



LGBTAS MARCH
DOWNTOWN

PAGE 10

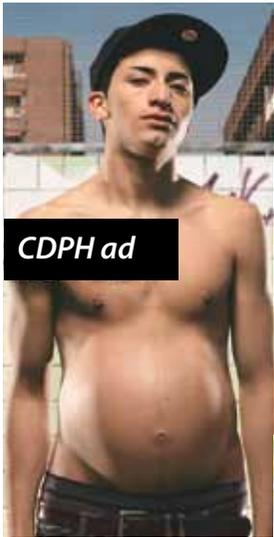
WINDY CITY TIMES

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

JULY 17, 2013

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**PREGNANT BOY
ADS STIR
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PAGE 9



**ALVIN AILEY
DANCERS
MARRY**
PAGES 20

Trans-focused center opens



The ribbon is cut on the TransLife Center on Chicago's Far North Side, front row from left: Stan Sloan, Antonio Riley, and Stormie Williams. Back: Rep. Kelly Cassidy, Mara Keisling, Rep. Jan Schakowsky and Ald. Harry Osterman. Photo by Kate Sosin

BY KATE SOSIN

After months of anticipation and fundraising, LGBT leaders, elected officials and advocates celebrated the opening of Chicago House's TransLife Center (TLC) July 15.

Stormie Williams, the first resident of the house, cut the ribbon the newly renovated house during the morning reception.

The house, located on the city's North Side, is believed to be the first of its kind. It will house nine transgender people and offer myriad services—like medical care, legal help and employment support.

"This will set a new model and a new standard for other cities," said Chicago House CEO Stan Sloan, addressing a crowd of community leaders and Chicago House employees.

Present at the opening were nationally recognized transgender figures Lana Wachowski, the film director, and Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality.

Keisling noted trials and triumphs facing trans people and the country at large in recent days, from the Trayvon Martin murder trial verdict to violence facing transgender women of color.

"Things are getting better, but people still need help, and they're going to be able to get help here," said Keisling.

Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, state Rep. Kelly Cassidy and Antonio Riley, Midwest regional director for the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development also spoke.

Turn to page 6



**JULIA SWEENEY
TALKS WITH WCT**
PAGE 21

Alleged hate crime in Austin

BY KATE SOSIN

A Chicago man is facing felony hate crime charges after an anti-gay attack on two women in the South Austin neighborhood, according to police.

Terry Glover, 24, has been charged with two counts of felony hate crime and two counts of felony robbery after he and a group allegedly beat two women while yelling anti-gay slurs July 7.

The alleged attack occurred at approximately 11:55 p.m. on the 0-100 block of North LeClaire, said Chicago Police News Affairs Officer Jose Estrada. The women, ages 24 and 25, were beaten and robbed, Estrada said.

Glover will face a grand jury indictment July 30. The date was set at a hearing for Terry Glover, 24, at Cook County Circuit Courthouse, 5555 W. Grand, on July 15. Glover faces two counts of felony hate crimes as well as

two counts of felony robbery. He is being held on a \$1 million bond.

One of the victims, 23, was present at the hearing with friends and family, but declined comment. She has not made her name known in the media.

The victims told Chicago Tribune that the harassment began after they passed one of the attackers a few times on the street. He started following them, all the while yelling anti-gay slurs, and was then joined by his accomplices.

The victims ended up pinned to the side of a car by the men. One had her shirt ripped off and both lost their shoes, phones and cash. The men left when they expected the police would arrive, and the victims were able to get help from one of their neighbors.

The other assailants remain at large.

—Assistance: Matt Simonette



**Chicago couple
weds in Calif.**

page 8

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this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

NEWS

TV star becomes LGBT activist	4
Gay blood demo; TransLife	6
Stonewall panel; Mike Jackson dies	7
Local couple weds; Mell	8
Pregnant boy ads; ACLU, Lambda	9
LGBT and Trayvon marches; Legacy	10
Gay in the Life	11
IEWS: Tracy Baim; letters	12

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

Scottish Play Scott	13
Theater reviews	14
Bill Brown; Ailey dancers marry	20
Julia Sweeney interview	21
Knight: The Conjuring	22
Olympic swimmer Amini Fonua	23
Executive Sweet party	24
Billy Masters	29

OUTLINES

Classifieds	26
Dish: Koi	27
Calendar Q	28
Sports: Ride for AIDS Chicago	30
Sports: Gay Games reunion	30

Photos on cover (left, from top): Photo from LGBT march by Kate Sosin; pregnant boy ad image from Chicago Department of Public Health; photo of Antonio and Kirven Douthit-Boyd by E F Artistry; photo of Julia Sweeney by Jerry Nunn



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IN THE THICKE OF THINGS

In Bent Nights, Vern Hester takes a look at the acts that performed at Taste of Chicago, such as Robin Thicke (left).
Photo by Vern Hester



Civil-rights activist Dr. Mary Frances Berry was in Chicago recently.
Photo by Melissa Wasserman



In Ask Lambda Legal, Susan Sommer talks about what to do after the Supreme Court's DOMA ruling.
Photo from Lambda Legal

ON THE RUN

In his viewpoint, Keith Pulford talks about being a marathoner with HIV.

BEASTS OF THE EAST

Windy City Times chatted with the dance act Far East Movement.

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Find out the latest about True Blood, Joan Rivers and Adam Lambert.

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Sheila Kuehl: Classic sitcom star becomes LGBT champion

BY DAVID-ELIJAH NAHMOD

Fifty years ago, Sheila James was a young actress, best known for her portrayal of the zany, lovesick Zelda on the classic sitcom *Dobie Gillis*. Surprisingly wry and hip for its time, the series brought James to the brink of TV stardom.

It wasn't meant to be. A proposed spinoff series starring James as Zelda never happened, and her acting career slowly petered out. According to IMDB, her last acting role to date was in the 1988 reunion movie *Bring Me the Head of Dobie Gillis*, in which she played Zelda one final time. It was her first on-camera role in a dozen years. The film was made a decade after her graduation from Harvard Law School, and she was already established as a political activist to be reckoned with.

Today, Sheila James Kuehl is an out lesbian with a long history of public service. She has served eight years in the California State Senate and six years in the state assembly. The first openly LGBT person to be elected to the California legislature, she authored 171 bills that were signed into law.

Currently a professor at UCLA, Kuehl is now running for Los Angeles County supervisor. Although she is far more interested in social issues



Sheila Kuehl. Photo from Kuehl

than show business, Kuehl was more than willing to discuss her days as a sitcom star.

"I was too butch" she said in a phone interview with *Windy City Times*.

It was the 1960s, the third year of *Dobie Gillis*, and the director had asked her to take a walk so they could discuss why nothing had happened regarding her spinoff series. "I was sensitive because I was closeted at the time," she said. She had nothing but the highest praise for Dwayne Hickman, her TV co-star. "He was very supportive of me," she said. "I never found Dwayne to be homophobic."

She recounted her appearance on *Good Morning America* nearly 30 years later, when she appeared with actor Dick Sargent (Darren #2 on

Bewitched) on the occasion of Sargent's very public coming-out. Hickman called in to the show to express his support for Kuehl.

She explained how her segue from Hollywood to law school happened. "When the phone stopped ringing I got a job at UCLA as an adviser to student organizations," she said. "I counseled at a camp for underprivileged children while at UCLA. It felt good to do things for other people. Students gave me some good advice: go to law school."

"Family law was my specialty," Kuehl said. "I wanted to apply family law to LGBT issues. As a legislator I brought through the very first bill that included sexual orientation in hate crimes."

While she has always been a strong LGBT advocate, Kuehl firmly believes that all peoples are entitled to equality and justice. "I don't want to put our community above any other," she said. "I want our needs to be met, but our community needs to be engaged in the larger community. It's not about who's issues are more important, but how similar the issues are."

In 1989, Kuehl co-founded the Women's California Law Center. The organization focuses on issues such as equal pay, violence against women, reproductive rights and gender discrimination. Kuehl is also a strong youth advocate.

"I don't have a one-note agenda," she said. "It took me five years to get the California Student Safety and Violence Protection Act passed. We had incredible struggles, but we also had many straight allies." She also stressed the need for a smooth transition to Obamacare. "Good attention has to be paid to health care issues," she said. "Foster youth don't have health care, and there needs to be mental health care for youth in the juvenile justice system."

These are some of the issues that Kuehl will be addressing in her run for supervisor. "It's very early in the campaign," she said. "There are no other candidates yet. I don't know who's going to run. Right now I'm raising money, educating myself about the county, visiting schools and clinics."

Kuehl said that a show-business return is not off the table. "But not now," she said. "I have no time. If I get the supervisor's job, I'd like to do three terms. After that I'd love to get a series. A guest shot on a series would be a great way to close out my career."

Visit www.sheilakuehl.org or www.kuehl-forsupervisor.com for more information on Kuehl's work.

Trans-inclusive ENDA passes out of committee

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) 15-7, indicating bipartisan support, according to *Advocate.com*.

The measure would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill, which does not contain religious exemptions, now heads to the full Senate, where it has a solid majority in favor with 53 co-sponsors. However, a majority doesn't guarantee passage since so many bills are now filibustered, requiring 60 votes to break.

Correction

In the July 10 issue, it should have been indicated that, during the recent National Organization for Women conference in Chicago, Jackie McKethen actually said that transgender community constitutes 3 percent to 5 percent of the population.

Windy City Times regrets the error.

A Queer Agenda

BY ANDRÉ PÉREZ



A Tale of Two Prides

As a queer Puerto Rican, I spent this June traversing the city, Pride-hopping from Humboldt Park (Puerto Rican Pride) to Boystown (Gay Pride). I looked forward to days of yelling with excited strangers, flirting with cuties, and dancing in the streets. Most of all, I eagerly awaited the weekend when my neighborhood, one that has long endured a reputation for gang violence and machismo, becomes a beacon for queer and trans people of color from miles around.

Gay boys argue openly about "that bitch from last season" of RuPaul's *Drag Race*. Studs show off their neck tattoos, and femmes of all genders sashay the paved paths with rainbow flags peeking out from their tight pants. My heart felt on the verge of exploding with pride because I was surrounded by generations of my people, but my gut twisted into a knot because I was also surrounded by the Chicago Police.

Puerto Rican People's Parade and Gay Pride share more than you might think. Just as the Gay Pride parade commemorates the 1969 Stonewall Riots in Green-

criminalization of youth in the neighborhood is unjust and destructive to the community's future. In Boystown, business owners and residents align with police against youth of color who travel from around the city to find shelter in the rainbow-lined streets. During the Pride parade, police lackadaisically manned intersections, waving at corporate-funded participants. Immediately after the parade ended, police cars disbursed crowds. Public space was like metered parking and our time was up. Of course, droves arrived later that evening to party and have a good time. At 11:30 p.m., police came back on the scene to harass people, yelling at them to go South or West. Pride was a day like any other, in which the CPD would sanitize the streets, making them more amenable to people who spend money and the bar owners who profit off them.

Police in Humboldt Park and in other poor communities of color patrol to keep people in, selectively enforcing curfew, and encouraging violence by increasing population density. The Puerto Rican Festival became yet another

venue for containment with cop cars parked on every major street surrounding the park. Six officers stood guard at the part of a six-foot wire fence, which created the only entrance and exit to the festival. Police profiled attendees and conducted targeted searches (seemingly never on white people). Inside the festival, packs of four

officers were stationed every 20 feet. The beating of overhead helicopters echoed, and drug unit dogs lined the exit.

The overwhelming police presence kept me on alert. My white upbringing taught me to see police as a signal that I was somewhere dangerous, where police intervention might rescue me. My Puerto Rican consciousness taught me to see police as a threat, an overwhelming force that had pinned us into a confined area where they could do what they wanted without repercussion. The LGBT community is pulled apart because the more privileged among us is unable to see that the "need" for police arises out of our fear of one another. Even in this moment where we so desperately want to connect, we turn to men in uniforms keep us safe. I don't see anything to be proud of in that.

"Puerto Ricans that control Humboldt Park and gays that control Boystown have opposing but complementary relationships to the police."

wich Village when queens fought back against police harassment and abuse of LGBTs, the Puerto Rican People's Parade honors the 1966 Division Street Riots which erupted in Humboldt Park in response to police shooting a young Puerto Rican. Both celebrations started as resistance to brutality inflicted by police and have grown into full-blown parties since then. Boystown and Humboldt Park are iconic communities that represent urban meccas, drawing thousands who hope to find safety and belonging. These neighborhoods are two of the most heavily policed and surveilled neighborhoods on the North Side. Puerto Ricans that control Humboldt Park and gays that control Boystown have opposing but complementary relationships to the police.

In Humboldt Park, business owners and residents align with youth in opposition to police, maintaining that

André is the founder of the Trans Oral History Project, co-founder of Project Fierce Chicago, and a working board member of *Orgullo en Accion*. When André is not rabble-raising, educating, or building community, you can hire him to photograph events and portraits by contacting him at andrealanperez@gmail.com.



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Brian Keeley with his HIV-non-reactive test results sheet. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

Gay blood drive demonstration held in Lincoln Park

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The first-ever nationwide gay blood drive demonstration took place July 12 at more than 50 locations across the country, including the Lincoln Park Lifesource branch in Chicago.

Ryan James Yezak organized the demonstration to raise awareness about the ban and increase pressure on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to lift the ban.

Yezak is producing and directing a feature-length documentary, *Second Class Citizens*, about discrimination based on sexual orientation and will be including footage from the Los Angeles demonstration and news clips from around the country in his documentary.

Since 1977, the FDA has banned gay and bisexual men from donating blood due to the emergence of HIV/AIDS.

"The ban is outdated, and as a result, otherwise eligible gay and bisexual men are unable to donate blood and help save lives," said Yezak. "Not only that, but the ban perpetuates negative stereotypes and stigma. Whether intentional or not, it is discrimination based on sexual orientation."

A number of gay men showed up at the Lifesource location to donate blood and Chicago House was on hand to give the men a 20-minute rapid oral HIV test to bring inside the Lifesource donation facility.

Liz Thompson, HIV testing manager at Chicago House, said, "We are honored to be supporting this event today. We are aware that there are numerous national policies that continue shame men who have sex with men (MSM) and continue to stigmatize the LGBT community."

Of his experience inside the Lifesource facility, Joe Dix said, "I told them I would like to donate blood and announced that I was a gay man. I told her about the HIV screening that I had just completed [with Chicago House] and that my results were [non-reactive]. I asked her if it was still possible to give blood and she said I could go through their screening process if I wanted to but that I would get deferred when I answered yes to the question about having sex with men. I asked the woman, if I go through the screening process is that going to change the result in any way? She responded that they

would love to have me donate blood but the FDA regulations don't allow them to accept blood donations from MSM."

Another potential donor, Brian Keeley, also shared his experience. "I went inside already knowing that they would deny me because I am gay. I wanted to have it recorded that I am interested in donating and that I meet all the other criteria [his HIV test from Chicago House also came up non-reactive] for donating. So I registered and went through and answered all the initial screening questions. After I answered all the questions they had to defer me. They also told me that these policies are continuously under review and can be changed so at that point I gave them my contact information so they could let me know if anything changes regarding the FDA blood donation policies," said Brian Keeley.

Sheila Simmons, who is married to a man from Cameroon, Africa came to share her story. Simmons said that she and her husband are also barred from giving blood based on geographic factors.

Straight allies and social-justice advocates Molly McGown and Grishma Shah were also on hand to lend their support for the gay blood drive demonstration.

The AABB, America's Blood Centers and the Red Cross said in a joint statement, "We believe the current lifetime deferral for MSM should be modified and donor deferral criteria should be made comparable with criteria for other behaviors that pose an increased risk for transmission of transfusion-transmitted infections. We strongly support the use of rational, scientifically based deferral periods that are applied fairly and consistently among blood donors who engage in similar risk activities. We support ongoing efforts by the Department of Health and Human Services and National Institutes of Health to fund research to evaluate deferral policies and prevent potential risks to the blood supply."

