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

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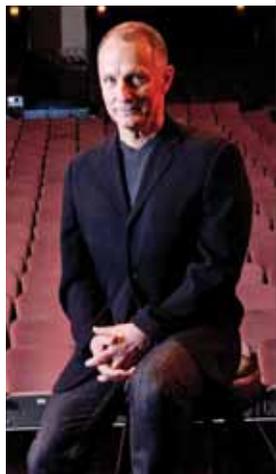
MIRIAM HOOVER REFLECTS ON TURNING 100

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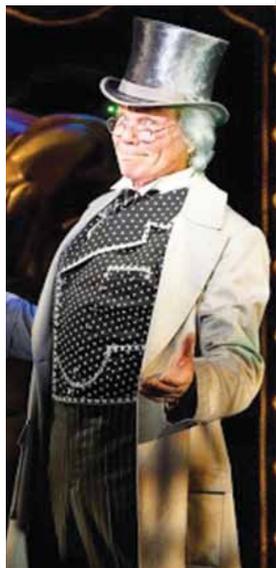
FORMER MASS. CHIEF JUSTICE MARGARET MARSHALL HONORED

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JIM CORTI: FROM BROADWAY TO AURORA'S PARAMOUNT THEATRE

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Big push is on for Illinois marriage law

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Operatives from the coalition lobbying for same-sex marriage equality in Illinois said Oct. 24 they would keep pushing so that a vote on SB10, the Religious Freedom and Marriage Equality Act, would take place sometime when the Illinois House meets for the second part of the veto session Nov. 5-7.

John Kohlhepp, campaign director of Illinois Unites for Marriage, said in a town hall conference call that members of the coalition were energized by the March on Springfield rally Oct. 22, which took the first day of fall veto session.

The vote did not take place that day or the next, however, and the Oct. 24 session was cancelled.

Admitting that Oct. 22-23 were days in which the House was "getting re-acclimated to Springfield," Kohlhepp nevertheless reported positive developments.



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John Kohlhepp speaks at the March on Springfield For Marriage Equality, Oct. 22. Photo by Hal Baim

DARLING ENTERTAINERS



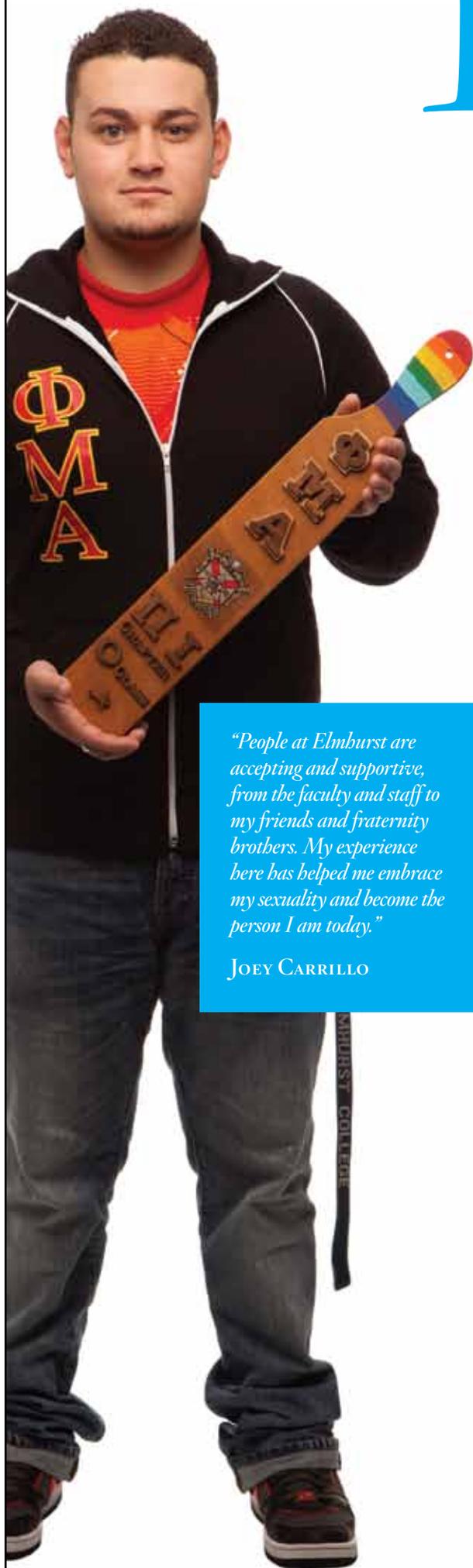
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Windy City Times talks with singer Cyndi Lauper (left), who's coming to town this weekend. In addition, there's a review of the movie Kill Your Darlings, which stars Daniel Radcliffe (right) as the late gay writer Allen Ginsberg.

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JOEY CARRILLO

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"In a small but meaningful step, Elmhurst College is now officially telling applicants that gay students are welcome on campus. The private liberal arts college is the first college in the U.S. to ask potential students about their sexual orientation or gender identity on its application....The question is meant to increase diversity at the school, which is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, and to direct incoming students toward services that might ease their transition into college life. It's also a strong signal that the school will embrace LGBT students and will do its best to support them."

—Chicago Sun-Times



"Elmhurst College does a great job of nurturing and supporting LGBT students. Coming out was hard for me, but I've been blessed to have an accepting community to come out to."

FELICIA DIAZ



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this week in
WINDY CITY TIMES

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O CANADA

Windy City Times travelled across the border to visit Toronto and the Canadian part of Niagara Falls (left).
Photo by Jerry Nunn



TV personality Andrea Metcalf was among the fitness pros at the Club Industry expo.
Photo by Andrew Davis



WCT reviews the book This House is Haunted.

STAGE LEFT



The Chicago Theatre offered special backstage tours to mark its 92nd anniversary.
Photo of k.d. lang and autographs on the backstage wall by Andrew Davis

DRAG DOLLS

"Night of 100 Drag Queens" brought out the talent to Sidetrack.

SOUTHERN INHOSPITALITY

A recent forum at the Center on Halsted looked at anti-LGBT youth bias in the Deep South.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Find out the latest about Elton John, Morgan Freeman and Tori Spelling.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

nightspots

SEXY/SCARY HALLOWEEN: PART ONE

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Former Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall at the GLAD dinner. Photo by Chuck Colbert

GLAD honors author of *Goodridge* decision

BY CHUCK COLBERT

November marks the 10-year anniversary of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) ruling that made the state the first in the nation where same-sex couples could legally marry. The court's decision jump-started the freedom to marry movement nationwide, which now includes 14 states and the District of Columbia. The ruling also infused the larger LGBT equality effort with enthusiasm, determination, and momentum.

In celebrating the landmark *Goodridge vs. Department of Public Health* decision of Nov. 18, 2003, the New England region's leading LGBT legal rights organization honored the author of that historic ruling, the Honorable Margaret H. Marshall, who served as chief justice at that time.

GLAD (Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders) selected Marshall for its Spirit of Justice Award for her lifelong commitment to justice, demonstrated by her fight against apartheid, belief in civil rights for all and dedication to the rule of law.

She was the first woman to be appointed chief justice and the second woman appointed to the SJC.

The author of more than 700 decisions, Marshall has written opinions on child welfare, against disability discrimination, and safeguards for criminal defendants, among others. But her most famous, of course, is *Goodridge*.

GLAD's 14th annual Spirit of Justice Award Dinner drew more than 1,100 people to the Boston Marriott Copley Place Oct. 25, including *Goodridge* plaintiff couples.

"This is the biggest dinner ever," GLAD's executive director Lee Swislow told the gathering.

In fact, the flagship event raised a whopping \$718,000 for the legal-rights group that brought not only the *Goodridge* lawsuit, but also two legal challenges to the 1993 Defense of Marriage Act, which the U.S. Supreme Court struck down earlier this year in *Windsor*.

"This is the first time in years," said Swislow, "that I will not be telling you about the need to take down DOMA."

That line drew sustained applause.

The theme of the evening's celebration was "Celebrating Victories, Work to be Done."

GLAD's civil-rights project director, Mary Bonauto, who argued, on March 4, 2003, before the

SJC on behalf of seven *Goodridge* plaintiffs, introduced Marshall and presented the award to her.

"The opinion could not have been more eloquent," Bonauto said in her remarks, going on to quote from *Goodridge*: "The Massachusetts Constitution affirms the dignity and equality of all individuals. It forbids the creation of second-class citizens."

"The Commonwealth," Bonauto continued, reading from the opinion, "has failed to identify any constitutionally adequate reason for denying civil marriage to same-sex couples."

The opinion's "Constitutional analysis lifted the dignity of every LGBT person," explained Bonauto.

