's imperative to tell this story now versus 20 years ago?

KS: I can't say that there is a specific reason other than if the story had been told 20 years ago to students then perhaps there wouldn't be the same need today. The first books that came out about the Nazi persecution of homosexuals were published in the 1980s and there were a few others, but this tragic episode in gay history has not been frequently told. I feel that we need to remember the past and remember the suffering of the men who wore the pink triangle.

WCT: Please take us through the process of locating storytellers and victims personally involved in the tragedies that encrypted the world via the Holocaust, specifically gay folk. How difficult was it to find firsthand accounts?

KS: The challenge in finding the homosexual victims of the Nazis was by the time I started working on this book, there were only two men left alive that had been victims. Both died while I was working on the book and I was unable to interview them. What I did find were testimonies of the men online, there were also the testimonies recorded for the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation Institute for visual history and education.

Also, I was able to read books written by a



number of victims who wrote their memoirs as a way to tell the world what happened and to help them heal themselves. I have to add that the documentary film *Paragraph 175* by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Freedman was extremely useful; the film included a number of survivors telling their own stories.

WCT: What was a typical day like for an LGBT person during World War II?

KS: That is a difficult question, as I wasn't studying LGBT everywhere, but there were laws in place making homosexual sex illegal in many countries, including the U.S. and Canada at that time. However, the laws were not enforced as strictly as in Germany. If you were in Germany, then it was a horror story for the LGBT community. For a homosexual male it was a daily fear of arrest. Citizens were encouraged to denounce men if they were homosexuals. Any past homosexual activity could be used to arrest a man and send him to be worked to death.

For lesbians the fear was different. Lesbians were not accepted, but there wasn't a fear of arrest as the laws against homosexuals did not include lesbians. However, any lesbian culture in Germany was over. Also one has to remember that for any LGBT members who were Jewish—none of that mattered because you were already marked for extermination being a Jew.

WCT: Once in the camps, how were LGBT people treated?

KS: I need to clarify that the people who were sent to the camps were the homosexual men. There were a small number of lesbians sent to camps as anti-social members of society, but lesbians were not targeted by the Nazis in the same way as homosexual men. In the camps the men were treated terribly. From survivor accounts it is recorded that they were treated the worst of any of the groups aside from the Jews who were sent to the gas chambers. The men were basically worked to death.

WCT: Albert Einstein and Thomas Mann were activists involved in the civil-rights movement in Germany. Can you tell us about their



Photo of a gay monument from *Branded by the Pink Triangle*. Image by Ken Setterington

social-justice work?

KS: In Berlin prior to the war, Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld ran the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee and one of the projects he worked on was a petition to overturn Paragraph 175—the law which made homosexuality illegal. Thomas Mann and Albert Einstein, along with Hermann Hess and Martin Buber, were among the influential German signatories on the petition.

WCT: The pink triangle. Why the pink triangle? Who created this symbol that we still associate with the LGBT community today?

KS: The triangles—or badges of shame—were used to identify the reasons for imprisonment. Why the color pink was chosen is simply not known. There is no documentation to prove why pink was used to identify homosexuals. The Nazis had a color chart for prisoners which included the following: red—political, green—criminals, purple—religious (primarily Jehovah's Witnesses), black—asocial members of society including anarchists and Gypsies, and brown—Roma and Sinta (Gypsies). The yellow Star of David was for Jews.

The color pink may have been chosen as it was regarded as a feminine color suitable for men who were considered to be effeminate, but that is simply conjecture.

WCT: Any guesses as to why this part of Holocaust history has been so underrepresented?

KS: At the end of the war, the homosexuals did not want to draw attention to themselves. They simply wanted to live. Other groups, including the Jews, demanded the world pay attention to what had happened. For the homosexual community it was different—the men could still be arrested for homosexual activity. Indeed some men who had been in concentration camps were re-arrested after the war for sex crimes. It wasn't until the sexual revolution in the sixties and gay activists fought against persecution of gays that the laws were changed.

It wasn't until the book *The Men with the Pink Triangle* was published in 1972 that people took notice. When the play *Bent* by Martin Sherman was produced in 1979, international attention was brought to the Nazi persecution of homosexuals.

It took decades to establish monuments to the men and women who suffered because of their homosexuality. The Homomonument in Amsterdam is spectacular and, in 2008, the monument to the homosexuals persecuted in Berlin was unveiled. It has taken a very long time to recognize the suffering of the homosexuals.

WCT: Have we forgotten our brothers and sisters, and the pink triangle?

KS: I think the pink triangle is being forgotten and the men and women who suffered during the Nazi period, but I think we are also forgetting that there are people around the world who still suffer because they have a preference for their own sex. I believe that it is important that the LGBT community recognize and [make an effort] to understand our history and support our brothers and sisters internationally who still suffer.

WCT: How accepting is Germany now? Is there any reciprocity for victims' families and such?

KS: When I visited Germany a couple of years ago, I was amazed at how accepting Germany is. Berlin is once again gay center in Europe. Compensation for homosexual victims of the Nazis was made available in 2001, and men were encouraged to come forward, but by that time most of them were very elderly or dead.

WCT: The Holocaust Museum in D.C. has a very small section dedicated to the LGBT community. Might we expect this to expand with more materials—and books—like yours?

KS: Actually, I was struck by how much information was available through the Holocaust Museum in D.C. They have an amazing archives and extremely helpful librarians and archivists who assisted me greatly in my efforts to tell the story of the pink triangle. I certainly hope that my book will be included there—and sold in the book store!

WCT: Personally speaking, please tell us why this was a story that you needed to tell. How has it affected you?

KS: I was asked to write this book, and I wondered if there really was a need for a Holocaust book about homosexuals. At the time I was working as the Children and Youth Advocate at the Toronto Public Library; I knew that there weren't many books on the topic. But it was when I talked to some of the young gay staff [and asked them] if they knew what the pink triangle stood for, [that] I was shocked that they didn't even know that the pink triangle was a gay symbol.

I realized that the pink triangle has been replaced as a universal gay symbol by the rainbow flag and that gay culture was losing part of its history. I have always believed in the importance of learning from the past and I felt that this story desperately needed to be told to a young audience.

How it affected me—basically, I became more aware of just how lucky I have been.

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It's Not Who I Am

by Kylie Rae
\$21.39; Xlibris Corporation; 72 pages
BY MALIC WHITE

Growing up in rural Australia, transgender author Kylie Rae confronted dust storms, drought and an inner identity that she struggled to hide.

Rae's memoir, *It's Not Who I Am*, details her coming to terms with her transgender identity and the trials of her physical transformation to be "a woman in all forms."

On her family's farm in the Eyre Peninsula, Rae spent her childhood outdoors, learning to shoot an air rifle and drive a tractor "as soon as I was able to reach the pedals." When Rae's father



Kylie Rae.

shamed her for trying on one her sister's dresses, her idyllic childhood turned into a constant struggle to conform.

"From that day on, I decided the only way to go was to look more closely at boys and learn," she writes. "All the time, I was with the thought, 'It's not who I am.'"

As an adult, Rae married, had two children and occupied her mind with work and her passion for motor-bikes to keep thoughts of gender identity at bay. But eventually, Rae had no choice but to live the life she always wanted.

"It's hard to shut your mind completely to something that is so real, consuming, and confusing," she writes.

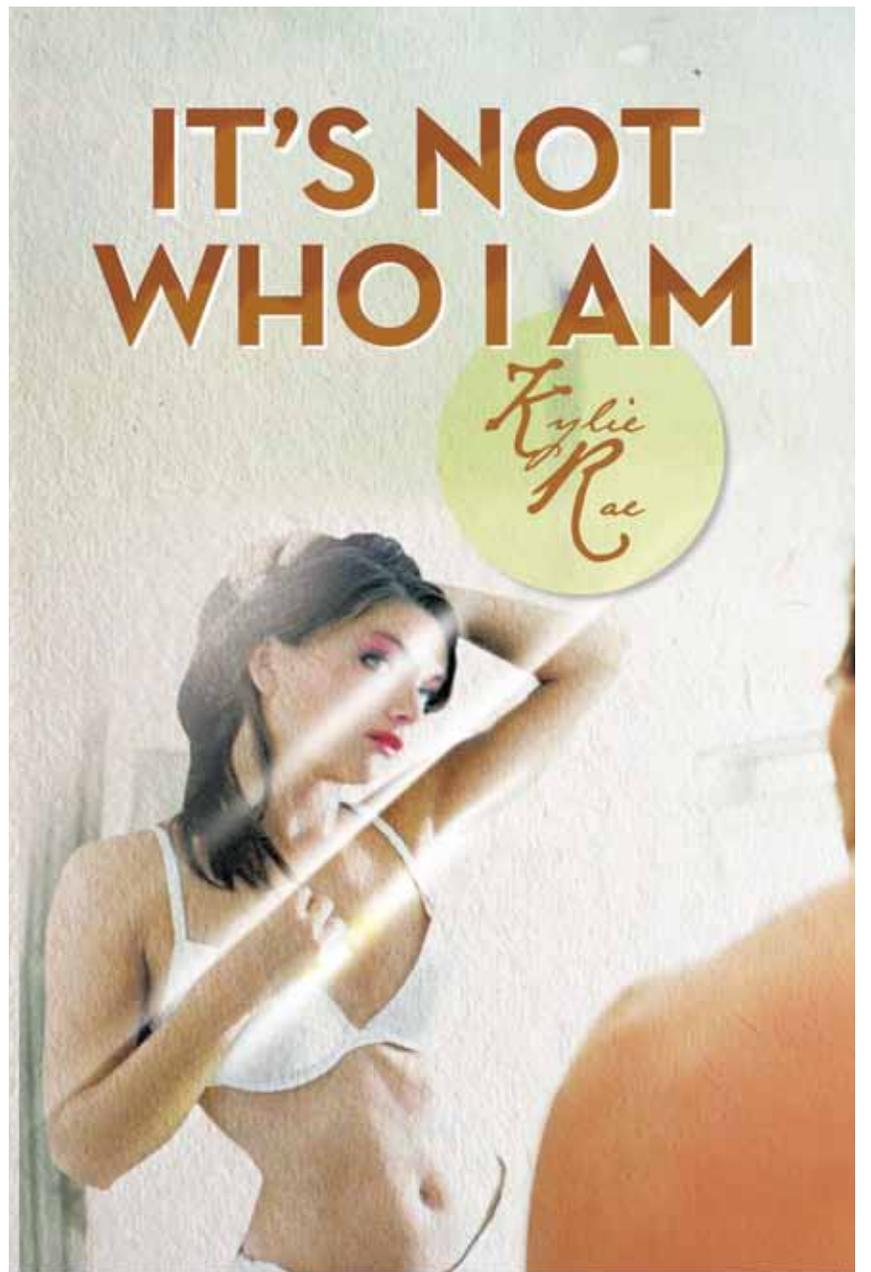
The second half of her memoir, Rae recounts each step of her physical transition, including hormone therapy, laser hair removal, facial feminization surgery and, eventually, sex reassignment surgery. Rae's account provides valuable information for those who are considering a similar procedures, but these details likely will not interest all transgender readers, including those who do not desire or have the financial means to follow the author's path.

But Rae acknowledges that her journey is hers alone and reminds readers that is life beyond transition.

"Just because I needed to transition did not mean that from that day on every waking hour was devoted to that," Rae writes. "I feel that had I not had other interests that occupied that occupied the majority of my time, I may have had issues dealing with the transition part of my life."

The narrative of *It's Not Who I Am* is often rambling and disjointed, reading more like personal journal entries than a memoir. But Rae has a particular audience in mind for this work, and the moments when she directly address that audience are the most valuable and heartwarming sections of her book.

"I had quickly come to the realization that I could not afford to be embarrassed by what I may look like or what people might say," Rae writes. "If you, the reader, is [sic] in a similar situation, remember, you have nothing to be ashamed of."



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Levi Kreis: 'Paradise' found

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Tony winner Levi Kreis' newest CD, *Imagine Paradise*, is based on a unique concept: All 12 songs are custom-written theme songs based on the life stories of Levi's most generous supporters. The development definitely makes the album personal in more ways than one.

Kreis—a Southern boy-turned-Chicago resident—recently met up with *Windy City Times*. The openly gay singer was candid about not only his CD, but about his life as well.

Windy City Times: I really like this CD—but it's not what I expected. Because you were on Broadway, I was expecting something in that vein. But this CD has elements of pop, dance and R&B. What drove you to that particular mindset?

Levi Kreis: Thank you. The truth is that I've been living in that particular mindset for most of my life. I feel like when I look back at previous albums, I was influenced by what was happening at the time. Like with *The Gospel According to Levi*, that was around the time of Kelly Clarkson's "Since U Been Gone" and was influenced by sounds like that.

I think I was more influenced by what radio and the press were thinking, rather than making an album I would listen to. This is the first album that I've ever enjoyed actually listening to. These are the songs I enjoyed listening to on my iPod on repeat; this is the stuff from my *Soul Train* collection.

WCT: There's some '90s R&B on here—some Jon B. and some Babyface.

LK: Yes, yes! That's more true to my musical history. Broadway was, obviously, a very interesting occurrence. I didn't expect to be an actor but once I moved to L.A., and things started coming my way, and then there were the Tony Awards—but that's not the world I'm from. The first record I remember having as a kid was one from [gospel singer] Mahalia Jackson. So I've listened to her, the Whispers' "Rock Steady"...

WCT: "Rock Steady?"

LK: Yes! But, with this album, I wanted to approach it in a way that I could create songs that were classics. I mean, "Timeless" is timeless.

WCT: It seems like this is your most personal CD, in that sense.



Levi Kreis.

LK: It really is. By the way, where are you from?

WCT: I was born in South Carolina and raised in Virginia. You're a Southern boy, too—raised in Tennessee.

LK: Yes. I graduated from a class of five people. I was valedictorian with a C average. [Laughs] It was me and four girls—or, I would say, we were five girls.

WCT: Have you reconnected with people back home?

LK: I have started to. It's been a difficult journey.

WCT: And, from listening to the *Windy City Queercast*, I've gathered that your family has expanded.

LK: You're bringing it! And it's so right for you to mention it because it was meeting my brother

for the first time that has allowed me to open up in a way. My journey of not being accepted and embraced is at its end. If you accept me or not, it's none of my business because I know I'm an individualized expression of God just as I am, and that's just perfect with me. Being in that space allows me to come home and stand on my own.

WCT: Where's your mother in terms of acceptance?

LK: Connie Lee is wonderful. She and I have always been close buddies growing up. She was always into music; she was the president of the Brenda Lee fan club. She introduced me to rock 'n' roll early on.

I think it's hard for any mom when they realize the son is not going to live out the dreams they have for them; there's always an adjustment period. As brutal as it sounds, I think parents do have to grieve the death of the child they thought they would have. Then, they have to reacquire themselves with the real [child], and I've tried to allow for that with the greatest patience possible. But you know what? We're on the other side of it, and she's accepting of my partner. We're going to go stay and visit with her in July. [Tears up]

WCT: Well, some parents never accept so you've been very fortunate.

LK: I've always held fast to the concept that a man is known by the fruits of his labor, and I have brought that to my parents' attention time and time again. I began to understand what my role was as an LGBT artist, and I began to talk with kids after Pride festivals. I found out how they are homeless or don't have support.

I tell them, "You stand in your power." I'm not going to tell you it gets better sometime down the road because your good does not lie in any condition that's in the future. Your good is knowing your power right here and right now so stand up and be the king or queen you are. Amen.

WCT: I do want to, of course, discuss the CD a little more. For the readers who don't know, what's the story behind *Imagine Paradise*?

LK: Post-Tony Awards, I was considering not embarking on my sixth artist. Independent artists wear many hats; we have many roles, and it's a lot. It's life-consuming. That's why acting can be easier; someone else can be the machine.

Then someone told me, "Let the fans decide. Why don't you do a Kickstarter campaign?" So I put it together as thoughtfully as I could, and I tried to figure out a way to give back to them. I decided that I could write songs about their lives, which helped me get over the top. I became the third most successful Kickstarter campaign; *Billboard* did a feature on it.

So I was able to get on the phone with some of these supporters and hear their life stories. I also felt it was my responsibility to find the positive aspects of their lives. In turn, the album might be less autobiographical than some of my other things but, yet, it's so universal.

WCT: The song "Four-Letter Word" is cool-sounding, but it also has a [strong] message. It entertains and informs. It's about a soldier, right?

