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PAGE 23

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

OCT. 9, 2013
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**U.S. REP.
GUTIERREZ AT
TWIRL TRANS
GROUP**
PAGE 13

Marriage co-sponsor: Call the measure

BY KATE SOSIN

Rep. Greg Harris, chief sponsor of the Illinois marriage equality bill, has been cautious in comments since the measure fell short in the spring. But other sponsors of the bill report optimism.

The strongest of those comments came from openly gay co-sponsor Sam Yingling, who told Windy City Times that his roll call indicates that the bill has the 60 votes it needs to pass in veto session.

"I believe the votes are there," Yingling said. "There will always be excuses as to why the vote should be delayed, but the overwhelming majority of people in Illinois support marriage equality, and we need to vote on it and get it done."

Yingling said he thinks that the bill has more votes than in did in May, when Harris, faced with the possibility of the bill failing, decided to hold off on a vote until fall veto session.

Illinois Unites for Marriage Campaign Manager John Kohlhepp has said that his team is working with the goal of seeing a vote during veto session.

Veto session begins Oct. 22. Activists have planned a massive march on the capitol that day at noon, an



State rep. Sam Yingling. Photo courtesy of Yingling

effort to turn the heat on lawmakers who might be tempted to delay a controversial vote until after election filing deadlines later in the season.

Yingling's comments come alongside reports that sponsors and LGBT leaders might wait until January to call the bill, a move that could spark community protest from supporters who expected a vote in May.

Yingling said he wants to see a vote in veto session, but that supporters also need to keep pressure on the lawmakers to pass the bill.

"We still have to fight for this," Yingling said. "This isn't something that's going to magically happen."

Rep. Sara Feigenholtz of Chicago was more reserved in her predictions.

"I think things are moving in the right direction," she said. "My sense is there is cautious optimism."

Feigenholtz said that sponsors and LGBT leaders have made improvements since the May shortfall.

"We are working," she said. "There is constant vigilance on this."

The final decision on the vote timeline rests with Harris. He has stated repeatedly that he will not give a timeline or a vote count for the bill.



**ALD. DEB MELL
TALKS MARRIAGE
AT TRIBUNE
EVENT**
PAGE 14

HITTING THE RIGHT NOTES



**OUT GAY AND HIV-
POSITIVE ACTOR
MARK PATTON ON
HOLLYWOOD AND
'NIGHTMARE ON
ELM STREET 2'**
PAGE 27



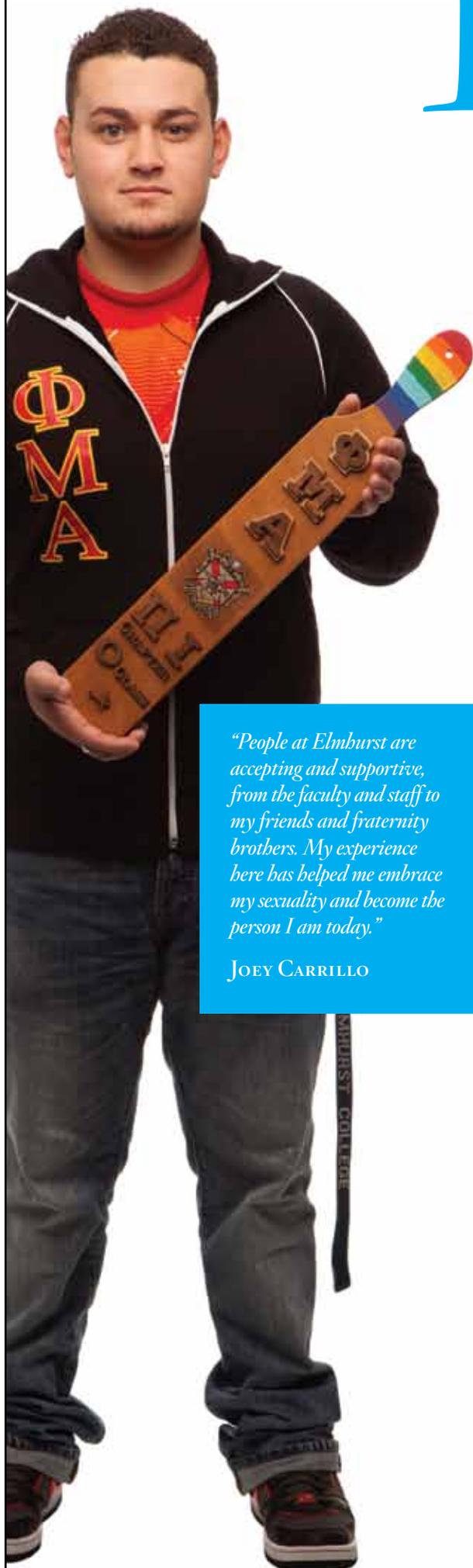
page 24



page 25

Windy City Times talks with LGBT musicians in two separate interviews: quartet Well-Strung and jazz vocalist Lucy Smith. Photo of Well-Strung by Scott Henrichsen; image of Smith by Olga Lopez

You belong here



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JOEY CARRILLO

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—Chicago Sun-Times



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this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

NEWS

Column: Royster	4
Gay History Month: 'Dr. Anonymous'	5
OutHistory site is redesigned	6
Friend Movement launches walk	8
Local news: Gerber/Hart; Peoria	9
FAQs about Springfield march	10
School of Opulence	12
Pro-trans organization TWIRL	13
Marriage events: Tribune, Marine	14
Gay in the Life	15
VIEWES: Pizzoli; letter	16

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

Scottish Play Scott	17
Play looks at sex trafficking	22
Joan Allen interview	23
Music: The men of Well-Strung	24
Lesbian jazz musician Lucy Smith	25
Knight: Valentine Road, We Are...	26
Mark Patton on 'Elm Street' film	27
Dish: Five Worth Finding	30
Billy Masters	33

OUTLINES

Classifieds	30
Calendar Q	32

Photos on cover (left, from top): PR photo of Joan Allen; photo of U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez and TWIRL by Tracy Baim; photo of Deb Mell at Tribune marriage-equality debate by Tracy Baim; image of Mark Patton in the film Nightmare on Elm Street 2



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JUST FOR LAUGHS

Comedian Shawn Pelofsky (left) chats with WCT about gay cruises and physical comedy.

Photo courtesy of GayStar



Director Eddie Griffith talks about his Web series Ken, which looks at Blacks, faith and homosexuality. Photo from Griffith



Pathfinders honored civil-rights leaders in an event at Kingston Mines. Photo of State Sen. Jacqueline Collins and Brenetta Howell Barrett by Vern Hester

WHAT'S COOKING?

Celebrity chef Roble Ali dishes about Art Smith, Andy Cohen and preparing dishes for President Obama.

SEASONS OF LOVE

Four Seasons Baltimore has launched a same-sex wedding program.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Find out the latest about Jodie Foster, Leslie Jordan and Ryan Phillippe.

plus DAILY BREAKING NEWS

Find Nightspots on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nightspots)

Richard Knight, Jr. and the 31st Reeling Film Festival

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Cultural Q's

BY FRANCESCA ROYSTER



Queer Sparks: Creative Crush Stories

I remember watching my father playing drums in the park in the summers of my childhood. On Saturdays, he'd come prepared with his two canvas-covered congas waiting in the back seat of the car and a red milk crate of percussion instruments to share.

We'd drive by the park or the lake and he'd listen out for the sound of others playing. I remember his face lifted up the sky when he played, eyes closed. He seemed to be aware and not aware of the other drummers, the dancers, the audience, of his children by his side who were beating out a 2/3 rhythm on the clave. I remember the iron smell of his sweat, wanting to be strong like his hands were strong, and the promise of being transformed through music.

where s/he shimmied, shook." — Misty DeBerry, Performance Artist.

"His talent to cut the rug in a suit and pumps softens the butchness of bikers. The ability to contort his face in concert with the rest of his body celebrates grotesquery in its finest. Pee Wee Herman. At age seven, the word 'camp' was not part of my vocabulary, yet it got me, and it still gets me...through. I had no idea that homosexuals, let alone gender-queers, existed, even when staring one down in the mirror. Yet, there I was, every Saturday morning in front of the TV, crouched forward in my awkwardly female body, studying, imitating, flaming, becoming." — Rae Langes, Performance Artist (<https://sites.google.com/site/ralanges/>) .

"I remember the iron smell of his sweat, wanting to be strong like his hands were strong, and the promise of being transformed through music."

"Was my first creative crush a metaphor-crazed singer-songwriter? A Broadway diva? A feminist poet? A discordant jazz track? A political manifesto or two? Which brash and unconventional female, which critique of normal, led me to become a queer-form-loving essayist? My first serious literary crush was Doris Lessing's five-book and

What is creativity? Julia Cameron, author of *The Artist's Way* writes that "our creative dreams and yearnings come from a divine source. As we move toward our dreams, we move toward our divinity." Designer Tim Brown describes it as recapturing the playful, uninhibited improvisational state of childhood. Creativity is inherently queer, in that it can take us out of the normative stories of our lives that we've been given, and reorganize our relationship to our bodies, to family and sense of place.

In Summer of 2013, *The New York Times* asked artists as well as readers from all over the country to share moments when they were inspired to pursue a creative life. People listed *Buffy*, sculpture, *The Simpsons*, a trip to the opera at age 5. As I read these creative crush stories, it made me want to collect some from our own queer community here in Chicago, to think about what sparks link us.

Who knows? These stories might spark a crush in you, too.

"hop scotch on federal street with the fire hydrant opened up. me and my sister mopping the floor for mama with old ratty t-shirts, we didn't have much money then and nothing made mama happier than a clean house when she came home from school. and soooo many beads in my plaited hair, (i did it all by myself!) swoosh swoosh, clackety-clack time i turned my head. hula hooping on front porches. and sneaking off to the bathroom to find me turning grown. my crush, reverberating from everybody's everything, touched my spirit-self,

somewhat autobiographical *Children of Violence* series, which I binge-read as a young woman living alone in a studio apartment, marveling at this epic portrait of a character named Martha Quest who refused convention and witnessed the 20th century imploding. The sleepless weeks I spent reading these books are rewriting me still." — Barrie Jean Borich, writer.

"I can still list the first three albums that I ever brought. I had to put away my Samantha Fox cassette tape—a hand me down from my mother's collection—and was still recovering from the revelation of Milli Vanilli's betrayal of public trust (Can we continue to blame it on the rain?) But there in my hands I held the first three items that would spark my own creative journey: *Boyz II Men's II*, *The Mighty Ducks 3 Original Motion Picture Soundtrack*, and *Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill*.

"It was the latter that most resonated with me as a childhood friend and I reenacted an imagined lived concert in front of a VHS recorder, working our way through Morissette's collection of iconic '90's hits. While I don't think I quite understood the nuances and complexities of her anger, hurt, and confusion, I still attest that I gave my best performance to date in front of that camcorder, a spatula as my microphone. Unfortunately, that VHS tape suffered at the hands of my mother, who went on to record over it the latest episode of *All My Children*, but the memory—and the moment of imagination—live on." — Asher Diaz, multimedia artist

Francesca Royster is a Professor of English at DePaul University, where she teaches courses on Shakespeare, Popular Culture, gender, race, sexuality and performance. Her books include *Sounding Like a No-No: Queer Sounds and Eccentric Acts in the Post-Soul Era* (University of Michigan Press, 2013) and *Becoming Cleopatra: The Shifting Image of an Icon* (Palgrave, 2003).

GAY HISTORY MONTH PROJECT

Forty years after APA decision, 'Dr. Anonymous' letter continues to educate

BY JEN COLLETTA,
GAY HISTORY PROJECT

With a stroke of a pen 40 years ago, LGBT people were "cured."

In 1973, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) made the groundbreaking move of declassifying homosexuality as a mental disorder, after a lengthy campaign by such activists as Frank Kameny, Barbara Gittings and Kay Lahusen.

But, one of the key factors thought to have spurred the policy change was a speech at the 1972 APA convention in Philadelphia—in which "Dr. H. Anonymous," clad in a mask, wig, baggy clothes and using a voice-altering microphone, became the first gay U.S. psychiatrist to speak publicly about his sexual orientation.

Now, 40 years after the APA's decision, Dr. Anonymous' seminal speech continues to open eyes.

The original copy of the speech has been digitized and included on the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's (HSP's) new Preserving American Freedom website, launched in September, which highlights 50 historic documents that examine the tenets of American freedom.

The speech was discovered among the more-than 200 boxes donated to HSP by the sister of Dr. John Fryer, the man behind Dr. Anonymous' mask. Fryer was a Temple University professor and one of the founders of the Philadelphia AIDS Task Force. Upon his 2003 death, his sister donated his papers to HSP.

In 2011, as the collection was being processed as part of a civic-engagement project—an effort supported by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission—Willhem

Echevarria, HSP cataloguer who was then an archival processor, made the surprising discovery.

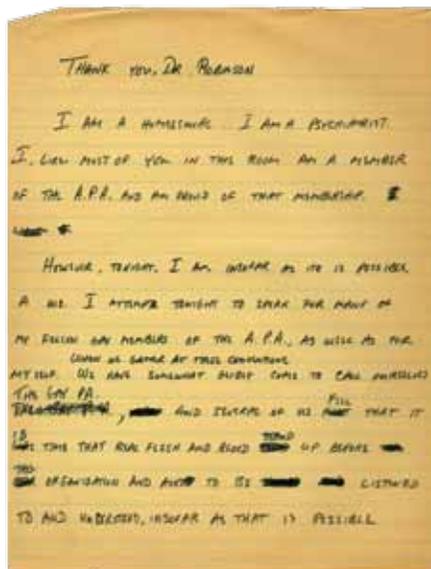
"We were, of course, aware of Fryer's speech to the APA but when we were processing it, we weren't aware the actual handwritten speech was in the collection," Echevarria said. "So when I found it, that was a big moment. You love those moments when you can find something historically important that's right there in front of you."

HSP houses thousands of documents at its Philadelphia headquarters, and functions not as a museum, but as a library and archives; researchers, educators and anyone with a knack for history can come in and peruse the collections in person. About 77,000 of its documents are preserved in a digital database to promote wider viewing.

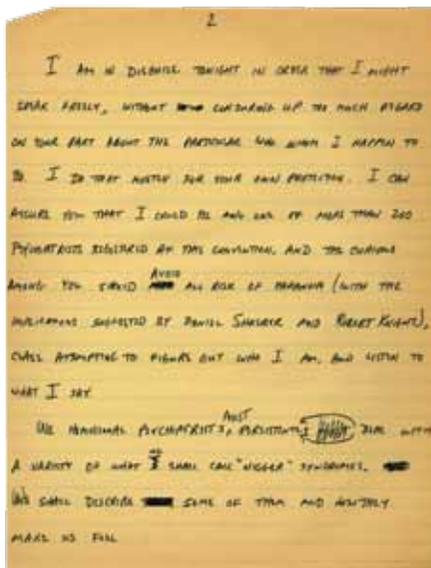
When HSP was compiling selections for the Preserving American Freedom project, which is funded by Bank of America and which also includes such items as a handwritten draft of the U.S. Constitution and William Penn's 1682 deed with the Delaware Indians, Fryer's speech stood out as a natural fit.

"The history of gay rights in America is an emerging history, and it's an exciting, emerging history," said Rachel Moloshok, Preserving American Freedom project manager. "And this document is very groundbreaking; it speaks to the need for the freedom of gay men and women to live openly, freely and honestly without being stigmatized as mentally ill."

The nine-page speech was written in felt-tip marker on yellow legal paper and includes a number of scratched-out words and rephrasings, allowing the viewer to follow Fryer's thought



The first two pages of the "Dr. Anonymous" letter.



process.

In places, where Fryer had initially written in past tense, he changed the words to present tense, perhaps as a means to communicate the ongoing impact of anti-gay sentiments, and he also modified singular first-person pronouns to plural, seemingly to emphasize that he was not alone in his petition.

The speech itself details the myriad pressures that LGBTs working in the psych field faced keeping their personal and private lives separate, including the threat of persecution from employers to which they were loyal.

"Many of us work 20 hours daily to protect institutions who would literally chew us up and spit us out if they know, or chose to acknowledge, the 'truth,'" Fryer wrote.

He finished his address by speaking directly to his fellow LGBT psychiatrists, an informal club he dubbed "The GayPA," urging them to speak out against anti-LGBT comments from their colleagues, to remain objective when treating LGBT patients and to "pull your courage up by your bootstraps and discover ways in which you as homosexual psychiatrists can be appropriately involved in movements which attempt to change the attitudes of both homosexuals and heterosexuals toward homosexuality."

Throughout the online exhibit, viewers can zoom in on documents, scroll across them and read histories about the context of each piece.

"We think primary-source documents like this speech, where you can look directly at the words as they were written, are really valuable," Moloshok said.

In addition to Fryer's speech, the initiative also includes an original brochure of the 1968 Annual Reminder at Philadelphia's Independence Hall, one of the nation's earliest LGBT-rights demonstrations.

And many of Fryer's other papers have been digitized in HSP's online database and are available for view in person at the archives.

Echevarria did caution that HSP had to put certain restrictions on some of his papers that

Turn to page 14

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Katz, D'Emilio reorganize OutHistory website

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

In 2005 Jonathan Ned Katz, author and historian of human sexuality, imagined a place on the web where LGBT history could reach a larger audience. That site, OutHistory, was launched in Oct. 2008 and just last month, the site relaunched with a new look and interface.

In the fall of 2011, Katz enlisted the help of John D'Emilio, author and professor of history and gender and women's studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), to help rethink and reorganize the site as well as generate new sources of funding.

D'Emilio and Katz are also collaborating with Claire Bond Potter, professor of history at The New School for Public Engagement, on the relaunch. Together they will serve as co-directors and students from UIC will also be helping them with the new site.

"The site looks completely different now," said D'Emilio. "One of the difficulties with the previous site was the use of wiki software because the initial vision was that it would be an LGBT history Wikipedia site. This created certain kinds of constraints about the look and structure of the site. It hasn't worked out as an open entry Wikipedia site for good reasons. Reasons that make sense."

D'Emilio said that redesigned site has birthday announcements, did you know section, pictures, easy search categories and a calendar that tells visitors what happened this month, this week and this day. He also noted that the site is not meant to be very academic because they want it to be accessible to everyone who is looking for information about LGBT history.

Of the site, D'Emilio said, It's potentially about anything whereas other sites have a particular focus. Our site is meant to be a home for any kind of material about LGBT history. The site is in its beginning stages and will be changing each week, month and year by year as we add new content."

A new feature, "Tell Us Your Story," allows the public to share experiences about particular topics and events related to LGBT history, noted D'Emilio. The first two topics that the public can contribute to are the 1987 March on Washington and Pride Marches/Parades, D'Emilio explained. Each submission will be edited to make sure it adheres to the standards of the site including whether the submission is factually and editorially sound, said D'Emilio.

"Other potential questions for the Tell Us Your Story section include what is the first TV show or movie or book you read in which you encour-

tered something queer and what kind of impact did that media have on you as an LGBT person? ... What is the first LGBT organization that you joined? What was the first time you found yourself in a group of other LGBT people and how did you get there?" said D'Emilio. "I am very excited about this and I'm approaching it with trepidation. I have no idea if it will work."

A few years ago OutHistory sponsored a contest designed to get people to create community histories called "Since Stonewall," D'Emilio explained. That contest produced 40-50 entries and the winning entry was the Rainbow Richmond submission, said D'Emilio.

"We'd like to do another contest and reach out to LGBT community centers and campus LGBT groups around the country. This time the focus would be on the history of activism," said D'Emilio. "We want to find different networks that are already out there and encourage them to create histories that can then go on our site. We are also talking about working with archives around the country who may not have an LGBT archive but archives that have LGBT material and partner with them to make their archives more visible by putting two or three of their documents on our site with a link to the place where the document came from. The plan for the next five years is to figure out how to organize a steady stream of new material so that the site always has surprises. Things that you haven't seen before."

As for the site's social-media presence, D'Emilio noted there is a public Facebook page where they are posting notices about interesting things that have happened in the LGBT community and a private group page where members who have an interest in history can engage in dialogue with each other and talk about the things they are working on. D'Emilio also shared that a grad student will be managing the Twitter page.

"I like to joke about the fact that I sometimes feel like I am a visitor to the 21st century. I was very late in getting a cell phone or a Facebook page," said D'Emilio. "What I've loved about doing this project is it's made me study how the Web works. What sites do I come away from and think, 'Wow, that was pretty easy' or 'Oh my god—I am never going to that site again.' I feel like I've become a more intelligent Internet user. Who knows this site might get me to join Twitter as myself."

"I'm very excited to be working with two distinguished scholars who are also long-time activists. I believe that scholarship needs to be made accessible, and available, to the larger public for

free. Queer people have a long history of having to really search for their own histories, and of other people giving them misinformation about who and what they are," said Potter. "I feel like OutHistory is taking a tradition of activist knowledge created by people like Jonathan, Karla Jay, Leslie Feinberg and others, and conveying it to a public that now turns first to new media for reading pleasure and to answer important questions."

"I'm really delighted to have John take the lead in ushering in a new, improved website, and to have Claire join us as a co-director," said Katz. "John's an old friend, and a pioneer in LGBTQ history. Claire is a new friend and an untiring activist on behalf of quality, free, public LGBTQ



Screenshot of www.outhistory.org.

history. The three of us will be working together to solicit new OutHistory content from the general public and scholars. If you have interesting documents or want to recount a dramatic, telling episode from your LGBT or Q life, please let us hear from you at outhistory@gmail.com."

See www.outhistory.org.

Legacy Walk phase 2 dedication Oct. 11-12

The Legacy Project announces the Two-Part Dedication of Phase II of Chicago's "Legacy Walk"—the only outdoor LGBT museum walk in the world—Friday, Oct. 11, and Saturday, Oct. 12.

The new bronze plaques commemorate Walt Whitman, U.S. poet; Lorraine Hansberry, playwright; Dr. Tom Waddell, founder of the Gay Games; Ruth Ellis, youth advocate; and Frank Kameny, one of the most influential LGBT activists of the 20th century.

On Oct. 11 these five new plaques will join the 18 plaques of the Legacy Walk that were dedicated in 2012. The dedication will consist of a series of ceremonies conducted late afternoon Oct. 11, and a celebration reception the following afternoon, Oct. 12.

The on-street dedication ceremony for the five new plaques being added to the Legacy Walk begins at 5:30 p.m. at the pylon located at 3342 N. Halsted St. They will welcome each new plaque onto the street in a small ceremony conducted by youth participants in the Legacy Project Education Initiative (LPEI). The traveling celebration will move north toward the final dedication at 3617 N. Halsted St.

The ceremonies will conclude at approximately 6:30 p.m. Friday evening's dedications will be followed by a pizza party at the Center on Halsted, 6:30-8 p.m. for our students, their parents and special guests. A very limited number of tickets are available for the public on a first-come, first-served basis for a donation of \$20. All proceeds will benefit the Legacy Project Education Initiative (LPEI).

On Oct. 12, from 3-6 p.m., Sidetrack hosts an afternoon of "Slushy Drinks", musical guests, raffle prizes and a silent auction with great items. Hosted by WGN-TV's Sean Lewis, this community celebration will feature an open bar starting at 3 p.m. for VIPs and 4 p.m. for standard ticket holders.