The Spirit of Justice Award recognizes individuals whose work and achievements reflect a profound dedication to our ideal of a just society.

Accordingly, "For any lawyer, any judge it would be a great honor to receive an award from GLAD," Marshall said in her acceptance remarks. "For me, it has particular resonance" because "I was born and educated in South Africa, and grew up in apartheid where opposition to the racist, homophobic system of white supremacy was defined as criminal."

Homosexuality, too, was "defined as a crime," she said.

"I celebrate you," Marshall told the gathering, "for your insistence that the rule of law, equality under the law remain the defining gene of the DNA of the United States of America. May it never be otherwise for your children and for the generations to come. Their legacy rests in your hands."

For those who attended the award dinner, Marshall is nothing less than a legal and judicial rock star.

"She made such a huge difference for so many people across the country," said Arline Isaacson, a longtime gay-rights activist who lobbied lawmakers in the legislature to protect *Goodridge* against any constitutional amendment that would have rolled back its gains in marriage equality.

"She broke a log jam in thinking with the words she wrote, making the thoughts accessible not just legal. It was beautiful, moving, and real," said Isaacson.

Goodridge plaintiff David Wilson said the full effect of the evening and the ten years it com-

memorated had not yet "registered."

"To absorb it, the joy is overwhelming," he said.

Another plaintiff, Maureen Brodoff, a lawyer, said of Marshall, "I can't think of anyone whom I admire more, who has shown such courage."

Of "the courage it took to be first," said Brodoff, "It's easy to look back, but not many judges were willing to say what she said at the time."

For Freedom to Marry's national campaign

director, Marc Solomon, a former Mass Equality executive director, the evening was such an "emotional night," he said. "Such a memorable talk from Marshall, so understated from a truly powerful judge."

Asked what's next for the marriage-equality movement, said Solomon, "Hawaii next week; Illinois, the week after. We keep going forward. It all started here."

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GLAAD wraps Chicago meeting with reception

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The board of directors for GLAAD Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination, in conjunction with the Chicago Leadership Council, held a reception Oct. 26 at Linda Warren Projects Fine Arts Gallery, 327 N. Aberdeen St., following the organization's Fall 2013 board meeting.

Among the speakers at the reception was GLAAD Co-Chair Jennifer Finney Boylan, who is the first transgender head of a national LGBT-rights organization. She spoke on the organization's influence on how LGBT Americans are depicted in the media.

"Whether it takes us five years or 50 years, GLAAD will leverage the power of the media—to change the culture of our nation, inspire the next generation of LGBT leaders and activists, and to be a vehicle for lasting, impactful change, Boylan said. "In order for us to achieve full equality for gay, lesbian and transgender community, we must inspire change that is that the core of people's hearts and minds. We must educate the public about our communities ... and stand more loud and more proud than our opponents."

Also speaking was GLAAD's Strategic Giving Officer Wilson Cruz. He cited numerous advancements the national LGBT community had made in the past year, from "marriage



Wilson Cruz at GLAAD reception. Photo by Matt Simonette

equality, employment non-discrimination and transgender rights to Spirit Day and more inclusive representation of our community in the media."

"For 28 years, GLAAD has used the power of our collective voices to share and amplify the stories of our diverse LGBT community that have paved the way for acceptance and understanding," Cruz said.

Also appearing was actress Kate Flannery of NBC's *The Office*.



Rev. Dr. Marti Scott (left) and Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim. Photo by Lisa Howe-Ebright

Euclid Methodist marks 25 years as reconciling church

Oak Park's Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church, 405 S. Euclid Ave., held a special 25th-anniversary service Oct. 27, marking its time as part of Reconciling Ministries, which is for people of all races, creeds, gender, cultural backgrounds, gender identities or sexual orientations.

Rev. Dr. Marti Scott, pastor of the church, led the service. The Bruce Scott "Courage and Justice" Award was presented to Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim.

Bruce Scott, one of the men fired by the federal government during the "Lavender Scare" (documented in the book *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government*), was with his partner, Larry Bloom, for 20 years. Bloom was a member of the Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church up until his passing a few months ago. The award is named for Scott, who died several years ago, and was presented by Maryann, Larry Bloom's sister and Rev. Scott.

GLSEN leader speaks at Elmhurst College

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The LGBT student and the culture of respect was the theme of the 2013 William R. Johnson Intercultural lecture by GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) Executive Director Dr. Eliza Byard Oct. 23 at Elmhurst College.

An advocate for LGBT issues in K-12 education, Byard has served as GLSEN's executive director and deputy executive director for more than 10 years. As executive director, Byard has guided GLSEN's public education and advocacy efforts, student organizing and youth leadership development programs, and professional development training for educators as well as the annual No Name-Calling Week and the Think B4 You Speak Ad Council campaign. Her work has garnered bipartisan support for GLSEN's issues and acceptance for the need to include LGBT issues in K-12 education. Byard recently spoke at the 50th anniversary celebration of the March on Washington.

Prior to her stint at GLSEN, Byard spent 14 years as a producer for various non-fiction/documentary productions. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for America's Promise Alliance, the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board for Sodexo, the Steering Committee of the National Collaboration for Youth and the LGBT Suicide Prevention Task Force of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention.

Ahead of Byard's remarks, H. Scott Matheney, chaplain and dean of religious life at Elmhurst College spoke about Johnson, Elmhurst College alumni and the first openly gay person to be ordained in the United Church of Christ. In 2011, Elmhurst College named its annual LGBT lecture after Johnson and presented him with a plaque. Prior to Byard's lecture, Johnson presented a replica of his plaque to the president and students of EQUAL (Elmhurst Queers and Allies).

Byard said she's been on a journey to promote the culture of respect which most recently led to her speaking at the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, "the day that I fondly remember as containing the two most frightening minutes of my entire life."

To promote such a culture, Byard said that "it's about moving society from a place of common ground around a principal of respect that we all stand for to a common cause, an idea of a culture of respect for which we are all willing to fight and struggle and engage."

In speaking about her journey, Byard shared that she ran away from home to boarding school as a means of staying closeted to her family and friends. While at boarding school, she said she made the mistake of busting the curve in her freshman English class and her teacher made an example of her. The following day, Byard shared that when she walked in the classroom she saw a little paper doll hanging by its neck on the cord of the window shade with the words "Eliza is a dyke" written on the doll. Byard noted that she wasn't out to anybody, however, her classmates chose to use that epithet to stop her from speaking up in class ever again. Byard said her first thought wasn't "How dare they do this to me?"—it was "How did they know?" She explained that she hid the doll and never mentioned it until 15 years later nor did she speak in that class until almost the end of her freshman year.

While still in high school, Byard said that her thinking changed to how could they do that to her and that led to the desire to do something about bullying in schools. After a career as a filmmaker, Byard joined GLSEN in 2000. She said her fears about her family's reaction to her coming out as a lesbian were unfounded and she noted that her mom helped found the New York chapter of GLSEN.

She also explained what was happening in the country 13 years ago regarding LGBT issues and the work that GLSEN was doing to "illustrate to

allies great and small at all ends of the spectrum that the abuse and violence that LGBT students were suffering was an issue around which we had to find common ground."

Said common ground was found when Byard attended a meeting with the Heritage Foundation, the American Enterprise Institute and the Christian Educators Association International in 2003. In that meeting, she said, they all agreed on the constitutional idea of the three R's: rights, responsibilities and respect due to others. Byard noted that, over time, the impact GLSEN has made on the understanding of the need for bullying prevention has grown throughout the country.

When thinking about bullying, "children are testing these things out at a young age and this underscores the fact that bullying isn't a hate crime or a criminal offense. It's a dynamic among children to challenge adults about what is isn't acceptable in society," said Byard.

There have been three steps that have marked GLSEN's journey to find common ground and build a culture of respect, Byard explained. They are "overcoming your own fear of how someone will respond, building the case and gathering the information about the nature of the problem you which to solve and why you think this is something everyone should work on together and being able to speak from the heart about what these issues mean to you and all of us collectively," said Byard.

Byard added that when she received a letter from Rev. Bernice King inviting her to speak at the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, she didn't think the letter was real. Two days later, Byard said she received a call from King telling her that GLSEN was chosen by GLSEN's partner organizations in the South to be a part of the celebration. In her two-minute allotted speaking time at the march, Byard spoke about Bayard Rustin having to hide his sexual orientation 50 years ago and that now LGBT voices are being heard at the 50th anniversary commemoration celebration. Byard said the crowd began cheering after she mentioned Rustin as a pioneer on the journey toward respect.

A Q&A session followed Byard's lecture. See www.glsen.org for more information.