LK: I'm so proud of that song. It's about one of my backers who, after years of being in a relationship, told me the challenges of keeping a relationship while being deployed during "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." There's the strain over five or six years, but we don't see that. We don't know how "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" affects your psychological or emotional well-being. He was also very passionate about [DOMA]. I loved breaking that shit down—all you need to know is the four-letter word, "love."

And then there's a song like "Love Revolution." It's meant to tell our LGBT youth and those who've been in it for a while, "You might be able to hold hands down Clark Street but don't get it twisted, sister. We still have to speak up, still." We still need to get loud sometimes.

WCT: There's a line in one of your songs, "A Deeper Love," that goes "The world didn't give it/And the world can't take it away." Is that from a gospel song?

LK: Absolutely—it's referencing the Staple Singers. And it's so powerful, too. You can speak

it from a traditional Christian perspective but also from a metaphysical perspective. I basically say that I create my reality.

WCT: Even though these songs are for different people, something that seems to come through is that you're a romantic. What's the most romantic thing you've done for someone?

LK: Oh—what a good question! Well, what I consider romantic others might consider a fetish. When you mention "romance," I feel something very romantic about the exchange of being dominant and submissive. While I certainly am not [immersed in the] lifestyle, it's something I'm learning about—and there's something extremely spiritual about sharing that dynamic. I think there's a spiritual and psychological connection in the world of BDSM. I think it's missed a lot of times because [the romance] is overshadowed by things like drug use, but I think people who really enjoy that spiritual/emotional/psychological journey do it cleanly and clearly.

WCT: Did you go to IML this year?

LK: [Shakes head] I actually have not gone in four years—and I have been sober for four years. May 27 is actually my sober birthday.

WCT: And that's actually my birthday.

LK: Oh my God! [Kreis clasps interviewer's hands.] How cool is that! We're forever linked now. But I have to reacquire myself with the journey as a sober man. Romance, to me, is being moved by a psychological/spiritual/emotional exchange.

WCT: Lastly, whose idea was it for you to pose nude on the cover?

LK: [Laughs] I had two other concepts for the cover. While they were bold, they seemed to be more about me. It occurred to me that wearing nothing but the backers' name was [the height of] gratitude. Now it's like a puzzle—where's my name? [Laughs]

Levi Kreis will perform at the *Windy City Gay Idol* finals Wed., June 26, at Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., at 7 p.m. See www.maynestage.com.

Cameron named Joffrey head

The Joffrey Ballet and Artistic Director Ashley C. Wheeler announced that veteran Chicago arts administrator Greg Cameron—most recently the chief operating officer of WTTW/WFMT—will join the Joffrey leadership team as its new executive director, effective July 1.

Kathleen Hechinger—who joined The Joffrey as chief financial officer and chief administrative officer in 2010 and has served as interim executive director since March—has been appointed to the new position of Joffrey Ballet deputy director.

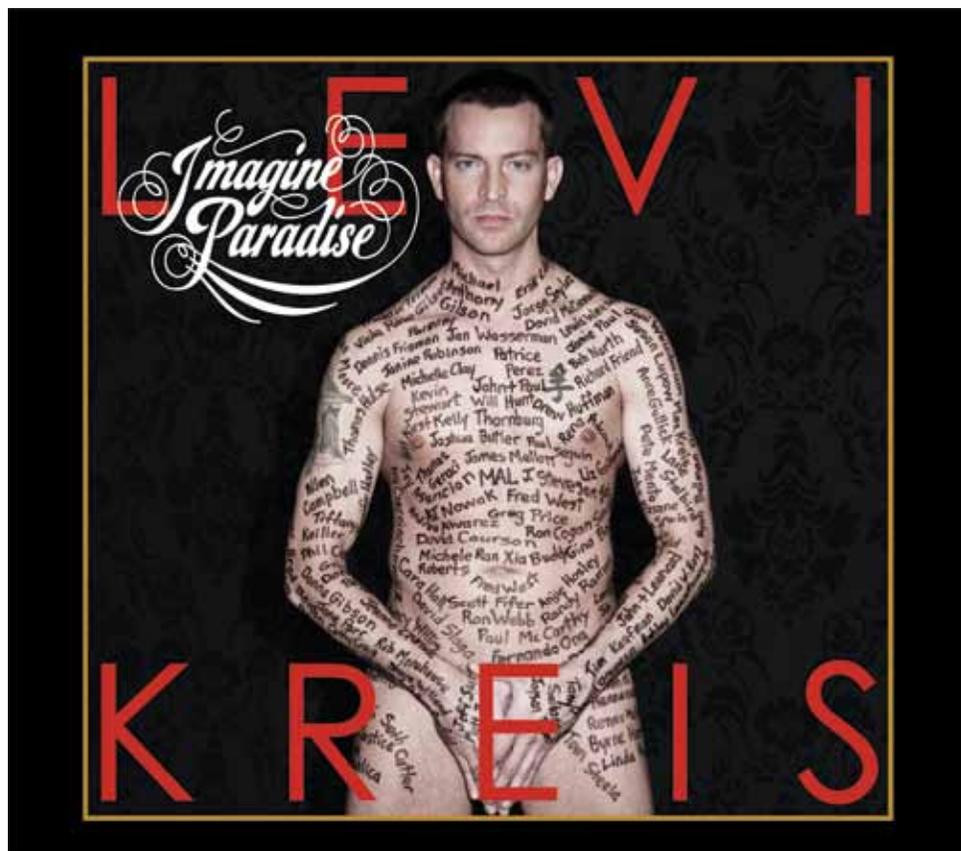
Cameron currently serves as board chairman of The Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago.

Audra McDonald in Chicago Oct. 12

Audra McDonald, winner of five Tony Awards and two Grammys, makes her first appearance at Symphony Center since 2001 with a concert featuring selections from her new album, *Go Back Home*, on Saturday, October 12 at 8 p.m.

Released by Nonesuch Records on May 21, *Go Back Home* is McDonald's first solo recording in seven years. The disc features songs by composers with whom she has long been associated, including Stephen Sondheim, Adam Guettel, Michael John LaChiusa, and Rodgers & Hammerstein, as well as selections that are relatively new to her repertoire, including the title track by Kander and Ebb.

Tickets are \$40-\$80; see www.cso.org or the Symphony Center box office (220 S. Michigan Ave.), or call 312-294-3000.



NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Melissa Ferrick tells 'the truth' about Paula Cole, new CD

BY JERRY NUNN

Singer Melissa Ferrick combines many genres of music with a strong background in music as a child who was classically trained, including two years at the Berklee College of Music.

She released two albums and opened for Morrissey before launching her own record label. The out and proud lesbian songstress released her own music after that, and continued an exhausting tour schedule with such acts like the Indigo Girls and Ani DiFranco.

Andersonville has the opportunity to check out her live show at the Back Lot Bash and hear new music from her latest the truth is that was released this month.

Windy City Times: Hey, Melissa. Tell me your musical history. It sounds intriguing from what I have read.

Melissa Ferrick: Well, I started when I was really young—like, 5 years old. I was a classically trained musician all the way through until I went to college. I ended up playing trumpet in elementary school and it was really hard to excel at that. I ended up going to the conservatory in Boston for a couple of years when I was in high school for their extension division. That was really when I started to write songs. My aunt gave me a guitar my junior year in high school. That is when the wheels came off of my classical world. I discovered Berklee and went to school there as a trumpet player. I got a scholarship as a songwriter.

I think I was on the dean's list the first year because I had an amazing teacher there. By my second year I was immersed in songwriting. I was starting to play live already. The guitar really took over my life at that point.

WCT: How many instruments do you play?

MF: A lot! How many do I play well? I'm a really good bass player. I studied that for a long time and it is not that far from guitar. I definitely hear bass lines and play a lot of bass. I sing. I play trumpet. I'm a closet drummer. I do play drums on this record. I work hand in hand with my drummers a lot. I'm not a versed, fluid drummer but I hear parts. I'm an arranger so I definitely lean toward being a producer. I have gotten good at it the last five years.

WCT: You worked with Paula Cole on this new album, the truth is.

MF: Paula is an old friend of mine. We went to Berklee together. That from 1988 to 1990 so that was before either one of us were signed. We both went off in our own worlds. Last year we reconnected again through Berklee. I was teaching a summer program and Paula came in to do a special thing as an alumni. We met again and had dinner. She was making this indie album. She had a lot of questions about doing her kickstarter and did a show together in Boston. I met her partner and he's amazing. We even live pretty close to each other. It is a nice little circle.

I have always loved her and held her in high regard. She was finishing up her record and I was starting to make mine. I asked her to sing on a few tracks and asked her to sing on mine. She picked "Wreck Me" so I had her come and sing on that.

WCT: I've been lucky to meet her and she is really nice.

MF: She is the salt of the earth. She's a great writer. Here's a quick story: When it was my first semester and I was 17, I was really afraid and I felt like I didn't belong. I couldn't find anybody who was doing what I wanted to do. I walked into an ensemble room at the school and Paula was singing "Sorry" by Tracy Chapman. I was mesmerized. I knew that was the reason I was

there and needed to be friends with her. After that we became friends and had a lot of friends in common. It was crazy.

WCT: The new album was finished in different parts of the country. That must have been interesting.

MF: It wasn't on purpose. I knew I wanted pedal steel on the record and wanted Matt Pynn. As soon as I met him I knew he was my guy. He played with Lucinda Williams and Norah Jones. He's an amazing musician and great player. The vision of the album sonically really worked this time for me. It was way more cinematic and legato. This is what I wanted to do. It was how I wanted to be heard and the songs should sound.

When I hired Trina Shoemaker to mix the album I didn't realize she lived in Alabama. I had



Melissa Ferrick. Photo by Joel Benjamin

created her as a city girl in my head because she had worked with Brandi Carlile and Sheryl Crow. I thought more New York or Chicago. When I talked to her it was a woman with a southern drawl who had spent years in New Orleans. She took the project on and loved the record.

Then she called me and wanted to use her guy in Nashville to master the album. When I found out he had worked with Emmylou Harris and John Prine then I knew I was in the right place with this record. So it made perfect sense.

WCT: There is an album title song called "the truth is," so is this your truth?

MF: The fact that this record was written over a very condensed period of time in about six to eight months, which is a short period of time. I wrote "Go Easy On Me" in the studio so I wrote the last song when I was making the record. It is about a very particular point in time when I was single and had a fabulous weekend-long affair while I was on tour with Ani. I went back to the relationship I was in only to find out I had been cheated on the entire freaking time. It was horrific. It was a really bad break-up.

You know when you pick up the other person's phone and see shit you are never going to stop seeing? It was like that—not good!

The Back Lot Bash, located at 5238 N. Clark St., celebrates 10 years with an acoustic evening and Ferrick on June 28 at 9 p.m. Visit www.backlotbashchicago.com for tickets and information.

Follow Ferrick at www.melissaferrick.com.

Read the entire interview at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

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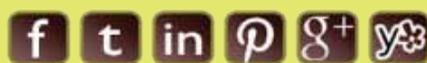
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United Black Pride lists July 1-7 events

United Black Pride has unveiled the events that will take place during the annual Black Pride week (July 1-7 this year).

In April, it was announced that a merger of Chicago Black pride organizations is combining Chicago Windy City Black Pride and Windy City Black Pride into United Black Pride.

Among the Pride Week events are:

—Monday, July 1: A presentation by editor/activist Keith Boykin at Carter G. Woodson Regional Library, 9525 S. Halsted St., 6:30-8:30 p.m.

—Thursday, July 4: United Black Pride welcome reception at Inn of Chicago hotel, 6-9 p.m.

—Saturday, July 6: The 7th Annual PrideIndex.com Esteem Awards at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., 2-6 p.m. (www.TheEsteemAwards.com)

—Sunday, July 7: Party at Rainbow Beach, 3111 E. 77th St., 12-6 p.m.

For more information, see <http://ubpride.com/pride-2013/>.



Photo of Mz. Ruff-n-Stuff from the 2012 Rainbow Beach Party by Vern Hester.

More Pride events ...

Summer Pride on Southport, June 29 and 30 on Southport Ave. at Waveland, bills itself as "the unofficial pre- and post parade party."

This two-day street fest on the west side of the lakeview neighborhood features sweet summer sounds from bands such as Simply Elton, Libido Funk Circus, Wedding Banned, Sixteen Candles, and a cast of DJs.

If you're out in the western suburbs and want to avoid the crowds, stop in to **Hunters Nightclub**, 1932 E. Higgins Rd., in Elk Grove Village to watch a live broadcast of the 44th annual Pride Parade. The bar will also offer a complimentary menu of great food, featuring smoked pulled pineapple pork sandwiches, grilled ginger and orange teriyaki chicken skewers and more.

Circuit MOM and Vienna Candy present **Jawbreaker! Revolution**, the largest dance party series in the Midwest, featuring the most lavishly designed party to date, celebrating everything sexy and sweet, taking place at House Of Blues Chicago, 329 N. Dearborn St. DJ Billy Lace makes his Revolution debut, whipping his creamy beats into the most decadent, dessert-filled night you will not be able to resist. Limited \$30 advance tickets available at CRAM Fashion, 3329 N. Broadway; House Of Blues box office; or online at www.houseofblues.com/chicago.

PRIDE EVENTS



Chicago Dyke March 2012. Photo from Liz Thomson

Dyke March in Uptown June 29

The Chicago Dyke March will take place in Uptown's Margate Park, 4921 N. Marine Dr., Saturday, June 29.

Attendees will start gathering at 2 p.m., with the march beginning at 3 p.m. A rally, with performances, will take place at 4:30 p.m.

Chicago Dyke March Collective—a grassroots mobilization and celebration of dyke, queer, bisexual and transgender resilience—is presenting the event. See chicagodykemarch.wordpress.com.

Backlot Bash to feature Uh Huh Her, Ferrick

Local and national acts are slated to perform at this year's Backlot Bash, which will take place June 27-30.

On Thursday, June 27, comedienne Julie Goldman and Sandra Valls are among those scheduled at Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave. Doors open at 6 p.m.

The rest of the festival will take place at 5238 N. Clark St. Acts who will take the stage are Melissa Ferrick (June 28 at 9 p.m.); Uh Huh Her, who will perform an exclusive DJ set (June 30), Girlband (June 29 at 5 p.m.), the Gina Glocksen Band (June 30) and Martha Berner (June 28 at 6 p.m.), among others.

Tickets are \$15-\$25, and weekend passes are \$30-\$60; see www.backlotbashchicago.com.



Uh Huh Her. PR photo



Pride North hits Rogers Park

For the third year in a row, Pride North on Glenwood Avenue is set to provide an alternative (or an afterparty) to the parade.

Sponsored by Rogers Park establishments The Glenwood, Sidecar Bar, and MorseL, the street festival runs 9 a.m. through 9 p.m., Sun., June 30 and boasts DJ sets from DJs Foxfonix, Voxbox, The Byrne Twins (including Windy City Times' own music writer David Byrne), and Herrbear. Also appearing are Chicago street fest staples Sixteen Candles at 6 p.m. and local artist Mark Ortega.

This event is free to the public and is a 21-and-over event.

Image from Pride North 2012. Photo by Kirk Williamson

Pride Parade set, mayor issues proclamation

The Chicago 44th Annual Pride Parade is scheduled for Sunday, June 30, at 12 p.m., according to a PrideChicago press release. The parade will start at the corner of Broadway and Montrose traveling the same route as last year: from the Broadway/Montrose corner, proceeding south on Broadway, then south on Halsted, then east on Belmont, then south on Broadway and then east on Diversey to Cannon Drive, in Lincoln Park.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, like his predecessors, has named June as "Pride Month" in Chicago.

The grand marshal for the parade is former NFL player Wade Davis

Each year, Pride Month features dozens of different events organized by various community organizations, groups and individuals. Every year, the Chicago June Pride Month Calendar is featured on PRIDEChicago's website and in the Chicago Pride Guide booklet, as well as in community publications and websites. An updated version of the calendar is on PRIDEChicago's website, ChicagoPrideCalendar.org.

The theme for this year's Pride Celebrations, which InterPride (the international association of pride groups) suggested, is "Pride 365." An alternative suggested theme is "Pride 365. Have Pride Year 'Round." Parade entries as well as groups sponsoring Pride Month events have the option of using the international or alternate theme as well as their own.

