

SCHOLAR
KEVIN
MUMFORD
TALKS GAY,
CIVIL RIGHTS

PAGE 10

WINDY CITY TIMES

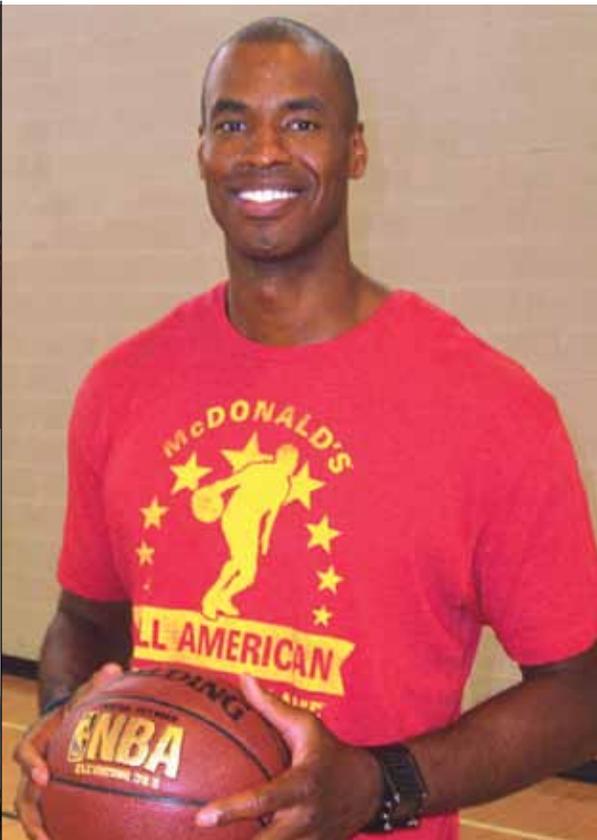
THE VOICE OF CHICAGO'S GAY, LESBIAN,
BI AND TRANS COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

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ERICA MEINERS
LOOKS AT
TRAYVON CASE
THROUGH QUEER,
FEMINIST LENSES
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Jason Collins: Gay NBA player on Obama, Oprah

BY ROSS FORMAN

Jason Collins admitted that not too many know the backstory about the phone call he received from President Obama in late April, hours after a Sports Illustrated column revealed that the 12-year National Basketball Association (NBA) veteran is gay—particularly where he was going.

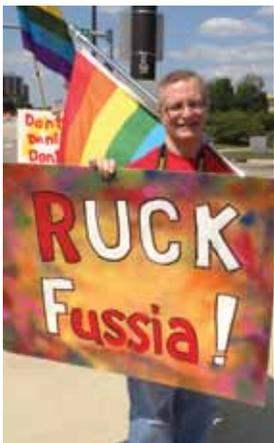
Collins has a friend who works for Valerie Jarrett in the White House, and the friend was among 60 or so family and close friends who Collins informed the day before the Sports Illustrated issue (May 6 cover date) went live.

On that Monday morning when Collins was officially coming out, he received a phone call between calls he was making, and yet he did not answer it because the ID showed the caller was unknown. Minutes later, Collins checked his voicemail and heard it was Jarrett, the senior advisor to the president, with her personal support.

"I was kicking myself for missing a call from Valerie Jarrett," Collins said.

Jason Collins. Photo by Ross Forman

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GAY-RIGHTS
ACTIVISTS
PROTEST
MCDONALD'S
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DANCE FEVER



WILSON CRUZ
ON ACTIVISM
AND 'MY
SO-CALLED LIFE'
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page 20

Thousands turned out for this year's Dance for Life, which benefited AIDS Foundation of Chicago, The Dancer's Fund and Chicago House. See more photos on page 20 and online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com. Photo by Hal Baim



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WINDY CITY TIMES

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Photo of Kevin Mumford by L. Brian Stauffer; photo of Erica Meiners by Yasmin Nair; photo of protester by Matt Simonette; photo of Wilson Cruz by Melissa Wasserman



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SEEING THE POINT

Point Foundation ED Jorge Valencia (left) was at an organizational event that honored its scholars.

Photo by Ed Negron



Read a profile of Jeff Zacharias, the out gay clinical director of New Hope Recovery Center.

Photo from Zacharias



A fashion show benefited Lurie Hospital's Center for Gender, Sexuality and HIV Prevention.

Photo by Ed Negron

SPACE CASES

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago held its annual summer benefit—this time with the theme "Lost in Space."

KEEPING COOL

WCT profiles the business and life partners who own Berwyn ice-cream store Over the Rainbow.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Find out the latest about Jennifer Lopez, Orlando Cruz and Nate Berkus.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

LEADERS OF THE PACK



Pop Making Sense looks at upcoming shows by acts such as The Pack A.D.

Photo by Rebecca Blissett

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A Queer Agenda

BY ANDRÉ PÉREZ



Chicago is Queerer than Boystown

Where do queers in Chicago find community? As a visible trans Latin@, queers who are new to Chicago or just coming out, often approach me wanting advice. They are hungry to connect with one another. There's no one answer. It really depends on who you are and what you are looking for.

All queer people will never feel comfortable in a single kind of space. Sure, large institutions with enough money to spend on promo guys or marketing departments offer a focal point for LGBTQ life. However, our city has more to offer than we sometimes recognize.

When we look to one neighborhood that offers a very particular experience of LGBTQness to everyone, and put it on a pedestal, we overlook a broad range of spaces and places where queer people find affirming community. My visibility in the community also means that I'm privy to a constant barrage of complaints about the usual suspects—they are too

computer for cheap. Although they have no explicitly LGBTQ programming, Free Geek is fairly on top of their trans stuff, and they even have gender-neutral bathrooms. **West Town Bikes** is a great place to fix up your beater or soup up your single speed. If you like biking but don't love the macho culture that sometimes accompanies it, check out Women and Trans Night hosted every Wednesday from 7-10 p.m. If you're over 30, **Queer Social Club** at Archie's Tavern may be more your speed. Grab a few drinks in low-key environment on the first Wednesday of every month.

Pleasing places for queers of color **Club Escape** and **The Jeffrey Pub** are the two of the longest-running bars catering to Chicago's Black LGBTQ community. You can find great dancing any night of the week at either, but if you're looking to meet ladies, you'll have the most luck at Club Escape on Thursdays.

Queer people of color (QPOC) spaces are often less formal and institutionalized than their white counterparts, but there are an increasing number of Chicagoans working to build QPOC space. **The Black and Brown Punk Show** is an annual event that brings together musicians from all over the country on Chicago's South Side. This three-day (Aug. 30-Sept. 1) extravaganza has several QPOC on the organizing team, has included drag-themed shows in the past, and is benefit-

"If I can help a few folks navigate community and find the queers who are out there looking for them, then this is a successful column. Remember two things—only the seekers find, and have a good time!"

white, not womyn-friendly; people who are sober don't want their social life to revolve around bars; trans people are disrespected in bathrooms; youth feel unwelcome, and the list goes on. I want to challenge the assumption that Boystown in specific, or bars in general, are the be-all-and-end-all of queer socializing.

Rather than buying into the myth of one "safe haven," let's embrace the incredibly diverse range of spaces and places Chicago offers.

Neat spots in the Near Northwest

Quimby's Bookstore is a must for any queer comic or zine aficionados. Stop by any day to peruse zines from the Trans Oral History archive, and join Ladez Do Comics on the Last Thursday to watch local artists present their work. **Free Geek** is a welcoming place to nerd out while volunteering and building community. Help teach neighborhood folks how to fix computers, join the Supreme Chicago Coding Crew, or buy refurbished

ing The Crib, an LGBTQ homeless youth shelter, this year.

Radio Arte is a welcoming place for young folks to learn audio production skills. Spanish-speakers of all ages can stay updated on news and resources by tuning in to Homofrecuencia Mondays at 6 p.m. (90.5 FM or stream it online).

We have different needs, desires, interests and hopes. We come from different cultural backgrounds, value different experiences, and are not all looking to get into the same thing. Luckily, we live in a city that fosters many distinct communities and spaces.

It's taken me years of searching and relationship-building in order to find what I'm looking for, only to find out that I have changed, and I need to start all over again. If I can help a few folks navigate community and find the queers who are out there looking for them, then this is a successful column. Remember two things—only the seekers find, and have a good time!

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.

Protestant group makes history with transgender executive director

BY CHUCK COLBERT

An LGBT-advocacy organization within one of the nation's foremost Christian denominations announced its new executive director, Alex McNeill, who, in making history, becomes the first openly transgender leader of a mainline Protestant group.

"I'm honored to join More Light Presbyterians, which has always been on the forefront of the Christian tradition of fostering acceptance for the most vulnerable among us," said McNeil, 30, in a press statement announcing his appointment, which takes effect later this month.

"Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the church a true community of hospitality," the mission of More Light Presbyterians (MLP), based in Minnetonka, Minnesota, is "to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society."

"Our search committee unanimously chose Alex because he has a proven track record of leading and growing organizations," said Nathan Sobers, co-moderator of MLP. "We believe that he is uniquely qualified to lead More Light during this important moment in the church."

In the secular arena, McNeill has campaigned for ballot measures and legislation to promote LGBTQ rights. For example, he served as communications and development director and field director for Equality Maryland and was active last fall in the successful ballot measure that secured same-sex civil marriage in that state.

Within his denomination, moreover, McNeill worked to secure ordination equality for Presbyterians and celebrated that success by becoming the first openly transgender ministry candidate from his home presbytery in western North Carolina.

He holds a bachelor's degree in religious studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master of divinity from the Harvard Divinity School.

McNeill came out as a lesbian at the age of 18 and to family and friends as transgender six years ago. At 22, he entered the ordination process and came out transgender to his ordination committee last year.

The feature-length documentary film Out of



Alex McNeill. Photo from McNeill

Order chronicles the lives of three queer Presbyterians, including McNeill, seeking to be ordained ministers in the church.

It was in July 2010 when Presbyterian activists succeeded in dismantling a gay ordination ban—dating back to 1978—during a meeting of the 2.1 million-member general assembly, a gathering held in Minneapolis. There, the denomination's highest governing body voted to approve Amendment 10-A, which deleted language in the denomination's Book of Order that in effect barred the ordination of non-celibate gay candidates by requiring them "to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and woman or chastity in singleness."

New language required that "the governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation shall examine each candidate's calling,

gifts, preparation, and suitability."

But before the official change in church policy could be implemented, however, a majority of the 173 regional presbyteries were also required to approve the measure.

That happened just over two years ago when formal approval of Amendment 10-A came with a favorable vote for it by the Twin Cities presbytery, a regional governing district.

The new policy took effect in July 2011.

During a recent telephone conversation, McNeill spoke about his appointment and plans for future advocacy within the Presbyterian Church (USA).

"Changing our standards around same-sex marriage, allowing ministers to marry same-sex couples is a big priority," he said.

McNeill was referring to a 2012 Pittsburgh gathering, or general assembly, which failed to reformulate church understanding of marriage to include gay and lesbian couples.

Beyond securing marriage equality, he said, "More Light wants to deepen its welcome to LGBT people in our churches. We know a lot of education needs to be done, for example, to help people feel better equipped to welcome transgender people. We also want to help folks who are believers in More Light to take their welcome out of their congregations and into their communities and advocate for good causes and practices that affirms LGBT people as full citizens in the communities where they live."

More Light Presbyterian's operating budget is approximately \$300,000, and McNeill's salary is \$78,000.

A North Carolina native and raised "deeply Presbyterian," McNeill said, in addition to the denomination's social justice ethic, "what my tradition has taught me and reinforced is a belief that everyone has the ability to be a minister or a change agent."

"Ministers are people who are called out a community but not above a community," explained McNeill. "The ability of people to be called, use their voices, and really make a difference," he added, "is one of my uniquely Presbyterian values."

McNeill sees opportunities with congregations and communities for more conversations and fuller discussions about "what transgender means" and "how we all have our identities and what can happen when we commonly acknowledge" that reality, he said.

"I like to encourage people to tell their gender stories and how they learned about their gender identity," said McNeill. "There are a lot of commonalities across the transgender and non-transgender spectrum."

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Defense Dept. announces same-sex benefits

The Department of Defense, on Aug. 14, announced its plan to extend benefits to same-sex spouses of uniformed service members and Department of Defense civilian employees.

Following the Supreme Court's ruling that Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional, and in consultation with the Department of Justice and other executive branch agencies, the Defense Department will make spousal and family benefits available no later than Sept. 3, regardless of sexual orientation, as long as service member-sponsors provide a valid marriage certificate.

In a statement, the Department added, "We recognize that same-sex military couples who are not stationed in a jurisdiction that permits same-sex marriage would have to travel to another jurisdiction to marry. That is why the department will implement policies to allow military personnel in such a relationship non-chargeable leave for the purpose of travelling to a jurisdiction where such a marriage may occur."

Gay and lesbian service members who are stationed in one of the 37 states where marriage equality is illegal will be offered up to 10 days of leave so they can travel to one of the 13 states, plus the District of Columbia, that grant same-sex marriage licenses.

50th anniv. of D.C. march Aug. 28

The 50th anniversary of the "March on Washington" will take place Aug. 28 in Washington, D.C.

Marchers will begin assembling at 8 a.m. at 600 New Jersey Ave., according to the event's website. The Civil Rights Museum on Wheels and citizens who were at the original 1963 March on Washington will lead.

The 1963 march attracted more than 200,000 people and culminated in Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech that called for racial equality and justice.

See <http://50thanniversarymarchonwashington.com>.



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Advocates: Medical cannabis law will benefit LGBTs

BY KATE SOSIN

For Julie Falco, it was a last-ditch attempt at living. She had tried everything else, she thought. "It was either this or me taking my own life," she said.

Falco has multiple sclerosis, and for her, self-administering cannabis, better known as medical marijuana, changed everything.

"It was profound," said Falco. "As soon as I started doing it, I noticed immediate improvements."

Falco is not LGBT, but her story is not uncommon, especially among people coping with HIV/AIDS and cancer, two diseases that disproportionately impact LGBT people.

On Aug. 1, Illinois became the 20th state to legalize marijuana use for medical purposes.

The new law will mean less stigma and more frank communication between patients and doctors, advocates say.

Medical cannabis was among a slate of issues being pushed by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago this year.

Ramon Gardenhire, a lobbyist for AFC, said that HIV organizations overwhelmingly support the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

"We need to use every tool in our arsenal to make sure people stay linked into care," Gardenhire said.

Evidence has shown that marijuana can reduce



Arick Buckles. Photo from Buckles

side effects of some HIV drugs, side effects that can be so intense that some stop treatment. If cannabis can curb those side effects, advocates say, the drug may help keep patients linked to care, reducing their chances of transmitting HIV and improving their health overall.

And legalization in Illinois decreases stigma, say advocates, because people don't need to seek the drug out illegally.

"It's certainly great news for a lot of our clients," said Ann Fisher, executive director of the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago (ALCC).

Many ALCC clients use marijuana, said Fisher, but few face criminal charges as a result. In that way, legalization may not necessarily mean a decrease in legal problems for HIV/AIDS patients. What it will mean, she said, is that many who wanted to try the drug but feared criminal consequences will have access to it for the first time.

Falco agrees. She notes that stigma around the drug has prevented cancer patients who might benefit from usage from even researching medical cannabis.

"We even had people that were afraid to go on the internet and do Google searches about it," she said.

Fisher said the new law will mean that physicians will feel more comfortable broaching the subject with patients, and patients will be more likely to disclose cannabis usage to physicians.

"I think it allows people to have more honest conversations with their doctors," Fisher said.

But Fisher also notes a drawback to the new law.

Cannabis usage remains illegal at the federal level, and employees can still fire workers whose drug tests turn up positive for cannabis, even if they have a legal prescription.