Dr. Eliza Byard at Elmhurst College. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

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CPA Paul Wickliff dies at 51

BY ROSS FORMAN

Paul Joseph Wickliff, a CPA who had a passion for pit bulls, died unexpectedly Oct. 23. He was 51.

Preliminary findings are that he suffered a stroke in his sleep and did not wake up from it, said Joe Wickliff, 49, his brother.



Paul Wickliff. Photo courtesy of Wickliff's family

Wickliff was a CPA who owned Wickliff & Associates in Chicago, and lived in the Ravenswood neighborhood. He was single, openly gay and served the Lakeview community, including many clients from the LGBT community, said Joe Micci, a friend of Wickliff. "Paul helped everyone with their tax issues many times at a reduced cost for those who could not afford [to pay] full rates," Micci said.

Wickliff was involved in the Chicago Pit Bull

Rescue Organization, having rescued three pit bulls himself, including his two current dogs, Harper and Leo. "Any client who walked into Paul's office during tax season would be greeted by both dogs at the door, which surprised only those who did not know Paul," Micci said.

Wickliff will be remembered by many as a participant in an annual camping trip to Camp-It in Michigan with other gay friends, "where Paul would morph into several characters from assorted musicals and movies much to the amusement of his friends," Micci said. "Paul had a sharp and witty smart sense of humor; he said some of the funniest things I've ever heard," Micci said.

Joe Wickliff said his brother "was so funny, so quick. ... I always wished to be the artist and as funny as he was," Wickliff said. "He was one of a kind, with such a free spirit. He donated to a lot of organizations in the gay community."

The Wickliff brothers moved to Chicago in 1993 from Indianapolis, and were roommates for about 10 years. "We were like the gay Laverne & Shirley," said Joe Wickliff, 49, who lives in the Bucktown neighborhood and is partnered to Michael Glick for 16 years.

"Paul and I loved really bad movies, and a rite of passage for friends and potential boyfriends was having to watch *Elvira, Mistress of the Dark*, [a 1988 comedy horror film], while we recited every line in the movie from beginning to end."

Joe Wickliff said he and Paul nicknamed each other "Nettie" and "Celie," from *The Color Purple*.

The family asked that donations in Wickliff's memory be made to www.Chicagopitbullrescue.org.

PASSAGES

Cathie Kopecky

Cathie Ellen Kopecky—a prominent figure in the 1980s LGBT scene in Chicago—died Oct. 12. She was 56.

Kopecky was many things, including a businesswoman and activist. She was a founding board member of Horizons, which later became the Center on Halsted. Kopecky also frequently taught business classes at the Women's Business Development Center.

She left Chicago 17 years ago, and is survived by her partner, her two beloved dogs, and many family and friends.

According to Legacy.com (courtesy of an obit from Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home in Jackson-

ville, Fla.), Kopecky "was defined by her ability and talents in the business world. ... In her hometown of Chicago, she owned her own insurance business and then went into the remodeling business with her company, KC Beautiful Dimensions. She even had her own pet treat business.

"But, what is most telling of Cathie's talent and more importantly, her generosity, is that she served as an instructor at a woman's business center in Chicago where she freely and graciously offered women advice and information that

would help point them on a more successful and promising career path."

The website also defines Kopecky as "a survivor," noting, "at 19 years old, she was first diagnosed with cancer and she subsequently beat cancer three times."

Legacy.com also states that Kopecky "was defined by her lesbianism. Cathie knew she was a lesbian early in life and she fit the stereotypes of the little girl who was always very athletic, enjoyed boy-stuff, and never wanted to dress like the typical girls did."

Teacher sues school for anti-gay bias

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A Cook County man has filed suit against his former employer, a Roman Catholic high school, alleging that the school discriminated against him for being gay, among other factors.

Gordon Tech High School officials alleged that Anthony Millspaugh, 48, hit a student in his class and fired Millspaugh shortly thereafter in January of last year. Millspaugh contends, however, that he lightly tapped the back of the student's head, according to his attorney, Jacob Meister.

When Millspaugh was given a hearing over the matter in May of last year, the school's principal, Carl Hagman, allegedly told Millspaugh that they were trying to avoid turning the episode into "another Ohio State and Jerry Sandusky," though Millspaugh's alleged disciplinary violation had nothing to do with sexual misconduct involving students.

The complaint called the May proceedings "a sham hearing that was conducted without, among other things, (a) affording Millspaugh with due process, (b) a right to call and examine witnesses, and (c) undue influence over the hearing process."

Millspaugh maintains that other teachers who have been accused of similar violations did not receive similar disciplinary action and seeks damages for discrimination and wrongful firing based on age, sexual orientation, disability, retaliation and breach of contract. According to the lawsuit and Courthouse News, his dismissal shortly followed another discrimination complaint.

Hagman no longer works at Gordon Tech and is not a party to the lawsuit.

Millspaugh had worked at the school for 26 years and had tenure. He is HIV-positive and suffers from depression, anxiety, high blood pressure and hypertension, but none of those impacted his teaching, according to the lawsuit and Courthouse News.

He "went through a horrible period of debilitating depression" from what transpired last

year, said Meister. "He was completely ripped apart by this principal."

When reached for comment, Gordon Tech President Kelly Jones said she could not comment on pending litigation.

Passages Hospice offering benefits to same-sex couples

Passages Hospice will soon offer health benefits to same-sex couples in a legal marriage or civil union, according to a press release.

In 2012, an estimated 1.5 million patients received services from hospices; this number is expected to increase as the parents of baby boomers age.

According to the hospital, it is the first facility of its kind in the Midwest to be proactive in offering same-sex couple benefits. Benefits will be available starting Nov. 1.

Passages hospices are in 70 counties across Illinois, Indiana and St. Louis, Miss. For a full list, visit www.passageshospice.com.

Kirsten Gillibrand at Nov. 4 Personal PAC luncheon

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand will be the keynote speaker at Personal PAC's 20th annual luncheon.

The 20th Annual Awards Luncheon will be held at 12 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 4, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave.

In addition, Personal PAC will honor Bette Cerf Hill. She is a founder of the Young Women's Leadership Charter School of Chicago and has served on the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women.

Personal PAC will also honor Laura Tucker. Tucker is an Illinois and national Planned Parenthood Board member who has worked side by side with Personal PAC recruiting and electing pro-choice candidates.

Tickets are \$150-\$250 each; call 312-422-0005 or visit www.personalpac.org.

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The March on Springfield For Marriage Equality

Photos in this section by Angela Buhr, Tim Carroll Photography, Colleen Egan, Kyle Henderson, Vern Hester, Matt Mills, Teresa Potasiak and Kate Sosin. Many more photos available at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



Watch the March on Springfield on video here:
<http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/March-on-Springfield-Historical-Video/44866.html>



MARRIAGE from cover

"There was so much that happened behind the scenes this week, and I really feel great about where the bill is going to go," Kohlhepp said, pointing out an additional co-sponsor signed on to SB10, state Rep. Deborah Conroy.

SB10's chief sponsor, state Rep. Greg Harris, has said he would call a vote only when he was secure in the knowledge that the affirming votes would be there. Supporters were anticipating a vote this past May, but, on the last day of the session, Harris addressed the House, and said a vote would not take place so colleagues could return to their districts and confer with their constituents.

Organizers said that it was vital to get the message across to Harris that a vote was expected within the last days of the veto session. A petition drive was launched Oct. 25 in order to convince Harris that supporters expected him to call it.

A vote during the veto session complicates issues of timing should SB10 indeed be passed. While 60 votes are needed, passage with less than 71 votes means that an amendment would have to be written that would allow for marriages to begin in the state prior to June 1 of next year.

When Illinois Unites' campaign staff came on board this past summer, they said they would indeed push for 71 or more votes. In the intervening months, few additional politicians have

been forthcoming with at least public support for the legislation. Gov. Quinn, a vocal proponent of marriage equality, has promised to sign the bill following its passage in the House.

"What we're experiencing now in Illinois and what we experienced this year is really nothing different than what we've experienced in almost every state where marriage has been successfully secured for LGBT couples," said Lynne Bowman, regional field director for Human Rights Campaign, in the Oct. 24 call.

On Oct. 25, Kohlhepp told Windy City Times that little planning has taken place should the vote not happen by Nov. 7.

"There is no plan B. We're entirely focused on the veto session," Kohlhepp said. "We built this campaign so Greg Harris can keep his promise."

Rumors about delaying the vote until next year have risen up in the past weeks, as some politicians might fear primary challengers invigorated by a positive vote on SB10; the primary registration deadline falls after the veto session. But Kohlhepp stressed that a vote next year might be even more unlikely, as those officials would also be in their full-blown election cycle.

"There's always a reason on a two-year campaign cycle to not take a courageous vote," he added. "Still, once this vote is taken, those who vote for it will be able to look back on it and be proud."