In addition, the Montrose Rocks celebration—an annual event focusing on the African-American LGBTQ community—will take place immediately after the parade.



The Pride Parade route (outlined in green). Image provided by Rich Pfeiffer



Best of the 'Fest'

Chicago Pride Fest was held over the weekend of June 22 and 23, one week before this year's Pride parade, June 30. Between Addison and Grace on Halsted Street, booth after booth showcased everything from community services to deep-fried Oreos.

Music acts such as singers Aubrey O'Day and Deborah Cox performed, along with a variety of drag performers and DJs.

Summer had finally arrived in Chicago and there were plenty of rainbows to be found in the neighborhood.

Visit www.northhalsted.com for upcoming events and local information.

Photos and text by Jerry Nunn. See Ed Negron's photos on page 88. Many more online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



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Soy un amigo, Latino y un educador comunitario.

- José

José (en el centro) vive con el VIH desde 2001.



Tengo pareja, soy editor y me gusta correr.

- Oriol

Oriol (izquierda) vive con el VIH desde 1992.



Somos pareja, nos gustan los caballos y hacemos trabajo voluntario.

- Brian

- Kevin

Brian (izquierda) y Kevin (derecha) han vivido con el VIH desde 1996.



Soy un amigo, un estudiante, y un hijo.

- Saloman

Saloman (derecha) vive con el VIH desde 2006.

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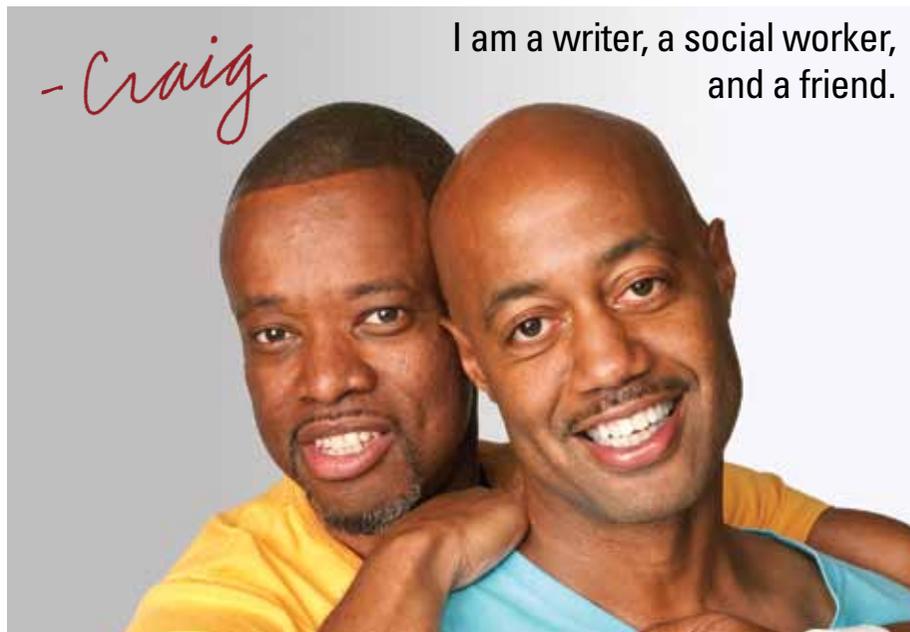


We are partners, horse lovers, and volunteers.

- Brian

- Kevin

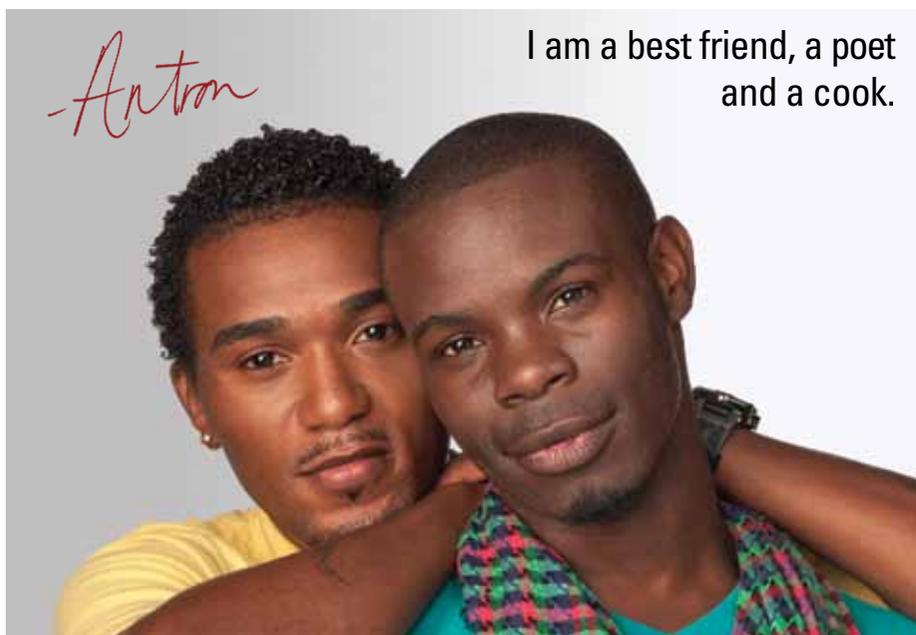
Brian (left) and Kevin (right) have lived with HIV since 1996.



I am a writer, a social worker, and a friend.

- Craig

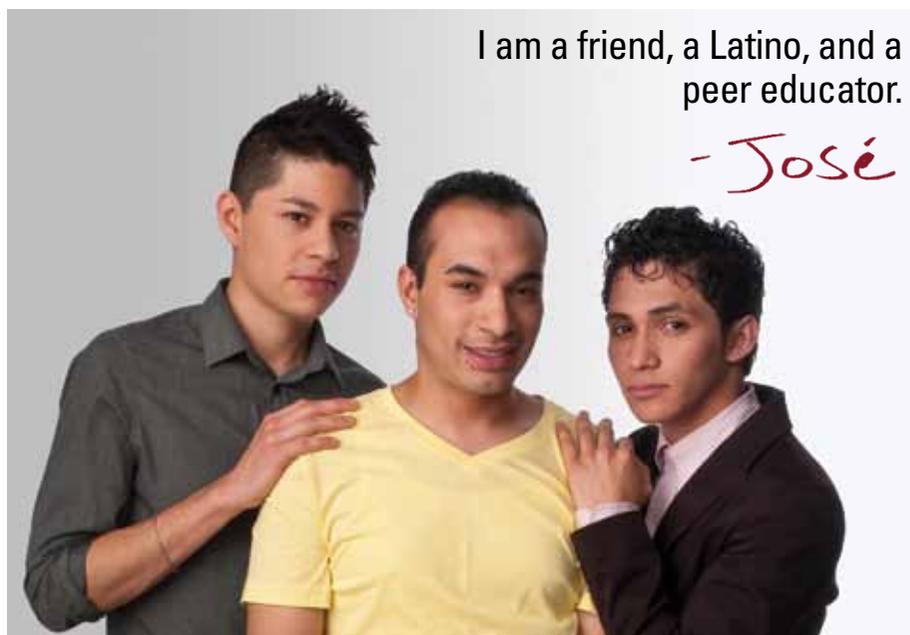
Craig (right) has lived with HIV since 1985.



I am a best friend, a poet and a cook.

- Antron

Antron (right) has lived with HIV since 2004.



I am a friend, a Latino, and a peer educator.

- José

José (center) has lived with HIV since 2001.

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TRAVEL

Frau do you do?: Flying directly to Germany

BY JERRY NUNN

There are so many places to visit in Germany. While Berlin is a must-stop, of course, cities like Dresden, Aachen, Cologne and Dusseldorf have their own unique personalities as well.

This is the really time to visit this European destination from the Windy City. There are now nonstop flights offered from Chicago on Germany's second largest airline, airberlin.

Without a first-class section, business class was a treat to experience with perks like massage seats that flatten out for complete relaxation. It was much like having your own private room with many of the comforts of home. The time literally flew by. I found myself trying to stay awake not to miss anything from champagne toasts (just say "prost") to a gourmet menu.

Upon landing, it was a short trip to downtown Berlin, Germany's largest city and capital. It is full of museums and contains more than 1,000 events to choose from every day. Art collections,

Look for a fur-covered lounge to mix and mingle at Heile Welt, or go just a block away for two-for-one drinks at Tom's Bar. Tourists will be transported back in time with a strict door policy and darkroom in the back. Watch your wallet and use common sense while having a good time in the neighborhood.

Public transportation was a snap in the city with the Berlin WelcomeCard, which can be used for discounts with 200 partners. This made traveling easy and affordable to the diverse neighborhoods in the area.

While traveling to different areas in Germany each region had its own character and charm, such as Dresden near the Czech border.

For starters the boutique Ininside Dresden has 180 modern sleek rooms making it a must stop. Upstairs Twist bar mixes up custom made cocktails complete with a nice view. Ven, the in house restaurant had some of the best food of the entire trip. The breakfast buffet brilliantly served churros alongside chocolate covered pancakes making dessert a part of starting off the



Germany offers many culinary delights. Photos by Jerry Nunn



food festivals and theaters are just the beginning.

The Intercontinental contains one of the best pools and spas in Berlin. The rooms use darker decor, making them look very modern with bright views of the city.

Head out on the town starting at The Brandenburg Gate, actually a former city gate rebuilt in the late 18th century. What a photo op spot it makes today.

Just down the street is the Berlin Zoological Garden—the most visited zoo in Europe with about 3 million people stopping by every year. Close to 20,000 species of animals makes the high price worth it for a chance to gawk at them.

Take in bits of the Berlin Wall with a nearby museum depicting the Holocaust. In the park there is a memorial to the murdered Jews with a special separate monument for gay visitors across the street.

Enjoying the nightlife is a major part of visiting Berlin. Begin the night singing with the sports crowd at Tucholsky or visit the newly opened Hamburger Mary's attached to the LGBT AXEL Hotel for specialty drinks and kitsch.

day. Many hotels offered wellness rooms where travelers may just lay down on a lounge chair in their robe and listen to soothing tunes. Saunas and exercise rooms came standard with many hotels but were never taken for granted after walking all day.

Dresden, known for music and opera, will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birthplace of Richard Strauss in 2014. This is a strong area for dance performance and plans are afoot for special art collections for next year including one covering Egypt.

Take a peek into the Historic Green Vault, which has an interesting mechanism to keep jewelry thieves from running out the door. If you are hungry head to Sophienkeller; there's even a carousel inside the restaurant to accompany the heavy German food.

There is a night walk tour where spectators can take a behind-the-scenes look at the artist community, then sample drinks that are popular with the locals in the nearby 140 bars and pubs.

Close by is Cologne, which offers an incredible gay nightlife that surrounding towns cannot rival. It has a 2,000-year history, making it



Images from Berlin, Germany, including the Reichstag (above) and Berlin Wall Monument (below). Photos by Jerry Nunn



the oldest major city in Germany. There are 12 cathedrals right in the center of the city.

Take a boat ride on the Rhine and stop at The Chocolate Museum or the Farina Fragrance Museum for the samples alone. You will learn how cocoa grows and smell like a rose.

The Cologne Pride Festival kicks up its heels in July, with countless events and street parties.

The Hilton Dusseldorf is a fine place to stay, even if it is a little off the beaten path. Visitors can also just hop over to the Breidenbacher Hof in the Konigsallee district. This five-star hotel is where many celebrities stay, including Beyonce and Pink, who cooked a Thanksgiving turkey in their kitchen while on tour.

Walk outside the door to shopping in every direction. From upscale retail stores to resale shops, there is something for everyone. This shopping district almost had an H&M on every corner, but there are Gucci, Burberry and Chanel as well.

If this is out of your price range then get a piece of the past by visiting The Altstadt or Old Town section of the city. There are microbrews for sipping and art collections for viewing while in that part of town.

A trip to Aachen resulting in us seeing the inside of the cathedral where Charlemagne resided. The narrow streets led to the best gingerbread in Germany, along with creatively sculpted fountains in this quaint neck of the woods. Even in the smaller towns, locals seemed to have no trouble with English as long as you speak slowly and have patience.

It was difficult to say *auf Wiedersehen* but it was finally time to leave. American Airlines flew us home on only the third direct flight ever from Dusseldorf to Chicago. The staff and service were both top-notch, making the jet lag manageable after a quick nap in the reclining seats.

A week later my system got used to the five-hour time change back to Central time, but the memories will never be left behind.

With direct flights, historic sights and hearty bites, a return trip sounds right!

For more information, check out www.visitBerlin.com.



Kangaroo and joey at Berlin Zoo. Photos by Jerry Nunn

July 1 event with Alice Walker at new venue

Women and Children First will present writer Alice Walker—probably best known for her work, *The Color People*—Monday, July 1, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Free Church, 5255 N. Ashland Ave.

Walker will read from her two new books, *The Cushion in the Road* and *The World Will Follow Joy*.

This is a ticketed event. A free ticket will accompany a purchase of either one of her two new books from Women and Children.



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BY ROSS FORMAN

After 12 years, Searah Deysach still tags her job—as owner of Early to Bed—as a dream come true.

And things are about to get even better for the business—where vibrators are the bread and butter, including the Magic Wand, Silver Bullet, and others.

Early to Bed is moving into Andersonville, opening at 5044 N. Clark St., two blocks south of Foster Ave. The grand reopening is July 13.

“The space is slightly smaller than our current [location at 5232 N. Sheridan Rd.], but I’ve wanted to move to Clark Street for years and things just kind of fell into place. It helped that my mom really encouraged me to move; she has been one of my top cheerleaders [since] day one,” Deysach said. “The new space is sunny, bright and has a great layout for our shop, and I’m ready for a fresh start in a new location. Andersonville is where I spend my free time and my money, so I’m thrilled to now be part of that community.”

“We’ve been at our current location for almost 12 years, and while the building management and neighborhood have been great to us, I think it is time we make ourselves way more visible and available to the public. I’m also really excited that I get to make changes in the

store layout and design; it’s just time for a fresh, new look.”

Deysach, who identifies as queer and is partnered with Dawne, has a son, Asa, 3. She lives in Rogers Park.

“Business is great,” she said. “I started Early to Bed in 2001 when there was nothing like it in Chicago and I knew there were folks ready and waiting for a shop like this. I have built a lot of solid community relationships and that has really helped to keep us afloat during the recession. Of course I’m hoping the move helps bring in some new customers, but we are really lucky to have a big, loyal fan base of customers who appreciate what we do.”

“Even after all these years I still cannot believe I get to run this little feminist sex shop as my job. I get a thrill when a new toy comes in and, in many ways, feel like the 28 year-old who just wanted to have a nice sex shop where she could buy awesome toys.”

When it opened, the customer base at Early to Bed was woman- and queer-heavy, as that was the community she set out to serve. “But over the years our base has grown to where we are reaching people all across the age, gender and orientation spectrums,” Deysach said. “Certainly folks in their 20s and 30s are a big part of our [customer] base, but I’m thrilled that we have more and more customers of all ages who shop



Searah Deysach. Photo from Deysach

here. We even have a dedicated section on our website for ‘Seasoned Lovers,’ as we are seeing older folks keeping it hot longer and longer.”

Deysach receives online orders from around the world, she said.

The most requested item is, “pills to make your [penis] bigger, which we don’t sell and don’t exist in real life,” she said, laughing.

“To me, the biggest surprise has been how incredibly open and honest people will be with us once we make them feel safe and secure. I knew I’d be talking to people about [penises] and [vaginas], but I did not anticipate how many discussions we’d have with folks about every aspect of their sensual, romantic and personal lives. So many people have questions that they have no idea who to ask, and we serve as a resource center much of the time. We also have been incredibly lucky to have had so many clients teach us about everything from gender expression to pelvic floor pain to the chemistry of the body.”

So how is Early to Bed different from traditional adult shops?

“First, Early to Bed is a warm, friendly place that is designed to immediately make people feel welcome and comfortable. I do not see that as the ‘traditional’ model at all,” she said. “We focus on high-quality products and curate our collection very carefully, so we are not just selling everything that comes on the market. We don’t sell things we think are dangerous or misleading, [such as] penis-enlarging pills or butt-numbing cream, and we try really hard to make sure our clients are well informed about what they are buying. Our sales staff is trained to help people find the right item for them, not just up-sell them to something more expensive or what we want to move.”

In addition to traditional sales, Early to Bed offers a variety of workshops since “I always envisioned Early to Bed as a place of community and education as well as commerce,” she said.