"Legal in Illinois does not mean you get to use it despite what your job is," Fisher said. "It's still this awkward situation where legal in Illinois does not mean federally legal."

Howard Brown Health Center was asked to comment on the impact of this new law on LGBT health. "At this time, the HBHC medical team is assessing the usage of medical marijuana and how it will affect the overall health of our patients," the organization said in a statement to Windy City Times.

Bureau County settles HIV suit

BY KATE SOSIN

A man who was detained for a week without his HIV medication in Illinois has settled a federal lawsuit against the Bureau County Sheriff's Office, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Illinois has announced.

Arick Buckles, a Chicago-based HIV/AIDS advocate, was detained in Princeton, Ill. three years ago on a forgery warrant dating back to 2003. Despite his repeated requests and requests from HIV/AIDS agencies, Bureau County Jail staff refused to give Buckles his HIV medications, the lawsuit alleged.

"It was a difficult experience—I told the staff each day about my HIV status and the need for my medications and I was ignored," said Buckles in a statement released by the ACLU.

Buckles filed suit in federal court in Peoria last year.

According to an Aug. 14 statement released by the ACLU, the Bureau County Sheriff's Office has agreed to change four policies and undergo mandatory all-staff trainings. They will also pay Buckles \$20,000.

The ACLU had alleged that the sheriff's refused Buckles medications because the drugs were expensive. Buckles said in a statement that he hopes the new policies will prevent others from similar experiences.

Bureau County Sheriff John Thompson was not immediately available to comment.

NATIONAL NEWS

Christie signs bill banning conversion therapy

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie signed a bill Aug. 19 banning so-called gay conversion therapy, also known as reparative therapy, according to ABC News.

Christie had previously said that while he opposes the practice, he did not want the government to interfere with parents' decisions about how to care for their children.

The governor also noted that the American Psychological Association has found that efforts to change a person's sexual orientation can pose "critical health risks including, but not limited to, depression, substance abuse, social withdrawal, decreased self-esteem and suicidal thoughts."

New Jersey is now the second state in the nation, after California, to ban the practice.

Truth Wins Out, a nonprofit organization that fights anti-LGBT extremism, lauded the development. In a statement, Executive Director Wayne Besen said, "New Jersey's LGBT youth are safer today because an abusive practice has been banned that destroys families and shatters lives."

Gay veteran booed

Anti-gay protesters reportedly booed Eric Alva, a gay Marine veteran who lost his leg in the Iraq War, while he was speaking in favor of a nondiscrimination ordinance at a San Antonio City Council meeting, the Dallas Voice reported.

"To all you people that preach the word of God, shame on you because God loves me, like the day I laid bleeding on the sands of Iraq and that's why he saved me," Alva (who resides in San Antonio) said before he left the podium. The City Council is expected to vote on the ordinance on Sept. 5.

Bradley Manning apologizes in court

Convicted information revealer Army Pfc. Bradley Manning acknowledged Aug. 14 that he "hurt people and hurt the United States" by leaking thousands of pages of classified documents, according to CNN.

"I understood what I was doing was wrong but I didn't appreciate the broader effects of my actions," the out former Army intelligence analyst said during his sentencing hearing at Maryland's Fort Meade. "I only wanted to help people, not hurt people."

His statement followed testimony from a military psychologist who said Manning appeared to be under intense pressure as a male soldier struggling with gender-identity issues.

Gay-rights pioneer Sarria dies

Gay-rights icon Jose Julio Sarria passed away in his home in Albuquerque, N.M., Aug. 19, according to a press release from the Imperial Court System. He was 91.

Sarria was a World War II veteran and the very first openly gay candidate to run for public office in North America. He was a candidate for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1961.

After his discharge from the Army in 1945, Sarria became the most famous "drag queen/female impersonator" entertainer in San Francisco. Most notable were his solo opera performances at the Black Cat Bar in the 1950s and 1960s.

He took what had been a loose alliance of social groups and developed it into what now is the International Court System of the United States, Canada and Mexico, with chapters in almost 70 cities in the three countries.

In a statement, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Rea Carey said, "Today we lost a pioneer, trailblazer and hero in the movement for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality."

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Activists protest McDonald's HQ over Sochi

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A Chicago-area activist group protested Saturday at the Oak Brook headquarters of McDonald's corporation, 2111 McDonald's Dr., to take a stand against the fast-food giant's sponsorship of the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

Members and supporters of StonewallAgain are calling on McDonald's to demand a new venue for the Olympics instead of Sochi because of the Russian Federation's anti-LGBT laws that were voted into place this summer. In a deal that lasts through 2020, McDonald's pays about \$100 million to be sole retail-food sponsor for each pair of Olympics in a four-year period.

The company has denounced the laws but has not called for any significant action on the part of the International Olympic Committee. In an Aug. 13 statement to BuzzFeed, McDonald's Spokesperson Heidi Barker said, "There's no room for discrimination under the Golden Arches... We support the International Olympic Committee's belief that sport is a human right and the Olympic Games should be open to all, free of discrimination, and that applies to spectators, officials, media and athletes."

StonewallAgain's founder, Mike Lackovich, dismissed the statement as platitudes. "They say the words but there is nothing behind them. They are just blanket statements."

But Andy Thayer of Gay Liberation Network pointed out that at least the statement signified that McDonald's is aware of the issue. "They wouldn't have said those words for no reason."

Lackovich said there are numerous places that the Olympics could be moved, or an alternate event set up, and that McDonald's and other sponsors had the economic muscle to force the IOC's hand. "There's plenty of alternatives available to McDonald's. It's not like they couldn't afford to sponsor a parallel set of Olympics if they wanted to," he said.

The Russian Federation, by implementing the laws, is clearly in violation of their contract with the IOC, Lackovich added, and needs to be held accountable. "But it's money that drives the Olympics."

"The whole McDonald's connection highlights that Putin gets a lot of complicity from the West," said Thayer. "The activists there have gotten zilch from the West."

"I used to love McDonald's," added Mike Oboza, founder of Bisexual Queer Alliance of Chicago. "But then I saw the pictures and messages coming out of Russia. This isn't a bisexual or a queer issue; it's a human-rights issue."

While McDonald's, its co-sponsors and the IOC have been reticent to approach the issue, some athletes have not. Two Swedish participants at the world track and field championships in Moscow last week painted rainbows on their fingernails. Two Russian women later kissed on the winner's platform in a move had some gay activist buzzing.

Russian gold medalist Yelena Isinbayeva, who is the symbolic "mayor" of the athlete's village in Sochi, first denounced the behavior of the Swedes, but quickly backtracked. Later in the week, she said her statements could have been misinterpreted due to her poor English.

Journalist fired

Russian political journalist Anton Krasovsky, 37, announced that he is gay on live television and was promptly fired from his job, according to On Top Magazine. Krasovsky came out gay Jan. 25, telling a late-night TV show audience that he is gay and "as human as President [Vladimir] Putin, Prime Minister [Dmitry] Medvedev" and members of parliament.



Mike Oboza at McDonald's protest. Photo by Matt Simonette

Dick Mell aide to replace Deb Mell

BY KATE SOSIN

Jaime Andrade, a longtime aide to Ald. Richard Mell, will succeed his daughter—out lesbian Deb Mell—as 40th District state rep, according to multiple reports.

Andrade was appointed by vote Aug. 12. He will be up for re-election in 2014.

Deb Mell stepped down to replace retiring Richard Mell as 33rd Ward alderman.

Mel Ferrand, an openly lesbian union activist and Latina, had been vying for the position. She said she will pursue the position through election next year.

"The committeemen missed the unprecedented opportunity to be visionaries and send someone to Springfield that is not male, a lawyer, a businessman, white or otherwise politically connected," she said in a statement. "Our representative democracy demands we have more diverse representa-

tion, and that is, in part, what I bring to the table."

The 40th Dist. state rep seat is seen as crucial to LGBTs, especially as the house weighs a bill that would bring marriage equality to the state. Deb Mell had been seen as a key player in the marriage push.

Andrade said he intends to continue to push for equal marriage.

"I am absolutely going to keep being an advocate for the gay community," said Andrade. "I am going to keep doing what Deb did with that issue." He added that he did not understand why lawmakers failed to vote on the measure during spring session.

Andrade was expected to succeed Deb Mell as Richard Mell, who is also Democratic committeeman, said he would like Andrade to replace the younger Mell.

Disclosure: Ferrand is a contributing photographer for Windy City Times.

Garden of Eve

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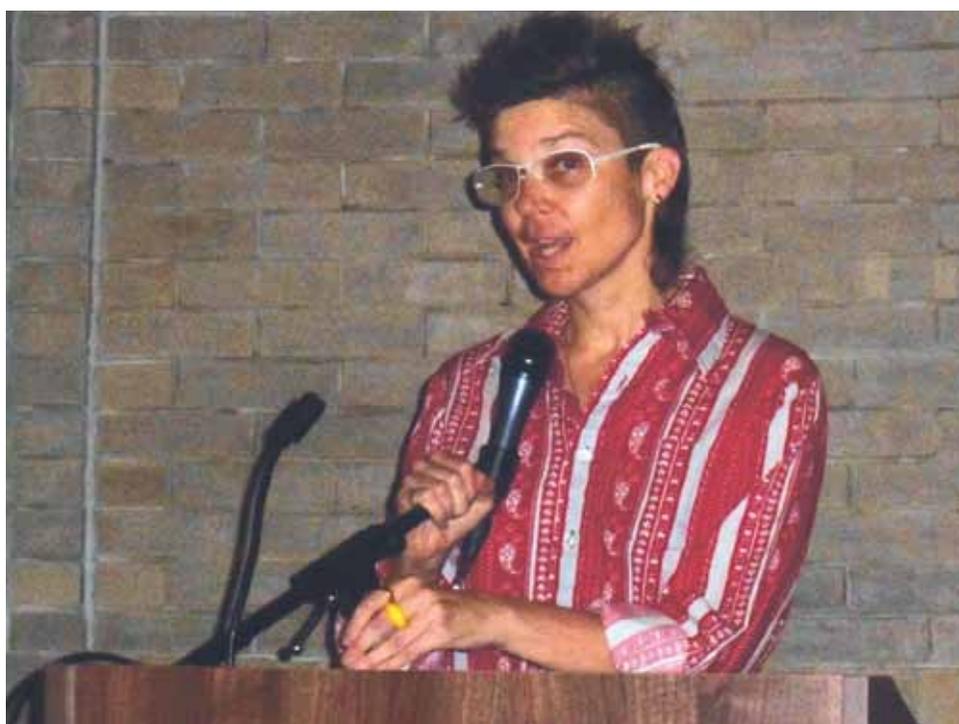
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Erica Meiners at the Martin event. Photo by Yasmin Nair

Event looks at Trayvon Martin case through queer, feminist eyes

BY YASMIN NAIR

In the wake of the Trayvon Martin verdict, Chicago has seen several public events and workshops exploring its aftermath. On Aug. 15, queer and feminist scholars gathered at the famous Hull House for a panel titled, "Transformative Justice and The Trayvon Martin Case: A Consideration."

There have been many cries for justice and calls for the prosecution and incarceration of George Zimmerman, who shot and killed Martin. However, this panel was put together to explore the possibilities of transformative justice (TJ) in the wake of the event.

TJ emphasizes alternatives to what is called the prison-industrial complex (PIC). For its proponents, TJ forgos revenge and believes that more incarceration only worsens the conditions that made the violence possible in the first place. TJ also resists using the PIC, believing that it is in itself brutal and harmful toward both the guilty and the injured parties.

With a strong commitment to TJ, three panelists and the organizer, Mariame Kaba, addressed the immediate responses to the Trayvon Martin verdict and discussed what TJ alternatives might be.

Kaba—founding director of Project NIA, a center whose goal is to end youth incarceration—said the aim of the evening's conversation was to initiate a much-needed conversation, not to declare absolute solutions at the end.

She said that the panel came out of her long-standing sense of "being unsettled," as she grappled with first the shooting, then the various outcries for justice which went against her prison abolitionist politics, and then her certain knowledge that the verdict would be "not guilty."

At the same time, Kaba understood why another verdict had been important for many. When it came through, she was taken aback and saddened when her 13-year-old nephew asked, "Why did they not convict him? Don't they know it's wrong to kill Black kids?" She said, "He feels his life is not valuable."

Kaba went on to say that the panel would not provide easy answers but would explore "how we might envision justice in a more expansive way."

The panelists were Traci Schlesinger, associate professor of sociology at DePaul University who works on racial disparities in sentencing; Erica Meiners, professor at Northeastern Illinois University who looks at youth incarceration and the PIC; and Beth Richie, professor of criminal justice as well as gender and women's studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago whose work focuses on feminism, African-American studies and the PIC.

Schlesinger spoke of TJ as "the transformation of the social conditions that perpetuate violence." She said that the breakdown of elements like public schooling in cities like Chicago, coupled with more intense private and public policing of Black bodies like Martin's were indirectly and directly the cause of such events.

Meiners made connections between what she called "interconnected histories," of various local, national and global events, including the Bradley Manning trial, the bombing of Yemen, the expansion of the prison system, the high presence of police in Chicago public schools and the targeting of trans youth.

According to Meiners, a TJ model would consider the connections between such issues in terms of how they pushed for greater policing and violence.

Beth Richie spoke of the "degradation of

young people in our communities, because of how the state thinks of them." In that sense, she emphasized, it was natural that everyone should think collectively about how to respond to their deaths, and that "the mourning then turns into an action [such as outcries for revenge or marches] that feels important."

But, Richie continued, "If we only embrace punishment and conviction, we will only be responding to dead bodies, we'll keep finding ourselves calling for the same actions." Like the other speakers, she cautioned against using the PIC to call for justice: "It will not diminish in power and control, and instead gives the state more legitimacy."

The rest of the panel and the Q&A session continued with panelists and participants discussing both the difficulties and possibilities of TJ.

Quinn signs sex-ed measure into law

BY KATE SOSIN

Comprehensive sex education is now the law of the land in Illinois.

Gov. Pat Quinn signed into law a bill requiring schools offer comprehensive sex education in grades six through twelve Aug. 16. The law will benefit LGBTQ youth, advocates say.

HB 2675 requires that schools teach about contraception and preventing sexually transmitted infections, in addition to teaching about abstinence. Advocates have argued that abstinence-only education tends to assume that young people will grow up to be heterosexual, excluding LGBTQ young people from the curriculum. But some Illinois schools thought they were prohibited from offering comprehensive sex ed because Illinois law did not mandate it.

The new law will require schools to use up-to-date teaching materials, including information on HIV. The law does allow parents to opt their children out of the curriculum without repercussion.

Advocates have been pushing for years to pass such a bill.

Planned Parenthood celebrated the bill's signing in a statement.

"Planned Parenthood applauds Governor Pat Quinn for signing a law that ensures that teens in Illinois have access to medically accurate, evidence based, age appropriate, comprehensive

information when they receive sex education in Illinois public schools," the organization said.

Missing queer performer found safe

BY KATE SOSIN

A well-known performer in Chicago's queer scene has been found safe after a four-day search that consumed friends and acquaintances.

Alberto Ramon Gutierrez, 26—also known by performance name "Mister Junior"—went missing Aug. 12. Friends feared for his safety after reading a Facebook post that suggested he might be in danger. He was last seen at his Pilsen apartment, giving away costumes and accessories to friends.

Kiam Marcelo Junio, Gutierrez's friend and roommate, said that Gutierrez had been found as of Aug. 16.

"Alberto is found, and he is currently safe," Junio said. "He is in good hands."

Junio said that further information is not being released at this time.