"Illinois families cannot wait anymore. The Supreme Court made very clear that it has to be marriage," Kohlhepp stressed.



Photos by Matt Simonette

GLN stages protest at Harris' office

BY MATT SIMONETTE

More than a dozen members of Gay Liberation Network (GLN) staged a protest in front of state Rep. Greg Harris' district office, 1967 W. Montrose Ave., on Oct. 26.

GLN members have contended that Harris, the chief sponsor of SB10 (the marriage-equality bill), is acting more out of loyalty to political colleagues than to the LGBT community by not yet calling for a vote on the legislation.

"Harris needs to represent the interests of LGBTQ people and not Mike Madigan and other Democrats across this state," said GLN member Bob Schwartz.

GLN members are calling for a party line vote by the Democratic Caucus.

"They have a supermajority," said GLN co-founder Andy Thayer. "They have the power to do a party line vote. They do it for any number of slimy, power-broking deals that are wildly un-

popular."

Roger Fraser, GLN's treasurer, said, "The sad thing about this debacle is that we ourselves have not had the capacity or foresight to put the kinds of pressure on these politicians that we need to."

States with marriage equality, especially ones in the Midwest, overcame strong objections from fundamentalists and there should be no reason Illinois should be different, Fraser added. "Is the state of Illinois really one that should be compared to Mississippi, Alabama or Texas?"

The demonstration followed four days after GLN dropped a large banner outside Madigan's office in the Capitol rotunda, shortly following the close of the March on Springfield rally Oct. 22.

"People loved it," said Thayer, who also spoke at the main rally that day. "People were cheering in the rotunda—the notion that we were taking it to Madigan's door really struck a cord."



Marriage vote predictions

The following is a Windy City Times report of a potential vote on SB 10 in the state House, based on interviews and research.

Yes- 34

1. Daniel Burke (D-1st)
2. Ken Dunkin (D-5th)
3. Cynthia Soto (D-4th)
4. La Shawn K. Ford (D-8th)
5. Ann Williams (D-11th)
6. Sara Feigenholtz (D-12th)
7. Greg Harris (D-13th)
8. Kelly Cassidy (D-14th)
9. Lou Lang (D-16th)
10. Laura Fine (D-17th)
11. Robyn Gabel (D-18th)
12. Robert Martwick (D-19th)
13. Michael Madigan (D-22nd)
14. Elizabeth Hernandez (D-24th)
15. Barbara Flynn Currie (D-25th)
16. Christian Mitchell (D-26th)
17. Robert Rita (D-28th)
18. Elgie Sims, Jr. (D-34th)
19. Maria Antonia Berrios (D-39th)
20. Jaime Andrade (D-40th)
21. Keith Farnham (D-43rd)
22. Ed Sullivan, Jr. (R-51st)
23. Scott Drury (D-58th)
24. Carol Sente (D-59th)
25. Sam Yingling (D-62nd)
26. Mike Smiddy (D-71st)
27. Camille Lilly (D-78th)
28. Ron Sandack (R-81st)
29. Naomi Jakobsson (D-103rd)
30. Deb Conroy (D-46th)
31. Natalie Manley (D-98th)
32. Elaine Nekritz (D-57th)
33. Kathleen Willis (D-77th)
34. Arthur Turner (D-9th)

Likely Yes- 19

1. Edward J. Acevedo (D-2nd)
 2. Luis Arroyo (D-3rd)
 3. Esther Golar (D-6th)
 4. Emanuel "Chris" Welch (D-7th)
 5. Derrick Smith (D-10th)
 6. Michael Zalewski (D-23rd)
 7. Will Davis (D-30th)
 8. Andre Thapedi (D-32nd)
 9. Frances Ann Hurley (D-35th)
 10. Kelly Burke (D-36th)
 11. Al Riley (D-38th)
 12. Martin Moylan (D-55th)
 13. Michelle Mussman (D-56th)
 14. Stephanie Kifowit (D-84th)
 15. Emily McAsey (D-85th)
 16. Lawrence Walsh, Jr. (D-86th)
 17. Linda Chapa LaVia (D-83rd)
 18. Jehan Gordon (D-92nd)
 19. Jack Franks (D-63rd)
- Yes or likely total: 53

No- 41

1. Monique Davis (D-27th)
2. Renee Kosel (R-37th)
3. Jeanne Ives (R-42nd)
4. Patti Bellock (R-47th)
5. Sandra Pihos (R-48th)
6. Mike Fortner (R-49th)

7. David McSweeney (R-52nd)
8. Brandon Phelps (D-118th)
9. Thomas Morrison (R-54th)
10. JoAnn Osmond (R-61st)
11. Barbara Wheeler (R-64th)
12. Timothy Schmitz (R-65th)
13. Michael Tryon (R-66th)
14. Charles Jefferson (R-67th)
15. John Cabello (R-68th)
16. Joe Sosnowski (R-69th)
17. Robert Pritchard (R-70th)
18. Patrick Verschoore (D-72nd)
19. David Leitch (R-73rd)
20. Don Moffitt (R-74th)
21. John Bradley (D-117th)
22. Frank Mautino (D-76th)
23. Katherine Cloonen (D-79th)
24. Jim Durkin (R-82nd)
25. Rich Brauer (R-87th)
26. Keith Sommer (R-88th)
27. Jim Sacia (R-89th)
28. Tom Demmer (R-90th)
29. Michael Unes (R-91st)
30. Norine Hammond (R-93rd)
31. Jil Tracy (R-94th)
32. Wayne Rosenthal (R-95th)
33. Tom Cross (R-97th)
34. Raymond Poe (R-99th)
35. Bill Mitchell (R-101st)
36. Josh Harms (R-106th)
37. John Cavaletto (R-107th)
38. Charles Meier (R-108th)
39. David Reis (R-109th)
40. Mike Bost (R-115th)
41. Jerry Costello, II (D-116th)

Likely No -9

1. Darlene Senger (R-41st)
 2. David Harris (R-53rd)
 3. Adam Brown (R-102nd)
 4. Chad Hays (R-104th)
 5. Dan Brady (R-105th)
 6. Brad Halbrook (R-110th)
 7. Daniel Beiser (D-111th)
 8. Dwight Kay (R-112th)
 9. Jay Hoffman (D-113th)
- No or likely no: 50

Target List- 15

1. Silvana Tabares (D-21st)
2. Thaddeus Jones (D-29th)
3. Marcus C. Evans, Jr. (D-33rd)
4. Fred Crespo (D-44th)
5. Kay Hatcher (R-50th)
6. Rita Mayfield (D-60th)
7. Anthony DeLuca (D-80th)
8. John Anthony (R-75th)
9. Sue Scherer (D-96th)
10. C.D. Davidsmeyer (R-100th)
11. Mary Flowers (D-31st)
12. John D'Amico (D-15th)
13. Dennis Reboletti (R-45th)
14. Eddie Lee Jackson, Sr. (D-114th)
15. Michael McAuliffe (R-20th)

Contributing to roll call: Casey Cameron



Affinity gathers for the march. Photo courtesy of Kim Hunt

Veteran takes up marriage cause

BY MATT SIMONETTE



Veteran Marquell Smith speaks at the March on Springfield, Oct. 22. Photo by Tim Carroll Photography

For Marquell Smith, marriage equality in Illinois is a matter of “when, not if.”

Smith, a Marine veteran who was discharged for being gay under the auspices of Don't Ask Don't Tell, made the news early in 2013 when he wrote Illinois legislators an impassioned plea asking for same-sex marriage to be allowed in the state. In October he announced a Political Action Committee, Inclusive Community Project (ICP), which focuses on mobilizing communities of color.

ICP has been affiliated with Illinois Unites for Marriage, the coalition focused on bringing about marriage equality in the state. On Nov. 5, the ICP plans a lobby day at the State Capitol in Springfield, when supporters of SB10, the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, can speak to legislators on the bill's behalf.

After SB10 was not called for a vote in May, some of the bill's supporters maligned African American religious communities and politicians, holding them responsible for the House's failure to act. But Smith said that characterization was exceedingly unfair. He sees support from members of the Black Caucus as being “malleable,” and thinks that many reluctant members are at

least willing to talk.

“We need to remember the challenges that those [politicians] who are sitting on the fence are up against,” Smith said. “Many are taking on tough votes and do feel unappreciated.”

But in the course of Smith's own lobbying, he has been faced with some challenges of his own. Some legislators he's spoken with do address him as if he's representing the interests of white gays from the North Side.

“I do tell them that I came there on my own,” Smith said. “But I also tell them that, even if I didn't, they still have the responsibility to listen to us and do what is right.”