There have been workshops ranging from erotic letter writing to making porn, and everything in between. Plus, Early to Bed has hosted in-store educators, including Annie Sprinkle, Tristan Taormino, Betty Dodson, Madison Young, Shanna Katz, Sinclair Sexsmith, Ducky Doolittle, Midori, Heather Corinna and others.

“I see these workshops as a really import resource for folks to learn more about sex and explore their sexuality fuller and we are always looking for ways to improve and expand our educational offerings,” Deysach said.

Plus, in 2002 Early to Bed launched in home-parties as a response to customer requests. Similar to Tupperware parties, Deysach and her crew bring their bag of tricks to people’s homes for an up-close look at toys, and more.

“[The parties] give people who may be too shy to come to the actual shop a chance to see what sex toys are all about, as well as ask questions and get advice,” Deysach said. “Often they are bachelorette parties, but we have been invited to do [such parties] in all kinds of places for all kinds of reasons, [including] lesbian books clubs, family picnics, birthday parties and just ladies-night-out kinds of events.”

“We also do private workshops that are more single-issue oriented. Our Men Below the Belt class is the most popular, but BDSM 101 has had quite a surge in the past year.”

Deysach said she has long catered the store to lesbians and the transgender community, particularly because gay men have many options in the field.

“I always have tried to have items that are relevant to lesbian/queer women,” she said. “We stock a lot of trans-masculine supplies that are not really sex toys, but rather items for gender expression. I even started a separate website (ftm essentials.com) a couple years ago to create an online space where folks could shop for gender expression items without having to shop at a sex-oriented site. That said, we work very hard to carry items in the shop that are relevant to all sexual identities. I’m not super into games, books or other things that are strictly hetero-focused, although it is impossible to avoid things like that all together. Of course so much of what we sell can be used by people of all genders and/or orientations.”

“I’m incredibly grateful for the support we get from all kinds of people, but the LGBT community has been really great to Early to Bed and me personally since we opened. I also try to give back to the LGBT community as much as I can. We offer outreach to social service organizations and we have given a lot of talks on sex toys, healthy sexuality, safer sex and pretty much anything people ask us to.”

Early to Bed was named Chicago’s Best Sex shop by the Chicago Reader in 2008, 2011, and 2012, among other honors.

“I am always humbled by winning awards, especially ones that are voted on by the public,” Deysach said. “I do work hard to make this the friendliest sex shop with the smartest staff, so when we are recognized for being awesome, it makes me very happy. That said, my biggest thrills still come from customers who tell me how we have changed their lives. I feel like helping people have better sex is still such an incredible joy. [Receiving] an email saying, ‘You helped me have my first orgasm’ is pretty much better than any award I could get.”

For more information about Early to Bed, go to: www.early2bed.com.



Early to Bed. Photo from Searah Deysach

Gay Games Chicago 2006 anniv. celebration July 13

Athletes, artists, volunteers, friends and family are expected to attend the unveiling of a permanent legacy to the 2006 Gay Games (which took place in Chicago) at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., on Saturday, July 13, 1-4 p.m.

Former participants and volunteers are encouraged to wear their Gay Games Chicago uniforms, T-shirts, medals, pins and more to the free event. There will be special giveaways of GGVII merchandise.

Representatives of Cleveland+Akron 2014, the site of the 9th Gay Games, will be on hand to answer questions about that event, scheduled for Aug. 9-14, 2014. Those who register at the event will save money on their registration fees.

"Chicago 2006 was conceived, managed and executed by the largest group of community

organizers and volunteers ever assembled by Chicago's LGBT community—almost 5,000 people in all," said Kevin Boyer, former co-vice chair of Chicago 2006. "From the enthusiastic entry of more than 11,000 athletes at the Soldier Field Opening Ceremony, the full week of camaraderie, to the Closing Ceremony at Wrigley Field with Cyndi Lauper, everyone who was there has a special memory about the 2006 Gay Games."

The special display to be unveiled at the Center on Halsted was designed by David Woody, Director of Design & Development at Chicago's Museum of Science & Industry and a member of the Chicago 2006 Board, with support from Tracy Baim, publisher of Windy City Times and co-vice chair of Chicago 2006. The display contains photos and artifacts from the event.



Brandy Hatcher runs during the Force's win over Cleveland. Photo by Preston Tewell

Force flattens Fusion in playoff opener

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Chicago Force made a bold statement in its playoff opener on Saturday night, June 22, defeating the previously undefeated Cleveland Fusion 65-7 at Lazier Field on the campus of Evanston Township High School.

The Force led 30-0 at halftime and continued the beating in the third and fourth quarters. Cleveland's lone highlight was an 85-yard interception return for a touchdown.

"I felt like we played pretty well and it was a lot of fun," said Chicago safety Elisha Okrey, in her second season on the team. "Everyone on defense had a good game. It was an absolute, 100 percent team effort on defense."

Okrey was named the Defensive Game Day MVP, an award sponsored by Spin Nightclub. She returned a fourth quarter interception 33 yards

for a touchdown, her first career TD.

"I was honored and surprised," with the award, Okrey said. "Every one of my defensive teammates could have won the award."

Mary Choules scored three rushing touchdowns, including the team's first points of the game. Brandy Hatcher had two rushing TDs, including a 6-yard run with :23 remaining to play to cap the scoring.

"We started strong," Hatcher said.

Chicago quarterback Sami Grisafe had three touchdown passes, two to Jeanette Gray, including an 80-yarder early in the second quarter, and one to Ashley Berggren. But Grisafe post-game lamented the interception-for-touchdown she threw in the fourth quarter and other offensive mistakes.

"We didn't play very well offensively," she said. "This is the playoffs and we have to play great throughout the game; we are the only ones keeping us from our destiny. We have to play better; we have to play our best football now. If we do that, no one can contain us. It starts and ends with us."

The Force plays its next playoff game on Saturday, July 13, against Atlanta. Game time is to be determined.



Volleyball at the 2006 Gay Games. Photo by Amy Moseley

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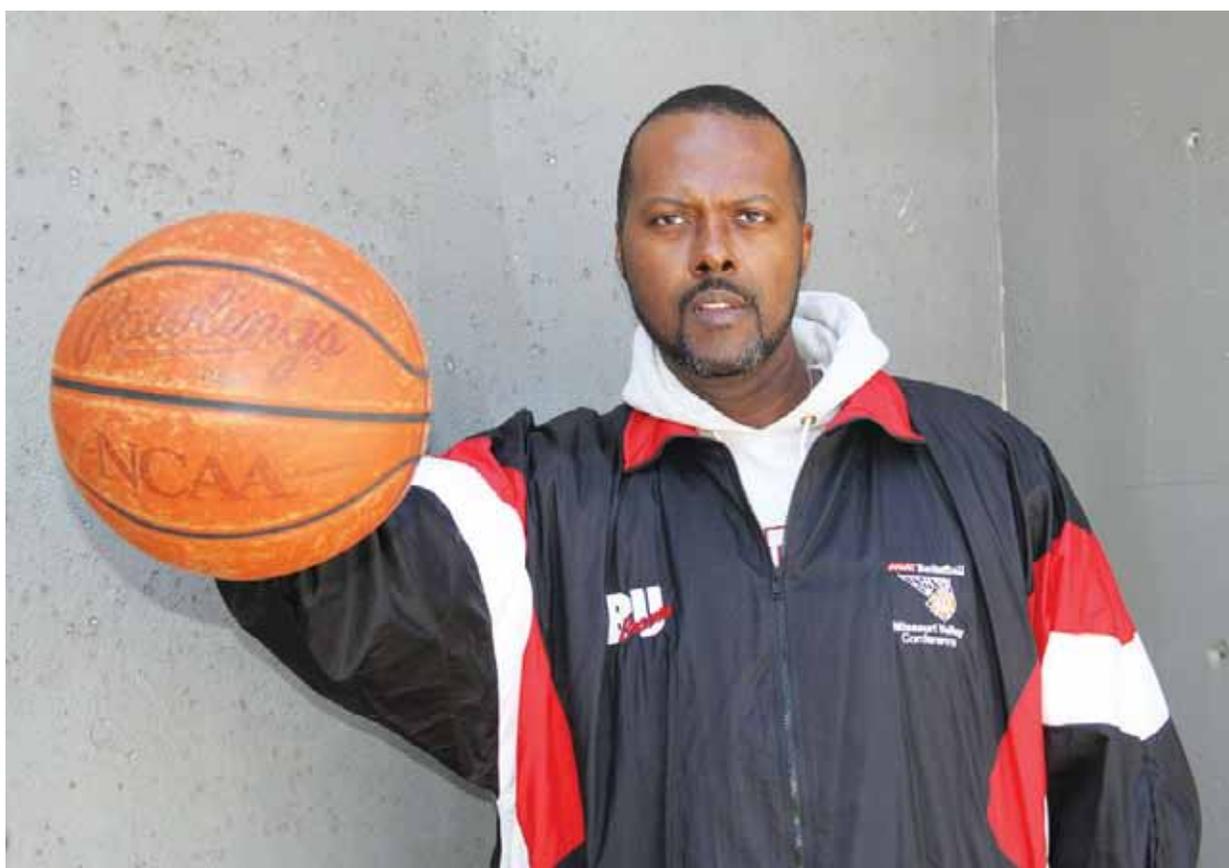
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James Baptist. Photo by Ross Forman

James Baptist: Gay businessman is former Bradley basketball star

BY ROSS FORMAN

James Baptist is an esoteric, self-employed, multifaceted, multi-dimensional, Chicago businessman, best known for his height and hoops.

Baptist, 39, is a South side native now living in Rogers Park who graduated from Whitney Young High School and then Bradley University—starring on the basketball teams at both schools.

He was 5-foot-5 in fourth-grade, reached 6-foot-6 in eighth-grade and stopped growing as a college freshman—at 7-foot-2.

“I was one of those kids who grew very quickly and always was taller than most,” he said.

Born in South Shore, Baptist grew up in Chicago’s Roseland and Beverly neighborhoods. He lived in a single-parent home with his mom as his parents divorced when he was 2. Baptist traveled by public transportation to Whitney Young, where he truly was both parts of the student-athlete tag. Sure, he played four years of varsity basketball, but, Baptist also was a gifted student and member of the school’s prestigious academic decathlon team. He also sang in school, and still prides himself on his singing skills.

“I was more accomplished and known as a student than as a basketball player—until my junior year, when I truly developed my on-the-court skill. Then I really started playing more competitively,” said Baptist, who graduated from high school in 1992 and was among Chicago’s most sought-after high school players.

Bradley was not Baptist’s first choice for college, and he claims, “I could have gone anywhere in the nation, because of my academics and my height.” He even wrote to Georgetown’s longtime coach, John Thompson, hoping to learn and improve within a style of play at Georgetown that often showcased tall players.

That, though, never materialized.

He landed at Bradley after receiving an academic and athletic scholarship. “I didn’t know much about the school or the team; I just knew that the coaches were tenacious and persistent [in recruiting me]. Ultimately it wasn’t the best place for me because they didn’t play the type of basketball that was centered around the big man in the middle. Their game was running, geared to the guards, to the shooters,” not the tall center.

Baptist was a redshirt freshman, then a three-year player at Bradley before graduating in 1996. His college career was alongside Anthony Parker, who went on to an NBA life from 1997-2012; and also Marcus Pollard, who played in the NFL

from 1995-2008, mostly for the Indianapolis Colts.

“We were always coming up a little bit short, especially [against] our big rival, Illinois State University,” said Baptist, who had his greatest collegiate glory as a senior, winning the Missouri Valley Conference championship.

“It was exciting to be a part of the Bradley legacy.”

After leaving college, Baptist returned to the Chicago area and resumed working for Coca-Cola, a company he worked for while in high school. This time, he worked in marketing as a brand manager, promotional and marketing assistant. He traveled throughout the state with a Dodge Ram pickup truck and a large racing car trailer, which contained a gated, collapsible regulation basketball court for promotions.

“It was a fun job, a lot of fun,” said Baptist, who eventually became a sales manager.

Baptist left Coca-Cola after a few years and moved to Donnelly Publishing, working in national advertising sales for about 10 years.

His business career later included a stint with Novartis, and then, in 2005, he was named the director of marketing for In The Paint Hoops which, naturally, was a basketball company. Also in 2005, Baptist started his first company (now dissolved), Hi Frequency Limited, which he called, “a diversity-first, philanthropic, events company that also did sports management, business development and marketing.”

Baptist now works alongside former NBA player Craig Hodges, helping to develop Basketball Schools of America, which works to curb the violence among inner-city youth by reaching and teaching youth the fundamentals of basketball and off-the-court life skills, plus the importance of basic human values.

Coming out

Baptist said he dated girls exclusively while in college, and it wasn’t until after graduating that he went to his first gay bar—Roscoe’s—mostly because he heard it was a dance club, which is what he sought.

That first night at Roscoe’s, Baptist met the man who, for the next six years, would be his boyfriend, though they lived in different cities.

In 1997, his mom asked him if he was gay.

“She noticed that there were individuals who were coming around the house who were flamboyant,” Baptist said. “Being gay ... that’s only a small fragment of who I am. In fact, I don’t signify [or classify] myself as anything, [including openly gay.]”

“My mom accepted me and has always shown me her support,

BAPTIST from page 74

and at times her approval, which is all that matters.”

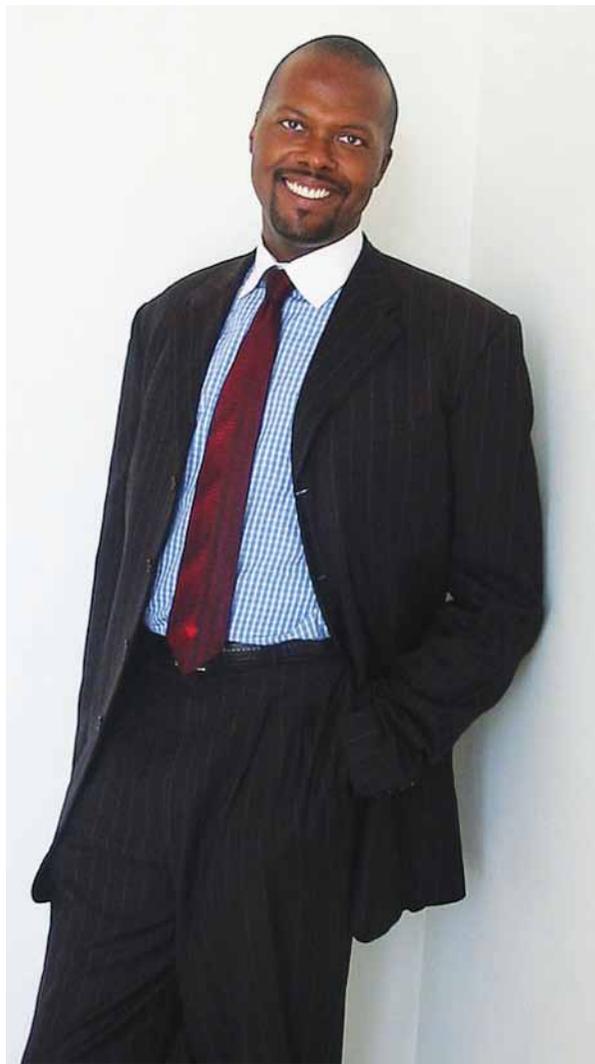
Baptist said he did not hear any anti-gay comments while at Bradley, and added that he doesn't think people will be surprised to learn he is gay, if they didn't know.

“I'm not doing this article because I'm gay; it's an article about my life—and my life is much more than just being a gay man,” Baptist said.

Baptist was involved with organizers of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago. He also has marched in the Chicago Pride Parade multiple times, and played in the city's gay basketball league.

“I'm probably one of the most unique people in Chicago,” Baptist said. “I am a 7-foot-2, African-American of mixed descent, gay, educated, and am a businessman who does a lot of philanthropic work.

“I'm not branded as gay; I don't brand myself as a gay person as I relate and associate on many levels with a multitude of types of people. I'm branded as James, 'Seven, 'Yo Giant' Baptist, a philanthropic business developer. I am a person who commands a presence, with knowledge about multiple topics due to my unique perception of life, making the most of life's opportunities, learning through every experience and developing networking abilities afforded from being a giant with integrity.”