The FDA added that "Deferral of MSM from donation of blood and tissues is based on well-documented observations of much higher rates of transmissible diseases among some MSM than in the non-MSM general population. An estimated 77 percent of diagnosed HIV infections among males were attributed to male-to-male sexual contact.

"Although scientific evidence has not yet demonstrated that blood donated by MSM or a subgroup of these potential donors does not have a substantially increased rate of HIV infection compared to currently accepted blood donors, the FDA remains willing to consider new approaches to donor screening and testing. If those approaches can assure that blood recipi-

ents are not placed at an increased risk of HIV or other transfusion transmitted diseases, the FDA will consider a change to its current policy."

See www.gayblooddrive.com, www.2ndclassfilm.com, and www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/BloodBloodProducts/QuestionsaboutBlood/ucm108186.htm for more information.

Q Hub event in Little Village

LGBTQ youth and adults gathered in the Little Village neighborhood on Chicago's Southwest Side July 2 for an evening of history, poetry, food and voguing.

Special guests were longtime Baton Show Lounge entertainer Chilli Pepper and Mona Noriega, head of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations. Emmanuel Garcia of Project VIDA interviewed Pepper and Noriega, asking personal and historical questions.

The event was held at Blanco and Negro Restaurant, 4043 W. 26th St. Q Hub is an initiative of Project VIDA, and the agency provided HIV testing on site.

LGBTQ youth were the hosts of the event, so they helped create the program. The July hosts were Che-che, Arianna, Nuvia J., Milani, Reyna and Manuel.

There will be two more programs this summer at the same location, on Aug. 6 and Sept. 3, both starting at 6 p.m., with food beverages and entertainment.



Youth organizers for Q Hub. Photo by Tracy Baim

CENTER from cover

Other elected officials present included Aids. Harry Osterman and James Cappleman, state Sen. Heather Steans, state Rep. Greg Harris and Chicago Commission on Human Relations Director Mona Noriega.

TLC is one component of new transgender initiatives at Chicago House, traditionally an HIV service organization. TLC formerly served as a hospice for people dying of AIDS, but as the death toll dropped, so did the need for house.

Chicago House began work on transgender issues in recent years after Trisha Holloway, a transgender community advocate who was using Chicago House services, reported that the agency needed to do better on trans issues.

The house is intended to be a home base for transgender services for Chicago House, but will primarily function as a transitional home for nine residents.

Designs 4 Dignity and Clune Construction transformed the four-story home, outfitting it with new finishes.

The project was made possible due to a combination of funds both from private donors and government grants. According to Sloan, funders included a national grant through the

Heath Resources and Services Administration; Fred Eychaner, Jim McDonough and their Alphawood Foundation; Colonel Pritzker and Lisa Lanz from the Tawani Foundation; Todd Hamilton and James Luxton; an anonymous donor from Italy; and Lana Wachowski and her wife Karin Winslow. Other funders included the Pierce Family Foundation and the Polk Brothers Foundation.

The home is made up of nine bedrooms, a large living room with a fireplace, a new kitchen, offices, programming space and sitting room.

Trans people in need of housing will also have the option of applying for one of 30 units outside the house that Chicago House has opened up for the TransLife Project.

Bonn Wade, a well-known LGBTQ housing advocate, is heading up the TransLife Project. A number of transgender leaders have also been hired to provide services for the project. They include Judy Perloff, Channyn Parker, Angelica Ross, Owen Daniel-McCarter, Lex Lawson, Caprice Carthans, Alexis Martinez, Dee Brown, Leighana Leighton, Martina Williams and Ayanna Armstrong.

See many more photos from the ribbon-cutting online at www.WindyCityMedia-Group.com.



Chicago House CEO the Rev. Stan Sloan (left) speaks at the ribbon-cutting. Photo by Kate Sosin

Panel reflects on progress since Stonewall

BY SANDI WOODS

The Foundation for a United Front held its second annual Stonewall riot panel at the First Unitarian Church in Hyde Park July 10. The panel, presented by the foundation's Public Sphere program considered questions not generally discussed in mainstream LGBT politics.

Just eight attended the talk, held in the church's large sanctuary.

Speakers included Andy Thayer, co-founder of the Gay Liberation Network; Gini Lester, president of the Community Alliance & Action Network; and Nebula Li, a law student and community activist. Emma Todd, another scheduled panelist, was absent.

The event opened with a short introduction from the foundation's executive director, A.J. Segneri.

The discussion focused on politics, activism

and pop culture.

The range of topics discussed was very broad. Gay, lesbian and transsexual identities in the public eye and the media and issues of class and race in the gay community often cropped up as subtopics within more general areas of discussion.

"One thing that astounds me that has not been [addressed] in our community is that what with the great recession it's very common now for 20 and 30 somethings to be living at home. What does that mean for the whole issue of coming out of the closet?" Thayer asked, remarking on how the issue of class affects the future of the LGBT community as a whole.

Activism was a major concern. Panelists shared the opinion that internet campaigns weren't sufficient, that rallies, organization, and older methods of protest such as civil disobedience were far more effective.

"The first pride was a riot," Li noted. "It was a

resistance of queer people of color, trans people of color, trans women, standing up and asserting their rights after being profiled by police..."

Within the conversation on activism, the question of sound strategy cropped up. Panelists questioned if it was more effective to vote people into office to get a job done or to fight battles outside of the legal system with public sentiment, forcing those elected to hear their message and make a change. Opinions here were mixed, but close. The presidency of Richard Nixon was bought up as an example of the latter, of public outcry forcing change in laws despite partisan battles.

The domination of the LGBT community's image by white males in the media was a hot topic for discussion, and that went hand in hand with the under-representation of the community as a whole. Panelists stated that the media did not seem to have inclusive views for minorities, trans people or queer youth.



Nebula Li at the Stonewall panel. Photo by Kate Sosin

Former CDPH figure Michael Jackson dies

Michael L. Jackson—a former spokesperson for the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) who later served time after being convicted of manslaughter—died July 12, according to Deiters Funeral Home & Crematory website. Jackson was 45.

Jackson was born Oct. 19, 1967, in Galesburg, Ill., to Larry and Pamela McCullough Jackson. He graduated from Bradley University and went on to work in the Chicago area as a CPA, as well as a spokesperson for CDPH. While in Chicago, he founded the HEARTS Foundation, a not-for-profit organization assisting those affected by AIDS.

In 2006, Judge James Schreier sentenced

Jackson to 15 years in prison for the second-degree murder of taxi driver Haroon Paryani, Windy City Times reported. On Feb. 4, 2005, Paryani and Jackson became embroiled in an argument over an \$8 cab fare. The situation culminated with Jackson running over Paryani three times with the driver's own vehicle.

Jackson was paroled in 2011. His last known residence was in East Peoria, Ill.

Most recently, he worked at Gold's Gym of Morton as a personal trainer, according to the website.

Memorial services will be held at 6 p.m., Wed., July 17, at Deiters Funeral Home & Crematory, Washington, Ill.

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Andrew Snyder and Paul Hamilton. Photo courtesy of the couple

Chicago couple weds in Calif. hours after marriage is legalized

BY ROSS FORMAN

With two words, Andrew Snyder accepted Paul Hamilton as his legal husband in a media-filled ceremony on Friday, June 28, in San Francisco—literally hours after DOMA was defeated and the Supreme Court ended Prop 8, the California constitutional amendment that banned same-sex marriage.

Snyder was holding Hamilton's hands and staring misty-eyed at his partner of 14 months. Jared Scherer, who was officiating their ceremony, asked Snyder if he took Hamilton to be his lawfully wedded spouse.

Snyder replied, "Fuck, yeah!"

Laughter ensued, and the two Chicago residents hugged and kissed. Scherer then declared them, "partners for life."

"I was very aware that I was sitting on the cusp of history right then and right there—our history and history of the world around us. That felt good," said Snyder, who drew more laughter from the onlookers after their near-five minute ceremony, filled with media and complete strangers, when he said, "Thanks, everybody."

"We were, and are, traveling in this little sweet spot in the universe; it's like it was just supposed to happen."

The Snyder-Hamilton love affair is a short story, rooted in, well, an online meeting that could have just been a one-night affair. But both were instantly smitten.

"The first time he came over, I looked at him and said, 'This is going to be a good connection,'" Snyder said. In fact, the first night they met, each confirmed he was single and a first official date was planned.

On their third date, Snyder revealed he was falling in love with Hamilton.

On their fourth date, Snyder gave Hamilton a set of keys to his apartment—and the keychain featured the phrase that they decided early on was and is the theme of their relationship: "Fuck Fear."

The two started talking about getting married and having kids within six months of knowing each other.

Snyder, 44, is a creative director for communications-design company August Jackson. He is a Zionsville, Ind., native who has lived in Chicago

for about 20 years.

Hamilton, 48, is a pianist, composer and filmmaker. Originally from Savannah, Ga., he has lived in Chicago for about 17 years.

Each was once married to a woman.

Hamilton had been in Northern California and Snyder arrived on June 25. By the time they woke up the following day and spent a few minutes catching up with the world via Facebook, they learned of the major changes nationally for same-sex couples on the marriage front.

"I wanted to propose right then," Hamilton said, but instead they decided to celebrate.

Ultimately, each proposed to the other, with Snyder doing so first, at Cypress Grove.

They called family and close friends to update their engaged lives.

Then, back on Facebook, they updated the world—with a photo of their hands, each with a ring.

They arrived in San Francisco June 28, and it wasn't long before they were in a cab heading to City Hall, but "with no expectations," Snyder said.

"By the time we got there, we knew we were going to get married," Hamilton said.

They got out of the cab and were immediately greeted by local and national media following their every step.

Complete strangers were cheering them just walking toward City Hall. Locals applauded, both gay and straight supporters.

Two protestors unsuccessfully tried to dampen the spirit.

Hamilton and Snyder were given roses and photographers offered their services, for free.

The couple ultimately applied for the married license, but not before joking with each other about who would pay.

When their time came, Snyder said the media onslaught was "crazy," and he admits he was "kind of scared" due to all of the media.

There were at least 20 cameras (still and video), including some shooting for documentaries. There were at least 50 people watching their short service, most also taking pictures or video with their cell phones.

"It was a bit intimidating," Snyder said.

"It didn't bother me at all," Hamilton said.

Five minutes later, their lives were united.

"It was so emotional, though I was so focused on Andrew, other than when talking to and listening to Jared," as he was officiating the service, Hamilton said.

Before leaving City Hall, the newlyweds spent a private moment together, reflecting.

Upon leaving, complete strangers cheered the couple.

Hamilton then saw a protestor and approached him, although he didn't say anything, simply staring. "Anything he was saying was not affecting me at all," Hamilton said.

Deb Mell pursuing aldermanic seat

BY KATE SOSIN

The Illinois General Assembly may lose an out lesbian representative this month, but the City of Chicago could be adding a third out alderman to its ranks.

Deb Mell, the 40th Dist. state rep whose impassioned speech on same-sex marriage stunned Springfield in May, wants her father's 33rd Ward aldermanic seat, she confirmed to *Windy City Times*.

"Just personally and professionally, I think the alderman has a more direct impact and can see results, and it's more hands on," said Mell. "In that respect, I feel it's a better fit for me."

Mell would be the first out lesbian alderman in the city. Chicago already has two gay aldermen—Tom Tunney and James Cappleman.

Mell's father, Ald. Richard Mell, has already put his weight behind his daughter. The alderman told reporters at a July 5 press conference that he thought the young Mell would pursue his seat and that he hoped she would be considered. Richard Mell's last day is set for July 24.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel will make the final call on who fills the vacancy. Deb Mell said she has not had a conversation with the mayor about the job, but said she officially threw her name into the running July 10.

Mell said that if chosen, she would be sorry to miss a vote on equal marriage rights. Mell pushed hard for the passage of the same-sex marriage bill, which fell shy of the votes needed for passage in May.

Mell gave an impassioned speech to a shell-shocked House chamber May 31 after Rep. Greg Harris declined to call for a vote on the measure due to lack of support.

She told WCT that after the Supreme Court effectively struck down the Defense of Marriage Act in June, she sent a letter to colleagues laying out the rights that will be denied to Illinois same-sex couples.

But she started thinking about replacing her father this year, she said.

Mell said that if appointed, the big difference between two generations will be use of technology. The younger Mell will use Twitter, Facebook and other social media to connect with constituents. The older Mell has yet to get voicemail.

Mayor Emanuel told CBS news, however, that no decision has been made yet.

Dept. of Ed to survey on anti-LGB bullying

In what has been hailed as a groundbreaking decision, the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights announced it intends to begin asking questions this fall about anti-LGB bullying as part of its Office of Civil Rights Data collection, which covers a wide range of school experiences.

After a comment and review process, the Civil Rights Data Collection questionnaire will be updated to ask about incidents of bullying and harassment related to actual or perceived sexual orientation. The survey already asks about bullying and harassment based on race

The two then took a cab to the Castro to celebrate and have dinner.

The next day, as others made the trek to City Hall in San Francisco to tie the knot, Snyder and Hamilton returned—to volunteer, as others did for them. They also brought flowers for others and watched at least 10 couples get married.

Heading back to Chicago, they held hands and kissed at San Francisco International Airport. Snyder still recalls that lasting moment. "I kept thinking, 'Wow—this is my husband,'" he said.

and gender, including questions about gender stereotyping and gender nonconformity.

The purpose of the Civil Rights Data Collection is to obtain information related to the nation's public school districts as well as elementary and secondary schools' obligation to provide equal educational opportunity.

Report: More hospitals committed to LGBTs

Hospitals and clinics are increasingly committed to equality for their LGBT patients, according to a report released from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, the organization's educational arm.

The new report indicates that a record total of 718 healthcare facilities nationwide, including 121 veterans' medical centers, have explicitly pledged themselves to equal treatment for LGBT patients. The report details the results of the most recent Healthcare Equality Index (HEI), an annual survey administered by the HRC Foundation.

In a major breakthrough, 121 of the nation's 151 Veterans Health Administration (VHA) medical centers participated in the HEI 2013, compared to just one VHA participant in the HEI 2012.

In Illinois, those facilities meeting the top core criteria were: Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Howard Brown Health Center, Rush University Medical Center, VA Jesse Brown Medical Center, Cook County Health and Hospitals System, Northwestern Memorial Healthcare, VA Illiana Health Care System, VA Edward Hines Jr. Hospital and VA Captain Hames A. Lowell Federal Health Care Center.

The HRC Foundation's Healthcare Equality Index 2013 is at www.hrc.org/hei.

Equality Illinois moving downtown

Equality Illinois is moving its headquarters to Chicago's Loop "in order to be closer to all the city's diverse LGBT communities, to connect better with the policy makers, government agencies and allied organizations with whom they work and to make it easier to travel throughout the state," according to a press release.

Effective Aug. 1, Equality Illinois will be moving from its present location at 3318 N. Halsted St. to its new headquarters in the Stevens Building at 17 N. State St.

Hillary Clinton to speak 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.

Former speakers have included Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, actress/talk-show host Whoopi Goldberg, fashion designer Kenneth Cole and ex-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

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

Controversy brewing over pregnant boy ads

BY KATE SOSIN

To a lot of transgender people, the ads first appear to be stunningly progressive images of transgender men, shirtless and pregnant, pasted on public transit. But in reality, some say, the ads are offensive.

In May, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) launched an edgy ad campaign featuring pregnant teen boys. "Unexpected?" the ads read. "Most teen pregnancies are."

The campaign aims to reduce teen pregnancy rates in Chicago, which remain higher than the national average despite a 33 percent drop over the last decade. The ads tell young men to wear condoms or wait to have intercourse.

The campaign follows a similar effort in Milwaukee, and they have attracted praise both locally and nationally.

But the Chicago ads, intended to shock and seemingly targeted at straight teenage boys, have sparked tension as some say the campaign stigmatizes transgender men.

Andrea Quijada, executive director of the Media Literacy Project (MLP), is among them.

Quijada argued that the campaign reinforces what it means to be "male," painting transgender men as abnormal.

"This idea of men being pregnant becomes a joke, and it creates an unsafe space for real trans people," said Quijada.