Saturday afternoon's fundraiser will help ensure another year of service to the LGBT (and straight) youth of the Chicago metropolitan area through the Legacy Project Education Initiative. \$50 standard tickets include 2-hour open bar; \$100 VIP Tickets include

3-hour open bar, a Gift Bag, and a Guided Tour of the Legacy Walk. All proceeds will benefit the Legacy Project Education Initiative (LPEI).

See www.legacyprojectchicago.org.

Police look for suspects in Lakeview robberies

Chicago police are on the lookout for suspects in five recent night and early morning robberies in Lakeview.

According to a Sept. 30 community alert, two robberies took place on the 900 block of W. Belmont Ave.; the first was Sept. 11 at 3:30 a.m. and the second was Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. Incidents also occurred on the 3500 block of North Sheffield Ave. on Sept. 28 at 4:10 a.m.; on the 1200 block of W. Cornelia on Sept. 30 at 12:20 a.m.; and the 600 block of West Belmont Ave. on Sept. 30 at 12:50 p.m.

In the incidents, the assailants asked to use the victim's cell phone, snatched their purse or wallet, and/or used hands or feet to strike the victim. Pepper spray was used in two of the robberies.

Information suggests that the suspects could be gender-variant. Police described the suspects as male and female African Americans (or "men dressed as women") ranging in age from their late teens to their early 30s.

In the first robbery in the 900 block of W. Belmont Ave., the offender is described as a male African-American wearing a blonde long-haired wig and a dress. In the robbery that occurred on the 1200 block of West Cornelia Ave., the offender is described as a female African American, 20-25 years of age, 5'8" to 5'10," wearing an orange hooded sweatshirt with white lettering. In the purse snatching that occurred on the 600 block of West Belmont Ave., a male African-American, 25-29 years of age, exited the back seat of a dark older model vehicle (possibly a Nissan Altima) that contained three or four male African-Americans dressed as females.

Anyone with information is urged to call Area North Bureau of Detectives at 312-744-8263.

—Matt Simonette



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Friend Movement starts cross-country walk

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The Friend Movement hosted You've Got a Friend, A Bullying Prevention Panel Discussion at the Center on Halsted Oct. 4.

Participants were Richard Pryor Jr., actor and activist; Melba Rodriguez, vice president of institution advancement at Northeastern Illinois University; Joe Serio, psychologist; Andrew Kroma, student; Chris Hill, teacher; and Julius DC Bautista, artist.

They spoke to about 25 people about the effects of bullying on students and the role that friends can play in hastening suicides among young people. Colleen Tomanek, licensed clinical social worker and tenured faculty counselor/instructor in the Center for Multicultural Learning at Harper College, served as the evening's moderator.

The discussion took place ahead of Friend Movement (a national anti-bullying grassroots initiative) co-founders and Chicago-area natives Elliot London and Ronnie Kroell's 37-day, 943-mile multi-state walk in memory of the late Rutgers student Tyler Clementi. The next morning, Oct. 5, London and Kroell kicked-off their walk to raise awareness for increased bullying prevention efforts across the country. (October is National Bullying Prevention Month.) They left from Millennium Park and the walk is expected to end Nov. 10 in New York City.

The group is selling watches to raise funds for their walk. Kroell spoke about being a better friend to ourselves and others. London, who grew up near Rockford, said he was bullied for being gay.

Pryor, the son of comic Richard Pryor, said he has been bullied as a Black, gay celebrity on a number of occasions and he also has attempted suicide twice.

Rodriguez said she is a Latina lesbian Episcopalian and has had to overcome bullying as well. "I die every time I hear that a young person has hurt or killed themselves," she said.

Serio noted that he grew up in the Chicago suburbs and went to Catholic grade school and high school. As a defense mechanism, Serio said he kept his head down in order to avoid being bullied. He said that prevention is the key to end bullying.

Kroma, who is 20 years old, explained that he came out as transgender two years ago and has been bullied on numerous occasions.

Hill shared that he grew up just outside of Springfield, Ill. and is a Chicago Public School art teacher on the South Side. He said he was lucky to have an amazing family and friends; however, he was still bullied in school and did alcohol and drugs to numb the pain.

Bautista explained that he is an artist and through his art therapy project he hopes to put an end to bullying. He noted that he was bullied as a child and it upsets him that he finds himself repeating that negative behavior and bullying others as an adult.

Tomanek asked the panel to share how they would define bullying and whether they had been bullied. Pryor said he went to a predominantly white school and kids bullied him almost daily by calling him Kunta Kinte, the n-word and jungle bunny. Coming to terms with his sexuality was difficult for Pryor and he noted that he couldn't tell his family, church or teachers because of the stigma in his community.

"Bullying is anything that makes people feel less than they should," said Serio. In high school speech class Serio explained that a classmate created a product for an assignment called "Gay Away," and the teacher gave the student an "F" and told him that the product was unaccept-



Friend Movement's Ronnie Kroell (left) and Elliot London at the panel. Photo by Tracy Baim

able. Serio said this was a rare instance where he witnessed an adult standing up to anti-gay harassment.

Rodriguez said that bullying occurs at all ages. She said she ran for student government president in her college as an openly lesbian candidate. She put flyers up and someone had written "dyke" on the posters but they misspelled it as "dike." Instead of giving in, Rodriguez said she stood up to the bully and kept the posters up and ended up running the student government by the time she was a senior.

Bautista said that sometimes LGBT people bully other LGBT people and they should know better.

As for the negative effects of bullying, Kroma said he has self-hatred and has been hospitalized many times for depression and anxiety. Kroma noted he has also attempted suicide.

Serio talked about his husband getting bullied

in recent weeks. His husband is an elementary school teacher in the suburbs and an advocate for Pride Youth. His husband found a note on his car that said homosexuals have no business teaching kids and that he should resign. The school and police are treating this as a felony hate crime.

Other questions included cyberbullying, why people who are bullied suffer in silence, if you were bullied how did it make you stronger, how allies can help recognize the warning signs of bullying, why students and adults allow their peers to be bullied and the importance of friendship.

A send-off benefit party/meet and greet took place at Hamburger Mary's following the panel discussion.

See www.friendmovement.com for more information.



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NEXT LECTURE



SAT., OCT 12, 2013, 11AM-1PM

E. PATRICK JOHNSON

Gathering Honey:

Oral Histories of Black Southern Women Who Love Women

E. Patrick Johnson is the Carlos Montezuma Professor in the Department of Performance Studies and African American Studies, Northwestern University. As a follow-up to Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South—An Oral History, E. Patrick Johnson has begun working on a new oral history on black lesbians of the South, tentatively entitled, Honeypot: Black Southern Women Who Love Women—An Oral History. In his presentation, Johnson will discuss the challenges to conducting oral histories of black same-gender-loving women based not only on gender differences between his subjects and himself, but also the content of their stories. In addition, Johnson will share some of the women's stories through performance.

UPCOMING LECTURES

SUN., 11/3/13

Goldie Goldbloom

Working For Queer Acceptance: Finding Love Amongst the Religious Right

SAT., 12/7/13

Owen Daniel-McCarter

Constitutional Law as it Applies to Transgender Prisoners

SAT., 1/4/14

Hyacinth Piel

Ethical Problems in Gender Identity Construction

SAT., 2/1/14

Beth Richie

Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence and America's Prison Nation

SAT., 3/1/14

Lourdes Torres

Making Familia from Scratch: Towards a History of Latina Lesbian Organizing in Chicago

SAT., 4/5/14

Anne Balay

Steel Closets: Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Steelworkers

SAT., 5/3/14

Timothy Stewart-Winter

From Civil Rights to Gay Rights in Chicago

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<https://community.centeronhalsted.org/lavenderuniversity>

Insurance broker employee claims anti-gay harassment

BY MATT SIMONETTE

An employee of online insurance broker GoHealth, LLC, has filed complaints with the Illinois Department of Labor and the City of Chicago Council on Human Relations, alleging one of the company's vice-presidents verbally harassed him.

Sean O'Connor of Chicago worked as a media associate for GoHealth until April of this year. According to the complaints, he was attending a work function at John Barleycorn in River North and speaking with colleagues when GoHealth Vice-President of Sales Scott Sullivan approached their group. O'Connor said Sullivan joined in the conversation. Very suddenly and without provocation, Sullivan clenched his fists and twice called O'Connor a "faggot motherfucker," going close enough to O'Connor as to make him fear for his safety.

Sullivan walked away, but then complained to GoHealth's CEO, Clint Jones. Jones asked O'Connor to leave the party; Sullivan had told him that he was "causing trouble," the complaints stated.

O'Connor did not return to work following the confrontation. He received an apology from Sullivan via email the following day, but still felt uncomfortable being around his colleagues, he said.

"I needed some time to go over what happened," O'Connor said. "It didn't seem like a

place I could be productive anymore."

O'Connor said that part of his job was selling the GoHealth office as a desirable place to work, something he felt that he could no longer honestly do. He went on unpaid leave connected with FMLA (the Family and Medical Leave Act).

"By the time that expired, I couldn't do the job rationally—apology or not, I didn't see myself passing this guy at the coffee machine every morning," O'Connor said.

O'Connor has found a new job, but is contemplating legal action against his former employer. He said that he experienced panic attacks and emotional distress after what happened.

"I'm not trying to play the victim," he said. "But people still need to know that these kinds of things go on."

O'Connor's attorney, Betty Tsamis, said, "This was a professional interaction, but that kind of language is obviously not appropriate under any circumstances."

In August, GoHealth was awarded the right to sell subsidized plans under the Affordable Care Act. In June it was named as one of the city's "101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For" by the National Association for Business Resources.

When reached by Windy City Times, Brad Burd, general counsel for GoHealth, would not comment on the complaints.

Gerber/Hart anticipating winter reopening

BY KATE SOSIN

It's been nearly a year and a half of closed doors for Chicago's LGBT library, but the Gerber/Hart Library and Archives board is hoping to reopen the space before year's end.

Board Member Carrie Barnett told Windy City Times that the organization is aiming for a December reopening.

The library moved locations in May 2012 and has remained closed while construction on its new space is finished. The anticipated reopening has been repeatedly pushed back.

"Without saying we're absolutely going to be open in December, I will tell you that our goal is to have an open house and community meeting in the space sometime in the very beginning of December," said Barnett. "If for some unforeseen reason, we are still not open then, we will still have a community meeting."

The library briefly unlocked doors for a community open house in June. President Brad Tucker had forecasted a reopening shortly after.

Barnett said that the library is waiting on an occupancy permit from the city before it can open. She added that volunteer recruitment and training has been slowed by the lack of a permit.

The library has long been a community institution, at least in part because it oversees an extensive LGBT archive. It has been ensnared in controversy since before its move as some al-

leged that it had shut out community access.

In July, Windy City Times reported that former President Karen Sendziak, who stepped down amid last year's controversy of the organization's governance, was overseeing the archive.

Barnett, however, said that most of the library's archived have been installed in the library and remain in the care of the board as a whole.

"It's all safely contained and ready to be processed," said Barnett. "The main archives are in the location in a secure room, and there are some additional items in a storage facility."

Sendziak remains a volunteer, Barnett confirmed.

Barnett, a former Gerber/Hart president who joined the board after last year's fallout, said she was unable to talk about specifics of the lease due to confidentiality agreements with the landlord. She said, however, that the organization is financially sound and is working to rebuild community participation.

"I just want to express how important it is to me and to the members of the board to re-establish trust because I think there has been a great loss of trust," said Barnett. "We're looking to recreate that and have more transparency, have more opportunities for people to be involved, to recommit ourselves to service to the community."

Police look for 'person of interest' after Peoria murder

BY MATT SIMONETTE

PEORIA—Police are searching for a man they're calling a "person of interest" after the murder of a nightclub owner Oct. 2.

The body of Todd Scholl, 47—owner of the bars Berlin and Diesel, which both at times served a largely gay clientele—was found dead in an apartment building at 105 SW Perry Ave., located close to Scholl's businesses, after authorities responded to a fire there. Scholl had apparently been stabbed numerous times.

Police are now investigating whether the blaze was set in order to cover Scholl's murder, according to Peoria Journal Star. The fire was contained to a storage area where Scholl kept items for his establishments. Damage was estimated at about \$25,000.

Scholl had long owned the Diesel nightclub and had been excited about his second nightclub, Berlin, which opened in late 2012. He

had seen the nightclub, as an integral part of a revival of business in downtown Peoria.

He told the Journal Star in November, 2012, "It will be a dance floor in every sense of the word. ... (T)he hottest thing in the world right now is electronic dance music. The era of the nightclub is back."

Scholl was pronounced dead at the scene of the fire Oct. 3 at 12:34 a.m. Police released photos taken from surveillance footage from Scholl's and other area businesses, and said that the man depicted is wanted for questioning.

Immigration forum at Center Oct. 15

A panel of Chicago-based attorneys will lead a discussion on the benefits and downfalls of the landmark *Windsor* decision—in which the U.S. Supreme Court found Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional—Tuesday, Oct. 15, 6:30-8 p.m., in the John Baran Senior Center at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Joy Messinger will moderate. Visit www.centeronhalsted.org.

LGBT domestic-violence murder stats stun advocates

BY KATE SOSIN

LGBT domestic violence murders hit an all-time high last year. That is according to a new report by LGBT anti-violence groups.

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) reported 21 domestic violence murders for 2012, more than three times its recorded number for 2010 and two more than it recorded in 2011.

Those numbers are detailed in an extensive report published Oct. 1 by LGBT groups around the county, including in Chicago.

Jane Merrill—the advocacy and community engagement coordinator for Center on Halsted, which houses Chicago's Anti-Violence Project—said that while advocates knew about the homicides before compiling the report, they were still stunned by the numbers. "Surprising? No," said Merrill. "Horrible? Yes...this is a really terrifying report with the highest number of homicides ever recorded."

Still, overall reported violence across the country was down by nearly 32 percent. Some of that decline is due to cutbacks at three organizations, but even without those groups, NCAVP found a nearly 30-percent decrease.

Youth, people of color, transgender people and gay men were hardest hit by domestic violence, according to the report.

Men represented about 36 percent of survivors compared with 33 percent of women. In 2011, women represented more than half of reported survivors.

Chicago largely followed the national trend for 2012, Merrill noted, with some exceptions. Among them was an exact opposite trend

in reporting from the national numbers. The Center saw a 32-percent increase in reported domestic violence incidents from 2011, with 126 reported survivors. The report notes that could be due to lack of staff turnover during 2012. (The Center has since lost its two full-time and one part-time AVP staffers and restructured the program.)

In Chicago, nearly 53 percent of victims identified as white, while the national numbers reported 35.5 percent of victims were white. In Chicago, almost 27 percent of victims identified as Black or African-American. Fifteen percent said they were Latino, and 3 percent said they were biracial.

Those demographics reflect the Center's immediate neighborhood, noted, Merrill, suggesting a need to for outreach beyond the North Side.

In Chicago, almost 47 percent of survivors identified themselves as cisgender (or not transgender). Twenty-nine percent were men, and twenty percent identified as women.

Chicago also saw an increase in sexual violence and physical violence. Physical violence reports increased by 117 percent, the report notes. Sexual violence reports increased by a stunning 263 percent. At the same, 2012 saw a 43 percent decrease in reports of violence to police, with just 12 survivors reporting to law enforcement.

Still, it can be hard to pull meaning from such reports, advocates note. An increase in recorded incidents does not always mean an increase in violence.

A copy of the report is at avp.org/storage/documents/ncavp_2012_ipvreport.final.pdf.

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MARCH ON SPRINGFIELD FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Our website has most of the answers to your FAQs, here: www.marchonspringfield.org

Especially handy is the Travel button, where you can find out about:

- Parking
- Buses with seats for sale
- If you are doing a private bus, there are links to maps for drop off and parking
- Train links
- Housing/hotel info

For buses we suggest arriving between 11 and noon and then departure 5 or 5:30 pm, because some political groups will be doing events and lobbying 3-5 p.m. Oct. 22. The bus drop is on Monroe and 2nd Streets, one block from the rally.

MARCH DAY, TUE., OCT. 22

Concert, rally and march starting point are all at 2nd and Capital streets.

Schedule for the March

Noon-1 p.m.: Rock the March concert with LGBT singers and choral groups.

(Note some acts will be in the 1-2:30 p.m. timeslot)

Artemis Singers and Amasong
Windy City Performing Arts
Chicago Gay Men's Chorus
Steve Grand
Sami Grisafe
SONiA of disappear fear
De'Borah
Marcus Terall & the Serenades
Stephen Leonard
KOKUMO!
Sandra Antongiorgi
and MCs will be C.C. Carter and Honey West

1-2:30 p.m.: Speakers and singers

Speakers from a wide variety of backgrounds, including activists, religious leaders, families and more.

2:30-3:30 p.m.: March around the 4-block expanse of the capital, back to the 2nd and Capital starting point.

Joining us for the March will be:
Jammin' for Justice EarthBeat Drummers
Lakeside Pride Freedom Marching Band

3:30-5 p.m.: LGBT political groups including Equality Illinois may have events inside the State Capital, including lobbying of your elected officials. So make sure to leave time to meet your state reps if you can. Also, bring a state-issued ID, and no signs allowed inside.

SIGN LANGUAGE AND DISABILITY ISSUES

There will be a sign language interpreter.

There will be a roped-off area for wheelchairs, for those needing chairs and for the hearing impaired.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES

The March will not have food or beverages, but there are places nearby for food and drinks. Come to the rally site at 2nd and Capital for maps and details.

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. there will be free youth bus lunches available 1 block from the rally site. RSVP for these to tracy@marchonspringfield.com so we know how many.

For adults and families, we have several places providing food.

Options open starting 11 a.m. include:

Station House bar lunch, 306 E. Washington St., 217-525-0438
Tin Can Pub, in conjunction with Scandals bar, at 225 E. Monroe St., 217-679-2018
Augie's Front Burner restaurant, 109 S. 5th Street (lunch specials all day), reservations 217-544-6979
Maldaner's, 222 S. 6th Street (at Monroe), reservations 217-522-4313
Boone's Saloon, 301 W. Edwards at College Street, specials \$6.99-\$9.99, 217-679-3752

MEDIA

There will be a media riser for media, and hookups for broadcast needs. For media sign-up, contact Kevin Boyer, kevinboyer63@gmail.com.

BATHROOMS

There will be port-o-lets, including one which is wheelchair accessible.

WEATHER

The events will happen rain or shine, cold or hot, so come prepared with jackets and umbrellas.

WHAT COLOR SHOULD I WEAR?

The March's color is dark purple, but feel free to wear what you want, or join in with your union, school or church colors/uniforms.

SIGNS

Please feel free to bring banners for your groups, and special signs for marriage. Note we will be walking on the sidewalks, so large banners may not work. Make sure your signs are weatherproof if possible. Also, signs are not allowed inside the capital.

We will also have about 2,000 signs for people to carry in the March.

SHOULD WE COME DOWN EARLY/STAY LATE?

There will be several advance events prior to the March on Springfield, Tuesday, Oct. 22.

If you can, we suggest you come down Monday, stay thru the Tuesday March, and then stay Wednesday for the legislative session. Or come even earlier for special events.

You can also visit the great tourist attractions of Springfield, especially Abraham Lincoln museums and more. See <http://visit-springfieldillinois.com/>.

The area LGBT and allied groups have events including benefits, bar events, concerts, church services, AA groups and more.

We will be posting a full calendar of events, but here are some:

EVENTS IN SPRINGFIELD

Friday, Oct. 18, Phoenix Center of Springfield, 13th Annual Fall GAYla Dinner & Auction <http://www.phoenixcenterspringfield.org/phoenix-center-calendar/>.

Sunday, Oct. 20, Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 10:30 a.m. service, 745 Woodside Rd., Springfield. "Unity and Diversity in the 21st Century" with special guest speaker, The Reverend Mark Kiyimba, minister and founder of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Uganda.

Monday, Oct 21, The Coalition of Rainbow Alliances (CORAL) for the Springfield area hosts a picnic with PFLAG of Springfield, open to all March attendees, 4-10 p.m., at Lincoln Park, along North 5th from Sangamon Ave. southward.

Tuesday, Oct. 22, Equality Illinois "Refresh & Recharge" reception open to all at Station House gay bar, 4-6 p.m., \$5 donation, 306 E. Washington St., Springfield.



2

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School house rock: The ballroom scene

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Mathematics, English and social studies, among others, are the typical subjects offered in schools. Unlike traditional fashion, Tommy Avant Garde takes the ballroom scene to school. As the headmaster of the School of Opulence, Avant Garde welcomes youth to learn and embrace the ballroom scene.

As a youth living in Englewood in 1986, Avant Garde and his friends were getting ready to go out to a night at the bar. As they flipped through Vogue, while getting inspiration for their homemade outfits, the group researched ballroom. It was at that point they founded the artsy House of Avant Garde.

"The ballroom, to me, is the creative outlet for people to express themselves," said Avant Garde. "There are many kinds of people within the ballroom who can't express themselves in their communities with their blood families and the ballroom allows you to be around people who acknowledge you and your differences and love you for that. You're allowed to express yourself whichever way you want within the ballroom and gain the respect of your peers."

As a ballroom icon and headmaster, Avant Garde is known at the School of Opulence as, "Uncle Tommy." With his experience as a gay youth growing up with a number of older mentors, he opened the school to provide similar mentorship along with what he calls, "love in spite of."

"I believe, at the School of Opulence, in bringing those positive things out of them so they can take the mainstream into the community and use those gifts for their good," said Avant Garde. "I have so much love for the kids. I have prayed to my god, 'give me the ability to love people in spite of' because I know people come with different challenges. They have different things that are going on in their lives. So, I pray daily for me to be able to love people in spite of. It takes a lot of patience, but I'm rewarded when I see someone make a change in their life."

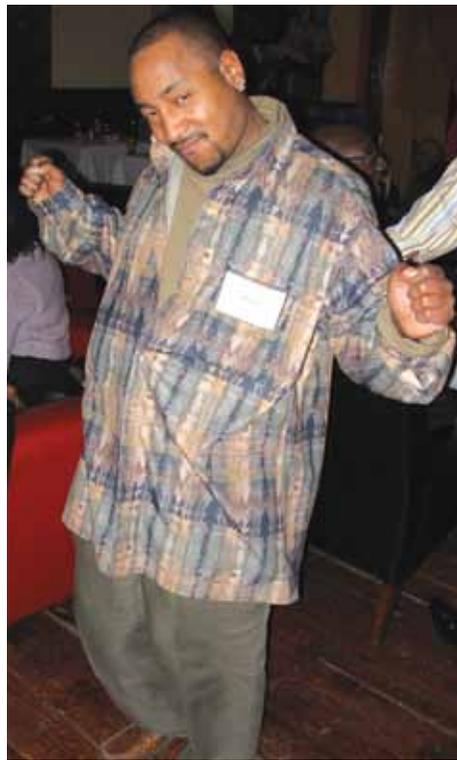
The school's name originates from a ball Avant Garde attended when he heard someone say and spell, "opulence," explaining it as owning everything.

"I just believe that opulence is the point where you are at the pinnacle of your success," said Avant Garde. "You're at the highest point of your life. That's what I want for the young adults; for them to reach that point where they know their game is together. They're on point, so to speak, and that nothing can knock them off their box."