Smith also pointed out that many Black legislators were concerned that marriage supporters would not in the long run lend other support to matters that are pressing in their districts, such as income inequality and healthcare access.

“I have learned a lot about fairness,” Smith said. “I'm not just about one issue either. If you are looking at matters of fairness, you have to look at income inequality and how education is structured, for example.”

“I hope that, at the end of the day, [marriage supporters] will hear these concerns,” he added.

Smith said that more public attention should be paid to Black Caucus members who have been publicly supportive of SB10, such as Rep. Ken Dunkin, Rep. LaShawn Ford and Rep. Al Riley.

“There are people who are standing on the right side,” said Smith. “When you look back on these fights, they always say, ‘It was a small group who stood up for something,’ and I want to make sure people know that's not the case here—it is a large group.”

Raising money for ICP continues to be a challenge. While supporters have been generous, fund-raising can always proceed slower than an organization wants.

“It takes resources,” Smith said. “We still need footing beyond this fight, so we can keep going once the marriage equality issue is settled. I have many more things I want to do.”

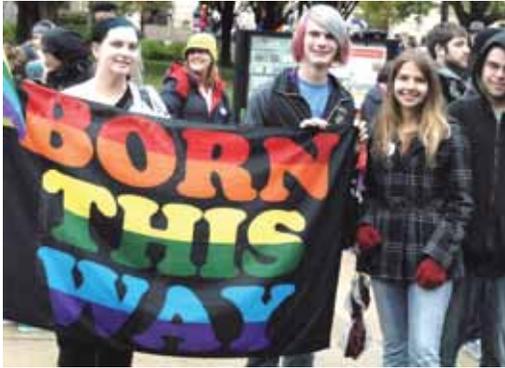
So far, about 100 people are scheduled to go down for the Nov. 5 lobby day, Smith said. Buses will leave from the headquarters of Chicago Urban League, 4510 S. Michigan Ave., at 7 a.m.

For more information, visit www.inclusive-project.org.



The March on Springfield For Marriage Equality

Photos in this section by Angela Buhr, Tim Carroll Photography, Colleen Egan, Kyle Henderson, Vern Hester, Matt Mills, Teresa Potasiak and Kate Sosin. Many more photos available at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



The March on Springfield For Marriage Equality

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Gay marriage foes gather at Capitol

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Opponents of the bill that would bring same-sex marriage to Illinois filled the rotunda of the State Capitol in Springfield Oct. 23.

The gathering, which kicked off an anti-gay marriage lobby day, came a day after several thousand same-sex marriage supporters gathered for the March on Springfield.

Over a thousand people attended the Oct. 23 rally, which opened with renditions of "God Bless America" and "Amazing Grace." Many people brandished anti-gay marriage signs, while one man was dressed as Abraham Lincoln.

Bishop Larry Trotter of Sweet Holy Spirit Baptist Church characterized the struggle against gay marriage as one testing the moral fiber of his community. "We don't want the moral fiber to go down, wasted."

"A man cleaves to his wife, not his 'partner,'" added Trotter.

State Sen. Kirk Dillard, who opposes SB10, joked, "I think there's more people here than have signed up for Obamacare nationwide."

He said that although he generally opposes the expansion of government, the state had a

responsibility to protect sanctity of marriage.

"There are times when a government has a solid duty to protect all citizens," Dillard said.

Many of the speakers characterized their opposition to same-sex marriage as being about protection of children. Fr. Charles Fanelli of St. Thomas More Parish framed gay marriage as a "social experiment" like divorce that could potentially devastate families. Stephanie Trussell of WLS-AM spoke of her distress at learning that a Gay Straight Alliance had formed at a local high school.

"The enemy is hunting our children," Trussell said.

Linda Jerrigan said that she was in a lesbian relationship for 15 years, but 10 years ago was born again and now characterizes herself as an "ex-homosexual."

She characterized homosexuality as one of many vices that can be overcome through belief in Jesus Christ.

"All we need to do is send the homosexuals to Jesus," Jerrigan said.

Peter LaBarbera of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality held up and mocked the chil-

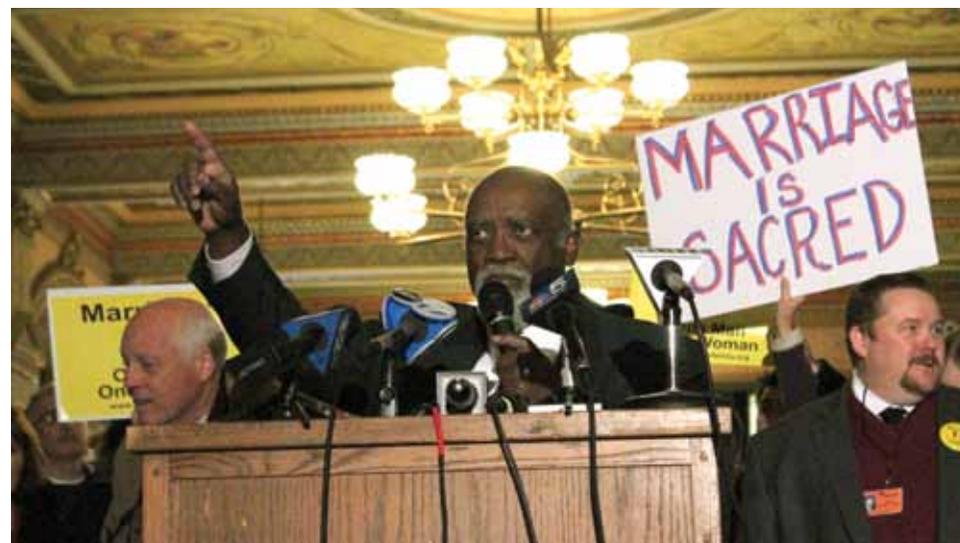
dren's book Daddy's Roommate, as well as a book by Dan Savage.

He also spoke out against the religious left, many of whom have been outspoken in their support of SB10. Those institutions are using

morality as grounds for their support.

"But Jesus Christ was a friend of sinners, not a friend of sin," LaBarbera said.

At some points after the inside rally, a few dozen marchers at a time walked around the Capitol in a prayer vigil. There were never more than 50-75 people making the cold march around at any one time.

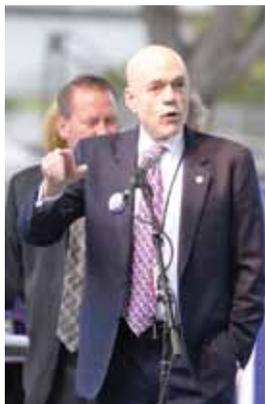


Photos by Kate Sosin





Members of several Latino/Latina LGBT organizations assembled at the march to demand marriage equality and immigration reform. Photo courtesy of Julio Rodriguez



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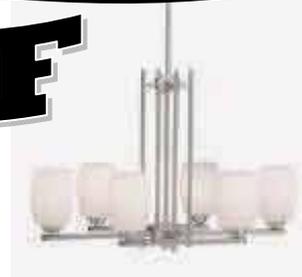
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Miriam Hoover celebrates 100 years of living

BY TRACY BAIM

The LGBT community would not be as far along as it is today without its allies, from family members to businesses, churches and unions.

One of Chicago's more significant contributors to LGBT and AIDS work is Miriam Hoover, a quiet woman whose charitable giving has helped fund dozens of organizations and projects, including the Hoover-Leppen Theater at the Center on Halsted, Chicago House, Bonaventure House, AIDS organizations in Palm Springs, Calif., and groups in her native Michigan.

On Nov. 1, 2013, she marks her 100th birthday.

Her connection to AIDS and LGBT issues is primarily through her nephew, Michael Leppen, himself a prominent philanthropist and activist on LGBT and AIDS issues in Chicago and nationally.

Miriam Ulvinen Hoover was born in Humboldt, Mich. She is an active member of the Episcopal Church and supports three dioceses. She is a fan of opera, symphony, ballet and theater. She is a life trustee for The Living Desert Reserve, Episcopal Charities, Seabury Western Theological Seminary and Bishop Anderson House. She has retired from the various boards but keeps an active interest in their progress and achievements.

Dozens of major cultural institutions have received support from Hoover, including Chicago Botanical Society, Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

She is the first female Canon elected to St. James Cathedral in Chicago, and she received an honorary doctorate from Seabury Western Theological Seminary. She has also received (with her husband) a star on the walk in Palm Springs, and the Steve Chase Humanitarian award from Desert AIDS Project.

What follows is a question-and-answer conducted via email, with assistance from Hadley Rue.

Windy City Times: Miriam, where were you born and raised? What was your family makeup (siblings, parents, etc.)?