Gutierrez's disappearance had set off a community-wide search, with a number of friends posting pictures and articles of the performer on Facebook. A Facebook group dedicated to finding him gathered more than 545 members by Aug. 16.

Alleged attacker arraigned on hate-crimes charges

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A Chicago man was arraigned Aug. 16 on two counts of felony hate crimes, as well as two counts each of robbery and assault, after allegedly participating in the beatings of two Austin women because they are gay.

Terry Glover, 24, pled not guilty to the charges. He remains in jail, where he is being held on a \$1 million bond. He is accused of beating and robbing the two women while he yelled anti-gay slurs July 7. The incident took place on the 0-100 block of North LeClaire Avenue.

Glover's next hearing is set for mid-October. No trial date has yet been set.

The other assailants remain at large.

Analysis of Supreme Ct. decisions Aug. 22

"What the Supreme Court Rulings on DOMA and Prop 8 Mean for You" is the subject of a free event at the Center on Halsted Thursday, Aug. 22, 3656 N. Halsted St. The event is presented by James E. Elvord, first vice president-financial advisor with RBC Wealth Management and co-sponsored by Windy City Times and Center on Halsted.

The main speaker for the program will be Bill Ringham, vice president-senior wealth strategist for RBC Wealth Management. The law firm of Clark Hill PLC in Chicago will also present at the program, represented by Ray Koenig and Leslie Gutierrez, who are both attorneys at the firm.

There is a reception with wine and cheese at 5:30 p.m., followed at 6:15 with the presentation and at 7:15 there will be a Q&A.

RSVP to James E. Elvord at 312-559-1738 or james.elvord@rbc.com.

Windy City Rodeo Aug. 23-25 in Crete

Windy City Rodeo will take place Aug. 23-25 at the Six Guns Ranch, 26926 State Line Rd., in Crete, Ill.

Among the many slated events are calf roping, goat dressing, barrel racing and a "wild drag race."

Tickets are \$15 (rodeo only) to \$25 (bus ride and rodeo). The latter passes are available at Charlie's Chicago (for Aug. 24-25) and Touche (Aug. 24 only).

See www.ilgra.com.

LoveFest Aug. 25 at Jackson Park

Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus (CBGMC) will host the 9th Annual LoveFest Celebration Sunday, Aug. 25, 12-8 p.m., at Jackson Park (63rd Street and Cornell Drive).

A free event, LoveFest is an annual summer "edu-tainment" festival designed to increase awareness of health and wellness management among Black gay and bisexual men. This year's theme is "Love No Limits."

The Healthy is Sexy (HIS) Health Village will return to simulate the ideal "health and wellness visit" for African-American gay and bisexual men—offering free screenings for HIV/STIs, hepatitis C, diabetes, obesity and a number of other health issues facing men. Attendees will be able to enjoy a variety of physical activities in the park including yoga, physical challenge obstacle courses, kickboxing and volleyball.

There will also be a "LoveFest Got Talent" segment as well as a "Clairvoyant Visions Mini Ball" with categories and awards reflecting "Love No Limits."

Email info@chiblackgaycaucus.org or see <http://chiblackgaycaucus.org/blog/lovefest2013/>.

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Kevin Mumford. Photo by L. Brian Stauffer

Historian Kevin Mumford talks gay rights and civil rights

BY CRAIG CHAMBERLAIN,
UNIV. OF ILLINOIS AT
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Note: The U.S. Supreme Court handed down two decisions at the end of June favoring gay marriage. One ruling struck down federal restrictions in the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) of 1996, the other cleared the way for gay marriages in California.

With the rapid recent progress of the gay-rights movement, including changes in public attitudes, some see parallels with the earlier African-American civil-rights movement. Is the comparison valid? What's different this time? Illinois history professor Kevin Mumford specializes in the history of both movements, and is working on a book about Black gay history. He spoke with News Bureau social sciences editor Craig Chamberlain.

Craig Chamberlain: You say that some gay rights advocates want to characterize recent events as the normal business of America doing civil rights—to see continuity with the Black civil-rights movement. But what's flawed in that comparison?

Kevin Mumford: First, it is easy to forget the context and duration of the civil rights movement. After the Civil War, African-Americans had full citizenship, elected local and federal representatives, and then, through violence and fraud, were stripped of voting rights. Modern civil rights activists struggled for 30 years to regain this lost world of citizenship. By contrast, advocates of gay marriage had much more legal and institutional resources at their disposal.

Second, the level of violence opposing Black civil rights was unprecedented. In the 1950s, white southerners attacked, tortured and murdered civil rights activists and the federal gov-

ernment failed to intervene. A new prize-winning book, "At the Dark End of the Street," by Danielle McGuire, documents extensive sexual violence against Black women, and new research in the FBI files documents physical abuse by police to coerce confessions and intimidate activists. When demonstrators and leaders demanded more protection from President Kennedy in the early 1960s, he often reneged on his promises. So, I would agree that gay marriage became a grassroots movement, but the level of resistance to change and the role of the executive branch were strikingly different.

CC: In the history of Black civil rights, there also was a famous marriage case, the Loving case of 1967, in which the Supreme Court struck down all state laws against interracial marriage. This case, however, did not come early in the process, but instead after the movement's key years (1954-65) and the key pieces of civil rights legislation. Why?

KM: Early on civil rights attorneys advised against litigating on the marriage question because of its controversial nature. The NAACP even worried when their lead attorney, Thurgood Marshall, married an Asian-American woman. Southern opponents often held up the specter of intermarriage to provoke racial animosities—claiming that what advocates of desegregation really desired was to marry white women.

Given this volatility, it is not too surprising that the Loving case was relatively late. At the same time, looking around campus or Chicago almost 50 years later, I don't think people really even notice interracial couples any longer. The taboo has fallen—perhaps this will happen with gay and lesbian relations.

CC: The Supreme Court's Brown decision in 1954, which called for the desegregation of schools, is often credited with being a cata-

Edgewater looks at boardwalk proposal

BY KATE SOSIN

A proposal in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood could reshape a popular LGBT beach hangout and open up a portion of the lakefront made inaccessible by private beaches.

Edgewater residents are debating a proposal to build a "Beachwalk" along the lakefront. The project is a nod to neighborhood's historic boardwalk, which was destroyed in the early 1950s to make way for the expansion of Lake Shore Drive.

Now, resident Morry Matson and the Edgewater Beachwalk Proposal Committee want to resurrect that history with a new boardwalk stretching from Osterman Beach at Hollywood Avenue north to Devon.

"We're reclaiming what has been part of Edgewater's history and identity and culture," Matson said. "This will allow the neighborhood to enjoy the lakefront."

Matson touts strong LGBT support for the project, including the backing of veteran gay rights activist and Edgewater resident Rick Garcia.

Garcia was among more than 1,100 to sign a petition in favor of the project, but he said he wants to learn more before officially backing the proposal.

The proposal would encompass Cathy Osterman Beach, a popular LGBT hangout.

The project is modeled after the Virginia Beach Boardwalk and is expected to cost up to \$200 million.

The idea, however, is expected to face opposition, especially from some property owners along the lake.

lyst for the civil rights movement that followed. Do you think these recent decisions could play a similar role for gay rights?

KM: There is a debate on the importance of the Brown decision—some historians question its significance, point to its failure as policy, or feel that it narrowed the scope of Black activism. I don't entirely agree. Recent scholarship shows that into the 1960s all kinds of local groups, and Black youth in particular, were inspired to demand further integration of amusement parks, swimming pools, ice rinks, etc. Brown was historic in the way that the Windsor case striking down DOMA is historic. The symbolism of the case—along with Justice (Anthony) Kennedy's impassioned denouncement of harm and humiliation—will inspire further mobilization and legitimate sexual equality.

CC: You note that only a few years ago gay marriage was not a popular cause among many gay advocates and intellectuals. Why? And has that since changed?

I think some academics and activists viewed the marriage movement as elitist and as assimilationist. It seemed to prioritize the concerns of the middle-class—reforming rules for inheritance, for example—and to privilege straight or mainstream values. Activists worried that the litigation on marriage had sidetracked other long-standing causes: to stop street violence, defamation, bullying and discrimination in employment, for example.

Yet I feel that when the opponents of gay marriage questioned the morality of same-sex relationships and parenting they also revealed their prejudice against being gay. So, in the end, in ways that few would have predicted a decade ago, taking up the issue of marriage equality has helped to confer a broader social legitimacy. I think we'll see more respect for gays and lesbians both within our communities and in society at large.

Residents will hash out those concerns at a public meeting Saturday, Aug. 24, at the Edgewater Library, 6000 N. Broadway. A design party at 11 a.m. will be followed by a debate at noon.

Koehlinger joins AFC as new VP

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) has welcomed Simone Koehlinger to its leadership staff as senior vice president of programs.

Koehlinger is the former director of the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health at the Chicago Department of Public Health, and most recently worked at the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago as director of special projects.

Also, Arturo V. Bendixen has become the full-time executive director at the Center for Housing and Health, one of AFC's supporting organizations.

CJR announces 2013 honorees

Recently, the Coalition for Justice and Respect announced its third annual Community Warrior Recognition Awardees.

They include Alicia Matthews, Judy Rice, Thomas Sampson, Lenox Magee, okumo Kinetic, Brent Rayburn Hamlet, Jackie Anderson, Tim'm West, Jamie Frazier, Alex Perez, Darrick Tovar-Murphy, Dwight A. McBride and Calvin Holmes, among others. Bishop Carlton Pearson will receive the Bayard Rustin Award.

The event will take place Oct. 11 in Deacon Hall at Our Lady of Peace Parish, 7851 S. Jeffrey Blvd. Visit cjrchicago.net.

Latino politics Aug. 28 at Hilton

The American Political Science Association is presenting a short course on Latino politics Wed., Aug. 28, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave., 1-6 p.m.

Topics will include an analysis of the immigration reform battle taking place in Congress and its impact on the 2014 elections; Latinos and the media.

To register for the short course, visit http://www.apsanet.org/mtgs/program_2013/shortcourses.cfm.

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Vivian Khabeer
 TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN

Age
29

Lives in
Northbrook

Relationship status
Partners with Maria Maldonado, "who has made me the person I am today. I couldn't ask for a better partner, someone who understands, cares and loves me for me."

Job
General manager; Roti Mediterranean Grill in Northbrook

Hobbies
Softball, traveling, playing video games, spending time with family, friends and her beagle, Haley

Favorite movie
Hitch

Favorite TV show
The Walking Dead

Favorite actress
Eva Mendes

Little-known fact
"I love to entertain family and friends. Whether it's [for a] BBQ or getting everyone together for a fun night of Dance Central on the Xbox."



Vivian Khabeer started working part-time at the Roti Mediterranean Grill in suburban Northbrook about five years, an outlet to make some extra cash, she admitted.

"The general manager back then stopped into the Renaissance [Hotel] where I worked as a manager asking if I would be interested in giving Roti a chance. I took it and fell in love with the job," she said. "The best part of the job is serving and joking around with customers. Making their journey at Roti a fun adventure as they go through our line of service. But working with amazing employees makes it a fun environment."

Khabeer is admittedly a "big time joker" and she was working the register one day at lunch when a lady came to pay. "I noticed she was having a bad day," Khabeer said. "I asked her what she was having, [yet] she was looked at her phone and responded, 'WTF'. I looked at her and said, 'Sorry, we do not sell WTF here.'"

"She looked at me, laughed and smiled."

Through Roti, Khabeer said she has "met most of my long term goals." Last year, for instance, she bought her first condo and she's already working toward a second for an investment.

"At a young age I dreamed of becoming a police officer, and about three years ago I applied for [a job with the] Niles Police Department. I passed my exam and interview, [but] right after that I broke my foot and couldn't finish the physical exam. Everything happens for a reason. Roti got an awesome GM as a result of that [injury]."

Khabeer said her rise through the ranks at Roti is attributed to "hard work and dedication," she said. "I'm a self-motivated person and failure is not an option. I have learned from the best and will pass my knowledge to my team as they get developed."

"Roti always [has] treated all employees like family. The [company executives] truly makes it a fun and enjoyable environment to work in. But overall customers and team members are the best part of the job."



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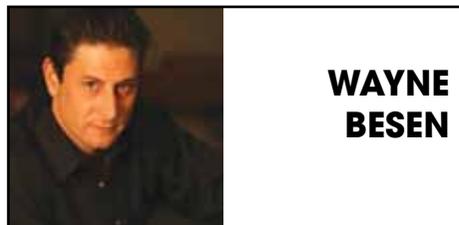
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It is time to move the Winter Olympic Games out of Russia

Recently, actor George Takei wrote on his blog: "the IOC [International Olympic Committee] must do the right thing, protect its athletes and the fans, and move the 2014 Winter Olympics out of Russia."

Supplanting the games is a major step that should not be taken lightly. However, recent events have made it clear that Takei is correct—Russia is an unsuitable and unstable nation that is unqualified to host a major world event. No country is perfect, but when Russia was awarded the Games in 2007, few people knew its warts were actually tumors.

Instead of seeking emergency assistance to get healthy six months before the Big Event, Russia defiantly turned its radiation treatment on its critics, and poisoned the atmosphere. In the run-up to the Olympics, everyone is talking about how Russia has gone downhill, and no one is talking about downhill skiing. At this juncture, no diplomacy can save this patient, and it seems each day there is a new scandal.

In the Aug. 11 New York Times, readers were greeted by the headline, "Gays in Russia Find No Haven, Despite Support From the West." Today's horrible headline in the same newspaper is, "Russia Steps Up Raids Against Migrants." Ac-

ording to the story:

"Everything about this massive sweep violates Russia's obligations under international law," said Tanya Lokshina, Human Rights Watch's director in Russia.

It seems that no group that doesn't resemble skinheads is safe in this festering wound of a country. In such an environment, it is insane for advertisers to spend millions of dollars on risky games that could easily tarnish—if not destroy—their brand.

For me, the final straw, in terms of wanting to move the Olympics, came on Monday when I heard the statement from Russia's interior ministry, which controls the police force: "The law enforcement agencies can have no qualms with people who harbor a nontraditional sexual orientation and do not commit such acts [to promote homosexuality to minors], do not conduct any kind of provocation and take part in the Olympics peacefully."

The head of Russia's National Olympic Committee Alexander Zhukov also made it clear that LGBT people and their allies were in jeopardy.

"If a person does not put across his views in the presence of children, no measures against him can be taken."

What this police state demands is that athletes and spectators surrender their liberty, free speech and their dignity to adhere to Russia unjust, totalitarian laws. It is insisting that openly gay people go back in the closet. For LGBT individuals (or some straight people) who can't easily "pass" or simply appear to be gay—the security forces are mandating that they play straight to fit in. Essentially, Russia is forcing them to consciously adjust the way they walk, talk, and act, or possibly face charges or the wrath of neo-Nazi hooligans.

This is asking far too much from these individuals and their countries, while deliberately undermining the Olympic spirit. It is time for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to act decisively and pull the plug on this travesty before it spirals further out of control.

dozens of officers to a gay bar, some even dressed in SWAT team gear. The patrons were subjected to extreme harassment. Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit against the city of Atlanta, and reached a settlement requiring the Atlanta Police Department to rewrite its policies on arrest, search and seizure, and also provided for a payment of \$1,025,000 by the city of Atlanta.

Recently, Lambda Legal has been supporting efforts to end the profiling practices of the New York City Police Department that unfairly target people of color and LGBT people. In 2012, with the help of more than 50 partner organizations, Lambda Legal conducted a study called "Protected and Served? Survey of LGBT/HIV Contact with Police, Courts and Prisons." Of the more than 2,300 completed surveys, 25 percent of respondents with any recent police contact reported at least one type of misconduct or harassment. Respondents who were people of color, transgender or low-income all reported higher than average instances of police misconduct or harassment.