The school was originally established in 2003/2004. After taking a hiatus in 2010, Avant Garde started the school back up in June 2013 and is determined to "spread the love." Now at the Chicago-based school, specifically on the South and West sides, approximately 40 students attend on a regular basis. Students include LG-BTQ youth and young adults and allies, who are 16-24 years old and come from various ballroom houses nationally. The establishment relies on community members, professionals and house parents over the given age range to volunteer in facilitating workshops.

"I focused on School of Opulence because I thought I could reach more kids in that way," said Avant Garde. "There's a generation of 21-24 and there's a generation of 16-18 and they're all gay kids that don't have the proper mentorship. I want to make sure they're empowered also. I'm hoping that more people within the community step up to mentor the kids."

Previously, Avant Garde said the school was focused on HIV/AIDS education. He adds just like the ballroom scene and the need to reinvent, the school's resurrection brought about a reinvention. The new focus is empowerment and leadership, while ensuring they have a voice and



Tommy Avant Garde. Photo by Andrew Davis

helping them to address necessary issues. Serving as a resource to the ballroom community, Avant Garde said the school encourages everybody involved to express their creativity as well as develop their professional life.

The School of Opulence offers dance and runway instruction along with risk reduction interventions, advocacy, education, empowerment tools and discussion groups focused on subjects such as HIV/STD risk reduction, employment, housing, education and health care.

"There was a point where every time they wanted to dance, they wanted to Vogue," Avant Garde said. "Now I've seen they want to sit down and discuss their problems and they have no one to talk to. Instead of two hours of dancing, now we're doing two hours of discussion group and they're wanting to do more and stay longer. That is rewarding to me because in the past nobody wanted to talk about their issues. Now I have a generation that wants to talk about their issues and now I have people here to discuss the issues with them."

Although the school operates every other Tuesday, there are various other meetings in which the community can participate. Parents meetings also known as leadership meetings involving house parents within the city and community meetings are held to bring everybody together as an alliance to get things done.

Avant Garde jokingly said he feels like someone's grandmother through all his years in the ballroom scene, while spreading the love and like Dr. Xavier with the X-Men guiding people as they channel their own unique gifts. He continued to explain the ballroom scene, although more announced now, at times still gets a bad rap. His efforts are to bring out the surprising aspects of it and to let people know there are helpful resources.

"I started to do the prevention at the balls that we had here in Chicago and that snowballed," said Avant Garde. "Then I seen the need because we might have the resources out here, however a lot of times the African American community our youth or young adults are not aware of what those resources are. So I wanted to be able to be there for them to make the resources available. So in the end, it's their decision if they want to take advantage of those resources or not but I just wanted to make sure that they had the opportunity to see what was out there."

For more information about the School of Opulence, visit <http://www.schoolofopulence.com>.



Marge Summit at the chat. Photo by Tracy Baim

Marge Summit talks of her gay bar legacy

Longtime Chicago gay bar owner Marge Summit was the subject of Douglas O'Keeffe's Oct. 2 "Inside Leather History, A Fireside Chat" at Center on Halsted.

Summit, who owned Chicago's legendary His 'n Hers bars for 20 years, discussed her personal history, including surviving a violent attack; owning Ms bar downtown; the music and food of His 'n Hers; raising an interracial adopted daughter; co-founding the wildly popular and influential Gay Dollars campaign in the 1980s; and more memories of the gay community of Chicago.

"Inside Leather History, A Fireside Chat" is a live-on-stage interview project designed to capture for posterity the amazing and dynamic contributions of Chicago's rich LGBT community.

Douglas O'Keeffe co-produces "Inside Leather History, A Fireside Chat" with Joanne Gaddy as a public service. Previous Chats have included Chicago notables Chuck Renslow, Lori Cannon, Vernita Gray and Jim Flint. The formal interview lasts about one hour. Following the interview the floor opened for audience questions.

There is a video link at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Marge-Summit-discusses-her-gay-bar-legacy-/44639.html>.

'Social Status Ball' Oct. 25 at ETA theater

The House of Infiniti and In Demand Entertainment will present the 11th annual Social Status Ball, Friday, Oct. 25, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at ETA Creative Arts Theater, 7558 S. South Chicago Ave.

A few hundred LGBT youth and adults will gather for this house ball event and educational outreach opportunity. Male, female, transgender, and gender-nonconforming youth and young adults 13-36+ from a diversity of background are expected.

This event will include food, outreach, health screenings, rapid HIV testing, a performing and visual arts component—also referred to as a "ball," which includes presentations, performances, talent competitions, fashion shows, drag shows and more.

Gay man gets 99 years for wife's murder

BY KATE SOSIN

A gay man who allegedly carried out a plot to murder his wife and collect on her life insurance policy faces 99 years behind bars after he was sentenced Sept. 23.

Darron Brewer was convicted of killing his

22-year-old wife Kenyatae Collier-Brewer in 2009 during a fake carjacking with his brother Djuan Powe.

Multiple reports suggest that Brewer was a gay man. According to the Cook County state's attorney's office, Judge Stanley Sacks sentenced Brewer to 75 years in prison for murdering Collier-Brewer plus 24 for aggravated kidnapping. Powe was sentenced to natural life for the murder plus 21 years for the kidnapping. The two were found guilty June 28.

Each ticket sold in advance is \$10 + a service fee of \$1.34 (\$11.34) or \$15 at the door before 10 p.m. and \$20 after. Also, tables accommodate six people and are \$50 and up, including the attendees' entry.

Media partners include Windy City Times, Gay Liberation Network, mymetronews.org, Pride Index and CAN-TV programs.



U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez was a surprise guest at the Sept. 23 meeting of TWIRL. Photo by Tracy Baim

Trans women take steps to 'TWIRL' freely

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

From an ambition in a creative mind to real life, three trans women put their troubles and concerns into action, constructing the organization Trans Women in Real Life (TWIRL).

Monica Fernandez, Reyna Ortiz and GiGi Boom all began their transitioning process as teenagers and young adults. Which went through the experience with the advantage of having supportive families, they still felt some difficulties in other areas.

"Being young and adding that pressure and complication of being trans on top of that, it made the situation really complicated," said Ortiz. "That's why there is such a need for groups like us because there's all these stresses in life already, but being trans adds to it. It's a really hard issue to deal with when you're a teenager."

Fernandez, in particular, recalled her experience being difficult, but she was confident in how she wanted to live her life and could not be stopped. With no fear and unconditional love from her mother especially, she describes herself as strong.

As adults, each have gotten involved with various organizations and attended a focus group they felt was not geared enough toward trans woman. About four months ago, feeling like there were no helpful or welcoming resources available for them, they decided to take action and create TWIRL.

"What made us passionate or what made myself passionate is that I live this life every day," said Ortiz. "We are trans women in real life. We are part of society, but yet in some ways we don't feel part of society. We feel like we're outcasts. They make us feel like we're so different from everybody else, but in actuality we're the same. So we felt that there was a need. If we don't stand up for ourselves, nobody is going to stand up for us, not even the gay community."

TWIRL welcomes all walks of life. Regardless of age, race, religion and phase of transition, TWIRL exists to support and educate anyone who identifies as a trans woman. Currently the organization is independent and funded out of the three founders' pockets. Friends in the community assist in providing some of the venues.

"We want it not only to be pro-gay, we want it to be pro-trans," said Fernandez. "There's so many things I want to do differently and I know it's going to take time and I just want to come out of the dark. I want to shine bright like a diamond, like Rihanna said."

Fernandez said she hopes the organization grows and gets funded in the future. She adds there is a need for safe houses for transgender people in every ward of the city. Although they

have support in some areas, Fernandez and Ortiz both expressed instances of discrimination as adults. Some discrimination came when finding jobs, finding apartments, police protection and as visitors at hospitals.

Fernandez was violently pushed at an HIV/AIDS fundraiser last year when someone touched her girlfriend and she in turn defended her. In that incident Fernandez felt unprotected because of her being transgender. She said the police did not file a report, brushing the incident under the rug.

"We're human beings and we're treated this way, not only by society, people like the police," said Fernandez. "Their motto is 'to protect and serve.' They don't protect us. Even then, we're doing stuff for people who are HIV-positive. It was a good thing we were doing, not a bad thing. Gay men treat us like step children. It's tough to live this way. We're not in 1320. We're in 2013. That's what we need to know."

Ortiz and Fernandez said trans women feel like the stepchildren of the LGBTQ community. Explaining there are events and literature focused on being pro-gay or pro-lesbian, there is a lack of resources for trans women or transsexuals in general. They say they experience significant stereotyping.

"They think they have programs for trans women, but I say otherwise," said Fernandez. "I reached out to other programs like the Chicago House and Howard Brown, different places, Project Vida, they don't even have literature or pamphlets for transgender women. It's all about gays and lesbians and I think it's about time we do have that."

The reason the organization's name centers around trans women specifically, they explained, is because to them trans women are the most oppressed of the LGBTQ community.

"Even trans men have it better than trans women because some of them fit into society so well that it's just not even an issue," said Ortiz. "To transition from a man to a woman is the hardest thing to do. You need the most surgery, you need the most money, the most everything. So, I do think we are the most oppressed group out of the LGBTQ community."

One of TWIRL's main purposes is to provide a sisterhood for young trans women that are having issues. The hope, Ortiz said, is for the group to be national and gain a reputation of being made up of trans women who are here to make a difference, share their voices, and to mostly educate people.

"It's a lack of education," said Ortiz. "People are scared of what they don't know, yet they're so interested in transsexuals because it's so different and I think once people really understood

the life of a transsexual and all the things they go through to become a transsexual, they would admire us. They should be admiring us because we made such a sacrifice for us to be the people we want to be."

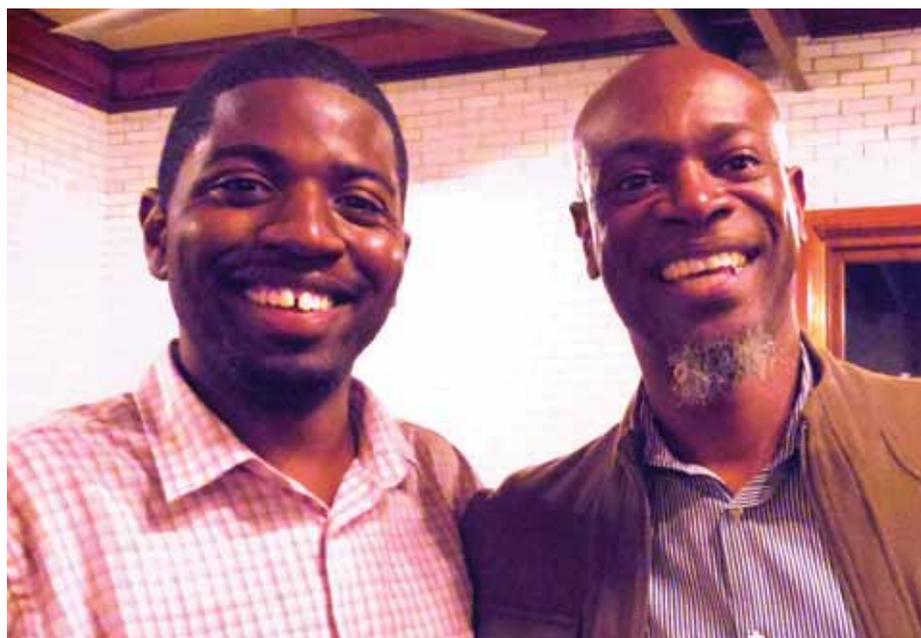
Several trans women and allies attended the launch meeting of TWIRL Sept. 23 at Efebina's Café, 1640 S. Blue Island Ave., in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago. Their next meeting is Monday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m. at Efebina's, and members plan to attend the March on Springfield the next day.

One surprise guest at the Sept. 23 meeting was U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, who was at the restaurant for a benefit. "I think it was a good turn out," said Fernandez. "We did get to meet

Luis Gutierrez. He's a supporter and that's what I needed to hear."

"We want to open to everyone that needs help and has issues or they want to transition," said Fernandez. "If you want to transition and you need advice of doing it, we want to help. I want to let the youth know, it's okay to be different. We made it, so they can too. I want everybody to know we're there and we exist. I can't control what happens outside the facility, but I know they're going to be safe with me while I'm there. I can't control the community or society, but I just want to get the closure that I'm here to help if they ever need help."

To learn more about TWIRL, email 2013twirl@gmail.com.



Pastor Jamie Frazier (left) and Benjamin Reynolds. Photo by Tracy Baim

Lighthouse Church hosts marriage-equality service

Pastor Jamie Frazier of Lighthouse Church of Chicago preached a sermon on marriage equality Oct. 3 at the church's new site, 1800 S. Prairie Ave., in the Glessner House historic home.

Benjamin Reynolds of Illinois Unites spoke about the efforts to pass SB 10 (the marriage-equality bill) in the state, and Chris Percy was there representing OFA-Illinois, which is also working on same-sex marriage here. Tracy Baim, co-chair of the Oct. 22 March on Springfield for Marriage Equality, spoke about the plans for the march.

Video of the evening is at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Q4gjqJqQBY&feature=youtu.be.

TPAN undergoes CEO transition

Citing personal and professional reasons, Bill Farrand has departed HIV/AIDS agency Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) after seven years of service.

In a statement, Farrand said, "I have accomplished the goals that I set for TPAN during my tenure as CEO for the last three years and have made a decision to move forward with other career objectives as a psychotherapist and consultant in the private sector. I am very excited for the future for both myself and TPAN."

The board of directors has appointed Jeff Berry to serve as interim CEO while a nationwide search is conducted for a replacement.

TPAN recently announced a move to 5050 N. Broadway, Suite 300.

Indiana Nat'l Guard changes course, will process benefits

After legal review, the Indiana National Guard has reversed its previous direction to staff to stop processing same-sex spouses for federal military benefits.

The pro-LGBT American Military Partner Association (AMPA) reacted to the development. "We applaud the Indiana National Guard for doing the right thing," said Stephen Peters,

president of AMPA. "We urge other state national guards who are refusing to comply with the Defense Department directive to process all spouses for federal benefits to immediately follow suit."

"As a Congressional letter to the Secretary of Defense pointed out, the use of federal equipment and funds to discriminate against same-gender military spouses is unlawful and needs to be addressed."

One thousand members of Indiana's National Guard signed furlough paperwork immediately after the government shutdown Oct. 1, according to ABC57.com. Gov. Mike Pence has allowed the state to continue paying 244 guard staffers, who are state employees, for at least a week.

AFC releases report on homeless

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) recently published a report that details a plan to house and better coordinate health care for people who are homeless, diagnosed with at least one severe mental illness, and have a history of alcohol or substance use.

Under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Chicago Community Consortium, AFC brought together leaders from more than 40 organizations in Cook County to craft the plan.

See http://issuu.com/aidschicago/docs/afc_sahmsa_report_3ffdbbeaff954.



Chicago Tribune editorial page editor Bruce Dold; Robert Gilligan, executive director of the Catholic Conference of Illinois; Chicago Ald. Deborah Mell (33rd); Peter Breen, vice president and senior counsel for the Thomas More Society; and State Rep. Greg Harris (D-Chicago), lead sponsor of The Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act. Photo by Tracy Baim

Harris and Mell involved in debate on merits of marriage

BY MATT SIMONETTE

State Rep. Greg Harris and Ald. Deb Mell were among the participants in a panel on marriage equality conducted by Chicago Tribune Editorial Page Editor Bruce Dold Oct. 1. They were joined by Catholic Conference of Illinois Executive Director Robert Gilligan and Thomas More Society Vice President and Senior Counsel Peter Breen.

Harris was initially asked about the status of the bill and the likelihood of its being called for a vote in the fall. He said the bill was ready to be reconsidered.

"I hope that it can be one of the things that get done because there are ...thousands and thousands of Illinois families who are suffering real harm every day because they are not getting the protections and denied the responsibilities that marriage affords," said Harris.

He added that he did not call the bill for a vote back in May because colleagues had asked for more time to speak with constituents: "Since that day the Supreme Court has ruled and the landscape has changed. The Supreme Court of the United States has now ruled that there is no legitimate reason under law to treat one family differently than another family, and I think a lot of my colleagues have taken in that message and they understand the climate of our state."

But Harris refused to say how many votes were currently lined up, saying, "I hate to prognosticate because, whatever number I say, I'll probably be a little bit off."

The coalition of organizations working toward same-sex marriage equality, Illinois Unites for Marriage, initially has 71 votes in the House as its goal. A Windy City Times survey of legislators, however, showed that no new legislators had yet agreed to vote for the legislation.

Mell admitted that the government "is still trying to sort out" what protections an Illinois couple has if they've been married out of state. She said that a civil union in Illinois was not sufficient for her and her partner, Christin Baker, because their relationship "took the normal path that relationships take."

"There becomes a time in a relationship where 'partner' is not enough, 'girlfriend' is not enough and 'civil union' is not enough," she added. "This is recognized throughout the world—marriage is the highest level you can give two people who love each other. I love my wife and she loves me."

Breen, whose organization is representing five downstate counties in order to uphold the state's ban on same-sex marriages, maintained that fighting the marriage lawsuit is a matter of "public policy and a matter of law." The issue, he added, came down to a clash of world views.

Gilligan was then asked about the faith perspective on the gay-marriage issue. "There's a lot of faiths out there that have perspectives on this issue. ...By nature men and women have a gender and they come together in a marriage for

the purpose of raising children. I do not doubt that Alderman Mell loves her partner—"

"My wife," Mell corrected.

Gilligan further said that the love and nature of the relationship was not the important issue, suggesting that what the church was concerned with was how effectively a couple in a redefined marriage could transmit strong values and faith on to children.

But Harris reminded the audience that Illinoisans must be mindful of the myriad churches that want to see marriage equality come to pass. "We need to be respectful of the different faiths that are practiced in our state," he said. "There are many churches that wish to perform these marriages."

Gilligan said that law often acts as a blunt instrument, and significant changes could have unintended and far-reaching consequences. School instruction might be disrupted, he suggested, if new definitions of marriage and family had been integrated into school curriculums.

"The law is a very fine instrument," Harris countered. "There is nothing about what may be taught in schools in this bill."

The panel was lastly asked what they thought this time and debate might look like 25 years from now.

Gilligan said, "I just hope that we as a society realize the damage that we as a society are inflicting upon our children. Far too many children are born out of wedlock. Far too many children are raised in poverty. ... To strengthen and to promote marriage, and to recognize no amount of love can make a mother and a father, and a father and a mother. Hopefully, in 25 years we'll have strong, vibrant marriages, and we'll have a second generation that will be even that much stronger."

"I think that [the present day] is going to be a shameful period in our history," Mell said. "We are going to regret what we have done to our gay and lesbian families in this country. I'm really heartened by the Supreme Court decisions and the states, and the District of Columbia, that now have it on the books. But I think as a society we will move forward, and value all relationships."

Breen said that society would look back and realize that, within the last 50 years, "We've made a mess of marriage. ...This debate is forcing us as a people to start re-evaluating whether we should have marriage in the first place. I see a people 25 years from now who will have learned that lesson."

Harris added that to make that prediction, one only needed to look to the people of today, especially young people.

"Well over 70 percent support marriage equality" Harris said. "So 25 years from now, I think that this will be a given in society, that all families should be treated equally. They're going to look back and say... 'what were they thinking back then?'"

Marine vet looks to build inclusive marriage support

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A former Marine sergeant who was kicked out of the military for being gay has formed his own political action committee to rally support for the passage of SB10. His group will concentrate mainly on building support in communities of color.

Marquell Smith said that being in the Marines had taught him the importance of sacrifice, and he hoped that his new PAC, Inclusive Community Project (ICP), would impart that relevance to members of the public who want to see same-sex marriage brought to Illinois.

At ICP's inaugural gathering Oct. 3 at the Sheraton Hotel & Towers, 301 N. Water St., Smith said that when he was let go from the service under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT), he was offered an honorable discharge only if he promised not to fight the charges. But he refused to keep quiet about them.

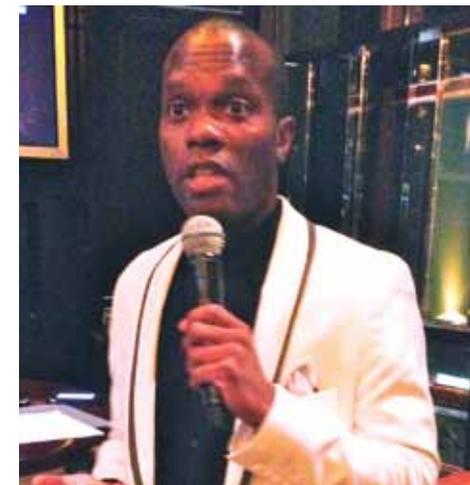
"That meant I didn't get benefits. That means I can't get the GI Bill," Smith said.

DADT is now in the past, but Smith hopes that some of the same tactics and energy that brought it down can be applied to the state's marriage equality effort.

Smith earlier wrote an impassioned letter to state lawmakers asking for the right to marry, for example. Supporters of SB10 have to be prepared to make sacrifices, be it their time, energy and money, he said.

ICP is part of the Illinois Unites for Marriage coalition and will focus on mobilizing communities of color, which are "an untapped resource," according to an IPC statement that said majorities in both the Black and Latino communities support marriage equality.

State Rep. Kenneth Dunkin, chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus and a co-sponsor of SB10 in the House, said, "This is something that should have gone on a long time ago," adding



Marquell Smith. Photo by Matt Simonette

that he and his colleagues are being perceived as just meeting with older white gay men.

"That is the perception, and that is a real issue in Springfield among Caucus members. ... There are members of my own caucus who want to impeach me, and think that this bill is an abomination," Dunkin said. As such, supporters of the bill needed to "get active with their voice" and get the bill passed.

"This group here is only the beginning," Dunkin said.

ICP will be sponsoring buses to Springfield for a lobbying day Nov. 5. For information, visit www.inclusiveproject.org.



Alma Izquierdo. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

Group to honor Gray, Ewert, Izquierdo

The organization By Women For Women, in connection with Center on Halsted, will honor couple Vernita Gray and Pat Ewert as well as Alma Izquierdo Friday, Oct. 11, at Navy Pier's Crystal Gardens, 6 p.m.-12 a.m.

The women will receive Community Leader Awards for their "countless efforts in advancing the LGBTQ community," according to a statement. Other highlights will include hors d'oeuvres by Chef Nancy Duran and Phil Stefani Events; an interactive art show by Sam Kirk; a fashion show; a live musical performance by electric violinists The CoverGirls; and a silent auction to benefit Affinity Community Services and Amigas Latinas.

Tickets are \$75-\$100; see Community.CenterOnHalsted.org/ByWomenForWomen.

IIT Chicago-Kent to host marriage forum

Chicago-Kent College of Law will mark Constitution Day with a panel discussion that will focus on issues related to same-sex marriages.

The panel discussion, "When Did It Become Unconstitutional for States to Ban Same-Sex Marriage?: Constitutional Interpretation in the 21st Century," will be held Thursday, Oct. 10, 3:30-5 p.m., in the law school's Governor Richard B. Ogilvie Auditorium, 565 W. Adams St. IIT Chicago-Kent Professor Steven Heyman will moderate a discussion of *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, a challenge to California's Proposition 8, and

United States v. Windsor, a challenge to the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

For more information or to RSVP, contact Professor Christopher Schmidt at cschmidt@kent-law.iit.edu or 312-906-5389.

LETTER from page 5

included patient information. However, other personal documents include entries from his diary from the day after the APA speech, letters between him and Kameny and correspondence with the APA when some association leaders attempted to reinstate anti-gay policies.