James Baptist. Photo by Ross Forman

More James Baptist:

- Was born Feb. 16, 1974
- Was recruited to play for DePaul University while in eighth-grade, “but I didn't develop my basketball skills until I was in high school.”
- Started driving at age 5 while living in the South, and drove solo by age 9.
- About his dad: “He loved me unconditionally and bragged about me a lot.”
- His uncle, Levi Cobb, was a standout basketball player who played at the University of Illinois in the mid-1970s. “I idolized my uncle and my whole family, because there are so many [family members] who made me who I am today.”
- He worked at the now-closed Cocktail Bar as a security guard in 1997, although he was not out at the time. Baptist later worked security at Sidetrack and Big Chicks as well as downtown bars. He also was a bar host and service manager.
- He is now single and has been for almost two years. “I'm very happy,” he said.
- His latest business venture is, The Giant Painter (www.the-giantpainter.com), which offers commercial and residential interior painting and property maintenance throughout Chicago.

AIDS Run & Walk set for Sept. 28

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) has announced that registration is open for the 2013 AIDS Run & Walk Chicago, which will take place Saturday, Sept. 28, at Soldier Field.

This year's event, produced by AFC and Special Events Management, will raise money and awareness in the fight against HIV/AIDS. There are approximately 46,000 people living with HIV in Illinois.

Event registration is \$30 in advance and \$50 on-site. To register as an individual or as a team, find course routes and more, visit www.aidsrunwalk.org or call 312-334-0946. Online registration ends Sept. 18.

'Diva Dash' Aug. 3 in Sandwich

The SHAPE Diva Dash women-only obstacle run debuts at the Sandwich Fairgrounds in Sandwich, Ill., on Saturday, Aug. 3.

This run is for girls and women 12 and older. It combines a 5K run and a dozen obstacles designed to challenge aspects of overall fitness, including strength, balance and agility. Registration is open at www.DivaDash.com.

MMA controversy

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter Josh Thomson asked on his Facebook page, “Should you be allowed to marry whoever you want? Before you answer that, should u be allowed to have more than 1 wife?,” according to the Huffington Post. What followed was Thomson, among other things, comparing marriage equality to polygamy, pedophilia and incest. Bleacher Report noted that Thomson issued a statement saying, “I am not against gay rights or gay marriage in anyway [sic]. My comments were completely taken out of context by some members of the media and I have since removed them out of respect for anyone who may have been offended. It was not my intention to offend or hurt anyone.”

Proud to Run June 29

The 2013 “Proud to Run” 5/10K race will take place Saturday, June 29, at Montrose Avenue and the lakefront at 8:04 a.m.

More than 2,000 LGBT runners and walkers are expected to take part in this annual event that is part of Chicago's Pride Month celebrating LGBT pride.

Slated highlights include a visit from the Chicago Pride Parade's grand marshal, Wade Davis; entertainment from the Chicago Spirit Brigade; race morning music from Tim Hite; and pre-/post-race stretching with FFC personal trainers.

Proud to Run benefits Test Positive Aware Network, The Night Ministry and Youth Pride this year. Register at www.ProudToRun.org.



Proud to Run 2012. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

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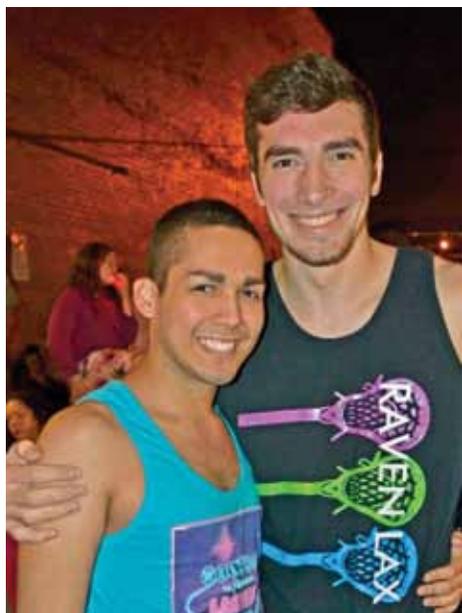
Gay men's college basketball player preps for junior season

BY ROSS FORMAN

At a small college in Atchison, Kan., Jallen Messersmith has made a big impact—nationally, not just on campus at Benedictine College.

Messersmith, 20, who will be junior in the fall, told his basketball coach about a year ago that he's gay. The coach, Ryan Moody, was accepting, as were Messersmith's teammates.

And the story of the openly gay college bas-



Jallen Messersmith (right) and friend. Photo from Messersmith

ketball player became public knowledge in May, first reported by Outsports.com.

Messersmith is believed to be the first openly gay active player in men's college basketball in the United States. His coming-out to the world came on the heels of Jason Collins coming out as the first active NBA player.

"It's been really cool, actually," Messersmith said by phone in mid-June when asked about the responses that he's received, including media coverage in USA TODAY and the Associated Press, among other high-profile mainstream outlets.

"I definitely was not expecting the recognition that I've gotten. I just thought [my coming out would] generate some [local] media coverage, but not as much [nationally] as I've gotten. I just figured it'd be coverage in my [hometown] newspaper in Blue Springs, Kan., maybe the Kansas City Star, too.

"But what I've gotten has been very surprising, and it's been a cool experience to have that happened."

And when he went to this year's Kansas City Pride, Messersmith was a local, homegrown superstar. "It was neat having people come up to me, thanking me for coming out, etc."

Also at Kansas City Pride, he met Alex Roe, 20, and the two are now dating.

Messersmith, who stands 6-foot-7 and was fourth in NAIA in shot blocking this past season as a sophomore, came out to his parents in May, 2012. He told his coach at the beginning of the 2012-13 fall semester, and admits he was "really nervous" to do, not knowing how Moody would



Jallen Messersmith in action. Photo from Messersmith

react.

"He told me that he was really supportive, that it wasn't going to change anything, including my [spot] on the team, etc.," Messersmith said.

Messersmith never formally told his teammates. Instead, when he was back at school at the beginning of his sophomore season, along with his mom, she told the mom of a teammate, Brett Fisher. Fisher's mom then told her son, and from there "people just started finding out about it," Messersmith said. "I didn't make a huge deal of it because I didn't think it was a huge deal.

"I actually didn't tell any [of my teammates] individually; it just kind of came out."

He had no issues about his sexual orientation with any teammates. "They have all been very supportive," he said. "I don't really know what I was expecting when I came out, but [everyone

definitely was hard, and sixth grade was brutal, an everyday [occurrence of bullying.] I couldn't get away from it."

In fact, he was taken out of public school for seventh and eighth grades, and was home-schooled.

As a freshman at Blue Springs High School, the bullying continued a little, he said, though not nearly as bad. "Once I got into basketball, I stopped paying attention, stopped caring what people thought and said. In fact, any negative comments just pushed me to go harder, be the best player I could be," he said.

Their comments were his motivation, and that's still his mantra.

Messersmith said being the first openly gay active men's college player "is a cool thing, but I also wish it didn't have to be; I wish it was just normal, something that happened in everyday life." That said, "if I can help even one person," with what they're going through, it will be even more rewarding.

"I sure hope it's helped someone," he said. Messersmith said he's received hundreds of correspondence since his coming-out story has gone public. Strangers from around the world have reached out via social media, and his email in-box has been flooded.

He tagged the Collins' coming-out as "awesome, another big step, especially since it was in my sport. I definitely could relate to his story."

Messersmith knows the taunts next season might be louder and more intense next season, especially since his story has gone worldwide since the final basket of his sophomore season. "I'm prepared for it, and it will just push me to play better. It's not a big deal," he said. "I've had a ton of support from the school. The support has been awesome."

Benedictine athletic director Charlie Gartenmayer and basketball coach Moody issued a statement on Messersmith's coming-out: "We support Jallen as a Benedictine College student and as a member of the Raven basketball team. Obviously, it would be inappropriate for us to discuss the private lives of students. As an institution we treat students with respect and sensitivity."

Messersmith added, "Times are changing and [being out] is becoming more and more accepted and people are understanding more and more that [gays in sports] is a normal thing."

Messersmith has not done anything within the LGBT community, yet. He is looking at his options, he said.

Off the court, Messersmith is the class treasurer at Benedictine. He enjoys drawing and plays the piano.

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Jallen Messersmith. Photo from Messersmith

on the team] has been 100 percent [supportive], and I'm grateful for how it's gone."

Messersmith feared the worst—because he's endured the taunts, the ridicule, the name-calling, and more. Messersmith admitted he was bullied throughout elementary school. "I was called gay and other anti-gay slurs," he said. "It



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TV star and ex-Mr. USA headed to Chicago for Pride events

BY ROSS FORMAN

His world is sports-filled, so it should have been no surprise to see Michael Holtz on 72 Hours (TNT), the action-adventure docuseries that is part Survivor, part The Amazing Race.

The show's concept is simple: three teams of three strangers are dropped into the wild and have 72 hours to find a briefcase filled with \$100,000. The first team to find it keeps it.

Holtz appeared on the show June 13, although it was filmed last November in New Zealand.

"It was awesome, the experience of a lifetime," Holtz said. "While I thought it would test my limits physically, it was one of the most mental and emotional challenges I have accomplished to date."

Holtz certainly was more than the show's token gay participant.

"I think [being gay] played to my advantage. I think people may have underestimated my abilities and proved to them I was no cupcake," he said.

Actually, Holtz is an accomplished swimmer who also won the Men's Fitness Urbanathon in 2009 in Chicago. The 28-year-old now lives in Los Angeles and is the owner of MKH20 Productions (www.michaelholtz.com).

He will be in Chicago during Pride Week, including a speech at Allstate Insurance for its LGBT Employee Resource Group.

"I love Chicago, but only during the summer," Holtz said, laughing. "I have family [in Chicago,] so I enjoy seeing them and also swimming in [Lake Michigan.] I really enjoyed racing in the Men's Fitness Urbanathon.

"Even though [Chicago's Pride Parade] is big, I



Michael Holtz. Photo from Holtz

feel like there is still a huge sense of community and is not overwhelming at all."

Holtz said he doesn't know yet where he'll be, or exactly what he'll be doing on Pride Sunday. "Maybe [riding on] a float, maybe watching [the parade], who knows," he said. "The whole cast of 72 Hours is in town, so there are lots of possibilities. I love being spontaneous on Pride Sunday."

Holtz is attending Chicago Pride with his boyfriend, Scotty Allen.

"I love immersing people and especially straight friends into a community that they may

not spend much time with," Holtz said. "It's so awesome to share an experience like that with someone who has not attended."

Holtz stays busy these days doing speaking engagements, often about LGBT issues. He is a beach regular who also is training for triathlons and producing various athletic events that raise money and awareness for various LGBT organizations. He is helping produce the 2013 Beach Classic in Santa Monica, which incorporates a 2K open water swim, a 5K beach run and a beach volleyball tournament that raises money for the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center. (For more information, go to: www.beachclassic.org.)

Holtz was Mr. Gay USA 2011, Compete Magazine's Athlete of the Year and first-runner-up Mr. Gay World 2011. Since 2008 as an LGBT activist, he raised more than \$1 million for such charities as Equality California, GLAAD, The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, and Stonewall Community Foundation in New York City, among others.

CMSA adds golf to its roster

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) is going green. Make that, to the greens.

CMSA launched co-ed golf on June 25, to run through Sept. 21, with up to 48 participants.

"Adding a golf league is something that our membership asked us to do," said CMSA board member Mark Sakalares, who will serve as the golf league commissioner. "Additionally, for us to be able to expand the reach of CMSA to athletes out there who may not play any other CMSA sports is always a goal for the board. Another thing is there are many athletes out there who no longer play softball, football, basketball due to age or injury reasons. Golf is a sport that allows them to continue that

"There is nothing more relaxing to me than a round of golf," Sakalares said. "The old saying goes, a bad day on the golf course is better than a good day in the office."

Sakalares said his favorite local golf course is Cog Hill #4 followed by Olympia Fields North. He also praised Aldean Golf Club in Rockford.

And Tiger Woods is his favorite pro. "To maintain the presence he does under the pressure [is something] I find amazing," Sakalares said.

Rental clubs are available at the course for a nominal rental fee, Sakalares confirmed.

"I have been interested in having CMSA put together a golf league for a few years," Sakalares said. "With the recent survey that was completed by a large number of CMSA members, they said they wanted new sports within



Mark Sakalares. Photo from Sakalares

competitive spirit."

Sakalares, 51, said CMSA's golf goal also is to introduce the sport to those who have never played.

"The league is going to run in a very simple format," he said. "We are trying to keep things as basic as we can, at least for the first year. We're trying to not over-think this. Basically, golf can be played on any day of the week, [except] Monday at Sydney Marovitz Golf Course. League golfers must golf with one other member of the league in order to confirm the score. Scores then will be submitted online to the league. We will be playing for a period of 12 weeks and golfers must turn in a score from nine of those weeks that [then] will be computed for a handicap. We'll be taking the high score and low score from scores submitted and then divide by the number of rounds remaining to determine a basic handicap. To conclude the season we will be holding an 18-hole tournament of league participants (two 9-hole rounds) to determine a league champion."

Sakalares, who lives in Rogers Park and works in the insurance industry, also plays basketball and softball. He has been a part of three Coady Roundball National Championships, and a golfer since he was 12 when he played rounds with his mother.

the organization. The CMSA board decided it was time to expand beyond the sports we've had for years to some new opportunities for athletes. With that, we had interest in Ultimate [Frisbee], table tennis and golf. All three of those are now in the works."

Organizers for CMSA's golf league also include Steve Solari, Matt McGary and Siby Easow.

"As with any of the leagues in Chicago, we are always working at ways to keep costs to a minimum for members," Sakalares said. "To that, I am extremely thankful to Roadhouse 66, which has graciously agreed to be the golf league sponsor this year."

The golf registration party was held at Roadhouse 66 on June 1.

The league also is planning on the first-ever CMSA Best Ball Tournament, scheduled for July 27.

"The best thing about this event is that you don't need to be a CMSA member to play. We want to open the event up to friends of CMSA members in the hopes they become as much in love with the game of golf as we are. The only requirement is that there must be one CMSA member per foursome for the best-ball tourney. There also will be longest drive, closest to the pin, and longest putt competitions on that day."

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Chicago Motor Cars hosts goldRush finish

GRV, the fifth annual goldRush Rally, finished its seven-city run from San Francisco to Chicago June 15 at Chicago Motor Cars, located in West Chicago. Chicago Motor Cars, a rally sponsor and specialist retailer of high end luxury cars and

motorcycles, served lunch to participants and offer them a tour of its showroom.

More than 60 cars in the rally finished their runs down North Avenue from St. Louis.



Aston Martin at GRV. Photo by Charles Raymond Samuel



CATA announces executive board

The Chicago Automobile Trade Association (CATA) has recently announced its 2013-2014 executive board.

John Webb, of Packey Webb Ford in Downers Grove, was recently elected to become the 2013-2014 CATA chairman and the 2014 Chicago Auto Show co-chairman. Webb will lead a board of 15 dealers and succeeds Kurt Schiele, who becomes chairman of the 2014 Chicago Auto Show.

Additional board officer announcements include: Colin Wickstrom, Wickstrom Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep and Wickstrom Ford-Lincoln, association vice chairman; Mike McGrath, Jr., McGrath Lexus, McGrath Acura, McGrath Honda and McGrath Hyundai, association treasurer; John Hennessy, River View Ford, association secretary. David Sloan remains the association president and Chicago Auto Show general manager.

Auto news

—**Fiat's move:** Italian automaker Fiat may move its headquarters to the United States after its planned merger with Chrysler Group, according to the L.A. Times. Sergio Marchionne, chief executive of both automakers, has reportedly been laying the groundwork for such a move in his frequent public comments both in the States. and Turin, home of the 114-year-old Italian company.

—**Bad for Google:** Experts warn that when Google's driverless car inevitably crashes, all the good will the company has built up could be lost, USNews.com reported. Missy Cummings, a former fighter pilot turned MIT drone researcher, said, "There's been all this public outcry about [drones], but the Google car has slipped in under the radar. You're more likely to be run over by the Google car far before a [drone] would ever fall on your head."



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VEHICLE REVIEW

2013 Nissan 370Z Roadster touring: Roadster with a 'Z'

BY JEFF STORK, GAYWHEELS.COM

It's hard for me to believe that it's been over 40 years since the first Z car landed on these shores—October 1969, to be precise.