Some of the people who responded to the survey had stories very similar to yours. Some people reported being detained for no reason, were physically or verbally assaulted—all because the police officer at the time seemed to hold prejudice against them because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

It will take many of us coming together and speaking out to end this kind of discrimination.

Lambda Legal has just launched a campaign to collect personal stories like yours, of instances where LGBT people, or people living with HIV, have felt discriminated against, abused, or mistreated by the police or a government employee. One thing you can do today is share your story with Lambda Legal. Together, these stories will be used to strengthen our ongoing and developing work on these issues.

As an athlete, I am sympathetic to the argument that the participants have trained their entire lives for this big moment. However, the Olympics are allegedly about world unity and doing what is best for mankind. Surely, for the cause of human rights, these athletes can wait until 2014, if necessary, for the Games to be moved to a civilized country.

It is even difficult to understand why Russia still wants to host the Games. This fiasco is a public relations disaster and Mother Russia is coming across as a big, dumb, stupid bear that hasn't succeeded since Sputnik.

At best, Russia appears to be a passive-aggressive nation with an identity crisis. It violently jerks back and forth between narcissistic grandiosity and a debilitating inferiority complex. The nation wants to be viewed as an international player, which is wildly incongruent with its erratic behavior on the global stage. It desperately seeks the West's approval, but defines itself by gleefully bashing the West. It positions itself as modern, but comes across as medieval. It flexes its flabby muscles hoping to be perceived as powerful, but all the world sees are cowardly Russian thugs picking on the powerless.

There is no easy fix, and the number of negative stories will keep growing. Compounding the situation is Russia's attitude problem, with exasperated officials becoming increasingly tactless and testy, as it prepares to face its big Olympic test. Russia clearly doesn't have its act together, so it's time to move the big show before it's too late.

Wayne Besen is the founding executive director of Truth Wins Out and author of Anything But Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth (Haworth, 2003). In 2010, Besen was awarded the "Visionary Award" at the Out Music Awards for organizing the American Prayer Hour, an event which shined a spotlight on the role American evangelicals played in the introduction of Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill.

You can tell your story here: <http://www.lambdalegal.org/personal-stories/government-misconduct>.

In addition, if you have any questions, or feel you have been discriminated against because of your gender identity or sexual orientation, contact Lambda Legal's Help Desk at 866-542-8336 or <http://www.lambdalegal.org/help>.

Beverly Tillery is Lambda Legal's director of community education and advocacy.

BEVERLY
TILLERY

ASK LAMBDA LEGAL

Protected and served? Tell us your story

Dear Ask Lambda Legal,

Q: I was walking down the street the other day, and a police officer stopped me, and started asking me all these questions and was overly aggressive. I was very careful and cooperative, but suddenly felt unsafe. What should I do?

A: First of all, it sounds like you did the right thing by staying respectful. Police can have a lot of power over us, so in these situations it's important to try to remain calm. Once the incident is over, try to remember everything in case you want to file a complaint with the police department.

Unfortunately, this type of incident is all too common. Throughout history, LGBT people and those living with HIV have been targeted by police for harassment and abuse. Lambda Legal has a long history of challenging all kinds of government misconduct through litigation and advocacy.

In 2009 in the case *Calhoun v. Pennington*, the Atlanta Police Department (APD) dispatched

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

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

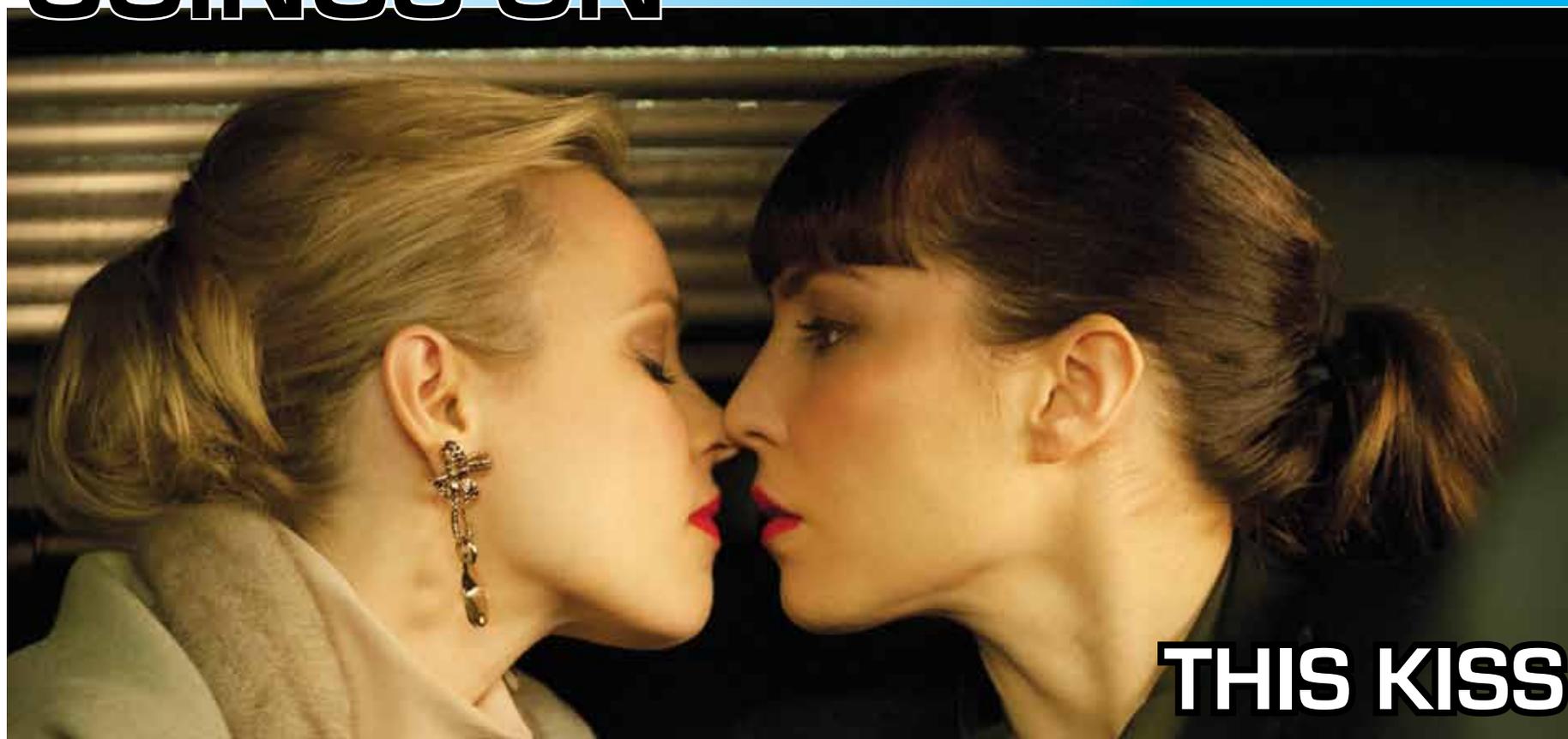


Photo
from
Guy
Ferrandis/
SBS
Productions

THIS KISS

Rachel McAdams (left) and Noomi Rapace co-star in the thriller *Passion*. Read the film review on page 21.

DISH

Dock holiday.
Page 22

Photo of burger at The Dock
by Shira Kollins



THEATER

Think 'Pink.'
Page 18

Photo from Pink Milk
courtesy of Oracle Productions



PEOPLE

Cruz control.
Page 20

Photo of Wilson Cruz
by Kat Fitzgerald



Stage Door Jonny does Spring Green

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

The small town of Spring Green sits at a confluence of nature where the valley of the Wisconsin River cuts through the gently rolling hills of Wisconsin's southwestern quadrant.

Within a few square miles one encounters dense woodlands, oak savannah, prairie remnants and river wetlands along with farmland as rich as any in the country. A century ago the beauty and peacefulness of the region—with its limestone outcroppings, sandy river shores and abundant flora and fauna—drew native son Frank Lloyd Wright back to establish Taliesin, his first great boot camp for architects. Not quite 35 years ago, a natural amphitheater just up the road from Taliesin became the home of American Players Theatre, now among the great cultural attractions of the Upper Midwest.

American Players Theatre (APT) offers eight productions in rotating repertory, five of them staged in the 1100-seat outdoor Up-the-Hill Theatre and three in the Touchstone Theatre, a 250-seat indoor (and air conditioned) house just down the hill. The APT's 110 acres offer scores of picnic tables, gas-fired barbecues free for use by patrons and food and gift concessions. But one comes for the theater, which mixes Shakespeare and more contemporary works. The 2013 season includes *Hamlet*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and an adaptation of Antony and Cleopatra along with plays by Tom Stoppard, Arthur Miller, W. Somerset Maugham, Brian Friel and James DeVito (member of the APT core company). The season runs into October so you still have plenty of time to visit.

For some years APT made no particular effort to woo Chicago's large theater audience. Now,

however, APT actively markets in the Windy City and encourage traffic between Chicago actors, directors and designers and APT core company members. Chicago folks spend the summer in Spring Green, while Spring Green folks work here during the winter.

For example, Chicago-based Matt Schwader is at APT (for the seventh season) playing the large and demanding title role in *Hamlet* but also the small supporting role of Hamlet in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. Other Chicagoans in the hills this year are Kelsey Brennan, Steve Haggard (A Red Orchid ensemble member), Rob Fagin, Cristina Panfilio and Barbara Zahora among others. And Chicago-based directors James Bohnen, William Brown and Kate Buckley have become APT regulars. The exchange of clear country air for urban grit has been a fertile one, to judge by this season's productions.

The centerpiece of a recent two-day visit was *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Shakespeare's early romantic comedy in rhymed verse. It concerns lifelong best friends (the gents of the title) who fall in love with the same woman. One friend betrays the other and jilts his own sworn love before things are set right. What a delight to see this Shakespeare rarity (I've seen it only twice before) at an outdoor matinee, performed without any artificial lighting, just natural daylight and filtered sunshine! The company was engaging and the pace was swift, but the star of the show was Chicagoan Steve Haggard. As Launce, the comical servant to one of the gents, he fired a series of puns and double-entendres directly at the audience, acknowledging with a nod or wink the viewers who picked up each line the quickest.

Although more subdued, Haggard was just as



Jack Dwyer and John Pribyl in American Players Theatre's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. Photo by Carissa Dixon

pitch-perfect as Guildenstern, the smarter title character in Tom Stoppard's intellectual comedy, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. I saw the first preview so I can't officially review the show, but I told director James Bohnen the show was in fine shape and he could quit worrying. Bohnen was the founding artistic director of Remy-Bumppo Theatre here in Chicago, and directs annually at APT. He also owns Arcadia Books & Kitchen in Spring Green proper, a short distance across the river, and a great place to hang, browse and sip coffee.

My third show was *Dickens in America* in the intimate Touchstone Theatre, a one-man show by James DeVita which recreates (with a few liberties) one of Charles Dickens's famous appearances in which he read from his own works. Per-

formed with passion and nuance by James Ridge, who is a fair physical match for Dickens, it was an engrossing and enjoyable change-of-pace. It would be a great show for someone to do in Chicago with an actor such as Larry Neumann Jr.

Spring Green accommodations range from town or farmhouse B&Bs, to several motels (Spring Valley Inn is the nicest), to the House on the Rock Resort with a magnificent physical setting, golf, two pools, tennis, nightly APT shuttle and bargain-priced top-shelf drinks in the restaurant and bars. FYI: a few miles up the Wisconsin River is legal clothing-optional Mazomanie Beach with its share of LGBT patrons. You get there by car, canoe or kayak.



The **one** for me

Patient model. Pill shown is not actual size.

What is COMPLERA?

COMPLERA® is a prescription HIV medicine that is used as a complete regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have **never** taken HIV medicines before **and** who have an amount of HIV in their blood (this is called “viral load”) that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL. COMPLERA contains 3 medicines – rilpivirine, emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate. It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years.

COMPLERA® **does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.** To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking COMPLERA. Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 to others: always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids; never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them, do not share personal items that may contain bodily fluids. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information you should know about COMPLERA?

COMPLERA® can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold, especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA for a long time. *In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death.* Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking COMPLERA, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

Do not take COMPLERA if you have ever taken other anti-HIV medicines.

COMPLERA may change the effect of other medicines and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses.

Do not take COMPLERA if you also take these medicines:

- **anti-seizure medicines:** carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Epitol); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal), phenobarbital (Luminal), phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek)
- **anti-tuberculosis medicines:** rifabutin (Mycobutin), rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin) and rifapentine (Priftin)
- **proton pump inhibitors for stomach or intestinal problems:** esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo), lansoprazole (Prevacid), dexlansoprazole (Dexilant), omeprazole (Prilosec), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix), rabeprazole (Aciphex)
- **more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone** or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

If you are taking COMPLERA you should not take other HIV medicines or other medicines containing tenofovir (Viread, Truvada, Stribild or Atripla); other medicines containing emtricitabine or lamivudine (Emtriva, Combivir, Epivir, Epivir-HBV, Epzicom, Trizivir, Atripla, Stribild or Truvada); rilpivirine (Edurant) or adefovir (Hepsera).

In addition, tell your healthcare provider if you are taking the following medications because they may interfere with how COMPLERA works and may cause side effects:

- certain antacid medicines containing aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate (examples: Roloids, TUMS). **These medicines must be taken at least 2 hours before or 4 hours after COMPLERA.**
- medicines to block stomach acid including cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), nizatidine (Axid), or ranitidine HCL (Zantac). **These medicines must be taken at least 12 hours before or 4 hours after COMPLERA.**
- any of these medicines: clarithromycin (Biaxin); erythromycin (E-Mycin, Eryc, Ery-Tab, PCE, Pediazole, Ilosone), fluconazole (Diflucan), itraconazole (Sporanox), ketoconazole (Nizoral) methadone (Dolophine); posaconazole (Noxafil), telithromycin (Ketek) or voriconazole (Vfend).
- medicines that are eliminated by the kidneys like acyclovir (Zovirax), cidofovir (Vistide), ganciclovir (Cytovene IV, Vitrasert), valacyclovir (Valtrex) and valganciclovir (Valcyte).

COMPLERA. A complete HIV treatment in only 1 pill a day.

COMPLERA is for adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before and have no more than 100,000 copies/mL of virus in their blood.

Ask your healthcare provider if it's the one for you.

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take COMPLERA. Tell your healthcare provider about all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.

Before taking COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have **liver problems**, including hepatitis B or C virus infection, or have abnormal liver tests
- Have **kidney problems**
- Have ever had a **mental health problem**
- Have **bone problems**
- Are **pregnant or planning to become pregnant**. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- Are **breastfeeding**: **Women with HIV should not breastfeed** because they can pass HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, COMPLERA may pass through breast milk and could cause harm to the baby

COMPLERA can cause additional serious side effects:

- **New or worsening kidney problems, including kidney failure.** If you have had kidney problems, or take other medicines that may cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do regular blood tests.
- **Depression or mood changes.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself.
- **Changes in liver enzymes:** People who have had hepatitis B or C, or who have had changes in their liver function tests in the past may have an increased risk for liver problems while taking COMPLERA. Some people without prior liver disease may also be at risk. Your healthcare provider may need to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting COMPLERA.

The most common side effects reported with COMPLERA are trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, and depression. Some side effects also reported include vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) and pain.

This is not a complete list of side effects. Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking COMPLERA, and call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.

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

Additional Information about taking COMPLERA:

- **Always take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Take COMPLERA with food.** Taking COMPLERA with food is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. (A protein drink does not replace food. If your healthcare provider stops COMPLERA, make certain you understand how to take your new medicine and whether you need to take your new medicine with a meal.)

Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA and see your healthcare provider regularly.

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with **important warnings** on the following pages.



COMPLERA[®]
emtricitabine 200mg/rilpivirine 25mg/
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

Learn more at www.COMPLERA.com

Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information

COMPLERA® (kom-PLUH-rah) (emtricitabine, rilpivirine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information including Patient Information.

What is COMPLERA?

- **COMPLERA** is a prescription HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) medicine that is used to treat HIV-1 in adults

- who have **never** taken HIV medicines before, **and**
- who have an amount of HIV in their blood (this is called ‘viral load’) that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL. Your healthcare provider will measure your viral load.

(HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)).

- COMPLERA contains 3 medicines – rilpivirine, emtricitabine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate – combined in one tablet. It is a complete regimen to treat HIV-1 infection and should not be used with other HIV medicines.
- It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years old.
- **COMPLERA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous therapy to control HIV infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV to other people.** Do not share or re-use needles or other injection equipment, and do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal fluids or blood.

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

COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take COMPLERA or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**
 - feel very weak or tired
 - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
 - have trouble breathing
 - have stomach pain with nausea (feeling sick to your stomach) or vomiting
 - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
 - feel dizzy or lightheaded
 - have a fast or irregular heartbeat
- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take COMPLERA. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**
 - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
 - dark “tea-colored” urine
 - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
 - loss of appetite for several days or longer
 - nausea
 - stomach pain
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA for a long time.**

- **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take COMPLERA, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking COMPLERA. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV with your healthcare provider.

- Do not let your COMPLERA run out. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your COMPLERA is all gone.
- Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking COMPLERA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking COMPLERA.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

Do not take COMPLERA if:

- your HIV infection has been previously treated with HIV medicines.
- you are taking any of the following medicines:
 - **anti-seizure medicines:** carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Eptol); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal); phenobarbital (Luminal); phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek)
 - **anti-tuberculosis (anti-TB) medicines:** rifabutin (Mycobutin); rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin); rifapentine (Priftin)
 - **proton pump inhibitor (PPI) medicine** for certain stomach or intestinal problems: esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo); lansoprazole (Prevacid); dexlansoprazole (Dexilant); omeprazole (Prilosec, Zegerid); pantoprazole sodium (Protonix); rabeprazole (Aciphex)
 - more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
 - St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- **If you take COMPLERA, you should not take:**
 - Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla, Stribild, Truvada, Viread)
 - Other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (Combivir, Emtriva, EpiVir or EpiVir-HBV, Epzicom, Trizivir, Atripla, Truvada, Stribild)
 - rilpivirine (Edurant)
 - adefovir (Hepsera)

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?

Before you take COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have or had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection, kidney problems, mental health problem or bone problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child.

Pregnancy Registry. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.

- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. **You should not breastfeed if you have HIV because of the risk of passing HIV to your baby.** Do not breastfeed if you are taking COMPLERA. At least two of the medicines contained in COMPLERA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. We do not know whether this could harm your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

- **COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects.** If you take certain medicines with COMPLERA, the amount of COMPLERA in your body may be too low and it may not work to help control your HIV infection. The HIV virus in your body may become resistant to COMPLERA or other HIV medicines that are like it.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. If you take an antacid during treatment with COMPLERA, take the antacid **at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after** you take COMPLERA.
- a medicine to block the acid in your stomach, including cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), nizatidine (Axid), or ranitidine hydrochloride (Zantac). If you take one of these medicines during treatment with COMPLERA, take the acid blocker **at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after** you take COMPLERA.
- any of these medicines (if taken by mouth or injection):
 - clarithromycin (Biaxin)
 - erythromycin (E-Mycin, Eryc, Ery-Tab, PCE, Pediazole, Ilosone)
 - fluconazole (Diflucan)
 - itraconazole (Sporanox)
 - ketoconazole (Nizoral)
 - methadone (Dolophine)
 - posaconazole (Noxafil)
 - telithromycin (Ketek)
 - voriconazole (Vfend)
- medicines that are eliminated by the kidney, including acyclovir (Zovirax), cidofovir (Vistide), ganciclovir (Cytovene IV, Vitrasert), valacyclovir (Valtrex), and valganciclovir (Valcyte)

What are the possible side effects of COMPLERA?**COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:**

- See “What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?”
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure**, can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Your healthcare provider should do blood tests to check your kidneys before starting treatment with COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or need to take another medicine that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**
 - feeling sad or hopeless
 - feeling anxious or restless
 - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Change in liver enzymes.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus infection or who have certain liver enzyme changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening liver problems during treatment with COMPLERA. Liver problems can also happen during treatment with COMPLERA in people without a history of liver disease. Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effect of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.

The most common side effects of COMPLERA include:

- trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- abnormal dreams
- headache
- dizziness
- diarrhea
- nausea
- rash
- tiredness
- depression

Additional common side effects include:

- vomiting
- stomach pain or discomfort
- skin discoloration (small spots or freckles)
- pain

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

These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 (1-800-332-1088).

How should I take COMPLERA?

- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA.**
- **Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Always take COMPLERA with food.** Taking COMPLERA with food is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink is not a substitute for food. If your healthcare provider decides to stop COMPLERA and you are switched to new medicines to treat HIV that includes rilpivirine tablets, the rilpivirine tablets should be taken only with a meal.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly while taking COMPLERA.
- If you miss a dose of COMPLERA within 12 hours of the time you usually take it, take your dose of COMPLERA **with food** as soon as possible. Then, take your next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time. If you miss a dose of COMPLERA by more than 12 hours of the time you usually take it, wait and then take the next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time.
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Melanie Daniels in *The Birds*. Image by Rick Aguilar Studios

THEATER REVIEW

The Birds

Playwright: David Cerda and Pauline Pang
At: Hell in a Handbag Productions,
 Berger Park, 6205 N. Sheridan Rd.
Tickets: 1-800-8383006;
www.hanbagproductions.org; \$19-\$35
Runs through: Sept. 15

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

When it was new, *The Birds* was pretty scary for a completely silly movie. Tippy Hedren's hair was perfect, Rod Taylor's chest was perfectly hairy, a gas station blew up, children screamed and enough feathers flew to stuff 1,000 pillows.

The characters included a henpecked husband, a chicken-livered police deputy, a pigeon-toed school teacher, an eagle-eyed newspaperwoman, a hawk-nosed fisherman, an owl-eyed librarian, a girl who ate like a wren and a greaser with a DA haircut. Only a dodo could forget.

For this loving parody all those characters are squeezed into the tiny Berger Park Coach House, with Lake Michigan mere yards away echoing the film's fictional seaside setting, Bodega Bay. Hey, not much difference between saltwater and freshwater gulls: no matter how you cook 'em they're no damn good.

Writing good parody is more difficult than it looks and sounds, and co-authors David Cerda and Pauline Pang created a classic with this one in 2001. (This is its third Chicago production.) They respectfully mock the film, and not-so-respectfully mock female stars Suzanne Pleshette, Jessica Tandy and Hedren in off-camera scenes interspersed with on-camera scenes. It's hard to tell if art is imitating life or vice versa.

Much of the show is surprisingly earnest, which is a wise way to go for co-directors Jeffrey Shields and Cerda. The company doesn't push for big laughs, so when they come (and they do) they take you by surprise. There's just the correct amount of campiness and exaggeration (meaning not too much) and two songs thrown in as a bonus. Alas, you never see director Alfred Hitchcock in his *de rigueur* cameo role.

Cerda, who favors brunettes for his drag creations, plays Suzanne Pleshette and her film character, Mrs. Haywood. Drag is serious theatrical business (compared to, say, revue or sketch) requiring focus and characterization and because drag is comedic almost by definition. Less is more is the rule, which Cerda understands to his credit. Indeed, all four drag artists in *The Birds* understand, so kudos to Hell in a Handbag veterans Steve Kimbrough (Mrs. Bundy) singing

the tongue-twisting bird song "Impossible," the always-rock-solid Ed Jones (Jessica Tandy) and Steve Love (kid sister Michelle). Real woman Catherine McCafferty plays Tippi Hedren with diva panache and the right touch of good "bad" acting. Michael John Lea (Rod Taylor) needn't do much except look attractive, and he's very good at it.

The bird flocks and their attacks are achieved largely through clever puppetry and by effective use of the coach house windows/glass doors. The puppetry/effects designers are Lolly Extract (that's her name) and Amber Marsh. Jacob Christopher Green's wig designs alternate intentionally between good, bad and ugly. You'll enjoy *The Birds*. It's a hoot.

CRITICS' PICKS

The Glass Menagerie, Mary-Arrchie Theatre Company at Theater Wit, through Aug. 25. This is your last chance to catch director and actor Hans Fleischmann's much-acclaimed and much-extended take on Tennessee Williams' shatteringly semi-autobiographical memory play. SCM

Inventing Van Gogh, Strange Bedfellows Theatre at City Lit, through Aug. 25. Old Vincent Van always makes playwrights go a little crazy, but the Strange Bedfellows company keeps us firmly grounded for Steven Dietz' exploration of arts both fine and fraudulent. MSB

Simpatico, A Red Orchid, through Aug. 25. Michael Shannon and Guy Van Swearingen tear up the stage in Sam Shepard's dark comedy about sex, power and men not as smart as they think they are. In fact, the entire cast is great! Promise anything to get a ticket to this SRO show. JA

Slowgirl, Steppenwolf Theatre, extended through Sept. 1. A return to nature is American Literature's panacea, but author Greg Pierce sends his old and young penitents deep into the Costa Rican jungle for their redemption, rendered with poignant sensitivity by William Petersen and Rae Gray. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

Pink Milk

Playwright: Alex Paul Young
At: White Elephant Project at
 Oracle Theatre, 3809 N. Broadway
Tickets: 252-220-0269;
www.publicaccessstheatre.org; free
Runs through: Sept. 7

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

If you can buy into the notion of an opera about a real-life U.S. president's excursion into the realm of a Cold War enemy (John Adams' Nixon In China), it's not a stretch to imagine a ballet constructed on the life of Alan Turing, the breaker of the so-called "Enigma Code" and the inventor of the computer. What makes the cognitive leap even easier is that Alex Paul Young dispenses with satin-toe-shoe classicism in his depiction of a homophile martyr who—except for a home-built robot substituting for a childhood teddy—could be any of a number of brilliant gay men brought to his knees by a repressive society.

Our playwright, you see, is not concerned with the biographical facts as much as with Turing's boyhood attachment to Christopher Morcom, who may have been his first lover—or not—and whose untimely death as a result of drinking unpasteurized milk infected with tuberculosis bacillus introduces an element of romantic tragedy to Young's portrait of Turing as an appropriately

sensitive genius. Bullied by representatives of unfeeling authority, our hero's only solace is found in the flowers of the fields and the seminal animated feature film, *Snow White And The Seven Dwarves*—a fantasy leading him to commit suicide with, literally, a poisoned apple.

Playgoers needn't bring their CliffsNotes to the theater, however, since the White Elephant Project presents its material in a kaleidoscopic swirl of sensory images incorporating synchronized movement, abstract mime, spoken-word orchestrations and a soundscape of electronic music provided by Visager (né Josh Brechner), directed and choreographed by Brandon Powers. Surrounded by Emma Pardini's stark gloss-white floor and chalkboard-gray walls—the latter shadow-boxed in the manner of a flow-chart picked out with vividly colored apples—an athletic ensemble led by Aaron Stephenson as the conflict-racked Turing and Cole Doman as the sorely-lamented Morcom hold us entranced for the show's 100-minute duration with a continuous stream of physical and aural spectacle.

The play's title, by the way, does *not* refer to the tainted bovine by-product ingested by the unfortunate Morcom, but to nursing injuries suffered by the infant Turing's mother—maybe. When we recall that the universe occupied by scientists is boundless, and its possibilities limitless, why should that of Young's play not also permit each audience member to draw their own interpretation from the dazzling cavalcade of kinetic activity they have witnessed?



Enchanted April.
 Photo
 from Lenny
 Wahlberg

THEATER REVIEW

Enchanted April

Playwright: Matthew Barber, based
 on the novel by Elizabeth von Arnim
At: Idle Muse Theatre Company
 at Rivendell Theatre, 5775 N. Ridge Ave.
Tickets: 773-340-9438;
www.idlemuse.org; \$20
Runs through: Sept. 8

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

England is an island nation, located 1500 miles closer to the Arctic circle than the United States' northernmost border, making for cool temperatures, high humidity, heavy rains and thick fogs. This climate, unsurprisingly, has spawned a wealth of literature premised on the therapeutic effects of warm, sunny regions—Greece, or southern France, but most frequently Italy, the seat of European Enlightenment. In the bleak February of 1922, with the British empire staggering under the aftermath of the first World War, who could resist an advertisement in the local newspaper offering rental of a castle in the Lombardy region whose owner promises them "sunshine and wisteria?"

Certainly not the four women who pool their pin money to cover the lease on the beckoning fantasy retreat. Not Lottie Wilton and Rose Arnott, two Hampstead matrons so psychologically estranged from their husbands that people mistake them for widows. Not heiress Lady Caroline Bramble, her Jazz Age conviviality masking sorrow over the loss

of a beloved soldier-boy. Not the straitlaced Mrs. Fisher Graves, contentedly surrounding herself with memories of happier days. These ladies may be strangers when they embark on their adventure, but under prodding from the optimistic Lottie, each blossoms like the flowers of the lush countryside, their vigor renewed and faces turned toward the light—a spiritual renaissance soon infecting the unhappy spouses, invited to share in their wives' newly found happiness. Restoration is not just for the married, either—did I mention that the castle's landlord is a handsome young bachelor?

Elizabeth von Arnim's novel, as adapted by Matthew Barber, is a favorite production during the winter months, when summery reminders are most needed, making the Idle Muse Theatre Company's decision to stage their play in the dog days of August a somewhat daring proposition. Redemption is welcome in any season, however, and Anglophile romantics looking to stop and smell the you-know-what one more time before the onset of hibernal darkness will leave bathed in the sororal camaraderie generated by the ensemble dynamic of Elizabeth MacDougald as the ebullient Lottie, Mara Kovacevic as the pious Rose, Catherine Hermes as the melancholy Caroline and Maggie Speer as the formidable Mrs. Graves, along with Jean Waller's forthright housekeeper (who speaks no English, but still steals her every scene).

Those of scholarly bent might also want to take a look at the life of Elizabeth von Arnim, an author as bold and audacious as her plucky heroines.



PrOne: The Casting Couch Musical Comedy. Photo courtesy of Underscore Theatre Company

THEATER REVIEW

PrOne: The Casting Couch Musical Comedy

Score and Script: Alex Higgin-Houser, David Kornfeld, Brendan Siegfried and Laura Stratford

At: Underscore Theatre Company at Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago Ave. Tickets: www.underscoretheatre.org; \$25 Runs through: Sept. 7

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

PrOne: The Casting Couch Musical Comedy is a show with an identity problem.

At first, this world premiere penned by Alex Higgin-Houser, David Kornfeld, Brendan Siegfried and Laura Stratford is presented very much in the style of a naughty sex gross-out spoof. The peppiness of musical theater conventions are mocked as a sometimes-scantly clad chorus (Miki Byrne, Kimberly Grossman, Nick Kern and Aubrey Stanton) continually appear to add backup commentary. Meanwhile, the porn-obsessed college student Todd Spudnik (Nick Druzbankski) gets to do fake masturbatory scenes for comic relief.

But by the end, PrOne becomes all serious as it takes a critical stand on pornography. The leading lady becomes a prime example of someone exploited by the porn industry who was used and tossed away like a disposable tissue to appease the public's insatiable demand for new content.