"We also have a very rich collection regarding the history of AIDS in Philadelphia," Echevarria said. "He was really the first psychiatrist who treated patients with AIDS. There's a lot of information about the epidemic hitting Philadelphia, very rich information."

Moloshok noted that the Preserving American Freedom project gives viewers—whom she envisioned to be everyone from students of all ages to anyone with a passion for history, politics or civil rights—a slice of the wealth of historical artifacts HSP houses.

"These are just 50 documents of the thousands and thousands we have," she said. "This hints at the depth and breadth of the content we have in our collections. I do hope it'll inspire people to dig deeper, start asking more questions and do more research."

To view the Preserving American Freedom project, visit <http://digitalhistory.hsp.org/preserving-american-freedom> and, for the entire speech, see <http://digitalhistory.hsp.org/node/7484>. To learn more about HSP or view the full digital database, visit www.hsp.org. Colletta can be reached at Jen@epgn.com.

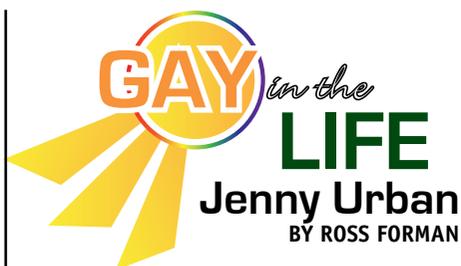
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Age
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Neighborhood
Edgewater

Relationship status
"I am madly in love. She is a femme, an artist and a mother."

Hobbies
"I am active in the queer music community, and play drums for several local and touring acts."

Job title
Cafe manager at Old Town School of Folk Music

Favorite TV shows
Ted Talks, and Orange Is the New Black

Favorite local queer musicians
Congress of Starlings, Scott Free, Emily White, Ripley Caine, Elias Krell, Mike Grimes, Kristen Ronne, Ellen Rosner, Nhojj, Shelley Miller "and the list could go on and on for days."

Little-known fact
"I am a proud mother of two girls."

Four people (living or dead) who you'd like to have dinner with
"I would trade anything in the world to have dinner with my dad, mom and two daughters."



When the local bakery that Jenny Urban was working with suddenly stopped production this summer, she was forced to bake scones in-house.

"I decided to challenge myself and fresh bake our scones on site with a toaster oven," Urban said. "I didn't think it would work out, but people are really loving them."

Urban's favorite combinations so far are cheddar jalapeno, blue cheese walnut with red onion, butterscotch coconut, and golden raisin cinnamon caramel swirl.

"I can barely keep up with the demand; we're selling eight times the amount that we were before," she said.

Urban spent several years teaching culinary arts to the homeless, ex-convicts and refugees. From there, she opened her own restaurant, Urban Café in North Lakeview. She then took a couple years off to be a stay-at-home mom.

"I have always been extremely fortunate in my career path," Urban said. "Old Town School of Folk Music is a perfect fit for me right now. I work with the most talented musicians in the city and am making great connections."

She has worked there for two years



"When my time as a stay-at-home mom was coming to an end, I knew I would need to start looking around," she said. "One night I had a fortuitous, vivid dream. I dreamt that I was a chef at Old Town School of Folk Music in their new building on Lincoln Avenue. The dream was very detailed; I can remember the tiled floors, the equipment, everything. The next day I dropped of a resume for them to keep on file."

She was contacted a few weeks later when the position opened up.

"It was kismet," said Urban, who noted that one of her job highlights is helping cater the green room for the artists performing at Old Town. "Basically, I make hummus for my idols, which recently has included the Indigo Girls, Kristen Hirsch, Dar Williams, Allison Kraus, Henry Rollins, Meshell Ndegeocello and many more.

"Down the road, when my kids are old enough to help, I hope to have a concession trailer. I would specialize in brunch options and showcase a Tex-Mex themed menu."

Left: Urban performs at Touche. Photo by Kirk Williamson



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 Community Marketing, Inc.

FRANK
PIZZOLI

Preventing HIV infection: Time for a PEP rally?

In September 2013, the Affordable Care Act puts HIV-prevention money on the table but municipal health departments must apply for funds with a plan in mind.

However funded, will prevention programs going forward reflect the fast-changing prevention-treatment continuum? Traditionally, programs by municipal health department programs have separated prevention based on condom use or abstinence and treatment based on adherence to combination therapies.

Now, more than ever, the lines between prevention and treatment are blurred.

Treatment-based options that prevent infection, like PrEP (pre-exposure prophylactic) and PEP (post-exposure prophylactic), present new opportunities to integrate prevention and treatment models.

Veteran HIV advocates in Chicago and NYC think PEP, as a medical intervention, has a major role to play especially within gay male and bi communities in which the HIV infection has risen by 12 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Gay men are only about 2 percent of the U.S. population, but account for 63 percent of total infections in recent years. Most new infections are young gay men, and over half are Black gay men 13-24 years old.

The CDC says if current trends continue 50 percent of Black men who have sex with men and turned 18 in 2009 will be HIV+ by age 35. Fifty-four percent of all men who have sex with men will be HIV-positive.

In use for about 20 years, PEP can prove to be a significant factor in reducing new infections but only if hospitals and municipal health departments forge ahead to educate about its use and actually offer the treatment. If prescribed within 72 hours and taken for 28 days, PEP is about 80 percent effective in preventing HIV infection.

Awareness is the key.

A 2011 study published in the journal *Sexually Transmitted Infections* found that just 201, or 36 percent, of 554 men who were interviewed in

two NYC bathhouses were aware of PEP or PrEP. Besides gay men needing to know about these interventions, hospitals could do a better job too.

The latest round of media attention around PEP began July 17, when members of ACT UP/ NYC protested outside of Mt. Sinai Medical Center after when on July 5 a gay man had who had unsafe sex visited the ER and had difficulty acquiring PEP.

At the time, the activists pointed out a wider problem regarding PrEP/PEP awareness. They had identified six examples of PEP refusal, dating from 2009 with four of them occurring in late 2012 or 2013. "When I have six different incidents at six different hospitals over the last four years, something is wrong," Jim Eigo told *Gay City News*.

"There is variable penetration in ERs regarding their understanding and use of PEP. Not every hospital has a program and there is always room for improvement," said Demetre Daskalakis, MD, a Gay Men's Health Crisis board member who also heads HIV/AIDS services at NYC's Mount Sinai Hospital.

It's not a stretch for hospitals to offer PEP. "ERs are used to offering PEP. Remember they had occupational programs long before PEP came into use for recent sexual contact or other risky behaviors," Daskalakis pointed out. CDC currently recommends use of Truvada and Isentress.

Daskalakis said, "The key is to offer PEP it quickly, without judgment, and with swift follow-up to assess compliance, and to set the stage for other services the person may need."

PEP is not recommended as a repeat strategy for preventing infection. Daskalakis said, "Repeated requests for PEP may represent an opportunity to talk about PrEP, a way for the individual to prevent infection" going into sexual activity rather than hoping to prevent infection afterward.

All of these pre- and post-interventions sound good on paper but are worthless if people don't know about them.

A random online search of "PEP HIV Chicago" did not produce a single reference to PEP or PrEP, other than the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

One individual asked an online medical website, "I live in Chicago. Where can I receive the PEP treatment for my possible exposure to HIV two days ago via unprotected sex?"

The online physician replied, "PEP can be prescribed by your primary care physician or general practitioner. You may also contact a hospital attached to a medical school for the prescription of PEP or an urgent care clinic. AIDS Foundation of Chicago also can be contacted."

The next online question was, "Which specific teaching hospitals in the Chicago area offer the

of God. Also, he expressed his desire for the Church to be accepting of all people. This is where Francis and George differ. The pope clearly understands what the Church teaches and—contrary to the cardinal—he understands that by promoting those teachings under the mantle of judgment is not done in the spirit of love.

The Rainbow Sash Movement is calling on Cardinal George to honor the pope's words and stop attacking the Illinois LGBT community over marriage equality. We all know Cardinal George and the Catholic Church are opposed to same-sex marriage.

In my opinion, when the pope inferred that "small-minded" people are driving the faithful away from the Church, he was referring to cardinals and bishops such as George.

The only question in my mind is what Cardinal George can say positively about the LGBT community without it being based in bigotry.
Joe Murray, Chicago

PEP treatment?"

The reply: "Chicago Medical School should be offering PEP after assessing the risk in the individuals. Most of the medical teaching facilities do this now."

Questioner's follow up to reply: "I agree CMS should be, but is it? You don't have to answer this in a nanosecond but I want to know which hospital does, not which hospital might or should. That is, please give me a definitive answer."

Final online physician answer: "I am sorry, I do not have a definitive answer. I am opting out of the question, which will open the question for the other experts. Some expert would pick this up to give you a very definitive center. Though I feel, best would be your primary care physician or urgent care clinic."

Final reply from original questioner: "Thank you. As I do not have health insurance and therefore a primary care physician, I don't want to waste time trying to figure out where I can go. I appreciate your input, but I still do not know where I can receive the PEP treatment in Chicago—and that is my question."

By now, the 72-hour window of opportunity for PEP to be effective has expired.

Jill Dispenza—of the Illinois HIV/AIDS/STD Hotline and HIV Testing & Prevention, also affiliated with Center on Halsted—said the service gets "very few" calls about PEP.

Incoming questions are "usually about HIV testing, transmission, risk, medications, sexual assault," she said. Sometimes callers will share "I just found out I'm HIV-positive and want to protect my partners," Dispenza points out. "Then the health educator asks if the caller knows about PEP, if they think the caller would benefit from learning about it," she said.

Right now, Chicago hotline track calls according to a caller's original reason for making contact.

"Our database doesn't allow us to track more than one presenting concern," Dispenza notes. That means unless a caller makes PEP the reason for a call that issue is not tracked. "Still, health educators do inform callers about PEP if at all relevant to the nature of the call," she said. Education by hotline staff also takes place "during the vast majority of our testing sessions, while doing outreach, during individual learning sessions we also discuss PrEP," Dispenza said.

In Chicago, long-time health advocate Jim Pickett—director of advocacy for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago—said, "PEP has been around a long time. We need to make better use of it as a way to prevent infections. Awareness is the key." He sees both PEP and PrEP as "a natural continuum."

"PEP and the doors it opens to talk about PrEP make it imperative that HIV activists advocates, ER doctors and staff embrace this intervention," he said. Since once infected individuals will eventually daily doses of HIV medicines making any successful PEP or PrEP intervention cost effective.

As the AIDS silo comes down while the Affordable Healthcare Act rises, incorporating blended prevention and treatment interventions is paramount to new reducing infections.

In traditional style, the ACT UP/NYC group has already started the process with the formation of PHAG, Prevention of HIV Action Group, completed with slogans:

—"All You Do Is Give Us Rubbers. We Want Data"

—"POZitively Fraudulent, Absolutely NEGLigent" (illustrating lack of data around PEP effectiveness)

—Referring to NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg's health promotion efforts:

"He Took Our Sodas, Took Our Smokes, But Left HIV for the Queer Folks"

—On the slow response to PEP as an intervention:
 "DOH Get A Clue! PEP 4 All, Not Just 4 U!"

Letters:

The cardinal and the pope

To the editor:

I am responding to Cardinal Francis George's response to Pope Francis' call for the Catholic Church to stop obsessing on same-sex marriage, abortion and contraception.

While the cardinal's response supports the general sense of love and mercy, he ignored Francis' call for the Roman Catholic Church's ministry to stop being "obsessed" with a "disjointed multitude of doctrines," and that without a new balance, "the moral edifice of the church is likely to fall like a house of cards." He said "small-minded rules" are driving the faithful away.

Pope Francis said he is "no one to judge" gay people who are of good will and in search

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo from HBO Documentary Films

A LONELY 'ROAD'

The documentary *Valentine Road* looks at the killing of 15-year-old gay student Larry King (pictured) and its aftermath. See page 26.

DISH

Shake it up.
Page 26

Photo of Benny's Jiminy Cricket milkshake
by Andrew Davis



THEATER

Mortal 'Instruments.'
Page 20

Photo from *Unwilling and Hostile Instruments*
by Emily Schwartz



MOVIES

Claws and effect.
Page 27

Photo of Mark Patton in the film
Nightmare on Elm Street 2



DANCIN' FEATS

Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane dancer on company, upcoming show

BY VICKI CRAIN

Get ready to hear some stories.

Story/Time, Bill T. Jones' by-chance mix of dance set to music and his short stories, comes to the Dance Center of Columbia College this month with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company. Jones, who has been awarded a MacArthur "Genius" award, two Tony Awards and was a Kennedy Center honoree, will be performing on stage with his company. "It's a treat for us and the audience to have him in that capacity again on stage," said veteran dancer LaMichael Leonard Jr., 32. "In this piece, he's telling stories and he's just as alive as if he were moving. He's just sitting there at a desk telling stories and you're completely enthralled."

It's clear Leonard and his fellow dancers are enthralled with their legendary boss too. "Bill is one of the most passionate directors I've worked with and it rubs off on you. His brain works in ways that I will never be able to connect with and that's exciting. Having him in the room directing and coaching, you're hanging on his last word wondering what he's going to say next."

Leonard—"a Southern boy"—grew up in Florida and started dancing when he attended a performing arts high school, where he came out at age 15. Originally in the journalism program because he wanted to be on TV, he transferred to the dance department and has been dancing ever since. He was a self-described "Graham baby" in college, referring to the technique codified by iconic dancemaker Martha Graham.

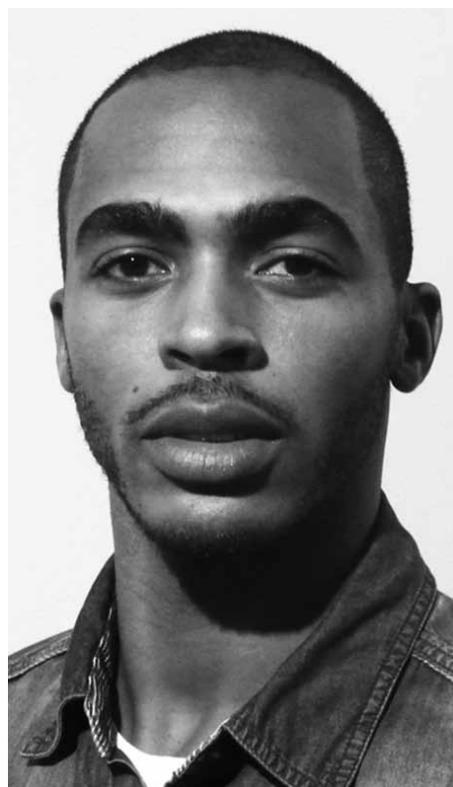
"Something about the technique really spoke to me," he said. "Not that it was necessarily physically easy, it was very challenging, but it was something I really took a liking to."

He joined the Martha Graham Dance Company right out of college and the Southern boy moved to New York City. "I couldn't wait to get out of there," said Leonard. "No offense to Sarasota, it's a nice town, but as far as art is concerned, there was nothing there at the time." After a year with the Graham Company, performing a number of solo works, he joined Jones' company in 2007.

One of his career highlights so far is performing for President Obama at the Kennedy Center Honors in 2010 in honor of his boss. "To look out and see people like Oprah Winfrey, Paul McCartney and Aerosmith...these are people I look up to as an artist," Leonard said. "Just to be in the same room with them was incredible, but to perform for them on top of it and for them to get a chance to see what I do was amazing."

So what makes Jones and his work so award-worthy? Leonard thinks it's the process. "We're always investigating," he said. "We work a lot of times in a two-dimensional idea. There's an attention to the metaphysics of movement, so things tend to be more dry, more clear. It's black and white; there's no gray area. We cut straight to the point."

In Story/Time, Jones throws in an element of surprise for the dancers with a "menu list" of items and sequences of movement to perform that changes in every performance. The stage



LaMichael Leonard.

is divided into 12 "boxes" and the dancers look at their menu to see what to perform when and where. "Every show is different," Leonard said. "You never get really comfortable with it as a performer, so it creates this raw energy. You have to be super focused, super aware. Sometimes you're booked for five to seven minutes and that's when it gets really difficult."

Does dancing with the man himself on stage make Leonard nervous? "Yes. Yes, yes and a capital Y.E.S.," he said. "Well, maybe nervous isn't the right word...anxious and excited. There's already a high level of expectation as a dancer when he's not on stage. When he's on stage with you, you feel like you have to up your game and match his intensity."

Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company are at the Dance Center of Columbia College, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., Thursday-Friday, Oct. 24-25 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 26 at 3 and 8 p.m. The show contains nudity and mature content. Tickets are \$26-\$30; call 312-369-8330 or visit www.colum.edu/dance_center.

Other October performances include:

Lucky Plush Productions at Link's Hall/Constellation, 3111 N. Western Ave., Thursdays-Sundays, Oct. 10-13. Performance times vary. Tickets are \$20; call 773-281-0824 or visit www.linkshall.org.

Same Planet Different World and **Peter Carpenter Performance Project** at the Dance Center of Columbia College, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 10-12 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$26-\$30; call 312-369-8330 or visit www.colum.edu/dance_center.

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago Fall Series at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 10-13. Performance times vary. Tickets are \$25-\$99; call 312-334-7777 or visit www.harristheaterchicago.org.

Dance Chance Redux 5.0 at the Northeastern Illinois University Auditorium/Fine Arts Building, 3701 W. Bryn Mawr Rd., Friday, Oct. 11, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20; visit www.boxoffice.neiu.edu/dance_chance.

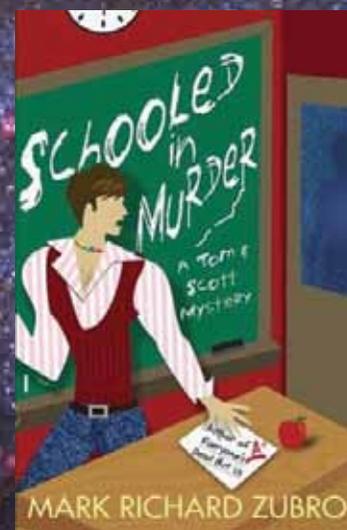
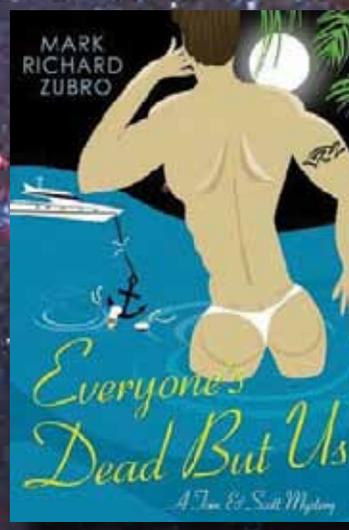
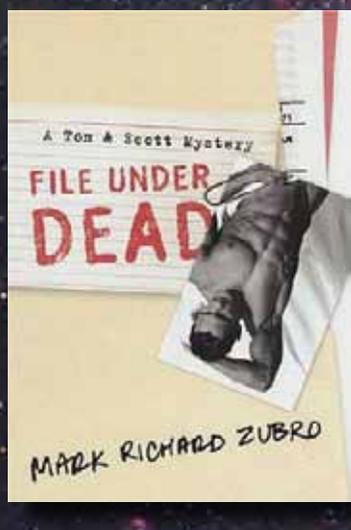
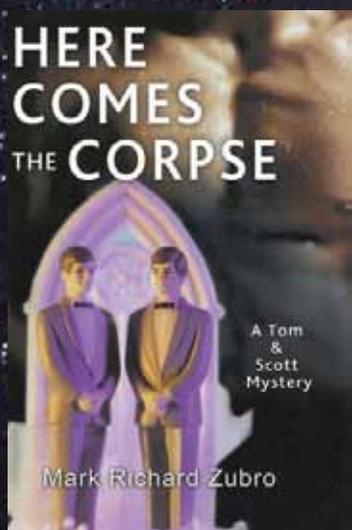
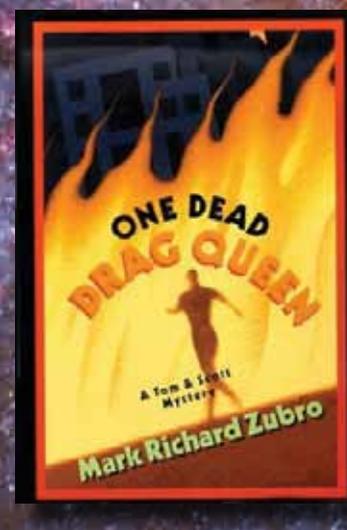
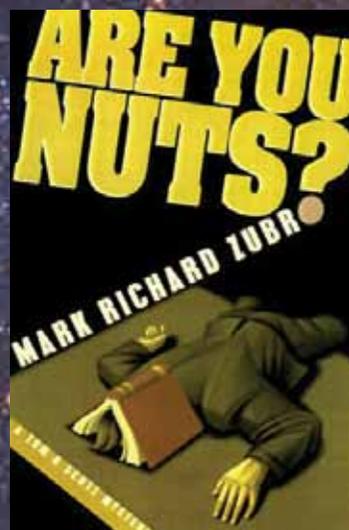
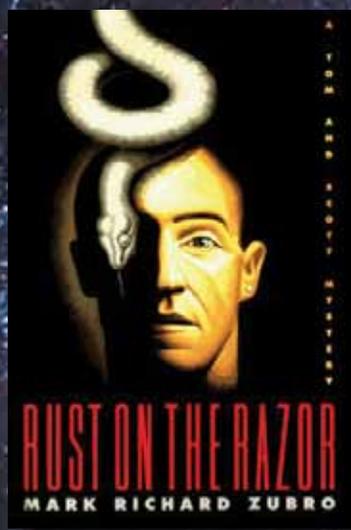
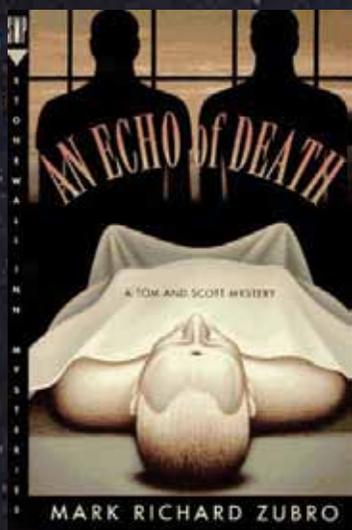
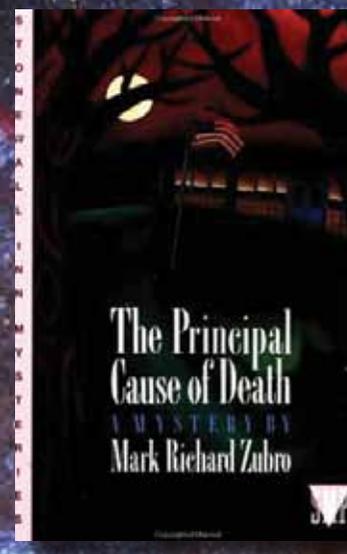
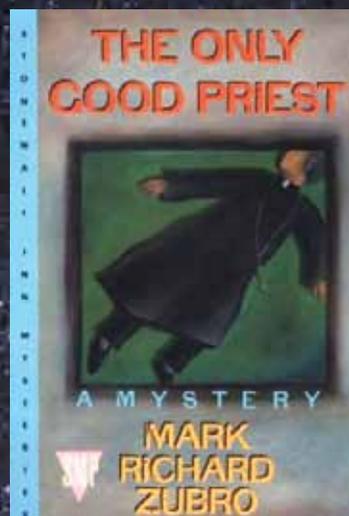
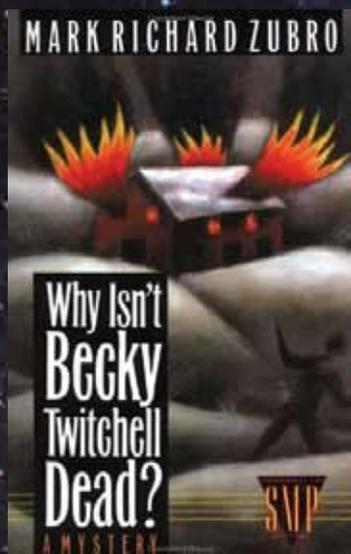
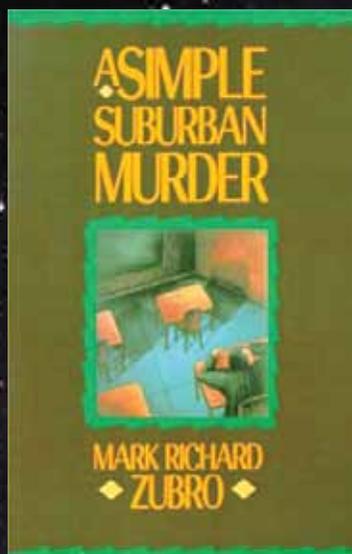
The Joffrey Ballet presents *La Bayadere* at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., Wed., Oct. 16, through Sunday, Oct. 27. Performance times vary. Tickets are \$31-\$152; call 800-982-2787 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

The 19th annual **Dance Chicago** festival opens at the Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave., Saturday, Oct. 19. Performance times and days vary. Tickets are \$15-\$47; call 773-935-6875 or visit www.athenaeumtheatre.org.