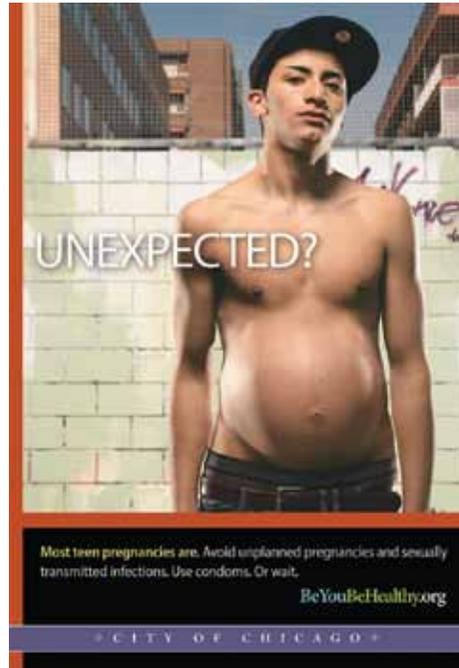
Quijada's organization turned the CDPH image on its head, releasing a play on that campaign that reads, "Trans men have babies too. All families, whether born of chosen, thrive on love, not shame."

Transgender men are able to give birth, a fact well-publicized in the U.S. by the 2007 pregnancy of Thomas Beatie, a transgender man.

Elizabeth Schroeder, executive director of Answer, a national organization that pushes for comprehensive sex education for youth, also has concerns about the CDPH ads. She laid out her thoughts in a post on RH Reality Check, a website with information and news on sexual and reproductive health issues.

But Schroeder also pointed out that there are redeeming factors in the campaign, most notably that it puts young men at the center of the discussion, something rarely done when it comes to sexual health and young people.

"How often do we hear boys and men mentioned, let alone visually represented, in materials relating to sexual and reproductive health?" Schroeder writes. "It has been great to see an increase in so-called male involvement programs and organizations working with boys and young men, so we are certainly making some progress here. But the vast majority of sexuality education curricula available to the general public,



One of CDPH's "pregnant boy" ads. Image courtesy of CDPH

media stories about sexuality, and other interventions continue to focus first and foremost on girls and women."

According to CDPH spokesperson Brian Richardson, officials did consider trans people when deciding to launch the campaign. Richardson said that the department consulted with both LGBT and transgender advocates.

CDPH chose not to run with the tagline used in the Milwaukee ads, "It shouldn't be any less disturbing when it's a girl," which generated harsher criticism.

"Part of the ad concept was to be jarring and to challenge gender norms and behaviors and for people to understanding that teen births are not an issue that only female-identified teen moms are dealing with but an issue that we are all dealing with," said Richardson.

And if the ads have sparked debate, Richardson said, they have done what they were intended to.

"That's a good thing when you have local news discussing trans men's health issues," he said.

Indeed, the ads have cropped up in both local and national media. In recent days, the ads have been featured on Feministing and Colorlines, although both feature the MLP adabust.

Hale Thompson, a Ph.D. public health candidate at the University of Illinois at Chicago, argues that not all chatter around the ads is inevitably positive.

"I think we have set the bar very low if these

effects constitute success," Thompson said.

"Creating a controversy based on stigma and shame generates conversation because adults—and perhaps youth, too—are trying to figure out how to counter the negative impact this kind of campaign has. Other reports have said the images mainly incite laughter among cisgender teenage boys, and I imagine they reinforce silence among gender non-conforming youth."

Thompson also argues that the campaign puts

the blame on youth, without interrupting the societal factors that contribute to teen birth rates—like access to resources, information and services. His thoughts are laid in a post on the Original Plumbing website, trans male magazine.

However, Richardson contends that the ad campaign is but one part of "Healthy Chicago," the mayor's plan to improve wellness in the city. That, he said, does lay out plans to address the larger issues facing youth of all ages.

ACLU, Lambda seek swift win in marriage cases

BY KATE SOSIN

Stating that the Supreme Court's DOMA ruling changes the landscape in Illinois, LGBT groups are asking a judge to grant summary judgment in favor of same-sex couples who want to marry.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois (ACLU) and Lambda Legal filed a joint motion for summary judgment in lawsuits that seek to overturn the state's ban on same-sex marriage July 10.

The filing comes in the wake of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling effectively striking down the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which banned federal recognition of same-sex marriages. The overturning of DOMA raises serious questions in Illinois, a state that offers civil unions for same-sex couples but continues to deny marriage recognition.

Lambda Legal and the ACLU filed suit in May 2012 against Cook County Clerk David Orr on behalf of 25 same-sex couples. Orr and State's Attorney Anita Alvarez refused to fight the lawsuits, and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan intervened in support of the couples. A group of county clerks filed to intervene to oppose the lawsuits.

LGBT groups have also been pushing for the passage of an Illinois bill that would legalize same-sex marriage. Now, LGBT advocates say the DOMA ruling raises the stakes in Illinois.

"Only marriage will provide same-sex couples in Illinois all the federal protections that are available in now 13 other states and the District of Columbia—things like medical leave, protections for federal employees, tax benefits, veteran's benefits..." said John Knight, LGBT and AIDS Project director for the ACLU.

Questions remain over how the DOMA ruling will impact same-sex spouses in Illinois.

Legal experts predict that couples who marry outside of the state will likely have access to more benefits than couples who get Illinois civil unions. That is because civil unions are not federally-recognized in the same way marriages are.

Even then, married same-sex couples in Illinois will likely be denied certain benefits, as some federal programs look at the laws of the state one lives in when considering eligibility. That, say LGBT advocates, adds urgency to the Illinois cases.

The groups contend that civil unions brand same-sex spouses as inferior to heterosexual couples and that the denial of federal benefits is unconstitutional and discriminatory.

The July 10 filing includes 50 affidavits from each plaintiff detailing the reasons they need access to marriage.

Camilla Taylor, marriage project director for Lambda Legal, argued that the facts of the case are indisputable and that summary judgment should be granted on that basis.

"The other side will have an opportunity to come back and see if they can produce any evidence that create a dispute of facts," said Taylor. "We do not believe that they are capable of doing so."

The Thomas More Society, a conservative law firm representing opposing clerks, has filed a motion to dismiss the case altogether. Oral arguments on that motion are scheduled for Aug. 6.

Peter Breen, executive director of the Thomas More Society, argues that the ACLU and Lambda Legal should have focused efforts on swift action on that motion, which he accused the groups of trying to delay.

Breen said that he feels the Supreme Court ruling striking strengthens his case in Illinois, affirming states' rights to determine marriage laws.

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LGBTS march for marriage downtown

BY KATE SOSIN

Capitalizing on big crowds downtown for the Taste of Chicago, more than 100 LGBTs and allies marched through the loop July 13 to demand marriage equality in Illinois.

The rally and march saw thousands of spectators as it moved along Michigan Avenue, packed with shoppers and tourists.

Despite attendance of just around 120, the march, topped with rainbow flags and neon signs, stretched over an entire block.

"Out of the stores, into the streets!" demonstrators shouted.

"Civil unions aren't the same, not in rights, not in name!" they yelled.

Families and shoppers, out in large numbers during the Saturday afternoon protest, stopped to take photos and cheer.

The march started with a rally at Congress Parkway and Michigan Avenue, close to a main entrance for the Taste of Chicago.

Among the speakers was state Rep. Ken

Dunkin, who heads the Illinois House Black Caucus, and whose district encompasses the rally starting point. Dunkin has been a major player in the ongoing saga of Illinois' marriage bill, as some have suggested the Black Caucus would not support the bill.

At the rally, Dunkin lamented the injustice he said LGBT Illinoisans face as they are denied federal rights due to lack of marriage equality in Illinois.

"I love you," an impassioned Dunkin told the crowd. "I respect you. And I'm going to fight my ass for you."

Also speaking was Pastor Jamie Frazier who asked religious people to question if they had "good religion" or religion that promoted abuse and injustice.

"The conservative right has absconded with my Jesus," Frazier said. "But I'm here to declare that all are welcome at the foot of the cross—not in spite of our differences but because of our differences. For the aspects of our identities are demonstrations of God's diversity, beauty and



Participants at the downtown rally. Photo by Kate Sosin



Left: Rally participants; right: Gaylon Alcaraz and grandson Nicholas. Photos by Tracy Baim

Hundreds protest Zimmerman ruling

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY TRACY BAIM

More than 300 people turned out for a noon rally at Daley Plaza July 14, the morning after a jury reached a not guilty verdict in the trial of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of African-American youth Trayvon Martin.

The case has sparked nationwide protests, and a call to remove a controversial "stand your ground" law in Florida, where the incident occurred.

The event attracted a very diverse crowd racially, and many LGBTQs were among those protesting.

The rally included speakers and then a March to Michigan Avenue and winding through streets back to Daley Plaza. At several points, protesters tried to march in the streets but were pushed back by police.

At the closing rally, Airicka Gordon, a relative of Black youth Emmett Till, who was murdered by whites in Mississippi in 1955, spoke about the need to file federal charges in the Martin case. In Till's case, the accused were also acquitted, something several speakers pointed out at the July 14 rally.

A coalition of LGBT groups, led by the National Black Justice Coalition and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, issued an open letter July 15. In part, the missive (titled "An Open Letter: Trayvon Deserves Justice"), reads, "We represent organizations with diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender constituencies. Our community has been targets of bigotry, bias, profiling and violence. We have experienced the heart-breaking despair of young people targeted for who they are, who they are presumed to be, or who they love: Rashawn Brazell, Lawrence King, Ali Forney, Brandon Teena, Brandon White, Matthew Shepard, Marco McMillian, Angie Zapata, Sakia Gunn, Gwen Araujo and countless others.

"Every person, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity, must be able to walk the streets without fear for their safety.

"Justice delayed is justice denied and in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 'a right delayed is a right denied.' We honor Trayvon by seeking justice for all people."

Legacy Walk benefit features drag revue

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

About 50 people attended a benefit for Chicago's Legacy Project/Walk at @mosphere on July 14.

The event featured performances by DIVA: All Drag Revue (Angelique Munro, Miss Sassy Trade, Marilyn Black, Monique Moyet, Tiger Sky, Terri Michaels and Wendy City), with Munro hosting. Munro is @mosphere's host/show director.

Following words of welcome by Munro, Legacy Project/Walk Executive Director Victor Salvo spoke about the importance of the Legacy Walk in educating students about LGBT people and events across history and from around the world.

Munro announced raffle winners in between performances. Furtastic, Off Street Market, Ulta, Lettuce Entertain You, Warner Brothers movie pack with Ellen boxer briefs, Frango Mints, Chicago Salon, Windy City Crossfit, Ballet Chicago, the Chicago Diner and Six Flags provided prizes.

Wirtz Beverages and @mosphere served as the evening's sponsors.

See www.legacyprojectchicago.org.

Note: Carrie Maxwell is also a volunteer for The Legacy Project.

Visit www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com to see more photos.



Legacy Walk Executive Director Victor Salvo. Photo by Kirk Williamson

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complexity. I don't serve a simple-minded God, so I'm tired of simple-minded religious voices."

Anthony Martinez, executive director of The Civil Rights Agenda, represented Illinois Unites for Marriage, a coalition of groups pushing for the legalization of same-sex marriage in Illinois. Martinez said the coalition was moving towards a more inclusive strategy than it has employed in past months, and he asked attendees to volunteer their time and energy.

The rally was organized by a loose group of activists who assembled the This Is Not Over group in the wake of a May 31 shortfall on equal marriage. The Illinois House had been expected to vote on equal marriage before adjourning this spring, but with a predicted lack of votes to pass the bill, chief sponsor Rep. Greg Harris decided to hold off on a vote. That move prompted public outcry.

Windy City Performing Arts, made up of Windy City Gay Chorus and Aria, performed at the rally. The march concluded in Washington Square Park.

Also at the rally, there were T-shirts and materials for the planned March on Springfield for Marriage Equality, Oct. 22, the first day of the fall veto session. See <https://www.facebook.com/MarchOnSpringfieldForMarriageEquality>.

Lisa Madigan not running for governor

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan announced her campaign for reelection July 15. The announcement means she will not run for governor, as some speculated.

Madigan had considered running as governor "because of the need for effective management from that office," according to a press release. However, she also stated "there has always been another consideration that impacts my decision."

"I feel strongly that the state would not be well served by having a Governor and Speaker of the House from the same family and have never planned to run for Governor if that would be the case. With Speaker Madigan [Lisa's father, Mike] planning to continue in office, I will not run for Governor."

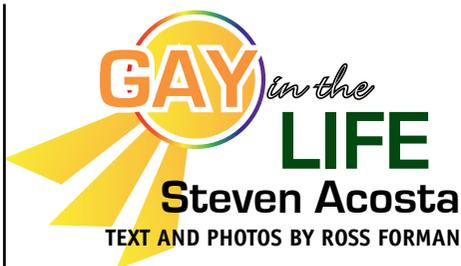
Veterinary association meeting July 19-21

The Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association (LGVMA) will mark its 20th anniversary at the American Veterinary Medical Association's 150th-anniversary convention in Chicago July 19-21.

Among the scheduled activities are the LGVMA's board and annual meetings as well as networking dinners at Michael Jordan's Steak House and Jack's on Halsted.

Roosevelt University President Charles Middleton will be the keynote speaker July 21 at Hyatt Regency McCormick Place. A reception will take place later that evening.

See <http://lgvma.org/lgvma20th.html>.



TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN

Age
29

Relationship status
Single

Job title
Banking Center Manager, MB Financial Bank (Lincoln Square)

Hobbies
Volleyball, soccer, scuba diving, and "caring for my orchids"

Favorite local bar
Big Chicks

Background
Parents are Colombian; was born in Connecticut

Favorite TV show
True Blood

Biggest weakness
French fries at Windy City Gyros in Lakeview

Four people (living or dead) who you'd like to have dinner with
Andrew Garfield, Alberto Acosta (grandfather who he never met), Stan Lee and Janet Jackson

Little-known fact
Knows American Sign Language

Steven Acosta used the local gay volleyball leagues to meet friends when he moved here from his native Florida about three years ago.

Now he's using volleyball to see the U.S., and rack up championships—such as the Windy City Open, a North American Gay Volleyball Association (NAGVA) event held in Chicago in early July.

Acosta is the libero (defensive specialist) for the Chicago Poppers, an eight-person team that overcame its 13th seed after pool play in the 18-team B-Division to capture the title.

"On Saturday [of the two-day tournament], I don't think we saw it happening. But we talked things over, switched some things around, worked as a team and just played great," Acosta said. "What makes us a strong team is our defense; we don't let balls drop."

"It was an awesome feeling [winning our division], especially considering our seed after pool play."

The title was Acosta's third championship in NAGVA tournaments since last August, to go with a second-place and two third-place finishes.

"It was exciting winning [the Windy City Open championship], though nothing is as exciting as the first [championship ever], which was in Columbus, Ohio, last Labor Day weekend."

Acosta also plays beach volleyball locally and soccer. He played 13 out-of-state NAGVA tournaments from last August through May, including events in Denver, Boston, New Orleans, Cincinnati, Dallas, Cleveland, Atlanta and Pittsburgh, among others.

"I really have a blast playing volleyball, and through volleyball I've been able to see the U.S. and make friends around the country," Acosta said.

Acosta sports a coat and tie during the work week. He spent a year managing the MB Financial Bank in Lakeview and this summer switched to the Lincoln Square branch. He has worked in the banking industry for 10 years.

"I really enjoy it. Banking is all I know," he said. "I enjoy managing others, and helping them grow to their full potential, personally and professionally. I listen to my customers and help them achieve their goals."



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

 Community Marketing, Inc.

TRACY
BAIMThe content of
our character:
Trayvon and us

Why does the death of one man come to symbolize the deaths of so many? The injustice of justice? The despair of a people?

The LGBTQ community has had its own symbols of injustice. Dan White's "Twinkie defense" in being convicted of lesser charges in the murders of gay Supervisor Harvey Milk and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone. The "gay panic" defenses used in the murders of countless LGBTs over the years. Sodomy convictions of consenting adults. The lack of even an arrest in the murders of thousands of transgender people across the world.