In other words, Nissan had a "Z" before Liza did.

Of course, back then it was the Datsun 240Z, and it was a remarkably nice, powerful, well-balanced little car. Not quite a Corvette, but a lot of fun for a very reasonable \$3601 base price. It quickly became a favorite of young enthusiasts and those planning a midlife crisis.

Time marches on (have you SEEN Liza lately?), and suddenly our midlife crisis cars of yore are old enough to have midlife crises of their own. A lot of sporting cars have come and gone in that time, and those that remain—like Liza herself—have taken on an iconic status. I welcomed the chance to spend a week behind the wheel of the 2013 Nissan 370Z roadster and see how the I

would do with a Z.

The Z car is now in its sixth generation, and its second since returning to the US as the 350Z. It was absent from the North American market from 1997-2003. The roadster made its debut a year later in 2004.

The revised 370Z bowed for the 2009 model year, and the roadster again followed a year later for 2010. The 2013 model has a fresh front fascia with vertical running lights somewhat reminiscent of Vampir, revised shock,s and new 19" wheels and red calipers for the optional Sport package (which I had.) My test car was a Touring which was loaded with goodies—so many that the base price of \$41,170, plus Touring package (\$3000), Sport package (\$2830), Navigation package(\$2150), floor mats (\$125) and destination (\$780) added up to \$50,055.

It's powered by the Nissan 3.7 liter V6 in 337 hp trim (VQ37VHR), which was mated to a six-speed manual transmission in my tester. I'll admit that this particular engine is one of



2013 Nissan 370Z roadster. Photo courtesy of Gaywheels.com

my favorites, with a wide band of torque and a 7,000+ RPM redline, and it pairs beautifully with the six-speed stick.

If only everything else paired so well. The exterior styling has transcended time well—it's instantly recognizable as a contemporary Z car—but the interior is not as harmonious. Open the door and the first thing that catches your eye are the instruments: two big dials in front of the driver and a row of three instruments to the right, canted at the same angle as the old 240Z. It's a whimsical historical reference harkening back to the 240Z days. Immediately beneath the three gauges is the touch screen for navigation and audio. It's the same high quality interface that is found in other members of the Nissan family, and is easy to use.

The dash itself is covered in a pebble grain that looks like it came from the Sentra, the door panels are covered in a handsome black suede and the seat inserts were a gray Gore-Tex material with a nylon netting and grey leather bolsters. Don't these folks talk to each other? Expensive materials come off looking like a sampler platter of interior design elements. Nissan puts some very handsome interiors in some of their offerings, and they could stand to spend some time putting the 370Z interior in line with its list price.

The convertible top is nicely done. I'm personally glad that Nissan resisted the hard top fad, opting instead for a fully lined soft top. It operates at the touch of a button, acceptably quiet in the cabin when raised, and just more appropriate for a sports car than a hard top.

Once lowered, the cockpit is delightfully quiet and free from the usual wind buffeting thanks to the windbreak between the headrests.

The Z car has always been renowned for its spirited driving characteristics, and happily that reputation is still earned. This is a touring car, but with the sport package, the car sticks like glue on corners and has a remarkably comfortable ride to boot. The heart of the car is the marvelous 3.7-liter engine, which purrs like a kitten at idle and wails like a banshee when you stomp on it, and runs through the gears joyously. It has the usual delightful light clutch and crisp linkage that one has come to expect from Nissan, so there's no shortage of driving entertainment. And as an added surprise, it's EPA rated at 17 city/24 highway, but my highway drive segment returned 26 mpg, which was quite welcome indeed.

I came away from it all liking the 370Z better than I had expected to. Yes, I think there are some interior issues that don't befit a car in this price class, but it's really quite a charmer overall and the combination of ride, handling, and that nearer-to-heaven 3.7 liter engine really overcome a lot of little doubts. With a base price about \$14,000 less than a Corvette and \$21,000 less than a Boxster S, one can quickly conclude that there are worse ways to spend a mid-life crisis, and the Z will certainly allow you to Ring Them Bells.

Besides, like Liza, it's an icon.

See more about vehicles at www.Gaywheels.com.



2013 Nissan 370Z roadster. Photo courtesy of Gaywheels.com

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SAT., SEPT. 7, 2013, 11AM-1PM
JOHN D'EMILIO

No Race-Baiting, Red-Baiting, or Queer-Baiting: The Marine Cooks and Stewards Union from Depression to Cold War

John D'Emilio teaches at the University of Illinois Chicago. A pioneer in the field of the history of sexuality, he has written or edited more than half a dozen books, including a history of pre-Stonewall activism and a biography of Bayard Rustin. A former Board chair of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, he was the founding director of its Policy Institute. In the 1930s, the Marine Cooks and Stewards Union became a multi-racial, left-wing, and queer-friendly labor union. How was this possible? What happened to the union? And why has this history not come down to us? Based on the research of Allan Berube, who was working on a history of the MCSU when he passed away unexpectedly in 2007, this talk with visuals will attempt to recreate this little known and inspiring episode in radical queer history.



SAT., OCT 12, 2013, 11AM-1PM
E. PATRICK JOHNSON

**Gathering Honey:
Oral Histories of Black Southern Women
Who Love Women**

E. Patrick Johnson is the Carlos Montezuma Professor in the Department of Performance Studies and African American Studies, Northwestern University. As a follow-up to Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South—An Oral History, E. Patrick Johnson has begun working on a new oral history on black lesbians of the South, tentatively entitled, Honey: Black Southern Women Who Love Women—An Oral History. In his presentation, Johnson will discuss the challenges to conducting oral histories of black same-gender-loving women based not only on gender differences between his subjects and himself, but also the content of their stories. In addition, Johnson will share some of the women's stories through performance.



SUN., NOV. 3, 2013, 1PM-3PM
GOLDIE GOLDBLOOM

**Working For Queer Acceptance:
Finding Love Amongst the Religious Right**

Goldie Goldbloom is a writer, a professor, a mother of 8, a trans mentor and a queer activist. Goldbloom's award winning fiction has been published internationally. Her novel, The Paperbark Shoe, won the AWP Novel Award and was the Independent Publishers Literary Novel of the Year. She is a professor of creative writing at Northwestern University, and the mother of eight children. Goldie was a contributor to the groundbreaking anthology Keep Your Wives Away From Them: Orthodox Women, Unorthodox Desires, and continues to work as an activist in the Orthodox Jewish community for queer inclusion. She is a mentor for transgender youth.



SAT., DEC. 7, 2013, 11AM-1PM
OWEN DANIEL-MCCARTER

Constitutional Law as it Applies to Transgender Prisoners

Owen Daniel-McCarter is a transgender activist and attorney. He is co-founder and collective member of the Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois which provides free, holistic, and gender-affirming legal advocacy to criminalized transgender and gender non-conforming people in Chicago and throughout Illinois prisons.



SAT., JAN. 4, 2014, 11AM-1PM
HYACINTH PIEL

Ethical Problems in Gender Identity Construction

Hyacinth Piel is a graduate student in philosophy at UIC. Ze lives in Edgewater with hir corgi, Poggibonsi. This lecture begins with the idea that as people who seek to lead good and authentic lives, we are repeatedly confronted with profound and difficult questions about how best to develop, identify, and express our genders.

Although our genders are uniquely our own existential projects, they are never only that: the way we live our genders is bound to affect others too, and since our existing gender templates are deeply influenced by the oppressive gender hierarchy from which they are drawn, it looks like the building blocks we must use to develop genders in which we can be free may also tend to threaten the freedom and well-being of those around us.



SAT., FEB. 1, 2014, 11AM-1PM
BETH RICHIE

**Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence
and America's Prison Nation**

Beth E. Richie, PhD is an anti-violence activist and author working in several social justice movements. She is a Professor and Director of the Institute For Research on Race and Public Policy at UIC. This lecture will focus on the ways that the prison industrial complex has served to exacerbate violence against Black women. The emphasis will be on intimate partner abuse as well as systematic violence and the role that race, class, gender, sexuality and other markers of social disadvantage put people in the path of the punishment industry. It will include the redemptive possibility of prison abolition as philosophical and practical solution.



SAT., MARCH 1, 2014, 11AM-1PM
LOURDES TORRES

**Making Familia from Scratch:
Towards a History of Latina Lesbian
Organizing in Chicago**

Lourdes Torres is Professor of Latin American and Latino Studies at DePaul University. Since the scholarship that exists on lesbian organizing in the Midwest neglects to engage with the history of Latina lesbian organizing, this project constitutes an effort to name Latina lesbians as agents of change and active subjects of a multiracial history of grassroots organizing. Torres writes: "I explore the history of two organizations in Chicago—Amigas Latinas and LLENA. I discuss the efforts of the organizations to create Latina lesbian visibility in both the 'Latino' and 'lesbian' social and political cultures of Chicago, and their successful and unsuccessful efforts to negotiate divergent national and ethnic histories, class and linguistic differences, and the diverse political stances of their membership."



SAT., APRIL 5, 2014, 11AM-1PM
ANNE BALAY

Steel Closets: Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Steelworkers

Anne Balay is a scholar who has published work on fantasy fiction, children's time travel, and queer pedagogy. She lives in Gary, Indiana. Balay will summarize and discuss her new book, Steel Closets, which explores how sexuality and gender overlap in the sprawling steel mills of Northwest Indiana. Drawing from extensive, detailed oral histories taken of a previously silent and invisible population, it investigates how gay, lesbian, and transgender steelworkers interact with their co-workers, communities and families in the context of their physically demanding, risky work. It explains how and why basic steel mills are inhospitable, even dangerous to queers, and demonstrate that we can't understand what it means to be GLBT without including working-class, blue-collar voices and stories.



SAT., MAY 3, 2014, 11AM-1PM
TIMOTHY STEWART-WINTER

From Civil Rights to Gay Rights in Chicago

Timothy Stewart-Winter is an Assistant Professor of History at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey. This talk is based on Stewart-Winter's forthcoming book on the rise of gay politics in Chicago since the 1950s. The talk will examine trace how black insurgency paved the way for Midwestern gay activists to challenge police brutality and job discrimination, and how the gay movement's priorities shifted during a long struggle for a political voice in one of the nation's most segregated big cities.

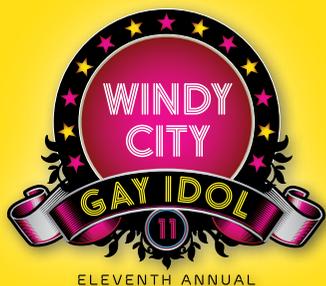
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JASON
Mary's Attic

1

Age
24

Relationship Status
Single ... and in LOVE with it!

Your Gay Idol?

Lady GaGa: She donates so much of her time and celebrity to helping the gay community.

Life's soundtrack?

"Desperado" by The Eagles would definitely be on [the list].

Why should you be the next Gay Idol?

Music and performing are my life, and through my art I really want to better the world and inspire people to make positive changes.



JENNIFER
The Sofu Tap

2

Age
29

Relationship Status
7 years taken.

Your Gay Idol?

I idolize my two friends who just got married after being together for 14 years! Congrats, Heather and Tara.

Life's soundtrack?

"People Like Us" by Kelly Clarkson. It explains itself.

Why should you be the next Gay Idol?

I have the drive and talent to be a wicked awesome singer, plus I'd be a great representation of the femme ladies!



JULIO
The Call

3

Age
30

Relationship Status
Smitten and attached.

Your Gay Idol?

Judy Garland: She gave me my vibrato and strut.

Life's soundtrack?

Something written by Puccini. Wait, too tragic ... how about "Part Of Your World"? I love serving up fish realness.

Why should you be the next Gay Idol?

Because I have the charisma, uniqueness ... uh, I mean, I can sing good?



TIMMY
Crew

4

Age
23

Relationship Status
Happily taken,

hopelessly devoted, totally gay for Jonathan.

Life's soundtrack?

"Tomorrow" from Annie. It's basically my life: ginger; optimist; a singing, dancing little girl.

Why should you be the next Gay Idol?

"Gay Idol," what a tremendous title! I could only hope to achieve this title and represent our community well!



DAVID
Jackhammer

5

Age
27

Relationship Status
Taken.

Your Gay Idol?

Harvey Milk: The amount of courage it took to take a stand and become visible is inspiring.

Life's soundtrack?

"Don't Panic" by Coldplay.

Why should you be the next Gay Idol?

I've always loved singing and getting others to sing. If I can make people happy through singing that's good enough for me.



JD
The Sofu Tap

6

Age
34

Relationship Status
Taking applications.

Your Gay Idol?

All the men and women who came before me paving the way for me to be able to just walk down the street holding my partner's hand and not feel ashamed.

Life's soundtrack?

"No Drama" by Mary J. Blige.

Why should you be the next Gay Idol?

I have the talent and personality for what it takes.



MATTHEW
Jackhammer

7

Age
25

Relationship Status
Single.

Your Gay Idol?

Ellen DeGeneres

Life's soundtrack?

The Muppet Show theme song.

Why should you be the next Gay Idol?

Because I work hard, I learn from my mistakes, and I never forget what's really important to me.



JAMES
Joie De Vine

8

Age
29

Relationship Status
Married.

Your Gay Idol?

My husband, Dustin, for always supporting my choices, and making me feel like a rock star every single day!

Life's soundtrack?

"That's Life" by Frank Sinatra, etc.

Why should you be the next Gay Idol?

With it being my sixth year in a row as a finalist, I like to call myself the Susan Lucci of Gay Idol. It's time for me to win my Emmy!



RYAN
DS Tequila Co.

9

Age
28

Relationship Status
Single.

Your Gay Idol?

Does margaret cho count?

She works double for me: Gay idol and Asian idol.

Life's soundtrack?

"Hoppipola" by Sigur Rós: Just because you can't understand something does not mean it is any less powerful!

Why should you be the next Gay Idol?

Performing has always been a dream of mine and any opportunity to do so is a gift.



JONATHAN
Crew

10

Age
24

Relationship Status
Totally committed to and with the one and only "Timmy Willy" :)

Your Gay Idol?

Quite honestly, probably Ian McKellen, moreso to do with Shakespeare than Gandalf.

Life's soundtrack?

Probably "That's Life": I've done so many different things up to this point that it just fits.

Why should you be the next Gay Idol?

I plan to become the next Sinatra and this is the best place to start!



MARIA
DS Tequila Co.

11

Age
26

Relationship Status
Single.

Your Gay Idol?

Beth Ditto for strength in living unapologetically and Ellen for keeping a positive attitude in the face of hate.

Life's soundtrack?

"Move In the Right Direction" by The Gossip.

Why should you be the next Gay Idol?

I'd bring some diversity to the title, along with powerful pipes that don't quit. I'm a bundled up package of fat, fabulous fierceness.



NICK
Mary's Attic

12

Age
32

Relationship Status
In a relationship.

Your Gay Idol?

Tough choice, but I must say Freddie Mercury for being the amazing rock front man he was.

Life's soundtrack?

"In My Life" by The Beatles.

Why should you be the next Gay Idol?

I want to represent the gay rockers of Chicago!

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WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES



Poutine at Little Market.
PR photo



Little Market

BY MEGHAN STREIT

Tavernita Chef Ryan Poli has partnered up with Mercadito Hospitality to open a second restaurant. **Little Market American Brasserie** opened earlier this year in the Gold Coast.

Little Market occupies a handsome space on Delaware Place. Quaint subway tiles and a pretty front patio space lend some charm. And, the menu beckons with some interesting offerings like poutine and cocktails that are mixed with craft sodas like apple lavender and orange hibiscus mint. That's why it takes a few minutes to realize that Little Market is, in fact, a hotel restaurant located on the ground floor of the Talbott Hotel. Being affiliated with a hotel isn't a culinary crime in and of itself. To be sure, in a world-class city like ours, there are several hotels with top-notch restaurants. The Blackstone Hotel's Mercat a la Planxa and Hotel Palomar's Sable both come to mind.

Unfortunately, Little Market doesn't transcend hotel restaurant status. For one thing, the menu, which seems interesting at first glance, quickly emerges as more confused than quirky. Hotel restaurant staples like chicken Caesar salad and shrimp cocktail seem out of place among more inventive dishes like grilled asparagus with quinoa, almonds and kale chips or ricotta ravioli with English peas, mint and house-made bacon.