Giordano Dance Chicago's fall engagement at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., Friday-Saturday, Oct. 25-26, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$60; call 312-334-7777 or visit www.harristheaterchicago.org.

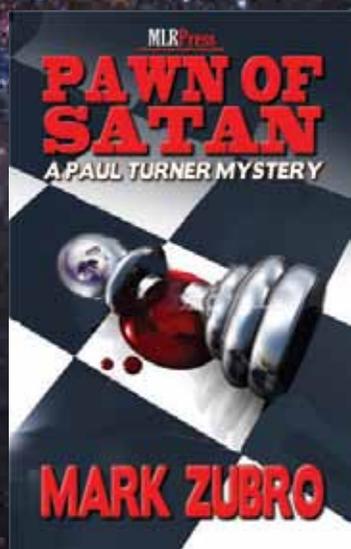
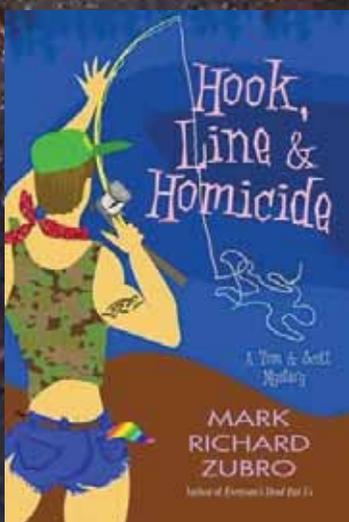
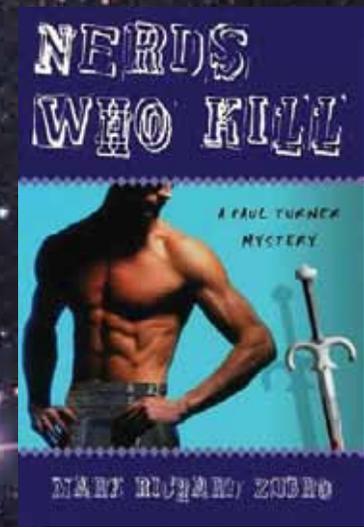
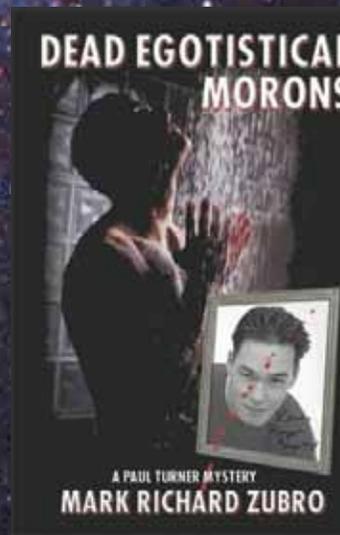
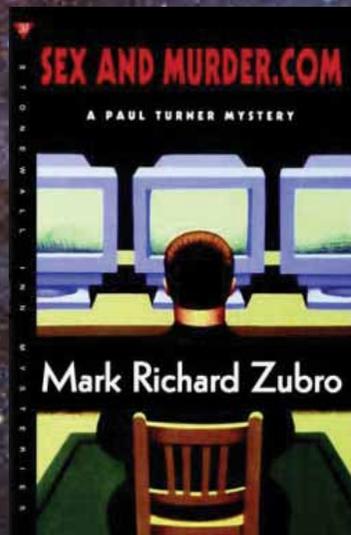
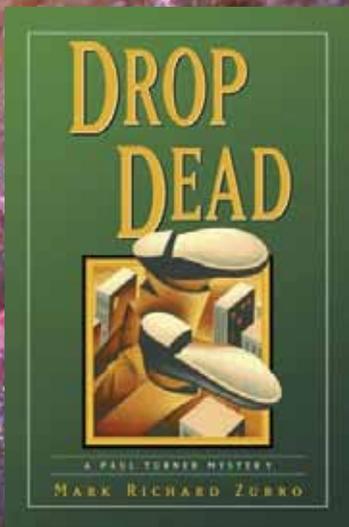
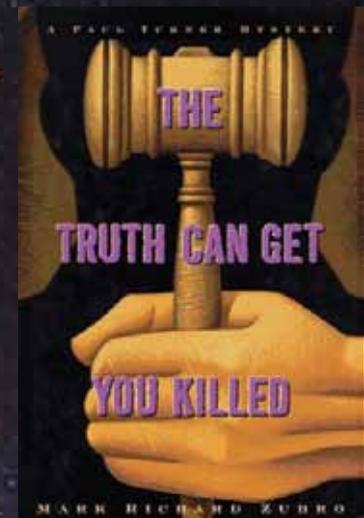
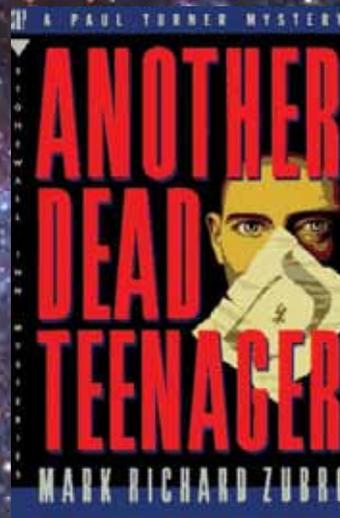
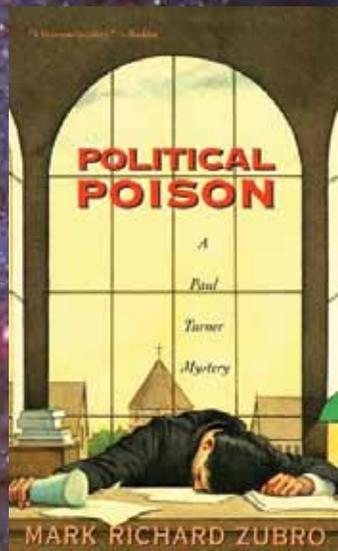
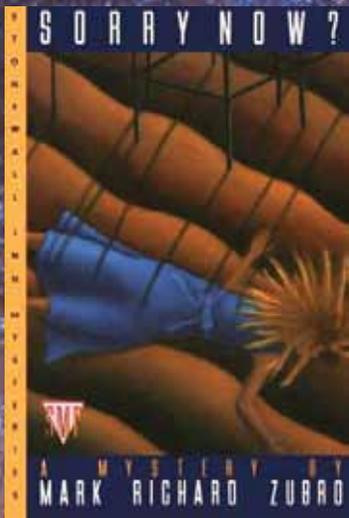
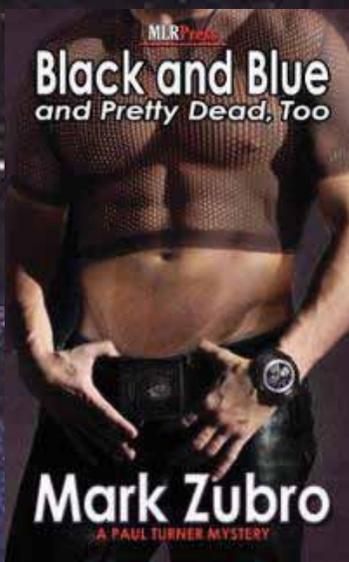
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Coming this October: Book Eleven in the Paul Turner series, **Pawn of Satan**



Unwilling and Hostile Instruments: 100 Years of Extraordinary Chicago Women. Photo by Emily Schwartz

THEATER REVIEW

Unwilling and Hostile Instruments: 100 Years of Extraordinary Chicago Women

Playwright: Seth Bockley, Brian Golden, Ike Holter, Elaine Romero, Emily Schwartz, Carla Stillwell, Nick Ward, Travis Williams, Lauren Yee
At: Theatre Seven of Chicago at American Theater Company, 1909 W. Byron St.
Tickets: 773-409-4125;
www.theatreseven.org; \$20
Runs through: Oct. 27

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

If improv shows are essentially acting exercises that we pay money to witness, then Theatre Seven's *Unwilling And Hostile Instruments* (subtitled "100 Years of Extraordinary Chicago Women") is a playwrighting exercise. The assignment was to write a snapshot portrait of a you-know-what whose accomplishments figure significantly in our city's history. Eight authors took up the challenge and their work comprises the body of the presentation currently occupying the American Theatre Company auditorium.

As with many anthology shows, the tone of the individual episodes vary widely: Carla Stillwell's dramatization of Ida B. Wells' agonized decision in 1891 to flee the KKK-dominated Southern states to continue her crusade for African-American women's rights in Chicago is followed

by Emily Schwartz' rhymed 1913 vaudeville-style broadside for Cora Strayer's independently owned detective agency. Travis Williams' segment on Mavis Staples depicts the gospel singer's recorded voice comforting fugitives of the 1966 Marquette Park marches, while Ike Holter looks at the legacy of Jane Addams through a confrontation between two street canvassers in 2012.

These and the other plays sharing the bill would, by themselves, constitute an enjoyable and informative evening, but Theatre Seven artistic director Brian Golden escalates the educational factor by first introducing the framing device of a performance group rehearsing the show we are viewing, then having them spend their rest breaks discussing the issues surrounding its content—whether Jane Addams was a lesbian, for example, or the closing of the Uptown Hull House (its site conflated into that of the flagship settlement near the UIC campus)—in the stilted heavily scripted dialogue so beloved of "youth-fiction" authors, e.g. a surfer-blond who insists, "You can learn a lot about famous women by watching *Saved By The Bell!*"

This conceit—intended to "contextualize" the lessons of the past—is handy for the inclusion of additional expository data, but it also stretches the evening to two and a half hours, a major part devoted to actors sharing their observations on careers and aspirations—presumably to lend verisimilitude to the illusion of off-duty shop talk. All said, Elly Green's direction renders what, with some trimming, could have been an assembly-ready pageant, performed by a predictable squad of earnest young archetypes, in turn played by a likewise engaging ensemble deserving of fresher material.

THEATER REVIEW

Cyrano de Bergerac

Playwright: Edmond Rostand
At: Chicago Shakespeare Theater at Navy Pier, 800 E. Grand Ave.
Tickets: 312-595-5600;
www.chicagoshakes.com; \$48-\$78
Runs through: Nov. 10

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Edmond Rostand's sword-and-cloak drama was already retro when it premiered in 1898, its predecessors by Dumas and Boucicault having already enjoyed their heyday in all but the most remote corners of our country's touring circuits, before being displaced by the domestic intimacy of Ibsen's realism. Rostand's *Knight of the Protuberant Probo-cis*, however, harkens back to Shakespearean ideals in his mastery of skills both physical and intellectual, while his tragedy lies in his willful rejection of the sensory emotions. (The Renaissance Man's expected accomplishments, remember, included drinking wine.)

This has not stopped the sad saga of *Cyrano de Bergerac* from being copied in virtually every medium, short of having a candy bar named after him. You know the story—the one about the ugly brainiac soldier who courts the pretty girl on behalf of his muscle-headed buddy. You probably also know it from the translation by Brian Hooker, whose florid language continues to invoke ecstatic ex-

cesses in countless student productions, but Anthony Burgess—yep, the *Clockwork Orange* author—is less interested in chest-heaving than he is in exploring the independent artist's ostracism by a stultifying conformist society. Penny Metropulos' direction affirms this theme, making for a cerebrally stimulating, but curiously bloodless, interpretation.

Such a bias can be refreshing: Roxane, for example, is not the familiar romantic-age airhead, but a "bookish" damsel whose quick wit enables her to gull adversaries in service of her allies, and whose penchant for pretty words reflects, not vanity, but a revulsion for vulgar animal appetites. On the other hand, Burgess' puritanism mandates a *Cyrano* so wholly absorbed in his own genius as to appear an unsuitable match for any wife not prepared to share his monastic lifestyle. Would the love of a good woman mellow him, or would his misanthropy ultimately sour her?

Unfortunately, we are past caring by the last 30 minutes of this three-hour presentation, which are almost wholly given over to protracted bouts of downstage-center sermonizing by our hero, as well as a singularly slow-paced opera-length death scene. (Rostand wrote his play as a star vehicle, granted, but rarely has this factor ever been so obvious.) Metropulos tries to alleviate the oncoming gloom by playing up the comic elements in the first act, but cannot prevent our initial enthusiasm giving way to fatigue sending us home as weary and enervated as the veterans of the Gascon regiment.



Motortown. Photo from Steep Theatre

THEATER REVIEW

Motortown

Playwright: Simon Stephens
At: Steep Theatre, 1115 W. Berwyn Ave.
Tickets: 773-649-3186 or
www.steeptheatre.com; \$20-\$22
Runs through: Nov. 9

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

There's an extremely disturbing and violent scene in Steep Theatre's North American premiere of Simon Stephens' drama *Motortown*. So theatergoers averse to onstage depictions of mental and physical abuse would be advised to avoid it.

But if you are willing to contextualize that shocking scene and seriously ponder how it fits into the play's many observations on modern British society in the age of "The War on Terror," then *Motortown* more than justifies its shocking moments.

Director Robin Witt fashions *Motortown* into a chilling and gripping show, and her amazing acting ensemble is given plenty of flashy moments to show off not only their technical skills (the dialects are spot on), but their complex motivations as well.

Motortown follows the actions of former British soldier Danny (a butch and menacing Joel Reitsma) after a tour in Basra, Iraq. Danny is staying with his mentally challenged younger brother, Lee (a charming Chris Chmelik), in the Dagenham area of London (a manufacturing area that probably helped give the play its title). Once home, Danny spends his days bothering his

ex-girlfriend, Marley (Julia Siple), and seeking out ways to obtain a deadly weapon by the likes of Tom (Eddie Reynolds) and the ruthless Paul (Peter Moore).

Danny more than likely was involved in an Iraqi prison-torture scandal, and his string of lies to the strangers he encounters (unnervingly played by Ashleigh LaThrop, Kendra Thulin and Alex Gillmor) gives you a clue that Danny wasn't a man to be trusted before or after his overseas tour of duty. Stephens leaves plenty of narrative blanks for the audience to fill in regarding Danny's actions, and most of that isn't pretty.

In *Motortown*, Stephens is addressing war veterans' rage at returning home to an unappreciative and (as they might see it) corrupt society. But Stephens also takes to task the military's drummed-in violence that allows for a manipulative monster like Danny to operate practically undisciplined and unchecked.

With *Motortown*, Steep Theatre is once again presenting a work by the Olivier Award-winning British playwright Stephens following acclaimed production of his plays *Harper Regan* and *Por-nography*. The latter play explored uncomfortable relationships in the lead up to the London terrorist bombings of July 7, 2005, but *Motortown* was actually written during those exuberant and fraught days before and after the attacks.

Motortown is not an easy play to watch at times. But the thoughtful issues explored and the sterling quality of the production certainly makes it so that you can't dismiss it for its flashes of ugly and unsettling violence. Consider yourself warned.

DIRECTIONS FOR RESTORING THE APPARENTLY DEAD

by Martin Casella

October 4 - Nov 10

Thursday - Saturday 7:30pm

Sunday: 3:00pm

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1225 West Belmont

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Old Jews Telling Jokes. Photo by Dan Rest

THEATER REVIEW

Old Jews Telling Jokes

Playwright: Peter Gethers and Daniel Ockrent

At: Royal George Theatre

Tickets: 312-988-9000;

www.TicketMaster.com; \$49-\$69

Runs through: Feb. 16, 2014

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

So, you want to know the difference between a *schlemiel*, a *schlimazel* and a *nudnik*? A few years ago, there was a successful Broadway (and touring) revue of Jewish comedians from the old Borscht Belt Circuit in the Catskills Mountains, and their jokes had a lot of Yiddish references and—*veyzmir!*—they were so funny you could plotz.

But this isn't that show. Old Jews Telling Jokes is a performance piece with actors playing old Jews, not a revue with real Jewish comics doing stand-up routines. This show will have you groaning at some jokes, smiling or chuckling at others, and laughing out loud at least six times, but the jokes are not necessarily Jewish jokes. Your enjoyment doesn't require knowledge of Yiddish beyond "oy vey" and *schmuck* nor any deep understanding of American Jewish culture. Chopped liver and Israel aren't mentioned even once.

What the five performers *do* talk about are retirement, sex, aches and pains, sex, marriage, sex, business, sex, old age and sex-and-old-age, all with plenty of four-letter words. There are jokes new, old and ancient. One story—about a fart—derives from Tales of the Arabian Nights (what kind of Jewish joke is that?), and I first heard another from my father more than 50

SPOTLIGHT



Dance-theater troupe Lucky Plush Productions continues its repertory presentations of two dance works this upcoming weekend. **Cinderbox 2.0** is a revision of 2007's Cinderbox 18 that explores the media's construct of "reality." **The Better Half** is a dance-inspired take on the stage thriller Angel Street and its 1940s film adaptation Gaslight. Both shows play Links Hall, 3111 N. Western Ave. Performances of Cinderbox 2.0 continue at 7 p.m. Friday through Saturday, Oct. 11-13, while performances of The Better Half are at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10, and at 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for students. For more information, call 773-281-0824 or visit www.linkshall.org or www.luckyplush.com. Photo of Cinderbox 2.0 courtesy of Lucky Plush Productions

years ago, even though they tell it wrong in the show. There's an innocuous opening song, another in the middle and Nathan (Tim Kazurinsky) recites the lyrics of "Old Man River" with a Yiddish dialect (the archetypal song of Black endurance was penned by two Jews). Each character is fleshed out in a brief monolog with a tiny bit of exposition, but there isn't a story or more than minimal relationships between the characters. Clearly, though, there is great camaraderie between the performers themselves, which has been encouraged by director Marc Bruni. At 80 fast minutes, the running time is just right.

In addition to Kazurinsky, the charming performers are Gene Weygandt (Morty), Renee Matthews (Bunny), Dara Cameron (Debbi) and Alex

Goodrich (Reuben). Most are not Jews, but you don't have to be Jewish to like Rosen's Rye Bread nor need you be a Jew to play Shylock, Anne Frank or Fagin. It would be great fun to see Eddie Murphy in this show using his excellent Yiddish dialect. Three of the actors are—uh—middle-aged while two of them are young. There's no explanation why these two are not closer in age to the characters they are playing, which I found mildly disconcerting.

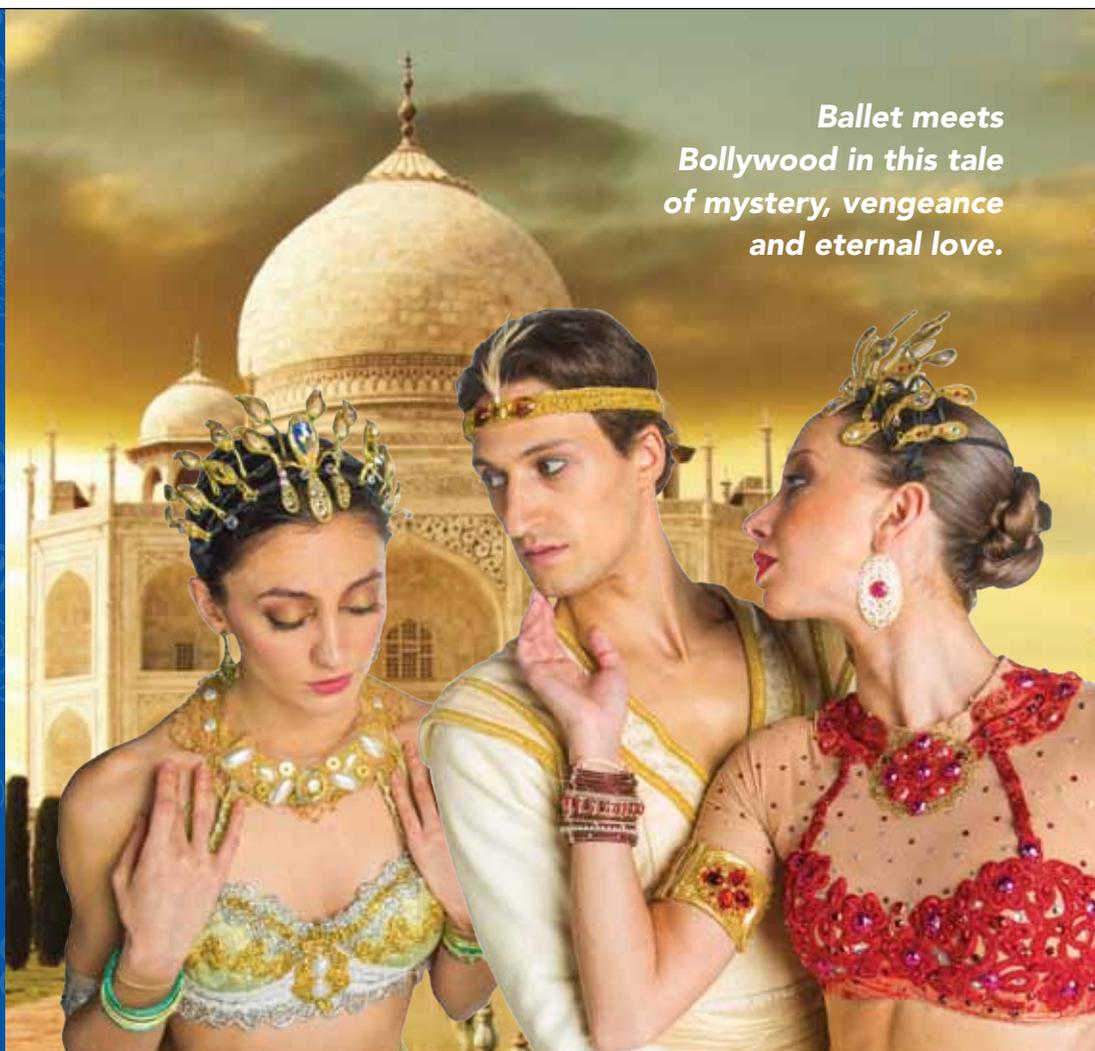
Most assuredly, however, Old Jews Telling Jokes is a warm and amusing night out. It has neither great depth nor the authenticity of Borscht Belt comics, but as my Aunt Anne would say, "So what's not to like?"