Hoover: I was born in Humboldt, Mich., on the family farm. I came out a month early, and as my mother said, I am always ahead of the game. My father died when I was four years old. Later, my mother remarried a wonderful man who became my stepfather. I had nine sisters, two died as babies, and three brothers.

WCT: What was life like for your family when you were a teenager?

Hoover: A typical teenager's life. We did not have all the computers and cellphones of today. We learned to share good times with each other. We enjoyed nature and church and valuable time with our families.

Windy City Times: Were there things that happened to you early in your life that shaped you for the rest of your life? For example, the Depression, World War II, etc.

Hoover: During the war years I worked as a Red Cross nurse at the Naval Base. We learn to appreciate everything we had. Not wasting food or time. All of my siblings worked hard and we stayed together as a family unit supporting each other. We were taught to share our daily blessings with those in need.

Windy City Times: Tell us about your husband who passed on, Mr. Hoover. What was your partnership like?

Hoover: Earl was my best friend, lover and companion. We had 35 wonderful years of marriage. We shared many experiences together, traveled the world, and enjoyed every day together. Earl would ask and respect my opinion on various subjects. Every day together was filled with many wonderful blessings. We lived, we laughed and we prayed together.

Windy City Times: As a woman, what were some of the challenges you faced in your life, prior to and after the women's movement of the 1970s?

Hoover: Prior to changes that took place, women worked just as hard as men, but were not paid the same. After the movement, the world learned to respect a woman's intuition, insight and knowledge and started to compensate each woman for their true value as a contributing person in the world.

Windy City Times: When did you first enter the world of philanthropy, giving of your time and/or money, and what compelled you to do so?

Hoover: I think as a child. My mother always taught us that we need to share with those less fortunate. It was not unusual for her to invite a family in need for a meal. Under my late husband's guidance, I learned to become involved and work with many charitable organizations. He also taught me that when a gift was given, we need to hold the agency accountable that it was used for the clients for the specific reason the gift was given. I learned as a young woman,



Miriam Hoover, Michael Leppen and their dog, Shanel. Photo by Tracy Baim

it is not the size of gift that is important, it is the fact that you gave and participate to help those in need.

Windy City Times: How have you gone about selecting those causes and issues closest to your heart?

Hoover: An endless amount of requests, and then research into the organization to see if it would be something I would want to support. My faith and the church have always been of significant interest in what areas I will participate. Charitable organizations that work with indigent families, those who cannot help themselves and deserve a chance.

Windy City Times: What are your favorite causes to support?

Hoover: Church-related activities. Support for social services that provide need for families in dire straights. Education and health services for those in need. Arts and preservation of our culture.

Windy City Times: When did you first learn about the AIDS crisis, and how have you supported efforts to combat the disease? Can you tell me more about David Slaughter?

Hoover: Through my nephew Michael. David was his best friend and was struggling with his battle against HIV. I watched a world that would not reach out and help at that time. People would rather play ignorant to the true facts of the disease and those it was affecting. David was a gentle spirit with lion heart. Unfortunately he lost his battle and it was a loss for all of us as a good friend. Since then, I have supported agencies researching the disease and looking for a cure, as well as agencies both here and in Palm Springs that provide care and guidance for HIV clients.

Windy City Times: When Michael came out to you as gay, did that change your opinion about gays, or did you have other things that influenced your opinion of the gay community?

Hoover: No; it did not change my opinion, except to embrace him and his friends as still an important part of my extended family. I spoke with political leaders concerning their lack of empathy for the gay community. I supported the documentary that Michael worked on with Dan Karlake, For the Bible Tells Me So, and encouraged the distribution to individuals and groups that needed a "wake-up call".

Windy City Times: You have been very generous with LGBT causes, including funding the Hoover-Leppen Theater at Center on Hal-

sted, and other LGBT groups and cultural programs. Have you had to educate your friends and family on why this cause is important to you? Have you heard negative comments?

Hoover: I filter out the negative comments and let it go as bad water that flows under the bridge. I have been supportive of many LGBT causes, not just because of Michael, but all of his friends and the many wonderful individuals I have had the honor to meet over the years. We live in a country that is supposed to provide equal rights for all of its citizens. This country needs to come together as one loving family, embracing each other and working as a cohesive unit. What a message would send to the rest of the world.

Windy City Times: Any final thoughts on making it to 100 years, and the lessons you have learned?

Hoover: I have learned to take each day as it comes, and enjoy every moment of it. I cherish my times with friends and family. Life is too short to be bitter and angry. ... Wasted emotions that will achieve nothing for you.



Miriam Hoover, Michael Leppen and singer Ann Hampton Callaway at Leppen's 60th and Hoover's 99th birthday in 2012. Photo by Hal Baim

HRC Chicago gala Nov. 16 at Fairmont

The Chicago branch of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) will hold its annual gala Saturday, Nov. 16, at The Fairmont Hotel, 200 N. Columbus Dr.

Guests will kick off the evening with an optional VIP reception at 5 p.m., then a silent auction and general reception at 6 p.m. The dinner program will begin at 7 p.m., followed immediately by live entertainment.

HRC's 2013 Equality Award recipients will be honored. The Corporate Equality Award will be presented to Groupon. Linda Johnson Rice, Chairman of Johnson Publishing Co., will receive the Ally for Equality Award, and Rev. Dr. B. Herbert Martin, of the Progressive Community Center and The People's Church, will be honored with the Community Equality Award.

HRC President Chad Griffin will headline the dinner. Among those performing is singer Jess Godwin, an ally of the LGBT community.

Tickets are \$225-\$350; visit www.hrcchicago.org.

GAY *in the*
LIFE
Abby Smith
BY ROSS FORMAN

Age
49

Neighborhood
Andersonville

Relationship status
Partner, Kelly

Job title
Executive director at Felines & Canines

Pizza toppings
Mushroom, green pepper and onion

Hobbies
Reality TV, dancing

Favorite musician/group
Led Zeppelin

Favorite TV shows
"Any Real Housewives of ..."

Favorite movie
Best In Show

Favorite professional sports team
Chicago Bears

Little-known fact
"I have a 5-year-old son."

Abby Smith will celebrate her 12th year working in animal welfare on Dec. 18—a direct fallout from the tragedy of 9/11.

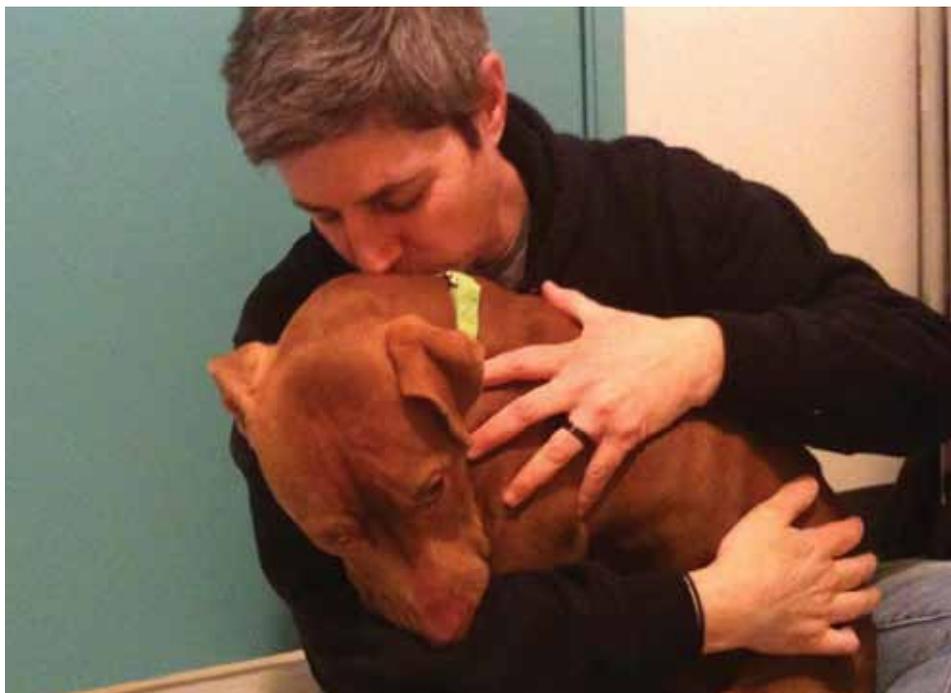
"After 9/11, my life had to have meaning, so I left my comfortable retail management position to work in animal welfare," Smith said. "I get to directly save animal's lives when we transfer them in from 'traditional' shelters or animal control facilities. I work with animals that were abused or neglected and have the honor of healing them and placing them in their forever-homes where they will be safe and well cared for.

"People still contact me years after I adopt a pet to them seeking advice or sending me an update. It's incredibly rewarding changing people's and pet's lives."