The criminal legal system has failed many people, but perhaps none more so than African-Americans. Starting with legally sanctioned slavery, and moving on to various forms of legal discrimination that only broke down in recent decades, the system has mostly failed its people.

When we deal with the highly charged issues of race in this country, the problem is that there are always examples that seem to distort the overarching truth of the matter. There are always going to be ways you can say "but this African-American got justice," or "this white person did not get justice." There are always going to be ways the truth can be twisted, and someone else was done wrong who was not African-American.

The trick with racism is that it is rarely pure and simple racism. It can't always be docu-

mented and exposed as racism. It is usually a slippery mess based on an attempt to be logical and rational, when in fact racism is far from logical or rational. Just as homophobia and sexism are things we just "know" when we experience them, racism is something some people just understand permeates the mindset of huge numbers of Americans.

And the facts are there if we care to see them. Within the memories of this generation of living humans, there are thousands and thousands of examples in the media of racist acts by institutions, by police, by judges, by juries, by poll watchers, by politicians and more. These are offset by increasingly "color-blind" institutions and people, and more fairness in the system. But the facts are clear: racism is not dead, just as homophobia and sexism are not dead.

All of this contributed to the cauldron of controversy last weekend when George Zimmerman was found not guilty in the killing of 17-year-old African-American youth Trayvon Martin. Some people wanted to complicate this by noting that Zimmerman is in fact half-Latino, so it was "brown-on-black" crime. But the problem with racism in this country is that it is contagious, and even those who are also potentially victims of racism "catch" and hold on to the stereotypes of other disenfranchised communities.

Why does this case resonate for some in the LGBTQ community? First, many LGBTQs are also people of color, and they understand and experience racism first-hand. Second, many people are empathetic to the death of a young man with promise, who was targeted for an immutable characteristic, the color of his skin. And third, many LGBTQs understand that true coalition politics means linking arms with other communities in times of grief and struggle.

Coalition politics is a two-way street. I often hear white LGBTQs complain about a lack support from minorities when it comes to marriage equality and other issues. But many white LGBTQs do not drive on that street the other way when it comes to linking with struggles of communities of color. The value placed on alliances

is much better than in the 1970s and 1980s, but we do have a long way to go to feel in true partnership. Being supportive of other causes does not mean you have to agree 100 percent or even 50 percent of the time. We ask communities of faith to be on our side about marriage even if it runs counter to their own religious teachings. We ask that they open the tent for LGBTQs simply because it is the right thing to do, even if it is in opposition to their core beliefs. We need to have the same open mind to be good partners in the civil-rights movement.

The most pernicious forms of homophobia, sexism and racism come down to a one-on-one basis—and that is what doomed Trayvon Martin on the last night of his life. George Zimmerman probably still feels he is not a racist. He can claim he did not target Trayvon because of his skin color. But he did. We know it. Because every day in each of our lives, we must battle against the stereotypes society drills into us. Through media images, TV shows, movies, and more, we are bombarded with one-dimensional portrayals of people of color, of LGBTQs, of women. We have to fight mighty hard to see each individual person as a person in their own right, and not representative of their whole race, their whole gender, of every LGBT person.

The year I was born, 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his "I Have A Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. He said in part: "I have a dream, that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today!"

I am now 50 years old, and have witnessed time and again people being judged by the color of their skin, by the people they love, by their gender, by their class, religion and more.

King is dead. Emmett Till is dead. Harvey Milk is dead. Matthew Shepard and Sakia Gunn and Mark Carson and Gwen Araujo and Paige Clay and so many others are dead. And now Trayvon is dead. It is 50 years past time that we judge each individual by the content of their character.

LETTERS

Not the villains

Letter to the Editor:

Kate Sosin's otherwise thoughtful analysis ("In the details: The marriage bill's past and future" in the June 19 issue of *Windy City Times*) of the failure of Senate Bill 10—extending the freedom to marry to gay and lesbian couples—to get a vote in the Illinois House during the spring legislative session incorrectly identifies Rep. Rita Mayfield and members of the Black Caucus as villains in the bill's lack of movement. This assertion is like the inaccurate assessment of the failure of Proposition 8 ballot initiative in California, where African-American voters were faulted. Let's be clear—the Black Caucus members are not responsible for the failure of the House to pass the marriage bill.

It is true that some Black Caucus members supported the bill; others opposed the measure; and, still others remain publicly undeclared in terms of their support. That makes the Black Caucus members just like members of all the other Caucuses in the Illinois House. The House GOP Caucus, to choose just one such group, had only two (2) supportive members, a number publicly opposed and others who are undecided. (This stands in stark contrast to other states such as New York, where significant number of GOP members voted for a marriage bill.)

The attack on Mayfield is particularly egregious. Citing unnamed sources, the article claims that she was actively working to pull votes off

the bill, and that she is anti-gay; there simply is no evidence that this is true, as others in the story attest. Mayfield and the Black Caucus are not monolithic in their views on marriage equality, as pointed out above. We can win more support among them but only by respecting their diversity of views. Blaming them for the stalled effort or personally maligning their character might have the opposite effect. But the damage is done—enemies of freedom and equality can point to these unsourced claims as evidence of division between African-American leaders and those in the LGBT community.

To be clear, no such division exists. In this session alone, African-American legislators sponsored legislation or provided crucial votes and public leadership on many issues critical to the LGBT community—including the expansion of Medicaid coverage, comprehensive sexual health education, the restoration of funds to fight and treat HIV, and the repeal of the antiquated HIV-positive student notification law.

All of us are disappointed that the marriage bill did not pass the House. We hoped, like thousands across the state, to mark part of this year celebrating the marriages of our friends, our family members, our colleagues and, for some of us, ourselves. Our opponents hope that we spend the next several months blaming particular groups and individuals for the bill's failure—groups including the Black Caucus.

Rather than engage in this fallacious debate, we recognize, as the bard tells us, that the fault is in ourselves. So let's get to work, drawing together with supporters from all across the state,

to secure passage of the marriage bill. When it passes—and it will—it will enjoy significant support from members from all ethnic backgrounds. That, we can be sure, is the future of the of the marriage bill. Let us also remember that long after the fight for marriage equality is won and over, we will still need the support of these members to advance other LGBT-friendly legislation in the future.

Sincerely,
 Adrienne Alexander, Policy & Legislative Specialist, AFSCME Council 31
 Khadine Bennett, Staff Attorney & Legislative Counsel, ACLU of Illinois
 Mary Dixon, Legislative Director, ACLU of Illinois
 Ramon Gardehire, Director of Government Relations, AIDS Foundation of Chicago
 Roderick K. Hawkins, Vice President of External Affairs, Chicago Urban League

Send letters and viewpoints to Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com. Items may be edited for length or clarity.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Michael Tackett

MATCH.COM

Lili Taylor tries to see the light in the supernatural movie *The Conjuring*. See page 22.

DISH

Being Koi.
Page 27Photo of smoked duck at Koi
by Andrew Davis

THEATER

Hell's 'Belle.'
Page 14Photo from Belleville
by Michael Brosilow

SPORTS

An incredible journey.
Page 30Ride for AIDS Chicago
photo by Ross Forman

SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

The hectic writing life of Ike Holter

BY JERRY NUNN

Chicago playwright Ike Holter is one busy man.

The 28-year-old playwright behind last year's wildly acclaimed *Stonewall Riots* drama *Hit the Wall* has two new works debuting days apart: A 10-minute piece called *Weirdo* that's part of LiveWire Chicago Theatre's short play festival called VisionFest 5: *Johnny 5 is Alive*, and then a reading of his new play *Prowess* at the Goodman Theatre as part of its season-long residency for local writers known as the Playwrights Unit.

On top of all of this, Holter also has to finish writing one more episode of a four-part stage sitcom called *B-Side Studios* for The New Colony and *The Inconvenience*. This project is a seven-month collaboration that also aims to be filmed and uploaded online that is set to debut in September.

"It's a lot of mental jumping around," said Holter during a telephone interview about the many projects he's juggling. "I'm always changing new scripts until they get on their feet."

This deluge of new work shows that Holter isn't resting on his laurels after *Hit the Wall* became a huge hit for *The Inconvenience* when it played in repertory as part of Steppenwolf Theatre's 2012 *Garage Rep* and then at *Theater on the Lake*. New York producers then took Holter's mythologized look at the 1969 *Stonewall Riots* off-Broadway to the *Barrow Street Theatre* in March of this year—just steps away from the site of the *Stonewall Inn*.

"I just wrote it on spec and it took two-and-a-half weeks to write and then it got picked up," Holter said about *Hit the Wall*. "I would never

have thought that it would first of all be done at Steppenwolf and then go out of the city."

Unfortunately, *Hit the Wall* in New York drew more of a mixed critical response and didn't attract the audiences that the theater was hoping for. The show didn't last long enough to coincide with the 44th anniversary of the *Stonewall Riots*.

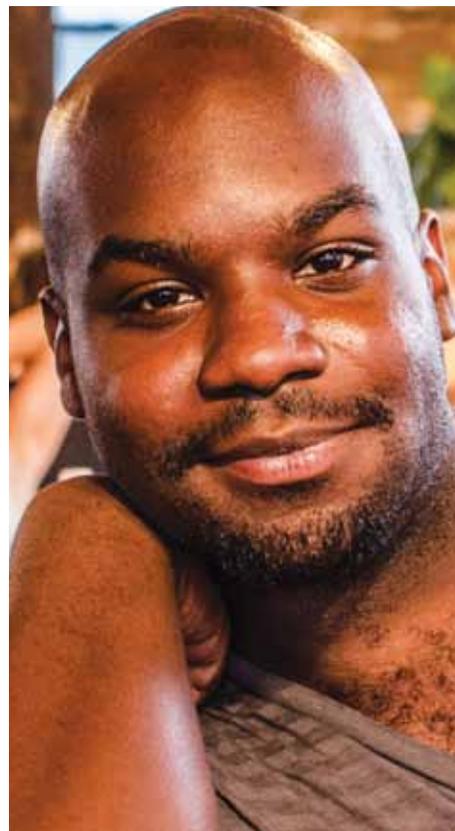
"I'm still so proud about that production and the cool thing was that the entire cast and the entire producing team and people who worked at the theater really believed in the show," said Holter, adding that other theaters around the country have plans to produce *Hit the Wall* in next few seasons.

The national attention that Holter received with *Hit the Wall* now means that whenever his name comes up, he has the label "Black gay playwright" attached.

"I don't exclusively write queer characters—I don't exclusively write Black characters, even though I'm both of those," Holter said, more bemused than annoyed. "Actually most of my plays are about a lot of different people doing a lot of different things... I don't think we called Arthur Miller a white straight male writer."

So with *Weirdo* and *Prowess*, Chicago theatergoers have a chance to see more of Holter's work on other topics. For instance, *Weirdo* deals with the power and perils of instant social media ruining the reputations of people to tie into LiveWire Chicago Theatre's festival theme of technology and when things "Short Circuit" (fans of the 1980s film with the same name will recognize the festival's use of its catchphrase).

Prowess is the graphic novel-inspired play that



Ike Holter. Photo by Ryan Bourque

Holter worked on through the Goodman's Playwright Unit. It concerns a woman who tries to enact change directly in Chicago neighborhoods when she becomes dissatisfied with the slow pace of politics.

"She basically pulls together a group of outlying individuals and they start what I would describe as a 'po-dunk Avengers-style' method of saving the city that takes place in modern Chicago," Holter said, adding that none of his characters actually have superpowers. "I'm a big fan of superhero movies and comic books and

this is kind of my stab at doing a hyper-real version that is funny, scary and also really dramatic because we're dealing with real issues."

"Ike is the quickest playwrights I've ever worked with," said Anna Rose Epstein, artistic director of *Nothing Without A Company*, which produced Holter's play *LOOM* earlier this season.

Epstein co-founded *Nothing Without A Company* with Holter in 2008 after they both graduated from DePaul University, and she's amazed by his "ability to see if something isn't working in a script during the process... He's more instinctual about things."

"I'll make revisions until we have to go up," Holter said. "*Weirdo* is easier because it's a 10-minute show—it's basically just cutting and trimming. But for *Prowess*, I'm actually looking at the script as we speak and that's my number one priority."

LiveWire Chicago Theatre's VisionFest 5: *Johnny 5 is Alive* features 10 short plays by Holter, Philip Dawkins, Bekah Brunstetter and seven other playwrights. Performances are from Wednesday, July 17, through Friday, Aug. 2, at INTUIT—The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, 756 N. Milwaukee Ave. VisionFest 5 runs in two alternating programs at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays (five plays each) with a marathon of both programs (all 10 plays) on Fridays at 7:30 and 9 p.m. The official press opening is Friday, July 19. Tickets are \$15 (single programs) or \$20 (Friday marathons). For more information, visit www.livewirechicago.com.

Holter's *Prowess* is performed as a reading at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, July 21, at the Goodman Theatre's rehearsal rooms, 170 N. Dearborn St. The performance is free, but reservations are required by calling 312-443-3800 or by visiting www.goodmantheatre.org/PlaywrightsUnit. Other plays that are part of the Goodman Theatre's Playwrights Unit include: Greg Allen's *Sleeping with the Prince of Darkness: The Imagined Pillow Talk of FBI Agent John O'Neill* (7:30 p.m. July 20), Christopher oscar peña's *F(law)less* (2:30 p.m. July 21) and Alice Austen's *Ninth Man Out* (7:30 p.m. Aug. 16).



Michael Shannon and Mierka Gärten in *Simpatico*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW

Simpatico

Playwright: Sam Shepard

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

Tickets: 312-943-8722;

www.aredorchidtheatre.org; \$30-\$40

Runs through: Aug. 25

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Once upon a time, in the California desert, there lived three friends who succumbed to deception, cheating off-track gamblers and framing a local gaming commissioner into taking the fall. The plan was for the trio to part company afterward, but Lyle and Rosie paired up to forge prestigious new identities amid Kentucky's equestrian aristocracy. Understandably fearful of exposure, Lyle has ascertained for 15 years that his partner in crime and the victim thereof remain in his debt, dispensing protection to the former and employment to the latter. Fellow shyster and chronic confabulator Vinnie has now fallen for a decent girl, however, and wants to "come clean." His absolution involves handing over long-preserved evidence to the police—a mission that Lyle must prevent, even if it means taking up his old habits as well.

Is *Simpatico* a simple revenge thriller, or a parable of nemesis and atonement, invoking divine punishment meted out upon the unrepentant? Since Sam Shepard is its author, we may never know—nor is it important whether we do. What

is important is that every participant in this summer busman's holiday for artists employed elsewhere during the year, convinces us, for every riveting moment of their allotted 160 minutes, that *they* know, and furthermore, that they *care*, very much, about each step leading to its uncertain outcome. When you get that kind of urgency rushing at you from barely arm's-length away, it can't help but command empathy—hey, the next significant event might fall into *your* lap.

Of course, it helps that the dream-team assembled by returning Chicago director Dado boasts resumé's testifying to their expertise in this brand of total-immersion portraiture. Foremost among them are Michael Shannon, a rising star since his teens, and firefighter-turned-thespian Guy Van Swearingen, who together have delved the intricacies of manly-man intimacy in this alley storefront since the company's beginnings. They are flanked by likewise distinguished alumni Jennifer Engstrom, Mierka Gärten and Doug Vickers, all delivering the goods that for 20 years has made Red Orchid a port-of-entry for international playwrights on the brink of discovery.

The palpable excitement generated by this communal bond elevates *Simpatico* above a vacation project for actors looking to refresh their chops on home turf to a master class in ensemble dynamics so intoxicating that it's a privilege just to be in the room with it. The entire run may be sold out, but the wait in the stand-by line is worth it.

THEATER REVIEW

Belleville

Playwright: Amy Herzog

At: Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St.