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'Shadow Town' aims to raise awareness about sex trafficking in Chicago

BY DERRICK CLIFTON

Human trafficking is usually understood as an international issue, but it also heavily affects communities locally. According to various studies, between 16,000 and 25,000 women and girls in metropolitan Chicago are trafficked annually.

Her Story Theatre's newest original production, *Shadow Town*, sets out to shift perceptions about the topic.

"These are real people. ... It's our story and it's in our backyard. It's a global issue but it's here and people don't believe that," said Bonnett, *Shadow Town*'s writer and director.

The play was borne from nearly two years of research and outreach that began in January 2011. During this time, Bonnett contacted several local organizations that work with trafficking victims for information and potential interviewees. Many of them refused during the initial six months of outreach, until discussions with The Dreamcatcher Foundation and the Salvation Army's PROMISE program proved fruitful.

Even then, Bonnett said it took many more months before she was able to hear firsthand accounts.

"It took a long time for them to trust because it's a private world and they protect everything in it because they don't know who's going to exploit it," said Bonnett. "They really had to understand what we were about."

Shadow Town is based on Bonnett's interviews of several local women and girls who were in-

involved in sex trafficking, along with social workers, undercover detectives, parents, former pimps and johns. From various threads of these firsthand accounts, Bonnett composed four representative characters: Marisol from Humboldt Park, Tatiana from the West Side, Ling Ling from China and Samantha from Naperville.

Shortly after beginning interviews, Bonnett felt compelled to immediately begin writing.

"It was so timely ... and I felt there was a demand to do it now because there's a need to get it out there. [Human trafficking] has exploded over the last seven years," said Bonnett, who is also artistic director for Her Story Theatre.

Shadow Town takes the audience through 10 lessons on "how to become master of the game," which details how trafficking victims are recruited, the abusive conditions they endure and how they are mentally and emotionally manipulated by pimps.

Rashawn Thompson portrays one such pimp in the play through his role as Prime Cut, who teaches "the game" to the audience.

Thompson, who has played famous R&B artists in musicals such as "The Marvin Gaye Story" at Black Ensemble Theatre, noted that his role as Prime Cut is a departure from most of his previous work because of his character's profane language and abusive treatment of women.

"I have to emotionally get myself prepared for it and let it go when I leave, because when you get into your characters so deep you can take it home..." he said. "It's a difficult subject but



Shadow Town. Photo from Her Story Theatre

when I get on the stage, I have to let all of that go and just let myself be the person."

Thompson also noted that similar tensions extend to his interactions with female castmates, including Lindsey Scalise, who portrays Prime Cut's most loyal worker, Renee.

Scalise said that, like other fellow castmates, she learned more about human trafficking after becoming involved in the production and participating in cast discussion sessions with some of the women and girls who inspired the script.

"From all the womens' characters ... I would hope others have the same kind of awakening that I had," said Scalise. "I don't want to speak for the audience but I would assume that most people would be like me and wouldn't have been exposed to this before. I would hope they would also be enraged that this is going on and that culture celebrates it and turns it into entertainment when it's happening in their backyards."

Twenty-four rotating local celebrities and public figures will each join the 11-member cast during the run, portraying a parent of Samantha, a Naperville teenager who disappeared while in a nanny's care during her parents' overseas travel. After each show, Bonnett and *Shadow Town*'s cast and crew participate in an open discussion, which includes a performance from a guest musician.

The play's proceeds will benefit two local organizations that provide services to female sex trafficking victims: The Dreamcatcher Foundation and Anne's House, part of The Salvation Army's PROMISE program.

Attendees who are licensed counselors or social workers can also receive three free continuing education units from the Dominican Univer-

sity Graduate School of Social Work.

Shadow Town premieres Thursday, Oct. 10, and runs through Thursday, Nov. 14, at The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., with evening performances beginning at 7:30 Thursday through Saturday and 3 p.m. matinees on Sundays.

Tickets are \$35. To purchase tickets, call 800-838-3006 or visit herstorytheatre.org for more information and the schedule of celebrity performers.

Locals among American's grant recipients

Berwyn's 16th Street Theater and Chicago's The Hypocrites are among the national recipients of the American Theatre Wing's 2013 National Theatre Company Grants.

Grants for the 2013 cycle in the amount of \$10,000 each will be distributed for general operating support to these companies. Guidelines state that, among other things, the companies have been in operation at least five but not more than 15 years.

CRITICS' PICKS

4000 Miles, Northlight Theatre at the North Shore Arts Center, through Oct. 20. It's got everything you need for a stupid play, but Amy Herzog never lets her characters behave stupidly in this sharp-witted exploration of intergenerational existential anomie. MSB

The Killer Angels, Lifeline Theatre, through Oct. 27. Gettysburg, 1863: three days of slaughter that turned the tide of the Civil War. This skillful adaptation of Michael Shaara's novel, with period songs, brings heart and soul to officers and enlisted men alike in a beautiful ensemble production. JA

The Mountaintop, Court Theatre, through Oct. 13. Katori Hall's play imagining a visit to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on the eve of his assassination is full of drama and stage magic in Ron OJ Parson's strong Chicago premiere production. SCM.

Pullman Porter Blues, Goodman Theatre, through Oct. 20. Cheryl West's panoramic account of rail travel's golden era packs all the intrigue of a Grand Hotel on wheels—with E. Faye Butler singing the blues, for good measure. MSB

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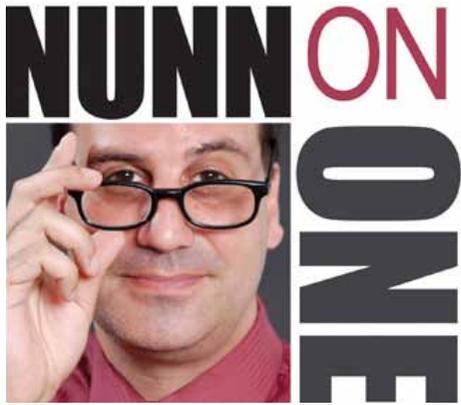
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NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

Joan Allen is the 'Wheel' deal



BY JERRY NUNN

Actress Joan Allen is known for the varied and challenging roles she has played over the years onstage, film, and television.

Born in Rochelle, Ill., this local talent studied at Eastern Illinois University where she performed with John Malkovich. She joined the Steppenwolf Theatre Company when he asked her and has been a member ever since.

Allen won a Tony for *Burn This* on Broadway, then received three Academy Award nominations for the films *Nixon*, *The Crucible* and *The Contender*. She starred in *The Ice Storm*, *Face/Off* and *Pleasantville*, then took over *The Bourne* franchise as CIA Director Pamela Landy.

She now returns to her roots to reunite with Chicago's theater scene after more than two decades to lead Steppenwolf's *The Wheel*. It's the story of a woman named Beatriz who goes on a journey in the middle of war-torn Spain. *Windy City Times* called her to discuss the past, present and future of her career.

Windy City Times: Hello, Joan. I originally met you at a screening for your movie *Off the Map*.

Joan Allen: That was a while ago!

WCT: Roger Ebert came to that preview.

JA: Oh, yes; I remember that.

WCT: What brought you back to Steppenwolf after all of these years?

JA: It was timing. I have lived in New York since 1983. I have a daughter who is now 19. I had done a lot of theater with some very intense plays in the '80s. I was a little burned-out and I had this child. I really wanted to devote myself to her and knew I would only have one child.

To come here and do a play takes three months of your life. I didn't want to uproot her. I couldn't not say "good night" to her for three months, to my only beloved daughter, so that was also part of it. She is 19 now and I had been away from the theater for awhile. I had some interesting, difficult life experiences for a few years that I think helped me develop as a person. It was just the right time.

WCT: So when did you reconnect with them?

JA: Last December. I hadn't done a play with Steppenwolf for years and Martha Lavey, the artistic director, came to New York and was excited about the upcoming season. She invited me to do a few play readings. I thought it would be a really good time for me to put my toe in the water and so I did.

It felt really good to do the play readings with ensemble members who I hadn't read with in a long time. We ended up not doing those plays. Last January Martha asked me if I would read *The Wheel*. I had spent some time with the director Tina Landau at those readings and I thought she was incredible. I read the play then talked to Martha and Tina and just felt like it was right. So that is how it happened. We then picked the slot it was going to be in so I knew last January that I would be doing it.

WCT: Having a daughter must have really added to your performance in *The Wheel*.

JA: I can't even begin to tell you! Yes, it had

a tremendous impact on me and my experiences with her. I don't think I could have done the play without going through what I went through as a mom, learning about life and love and all of that stuff.

WCT: The show goes on such a journey. How was it working with the kids?

JA: Great. The kids are amazing and incredible, so dedicated. Emma Gordon in particular is so focused and Daniel Pass too. They are like nine and 11 years old. They were just troupers. They love the theater and have done a lot of theater work themselves. I love them and the entire cast. The whole rehearsal process was phenomenal.

WCT: The *Wheel* seems like a good show for Halloween. I was thinking *The Bad Seed* for a minute there!

JA: [Laughs] Well, you know it becomes very interesting. What is this little girl? Is she really bad or just a product of all of the things she has been exposed to? My character starts questioning because I sort of capitalize on whatever people think about her in order for us to survive. I am the one that needs money for the train so I ask her to pull a bullet out of a wounded guy's side.

WCT: That was gross.

JA: It advances things to see if I caused this. I have a line, "Is this my doing?" She hurts people and she does bad things but I think it is her own guilt about what I have asked of this child to do. It is about war and children so pretty intense.

WCT: I loved the art direction.

JA: Isn't it just incredible?

WCT: Soldiers wearing boas in one transition was unique and the music is also done really well.

JA: Yes, even the way the play opens up with Chaon Cross, who plays my sister. We were just talking last night behind that curtain saying, "This is the coolest play ever and aren't we so lucky to be a part of it!" It is almost more of an experience than a play. The play opens with a wedding and so conventional then I just love it when Emma comes onstage for the first time. The audience has no idea what they are in for.

WCT: That's true.

JA: None, they have no idea what is going to happen once this girl comes into the picture.

WCT: Chaon looks like your sister. She resembles you a lot.

JA: I know. It's really good.

WCT: It seems like it is meant to be that you are back in Chicago for this show.

JA: It is. Sometimes you have these moments of synchronicity in your life. I have had two or three of them maybe. This is definitely one of them. This is the right time, the right play, the right director, the right cast, the right homecoming, being back in the city. I am kind of high over the whole thing!

WCT: Are you getting to have fun in the city while you are here?

JA: During the rehearsal things were really intense and demanding in the best way but now that the show is open and I have days free I may actually do something.

My assistant doesn't know the city. She is from North Carolina, and it was a such a glorious day the Monday after the show opened so we walked on the shore of Lake Michigan. I wanted to take the boat so we did the Chicago architecture tour. It was so beautiful! We walked in Millennium Park, which I hadn't really seen.

One Monday during rehearsal we got in the car and I wanted to drive past every apartment that I ever lived in during the '70s and the '80s in Chicago. I wanted to look at every place where the theater has been so we did that including going up to Highland Park where the original theater was on Deerfield Road. It was really cool

Joan Allen.
PR photo

to do that.

WCT: Are you making some more movies? I am a huge *Pleasantville* fan, even going back to *Searching for Bobby Fischer*.

JA: I just completed one in June. It is a Stephen King film called *A Good Marriage*.

WCT: Is it based on one of his short stories?

JA: It is a novella, actually. It is part of an anthology called *Full Dark, No Stars*. There are four novellas and that is one of them.

The story is about a couple married 25 years with two children when the wife finds out he is a serial killer.

WCT: Scary!

JA: Yes. Anthony LaPaglia plays my husband. The first part of the movie you think this is a good marriage then one night his wife stumbles on something in the garage that completely

changes things. Then it is really about what will she do once she finds out.

WCT: You are involved in these scary roles now. Would you want to be on *American Horror Story*?

JA: You know, I have not watched it. I am not a big television watcher but people say it is really great. My daughter loves it. Now that the play is open maybe I will pull it up on Netflix and watch it.

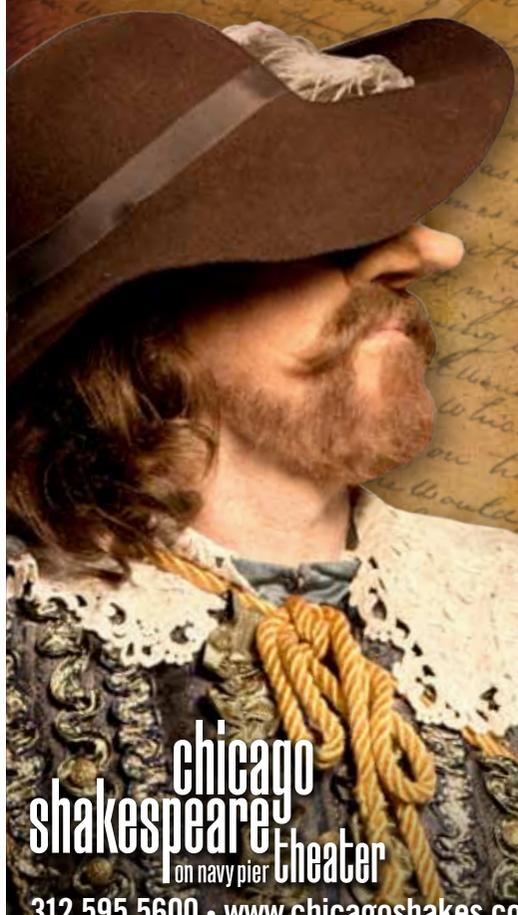
WCT: Perfect for this time of the year!

JA: Exactly.

The *Wheel* spins through the Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St., Tuesdays through Sunday through Nov. 10. Tickets are available at www.steppenwolf.org or by calling 312-335-1650.

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Picture: Harry Green; photo by Michael Braslow

Music to our ears— Talking with Well-Strung

BY TONY PEREGRIN

Meet Well-Strung—the handsome and hunky, all-male string quartet who are hitting all the right notes with their unique hybrid of classical music and contemporary pop. By putting their own spin on the music of Mozart, Vivaldi, Rihanna, Adele and Lady Gaga—Daniel Shevlin (cello), Chris Marchant (violin), Edmund Bag-nell (violin), and Trevor Wadleigh (viola)—are breaking down barriers between musical genres.

The string and singing quartet (yes, they also sing) are comprised of four openly gay men who got their start in Provincetown, Mass.

“P-Town is definitely a magical place—it has such an amazing artistic community,” said Marchant, who was in Provincetown performing in Naked Boys Singing—and playing violin on the street to earn extra cash—when he was approached by a producer in 2010. That meeting eventually led to the formation of Well-Strung.

“What’s great about P-Town is that people are coming there from all over the country who are in the arts,” added Marchant. “There’s a constant influx of tourists and when they go back to wherever they are from they tell people about us—which really sets things up well for touring.”

Before Well-Strung heads to London this fall for their European debut, the quartet will be performing in Chicago Oct. 18-19 at the Center on Halsted.

In an interview with Windy City Times, Marchant and Shevlin didn’t strike one false note as they revealed what it’s like to be hot and well-strung, how they select their contemporary music, and what they like most about Chicago.

Windy City Times: What do you think is the biggest misconception about Well-Strung?

Daniel Shevlin: That we perform naked. We don’t know why. Maybe the name alludes to that a little, and one of our posters from last year was pretty scandalous. It was a great poster!

WCT: You mentioned the name of the quartet—which one of you was clever enough to come up with “Well-Strung?”

Chris Marchant: The name Well-Strung came up before the quartet existed. I did an interview and photo-shoot with DNA magazine in the fall of 2011, and the title of the spread was Well-Strung, and we decided to use it.

WCT: Clearly, each member of the quartet is handsome and fit as a fiddle—do you simply own the fact that your physical appeal is part of what draws people to the shows or does that reality annoy you on some level?

Chris Marchant: The idea behind that is... [Pauses and starts again] The people who feel confident about their appearance are going to be good performers. Our goal is not to create the highest level of classical music perfection. Our goal is to expose audiences to new music in new ways and in a fantastic way, and in order to do that we need “performers.” Our goals are different than those of a typical string quartet. We’ve often gotten criticism from people who say that there is no substance there, and that we just look pretty. But then people see the show and their minds tend to change if they walk in with that perception.

Daniel Shevlin: Another thing about our show is that we talk about ourselves and how we got started. People get past the image they have us, I think, and see what is inside of us and what we are about.

Chris Marchant: We talk about where we came from and about our childhood, and we feature a slideshow depicting each of our awkward phas-



Chris Marchant of Well-Strung. Photo by Jerrad Matthew

es. We tell people that, ‘Hey, no matter where you come from, if you set your mind to it you can accomplish anything.’

WCT: Do you talk about growing up gay? Were any of you bullied or taunted for being gay as a kid?

Daniel Shevlin: As far as the show goes, we don’t broach the bullying topic. The show is not about us growing up gay and discovering our sexual identity. Our stories pertain to the four of us growing up as dorky musicians!

Chris Marchant: We just happen to be four gay guys putting on this show. Any four classical musicians could put on this same show.

WCT: Speaking of growing up as “dorky musicians,” can I get your ages? How old are you?

Daniel Shevlin: We don’t want to say our ages—but I can tell you I am the oldest.

Chris Marchant: And I am the second oldest.

WCT: For someone who has never seen your show, describe what it is you do.

Chris Marchant: So, our show is essentially a juxtaposition of classical music against mostly current Top 40s. We want to show that there is a through-line running through it all, through all music. Some people come to the show to hear more pop; some people come to hear more classical. But they all end up saying they love it in the end. We’re also the only string quartet in the world who sings, so we’re actually more like a band, and that seems to surprise some people.

Daniel Shevlin: We’re also different from other string quartets because we move around on stage. We’re not giving you ballet, mind you, but we are moving around a lot! Donna Drake, our director, gets us out of our chairs and into different positions. We don’t use music so we don’t have music stands—everything is memorized—and that gives a lot more freedom for how we can present ourselves on stage.

WCT: How do you select which contemporary songs to feature in the show?

Daniel Shevlin: When we are creating a show, we make lists of what songs we think are pop-

Turn to page 31



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Lucy Smith: Lesbian jazz singer riffs on CD, inspirations

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Openly lesbian jazz singer Lucy Smith's "Songs My Mama Would Like" CD release party will take place at the Jazz Showcase on Oct. 15.

A staple in the Chicago jazz scene, Smith has performed at numerous venues for over 20 years.

She spoke with Windy City Times about her life, career and what people can expect at her CD release party.

Windy City Times: What made you gravitate towards singing jazz music?

Lucy Smith: It was probably there for awhile. The first music I remember singing to in our house was soul, blues and jazz. Nina Simone, in particular, was an early influence because she had a political bent to her music that spoke to me. At the base of jazz is blues and gospel and all these other genres of music couldn't exist without blues and gospel. The cool thing about being a musician is we can incorporate all of these genres and make it ours.

WCT: Tell me a little bit about growing up here in Chicago.

LS: I grew up in various neighborhoods on the South Side of Chicago and my earliest memories are of when I walked with my brothers to school. My mom didn't send us to the neighborhood public school she sent us to Catholic School.

I remember that our living room had a wall covered, floor to ceiling, with mirrored tiles that reflected what was happening outside on Racine Avenue. A console stereo with encased speakers, turntable and an AM/FM radio sat in the corner of the room. I was in my own kind of heaven. I

spent hours listening to and singing along with Josh White, Nina Simone, James Taylor, Aretha Franklin, Trini Lopez, Mariam Makeba, Eric Carmen, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder and Barry Manilow. I would sing and dance myself into a frenzy. I used the mirrors as a guide and practiced my body movements and the placement of my pen or pencil that I used for a microphone. I wanted to be everyone I sang along with and go wherever they went and I still do.

WCT: Tell me about your new CD Songs My Mama Would Like and your band Autumn in Augusta.

LS: It's been an amazing ride. I'm at a place in my life where I've been making music for over 20 years. This is a very personal project and the response has been amazing. I'm just blown away by it. Due to this project and the fact that it is getting played all over the world I am getting calls for so much more work. Every time people say that your mother would love that you are doing this I am filled with joy.

My mother was born and raised in Augusta, Ga., and autumn was her favorite season so that is where the name of the band came from. My nephew coined the name of the band. This project is an homage to my mother and her music.

WCT: Share a little bit about what it's like being an openly gay performer.

LS: I don't have time for anyone who has an issue with me being queer and I've written tunes that blatantly identify gender. I feel fortunate to be in a space where I haven't encountered many issues with my being a lesbian in recent years. Chicago is a privileged space to be queer



Lucy Smith. Photo by Olga Lopez

and I acknowledge that politically, socially and culturally.

WCT: Who are some of your inspirations in the music world?

LS: Nina Simone, Lead Belly, Miriam Makeba, Josh White, Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, The Jackson 5, Diana Ross and the Supremes, James Brown...

WCT: You are the leader/arranger for the Lucy Smith Quartet/Quintet.

LS: Yes. Autumn in Augusta is just a year old so most of my work has been with the quintet. We perform all over Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. Chicago is an amazing place to make music. It's an honor to work with the quintet and make music here.

WCT: What else do you do (hobbies etc.) that provides inspiration for your music?

LS: I do things in my community of Rogers Park. I'm on the Loyola Park Advisory Council and one of the main projects that I work on every year is called "Artists of the Wall." At the Loyola Park Beach there is a sea wall that is

white washed every year and re-painted by members of the community according to a theme.

At the end of the project there is this huge wall mural that goes for many blocks. For the last three years I've been producing the music festival that goes along with the "Artists of the Wall" festival. The festival is always held on Father's Day weekend in June. I'm so honored to be involved with this endeavor. In Rogers Park we have a mixture of so many cultures. It's not a melting pot; it's a jambalaya. We don't want to be like each other we want to know more about each other. Volunteering in the community is important to me. You have to know what is going on. Being out in the neighborhood is what allows you to do that and it definitely informs my music.

Another thing that informs my music is I am a news junkie. Before I did music full-time I was the associate director at the Crossroads Fund, which is a progressive foundation doing amazing social and economic justice work in the community.

I've had the opportunity to make music for special events and benefits for organizations working on social justice issues all around the city. It's what I am supposed to do. I'm a progressive at heart.

WCT: Is there anything else you would like to tell the readers of WCT?

LS: This project represents my musical relationship with my mother and I think it also represents many people's relationships with their mom's. Even though this is my personal journey I think it's music that will speak to a number of people.

See www.lucysmithjazz.com, and www.autumninaugusta.com for more information and to buy the CD visit www.cdbaby.com/cd/autumninaugusta.

Check out Smith at the Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Ct., on Tuesday, Oct. 15, at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Visit www.jazzshowcase.com/upcoming_shows/lucy-smiths-autumn-in-augusta-cd-release-party1.

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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT JR.