PrOne focuses on Jessica Harrison (Sarah Hoch), a striving legitimate actress who seemingly gets lured into becoming an unwilling online sex performer. The main pornographer, director/performer Eddie Buonocazzo (Sam Button-Harrison), is on trial and prosecuting attorney Catherine Gellar (Casi Maggio) has convinced his former leading lady and fellow pornographer, Victoria St. John (Leah Isabel Tirado), to take the stand against him.

But all hell breaks loose when Jessica's identity is sought and then revealed, causing much trauma to her parents (Colin Reeves and Susan Thomas) and her closeted gay brother, Connor (Andres Enriquez).

Stylistically and structurally, PrOne is all over the map. These are flaws that also affected the authors' previous show two years ago called Liberal Arts: The Musical!

One could use the "too many cooks" analogy, but surely one of the four authors (or in the case of Higgin-Houser, who also serves as the show's director) could have insisted on a more consistent writing tone for the musical. This is a pity, because there is plenty of apparent talent on display in the show and onstage, even if their energies are pulled in too many different directions.

In terms of performances, Tirado is alluringly no-nonsense and sultry as Victoria St. John, while Druzbankski makes for a good overweight dumb lug of a sex-obsessed college student. The chorus quartet also gets a great workout to show off their singing and dancing skills.

But where PrOne should have spent more focus is on Hoch's Jessica, whose character seems to

get lost amid all the sexual jokes. Also, there is no real resolution to Jessica's predicament. When Jessica finally gives testimony in court, her character gets tossed aside as PrOne closes with a moralizing coda.

So PrOne is a show that want to have its funny sexual cake, but to eat it too with a dollop of sermonizing. Unfortunately, these ingredients clash rather than complement each other.

SPOTLIGHT



A suburban American family is thrown into turmoil when the mother's mental illness becomes insurmountable in the hit Broadway musical **Next to Normal**. See why critics raved for this Tony- and Pulitzer Prize-winning pop-rock show featuring a script and score by Brian Yorkey and Tom Kitt, now being presented in its first home-grown Chicago-area production. Next to Normal continues through Sunday, Sept. 1, at Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace. Performances are at 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 1:30 and 8 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays, 5 and 8:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2 and 6 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$35-\$49, with combined lunch and dinner packages also available for \$50-\$74; call 630-530-0111 or visit www.drurylane.com. Photo courtesy of Drury Lane Theatre



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Dance for Life '13: A night of love

BY VICKI CRAIN

All at the annual Dance for Life (DFL) benefit had a night of great dancing, love and community on Aug. 17. Special guests and benefactors had cocktails and light fare at a pre-show gala at the enormous Hilton Chicago International Ballroom. Guests traveled by trolley and by foot a few blocks north for the all-star performance at the iconic Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University.

The DFL performances are always a highlight of the summer, with the best of the best of Chicago's dance scene sharing the stage for a one-night-only, one-of-a-kind show. Five local companies and two independent artists shared the program that concluded each act with world premiere finales danced by artists from around the city. Proceeds from this year's celebration benefit the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, The Dancer's Fund and Chicago House.

The performance began with a high-energy Cuban number from Giordano Dance Chicago—an upbeat, perfect way to start the show. Ald. Tom Tunney served as emcee this year. He was charming, but not as vibrant as WGN's Dean Richards, who has hosted in previous years.

Thodos Dance Chicago performed a signature work by director Melissa Thodos and independent artists Abigail Simon and Mauro Villanueva wowed the crowd with a lively classical pas de deux from *Le Corsaire*. A new premiere by Harrison McEldowney and Jeremy Plummer incorporated dancers performing mid-air on rigging ropes. This collaboration gets better every year.

Act two was stellar, with an all-male piece by River North Dance Chicago, a stunning excerpt by master choreographer Mats Ek by Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and a fluid excerpt from DanceWorks Chicago, seamlessly showing why Chicago is one of the best cities for dance in the world. The evening closed with a feel-good, intensely danced world premiere from Randy Duncan.

Dance for Life producer Anthony Guerrero said that approximately 2,000 people attended the event, which grossed about \$350,000.



Photos by Hal Baim. See many more online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



NUNN ON ONE

Wilson Cruz talks activism, 'Life'



BY JERRY NUNN

Wilson Cruz may always be remembered by playing the gay character Rickie Vasquez on the television show *My So-Called Life* but it is what he has done afterward that defines him in so many ways.

This baby-faced Puerto Rican came out to his parents at 19 and was thrown out of the house, much like his character on that memorable show.

This didn't stop him from making his own life and appearing in many movies after *Life* was cancelled such as *Nixon*, *Party Monster* and *Johns*.

Since then he has been active with GLAAD (Gay Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) for more than 20 years along with serving as a grand marshal in the Chicago Pride Parade in 2005. His involvement in the community led him back recently to the Windy City where he hosted a GLAAD event at the MillerCoors Headquarters. Nunn chatted with Cruz a bit before the presentation.

Windy City Times: Hi, Wilson. How long have you been working with GLAAD?

Wilson Cruz: I have been affiliated with GLAAD for twenty years. I sat on the board at one point. I received the GLAAD Media Award for *My So-Called Life* back in 1995. I hosted the GLAAD Media Awards in 2005 with Candis Cayne. I won the Visibilidad Award in South Florida, which goes to a member in the media community in the Spanish language world.

I have a long history but started on staff in September of last year. So I am the the national spokesperson and I work on the development staff. I work on fundraising around the country, mainly on the West Coast.

WCT: Well, we are glad to have you in Chicago.

WC: Oh, I love Chicago. I really do. I was the grand marshal back in 2005. I am going to tell you this, I'm a New Yorker, I live in L.A., but I have to say Chicago is in the top three of the gay Pride experiences I have ever had!

WCT: How did you get on *My So-Called Life* in the first place?

WC: I was a young actor pounding the pavement like everyone else. I had just finished my first year of college. I was auditioning and doing three episodes of a series called *Great Scott!*, which starred Tobey Maguire. I got my SAG card and then the following pilot season where they auditioning the actors for the new shows, because I was a SAG member I could go out for series regulars parts. The very first script I received was the script for *My So-Called Life*. My agent called me and thought I would like it. When I read it I thought, "Clearly someone has been following me around high school for the last four years!"

I auditioned just like everybody else. If you heard Winnie Holzman talk about it she said the minute I walked in the door she gashed because I was exactly who she was picturing in her mind.

We had never met.

It was a very a very surreal experience throughout. It will probably be the most satisfying artistic experience I will ever have. I will have great creative experiences but that was magic. It was lightning in a bottle.



Wilson Cruz.
Photo by Melissa Wasserman

WCT: So you were college when you filmed it?

WC: I was 19 years old when I filmed the pilot. I am about to be 40 now. I have always played a bit younger than myself.

WCT: When I watched the series I wished I had a show like that to help me in high school. I was a little too old for it.

WC: Me, too. In many ways I was living out what my life was like but also it was a fantasy in a lot of ways of what I wanted. Playing him was both cathartic and dreamlike.

WCT: I heard they knew Claire Danes would go onto bigger things.

WC: She's a genius.

WCT: Have you stayed in touch?

WC: I'm not in her everyday life, obviously. She's a very busy woman and a momma now.

When we do see each other it is like yesterday.

WCT: What do you think of Jared Leto and *Thirty Seconds to Mars*?

WC: Brilliant! We always knew he could sing. Jared is the definition of magnetism.

WCT: Those eyes...

WC: You could start with the eyes and move on from there if you like! [Both laugh.]

WCT: I loved you in *Party Monster*.

WC: Thank you.

WCT: What is a memory from that?

WC: My first reaction is that was the first time I had left the industry and worked at the Gay and Lesbian Task Force. I was a field organizer and traveling the country working on having sexual orientation in the human-rights organization. It was right after 9/11 and there was very little interesting work coming to me. I was at a point where I thought I was done. I didn't see anything that piqued my interest or made me want to do it anymore. I had just finished my last state working on the human-rights ordinances. Randy and Fenton sent me the script and told me I was their first choice.

Check out Cruz's projects on his Facebook fan page and on Twitter @wcruz73. For more about GLAAD, see www.glaad.org.

Read the entire article at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT JR.

Austenland; Passion

In *Austenland*, Keri Russell plays Jane Hayes, a thirtysomething single gal with a fixation on the novels of Jane Austen that doesn't just border, but leaps over, the obsessive.

Jane is so gone on Mr. Darcy, the dark-and-dreamy hero of Austen's *Pride & Prejudice*, that she keeps a life-sized cardboard cutout of Colin Firth, who essayed the role in the beloved BBC miniseries adaptation, in her living room. The rest of Jane's apartment, tripped out in all manner of Austen memorabilia, is no less a tribute to her goony, romantic fanaticism. After yet another relationship falls by the wayside—and determined to find a flesh-and-blood Mr. Darcy—Jane blows her life savings on a trip to the aforementioned *Austenland*, an English country manor devoted to re-creating the experience of the typical Austen heroine during the Regency era.

The material, which springs from a 2007 chick-lit novel by Shannon Hale, has all the makings of a delightful movie—perfect light end of summer fare—and it's no wonder that "Twilight" author Stephanie Meyer was so drawn to the book that she's made it her first producing gig. But the result, helmed by Jerusha Hess (who, with her husband Jared, also co-wrote and co-directed *Napoleon Dynamite* and *Nacho Libre*), never really lives up to its initial, frothy promise.

Arriving in England Jane meets her fellow Austen enthusiast, the dim-witted Elizabeth (played by Jennifer Coolidge) and also quickly learns that she's only been able to afford the equivalent of the scullery maid's package while Elizabeth has sprung for the deluxe, which gives her ladyship status. The pair is greeted by Mrs. Wattlesbrook (Jane Seymour, appropriately cast and having a hammy good time), the snobbish owner of *Austenland* who runs roughshod over the actors portraying the various characters as well as her drunken lech of a husband, and makes sure that the guests get exactly what they pay for and not a smidgen more.

Thus, poor Jane is costumed in the drab garb of an old maid, consigned to a miniscule, unadorned room and warned away from fraternizing much with the actors playing roles above her station. On the other hand, Elizabeth has her choice of bust-popping outfits, wigs, a lavishly appointed suite and other benefits. The witty, gimmicky set-up holds for a good 25 minutes—helped along by some very funny sight gags like a stuffed sheep Seymour clutches, a dresser bulging with twee china tea cups in Jane's apartment, and the stuffed codpieces on the hunky servants over whom Elizabeth salivates.

But once we get settled in with Jane, Elizabeth and a third guest, the spoiled rich girl Lady Amelia (Georgia King)—who for a long time I thought was another of the actors hired for the weekend—the delicious intrigues and verbal sparring that are hallmarks of Austen's novels are mostly missing. Jane takes a momentary shine to Martin, a ne'er-do-well stable groom (a darkly handsome Bret McKenzie) who breaks character and gets drunk and fraternizes intimately with her. Then she brazenly announces her intention to jump class in an attempt to win over the actor playing Henry Nobley (J.J. Feild), the Mr. Darcy type.



Keri Russell
in *Austenland*.
Photo by
Giles Keyte,
from Sony
Pictures
Classics

While this is going on, there are some laugh-out-loud moments over Elizabeth's many malapropisms ("Colonel, you really are a saucy monkey," she blurts out at table), her obsession with one of the actors who is clearly gay and more sight gags—the actors lolling about on their time off, sunning by a pool bitching about the boss, for example. But the Austen signature—her characters' delicious felicity with words welded to their adherence to the rigid, exacting social customs that strapped them in as tight as the corsets everybody wore and the huge subtext of both—aren't much in evidence as the

plot wends its way to a slapdash, predictable rom-com finish.

Russell is part of the problem. She's a very good actress (as evidenced by her work in the intense television series *The Americans*, the overlooked *August Rush* and, especially, her lead turn in *Waitress*) but she's best as playing level-headed realists. Here, she's anything but a moony, dreamer type and her Jane never really connects with either the stable hand or her Mr. Darcy fill-in. Coolidge, of course is daffiness itself and what a pleasure to see in such a large supporting role but it would have helped

the movie a lot to add other Austen freaks to the mix and to have given her more to bounce off.

Although *Austenland* is mostly a nice, light, little trifle, it's ultimately half a soufflé at best—one that never quite rises to the occasion.

Writer-director Brian De Palma has made a career out of creating icy, sensual thrillers elevated by their penultimate sequences in which terrifying things are observed in intimate detail by his elegantly roving camera, often in slow motion. De Palma fans can recite them like a proud teacher can offer a list of favorite students: There are the prom sequence in *Carrie*, the razor murder of Angie Dickinson in the elevator in *Dressed to Kill*, the murder of Nancy Allen as the luckless hooker in *Blow Out*, the gangland hit on the courtroom stairs in *The Untouchables*, the theft of the diamond snake breastplate in *Femme Fatale*—for openers.

But nothing in *Passion*, De Palma's latest, has anything that comes close to those or many other memorable of the director's set pieces. Instead, the plot of the movie—in which a nasty advertising executive (played by a blonde Rachel McAdams) with plenty of sexual kinks plays cat

Turn to page 23



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The Dock at Montrose Beach

BY ANDREW DAVIS

I don't have many complaints about Chicago, but I do have one big one: Why don't we have any good restaurants on the beach? I'll never understand. We have miles of beautiful sandy beaches and almost no waterfront dining. I can't count Navy Pier because who goes there without an out-of-town visitor?

So, I had high hopes when **The Dock** opened at Montrose Beach. I spend most of my time at Hollywood Beach, so it took me a while to make it down to The Dock for a toes-in-the-sand meal.

When you sit down at The Dock, you instantly feel like you're on vacation (especially if you go on a weekday afternoon when the sun is high and everyone else is working). Being able to order cocktails and real food right on the beach is a refreshing change from slyly sipping contraband vodka and eating soggy sandwiches on a blanket in the sand. Plus, the Dock has a huge stage where live bands perform almost every night of the week, creating a fun party atmosphere around dusk.

With the sun on my face and an uncharacteristically gentle breeze blowing off of the lake, I couldn't resist the allure of a fruity beach drink.



Chicken caesar wrap at The Dock at Montrose Beach. Photo by Shira Kollins

My waiter steered me away from the rum punch and toward the "Beach Bash," a pink concoction of vodka, rum and amaretto. It's sweet, but drinkable and potent enough to serve its intended purpose – ease you into lakeside relaxation. One of those was enough for me, so I switched to a slightly lighter gin fizz, still pink and beachy, but not quite as sweet.

As much as I whine about Chicago's lack of waterfront dining, I wish I had better news to report about the food at The Dock. If judged it as a concession stand, I'd say The Dock is comfortably above average. But as a restaurant, it might send you running inland in search of a better meal.

I started with the fried calamari, which seemed like a great way to begin a meal by the water and the perfect pairing for a fruity cock-

tail. Sadly, the basket of fried squid I received was by far the toughest calamari I've ever had the displeasure of chewing. The only thing that saved it from being completely inedible was the flavorful buttermilk batter it was fried in and the tangy chipotle Parmesan aioli dipping sauce (and the fact that I was famished from having skipped lunch that day). Ok, so maybe seafood really is meant to be served in close proximity to the sea. Next time I'll opt for a safer appetizer like chips and guacamole.

For main courses, The Dock has a nice selection of sandwiches, wraps, burgers and tacos. I'll cut to the chase and tell you the best thing to order is a burger. They are made with high-quality grass-fed beef and are served hot and juicy on a pretzel bun. The "Dock Burger" is delightfully gooey with three kinds of cheese (cheddar, Swiss

and provolone) melted on top. Caramelized onions and chopped jalapenos add some heat. If you're in the mood for something lighter than a burger, the chicken Caesar wrap is a decent option. A spinach tortilla is packed full of fresh Romaine and tender chunks of marinated chicken. It won't thrill you, but it will fill you up and allow you to throw back another cold beer. All of the entrées are served with generous heaps of French fries that are not exceptional, but tasty enough with a sprinkle of salt.