Tickets: 312-335-1650;

www.steppenwolf.org; \$20-\$78

Runs through: Aug. 25

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Abby and Zack aren't the first couple to be pressured by dotting parents into marrying before either has matured sufficiently to understand what this rite of passage entails. Abby is not

the first daughter raised to view marriage as her obligation to the clan whose patriarch she still regards as her primary protector, nor is Zack the first husband so fearful of losing his emotionally unstable spouse's affection that he embarks on increasingly irresponsible schemes to ensure her satisfaction.

Amy Herzog's attempt to sell this well-worn marital dynamic—Henrik Ibsen's "life-lie," anyone?—as new goods is not without commercial potential, especially when dressed up in motifs borrowed from other *folie-à-deux* classics: Patrick Hamilton's *Angel Street* (film title: *Gaslight*), Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Tracy Letts' *Bug*. Herzog's universe also includes a spacious apartment on the outskirts of Paris, exotic Senegalese neighbors, a conspicuous drop over a balcony rail and a large kitchen knife that takes up permanent residence in the

living room. Additionally, the wide variance in expository details (how long have Abby and Zack been married? Who proposed to whom? How old were they?) recalled by audience members also invites speculation—have the actors been instructed to incorporate nightly changes into the text? When your play's dramatic question is whether anybody can *really* know anybody else, why should we trust the playwright?

What keeps us from abandoning Abby and Zack's Pinteresque games before Herzog's 105-minute, intermissionless tale reaches its crisis (not the reliable burst-through-the-door shootout, but close) are the marathon performances Kate Arrington and Cliff Chamberlain deliver. They must conjure an atmosphere of claustrophobic menace in James Schuetz's relentlessly bright and airy apartment; impose a regenerative efficiency dictated by narrative expedience upon

grotesque self-inflicted wounds ;and persuade us that the thirtysomething cohabitants have sustained their pre-adolescent camaraderie for years without interference from Abby's controlling kinfolk. We welcome every appearance of Chris Boykin and Alana Arenas' laconic building managers as a harbinger of adult perspective, however brief.

Whether Herzog's goal is a cautionary tale of psychosexual dysfunction or a slick Hitchcockian thriller, the most sobering aspect of what we have witnessed is the suspicion that unlike in fiction, where exposure is guaranteed, our messy real world is capable of nurturing frustration and unhappiness engendered by mutually shared deception over generations. If nothing else, *Belleville* makes a good argument for extended courtships and prenuptial agreements.

CRITICS' PICKS

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

The Glass Menagerie, Mary-Arrchie Theatre Company at Theater Wit, extended through July 28. You may think you know this Tennessee Williams classic forwards and backwards, but a "memory" play can undergo significant changes when the narrator remembers more than we ever did. MSB

The Pride, About Face Theatre at Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, extended through July 28. There's more time to catch Bonnie Metzgar's dramatically strong production of Alexi Kaye Campbell's play examining gay life in Britain 50 years apart in 1958 and 2008. SCM

Uncle Bob, Mary-Arrchie Theatre Company at Angel Island, through July 21. A young and old man, both grumpy, deliberately court suicide in order to rage against the injustice of their death sentence, but Richard Cotovsky and Rudy Galvan make their existential dilemma almost "bromantic." MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

The Casuals

Playwrights: Chance Bone and Andrew Burden Swanson

At: Jackalope Theatre Company at Storefront Theater, 66 E. Randolph St.

Tickets: 1-773-340-2543;

www.jackalopetheatre.org; \$15

Runs through: July 28

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

You need to have a reason to set a play in a particular time and place. It's swell if the playwright, director and cast understand the reason, but if the audience doesn't understand then the play has failed. That's a problem with *The Casuals*. There's no inherent reason why it's set in mid-1950s Nevada, when the United States was testing nuclear weapons in the desert.

In fact, *The Casuals* doesn't even identify the era. Apart from vague references to "The War," meaning WWII, there's not a single time or date reference in the play; no mention of current events, popular songs or TV shows; no names of political, sports or entertainment personalities to give the play a time frame. OK, there's a reference to Les Paul but folks still listen to Les Paul.

Even more, there aren't any establishing expository scenes by which we learn about the characters. Plop! Things happen, people ap-



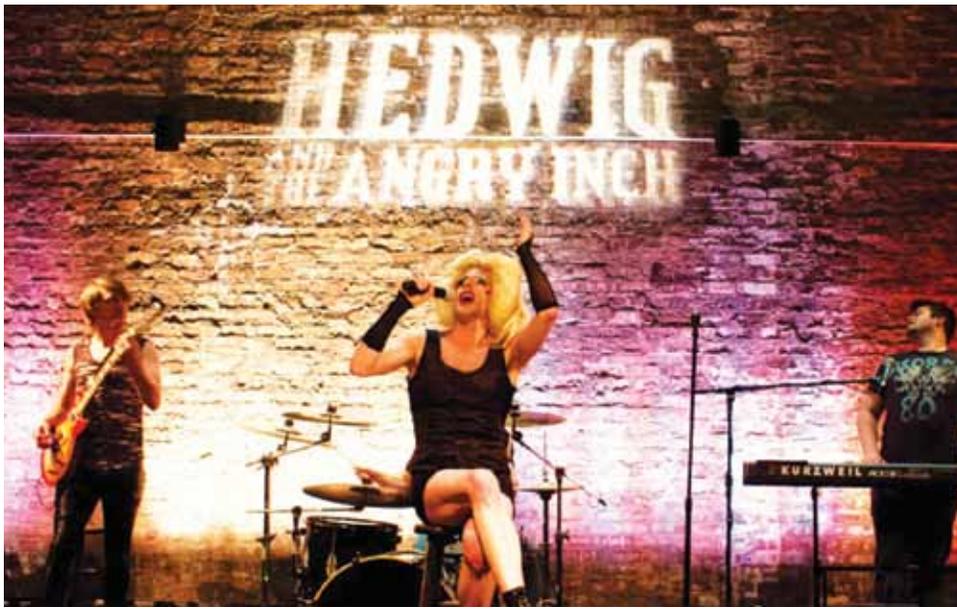
The Casuals. Photo by Alex Hand

pear and we don't know who, what or why. Young Tom and his new wife show up at the home of Richard, the central character, but three more scenes pass before we learn Tom is Richard's nephew. Such deliberate obscurity doesn't make *The Casuals* puzzling in a good way, only confusing. More fatal is that we're given insufficient material to form opinions about the characters. Should we like them or not? If an audience is not led to empathize with a character, it won't.

So we don't empathize with WWII veteran Richard, who has helped raise his nephew (we are told) after his brother died in the war. Now Richard is back in Nevada where he grew up, with a civilian job vaguely related to weapons tests and official secrets. But there are personal secrets, too: to protect Tom from the ugly truth, Richard constructed a heroic lie about how his brother died. He's recycled the same lie to assuage the grief of a local widow and

her son after their husband/father dies. Trust me, it doesn't play out as clearly as I've stated it. Richard, a decent guy, earns the wrath of nephew and widow when they cotton to his lie. The widow learns through an old tape recording culled from Richard's garbage can. Why she combs through his garbage is a *Great Unknown*, an unmotivated action.

Director Jonathan Berry has done some outstanding work but is stymied this time. He and his competent cast are caught in a solemn and humorless play with a sameness of tone and pace throughout. Authors Chance Bone and Andrew Burden Swanson have written for each other and not the public. As I said to playwrights during my years as a dramaturg, "The play you think you have written is not the play the audience is perceiving." It beats me why the play is called *The Casuals*. Kudos to John Wilson (set) and Eleanor Kahn (props) for period accuracy.



Hedwig and the Angry Inch. Photo from the Haven Theatre

THEATER REVIEW

Hedwig and the Angry Inch

Playwright: John Cameron Mitchell;
Songwriter: Stephen Trask
At: Haven Theatre at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.
Tickets: 773-975-8150 or www.haventheatrechicago.com; \$32
Runs through: Aug. 11

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Recently, Playbill.com announced that out stage and TV star Neil Patrick Harris (*How I Met Your Mother*) is planning to headline a Broadway production of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* in Spring 2014. So that means that the regional rights to John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask's acclaimed 1998 off-Broadway musical will probably be pulled soon.

No doubt the folks of the newly founded Haven Theatre must be counting their lucky stars that they were able to get their hands on *Hedwig* for their inaugural production. So if you want to see *Hedwig* locally and live before you have to shell out big bucks to see it on Broadway, head over to Theater Wit now.

Besides, *Hedwig* might lose some of its scrappy spirit playing in a big Broadway house. The show is after all about an embittered transgender songwriter and wannabe rock star who has been repeatedly dealt bad hands in life.

Starting life as a bastard East German youth, *Hedwig* (nee Hansel Schmidt) famously goes through a botched sex-change operation (leaving only that angry inch) in an attempt to marry the U.S. Captain Luther Robinson. She then gets abandoned in a trailer park and has her songs stolen by the youth Tommy Speck, who later becomes a big rock star named Tommy Gnosis.

So in playing a small-tier rock venue for the show itself, *Hedwig's* every action should be motivated by seething anger and resentment.

Alas, Ryan Lanning's take on the duality-torn title singer is one more of coy bemusement and awe that he gets to portray *Hedwig* than truly embodying the role. Oh sure, Lanning cuts a hard-edged figure in *Hedwig's* fringe-adorned outfit and oversize blonde wig. He also sings the role with plenty of ferocity.

Yet Lanning doesn't bring the churning anger burning within the character of *Hedwig* to the fore like he should. I also would have liked more animosity from Lauren Paris as *Hedwig's* Balkan ex-lover, Yitzhak.

Otherwise, Haven Theatre's bare-bones production of *Hedwig* by director Kyle Trent largely gets the job done technically. There's a truly rocking band featuring music director Kory Danielson on keyboard, Eric Engelson on drums, Nick David on guitar and Zach Moore on bass. And you can't deny the wonderful intimacy you get up close to everyone in Haven Theatre's production, so you can imagine every one of *Hedwig's* frequently salacious anecdotes (compared to how vividly they

were fleshed out in the 2001 film version).

So enjoy Haven's *Hedwig* for its intimacy and technical precision. Just be aware that some of the burning anger motivating everyone might be missing.

SPOTLIGHT



Just as Congress is trying to hammer out reforms to U.S. immigration policy, the Goodman Theatre's Latino Theatre Festival has cannily programmed Albany Park Theater Project's hit show *Home/Land*. This remounted production from January 2012 focuses on the human effects of U.S. immigration laws through text, movement and music. Albany Park Theater Project's *Home/Land* returns for a brief run from Thursday, July 18, through Sunday, July 28, in the Owen Theatre space of the Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays (and July 23), 8 p.m. Fridays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$10-\$25; call 312-443-3800 or visit www.goodmantheatre.org. Photo by Amy Braswell



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- **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
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 (Ergotrate®, 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[®], Eptol[®], 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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NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

Gay director/actor Bill Brown: Chicago's his kind of town



BY JERRY NUNN

Director of the theater hit *The Liar*, William Brown has multiple projects throughout the Chicago area. Not only has the Writers' Theatre now extended the run of the iambic-pentameter play but it was recently announced that his TimeLine Theatre Company's show, *To Master The Art*, will be shown at the Broadway Playhouse.

Brown has collaborated with the Goodman for years, directing and starring in *A Christmas Carol*. He directed *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *The Chalk Garden* and his own musical adaptation of *She Stoops to Conquer* for Northlight Theatre. The list goes on.

The community has acknowledged this with a Jeff Award for his portrayal of Henry Kissinger in *Nixon* and an After Dark Award for his season of work.

Windy City Times spoke with the theater guru while he was working on *Shakespeare in the Park*.

Windy City Times: What do you go by? Will? Bill?

William Brown: William is my professional name but everybody calls me Bill.

WCT: Have you heard the song "Billy Brown" by Mika?

WB: No, I haven't. Is it a good one?

WCT: It's about a closeted gay guy. I will have to send it to you.

WB: I would love that. I like the name "Billy" and about two people have called me that so I guess I am not a Billy. [Laughs]

WCT: You are in the middle of *Montana* right now. How is that going?

WB: Great. I am working on *Montana's Shakespeare in the Park*. It has been part of my life for 33 years. I don't make it out here every year. We put up two *Shakespeare* productions. They go out on tour and play tiny communities. We played a place with a population of 19 and we got 250 people up there! I am very proud of it, let's put it that way.

WCT: What led you to be a director in the first place?

WB: It all kind of adds up. I started as a kid with music. I studied piano and sang. When I started college I had been working at the local newspaper in a small town of Beckley, W. Va., and went for a journalism scholarship. That worked out until I auditioned for *The Mikado*, an operetta.

I decided to go into music and moved to New York to become an opera singer. I did some small things in Brooklyn but one day my voice teacher called me into her parlor and told me she didn't think I would have a career in singing. She said I had poise. I didn't know what do with that and cried the whole way home.

I started taking improv classes and decided to be the best classical actor I could be. I auditioned for the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. I got an alternate part and that

set me on this path; it was a wonderful program. When there was not much theater in San Francisco and I didn't want to go back to New York, on a whim, I moved to Chicago.

There was a theater company called Court Theatre that was looking for a young man and I landed two full seasons there. I knew I had won the pot of gold. I made my living as an actor for the next 15 years.

One day during a tech rehearsal I realized I had an opinion about how a light was hung, a hemline, the way the scene was played; in that moment I knew I wanted to tell the whole story. I had never thought about being a director before that. Now I make my living as a director and I couldn't be happier.

WCT: How did *The Liar* come about?

WB: I almost always do a play at Writers' Theatre. Michael Halberstam gave me my first professional job directing. He was doing *Private Lives* and asked me to play Elliot. If you know him he's very persuasive. I told him I would do it if I could direct *Glass Menagerie*. It was extortion, right? I have been with him ever since.

I was looking at David Ives' plays and I laughed from the first page of *The Liar*. I thought it was



Bill Brown. Photo from TimeLine Theatre

funny and smart. I saw a whole strand that was surprising and moving.

WCT: Was it hard for the cast to learn the lines with iambic pentameter?

WB: Actually, it is easier to learn verse than it is to learn prose because you have the music and you add rhymes to it and it keeps you honest. We realized in callbacks that the only way to play it was in complete truth. It was not an easy play to put on by any means, but we had so much fun.

WCT: Tell our readers about your *Julia Child* show.

WB: *To Master the Art* is a play that I wrote with my best friend, Doug Frew. It was commissioned from TimeLine and we did it there three years ago. We started writing it before that movie came out. The Paris scenes were there but we wanted to tell the story of a couple that goes to Europe right after the war.

This woman who was almost 50 years old didn't know what she wanted to be when she grew up. She wanted a purpose. She came from a wealthy family in California and couldn't cook a thing. She didn't speak French and was almost six foot. She felt like a galloping giraffe

but eventually found herself. She learned French quite fluently then studied at the Cordon Bleu. She was a great educator and a fierce researcher. The book she wrote, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, changed the world. The play is about becoming Julia and how her husband's life took a downward turn.

We were worried that people wouldn't want to see it after the movie but the entire three-week run sold out 10 days after it opened. That was not us; it was where that woman lives in a lot of people's hearts and minds.

The Chicago Commercial Collective is a new producing company that wants to take non profit shows and produce them in Chicago. Broadway in Chicago were also fans of the show so they got on board and were part of the marketing so we will be doing it in Water Tower Place.

WCT: I look forward to seeing it.

WB: I am so glad Windy City Times called because all the time we were in rehearsal for *The*

Liar we thought of it as a coming out story. I came to that because I am a gay man. The main character Durant comes to a little hick town and reinvents himself. He comes to realize that the lies are keeping him from actually dealing with people as fellow human beings. Just because you are good at lying and hiding who you are doesn't necessarily make that healthy. He destroys his relationship with his father. It takes quite a serious turn. He has to come to terms with who is. In the process he finds an extraordinary love, a brother, and a new relationship with his father. It was helpful to have that structure to work with.

To Master The Art begins a limited engagement Sept. 10 at the Broadway Playhouse, 175 E. Chestnut Ave. For more information, visit timelinetheatre.com.

The Liar runs through Aug. 11 at Writers' Theatre, 325 Tudor Ct, Glencoe. See www.writers-theatre.org.