Valentine Road; We Are What We Are; notes

On the morning of July 12, 2008, at approximately 8:15 a.m. while sitting in class at the E. O. Green Junior High School in Oxnard, Calif., 14-year-old Brandon McInerney pulled a .22-caliber revolver out of his backpack and shot another student in the back of the head. McInerney dropped the gun, walked out of the school and was apprehended by authorities just blocks away fewer than 10 minutes later. His victim, 15-year-old Larry King, died within two days and was buried in a cemetery on **Valentine Road**—which provides the ironic name for Marta Cunningham's extraordinary documentary debut feature about the tragedy.

It's ironic because two days before the shooting King approached McInerney at school and asked him, in front of several of his friends, to be his valentine. That wasn't the first time the openly gay King had publicly verbalized his attraction to McInerney, who was straight and the embarrassment of being the object of a same-sex attraction—in particular by a boy who also used make-up and wore female clothing to school—was widely seen as the motive for the killing.

In Cunningham's film—which debuted Oct. 7 on HBO and which will be broadcast throughout the month—King's declaration and, even more, his burgeoning acceptance and public display of his transgender status, are seen as just cause for McInerney to end his life. Time and time again, the movie gives those involved—teachers, jurors, attorneys, family, and friends—a platform upon which they hang themselves by almost eagerly revealing their deeply ingrained prejudices toward King's behavior and deride his insistence on being his true self. Never have I seen a film that is a more telling example of the "blame the victim" mentality.

Cunningham's film is filled with dozens of



Fifteen-year-old homicide victim Larry King in Valentine Road. Photo from HBO Documentary Films

moments that leave one enraged at the vile insidiousness of prejudice and the justification for violence done in its name. It's never in doubt that the diminutive King—an adopted child whose hardscrabble life finally found a measure of peace and acceptance when he was placed in a group home for troubled youth—was the tragic victim of a hate crime.

However, the reasons for that crime by its perpetrator—who also came from an extremely troubled background—and the larger, complex questions surrounding social and institutional attitudes toward sexual minorities, gun violence and the judicial process are also explored in Cunningham's remarkable film. Its horrifying clear in the unforgettable Valentine Road, a deeply thought-provoking documentary, that McInerney's heinous crime had consequences far beyond the ultimate one suffered by his unfortunate victim. <http://www.hbo.com/documentaries/valentine-road>

Briefly noted: Director Jim Mickle's **We Are What We Are**, opening this Friday at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., is another welcome entry in the ongoing revival of horror movies that relies on character and setting rather than shock and gore to chill audiences to the marrow. No one seems to think it odd that so many young women have gone missing and no one seems to connect their disappearances

with the elusive Parker clan. But during a period of unending rain, accompanied by flooding of the area's waterways, pieces of evidence surface that suggest that the Parkers are a lot more than the pious, churchy folk they seem to be.

The death of Mrs. Parker in what appears to be a drowning (but is actually something much more sinister) especially piques the curiosity of the local forensics expert whose own daughter went missing years before. It won't be long before various outsiders will attempt to pierce the shroud of mystery surrounding the family that is headed by a stern patriarch (Bill Sage, who was so memorable as the child molester in *Mysterious Skin*).

Mickle's film is a moody, slow-building remake of a 2010 Mexican movie that gives away the family secret long before it reaches its horrific conclusion but that's not necessarily a bad thing in this gorgeously shot and scored picture which envelopes the audience in its dark, rain soaked landscape from beginning to end. And there are some twists in the last half hour which are both surprising and may just satisfy gore fans to boot. Michael Parks is wonderful as the suspicious pathologist while Julia Garner and Ambyr Childers are preternaturally beautiful and eerie as the teenage Parker girls, charged by their unyielding father with continuing the

family "traditions." Out actor Kelly McGillis has a small but telling part as a kindly neighbor. www.musicboxtheatre.com

Film notes:

—**A day of Halloween movies:** If it's October, it must be time for horror-movie marathons. The first up is *The Massacre* which is being held at the Patio Theater, 6008 W. Irving Park Rd., and starts Saturday, Oct. 12, at 11 a.m. (A second 24-hour horror marathon is being held on Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Music Box; there'll be details on that line-up in next week's column.)

Highlights of *The Massacre* include a great assortment of old and new creepy classics and schlock masterpieces—*Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man*, *Hellraiser II*, *Army of Darkness*, *April Fool's Day* and *Slither*, among them. The fest also includes a rare screening of 1985's *Nightmare on Elm Street 2: Freddy's Revenge* with a big bonus: Mark Patton, the openly gay, HIV-positive star of the film (see my interview with him in this issue) will be on hand for a post-screening Q&A, and sign autographs and pose for photos with fans. *The Massacre* includes vendor tables, prizes, a live charity auction for Vital Bridges and more. <https://www.facebook.com/events/490868644336874/>

—**Chicago home-movie day:** All Chicagoans are invited to dig out the best of their Super 8 home movies—beloved records of family and cultural occasions—and bring these celluloid histories to the Chicago History Museum (1601 N. North Ave.) on Saturday, Oct. 19. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., members of the Northwest Chicago Film Society, which sponsors this annual event (this is the third) will inspect your films, project them and offer tips on preservation and how to transfer them. This year's attendees will also get to participate in Home Movie Day Bingo which features an assortment of prizes donated by local film organizations like the Gene Siskel Film Center and Chicago Filmmakers. Admission is free. <http://www.chicagofilmarchives.org/current-events/chicago-home-movie-day-2013>

—**DVD of note: Laurence Anyway**, from out writer-director French Canadian wunderkind Xavier Dolan, is out on DVD from Breaking Glass Pictures. Dolan's nearly three-hour story is the story of a French schoolteacher and the impact his transition to becoming female has on his relationship with his fiery girlfriend (portrayed by Suzanne Clement in a career-altering performance). Dolan's movie, epically scaled from 1989 through the mid-'90s (the soundtrack and fashions are spot-on) really gets at the heart of the emotional challenges facing both the person desperately needing to transition and the conflicts faced by their loved ones. Heartfelt, messy, filled with genuine emotional insight, Dolan's movie is a marvel. <http://bgpics.com/>



Julia Garner in *We Are What We Are*. Image from 2013 Entertainment One Films US

Reeling announces movie line-up

Reeling, the second longest-running LGBT film festival in the world and a Chicago staple for more than 30 years, returns to the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., for its opening-night presentation Thursday, Nov. 7, and then moves on to its main venue, The Logan Theatre, 2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Nov. 8-14.

The fest's home base—Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark St.—will also host screenings.

Reeling launches its eight-day festival with the opening-night gala presentation of *G.B.F.*, by Darren Stein (*Jawbreaker*). The movie features performances by Megan Mullally, SNL's Horatio Sanz, Jonathan Silverman, Rebecca Gayheart, Harry Potter's Evanna Lynch and Natasha Lyonne.

A closing-night reception will be held at the Stan Mansion, 2408 N. Kedzie Ave. The movies being shown Nov. 14 are *Ludwig II*, *Reaching for the Moon* and *Ian Harvie Superhero*.

Other highlights include *Black Box*, writer-director Stephen Cone's follow-up to *The Wise Kids*; Anna Margarita Albelo's black comedy *Who's Afraid of Vagina Wolf?*; *Interior.Leather*.

Bar, a collaboration between James Franco and Travis Mathews that ruminates on the missing footage from director William Friedkin's *Cruising*; and *The Abominable Crime*, which looks at the violence that gays and lesbians experience in Jamaica.

Complete information is at www.reelingfilm-festival.org.

Crystal Bowersox at City Winery Oct. 15

Singer Crystal Bowersox is slated to perform at City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph St., this fall.

Bowersox, a season-nine finalist on *American Idol*, is performing Tuesday, Oct. 15 (\$25-\$45). Her City Winery Chicago debut is in support of her sophomore release, *All That For This*, produced by Steve Berlin (Sheryl Crow, Los Lobos, John Lee Hooker).

Among the many other acts that will perform at City Winery later this year are Rachael Yamagata (Oct. 16); Shawn Colvin (Oct. 22-23); Lisa Marie Presley (Oct. 25); *Cowboy Junkies* (Oct. 26); *Bettye LaVette* (Oct. 28-29); and *Sinead O'Connor* (Nov. 4-6).

To purchase concert tickets, call 312-733-WINE (9463) or visit www.citywinery.com.

Mark Patton: 'Nightmare on Elm Street 2' actor on the film's gay subtext

BY RICHARD KNIGHT JR.

To say that Mark Patton's journey has been fraught with ups and downs is to define the cliché.

A fresh-faced young actor from Kansas City, Patton arrived in Manhattan in the early '80s and quickly landed the role of Joe Qualley in Robert Altman's off-Broadway sensation, *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*. Patton co-starred with Cher, Sandy Dennis, a then-unknown Kathy Bates and a batch of other well-known actresses. The play became a must-see for the New York glitterati and soon Patton was nightclubbing with David Bowie, Andy Warhol and the like. When it came time to make the film in 1982, Patton was immediately signed to repeat his role as the fey teen boy who transitions to female, becoming the coolly controlled woman played by the late Karen Black in one of her most intriguing roles.

After moving to Hollywood, Patton won the coveted lead in 1985 as Jesse, the mixed-up teenager opposite Robert Englund's maniacal Freddy Krueger in the first sequel to the *Nightmare on Elm Street* horror franchise. This coup and the financial success of the movie were bittersweet, as Patton found being open about his



Mark Patton in *Nightmare on Elm Street 2*.

gay sexuality was a taboo in Tinseltown. A few years later, torn between accepting a leading role in a television series as a gay character but told he'd have to remain in the closet, Patton decided to leave acting behind. That bitter blow was followed by a positive HIV diagnosis and years of health challenges.

More than 25 years later Patton—now 49, healthy and relaxed—has reinvented himself as a successful Puerto Vallarta-based interior designer who lives with husband Hector. He has come to embrace his time in the spotlight starring in *A Nightmare On Elm Street 2: Freddy's Revenge* and, thanks to the movie's infamous gay subtext, his status as the world's first male "scream queen."

The film will be shown Saturday, Oct. 12, as part of the annual 24-hour horror marathon *The Massacre at the Patio Theater*, 6008 W. Irving Park Rd. Patton will be on hand to sign autographs, pose for photos with fans and regale the audience with tales from his fascinating time in Hollywood. Patton chatted with *Windy City Times* from his home in Mexico.

Windy City Times: You had this great success with "Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean"—a year on Broadway and then the filming which

led to a life-long friendship with Cher and the others in the cast—an incredible experience.

Mark Patton: It really was. In fact, I am writing a book about that fantastic period which should be coming out early next year. I'd been thinking about it for quite a while, but losing both Marta Heflin and Karen Black recently really lit a fire under me.

WCT: I look forward to that. And Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean eventually led to *Nightmare 2*—which was a really coveted part, right?

MP: It was huge, absolutely. Michael Murphy, one of the producers of the film, said to me, "You're never hired as the star of a movie by accident." Even if you've only done one of those big Hollywood movies, it's an amazing experience to be selected in that way. It was wonderful.

WCT: I'm going to guess that while you were filming the movie you were maybe not closeted but a little circumspect. This was the mid-'80s in Hollywood, after all.

MP: Well, actually, the way that it worked was this: When I was in New York I just lived my life, which is what one did in New York. Then I went to Hollywood and it was a completely and utterly different story. Personally, I was always



Mark Patton (right) with Matt Dillon and Chaz Bono in the 1980s. Photo by Andy Warhol

were filming—in that S&M kinda bar and that shower scene—did you immediately get that?

MP: We filmed the bar scene at the Detour [an infamous West Coast leather bar]! I was way past it at that point—I knew what was going on at that point. But literally the straight guys on the set—the director, the DP, the producers—they were dumb as a box of rocks about this. It would not have entered their minds. Bob Shaye, the owner of New Line, plays the bartender in the gay bar!

WCT: I believe you've said that the person who inserted the gay subtext was the screenwriter.

MP: David Chaskin, yes. This has been the big question—why did he do it? He always said that he didn't write it as a gay movie and he denied it forever. When really pushed up against the wall he would say, "Well, the actor in the lead—not even using my name—was so gay that he made the film gay" and I don't know whether David is gay or straight but I will tell you this: I think a closeted gay person in a position of power in show business is one of the most treacherous people that a gay actor can ever encounter.

WCT: Did Robert Englund know about this?

MP: Not a clue. It just wasn't on the radar of those guys. I mean, please, the coach, before they strap him up to the wall, he's getting shot at by balls—he's playing with his balls and they're shooting at him like they're ejaculating out of penises. [Laughs] If you watch me in the bedroom scene when I'm naked in the bed and the room starts to melt—the candles look like big dicks and they're dripping white wax on my body like they're coming on me. If you really take it all the way, like a couple of doctoral students have—look at Freddy Krueger in context—he's always vicious to women.

WCT: Talk about closeted.

MP: Right—but he's lovely to me. He's always very tender with me. The only people who are killed in that film are boys. Any boy who gets close to me, he kills them. So, it's been interesting for me to watch the revisionism on the tours I've done. Robert [Englund] will now say he knew all along and that it was part of the subtext for both of us. I love Robert but that's total bullshit! [Laughs]

WCT: It's hilarious to see this now but at the time...

MP: It was terrifying. I started getting fan mail that said, "Faggot, faggot" and "Jesse's a homo" and all that kind of stuff. It was a terrible time. My lover was dying and everybody had AIDS and I quit the business. I should have gone back to New York but instead I said, I'm done and I took off in another direction.

WCT: As an out gay man, what I love about your journey, Mark, is to see someone come full-circle and not only embrace your past but to be at peace about it and have a sense of

humor, to boot. You know how rare it is to have an out gay man in a horror-film franchise.

MP: Thank you—there was always a little voice in my ear whispering, "Show business isn't through with you" and it seems that that voice was right. They call me the Greta Garbo of horror because I disappeared for so long. Now they call me the Joan Crawford of horror because I'm so good to my fans.

WCT: [Laughs] "I AM one of your fans!!!"

MP: I do, I love my fans—especially my GLBT fans and I can't wait to meet them in Chicago.

See <http://www.mark-patton.com> and facebook.com/terrorintheaisles.

'Center on Culture' through Oct. 26

Center on Culture, a new theater series coordinated by Center on Halsted, is continuing.

The New York City-based, all-male, classical string and singing quartet Well-Strung will be putting their own spin on the music of Mozart, Vivaldi, Rihanna, Adele, Lady Gaga and others Friday-Saturday, Oct. 18-19, at 6 p.m.

Lastly, there will be a special preview performance of Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* produced by Timeline Theatre Company at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. The special performance will be Saturday, Oct. 26, at 7 p.m.

Visit <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/culture>. For information on sponsorship opportunities, contact Dustin Erikstrup at 773-661-0957 or derikstrup@centeronhalsted.org.

Andersonville Arts Weekend Oct. 11-13

The 11th annual Andersonville Arts Weekend will take place Friday-Sunday, Oct. 11-13.

It will be centered at Clark Street and Berwyn Avenue.

The art walk will be open on Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Among the Friday (Oct. 11) events is Unity Lutheran Church (1212 W. Balmoral Ave.) hosting a night of art, theater and dance.

Visit www.andersonville.org/artweekend or call 773-728-2995.

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Five Worth Finding: Food edition

BY ANDREW DAVIS

I usually write an intermittent Five Worth Finding column that covers everything from Web pages to clothes. However, this article is devoted specifically to four restaurants and one dessert company with items that deserve a look (and taste):

—**Benny's Pub & Eatery at Horseshoe Casino** (www.horseshoehammond.com/restaurants.html): Hammond, Ind.'s, gambling mecca has several eateries, including Foo Noodle Bar, which Savor has previously profiled. Gamblers who want something a little more upscale can enjoy Jack Binion's Steakhouse but the casual Benny's (with Chef Christopher Baulo) certainly has more than enough for any diner.

Appetizers include shrimp platter and pig skins; burgers include The Miracle (with crispy chicken skin, braised oxtail and bone marrow; and grilled-cheese concoctions, such as Double Popper (which comes with cream cheese, American cheese and jalapenos). However, it's the shakes that may have people returning—selections include non-alcoholic ones such as Buttercake, and alcohol-based items like the Jiminy Cricket (with chocolate and creme de menthe) and the \$100 Shake (with Louis 13 cognac, peanut butter, bacon, vanilla ice cream, bananas and 99 Bananas Liqueur).



The barn burner burger at Benny's at Horseshoe Casino. Photos by Andrew Davis



—**Lounge menu at The Tortoise Club** (TortoiseClub.com): The Tortoise Club (at 350 N. State St.) still has its laid-back sophistication, but has amped its attraction factor even more with more sumptuous bar bites. Among the items are chorizo dip, crispy olives, peanut butter bacon toast and—in what seems to be a trend—cocktail shakes. (Tortoise Club's shakes are The Hummer, an espresso-flavored concoction, and the chocolate-mint Grasshopper.) Also, if you're lucky, you'll be entertained by bartender Shanna, who resembles actress Megan Fox and is pretty witty, to boot.



The Tippy Tortoise at The Tortoise Club.



—**J. Rocco** (www.jroccoitalian.com): This two-story Italian eatery in the River North area (749 N. Clark St.) just opened, and it specializes in rustic dishes. There's a very savory selection for people to choose from, including various pasta dishes (gnocchi, tagliolini, fusilli), risotto, lamb and even sturgeon. However, the upstairs bar—with items including pizza and meatballs as well as duck-sausage pizza—might be even more attractive.

Turn to page 27

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was registered by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County. Registration Number: D13135824 on September 30, 2013 Under the Assumed Business Name of NINE BLACKMON with the business located at 3170 N Sheridan Rd, Chicago, IL 60657. The true and real full name and residence address of the owner is Myron Spencer Davis, 3170 N Sheridan Rd, Chicago IL 60657, USA. (10/23/13-3)

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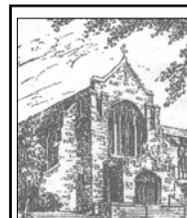


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WELL-STRUNG from page 24

ular, including classic pop hits, and we try to figure out what songs are going to work for the quartet, in terms of arrangement and in terms of our voices.

Chris Marchant: My favorite [part of the show] is Ke\$ha. People do not expect a string quartet to cover Ke\$ha, but I think her music is really smart. I do.

Daniel Shevlin: [Laughs]

WCT: Did you just say you think Ke\$ha's music is really smart?

Chris Marchant: Yes. And you can quote me on that. [Laughs]

WCT: Did you know each other prior to forming Well-Strung?

Chris Marchant: None of us knew each other. I knew of Edmond—but none of us had met before. After Mark [Cortale, producer/co-writer] approached me in Provincetown and asked me if wanted to collaborate on this project, I sent out a mass text message to all of my musical and musical theater friends, and that is how we found Daniel. We found him first, and then we did auditions in New York City in the winter of 2012.

WCT: You know some members of your gay male audience probably wonder if any of you

Well-Strung.
Photo by Scott
Henrichsen



Well-Strung fellows have hooked up or dated each other.

Chris Marchant: We've never dated each other.

WCT: There was a long pause before you gave your answer, Chris, which makes me think maybe there's something you're not telling me.

Daniel Shevlin: There's no funny business. [Laughs] We're kinda like brothers, so that would be very awkward!

WCT: Since you'll be performing in the heart of Boystown, do you think you'll have time to venture out and explore the neighborhood's nightlife?

Daniel Shevlin: I plan to go out, definitely. Sidetrack is the bar I am most familiar with—I've been there the most. I just really love Chicago as a city—even though I don't visit it often. I think the Art Institute is my favorite spot in the city.

Chris Marchant: I have a lot of friends in Chicago, and I'm actually looking forward to seeing a few people in shows while I'm there! My dad and mom and step-sisters are coming to see the show, so I am excited to spend some time with them as well.

WCT: When I mentioned to a colleague that I was interviewing two members of Well-Strung, I was asked to inquire whether or not practicing on the violin for hours on end builds muscle.

Chris Marchant: [Laughs] I would say, in general no, playing doesn't build muscle. Maybe a little bit of toning is involved, but on the whole, playing the violin is not a muscle-builder. I would have to be playing a tuba for that to happen!

Daniel Shevlin [to Chris]: You should come out with a violin workout video!

Well-Strung will be performing at the Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theatre on Friday-Saturday, Oct. 18-19, beginning at 6 p.m. To view the string quartet's latest video, titled "Well-Strung Mozart Meets Kelly Clarkson," go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJTVSyt7eMQ>.

Also, see www.well-strung.com and www.centeronhalsted.org for more info.

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REAL ESTATE ISSUES? Buying - Selling - Leasing - Landlord/Tenant - Building/Remodeling. Contact The Law Office of David G. Frueh, 3843 North Broadway Street. (312) 492-4261. David@FruehLaw.com. www.FruehLaw.com (4/16/14-52)

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DISH from page 26

—**Pastoral** (www.pastoralartisan.com): Life and business partners Ken Miller and Greg O'Neill own this food-and-wine shop that has locations in Lakeview and the Loop. My favorite item is the Health Nut Salad, but there's a slew of sandwiches, cheeses, charcuterie and other tasty items. There's a reason people stop by here on their way to events in Millennium Park.

—**Miss NiNi's Fine Desserts** (www.MissNini.com): For starters, Miss NiNi offers something that no other bakery offers—the opportunity to enjoy four flavors in one cheesecake. (The Decadent Turtle and Pumpkin Cheesecake options are just sinful.) However, that's just the tip of the iceberg: Other selections include the Royal Red Velvet Cake, Cranberry Orange Bread, Chunky Chocolate Pumpkin Bread and the Better-Than-Fudge Cake, among other things. (Needless to say, carb-phobic individuals need not apply.)