Smith said her long-term career goals would be that people would keep their animals, spay and neuter them, and thus, put Felines & Canines and all the other shelters out of business.

Until that day, Smith said she's working her dream job.

Felines & Canines was known as Felines Inc. for 35 years, until 2012, when they did a \$1 million renovation and changed their name.



Smith personally has four cats (Moose, Moxie, Moby and Frazzle) and one dog (Knuckles).

"I am enormously proud that Felines & Canines is a shelter that welcomes all people of any orientation and treats them with respect," Smith said.

Smith said David Dinger of the Anti-Cruelty Society has long been friend and mentor. "He has always offered any assistance or resources that I or the organization needs," she said. "It's wonderful that shelters can work together to achieve a shared goal."



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After the March: The next steps

I am so very thankful for the community of people who came together to organize and attend the Oct. 22 March on Springfield for Marriage Equality. New bonds were created, old ones reinforced, and it was "all in" despite our community's internal differences.

For me, it was an opportunity to prove that our LGBT and allied communities would actually show up for our rights, because often the leadership of the community is very disconnected from its base. Sometimes it seems it is just about the money, and not the movement.

I am especially grateful to the 12 people who trusted in me to join as co-chairs of the March. Each did what they could to promote and work on this effort. We were then joined by hundreds of volunteers and donors who helped in many ways. We did have very little business support, especially from corporations, but in the end it actually made for a better march—less commer-

cial than Pride has become, and more about the people.

So we showed up, stood in the cold and rain for hours, lobbied our reps in numbers never seen before from our community, and then marched around several blocks in a way that was heard and seen by everyone inside the Capitol dome. So, what is next?

Well, the legislature met just two days so far this fall veto session, and it next meets Nov. 5-7—unless it cancels more days. The pressure is on, through multiple efforts, to press for a vote this fall veto session.

Some people are getting petitions to chief House sponsor of the bill, Rep. Greg Harris; others are lobbying their state reps across Illinois. But some people don't want to pressure for a vote if it won't pass.

Here's the reason pressure is needed. Harris and House leader Mike Madigan need to understand that the community does not want to wait based on some political calculus. That cold approach wants to wait until January or even after the March primaries, to save the seats of existing reps because of some threats by the right wing to target anyone voting for marriage equality. This tactic has not been successful in other states. In fact, by delaying, more people become disenchanted and stay away from the polls, or cast a protest vote. And when we have seen a failure in other states, it has motivated pro-LGBT forces to stand up and deliver support in terms of money and votes to get new people into office. No one knows exactly what would happen in Illinois, so fear of failure is causing delay.

While the vote may, in fact, not happen in the veto session, that does not mean we defer to elected officials without making our voices heard. If, in the end, we get marriage equality not now but in a few months, great. But delay tactics usually only help politicians, and not the people. So why is it OK to cover for them?

I will never understand political expediency at the expense of constituents. It's why I would make a pretty bad politician. I would rather lose with courage than win by selling out.

But I am also a practical person, which is why I understand people's fears in risking it all on a vote. Ultimately, the politicians must decide. But we should never stop pressing for victory, because when we sit down and shut up, when we allow one voice to dictate our strategy, what we get is only further delay.

They need to hear from us, in marches and protests, in letters, in phone calls. That is all part of the process. We have our insiders and our outsiders, our militants and our machine. All are part of the delicate balance that has slowly but surely lead to gains in equality.

I am shocked how far we have come since I started in the gay press in 1984. Marriage was on the agenda, but way down in the top 100 goals. Now it is here, and real, for so many LGBTs in this country. Soon, it will be here for us in Illinois. It may be Nov. 5, or it may be next year. By consistently pressuring, and showing up, we make it loud and clear that we are watching, and our patience is running out.

DANA
RUDOLPH

MOMBIAN

Travelers' tales

My 10-year-old son loves to travel. I'm not sure how my spouse and I got so lucky. Perhaps it was that we started early, with a trip from the East to the West Coast to visit in-laws when he was only five weeks old. Perhaps it's our own love of travel and the excitement we try to convey—or his innate sense of curiosity and adventure. Maybe it's just that he can jump from one bed to the other in our hotel rooms, or stay up extra late when we go camping.

Somehow, though, I feel that traveling binds me with other parents, as I see them also trying to corral kids and suitcases and teddy bears through the airport, or dragging their child away from one last round on a theme park attraction, or watching their child carefully wash up in a public restroom only to have her run her hands along the wall on the way out. And I just know we're all receiving payback for the thousand times we asked our own parents "Are we there yet?"

At the same time, few things make me as aware of being an LGBT parent as traveling. My spouse and I carefully put copies of our marriage certificate, parentage order, and son's birth certificate into our luggage. I worry about what would happen, even with the paperwork to back us, if one of us got into an accident in a state that didn't recognize our marriage. Laws aside, I worry about going to places where the level of acceptance of LGBT people is low.

Still, we won't let fear keep us home. Documents tucked away, lawyer's phone number at hand, we set off, whether for a weekend camp-

ing trip, a cross-country jaunt to visit relatives, or a vacation to tourist destinations like Disney World or the many museums of our country's biggest cities.

Most families of whatever structure soon develop their own repertoires of travel tricks. Here are a few that have worked for us.

Start early. I wouldn't necessarily recommend traveling with a newborn, as we did (impelled by family necessity), but I do believe that the earlier kids learn to adapt to different environments, sleeping arrangements, and ways of doing things, the better.

Make lists. Especially when I was a new parent, lists kept me from last-minute panics and forgotten essentials. (On the first road trip we made to my parents after our son was born—a few hours drive for a weekend—I felt like we'd become a traveling circus.) I am not by nature a list maker, but do when I travel. And there's nothing like having a potty-training toddler to make one want to know where rest stops are at all times.

Involve. The more I involve our son in the planning and preparation, the more he seems to feel it is his trip, too, rather than something my spouse and I foisted upon him. Even as a preschooler, he was responsible for packing a few of his things into his suitcase or travel bag. Now that he's older, he helps plan our itinerary (with parental override so we don't spend our whole time in a Lego store) or goes online to investigate food options in the area. I also work with him to dig up details about our destination, including history, landmarks, or the route we'll take. Familiarity can breed comfort—and I'm often surprised with what catches his eye.

Adapt. Over the years, I've learned I have to relax rules about bedtime, acceptable food choices, and entertainment options for the sake of family sanity while on the road. If he doesn't get his usual three glasses of milk a day for a few days, he'll still grow up just fine.

Surprise. One thing that worked well when he was younger was to buy a new book, small toy, or game that I didn't reveal until we were on the road (or in the plane) and our son was reaching the fidgety and bored stage. These days, I do the same, although it sometimes involves a new app for him on my iPad.

Manage expectations. Yes, we may not get to see all of the sights we'd planned. We may not do the full hike my spouse and I did years ago and wanted to share now with our son. But the old truism about journeys and destinations still holds.

Have travel tips of your own that you'd like to share? Have questions about traveling as an LGBT-headed family that you'd like answered? Please join me, then, for a travel-focused Twitter party for LGBT parents on November 6 at 9p.m. ET.

I'm partnering for the event with Residence Inn by Marriott, the Family Equality Council, and TravelingMom, a great site for all families who travel. We'll discuss topics such as legal and practical aspects of traveling interstate and internationally, general tips for hitting the road with kids in tow, and extended stays out-of-state or internationally during an adoption process. Family Equality Director of Public Policy Emily Hecht-McGowan will offer legal insight for LGBT parents, and Midwest Regional Manager Kim Simes will share her travel tips. We want to hear your stories, ideas, and questions, too, so please join us by following the hashtags #RI-family and #TMOM on Nov. 6 (or just follow me, @mombian, at any time, and I'll remind you when the event is coming up).

Happy travels!

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of *Mombian* (mombian.com), an award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBT parents.

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GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Clay Enos

THE WRITE STUFF

Daniel Radcliffe (right) and Dane DeHaan star in the movie *Kill Your Darlings* as, respectively, Allen Ginsberg and Lucien Carr. See page 23.