DANCE

Alvin Ailey dancers wed amid DOMA's demise

BY VICKI CRAIN

After an eight-year relationship, two dancers at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater decided to get married. On June 7, Antonio Douthit and Kirven Boyd went to the City Clerk's Office in New York City and said their "I do," surrounded by family and friends. After the ceremony, the group went out for brunch and that night had a "kick-ass" party at the Ailey studios.

The new husbands, who live in Harlem with their two dogs, opted to hyphenate their last names and are now known as the Douthit-Boyd. "It's a statement of who we are," Kirven said. "We really wanted to make sure in programs and when people look at us, they know that about us."

Adding to the nuptial joy, just two and a half weeks after the wedding, on June 26, the Supreme Court ruled the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional. "When you think about the institution of marriage and all of the things that go with it, as a same-sex couple, you want to feel like you are recognized in the same light as heterosexual couples," said Kirven. "It's the most amazing feeling."

While happy their marriage will now be recognized nationally and they can receive marital benefits, the couple realizes the struggle for acceptance still ahead. "It's a real national issue for people. I don't understand why," said Kirven. "I don't know if people think it will make more people gay. ... If you're gay, you're gay. It's not like we're affecting any heterosexual people's identity."

"I think that it's an issue of love and not just sex," Antonio said. "I feel like people, especially a lot of religious people, don't realize we're living a life. There's still a job to go to and responsibilities. We're still being respectable human beings." Kirven agreed, saying, "We figure that religion and homosexuality will never see eye to eye, but at some point, it's a respect issue."

Before meeting at Ailey, the two had very different experiences coming out to their families. Boston native Kirven came out at 18 after his mother asked him if he was gay. A close cousin had already come out to the family, which he felt may have "cushioned the blow a bit," he said. "No one ever made me feel any kind of way for being who I am. Everybody was OK with it."

Antonio, who grew up in St. Louis, came out to his mother at 19. "I just don't think she knew much about the homosexual lifestyle," he said. "In her childhood it was taboo for young men to date other men. She actually didn't want me to dance. She thought that



Antonio and Kirven Douthit-Boyd. Photo by E F Artistry

dancing was a feminine sport, so when I told her I was gay, she was not happy."

Moving away for college made things easier for Antonio, but they never really talked about it again. She died in 2004, his first year with Ailey. She never got to see him dance with the company. "We picked the date June 7 because that was Antonio's mom's birthday," Kirven said. "It was our way of acknowledging her."

As a surprise, Kirven chose Oleta Adams' "Get Here" as the song for the couple's first dance. "My Mom sang that song to me when I left to go to college," said Antonio. "I told Kirven that story a long time ago. I couldn't stop crying."

Julia Sweeney on SNL's Pat, atheism

BY JERRY NUNN

Julia Sweeney came to national attention with Saturday Night Live and her Pat segment, even spawning a feature film about the androgynous character. She later created three autobiographical monologues that she performed in various settings, God Said Ha! (her brother and her battling cancer), In a Family Way (adopting her Chinese daughter, Mulan) and Letting Go of God (her becoming an atheist).

She served as a consultant on two television shows with gay followings, Sex and the City and Desperate Housewives, and recently voiced the character of Sherry Squibbles in the hit cartoon Monsters University.

Sweeney met "I Kissed a Girl" Jill Sobule at Technology Entertainment and Design conference and have now created a touring show called Jill and Julia. Windy City Times talked with her directly after the duo's show at City Winery recently.

Windy City Times: Hi, Julia. Are you originally from Wilmette, Ill.?

Julia Sweeney: No, I am from Spokane, Wash. I only moved to Wilmette four years ago. I had never even heard of Wilmette before that.

WCT: How did that happen?

JS: Because I met my husband and he has a business in Evanston. He wanted to quit his business and move to LA. I said, "No, I am quitting and coming to you darling." So we moved here, me and Mulan. Mulan was 8 when we moved here.

WCT: What a great place to raise a family.

JS: It is a fantastic place to raise a child. She was in schools in L.A. and things were getting dicey. I didn't want to send her to a private school. I learned about the North Shore schools and that was it.

WCT: How did you get in the entertainment biz in the first place?

JS: I actually got a degree in economics and planned to be an accountant in the film industry. I fulfilled my dream and became an accountant. I realized to get ahead as an accountant I needed to get an MBA or a law degree. It occurred to me that I wasn't very interested in the topic. I went through a huge midlife crisis when I was 25, which I recommend by the way because if you have one at 25 years old then you have the rest of your life to correct your mistakes!

I realized I didn't want to be an accountant. Then I went to The Groundlings and took classes and everything changed.

WCT: Then The Groundlings led to Saturday Night Live.

JS: Yeah, and a lot of people like Jon Lovitz, Phil Hartman, Laraine Newman, and many people since made it a performance-team place before SNL.

WCT: How long were you on there for?

JS: Four and a half years.

WCT: What is one thing you got out of it?

JS: I feel like I was so lucky to be on the show. What would I take away from it? Even the biggest stars have had an enormous amount of luck but also have a certain skill set. If you see it up front, it isn't magical. It is a real set of skills and luck that have combined to make them huge stars. Seeing that up front was a real education.

WCT: Where did the Pat character come out of?

JS: I was working as an accountant and I knew somebody that had many of the same qualities that Pat had. He was a guy and not ambiguous sexually or anything but I wanted to do a character like that. There was this other woman that had these odd physical qualities. I wasn't good enough to seem like a guy so I decided to make a joke to make it seem like it was not a man or a woman to cover up for the fact that I don't really know that it is a man or a woman. That became the joke and that was at The Groundlings. I did it for a couple of years before I got on Saturday



Julia Sweeney. Photo by Jerry Nunn

Night Live.

WCT: It was ahead of its time with the transgender community.

JS: I know. I was wondering just today if I knew what I know now about "transgender"—that wasn't even a well-known word back then—I wonder if I would have even done Pat. I didn't want it to be controversial or making fun of anyone. It was really making fun of other people being befuddled. Pat was always confident in his or her sexuality whatever that was. I wonder now if it is too dangerous to do something like that now. I might not have done it.

WCT: Have you heard from the transgender community about it?

JS: I have only heard positive things. There may be negative things but I haven't heard about it.

WCT: Let's talk about the tour. How did wind up touring with Jill?

JS: I was a fan of hers for a long time. It is like I said in the show I wanted her to do the theme song for one of my shows. Our representatives had contacted each other but never met because that project didn't go.

I was at a TED conference in Monterrey and we met there. We then realized we lived only three blocks away from each other in L.A., so we started walking to each other's houses. Jill asked me to come to Largo, which was a club she was performing at and I performed there too because a lot of comedians went there. She asked me to do some patter there while she tuned up. That was really how it started.

WCT: Letting Go of God had so many good points. There have not been a lot of spokespeople for atheism.

JS: No, and it is interesting. I have let it go for the last five years. I didn't even know about the atheist community. I didn't know there were conventions and people who met with each other as I joked the atheist mania. Then I got swept up in it. Some of it rubs me the wrong way.

I see religion as art that has become misguided. To me it is theater and I appreciate it as theater. I don't really hate it and have taken the last five years to think about how I really feel about it. Now I am thinking about writing something about how I feel about it now. I am sympathetic to religion but not as a believer.

WCT: You have really turned into a writer. That wasn't planned, was it?

JS: No. Someone asked me to teach a class at Northwestern. I thought that was funny because I was thinking I should take a class at Northwestern! If I had known I was going to be a writer I would have taken some writing classes. I do think I have some qualities as a writer that are natural and good but I don't know much about the mechanics of writing. I wish I could go of to graduate school and really learn how to be a writer!

WCT: You are working on a new book, I heard.

JS: Yes. I have a couple of books but one called Fork in particular that I am working on.

WCT: That will be a screenplay?

JS: Well, it is going to be a screenplay but now what my plan is, that changes all the time is, to write the book first then write the screenplay. A movie is hard to get made but a book you can just do it. No one can stop you from writing a book but money can stop you from making a movie! My editor at Simon & Schuster thinks it could be a book so I want to do it.

I am thinking after the November shows I will take some time off from performing, like a maybe a year. Performing is so frantic that I can't get into the head space of writing while I am on tour. It is such a quieter thing to write. I know people that do it but I can't.

WCT: You want to enjoy the city that you are visiting as well.

JS: Right. So taking time off will allow me to finish a few projects.

WCT: Where are going next?

JS: We are doing these seven shows then in September we have six shows in the Northwest. We are going to Portland, San Francisco and San Diego. In November we have shows in the Northeast again, like Lake Placid and New York.

Keep up with the tour at www.jillandjuliashow.com and juliasweeney.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

Force romps 84-0 in playoff win over Atlanta

Even though the Chicago Force was off for three weeks, the team clicked on all cylinders as it crushed the previously undefeated Atlanta Phoenix 84-0 on July 13.

Force quarterback Sami Grisafe threw 10 touchdowns, completing 31 of 38 passes for 546 yards. Offensive game day MVP Jeanette Gray caught passes for 334 yards, including seven touchdowns.

The Force will host the Boston Militia, in a rematch of last year's conference title game, on Saturday, July 20. The winner moves on to the national championship, to be played in San Diego, Calif., on Aug. 3.

Lambda Car Club event July 20

The Lambda Car Club Lake Michigan will hold its Chicago 2013 Grand Invitational July 17-21.

All events are closed to the public except for a July 20 car show with classics from many eras, at the Holiday Inn, 6201 West Joliet Rd., Countryside. The cars shown are invited vehicles only.

Lambda Car Club International was founded in 1981 as the Gay Old Car Owners Society, based in New York, N.Y. Since then, various branches have formed, including the Lake Michigan division.

See www.2013chicago.com and www.lclmr.org.

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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

The Conjuring

Combining elements of *The Amityville Horror*, *Poltergeist* and *The Exorcist*, **The Conjuring** provides the familiar thrills and chills (with a minimum of gore) from all three of those frightfests in an Overlook Hotel-sized creepshow that is genuinely frightening. Helmed by horror-meister James Wan (*Saw*, *Insidious* and its forthcoming sequel) and produced by specialists in the genre, *The Conjuring* has the additional bonus of being based on a "true" story—a factor that alerts audiences, no matter the genre—that here is something that needs to be given extra attention.

When done as well as *The Conjuring*, with all the hallmarks of the genre neatly in place, the "based on a true story" designation certainly helps to give a supernatural-themed movie like this the extra jolt that audiences queasily want.

The material comes courtesy of Ed and Lorraine Warren, who in their day were apparently the Liz and Dick/Brangelina/rock-star couple of the psychic world. Ed (who passed away in 2006) was the demonologist—an expert in the wily ways of Mr. Scratch (a.k.a. the Devil) and his evil minions—while Lorraine (who served as a quasi-technical advisor on the film) is adept in the ways of clairvoyance and has abilities as a medium. Together, these two claimed to have investigated more than 10,000 hauntings, with a batch of best-selling books and movies (*The Amityville Horror*, *The Haunting in Connecticut*, etc.) to show for their life's work.

The case involving the Perron family—which the Warrens tackled in 1971—involving something apparently different than the usual run-of-the-mill evil spirit. As the movie tells it, fresh off a case involving a child-sized evil doll (which serves as the prologue for the picture), the Warrens are giving a psychic lecture to a rapt



Vera Farmiga (right) in *The Conjuring*. Photo by Michael Tackett

audience when they are approached by Carolyn Perron (played by the luminous actor Lili Taylor), whose family was subjected to a series of events familiar to pretty much every supernatural enthusiast. Ed is hesitant to get involved but something in Carolyn's desperate plea reaches Lorraine and the duo visit the Perron's home, where Ed records Carolyn relating the litany of terrifying events up to that point.

From the moment Carolyn and her husband Roger (Ron Livingston, acting in a rather dazed manner) moved into the fallen-down, Victorian mansion in rural Harrisville, R.I., along with their five daughters, creepy stuff had been happening. As the family arrives and tumbles out of their beat-up station wagon, the girls dashing about exploring the house, the warning signs commence when the beloved family pet won't set foot in the place. A lot more follows: The clocks stop each night exactly at 3:07 a.m.; one of the little girls discovers a vintage, tinkling child's music box in which a shadowy "imaginary friend" appears in a mirror; the house is filled with cold spots; mom wakes up each day with more mysterious bruises; a secret, walled-off basement room filled with dusty, unsettling remnants from previous owners is found during a game of hide and seek; one of the girls resumes sleepwalking and knocks her head on an antique wardrobe; and another insists someone is grabbing her leg in the dark. This is all for starters.

Everything screams, "Get the hell out!" and with a houseful of five lovely young Linda Blairs and Carol Anns and one unaware, susceptible mom in residence (we all know that prepubescent teenage girls and their lonely mothers are Satan's preferred possession sites, right?), it's no wonder that the house's nasty demon can't resist trying to work some o' black magic on the ladies. (Dad is mostly away trying to make ends meet driving a truck on long hauls.) Things literally go bump in the night and by the time Ed and Lorraine arrive, the family (as well as the audience) is scared to pieces. (The seemingly innocuous hide and seek game is particularly unsettling.) Ed and Lorraine immediately sense *Really Bad Stuff* and, with their arrival, things kick into high gear. We then move from infestation and oppression into possession, step three in the Warren's checklist for "Hauntings 101." Before the local priest can get permission from the Vatican for an exorcism, Ed and Lorraine are forced to step in and take charge themselves.

By utilizing every bag in the genre, Wan and his screenwriters (brothers Chad and Carey Hayes), along with period-perfect scene design, really crawl under your skin. Taylor—with her careworn face, slightly raspy voice and everyday, commonplace unfussy acting style—has faced

down evil ghosts before (in the big-budget remake of *The Haunting*) and brings enormous empathy to her role, as do the young actresses playing the daughters. However, it's really Vera



Steve Grand in "All-American Boy." Still courtesy of YouTube

Gay country singer's video goes viral

Openly gay country-music singer Steve Grand's YouTube video for the ballad "All-American Boy" has gone viral, according to a *KansasCity.com* item. The video has garnered more than half a million videos—considered impressive for a complete unknown whose only promotion has been Internet buzz.

The video portrays a young gay man (Grand) who misreads signals from an apparently straight "all-American" male friend. Grand, a 23-year-old who is from Chicago, said he has no idea where the YouTube success may take him, though he admitted he's "not much of a singer" and more of a songwriter.

Grand has said his own life inspired the video. "I was a 13-year-old boy [at camp]," he said. "One of my counselors was warm and strong and he took an interest in me—not sexually, but as a friend, and it really moved me. I remember leaving with a horrible ache in my heart."

The video is on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjiyJCwNyY.

'Glee' actor dies

Cory Monteith—who played Finn on the Fox show *Glee*—was found dead in a Vancouver

Farmiga (especially) and Patrick Wilson, as the Warrens, who elevate the picture beyond its recognizable though entertaining scare tactics.

As essayed by Farmiga and Wilson, who have both had substantial roles in horror pictures before, the Warrens are more than a tad sanctimonious and have the melodramatic flourish that all faith-based know-it-alls do—their absolute confidence in their abilities, welded to an unshakeable belief that they know exactly what they're confronting (and how to combat it) are both comforting and more than a little off-putting. Farmiga and Wilson invest their roles with just the right balance of this central "niceness," world-weariness and requisite histrionics to make this kinda creepy duo believable.

The subplot—in which the Warrens store talismans from all their cases (including the aforementioned evil doll), each still inhabited by a demon, in a sunlit room within their own suburban home, admonishing their young daughter to keep out or else—is just one more unsettling detail that helps give both the performances and the movie an uneasy edge. Away from their spirit work they're like a chirpy Carol and Mike Brady fussing over their daughter or giving interviews to skeptical reporters; however, when the local priest calls they exchange knowing looks and swing into action, both coming alive, infused with their divine purpose to battle Satan.

With Farmiga and Wilson in the roles, it's fun to contemplate these superhero-sized ghostbusters headlining multiple sequels or a television show—and with those 10,000 cases to draw from, audiences should be prepared for the Warrens to haunt them for decades to come.

hotel room July 13. He was 31.