The fish tacos, made with either marinated or battered Great Lakes white fish, sound mighty tempting when sitting on the shore of a Great Lake. Sadly, eating local doesn't always pay off. The nicest thing I can say about these tacos is that they were edible. The worst thing I can say is that the tough, overcooked fish tasted like chicken, and not in a good way. There are many better fish tacos to be had in Chicago, so take a pass on these.

I really wanted to love the food at The Dock, but it simply didn't deliver – and I didn't show up expecting a five-star meal. That said, I will be back because, well, location, location, location. Sitting on the beach with a cocktail in hand is one of Chicago's finer pleasures, and for me, it will never get old. So, if I have to endure some ho-hum food, then so be it. Now, I know not to come on an empty stomach, and if I do get hungry, to go straight for a burger.

The Dock at Montrose Beach is located 200 W. Montrose Harbor Dr.; call 773-704-8435 or visit www.thedockatmontrosebeach.com.

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

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Champions crowned on softball fields

BY ROSS FORMAN

When the third baseman for the C3 Division Sidetrack Squirrels softball team caught the line drive, the celebration started. The Squirrels ran through the playoffs on Sunday, Aug. 18, to capture the playoff league championship in the eight-team division, ending the upset hopes of the Halsted Hustlers.

Four other champions also were crowned Sunday afternoon, ending the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) open division season, played over the past four months at Clarendon and Margate fields.

"The Hustlers were the No. 6 seed [in the playoffs,] so the fact they advanced to the championship game, that's awesome. It shows teams that anything can happen on any given day, and shows that you don't have to be the No. 1 seed to, potentially, win the championship," said Jack Neilsen, CMSA open division league commissioner.

The Shirts Illustrated MasterBatters needed two games to capture the championship in the eight-team, round-robin C2 Division, defeating the Sidecar Pamas for the title. This was lone championship series that went to the if-game to determine the champion.

"Win or lose, summer softball is always my favorite CMSA sport," said Jeremy Bressman of the MasterBatters, who was playing his ninth

season of open division softball. "[We] have a solid group of guys that are friends on and off the field, and our first priority is to go out there and have a good time. But winning both the regular-season and the playoffs was icing on the cake. Everyone played well and it was truly a team effort."

Chicago is the largest league overall in the country among the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) cities. Formed in 1977, NAGAAA now has more than 800 teams in 45 leagues across the U.S. and Canada. NAGAAA hosts the annual Gay Softball World Series, which starts Tuesday, Aug. 27, in Washington D.C., with more than 5,000 players expected on 157 teams.

Four Chicago teams will be playing in the Washington D.C.

"Overall, I thought it was a very successful season," Neilsen said. "We were blessed with only one rained out [week] and overall, every-

thing went smooth this season.

"I saw a social growth this season, and that's very important for the league. There also was a very high level of competition this season. All of our divisions were pretty evenly matched. Splitting the C Division into three divisions made for fair, equal play for all. It was a level playing field in all divisions, and I think people really enjoyed themselves this season."

There were about 750 players this season in the predominantly gay male open division, which features a 20-game regular-season. Chicago boasts one top-tiered A-Division team, the Chicago Menace, and two B-Divisions. The Roadhouse 66 Dragons captured the B-Division regular-season championship.

Both the Menace and the Dragons will be playing in the World Series.

In the seven-team C1 Division, Angel's Envy defeated 3160/Tanel Chicago Express for the league championship, yet it will be the Express heading east for the World Series.

The North End Pounders defeated the Jackhammer Jox for the D1 Division title, while the SOckFOrd Peaches captured the D2 Division championship, defeating the Howard Brown Elephants.

"The playoffs overall were successful and

teams had a really good time," Neilsen said. "I think one of my highlights this season was the D2 Division team that I coached, the Bad News Beards, sponsored by Scruff. The team struggled last season, winning only two games. But this year, the team finished [the regular-season with a record of] 9-11. That's huge for them, a morale booster."

CMSA Open Division Champions:

—B Division: Roadhouse 66 Dragons (regular-season)

—C1 Division: Angel's Envy

—C2 Division: Shirts Illustrated MasterBatters

—C3 Division: Sidetrack Squirrels

—D1 Division: North End Pounders

—D2 Division: SOckFOrd Peaches

Women's Softball Playoffs Results:

—A-Division: Mood Swings defeated Last Call

—B-Division: Raw Energy Majors over Free Agents

—C-Division: Clocktower Cafe over Raw Energy Minors

—D-Division: Pat's Posse claimed the title over Steel Reserve

Read the entire article at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

KNIGHT from page 21

and mouse games (or is it the other way around?) with her career-hungry assistant (the brunette Noomi Rapace)—seems like an imitation of one of his earlier films. The blonde is murdered, the brunette is accused and the audience has figured out well ahead of the brunette's pretty red-haired assistant, a lesbian with a hankering for the boss lady, what is actually going on.

There is an attempt near the end to create yet another of those famed De Palma montages but by that time the lazy plotting and the waste of McAdams and Rapace had almost checked me out of the picture. Yet, like late-period Hitchcock, you hang in there because there's enough zing left on the screen to let you know you're watching a real filmmaker at work—but the payoffs never really come and certainly the movie never lives up to its title.

Of related interest: You want to see some bad, awful, nasty women on screen? Look no further than **Noir City: Chicago**, the Music Box Theatre's fifth annual film noir fest that returns to the historic venue (3733 N. Southport Ave.) Friday-Thursday, Aug. 23-29. The 17 films in this year's series include well-known noir classics like *Night and the City* and *Night Has a Thousand Eyes* and pays particular attention to those aforementioned rotten egg ladies. The lineup includes *Sunset Boulevard*, *Niagara*, the rare Technicolor noir *Leave Her to Heaven* and my favorite on the bill (because it's so rarely screened)—1947's *Desert Fury*, in which Mary Astor and the lesbian actor Lizbeth Scott tussle as a tough, casino-owning mother fixated on her spoiled brat daughter. Oh, and there's an undeniable homoerotic subplot involving Wendell Corey and John Hodiak, to boot. Eddie Muller and Alan K. Rode from the Film Noir Foundation will be on hand to introduce many of the screenings and conduct audience Q&As. Complete schedule at www.musicboxtheatre.com

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Wed., Aug. 21

Q&A Trivia w/ Kwizmaster Kirk Williamson Join Nightspots' own Kirk Williamson as he challenges the audience with a variety of questions while bartender Jeff serves up \$5 Rukk cocktails. Get your team together, because the first place team receives a \$25 @mosphere certificate. Drink prizes for second and third place teams as well. 8pm-10:30pm, Atmosphere Bar, 5355 N. Clark St., <http://www.facebook.com/qatrivia>

Opera Underground Cruise A boat cruise with the extras, down the Chicago River and out onto Lake Michigan. Small bites, cool drinks, and maaaaah-velous singers. Boat boards at 5:30. Cruise is booked with Chicago Cruises. 5:30pm-8pm, 312-704-8414, Chicago Cruises, <https://www.facebook.com/events/544801248916020/>

Song of Summer: A Kate Bush Tribute Night The music and mood of British songstress Kate Bush with live musical salutes by Distant Cities and Kyle Greer. Three Bush-phile DJs. No cover. 9:30pm, The Whistler, 2421 N. Milwaukee Ave., <http://whistlerchicago.com/events/song-summer-tribute-kate-bush>

Sidecar Bar Comedy Night Monthly comedy showcase featuring Krista Atkinson, Brad Brubaker & The Crowd Goes Wild, Marla Depew, David Franks, Alex Krochman, Rebecca O'Neal, Amy Nico Schwartz and hosted by Amy Sumpter. \$4 well cocktails and draft beers. Sidecar Bar, 6920 N. Glen-

wood Ave. 9pm-11pm, Sidecar Bar, 6920 N. Glenwood Ave., <http://www.sidecarbar-chicago.com>

Thursday, Aug. 22

What Supreme Court Rulings on DOMA, Prop 8 Mean for You Hosted by Windy City Times, Center on Halsted and James Elvord, First Vice President-Financial Advisor. Presented by Bill Ringham, Vice President-Senior Wealth Strategist, RBC Wealth Management. 5:30-6:15 wine and cheese reception, 6:15-7:15 program, 7:15-7:30 Q&A. Unable to attend? Call Jim Elvord for summary. Seating limited. RSVP to james.elvord@rbc.com; 5:30pm, 312-559-1738, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St.

2013 National Pro Fastpitch Championship Series Nation's top professional softball teams will come to Rosemont to compete at the home to the NPF's 2011 Cowles Cup Champions the Chicago Bandits. Through the weekend. Tickets by phone or online. 7pm-10:30pm, 615-232-2900, Jennie Finch Way, The Ballpark at Rosemont, <http://www.profastpitch.com>

Artemis Singers new members night Artemis Singers, Chicago's lesbian feminist chorus, will hold new members night. Meet the singers and see what the chorus is like. No audition is required. Music sight-reading ability is not mandatory. Email or call for details and location; 7pm-9pm, 773-764-4465, Email info@artemissingers.org for location, <http://www.artemissingers.org>

The Clean House by Sarah Ruhl When Lane's husband has an affair with a woman who loves life but is dying, Matilde, Lane, and Virginia adjust to the newcomer's presence with a transformative compassion. Through Sept. 1. 7:30pm, 773-935-6875, Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N Southport Ave., Tickets: <http://www.athenaeumtheatre.org>

It Comes In A free, eight-day festival of seven short plays—each about seven minutes long, all performed each night in succession in locations around the Jarvis Square Red Line El stop.. 7:30pm-8:30pm, 773-340-0140, The Side Project Theatre, in locations around the Jarvis Square Red Line El stop. Jarvis Ave. at N. Greenview Ave., <http://www.thesideproject.net>

Friday, Aug. 23

The 29th Annual American Craft Exposition The finest handmade jewelry and art objects from world-renowned craftspeople, this juried indoor exposition and sale of fine craft includes one-of-a-kind pieces, luxury collections and uniquely creative artwork. More than 160 juried artists. \$15 for adults, three-day entry at the door. \$5 for children 10 and under. Through Aug. 25. \$13 for adults, when purchased in advance online; 10am-8pm, 224-364-7270, Henry Crown Sports Pavilion, <http://www.americancraftexpo.org>

11th Annual Naperville Wine Festival Through Aug. 24, enjoy an array of tasty cuisine and fine wines, a fantastic lineup of live music including Lloyd Dobbler Effect and Erin Bode Group. Food and wine seminars with live cooking demonstrations. Benefits Naperville Area Humane Society. Festival hours: 4-10pm on Friday, Aug. 23 and 2-8pm on Saturday, Aug 24. Tickets online. 4pm-10pm, CityGate Centre, at I-88 and US-59, Naperville, <http://napervillewinefestival.com>

Lavender Law LAGBAC Reception For LAGBAC Members who attend the LAGBAC conference. 5:30pm-7pm, Contact Nicole Bashor at nbashor@gmail.com for location, <http://lagbac.org>

Best Served Hot: Ceramics for the Cof-

fee Ritual Lillstreet Gallery partners with Intelligentsia Coffee. Through Sept. 29. 6pm-8pm, 773-769-4226, Lillstreet Art Center, <http://lillstreetgallery.com/best-served-hot/>; Tickets: <http://lillstreet.com/10years/>

Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry An array of acclaimed artists from Chicago and beyond tell the powerful story of an African-American family living in a crowded apartment on Chicago's South Side during the 1950s. Previews August 20 - 25. Through November 17. 7:30pm, 773-281-8463x6, TimeLine Theatre, 615 W. Wellington Ave., <http://timelinetheatre.com>

Don't Blink: A Doctor Who Burlesque Travel through time and space with The Doctor and his companion, Cort, in their silliest, sexiest and most "lady-like" adventure yet. \$28-35. 9pm-10pm, 773-598-4549, Gorilla Tango Burlesque, 1919 N. Milwaukee Ave., <http://www.gorillatango.com/who>

Windy City Rodeo Amateur rodeo for charity sanctioned by the Intl. Gay Rodeo Assoc. Registration Friday night, events Saturday and Sunday. Steer wrestling, bull riding, goat dressing, steer decorating, wild drag race; horse speed events and roping. Through Aug. 25. \$15 adult entry. 12pm-6pm, Six Guns Ranch & Arena, 26926 South State Line Road, Crete, IL, <http://ilgra.com>

Saturday, Aug. 24

Queer Contra Dance A 25-minute dance will be held at the 4th Annual Boulevard Music Festival. Music by The Grand Ole Aubrey Band, and John Legge will call. Part of "Promote LogSqr GLBT" programming. Benefits the mission and outreach the event sponsors. \$5; 12:30pm, West Stage, 3100 W. Logan, <http://www.facebook.com/contrachicago>

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington On Aug. 28, 1963 The March on Washington for Jobs and



FEELING THE LOVE Sunday, Aug. 25

Chicago Black Gay Men's
Caucus' Lovefest will
take place at Jackson
Park.

Photo from 2012 by Ed Negron

Freedom was one of the largest political rallies for human rights in United States history and is where Martin Luther King, Jr., in front of the Lincoln Memorial, delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech for racial harmony. Chicago leaders and youth will reenact the iconic March. Be a part of the line-up to march through Washington Park. Free. 1pm-3pm, Dusable Museum, 740 E. 56th Pl., <http://www.dusablemuseum.org/>

The Windy City Rollers All-Stars Game against one of the nation's top roller derby teams, the Minnesota RollerGirls. 1:15pm, UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine Ave.,

Turn to page 26

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BILLY MASTERS

"Billy shows much enthusiasm but is lacking in some areas of writing skill. He completes his written assignment very quickly and should be encouraged to take more time to strive for neatness and better penmanship."—The assessment from my 10th-grade Honors English teacher. True to form, throughout the 18 years of writing this column, I've never missed a deadline. My handwriting is still messy, but all I do is type. And unlike the kids today, I can read and write in cursive.

Way back in August 1995, I was asked by one of my best friends to write a column for the gay paper where he worked. It was an emergency—the person who wrote their gossip column had stolen money from the paper and simply disappeared. They were in a rush and they were desperate—two qualities I look for in my men. Since my stand-up material was filled with celebrity gossip, I banged out a column quickly and swore it was a one-shot deal. Three columns



Cher is on the warpath, Billy says.

later, I got a call from another gay paper asking if they could pick up the syndication rights. And that, dear reader, is how the Billy Masters empire was born. Back then, I had to fax in my column because most of the papers didn't have email. Some didn't even have a fax machine and would make me mail them a hard copy. How times have changed. These days, the minute a reality star takes a photo of his penis, it turns up on BillyMasters.com. God bless the Internet—and God bless you all.

For the better part of a year, Cher talked about her magical collaboration with Lady Gaga on the song "The Greatest Thing." Although Gaga's demo has been floating around for eons, this duet promised something special. That was until Gaga decreed that the final product was not good enough and sounded "dated." Ouch! How fortuitous that someone leaked it. While we're not surprised Gaga was pissed off, Cher was also annoyed. And that's because some people claim Cher leaked the track herself. She Tweeted her outrage: "DO YOU THINK I WOULD DO THIS TO A FELLO ARTISTS, & 1 I RESPECT AS MUCH AS

GAGA?? I've sat on fknng song 4 over a yr. NOW SOME ASSHOLE LEAKS THE WRONG VERSION! Ga-Ga's SINGLE IS GREAT, & THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS." Within a few hours, the label forced the Cher version to be deleted from every website—well, every website except for one. I think it's kinda fabulous, but you can decide for yourself at BillyMasters.com.