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CALENDAR

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Wed., Oct. 9

Adult Education Classes for Fall 2013

Join Congregation Or Chadash for their Fall adult education classes. There is no charge. 7pm-9:15pm, 773-271-2148, Congregation Or Chadash 5959 N. Sheridan Rd., <http://www.orchadash.org/>

Dolores DeLuca Book-signing Dolores DeLuca will be appearing at Women & Children First to promote her new book; 7:30pm-9pm, 773.769.9299, Women & Children First 5233 N. Clark St., <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/>

Signs of Life Signs of Life, a new drama with music based on the true story of the Czech ghetto Theresienstadt, tells one of the most fascinating and least known stories of the Holocaust. 8pm-10pm, 773.871.3000, Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N Lincoln Ave., <http://www.signsoflifethemusical.com>

Q&A Trivia with 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>

Thursday, Oct. 10

Leader Luncheon 2013 The YWCA Leader Luncheon honors individuals for outstanding achievement in their chosen career fields and one leader for a commitment to racial justice. Since 1972, honoring women for their career achievements. 12pm-1:30pm, 312-762-2743, 200 North Columbus Dr., <http://gopride.com/z8yd>

49th Chicago International Film Festival The 49th Chicago International Film Festival will take place through Oct. 24, 2013. The oldest competitive film festival in North America, more than 150 films including short films, documentaries, feature films will be presented. 12pm, 312-683-0121, AMC River East 21, 322 E Illinois St., <http://www.chicagofilmfestival.com>

Dining Out for Equality Enjoy a great meal while supporting the great cause of equality in Illinois. Make your reservation today! 6pm-11:30pm, HB: Home Bistro, 3404 N Halsted St., <http://eqil.org>

Chicago premiere of ONCE benefiting AIDS Legal Council of Chicago Join the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago for a special night, the Chicago premiere of ONCE

on stage! Your purchase supports ALCC's life-changing free legal services for low-income people impacted by HIV and their families, comprehensive educational programs, and statewide advocacy efforts. 7:30pm-11:30pm, Ford Center Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St., <http://www.aidslegal.com>; Tickets: <http://once.brownpapertickets.com/>

Maz Jobrani Founding member of "The Axis of Evil Comedy Tour," which aired on Comedy Central in 2007. \$27. Through Oct. 12. Thurs. 8 p.m./Fri. 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m./Sat. 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Up Comedy Club

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and bestselling author David Finkel discussing his book, Thank You for Your Service, with a book-signing and reception to follow. Registration is required. 6 pm Pritzker Military Library, 104 S. Michigan Ave., #400. pritzkermilitarylibrary.org or 312-374-9333, ext. 2006

Friday, Oct. 11

Reparations On My Soul Community Conversation: What Do Reparations Look Like? Panelists include Joey Mogul, attorney with the People's Law Office. 6pm-7:15pm, followed by Opening Reception with the artists for a new exhibit by the Chicago Torture Justice Memorials, 7:30-9pm. Art In These Times, 2040 N. Milwaukee Ave.; artinthesetimes.wordpress.com

By Women For Women: A Night of Art, Fashion and Engagement Cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception by LGBTQ chef, Nancy Duran. Honors Vernita Gray, Alma Izquierda and Pat Ewert with Community Leader Awards. Electric violinists The CoverGirls and fashion extravaganza. Event partners include Amigas Latinas, Affinity, The L Stop, and the Museum of Contemporary Art. Interactive art show by Sam Kirk, fashion show, music and dancing through the evening. Premium admission \$100, general admission \$75. By Women/For Women is a component of Center on Halsted's Women's Action Committee (WAC). Attire cocktail chic. 6pm, 773-661-0791, Crystal Gardens at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave., Tickets: <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/bywomenforwomen>

Master Class Terrence McNally's stage biography of legendary opera diva Maria Callas. Inspired by a series of master classes conducted by Callas at the Julliard School; 8pm-10pm, 800-595-4849, No Exit Cafe, 6970 N. Glenwood Ave., <http://www.theo-u.org/>

The Legacy Project Phase II dedication ceremony The Legacy Project works to educate the general public about the many roles LGBT people have played in the advancement of world history and culture. 5:30 pm. 3324 N. Halsted St. (Second part tomorrow at Sidetrack 3-6 p.m.; \$50-\$100) <http://legacyprojectchicago.org>

About Face Presents The Black and Tan Supper Club. Exclusive speakeasy throwback to Chicago's "black and tan" nightclubs of the 1920s will take place at the Stan Mansion, 2408 N. Kedzie Ave. Captivating line-up of gender-bending performances celebrating About Face Theatre, hosted by Artistic Associate Paul Oakley Stovall. Classic cocktails and fine dining by J&L Catering complete this limited-seating, speakeasy send-off. 7-10 pm. www.aboutface theatre.com or 773-784-8565

Andersonville Arts Weekend Featuring artwork and performances by artists in many Andersonville venues. Presented by the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce, showcasing the work of visual and performance artists in local businesses. Art walk and many events and performances are free. Costs for remaining performances vary. Through Oct. 13. 773-728-2995. Centered at Clark & Berwyn, 5300 N. Clark. www.andersonville.org/artsweekend

Saturday, Oct. 12

E. Patrick Johnson, Lavender University E. Patrick Johnson, Gathering Honey: Oral Histories of Black Southern Women Who Love Women. Windy City Times and Center on Halsted offer nine -month series of LGBTQ educational programs featuring prominent scholars. More info: publisher@windycitymediagroup.com or ikarlic@centeronhalsted.org. 11am-1pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, Chicago, <http://gopride.com/z80d>

Social Charity Ball This Social Charity Ball benefits the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and The Trevor Project. The setting will fuse elegance with a fun evening vibe. Live entertainment provided by the Mixtrumental Nightclub Orchestra, featuring Violinist Phyllis Calderon and DJ Kevin Barker. Tickets are \$60; 7pm-10pm, 903-330-0703, Minibar, 3341 N Halsted St., <http://www.minibarchicago.com/#!social-charity-ball/c1q05>

#GodHatesHashtags GayCo Productions presents the brand new sketch comedy show: a searingly silly look at the evolving gay community, exploring the burning questions; is Stockholm syndrome necessarily a BAD thing; is there more to the twerkers of Halsted than meets the eye; and with all the recent advancements in gay rights, how will we handle our happily ever after? 7:30pm-8:30pm, Donny's Skybox at the Second City, <http://gayco.com/godhateshashtags>

An Evening with Gilbert & Sullivan: Trial by Jury Join us as court comes to order,

to find out if justice is served and Angelina finds matrimonial bliss. A benefit to support the continuance of musical events performance series. LGBT friendly congregation. Adults \$30/ Students \$15; 7:30pm-9:15pm, 708/848-6225x109, Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple, Oak Park, <http://gopride.com/z92l>; Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/454095>

Master Class Terrence McNally's stage biography of legendary opera diva Maria Callas. Inspired by a series of master classes conducted by Callas at the Julliard School; 8pm-10pm, 800-595-4849, No Exit Cafe, 6970 N. Glenwood Ave., www.theo-u.org/

"Rocky Horror Picture Show," Not one, but three showings of the cult classic! Join Quest Theatre Ensemble for a pub crawl around the neighborhood, ending with a screening of the film at The Call, 1547 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., and a costume contest. Advance tickets: \$30 or 2 for \$50. Day-of: \$35. Includes bar entry, film showing, one drink at film showing, event swag, and a Rocky Horror prop bag. Movie showing only is \$15. www.questensemble.org or emailreynolds@questensemble.org.

Sunday, Oct. 13

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., <http://www.roscoes.com>

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

Bank of America Chicago Marathon The Bank of America Chicago Marathon is the pinnacle of achievement for elite athletes and everyday runners alike. Runners from all 50 states and more than 100 countries will set out to accomplish a personal dream by reaching the finish line in Grant Park. 7am-5pm, Grant Park, <http://gopride.com/z94z>

March Out Loud comedy benefit for the March on Springfield for Marriage Equality. Bill Cruz, Patty Vaccarella, Frank Townsend. \$20. Spyners Pub, 4623 N. Western Ave. Doors 6:30pm, Purchase tickets at Spyners Pub or contact Diane Mareci amyzngraz@att.net or call 773-744-0010

Monday, Oct. 14

Dragzilla Amateur Drag Contest Come party with RuPaul's Drag Race Season 4 Fan Fave DIDA RITZ as she hosts Spin's Dragzilla Amateur Drag Contest every Monday! 10pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave, <http://www.spin-nightclub.com>



POWER COUPLE

Friday, Oct. 11

For Women By Women will honor Pat Ewert (left) and Vernita Gray—along with Alma Izquierdo—at Navy Pier.
Photo of Ewert and Gray by Erica Demarest

Tuesday, Oct. 15

The Great Chicago Fire Festival The city of Chicago and Redmoon, the large-scale spectacle and public art group, create a festival culminating in a procession of illuminated floating fiberglass sculptures and fire spectacle on the main branch of the Chicago River. Exact location TBA. 7pm, Chicago River, <http://www.redmoon.org>

Lucy Smith's Autumn in Augusta CD Release Party CD Release party for Autumn in Augusta's debut album. There are two sets, 8pm & 10pm. \$10 cover/\$5 for students; 8pm-11:30pm, 312-360-0234, Jazz Showcase 806 S. Plymouth Ct., <http://www.jazzshowcase.com/>

Drag Queen BINGO Join Drag Comedienne Mercedes every Tuesday for Drag Queen Bingo! Win fun prizes and stay for the grand prize at the end of the night! 10pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., <http://www.spin-nightclub.com>

Wed., Oct. 16

A Play Date with Dyke Drama Pride Films and Plays presents an evening of new lesbian shorts written by Chicago playwright Allison Fradkin and directed by David Zak. 7:30pm-8:30pm, Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., <http://gopride.com/z94d>

Foster and Adoptive Parent Orientation Attending an orientation is a great way to learn more about what it takes to become a licensed foster parent and to help you determine if foster and/or adoptive parenting is the right decision for you and your family. 1pm-3pm, 855-WeFoster, Little City, 700 N Sacramento Ave., Suite 201, <http://www.littlecity.org/foster>

BOOK REVIEW

Zero Fade

by Chris L. Terry
\$12; Curbside Splendor
Publishing; 295 pages
BY SALLY PARSONS

Kevin, all of 13 years, has just gotten a haircut from his Uncle Paul's friend Xavier, whom he suspects is gay. This concerns him. "What if someone from school saw this fade and knew it was gay? Did I just do something gay by accident?" Kevin is into girls, and has anti-gay sentiments, so how others see him is a concern.

Much of the story of Terry's debut novel, which will appeal to young teen-age boys, gay or straight, revolves around dealing with Kevin's discomfort about gay life—especially when he learns his uncle is gay—and about Uncle Paul's coming out. When these two forces collide, the story picks up speed. "It wasn't violence that Paul feared. It was losing this relationship [with his nephew Kevin] that he'd been cultivating since he was a teenager and Kevin was a baby. It would all mean nothing if he couldn't be honest with his own family, with this kid that he thought the world of."



Chris L. Terry.

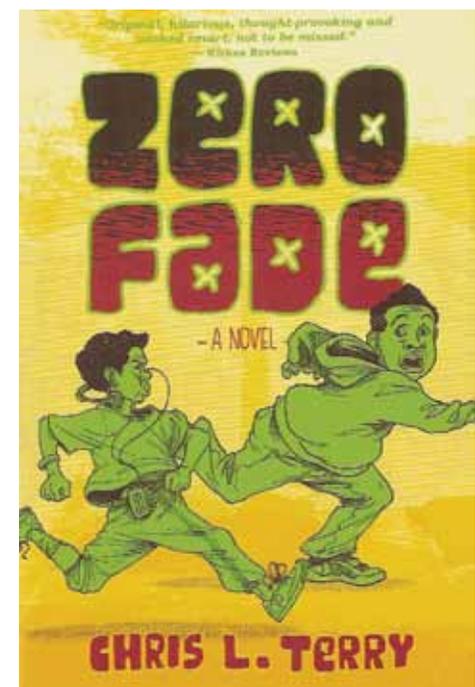
The novel takes place in Richmond, Va., in the '90s, where the author spent some of his teen years. Kevin, the young boy who is the soul of this book, is hurting from the absence of his father, who left the family long ago. We ache at Kevin's description of writing a letter and putting his dad's name on the envelope (sans address) in hopes he would get it. "Maybe," says Kevin, "he was the mailman and would find it that way."

Terry is an accomplished writer who understands a youthful boy's perspective, portrays it with the proper mix of humor and gravitas, and peppers the telling with the vernacular of young people in the '90s. Zero Fade is a good read for adults as well—entertaining plus informative on how a teen-age boy might awaken to the harm homophobia can do.

The reader can easily identify with the characters in this novel—Kevin, Laura his older sister, his friend David, their mom, and Uncle Paul as they deal with what matters—becoming comfortable within your own skin, dating, and dealing with bullies.

Chris "C.T." Terry is a writer, editor and teacher, with an MFA in fiction writing MFA from Chicago's Columbia College, where he works in student engagement. He teaches writing and theater to juvenile inmates. Terry spent his late

teens and early twenties touring North America and Europe, singing for punk bands.



BILLY MASTERS

"When I cheat on my partner, he's cheating on me at the same time at the other end of the same guy."—Dan Savage tells the ladies of The View how he and his partner define "cheating." He may have gotten more than he bargained for when guest co-host Jason Biggs put his arm around him and said, "What are you doing after the show?"

I don't want to cause a panic, but have you heard that we're going through a national catastrophe? Now, I don't know all of the details because this isn't really my department, but I'm sure many of you have heard rumblings of this travesty unfolding: Hollywood is suffering a severe shortage of lesbians.

Celebrities of the Sapphic persuasion have been forced to mix and match partners seemingly at whim. Admittedly, this is an age-old practice that I believe first came to prominence with the establishment of the U-Haul. But now it's gotten out of control. Reportedly, Jodie Foster is currently dating Alexandra Hedison. If that name sounds familiar, it's because she was previously involved with Ellen DeGeneres (in between

from those that we assume appose us or our beliefs then we will never make strides in the right direction." I have always found Bromstad to be not only talented but also a lovely person. That said, I'm not sure which is more troublesome: the incorrect use of the word "whom," the misspelled "appose" or calling himself a "celebrity."

The boys of Queer Eye for the Straight Guy know a thing or two about looking good. These five gay men were trailblazers not only for being openly gay, but for encouraging straight men to embrace their own secret desire to look as hot as their gay counterparts. Believe it or not, it's been 10 years since the show launched. And, in case you don't remember, things were mighty different in 2003. For one thing, I had only been in print for eight years—and there were twice as many gay papers back then as there are now.

But enough about me. The Bravo network was known for classic films, some theater, opera, etc. This show helped put them on the map as our *de facto* gay television network (something that really no other network has touched) and also helped them rebrand and launch all subsequent



Michelle Rodriguez has revealed that she's bisexual. Photo by Giles Keyte

Portia and that wackjob who spoke to aliens). This drought of dames has even forced Anne Heche to go back to men. Stop the insanity!

And that leads to our revelation about actress Michelle Rodriguez—she's bisexual. This is perhaps the most shocking announcement since Elton John married that Italian chick. Like Elton, the sexual preference of Rodriguez was pretty much taken for granted. The problem is, she consistently denied it ... and vehemently. Back in 2011, she was asked specifically about the rumors on the red carpet for *Battle: Los Angeles*: "I'm not a lesbian. Yeah! Mitchie likes sausage." (Yes, that one shocked even me. Who knew that *Battle: Los Angeles* had a red-carpet premiere?) Rodriguez seemed to have carpets on the mind during a recent interview with *Entertainment Weekly*: "I don't talk about what I do with my vagina. I've never walked the carpet with anyone, so they wonder: What does she do with her vagina? Plus, I play a butchy girl all the time, so they assume I'm a lesbo. Eh, they're not too far off." She added, "I've gone both ways. I do as I please."

Although they may be running out of real lesbians, Hollywood has figured out that television lesbians are good for ratings. Within moments of her first appearance on *Two and a Half Men*, Amber Tamblyn found herself gainfully employed. No sooner had the character of Charlie's previously unknown lesbian daughter showed up in the season premiere, than her status changed from recurring to a series regular.

David Bromstad has caused a bit of a flurry within spitting distance of Fort Lauderdale—and it's entirely possible some of that spit will land on my property! The openly gay designer will be hosting a charity event for the Salvation Army—which, as you all know, has a long history of anti-gay rhetoric. Why would he do such a thing? As he writes on Facebook, "I've read your feedback on my participation with the Salvation Army USA, as an openly gay person whom just happens to also be a celebrity. I took the Salvation Army's request to participate in their fundraiser as one step in the right direction towards equality. If we simply separate ourselves

reality shows. And now Carson Kressley, Jai Rodriguez, Thom Filicia, Kyan Douglas and Ted Allen will be back on Bravo for a special. *Queer Eye Reunion: 10 Years Later* will be hosted by (of course) Andy Cohen. I can only hope someone flips over a table or storms off the set. The reunion has been taped and will air later this month. For now, we'll share a photo from the set on our website.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Jason in Texas: "Who is that tall drink of water on *Dancing with the Stars*? My God, he's gorgeous. Where did he come from? Is he gay? He looks like a soap star—or at least a model."

Now who could Jason be talking about? Bill Nye, the Science Guy? Nah, he must mean Brant Daugherty, who looks like he could be the love-child of Matt Bomer and James Marsden. Brant is best known for his role on ABC Family's *Pretty Little Liars*. He was also on what turned out to be the final season of *Army Wives*. But, what I'm sure is most interesting to my readers is that he has both homosexuality and soaps in his background. Earlier this year, he had a recurring role on *Days of Our Lives* as Brian, who was trying to get between Sonny and Will. (Ironically, Brant was one of the actors up for the role of Will). So, yes, he was playing a gay character. And, lemme just say that his scenes with Sonny were incredibly steamy, as you'll see on *BillyMasters.com*.

Since I need to fulfill my celebrity skin quota of the week, we bring you Chris Hemsworth, whose luscious ass features prominently in the film *Rush*. If that's all you're interested in, head on over to our website.

When I'm featuring the right end of a Hemsworth, it's definitely time to end yet another column. For those of you who need a little more, check out www.BillyMasters.com, the site that always leaves you with a happy ending. If you have a question, send it along to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I personally fund research to create a child from Matt Bomer and James Marsden. So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

photos by Archer

New Nights...
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Thurs, Oct 24

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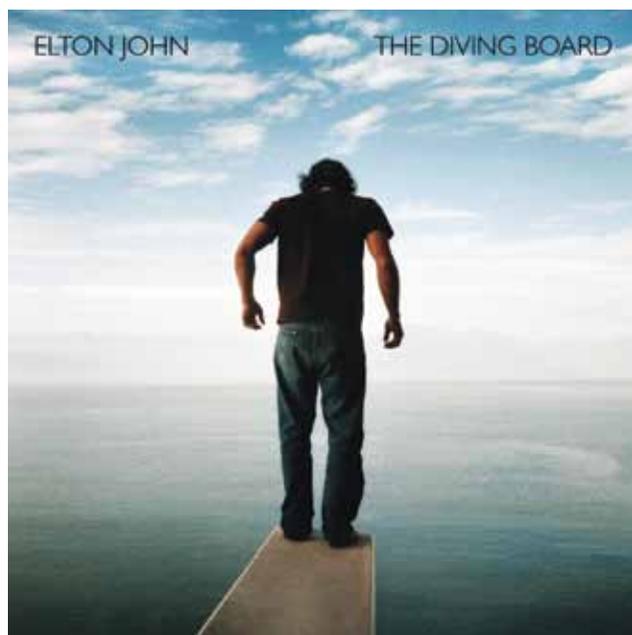
Janelle Monae tour in Chicago Oct. 21

Bad Boy/Wondaland/Atlantic recording artist Janelle Monae has announced plans for her upcoming North American headline tour.

The tour—supporting her newest CD, *The Electric Lady*—will begin Oct. 13 in Philadelphia and conclude Nov. 26 in Atlanta. The tour will stop in Chicago Oct. 21 with a concert at the Vic Theatre.

On *The Electric Lady*, Monae teams with such singers as Prince, Erykah Badu, Miguel, Solange and Esperanza Spalding.

See www.jmonae.com.



Elton's CD, 'The Diving Board,' out on Capitol

Capitol Records has released Elton John's *The Diving Board*, the artist's first solo studio album in seven years.

Produced by T Bone Burnett, the album features 12 new songs written by Elton and his long-time lyricist Bernie Taupin, as well as three piano interludes composed by the artist.

The Diving Board is available in multiple formats: standard, deluxe, super-deluxe and a 180-gram two-disc vinyl set. The super-deluxe package is in a specially designed and embossed box, and includes the deluxe CD

and 180-gram vinyl versions of the album, a DVD of the Capitol Records Studios performances and behind-the-scenes action, a case-bound photo book and exclusive art print.

Proud to Run seeks 2014 beneficiaries

Proud To Run, which comprises Chicago's Pride Weekend 5 and 10K runs, is accepting applications from organizations wishing to be considered as beneficiaries for next year.

Proud To Run's board of directors will consider applications from organizations that serve the Chicago-area LGBT community; clearly define the need or have a project with a specific timeline and budget; are community-based and -driven; and are grassroots in nature or do not receive a large part of their budget from state or federal grants.

See www.proudtorun.org. The deadline to submit an application is Nov. 30.

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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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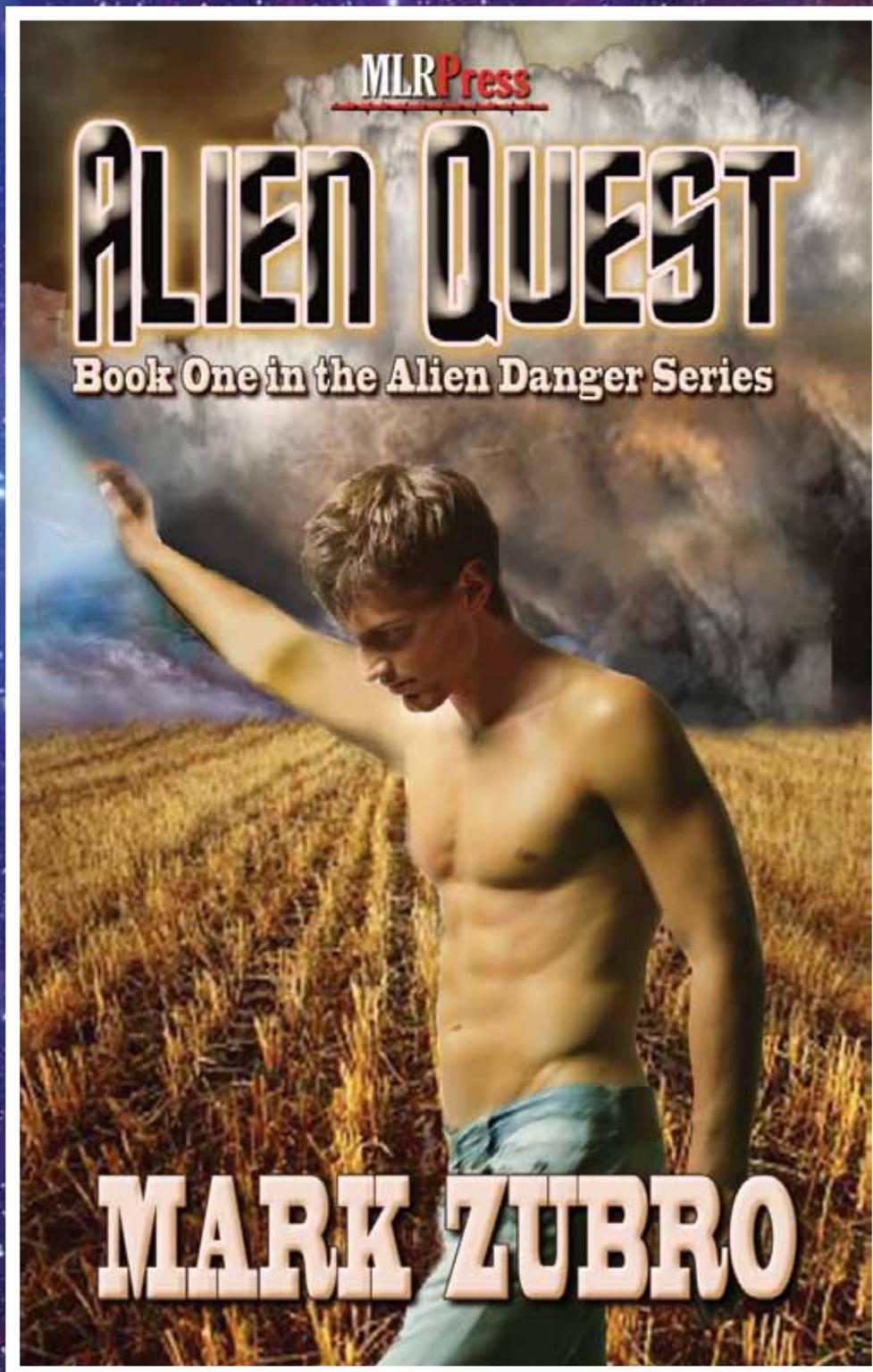
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