Vancouver police said the cause of death was not immediately apparent, but they ruled out foul play. Medical authorities plan to conduct an autopsy July 15.

Monteith's body was discovered by staff members at the Fairmont Pacific Rim Hotel after he missed his checkout time.

Among those responding to the news was co-star Dot Marie Jones, who plays the school's football coach on the series. Jones tweeted, "I have no words! My heart is broken. Cory was not only a hell of a friend, he was one amazing man that I will hold close to my heart forever."

According to *TheWrap.com*, Fox released a statement saying, "We are deeply saddened by this tragic news. Cory was an exceptional talent and an even more exceptional person."

The rep for co-star and girlfriend Lea Michele said, "We ask that everyone kindly respect Lea's privacy during this devastating time," according to *USA Today*. Co-star Harry Shum Jr. posted, "At this time, please send nothing but love and light. This tragic news still doesn't seem real to me. I love you Cory."

Bjork, Solange, MIA, R. Kelly at Pitchfork July 19-21

A variety of edgy and big-name stars will be performing at the Pitchfork Music Festival July 19-21 in Union Park, 1501 W. Randolph St.

Pitchfork Music Festival presents more than 40 bands, "highlighting the best in new and emerging music," according to its website.

Among the acts performing Friday, July 19, are headliner Bjork along with bands such as Trash Talk, Woods and Frankie Rose. Solange (Beyonce's younger sister), Savages, Belle & Sebastian, Ryan Hemsworth, ...And You Will Know Us By The Trail of Dead, and KEN Mode are some of the acts slated to perform Saturday, July 20. The last day (Sunday, July 21) will see R. Kelly, Lil B, MIA, Yo La Tengo, Glass Candy and DJ Rashad performing, among many others.

See <http://pitchforkmusicfestival.com>.

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Olympic swimmer discusses coming out

Amini Fonua, a swimmer in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, was openly gay for all four years on the swim team at Texas A&M University. He came out to the world this past May. Fonua spoke with Ross Forman recently and acknowledged, "This is my first U.S. newspaper interview," since coming out publicly.

BY ROSS FORMAN

He was a gay freshman swimmer at Texas A&M University in the fall of 2008, boasting an impressive resume in his native New Zealand, where he broke numerous Auckland and New Zealand age-group records.

He had been in the United States only once before, a year earlier, for a swim meet in Hawaii, and this was his first time living in America.

"I was very much out, and had some amazing upper-classmen who told me that they'd watch after me. They said, 'If there are any problems whatsoever, let us know and we'll make sure they don't continue,'" Amini Fonua said in a phone interview. "I was very lucky to have a few guardian angels on the swim team looking after me, making sure I was in an environment where I could strive and be at my utmost best.

"It was a dream come true to earn a scholarship, and I know I was offered it because I was great at what I did. Nothing else should have mattered," including sexual orientation.

Fonua shined in the Aggies' speedo. He graduated from the school this past May, and ranks number one all-time in the school's record books for the 100-yard breast stroke, set in 2012. He also ranks number three overall in school history in the 200-yard breaststroke, less than two seconds behind that record, too.

Plus, Fonua was part of three of the school's top five all-time best times in the 200-meter relay, and two of the top five all-time best times in the 400-meter relay. In addition, he was a six-time All-American.

"I look back [at my Texas A&M career] and think about all of the lessons learned, the lifelong friendships formed," Fonua said. "I think those four years were amazing; I grew from being a boy to a man, surrounded by the best of friends. I'm really, really grateful that I made the decision [to attend A&M] and I never would change it."

His collegiate highlight, he said, was being named team captain as a senior. "That was really rewarding. It was fun to lead the team as best I could and still maintain some of the best friendships I ever had," he said.

Fonua came out publically in May to defend the school from the perception that it is a hostile environment for LGBT students, coming out in the campus newspaper, The Battalion, after a Student Senate bill drew attention to the attitude of students attending a school the Princeton Review ranked the 7th-most unfriendly LGBT campus in the country.

"I'm very lucky, thankful and grateful that I never suffered anything bad," on campus in College Station, Texas, because of my sexual orientation, he said. "I was out all four years, and had no issues whatsoever."

Fonua said that, in the two months since coming out to the world, nothing has changed.

"Life continues forward," said Fonua, who has since moved to New York City for an internship at a public relations firm. He graduated with a telecommunications and media studies major.

When DOMA was defeated and the Supreme



Amini Fonua. Photo from Fonua

Court ended Prop 8, the California constitutional amendment that banned same-sex marriage, Fonua replied, "I'm proud of [gay] things that are happening now in the U.S."

Fonua has retired from competitive swimming, at least for the time being. He admitted he'll consider returning. He also is considering a foray into full-time coaching. "I definitely enjoy coaching, and I get a fulfillment out of it too, just in a different way [than as an athlete]," he said. "I think I could be good at it and definitely make it a passion of mine."

But what a career he's had, especially over the past year-plus.

He was the 2012 Big 12 champion in the 100-meter breaststroke and represented Tonga at the 2012 London Olympics. Fonua holds dual Tongan and New Zealand citizenship.

He even was the Tonga flag-bearer in the 2012 Summer Olympics Parade of Nations.

"The Olympics were unlike anything I had ever seen or done in life, something I know I might not get to repeat again in life, so I really, really cherish and really, really embrace that memory," Fonua said. "Every time I look back at that moment at [carrying the Tonga flag], I get goosebumps.

"I really cherished that moment because it gave me a chance to think about all of the people who worked my entire career with. It was sort of an accumulation of so much hard work, from so many people. I can't take single credit for it. Family, friends, coaches and so many others also deserve credit."

Fonua said his heart nearly stopped when he first learned he was going to be carrying the flag. He immediately called his parents to tell them, but they were airborne, en route to London. So he sent them an email and also sent them a text with the news.

Then he informed the world via social media (Facebook and Twitter).

Fonua, who swam the 100-meter breast stroke, was one of three Tongan participants (two men, one woman) in the 2012 Summer Olympics, which included a shot putter and sprinter.

"I did all right, not as well as I had hoped," Fonua said. "My goal was top 40, and I finished 41st. Still, it was so much fun, and I definitely would do it all over again."

"I look back on my career and reflect on the whole thing, the wide picture, including the Olympics, and I'm satisfied."

More Amini Fonua facts:

—Being a role model: "I really want to be a role model, especially for the [Tongan] community because water safety still is something that we still struggle with every single day, and I'm very passionate about it."

—He is "pretty happily single," he added.

—On Chicago: "I want to get to a Cubs game," he said. "And I'm so happy the Blackhawks won [the Stanley Cup.] I am a Blackhawks fan, regardless of who the other team [on the ice] is."

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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.

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For more information, please email: editor@windycitymediagroup.com or lkarlic@centeronhalsted.org

WINDY CITY
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Executive Sweet hosts reunion

Legendary party divas Pat McCombs and Vera Washington (pictured directly below) hosted Executive Sweet's Reunion Party July 13. Executive Sweet is the oldest and largest of all-women's parties in Chicago. There were lines of women waiting to get in once the party hit capacity.

The party was at Society Art Gallery, 2140 W. Fulton, Chicago, from 9 p.m to 2 a.m. Music was by DH Doris.

Photos by Tracy Baim



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WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES

Koi

BY ANDREW DAVIS

It was at the quiet, unassuming pan-Asian Evanston restaurant **Koi** (www.koievanston.com; 624 Davis St.) where I've had one of my more unusual experiences—and I don't mean that in a bad way.

First, the staff is extremely friendly, and General Manager Dennis Sotos typifies that attitude. Sotos rolls with the punches, even regaling some patrons with stories about his life. (He told my dining companion and me one story that was a doozy.)

The menu itself is quite expansive, covering Chinese, Thai and Japanese cuisines. One example is the page describing "8 Distinct Regional Cuisines of China," which spotlights everything from Peking sweet and sour crispy pork chops (Cantonese region) to cumin lamb (Shandong region).

Sotos—who says the restaurant is "authentic but approachable"—started things off by send-



Dragon Fire maki (above) and the sushi and nigiri platter (above right) at Koi. PR photos.



ing off a very refreshing strawberry fruit-ini. (Cocktails include blood orange Cosmos, Asian mojitos and pomegranate-lychee bellinis, among other items.)

My friend and I then went about selecting items—and here's when things became a bit intriguing: The dining companion is a strict vegan and I asked if he could challenge the staff a bit.

He took to the word "challenge" like a duck to water, ordering dishes I probably wouldn't ask for in a thousand years: Seaweed salad, stir-fry pea sprouts, baby bok choy and Northern spicy gelatin were among the dishes he requested—for starters. (Sotos, to his credit, admitted that Koi is probably not on top of vegan dishes like it should, but it's "improving.") Overall, my friend liked the dishes, stating that the vegetables were "crunchy" and that the variety of textures generally worked.

Turn to page 27

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calendar

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Wed., July 17

July Burly Burly is a free monthly night of music and drink at the Burlington Bar in Logan Square for queer, gay, lesbian, and otherwise funky and/or bearded individuals. Burliness not required. Celebrity DJ this month is Joe Erbentraut of Subject to Change. 9pm, The Burlington, 3425 W. Fullerton Ave., <https://www.facebook.com/burlychicago>

PUMPed minibar Hump Day has never been better with PUMPed at minibar. Featuring DJ's, models, and bottles. 10pm, 323.377.0406, Minibar, 3341 N Halsted St., <http://pumpedminibar.eventbrite.com>

Thursday, July 18

Lambda Legal Chicago Leadership Council Presents Summer Ambition A Cocktail House Celebrating Young Professionals. Sponsored bar by Sidetrack Chicago, complimentary catering by Chicago Gourmet to You, \$25 Suggested donation at the door. Please RSVP online. 6pm-9pm, Suit Supply's Outdoor Terrace, 945 N. Rush St., <http://www.lambdalegal.org/summerambition>

Dating for Queer Nerds Travel-themed dating mixer for brainy LGBT bachelors and bachelorettes. Highway of Love icebreaker where guests map out geeky destinations. Smart singles play board games and Hello World trivia. Prizes. \$30. Registration required online or by phone. 7pm-10pm, 855-637-3568, Will's Northwoods Inn, 3030 N. Racine Ave., http://www.nerdsatheart.com/events_chicagoq.html

A Cole Porter Songbook Porter's sophisticated music and notoriously witty lyrics

RINGS AND THINGS Tuesday, July 23

Musician Diamond Rings will perform a DJ set at Berlin, 954 W. Belmont Ave.

PR photo by Norman Wong



come alive in unique Theo Ubique style under the direction of 4-time Jeff-award winning director Fred Anzevino, with new arrangements by music director Aaron Benham and choreography by David Heilmann. 7:30pm-9:30pm, 800-595-4849, No Exit Cafe, 6970 N. Glenwood Ave., <http://www.theo-u.org/>

Dave Davila's 32nd Birthday Roast and Fundraiser for Open Books A night of comedy, music, drag queens, and magical surprises. Roasters include the lovely Steven Whitney, the hilarious Maureen Grogan, the delightful Tom Tu, and Steven Milford. This is a benefit for Open Books, Chicago's awesome literacy organization. If you can't come, donate at http://www.razoo.com/story/Reading-Is-Fun-Da-Mental?referral_code=share; 9pm, Crew Bar & Grill, 4804 N. Broadway

Friday, July 19

Better Together: Building and Strengthening Youth-Adult Partnerships This workshop will provide an introduction to youth

development and the system of adulthood. Participants will gain skills for integrating awareness of both concepts into their own youth work, program planning, and evaluation. Register now. Email joy@icah.org for more information. 9am-1pm, Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health, 226 S. Wabash Ave., Ste. 900, <http://icah.org>

Artist Richard Gibbons' 'Confessions' Opening, cocktail reception. Through the paintings in his most personal exhibition to date, gay artist Gibbons has found not only healing and acceptance of the difference between the Church and true message of Jesus. Through Aug. 31. INFO@ROYBOYDALLERY.COM; 5:30pm-8pm, Roy Boyd Gallery, 739 N. Wells St., <http://www.royboydgallery.com>

Chris Isaak Chris Isaak has been nominated for two Grammy awards, released nine albums, 12 singles and acted in several films and TV shows. Featured in David Lynch's film Wild at Heart. 8pm-11pm, 630-962-7000, Arcadia Theatre, <http://www.os-hows.com>

Björk Showcase: Fan After-Show Party All Björk music and video, immediately following her show at Pitchfork Music Festival, with DJ Greg Haus. 11pm, Berlin Nightclub, 954 W Belmont Ave., <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

Gordon Edmund: Out of His Mind & Into Yours Psychology, hypnosis and magic trick perception, mystify, and alter reality. Based on audience participation. Edmund may call you up on stage and read your mind, challenge your beliefs and focus on how fun and exciting messing with the mind can be. Fridays through Aug. 2. \$25. 9pm-10pm, 847-677-7761, Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie, <http://www.gorillatango.com>

Saturday, July 20

Lambda Car Club in Chicago The Lambda Car Club Lake Michigan chapter presents a Grand Invitational July 17-21, 2013 in Chicago. All events are closed to the public except for a Saturday car show with classics from many eras, at the Holiday Inn in Countryside. The cars shown are invited cars only. See www.2013chicago.com

Disability Pride Parade Celebrate victories won for people living with disabilities. Participants will march west on Van Buren Street to Dearborn Street, then north on Dearborn Street to Daley Plaza. The after-parade celebration will start as people arrive at Daley Plaza. 10:30am, Plymouth Court, immediately behind the Harold Washington Library, <http://www.disabilityprideparade.org>

Windy City Pet Expo Indoors. Free. Shorty Rossi, star of Pit Boss on Animal Planet, and his pit bull, Hercules. Exhibitors and rescue groups, demonstrations in agility, obedience, pet care and activism. Prizes and discounts. 10am-6pm, 800-977-3609, Odeum Expo Center, <http://www.windycitypetexpo.com>

Deeply Rooted 2013 Summer Intensive Performance Tickets \$25 from Brown Paper tickets. View video. Friday, July 19th: 7pm, Saturday, July 20th: 2pm. 2pm-4pm, 312-795-9777, Dance Center @ Colombia College, 1306 S. Michigan Ave, <http://vimeo.com/46369961>; Tickets: http://deeplyrootedproductions.org/see_dance/tickets/

Sappho's Salon A Provocative Night of Lesbian Diversions. Presents JD Glass \$7-\$10 admission includes food and wine. Stonewall Award and Lambda Literary Award finalist JD Glass is the author of the acclaimed novels Punk Like Me, Punk and Zen, Red Light, and American Goth; 7pm, Women & Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark St., <http://www.womenandchildren-first.com/>

Ties & Tassels presents: All That Glitters and Glows! Starring Lucy Wak, Wanda Makeout?, Queerella Fistalot, Dahlia Fatale, Holly Deck, Marci Vousplait, Phaedra Black and Böy Gorgeöus. Hosted By Brad French. \$5-10 suggested donation at the door to help pay performers. Raffle and shot specials. Lizard's Liquid Lounge, 3058 W. Irving Park Rd.; 8pm-11:45pm

The Nosh at Wicker Park Weekly, outdoor food festival with over 30 artisan food vendors. Every Saturday through October. Entrance is free, no tickets necessary. 11am-6:15pm, 323-807-6369, A.N. Pritzker School, 2009 W. Schiller St., <http://www.chicagonosh.com>

Sunday, July 21

Vintage Garage Chicago Vintage Garage Chicago is held April thru October on the third Sunday of each month. 9am-5pm, 5051 N. Broadway, <http://vintagegaragechicago.com>

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

Monday, July 22

Chicago Human Rhythm Project's Rhythm World Summer Festival Learn from the world's best tap dancers. 10am-7:30pm, 312-542-2477, American Rhythm Center & Fine Arts Building 410 S. Michigan Ave., Studio 300, <http://www.chicagotap.org>

JAY Z & Justin Timberlake Legends of the Summer Tour. **Tickets On Sale Thursday, 2/28 at 10am! 1pm, Soldier Field, Tickets: <http://www.livenation.com>

Broadway Youth Center new location opening Celebrate the new location and learn more about programs and how to get involved. All welcome. Light refreshments. Needs: Walgreens gift cards, CTA cards, surface wipes with bleach, socks, underwear, deodorant; 5pm-7pm, Broadway Youth Center, 615 W Wellington Ave.