An interesting conversation was captured between WWE wrestler Darren Young and a cameraman from TMZ. The "reporter" (and I use that term loosely) asked if he thought a wrestler could come out as gay and still be successful. Young smiled and answered, "Absolutely—look at me. I'm a WWE superstar and, to be honest with you, I'll tell you right now—I'm gay and I'm happy ... very happy." That says it all—he's Young, gay, and happy!

It may be my anniversary, but you guys are getting the presents with not one, but two "Ask Billy" questions. The first comes from Caleb in Albany who says, "I hear there are some nude photos of Justin Bieber floating around. Have you seen them? I think he's beautiful. What an ass!"

Since he's of age, I'll tackle the Bieb. Little Justin has been fixated on trying to become a sex symbol ever since he got his first ab—or was it his first pubic hair? Either way, it was sometime over the last year or so. In addition to the selfies he posts with annoying regularity (exuding all of the raw masculinity of a young Anne Heche), the photos in question stem from a family gathering. He was spending Canadian Thanksgiving at his grandmother's house and overslept. Because he's a little scamp, he decided to come downstairs completely naked—but holding a guitar. Allegedly, Gran took one look at him and suggested he put on some clothes because he looked a little cold ... if you catch my drift! His balls may not have dropped, but the photos have—on BillyMasters.com.

The second question comes from Josh in Baltimore: "I don't think you watch Big Brother, but there was a guy on there that was totally your type. David was voted off first and was a real stud in that beach bum kinda way. Are there any nudes of him out there?"

One of my dearest friends is a HUGE Big Brother devotee, but I must say she has completely failed me by not bringing David Girton to my attention. For heaven's sake—he's a 25-year-old lifeguard from San Diego. The hair, the body, the tan ... I would have been all over that (as the kids say). Because he only lasted 13 days in the house, you'd think we wouldn't have any incriminating photos. Well you'd be wrong, because we do. Since being evicted, he's said, "I was hoping this would help me get a modeling or acting career out of this." Well, Davey, your wish is my command. You can see every inch of Girton on BillyMasters.com—and that's quite a few inches.

When I'm planning a leg cramp the next time I'm swimming in San Diego, it's definitely time to end yet another column. In what is becoming an unfortunate trend, I must take a moment to acknowledge the passing of someone who was very special to me. Many of you probably know of Damon Intrabartolo as the writer of the musical bare. He was enormously talented in so many areas, but also incredibly complex; a dear person who was also kind of a lost soul. Last week, he died at the age of 39—way too soon and far too tragic for me to even joke about. He'll be missed and not soon forgotten. While I hate being abrupt, I must wrap up not only this column but also another year. So let me quickly remind, as I have every week for the past 18 years, that you can keep up with my comings and going at www.BillyMasters.com, the site that's got bigger balls than Bieber (although that's not saying much). If you've got a question, send it Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before my next anniversary. Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

Funny Thursday!

Thursday, August 29

August 29 is a very special NO COVER Comedy Thursday at Sidetrack. Stop by & you might win tickets to see Emmy and Grammy-nominated comedian **Margaret Cho.**

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COLLINS from cover

One of Collins' phone conversations Monday, as now the first openly gay active NBA player, was with Oprah—"and she didn't block her number," Collins said, laughing.

He finished the call with Oprah, which was "a great conversation," he said, and was heading to the bathroom when he received another phone call with "Unknown ID."

"I knew I had to answer it," Collins said. "A woman identifies herself and says, 'Can you hold for the president?'"

"Naturally I said, 'Yes,' though part of me thought it was about to be the biggest practical joke ever. Sure enough, he gets on and I recognized his voice right away; his voice is so distinct."

Collins, at the home of his agent at the time, went back around his agent and his publicist. "My agent's face was just lighting up; he was so happy," that the President had called, Collins said.

Collins, a Los Angeles native who graduated from Stanford, has played for six teams in the NBA, most recently the Washington Wizards. His NBA career has spanned 713 regular-season games, plus another 95 in the playoffs. He is currently a free agent, hoping to be signed for the 2013-14 season.

He has given part of the credit for his smooth coming-out to his agent, Arn Tellem, who Collins said, "I wouldn't have been able to do this without him."

Tellem has known the Sports Illustrated writer who assisted with Collins' coming-out story since they were 9. "That trust was there [between Tellem and writer Franz Lidz], and that was key," Collins said.

Collins met with the writer, the writer's daughter, and an editor. They just sat around the dining room table at Collins' house and talked for almost four hours.

Two days later, Collins was sent a draft of his coming-out story for proofing.

The world learned Collins is gay days later.

"The process was amazing," said Collins who, when asked what he'd do different, replied, "Nothing. I don't think I would change anything."

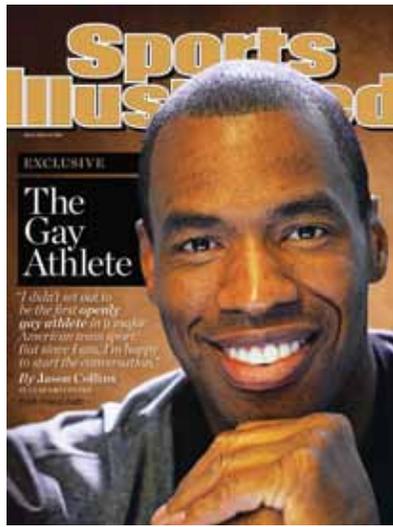
Collins' coming-out was trailblazing. Obama and Oprah immediately joined the Collins support crew, as well as many of the top NBA stars, including Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Still, he truly had no idea what to expect when the world learned that the 7-foot, 250-pound Collins was gay, "but I knew it was something that I had to do. I felt like I couldn't stay quiet anymore," he said. "Obviously [coming out] has changed my life for the better in so many ways."

People now approach Collins to come out, which he once was doing to others.

Collins said that five or six people have come out to him since he revealed he is gay—from average Americans to celebrities. "Some were unexpected," he said, not revealing any names.

"I still remember, toward the end of last season, debating how I was going to do it. What am I going to do?" Collins said. "At the end of the day, everyone has to do what is best for them, what will make them happiest. Coming out has made me much happier; I don't have that stress anymore. As I often tell people, you don't know how good you are going to feel once you get rid of that stress."



Jason Collins came out in Sports Illustrated in April.

Collins' coming-out was aided by John Amaechi, a gay former NBA player who was once teammates with Collins' brother, Jarron.

Jarron called Amaechi and said he knew someone who was thinking of coming out. Jarron said the person was a really good friend and he wanted to make sure with Amaechi that he could pass along Amaechi's phone number.

Jarron didn't say that it was, in fact, his brother who was coming out.

"I called [Amaechi], and just having that sounding board of someone who has walked down this path was helpful," Collins said of his early April phone conversation with Amaechi. "John has been incredible, helpful because I needed someone who has gone down this path."

Jason and Jarron were golfing on that Sunday in April, 24 hours before their worlds were going to change forever. Golfing has been a sibling tradition before something big is going to happen, Jason said.

Jarron called Deron Williams, the former University of Illinois standout who has played in the NBA since 2005. He told Williams that Jason was coming out, and Williams then told Jerry Stackhouse, who has played in the NBA since 1995—and was teammates in the league with Jason.

Stackhouse immediately sent Jason a text message, offering his full support.

Collins responded by calling Stackhouse. "Right then, I just thought, 'If this is how it's going to be overall, it will be great,'" Jason said.

Jason spent that Sunday night, the night before the world learned of the gay NBA player, calling family members and friends, so they would hear directly from Collins. It was a broad spectrum of calls Collins was making that night—to friends, teammates, coaches, etc.

"It's been crazy, surreal," Collins said. "I'm very blessed—having the friends and family who I have in my life, and just the opportunities that I've had."

"The most important thing for me now is, being in shape and ready to play basketball."

So he gets a call from an NBA team, wanting his services as a center in the NBA.

CALENDAR from page 24

Chicago, Tickets: <http://www.windycityrollers.com/contact-us/tickets>

Equality Illinois' Out at the Sox: LGBT Pride Night Join Equality Illinois for Out at the Sox: LGBT Pride Night. Guests will mix and mingle with other LGBT sports fans the our Pregame Mixer at Bacardi at the Park, the White Sox onsite sports bar. There will be drinks, lite bites and great Sox giveaways before the 6:10pm game. 4:30pm-11pm, U.S. Cellular Field, 333 W 35th St., <http://eqil.org/sox.html>

The Jade of It All RuPaul's Drag Race season 1 O.G. Jade Sotomayor welcomes season 5 sweetheart Jade Jolie to Spin for two performances at midnight and 1am \$5 advance, \$10 at the door. \$20 VIP includes hosted bar package 10-11pm and a meet-and-greet after the show. Saturday night dance party with DJ Riley York and VJ Dominic on Spin's two dance floors. 10pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., <http://www.spin-nightclub.com>

Sunday, Aug. 25

All Groups Gay Picnic The West Suburban Gay Association (WSGA) welcomes all Chicagoland GLBT groups to the annual event at the intersection of I-90 and I-290 in Schaumburg. Join members of many Chicagoland gay associations including the Lincoln Park Lagooners, Asians & Friends, Kane County Group, Rainbow Brunch, Oak Park Gay & Lesbian Association, PFLAG, West Suburban Gay Association. Questions to WSGA at info@wsga.com. Free. 12pm-8pm, Busse Woods Forest Preserve Grove 31, Schaumburg, <http://www.wsga.com/>

9th Annual Lovefest Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus (CBGMC) will host the 9th Annual LoveFest Celebration Sunday, Aug. 25, 12-8 p.m., at Jackson Park (63rd Street and Cornell Drive). A free event, LoveFest is an annual summer "edu-tainment" festival designed to increase awareness of health and wellness management among Black gay and bisexual men. This year's theme is "Love No Limits." Email info@chiblackgaycaucus.org or see <http://chiblackgaycaucus.org/blog/lovefest2013/>.

Imperial Crown Prince's Ball Drag and comedy Show. All money goes to Reign Charities (Vital Bridges and Night Ministry). Show hosted by Kate Cullan. Kate has been seen at Zanies and performing Beast Women and The

Kates. Live and silent auction accompanies the show. Hosted by Marc Peurye. Featuring SisterStarry Eyed, Leslie Jayne Lee, The Queen Bee of Comedy, Katerina Heights, Neil Douglas St James, Prince Royale IX, and Tippi Marie Peppermint. 7pm-10pm, Bonsai Bar & Lounge, 3503 N Halsted St.

Beers, Boys, Burgers, and Beats Who Needs A's When You Can Get B's! Beers, Boys, Burgers, and Beats at Roscoe's. 11am-11:45pm, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted St, Chicago, <http://www.roscoes.com>

Monday, Aug. 26

Live Band Karaoke with Amy Armstrong Every Monday night at 10pm in the Front Bar, hosted by the one and only Diva, Amy Armstrong (www.Amy-Freddy.com); 9pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted St, <http://www.roscoes.com>

Tuesday, Aug. 27

A Magnificent Taste 2013 Art Smith and Rick Bayless will lead lineup of Chicago chefs. VIP meet-and-greet reception 5:30pm - 6:30pm. \$125 and VIP for \$200; 6:30pm-9:30pm, Pioneer Court, 401 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Tickets: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/il2jcxvvs03bnq/aklu8un1jv>

Wed., Aug. 28

Latino Politics Short Course of the American Political Science Association Topics include immigration reform battle taking place in Congress and its impact on the 2014 elections; a panel on Latinos and the media; a roundtable on publishing in political science journal with four editors from some of the leading political science journals. 1pm-6pm, Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S Michigan Ave., http://www.apsanet.org/mtgs/program_2013/shortcourses.cfm

Stand Out: The National Queer Comedy Search The announcement party. From a wide submission round, 15 comedians have been picked for the elimination round on www.advocate.com/comedy. The three with the most votes will be locked into the competition at Zanies in September. 8pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St, Chicago, <http://www.sidetrackchicago.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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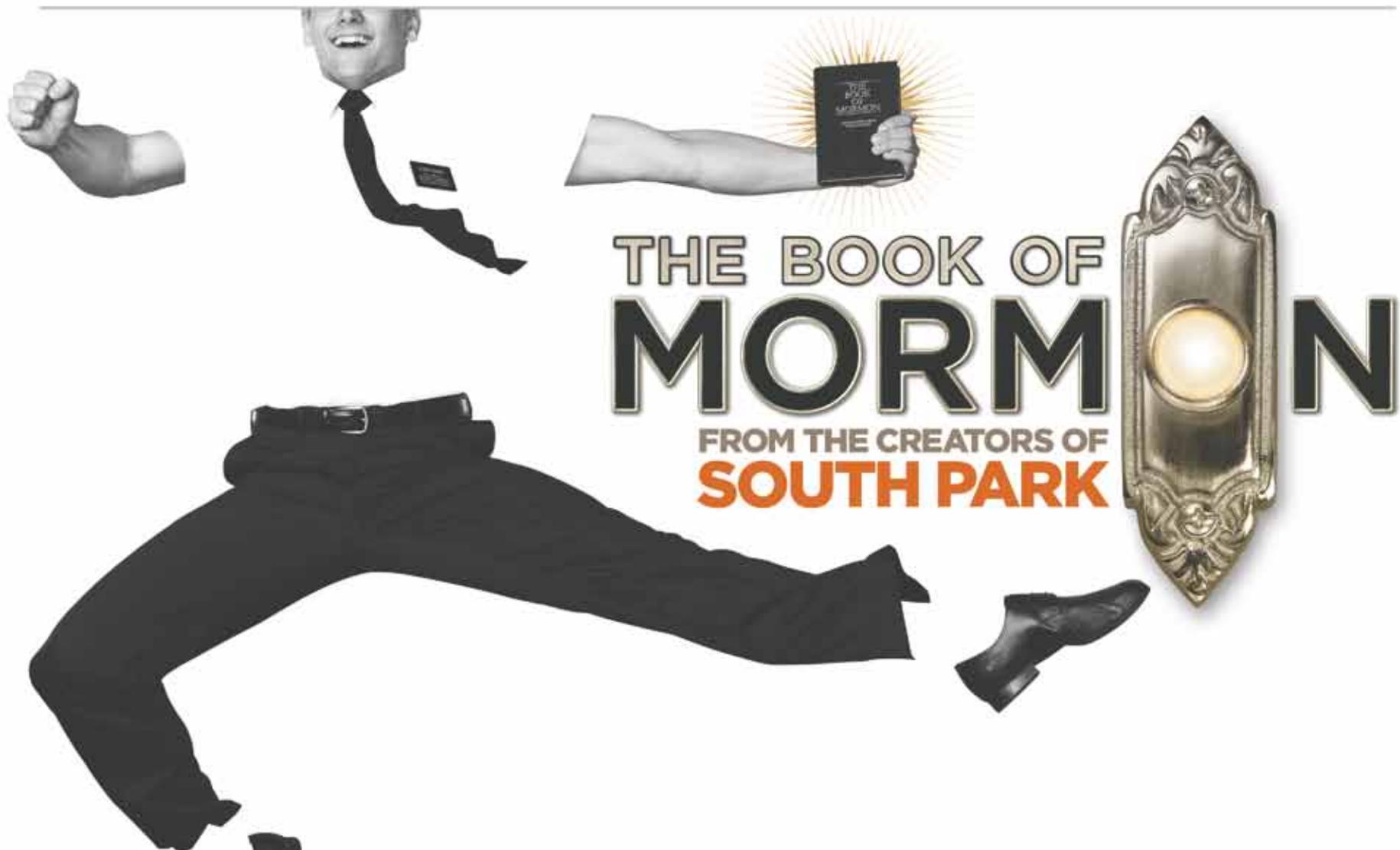
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