I resolved to simply ignore the standard-issue hotel fare and opted instead to try a few of the more creative dishes. I was excited for the poutine, but beyond disappointed when I was presented with a crock of underdone French fries covered in watery gravy, with only a precious few bits of short rib. Worst of all, there were no cheese curds to be found. The dish was drizzled with what appeared to be a cheese sauce of sorts, but not a curd in sight. Look, if you're out of cheese curds, just tell me so I can make another selection.



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Moving on, I sampled the mac and cheese. Like the French fries, the pasta was underdone, and while the Gruyere cheese sauce tasted good, there wasn't nearly enough of it. One high note among the starters was the house-made pull-apart bread. It comes to your table piping hot in a tiny bread pan and is served with delicious herbed honey butter. The bread was so good, it might lure me back to Little Market, for a quick snack and a glass of wine.

In addition to the small shared plates, there are also a handful of larger dishes also meant for sharing. I tried the halibut. The fish was nicely cooked, tender and flaky. It was served on a bed of sweet corn, fava beans, bacon and potato. The flavors in the corn mixture were interesting and each item was tasty each in its own right, but they didn't come together in the right way, making the halibut seem as confused as the rest of the food at the restaurant.

Everything I ate at Little Market was fine, but nothing more (except for that pull-apart bread). If Little Market was a hotel restaurant in the middle of nowhere, I probably would have been delighted and found the food far above average. But, it takes more to dazzle Chicago diners, who are admittedly spoiled by all of the truly spectacular food to be found in this town.

Little Market is located at 10 E. Delaware Pl.; call 312-640-8141 or visit www.little-marketbrasserie.com.

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More photos from Chicago Pride Fest. Photos by Ed Negrón. Many more online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



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Wed., June 26

Howard Brown's Under 35 Health Drop In

Night Are you a woman or transgender person under the age of 35 and have no insurance? Stop by our drop-in night for a FREE pap test and breast/chest exam, counseling intake session, HIV/STI testing, and health and wellness information! 5pm-8pm, Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N Sheridan Rd, Chicago, <http://www.howardbrown.org>

11th Annual Windy City Gay Idol finals

Levi Kreis joins the judges as Windy City Gay Idol concludes the 2013 search for the top amateur GLBT singers in the Chicago area. 6pm doors, 7pm start. 6pm, Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., Chicago, <http://gopride.com/z81w> more information

Book Study: Homosexuality & the Bible

"Homosexuality & the Bible" a four-part series led by Pastor Rachelle Brown of aChurch4Me, MCC on Wednesdays in June. 7pm, United Church of Rogers Park UMC, 1545 W. Morse Ave., <http://www.achurch4me.org>

Can't Hold Us: the 2nd Story Pride Party

The night will feature our signature blend of words and sound, with three stories from the LGBT community about moments that made us want to explode. 7pm-10pm, Strawdog Theatre Company, 3829 N Broadway, <http://2ndstory.com/events/cant-hold-us-the-2nd-story-pride-party>

Men at Sea cocktail cruise

Lakefront cruise will show off the best views of the downtown skyline with the sun setting behind, including Navy Pier's fireworks show. Expansive hors d'oeuvres buffet options and fabulous views from the water. Boarding

'BOYS' TOWN Monday, July 1

Keith Boykin will be among those speaking on the book **For Colored Boys...** at Carter Woodson Regional Library, 9525 S. Halsted St.

Photo by Matthew C. Clark



at 6:30pm. \$34. 7pm-10pm, Navy Pier, 600 E Illinois St., <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/403951>

Thursday, June 27

30 Under 30 Windy City Times each year recognizes 30 outstanding LGBT individuals and allies under the age of 30. Windy City Times, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Center on Halsted and Chicago House sponsor the event. 5:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., <http://gopride.com/z833>

Chicago GL Chamber of Commerce State of LGBT Consumer Report Presenting the contents of the State of the LGBT Consumer Report which was published by Nielsen in January 2013. Free but RSVP is required to Omar.Marrero@nielsen.com; 5:30pm-7pm, Nielsen 200 W Jackson Blvd, 13th Floor

Back Lot Bash 2013 Comedy Kickoff Back Lot Bash is the hottest, most rockin' and most attended outdoor women's festival taking place every Pride Weekend in Chi-

cago. Each day showcases a different mix of music and entertainment for the entire community. Featuring comedians Julie Goldman, Sandra Valls, and Brandy Howard. Hosted by Gwen La Roka. 6pm-10pm, Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., <http://www.backlotbashchicago.com/schedule/>; Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/380940>

Howard Brown's LGBTQ Women's Book Club Join Howard Brown Health Center for a free women's monthly book club that welcomes all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQ) women and our allies interested in thought-provoking discussion. Snacks will be provided! 6pm-8pm, Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N Sheridan Rd, <http://www.howardbrown.org>

Music with Pride: A Tribute to Gay Composers honors LGBT composers, benefits AFC Young and talented local musicians honor classical and contemporary LGBT composers including \$10 suggested donation at the door to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and the Team to End AIDS endurance training program. 7pm, Lake View Presbyterian Church, www.musicwithpride.splashthat.com

Immigration Discussion with Sonia Nazario Pulitzer prize-winning journalist and immigration activist Sonia Nazario will share the odyssey of a Honduran boy who rode atop trains from Mexico in search of his mother in the U.S. as part of her discussion on immigration laws and children's struggles to assimilate in America's classrooms. 6pm-8pm, 212-843-8096, DePaul University's Lincoln Park Campus, Cortelyou Commons, <http://depaulne.ws/nazario>

Friday, June 28

Back Lot Bash 2013 Sunset Concert Back Lot Bash is the hottest, most rockin' and most attended outdoor women's festival taking place every Pride Weekend in Chicago. Tonight's acoustic sunset concert features Melissa Ferrick with Edie Carey, Jen Foster & Martha Berner; 5pm-11:30pm, 5238 N. Clark Street, <http://www.backlotbashchicago.com/schedule/>; Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/380940>

Center on Halsted's Pride & Joy Kick Off The Center on Halsted hosts a Pride Dance Party on their fabulous rooftop deck overlooking the Chicago skyline. Join community members and allies in celebration of the advancement of the LGBTQ movement. Featuring DJ Marc "Moose" Moder and host, Cyon Flare. \$20 admission; 5:30pm-9:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., [https://community.centeronhal-](https://community.centeronhalsted.org/)

[sted.org/prideandjoykickoff](http://www.sted.org/prideandjoykickoff)

PRIDE Shabbat honoring LGBT Leaders and Affiliat 5:45pm Wine & Cheese, 6:15pm Service. Religious and social leaders from around the city will be thanked for their support of the LGBT community. 5:45pm-7:30pm, 773-5254707, Temple Shalom of Chicago, 3480 N. Lake Shore Dr., <http://www.sholomchicago.org>

Mahal Bailiwick presents a world premier, one of the first plays about a Filipino American family, with themes of cultural identity, assimilation, homophobia, interracial and inter-generational relationships. Through Aug. 2. 8pm, Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont, Chicago, <http://www.stage773.com> more information

Bachman & Turner Overdrive Two giants of rock n' roll, reunite as the legendary duo, Bachman and Turner. 8pm-11pm, 630-962-7000, Arcadia Theatre, 105 E. Main St., Saint Charles, <http://www.oshows.com>; Tickets: <http://www.oshows.com>

30 Queer Plays in 60 Straight Minutes The Neo-Futurists annual Pride Weekend benefit: 30 Queer Plays in 60 Straight Minutes, a special edition of Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind: 30 Plays in 60 Minutes that pulls favorite queer-sexuality and gender bending themed plays from the past year to benefit UCAN's LGBTQ Host Home Program. \$9 + the roll of the die. Advance tickets \$20 with a roll-back refund at the door. 11:30pm, 773-275-5255, The Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N Ashland Ave., <http://www.neofuturists.org>

Saturday, June 29

Randolph Street Market: Pride Party and Modern Vintage Chicago Celebration of fashion, home design, antiques, artwork, music, food. Discounted \$8 tickets are available in advance online; general \$10, students \$3 or \$5 at gate. Children under 12 free. Through June 30. Free parking onsite. 10am-5pm, Beaux Arts Plumber's Hall, 1340 W. Washington St., Chicago, <http://www.randolphstreetmarket.com/randolphstreetmarket/index.html>

Chicago Pride Zumbathon Hosted by Cyon Flare. Fundraiser for Air Necessities, a non-profit providing air conditioners to those most vulnerable to extreme heat. \$25 for two solid hours of Zumba with Zach, Tyler, Kym and Christine, plus raffles and prizes. Registration opens at 10:45am. 773-512-9804, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., <http://www.cyonflare.com>; Tickets: <http://chicagozumbathon.eventbrite.com>

Melissa Etheridge Lesbian rocker is joined by Joan Osborne, Paula Cole and Jessie Payo. Reserved \$100/\$90. Lawn \$38. 6:30pm, Ravinia Festival, Highland Park, <http://www.ravinia.org/viewdate.aspx?show=571>

Back Lot Bash 2013 Uh Huh Her, Melissa Ferrick, Whitney Mixer and more. The hottest, most rockin' and most attended outdoor women's party taking place ALL Pride Weekend in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood. 6pm-10pm, 5238 N. Clark St., behind cheetah gym, Chicago, <http://www.backlotbashchicago.com>

Sunday, June 30

Pride North Celebrating Pride up in Rogers Park. Just off the Morse Red Line stop. Music by DJ Foxfonix, Voxbox, The Byrne Twins, and Herrbear. Sixteen Candles performs at 6pm Plus, artist Mark Ortega. Free to the public; 21 and over. Plus, stop in to Sidecar, The Glenwood and morseL during the festival. Glenwood Ave. between Lunt and Farwell. 9am-9pm, Glenwood Ave. between Lunt and Farwell

Chicago's 44th Annual Gay Pride Parade Steps off at noon in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood, from the Montrose/Broadway corner, proceeding south on Broadway; then south on Halsted; then east on Belmont; then south on Broadway; then east on Diversey to Cannon Drive. The staging area: Montrose (from Broadway to Clark) and Broadway (from Mon-



VITAL IDOL

Wed., June 26

The Windy City Gay Idol finals will take place at Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave.

Photo by Windy City Gay Idol 2102 by Dave Ouano

trose to Wilson). Info: Richard Pfeiffer, PrideChgo@aol.com or by phone. 12pm-4pm, 773-348-8243, Montrose/Broadway, <http://www.chicagopridecalendar.org>

Back Lot Bash 2013 Hosts Caitlin Bergh and Ever Mainard welcome Gina Glocksen Band; DJ All The Way Kay; J. Worra; and Uh Huh Her Exclusive DJ set. \$10 Door; 3pm, 5238 N. Clark St., <http://www.backlotbashchicago.com/schedule/>; Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/380940>

Monday, July 1

Keith Boykin, Tim'm West and L. Michael Gipson Boykin, editor of For Colored Boys Who Have Considered Suicide when the Rainbow is Still Not Enough, will be joined by two of the book's contributors. The event is free. 6:30pm, Carter Woodson Regional Library, 9525 S. Halsted St.

Alice Walker Reading from her two new books, "The Cushion in the Road" and "The World Will Follow Joy." This is a ticketed event. Either one of her two new books, purchased from Women and Children First bookstore, comes with a free ticket. Please note new location for the event. 7:30pm, First Free Church, 5255 N. Ashland, <http://www.womenandchildren-first.com/event>

Metropolitan Community Churches General Conference 2013 25th General Conference. MCCers from around the globe will come together to worship, celebrate God's all-inclusive love, experience the diversity that makes MCC unique. Through July 5. 9am, Fairmont Chicago, 200 N Columbus Dr., <http://believe.mcccchurch.org/>

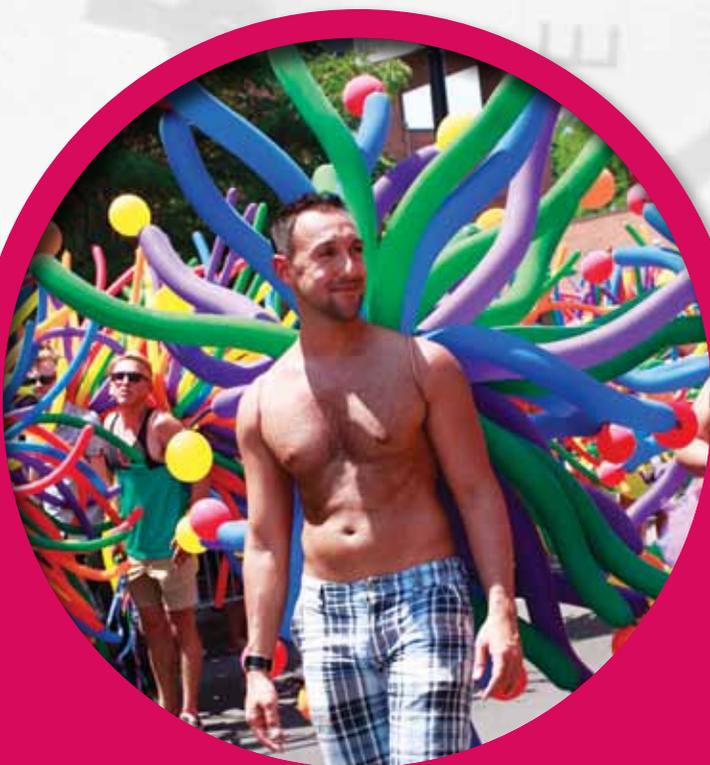
Transfigurations: Transcending Gender in the Bible In this one-person play, theatrical performance activist Peterson Toscano unearths transgender bible characters who in transgressing and transcending gender, find themselves at the center of some of the Bible's most important stories. 7pm, 773-472-6469, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.themarinfoundation.org

Tuesday, July 2

Black LGBTs host 'Black Alphabet Film Festival' Two-day Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) and same-gender-loving film festival, shorts and features from around the world. Affinity, Center on Halsted (COH), Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus (CBGMC), and United Black Pride. 5:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St. (and July 3 at Inn of Chicago, 162 E. Ohio St., 6-9:30 p.m.); <http://blackalphabet.org/2013-film-festival/film-schedule/>

Wed., July 3

Jill Sobule and Julia Sweeney Blending laughs with music. Doors 6pm. 8pm, City Winery, 1200 W Randolph St., <http://www.citywinery.com>



COLORFUL SITUATION

Sunday, June 30

The 44th Annual Gay Pride Parade will start at noon in Uptown and wind through Boystown.

Photo from last year's parade by Dave Ouano

BILLY MASTERS

"I wish I were 25 years younger. But I don't think I would be his 'type'—if you know what I mean."—Greg Louganis answers a reporter's question about which "Splash" contestant wore their swimsuit well. His answer, not surprisingly, was Drake Bell. Well, you didn't think he was going to choose Nicole Eggert, did you?

I knew that summer was upon us when I received an email saying Panda Express was giving away orange chicken to celebrate the summer solstice. Obviously, it was time to shut down the beach house in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and head to the beach house in Provincetown, Mass.—but not before taking in a performance of Well-String at the Colony Theatre in South Beach. I was an immediate fan of this string quartet after their sold-out run in Provincetown. Seeing the last vestiges of that show along with a tantalizing glimpse of their new one, I was reminded of what initially attracted me. It wasn't the guys' good looks, the witty banter or the sexual overtones (or undertones). It's actually very simple—they're genuinely good musicians. Chamber music is one of those rare things you can't fake—either you've got it, or you ain't. Check out Well-String this summer at the Ptown Art House (PTownArtHouse.com).

A pair of sexy French swimmers are taking part in an anti-homophobia campaign. Florent Manaudou (Olympic gold medalist) and Frédéric Bousquet (world record holder) posed as a hunky gay couple getting amorous in a shower for photographer Olivier Ciappa's Facebook page. The photo is titled "les couples imaginaires" or, for those of you lacking a foreign tongue, "imaginary couples." Here is Ciappa's description: "You're with the person you love. Not a man. Not a woman. Then, at the session, I disappear. For they are one with each other." I presume he said

this in French. It sounds very Truffaut—or at least should have included some umbrellas. As it happens, the two lads do have a relationship—Frédéric is dating Florent's sister, and they have a daughter. How fantastique for someone with two accents in his name to be straight! C'est la vie.

Legendary diver Greg Louganis has announced his engagement. The four-time Olympian is engaged to Johnny Chaillot, who is a paralegal. They've been together about a year and a half, and plan to wed in the fall—presumably in a state where gay marriage is legal. When it was noted that they look strikingly similar, Greg said, "The more I fall in love with Johnny, the more I fall in love with myself." I bet that sounded a whole lot better in French, too!