BrightSide Theatre presents RENT Award-winning rock opera, based on Puccini's La Boheme, tells the story of one year in the life of a group of friends who are impoverished young artists and musicians in the New York City's Lower East Side. Through June 30. \$18-\$24. Tickets online. 8pm-10:30pm, 630-637-7469, Theatre at Mealey Swallow Hall, North Central College, 31 S. Ellsworth, Naperville, <http://www.brightsidetheatre.com>

Tuesday, July 23

Bed, Bath and Beyonce: Outloud Chicago Turns 2 Outloud Chicago turns two years old and is celebrating with a live concert at Revolution Brewery with proceeds ben-



TRUE 'CONFESSIONS' Friday, July 19

Out artist Richard Gibbons is having a reception at Roy Boyd Gallery, 739 N. Wells St.

Photo of Gibbons' "Crusades" from Gibbons

efiting its third year of shows. The celebration includes some of Chicago's most talented performers in a tribute to Beyonce affectionately called Bed, Bath and Beyonce. Performers include JC Brooks (from JC Brooks and The Uptown Sound), Adam LeBlanc (the lead vocals from 16 Candles), Jeff Award-winning singer Bethany Thomas, Beyonce super fan Baron Clay and hosted by the dual drag sensations Xandra Fairlawn and Shea Coulee. Revolution Brewing, 2323 N. Milwaukee Ave., 8pm-11pm, Revolution Brewing, 2323 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Diamond Rings set Diamond Rings defies laws of time and space. Maestro John O Makes music that defies description. Diamond Rings is Electro-pop at it's most magnetic. Unlike anything you've heard before. Diamond Rings will be at Berlin for an exclusive after-show DJ set. With resident DJ Chester and host Sofia Saffire. RSVP for no cover. 10pm, 773-348-4975, Berlin Nightclub, 954 W Belmont Ave, <http://do312.com/event/2013/07/23/diamond-rings-dj-set>

Wed., July 24

The Gay Divorcee - Cabaret Show With gay marriage, comes gay divorce... and great gay break up songs by Melissa Etheridge, Aretha Franklin, Janis Joplin, Pink, Adele, Cher. One woman turns to her musical divas for guidance and strength through her breakup. \$12, 2 drink minimum; 8pm-9:30pm, 773-278-1830, Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret, 1383 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, <http://davenportspianobar.com/>

Saturday, July 27

LPL Camping and Rafting Trip: Wisconsin Wilderness Weekend Lincoln Park Lagooners invade the Glacier Wilderness campground, raft the Wolf River through Menominee Indian Reservation, explore countryside and Nicolet National Forest. Friday to Sunday plan \$130; Thursday arrivals add \$30. Rafting equipment rental \$40 per person. Register online. 12pm, northern Wisconsin, <http://www.lplchicago.com/> more information

Orgullo en Acción Latina/o LGBT PRIDE Picnic The event is free and intended for all- allies family and children are welcomed. Attendees are encouraged to bring food and grills. Children's play area, community art project, grilling, main stage performances, dancing and community building. 12pm-8pm, Humboldt Park near the corner of Humboldt Drive and Division, <http://www.orgulloenaccion.org>

Out performer Dave Koz Eight-time Grammy nominated saxophonist performing with Mindi Abair, Gerald Albright and Richard Elliot in support of his new CD, Dave Koz and Friends Summer Horns. 7pm, Country Club Hills Theatre, 4200 W. 183rd St., Country Club Hills, <http://www.countryclubhillstheater.org/>; Tickets: <http://gopride.com/z8kh>



FLOAT ON

Saturday, July 20

The Disability Pride Parade will take place in the Loop, starting at Plymouth Court.

Photo from 2012 by Jamie Anne Royce

BILLY MASTERS

"I told her, 'We will say anything you want. We will not say you were dismissed. We will say that you wanted to spend more time with your husband; we'll say that you wanted to write a book; we'll say you wanted to do a television show.' And she agreed."—Barbara Walters discusses how The View would handle the abrupt departure of a longtime co-host. However, she's not talking about Elisabeth Hasselbeck—this is regarding the 2006 departure of Star Jones. Something tells me she has that speech ready at all times, and it says, "Insert Name Here."

It's been a tense situation at The View ever since rumors circulated that Elisabeth Hasselbeck's days were numbered. I previously told you that ABC informed Elisabeth and the producers back in March that Hasselbeck's contract would not be renewed when it expired in July. Although Barbara Walters firmly denied the story, it was a *fait accompli*. This advance notice gave Elisabeth time to find a new job and then appear to leave the show on her own terms. When the deal with FOX News was finalized, Hasselbeck's departure was announced—and her final show was a few hours later. Even Walters appeared flustered at the quick turnaround, saying to Elisabeth, "I'm happy that you're going. ... No, I'm NOT happy that you're going. ... Well, you tell us about it." Most people found it strange that Elisabeth didn't stay two more weeks to finish out the season, although Joy Behar (who announced her departure months ago) is staying put. The reason is simple: No one connected with the show wants Joy to leave.

In an ironic twist, the scheduled guest co-host on the day Elisabeth made her announcement was Debbie Matenopoulos—the original "young one" of the cast. (She was summarily dismissed over Christmas hiatus and simply never came back.) Once the brass decided this would be Elisabeth's last day, the consensus was that sharing the day with Debbie might be rubbing salt in the wound. Matenopoulos has been rescheduled.

So, who will replace Behar and Hasselbeck? It's all but certain that Jenny McCarthy will take one of the slots. She and Ali Wentworth were frontrunners for Joy's job, but Ali had commitment issues and Jenny was locked in a contract with VH-1. However, given the abrupt cancellation of her show on that network, it appears the path is free for Jenny to move on. Plus, my sources tell me that she has been discreetly looking at schools in Manhattan for her son ... sounds like a done deal to me. As for the second slot, I'm told Brooke Shields continues to lobby hard for it.

Believe it or not, ex-Elmo puppeteer Kevin Clash has gotten some good news. First, he won Outstanding Performer in a Children's Series at the Daytime Emmys, in addition to two other statuettes. That's a career total 26 Daytime Emmys racked up against three accusations of sexual abuse. Not a great ratio, but his legal situation is looking up. A NYC judge dismissed two of the lawsuits on a technicality—the statute of limitations had run out. After a review of the third case, it too appears to have been dismissed for a similar reason. Could any of them be appealed? Sure, but if I were a betting man, I'd think we'll see them resurface in civil court.

The long-anticipated film version of The Normal Heart began filming in NYC recently. So, yes, it's actually happening. And with the success of other gay film and television projects, the recent Supreme Court ruling and the change in the political climate, this could be good news to other similarly stalled projects about gay topics. Patricia Nell Warren, author of The Front Runner, thinks that this may finally be the time when her landmark book gets made into a film (even an HBO film). "This was always about two characters who wanted to be married," she said. "They would be tremendously excited by what the Supreme Court did this week." Warren has regained the film rights and is looking for the

perfect producing partner ... as if such a thing exists!

You know I love a story about a beauty pageant. And this week, we had two. While Analouisa Valencia did not win Miss South Carolina, the Afro-Latina did make an indelible mark on the pageant. "I'm the first openly lesbian contestant in the Miss America system, the first bilingual contestant we've had, so that's good," she said.

British Columbia likes to crown many people at once—Miss B.C., Mrs. B.C., Miss Charity B.C. The winner of that last title was Patricia Celan. What was the first thing the newly crowned Miss Charity British Columbia did when she got her tiara? She shaved her head—onstage! After losing an uncle to cancer, she got involved in fundraising and raised money for Cops for Cancer. By shaving her head, she raised an additional \$8K. Brava.



There's at least one big difference between Joy Behar (above) and former The View co-host Elisabeth Hasselbeck, Billy says.

And this leads nicely into our "Ask Billy" question. David out in cyberspace writes, "I just read about a ballet dancer with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet being fired for doing gay porn. He's adorable. Do you know anything about him? What's his porn name? Can you track down any photos or videos?"

Danish dancer Jeppe Hansen performed around the world before winning a scholarship to the prestigious Royal Winnipeg Ballet School last year. After being asked to do porn by several people, he finally did his first scene for CockyBoys.com under the name Jett Black. When the school found out, they asked him to resign by signing a letter stating that he left of his own accord. My God—he might as well have been appearing on The View! The school says that no student is allowed to "perform" outside of the school without permission from the director. It should be noted, however, that from the video I saw, Jett was never *en pointe*—in fact, he was on his back ... and stomach (showing immense flexibility while manipulating a large black dildo). Jeppe/Jett doesn't feel his ballet career is officially over. He's just taking a hiatus and hopes to get back to it soon. In the meantime, you can check out every inch of him at BillyMasters.com.

When most of my subjects are well-strung and well-hung, it's definitely time to end yet another column. I'm filing this report moments after landing in lovely Italy. Even though I'm away, I'm constantly updating www.BillyMasters.com, the site that's known for its foreign tongue. If you have a question you need me to tackle, send it off to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before the Royal Winnipeg Ballet says Jeppe is welcomed back anytime—possibly for a special all-male production of The Nutcracker! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Emotions fill Ride for AIDS Chicago

BY ROSS FORMAN

The excitement, energy and emotions were sky-high Saturday morning, July 13, at the opening ceremony to the 10th annual Ride For AIDS Chicago, held in Evanston. Close to 300 riders were set to ride 200 miles in two days in support of the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN).

Richard Cordova, the TPAN director of athletic events, spoke to the mass of humanity, which included about 85 supporting crew members, plus countless onlookers, family and friends.



Above: Team Cür at Ride for AIDS Chicago. Below left: Shaine Wynsma. Below right: Richard Cordova. Photos by Ross Forman



Cordova told of his personal journey, from learning he had full-blown AIDS in 2002, to the present, where he leads an amazing, inspiring, uplifting fundraiser with grassroots efforts to, ultimately, aide hundreds or perhaps thousands of Chicagoans impacted by HIV/AIDS.

He wore an orange bandanna on his wrist all weekend to signify his HIV status, as did about 20 other riders.

Cordova's words brought most tears.

"I live a life of transparency because it has value; I want others to be OK to be HIV-positive, too," Cordova said. "My job is to help change the landscape of this disease and this cause. Part of that is bringing awareness. We need to shatter people's misconceptions of what being HIV-positive is, and I'm on a mission to do that."

Dan Lakin was crying after hearing Cordova. "I felt he was talking directly to me, as if he had been up [with me Friday night] thinking" and reflecting, Lakin said. "I didn't get much sleep on Friday as I was thinking about how my uncle [who died from complications

due to HIV/AIDS] never told anyone [about his status] and how that must have felt, what he went through or even if he knew.

"I then started thinking about myself and how I have handled telling, or not telling [about my HIV status], and if I would put on the orange on Saturday.

"After his speech, I asked him for [an] orange handkerchief."

It was, Lakin admitted, his "second coming-out."

Two other riders also approached Cordova for an orange bandanna, based on his opening ceremony speech.

"Hands down, those [three] were my top moments from all of my rides," over the past six years, Cordova said. "Knowing that three people came out, put on that orange bandanna, based on what I said ... wow, it makes it all worth it, why I do it.

"It needs to be a source of strength for them, not shame."

This year's Ride featured the most orange-wearing riders of the three years the orange bandanna has been incorporated into the emotionally-charged weekend.

"We've really created an amazing community of like-minded people who are committed to making a difference," Cordova said.

Certainly a financial difference. The ride raised a record \$732,000—a tally that is expected to reach \$750,000 or more by the end of the month, as more contributions continue to trickle in.

"This was an absolutely phenomenal event," said TPAN Board Chair Michael Dentato, who volunteered all weekend and said he plans to ride the Ride in 2014. "The fact that the Ride has grown this much, within a short amount of time, says so much about the community's efforts and commitment to HIV/AIDS, and we're only getting bigger and better from here.

"There are so many ways that we can use this money, [such as] prevention and treatment."

Keith Stryker, who is openly gay, was one of the orange bandanna-wearing riders, and also one of the event's top fundraisers. He was in his third Ride, and tagged it "the best" of all.

"The organization, the energy of the support staff, the enthusiasm of the riders. It was amazing," said Stryker, part of a near-30 member team that raised over \$100,000. "The medication, and HIV prevention and awareness, which can come from the [overall] funds raised will help hundreds in Chicago. It's keeping people alive and healthy.

"I have used TPAN services in the past, and they are very vital for many, many people in the city. I cannot imagine being HIV-positive and not having the services that TPAN provides."

Stryker learned he was HIV-positive in 2003, which he said was "terrible" news.

That also was the first year of the ride.

Flash forward to 2013 and Stryker tagged the ride as "absolutely, one of the peak moments of my life. I've never been happier, more grounded and more fulfilled."

Lakin rode in his second ride and also was a crew member last year.

"This is one of the best events to do, and I think this year's Ride was the best produced, the best supported. And the fundraising total is amazing," Lakin said.

At both the opening and closing ceremonies, organizers had a rider-less bike procession to signify those who have died from HIV/AIDS. Many of the HIV-positive riders and crew members walked in the processions.

Read the entire article and see more photos online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

Gay Games VII reunion held at Center

Organizers of the Gay Games VII (GGVII), held in Chicago in 2006, held a mini-reunion at Center on Halsted Saturday, July 13. The event featured free items from the 2006 Gay Games, and a presentation by two representatives for Gay Games VII in Cleveland-Akron, set for 2014.

Members of the GGVII staff and board were joined by volunteers and participants at the event, which also was an official unveiling of a permanent display of Gay Games VII merchandise and photos. The display case is just outside of the Center on Halsted gym, on the third floor. The case was designed by GGVII board member David Woody, with materials from Gay Games board members.

State Rep. Greg Harris also attended the event.

Photos by Hal Baim, more photos online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



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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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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2013

7:30pm

By Larry Kramer, Directed by Nick Bowling

A searing drama about the personal and private indifference to the AIDS plague in the 80's and one man's fight to awaken the world to the crisis.

THE LITTLE PRINCE

LOOKINGGLASS THEATRE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2013

7:30pm

By Rick Cummins and John Scoullar

Directed by David Catlin

Based on the book by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

A visually arresting, fully immersive theatre interpretation of the beloved French novella from the creators of *Lookingglass Alice*.

GYPSY*

CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014

7:30pm

Book by Arthur Laurents, Music by Jule Styne

Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Directed by Gary Griffin

From the award-winning director of *FOLLIES* comes the musical of famed stripper Gypsy Rose Lee and her larger-than-life stage mother.

BOOTYCANDY*

CHICAGO PREMIERE

BAILIWICK THEATRE

FRIDAY, MARCH 7th, 2014

8pm

By Robert O'Hara, Directed by Lili-Anne Brown

"Funny, smutty and enticingly subversive... a toxically satiric portrait of American life, as it is experienced by someone black and gay." – *Washington Post*

THE WAY WEST*

CHICAGO PREMIERE

STEPPEWOLF THEATRE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014

7:30pm

By Mona Mansour, Directed by Amy Morton

A hilarious and heartbreaking play about a family's frontier spirit fueled by both self-delusion and survival.

**85% SOLD
BUY NOW!**

APPLAUSE*

BAILIWICK THEATRE

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2014

8pm

Book by Betty Comden & Adolph Green,

Music by Charles Strouse

Lyrics by Lee Adams, Directed by Chris Pazdernik

Based on the Oscar-winning film *ALL ABOUT EVE*, this seldom-produced musical won the Tony Award for Best Musical.

DAYS LIKE TODAY*

WORLD PREMIERE

WRITERS' THEATRE

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2014

7:30pm

Inspired by the plays of Charles L. Mee

Music & Lyrics by Alan Schmuckler

Book by Laura Eason

Directed by Michael Halberstam

A thrilling new musical about how to sustain a relationship in a world where love sometimes seems impossible.

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Requests for alternate dates will not be guaranteed.

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