I recently had a fascinating encounter with Wilson Cruz. Actually, we had two encounters. The first one took place on a busy street miles away from West Hollywood, when Wilson recognized me from his cab en route from LAX. However, the fascinating one was when we got to catch up in the flesh at LA Pride. While we were talking, a young-ish actor wanted to thank Wilson for giving him a career. Back when this guy was a mere child, he saw Cruz on My So-Called Life playing TV's first gay teen. It gave him hope that he could not only have a career as an actor, but could also be an openly gay actor. Later, Wilson told me that he's heard many similar tales from people around the country during his work as the strategic giving officer for GLAAD. This got me thinking—with the resignation of Herndon Graddick as president of GLAAD, why not install someone who can not only talk the talk but has actually walked the walk? I'd certainly get behind Wilson—of course, I'd have to get in line!



Billy's apparently GLAAD to know Wilson Cruz. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

I'm sure that Neil Patrick Harris has inspired oodles of people with his high-profile acting and hosting gigs. Once *How I Met Your Mother* wraps up next season, he'll be back on Broadway, and his vehicle is both old and new. He'll be playing the transgender rocker in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. Although John Cameron Mitchell's musical was a phenomenon off-Broadway, on the road and, as a film, it never played Broadway ... until now. It's not as much of a stretch for NPH as you may think. After all, he was one of the replacements for Alan Cumming in *Cabaret* on Broadway

in 2003. And this was opposite the formidable Sally Bowles of Deborah Gibson.

Our "Ask Billy" question is from Patrick in Rochester: "I just came back from London and saw the most gorgeous guy in an ad for laundry detergent. What do you know about soccer player Matt Jarvis? GOD—what a hottie!"

Matt Jarvis is a footballer—soccer, to us Yanks. The 27-year-old is as notable for his athletic skill as he is for his physical beauty and hunky physique. He's been a huge (and I do mean huge) advocate for gay rights, specifically in regard to professional sports. You probably saw a spoof of an ad he did for the UK's leading gay publication, *Attitude*. He said the following when he was asked to be on their cover: "I sat down with my wife, Sarah, and had a look and saw what it was about and came to a decision that it would be a really good thing to be a part of. ... I've never had a gay teammate but that doesn't mean there aren't gay footballers. In any other line of work, no one would even bat an eyelid or think to ask someone if they're gay. It's because it's football." They might bat an eyelid at his photo, where his clearly delineated member points due east on BillyMasters.com.

When we can begin and end with hot guys who are both well-strung and well-hung, it's definitely time to end yet another column. While I'm thrilled to be heading back to Boston and Provincetown, one thing makes me miss LA—the fact that Charles Busch and members of the original cast of "The Divine Sister" will be at LA Theatre Works to record their uproarious portrayals July 11-14. Thank God their performance will be immortalized for all posterity at LATW.org. Of course, every breath I've ever uttered can be found on www.BillyMasters.com, the site that has no delusions of grandeur. If you need my immediate assistance (and why wouldn't you), drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Louganis and his beau pose for that French photographer ... or a mirror! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Chicagoan creates gay sports online network

BY ROSS FORMAN

Tyler Foerster went away from the norm for his New Year's Resolution for 2011. That's when he purchased a domain name and began designing a logo and development begun. Six months later, Foerster's resolution came to fruition when the US Gay Sports Network (USGSN.com) was launched.

Two years later, his resolution isn't just alive—it's thriving.

The website started with one city (Chicago) and three sports (flag football, basketball, and softball). In 2012, three cities were added: Houston, Philadelphia and Atlanta. This year, new cities include San Diego, South Florida, New York and Denver.

From a tournament standpoint, it began with Chicago's Pride Bowl (flag football) in 2011, held each June. Since, the site has covered more than a dozen flag football, basketball and softball tournaments.

"A number of factors drove development of the US Gay Sports Network, [starting with] the fact that there was nothing else like it out there,"



Tyler Foerster. Photo from Foerster

said Foerster, 26, who lives in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood. "I developed USGSN to collect data from other leagues to form a unified network for all LGBT sports. Another [factor] was simply because I was relocated to the middle of nowhere for a job and got extremely bored.

"The Gay Bowl, [which is] the national flag football tournament, was held in Phoenix in 2010, and was really when the idea [for USGSN] started floating around in my head. Now I spend every minute of my spare time on developing and maintaining the site."

USGSN reports scores and more from such local gay sports as basketball, dodgeball, flag football, soccer and softball. Each city/league gets its own schedule, scoreboard and standings page.

"I collect other league's scores and information from my designated contacts for that city/sport," Foerster said. "They report to me with scores weekly. The faster the information is relayed, the faster they're updated on USGSN. Most leagues have their own website, but permit me to repost those scores on my site. However, some leagues do not have the resources to have a website, so USGSN.com provides a place for them to post results."

The best thing about USGSN is the team pages, Foerster said. Take, for instance, the San Diego flag football league. "By selecting a team on the schedule, scoreboard or standings pages on USGSN, you will be directed to that team's page, which includes the schedule and results for that team, logo, home and away colors, team photo and charts of multiple stats, such as points for and points against per game.

"You also can download a PDF or excel file for that team to keep track yourself. And of course, those pages are also linked to other teams so the user has the command to jump from page to page easily."

Foerster has personally played almost every sport offered by the predominantly gay Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA), including flag football, soccer, softball, volleyball, dodgeball, basketball and CMSA's newest league, Ultimate.

"In years past, the best part of CMSA used to be the competitiveness of other players who had something in common with me," Foerster said. "Eventually it was less about the competitiveness and more about the camaraderie of playing with and against friends from previous teams and/or other sports. The social environment of CMSA is what brings me back year after year, and the best part is that Chicago is one of the top sports cities in America."

Foerster said he has numerous website goals



A team in the USGSN. Photo from Tyler Foerster

set for the next two years. "Short term, I'd like to add a couple more cities and leagues to the network. We've recently doubled our league size, next we're going to increase the number of sports we cover in those cities," he said. "Long term, our goal is to be the main resource for all leagues around America, and perhaps internationally."

A smartphone app is in development, he said. Foerster designed, developed and coded the entire website.

The site is not yet a money-maker, he said.

"One day there will be revenue generated to keep this website up and running, but at this moment there is none," Foerster said. "In a perfect world, the website ... ultimately wouldn't exist. In a perfect world, my fellow LGBT athletes wouldn't feel discouraged from playing sports as kids. That's why these [gay] leagues are formed—to bring individuals [together] with a common LGBT connection to play and compete in a safe and fun place. That's why this website

is available for these leagues and players."

Foerster said the website will, ultimately, bring cities and leagues together. "We want to be the sports news outlet for individuals that compete at an amateur level within the LGBT community," he said.

USGSN has partnered with another network in Miami that streams live video of tournaments online. "Together we can bring you every aspect of reporting live sports, scores, statistics and updates as they happen," Foerster said. "Viewers can watch and get play by play with full reporting, like they have [at] the professional levels."

USGSN will be offering live coverage of the 6th annual Chicago Pride Bowl flag football tournament in late June, marking the third year in a row that USGSN has provided scores and statistics for the second-largest annual flag football tournament.

For more information, visit www.usgsn.com, Facebook and Twitter (@USGSN).



Tyler Foerster. Photo from Foerster

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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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You Can Play makes major strides after first year

BY ROSS FORMAN

Patrick Burke never envisioned himself as an advocate for gay rights, let alone being one of the most prominent promoters of inclusiveness in the ultra-macho mainstream male team-sports world.

Burke is, after all, straight; and he admitted that, while in his early 20s, life mostly consisted of watching hockey games, lots and lots of hockey games, and hanging out with friends.

"[Promoting gay rights] certainly is not where I thought I would be, not what I thought I would do with my life. My friends and family



laugh about it a lot," said Burke, 30, who lives in Boston as the New England area scout for the Philadelphia Flyers of the National Hockey League (NHL).

"If you had told me when I was 16 that, I would be running a charity for LGBT rights, or I'd be an astronaut [when I got older], I would have said I'd be an astronaut 100 times out of 100."

Fate and family changed Burke's plan, his passion, and he now is truly doing astronaut-like out-of-this-world work to support gay athletes, especially professional athletes from any of the big four male team sports, particularly hockey, who may be contemplating coming-out.

Burke is the co-founder of the You Can Play Project, an advocacy organization that fights homophobia in sports—rooted in Burke's younger brother, Brendan, who came out as gay in 2009 and tragically passed away about a year later. The younger Burke was the team manager for the Miami (Ohio) University hockey team, one of the best college hockey programs in the nation. The team accepted him then and still supports his legacy today.

Patrick and Brendan are the sons of Brian Burke, a longtime hockey executive who, most recently, was the general manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs, a job he held when Brendan came out.

"I think Brendan would be laughing hysterically at the fact that I'm [a gay-rights advocate], but also tremendously proud—at least I hope he would," Burke said. "No one in my family ever thought that I'd be running a charity for anything, let alone [an organization that supports] gay rights. [Years ago,] you couldn't get me involved with politics or activism with a tow truck."

But Burke's You Can Play Project has been steam rolling since it was founded March 4, 2012.

The NHL and the National Hockey League Players' Association (NHLPA) jointly announced in April an historic partnership with the You Can Play Project that formalizes and advances their long-standing commitment to make the NHL the most inclusive professional sports league in the world.

The partnership includes a commitment to

education and training for teams, players, media and fans plus the production and broadcast of more public service announcements, the press release announcing the partnership said. The NHL becomes the first major American professional sports league to officially partner with an LGBT advocacy group on this scale.

The You Can Play Project will conduct seminars at the NHL's rookie symposium to educate young prospects on LGBT issues. In addition, You Can Play will make its resources and personnel available to each individual team as desired. The NHLPA and NHL also will work with You Can Play to integrate the project into their Behavioral Health Program, enabling players to confidentially seek counseling or simply ask questions regarding matters of sexual orientation.

"I think the most exciting thing [of the partnership] is, it now removes any doubt," Burke



Andrew Sobotka. Photo from Sobotka

said. "If you're an LGBT athlete, coach, front-office official, or anything [within the NHL], any role in the game, whatever doubts you may have had about coming-out [while within the NHL,] now there is no doubt. It is signed, sealed and set in stone."

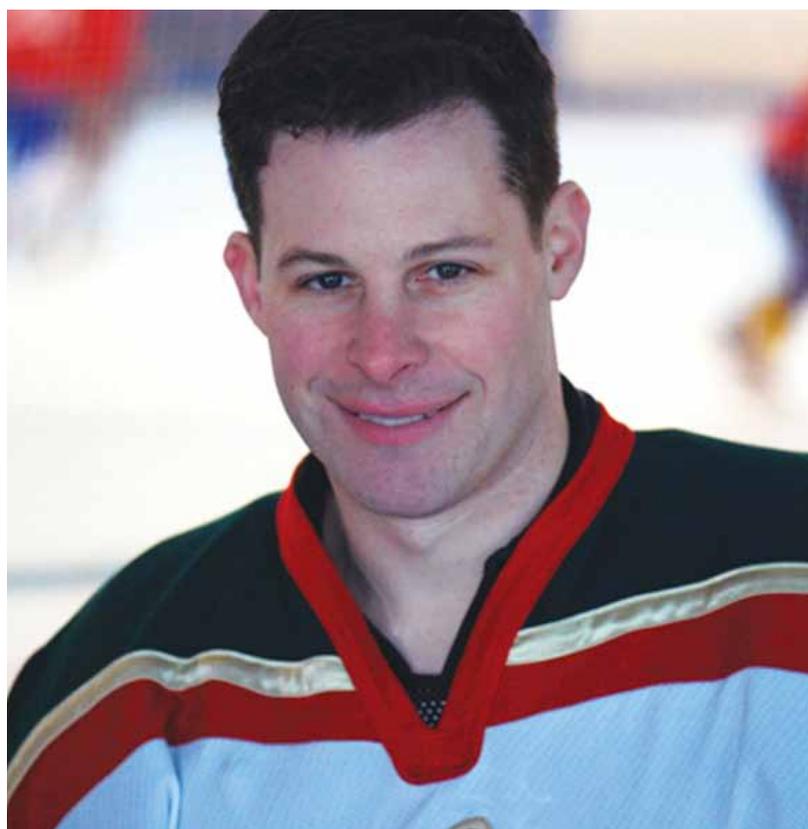
The three entities signed legal documents that are in perpetuity, Burke said.

"The official policy of the NHL is, inclusive, without a doubt," Burke said.

Burke said he was confident that the three-way agreement would be signed; he's just surprised how fast it happened.

"It's a tremendous tribute to the leadership of the NHL and the NHLPA. There was no hesitation, no negatives from the NHL or the NHLPA about [signing this,]" Burke said.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, in announcing the partnership, said: "Our motto is 'Hockey Is For Everyone,' and our partnership with You Can Play certifies that position in a clear and unequivocal way. While we believe that our actions in the past have shown our support for the LGBT community, we are delighted to reaffirm through this joint venture with the NHL Players'



Jeff Kagan. Photo by Patrick Chin-Hong

Association that the official policy of the NHL is one of inclusion on the ice, in our locker rooms and in the stands."

Don Fehr, the NHLPA executive director, added in a statement: "NHL players have supported the You Can Play Project since its inception, which we are pleased to formalize and expand upon with [the joint] announcement. The players believe our partnership with the NHL and You Can Play will foster an inclusive hockey environment from the grassroots level to the professional ranks."

Andrew Sobotka, the president of the Chicago Gay Hockey Association (CGHA), said the three-way agreement, "makes me extremely proud to be a hockey player."

"To know that the NHL is actively trying to change professional sports culture for the better is something that will have an impact on athletes of all levels," Sobotka said. "The CGHA would like to applaud the continued efforts of the You Can Play Project to promote LGBT inclusiveness in the hockey community. The partnership between the NHL, the NHLPA and You Can Play will make a lasting impact on athletics for all LGBT athletes. If any LGBT athlete had fears or reservations about coming-out, then those days will soon be over."

Jeff Kagan, the director of the New York Gay Hockey League, said he too was "excited" about the partnership and added that it was a "major step in the right direction."

"It lays the groundwork to create a safe environment for all athletes and, more importantly, the fans," Kagan said. "There are closeted gay athletes who play in the NHL. This will give them a path towards eventually coming-out, either to their teammates or to the general public. Knowing their workplace is accepting of their sexual-orientation will help to take that weight off of their shoulders; it may even help improve their performance as athletes."

Kagan, who is the co-director of ice hockey for Gay Games 9 scheduled for next August in Cleveland/Akron, added that the partnership carries a long-term, trick-down effect.

"Sure, this is wonderful for the professional hockey players. But the greater impact will be felt by the amateur players and fans who look up to the players and coaches as role models. There are good role models and bad role models, and in this case, the NHL is setting the new standard for how to conduct yourself. And not just on the ice, but off the ice as well."

Burke said the past four years or so, since his younger brother's coming-out, have been nothing short of "an interesting ride, something that truly has enriched my life," and he's met literally hundreds of new friends along the way. "This is not where I thought I would be [professionally], but I'm proud of where I am, where we are as an

organization."

He said the biggest surprise since forming the You Can Play Project is the amount of education needed to be done on the LGBT side of things, educating the LGBT community and especially the LGBT media, about the mainstream sports culture.

"I thought 99 percent of our work would be educating athletes about LGBT culture, but it's actually been about 50-50. I spend a lot of time talking with LGBT people, especially reporters, who aren't familiar with the sports world and educating them on what the sports world is like," Burke said. "It's been hard to explain that locker room culture [to the LGBT community, including the fact that teammates often] make fun of everyone [in a joking manner,] in a bonding manner."

"The locker room is not very politically correct, but that's often how the team dynamic grows and is strengthened."

To learn more about the You Can Play Project, go to <http://youcanplayproject.org/>.

In conjunction with Pride Month, the Chicago Gay Hockey Association (CGHA) released a You Can Play video. The 39-second video features Tony Tiet, Anthony Alfano, Andrew Sobotka, Scott Mix, Stephanie Stock, Paul Lilek, Yazeed AbouSaleh and Lee Kohler—gay and straight CGHA teammates. The link to the CGHA is at <http://youcanplayproject.org/videos/entry/you-can-play-chicago-gay-hockey-association>.



Patrick Burke. Photo from Burke

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