DISH

Margaritaville.
Page 26

Photo of the raging bull margarita
at Bull Horns by Shira Kollins



THEATER

Teen and mean.
Page 18

Photo from *Lord of the Flies*
by Michael Brosilow



SPORTS

Rollin' along.
Page 27

Photo of Windy City Rollers'
Moby Nipps



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Success 'Paramount'
for Jim Corti

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

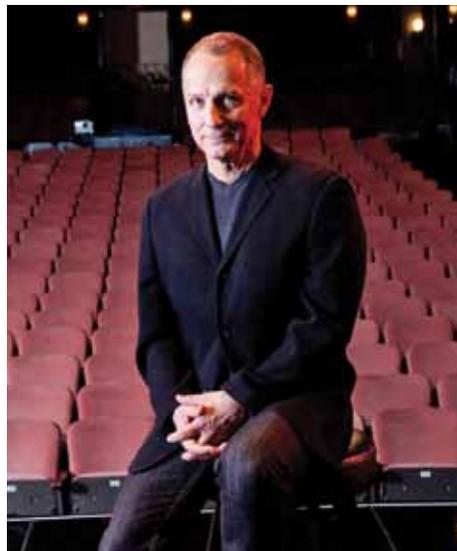
Out actor, director and choreographer Jim Corti is amazed at this point in his life to finally be working behind a desk after years of performing on Broadway, on tour and as a freelance theater director and choreographer based out the Chicago area. True, that "desk job" is as the artistic director of the Broadway Series at the Paramount Theatre in Aurora, so Corti is not that far removed from his performance roots.

"I find it unbelievable that I'm a part of it," said Corti during a rehearsal break for *Miss Saigon*, the second of four shows for the Paramount Theatre's third Broadway Series season of self-produced musicals. "It's been quite the experience and most gratifying."

Corti and Paramount Theatre President/CEO Tim Rater launched the Aurora theater's own home-grown series of Broadway musicals three season ago and have been building its stellar reputation ever since. The run of each show has been extended to four weeks this season due to demand, and critics have lavished praise upon the Paramount's fledgling productions—notably last year's run of *Annie* by director Rachel Rockwell, which was deemed by Chicago Tribune theater critic Chris Jones to be better than the current Broadway revival.

"The citizens of Aurora have been rallying behind the theater, and it's something that they're taking great pride in," Corti said. "It's also very stressful to keep hitting them out of the park, show after show."

Before it started producing its own shows, the Paramount was largely a venue for visiting one-night touring engagements. So to consider



Jim Corti.

the fact that the Paramount Theatre didn't have its own scenery shop or costume shop in place before it launched its Broadway Series shows how quickly the theater has found its legs under Corti's stewardship.

"Getting that first show up—which was *My Fair Lady* three years ago—it was such an undertaking," Corti said, amazed that the landmark 82-year-old art deco theater didn't have its own production facilities in place.

Corti also made the decision not to play things entirely safe with the Paramount's programming that first season, which included such shows like *A Chorus Line* and *Hair* which can still test conservative audiences today.

"It was pretty bold of us," Corti said about featuring *A Chorus Line* featuring a 10-minute monologue about a gay dancer coming to terms with his sexuality and then the 1960s hippie countercultural depiction of drugs and nudity in *Hair*.

While the Paramount's second season was largely traditional with its line up of *Grease!*, *Annie*, *The Music Man* and *Fiddler on the Roof*, its third season includes more boundary-pushing shows like *In the Heights*, *Miss Saigon* and *Rent*.

For his staging of *Miss Saigon*, Corti is taking a page from Rockwell's acclaimed take on *Annie* by deploying a series of historic photograph projections to help root this modernized take on Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* that is reset in the Vietnam War era.

"Getting to the reality of a show is what freshens it up and steers you away from stereotypes and cliches. Which is what I think we're doing at the Paramount," said Corti, who is now taking a break from performing to focus on his career as both an artistic administrator and director. "It's such a privilege to direct on this scale and to do great pieces of musical theater. It's a tremendous thing and everyone (at the Paramount) feels that."

Miss Saigon plays at the Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora, from Wednesday, Oct. 30, through Sunday, Nov. 24. Previews run through Nov. 1, with an official press opening 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2. Regular run performances are 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays, 3 and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 1 and 5:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$36.90-\$49.90; call 630-896-6666 or visit paramountaurora.com for more information.

A gay Day of the Dead party

Nothing Without a Company theater company offers another way to extend Halloween celebrations this Friday with its "Queen of the Dead" gala. The event is not only a fundraiser for Nothing Without a Company, but for Project Fierce Chicago, an organization that works to reduce LGBTQ youth homelessness in Chicago by provid-

ing affirming, no-cost transitional housing and support services.

The fundraiser features a plethora of burlesque, performance art and drag entertainers like Po' Chop, Camille Leon, White Flame and more, all vying for the Queen of the Dead pageant crown, while DJ Foxfonix spins throughout. The evening will also honor David Cerda, the artistic director of Hell in a Handbag Productions which is presenting the world premiere of *Christmas Dearest* later this season.

Nothing Without a Company's Queen of the Dead Gala is from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, Nov. 1, at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster Ave. General admission tickets are \$30 (includes three drink tickets) and VIP tickets are \$60 (all-access pass with open bar and goodie bag). Proceeds benefit Nothing Without a Company and Project Fierce Chicago. Visit www.nothingwithoutacompany.org or www.projectfierचेchicago.org for more information.

[Note: columnist Scott Morgan and Nothing Without a Company artistic director Anna-Rose Epstein are respectively members of the Windy City Performing Arts choral ensembles Windy City Gay Chorus and Aria].

Shannon, Dec
hosting 'A Red
Orchid Gala'

A Red Orchid Theatre's board of directors and ensemble, together with Rockit Ranch Productions, have announced the 2013 "A Red Orchid Gala."

The 21st-anniversary gala will take place Saturday, Nov. 9, at Sunda, 110 W. Illinois St., with a cocktail party and auction after at The Underground, 56 W. Illinois St.

A Red Orchid co-founder/Academy Award nominee Michael Shannon and Rockit Ranch Productions CEO Billy Dec will co-host.

Tickets are \$100-\$275 (\$75-\$250 if purchased by Oct. 10); call 312-943-8722 or visit www.aredorchidtheatre.org.

THEATER REVIEW

Lord of the Flies

By: William Golding, adapted by Nigel Williams

At: Steppenwolf for Young Adults at Steppenwolf Upstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted Ave.
 Tickets: 312-335-1650;
 www.steppenwolf.org; \$20
 Runs through: Nov. 15

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

Given the recent trends in books and movies aimed at young adults, few (if any) classic novels could be more relevant right now than William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. It's the original tale of adolescent ultra-violence, which we see in contemporary genre fiction—*The Hunger Games* and *Divergent* being two of the many examples. Steppenwolf for Young Adults has even gone so far as to adopt the marketing strategy used by promoters of the *Twilight* films in encouraging dialogue about its production of Golding's harrowing portrait of human nature. They are asked to consider whether they would be on "Team Ralph" or "Team Jack."

It sounds silly, but *Lord of the Flies* should get teens and adults talking, and that's the whole point of young adult theater. Director Halena Keys' has crafted an immersive, multi-sensory, emotionally charged production of this tale of English school boys trying to organize and survive after being stranded on an island that leads to discord and half the group descending into savagery.

Although the play suggests comparisons between men and boys, this ensemble is full of outstanding young men, as far as talent is concerned. Although for a handful of cast members the stage direction calls for little else than roughhousing, howling and stick-pounding, the featured actors—including Spencer Curnutt and Ty Olwin as rival leaders Ralph (the compassion-



Lord of the Flies.
 Photo by Michael Brosilow

ate, practical one) and Jack (the forceful, instinctual one) in addition to Dan Smeriglio as Piggy, the sacrificial lamb—expertly harness the intensity of their roles.

The gradual transformation of these civilized boys to boys making a game of their situation to wild animals blind to their wrongdoing lacks some clarity in terms of motivation in an utterly agitating way, but any emotions of frustration and confusion ultimately add fuel to the conversation that should be had around Golding's themes. Jack's lust for power and willingness to use fear to control the other boys has little to no grounding in his character, but yet he keeps succeeding. Some will find this absolutely maddening, while others won't like it but at least acknowledge why Jack was a successful leader. Understanding that there's nothing pleasant or optimistic about Golding's story, Keys is unafraid to elicit these emotions in the name of art as a fire starter.

With rhythmic pounding, dancing, shouting and a variety of special effects, this production might be one of the scariest, most intense incarnations of *Lord of the Flies*, regardless of age. The intensity builds and builds and there's no emotional conclusion—only a thought-provoking one. Even at 90 minutes straight through, it's far from easy, yet our teens are ready and capable of handling and discussing the consequences.

THEATER REVIEW

The Sovereign Statement

Playwright: Bilal Dardai
 At: Neo-Futurists, 3153 N. Ashland Ave.
 Tickets: 1-773-275-5255;
 www.neofuturists.org; \$20
 Runs through: Nov. 23

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

The Neo-Futurists have put together a splendidly funny laugh-out-loud evening about serious subjects: nationhood and nationality. What is a nation? And what makes a person feel he/she belongs to a nation? To explore the subject, the Neo-Futurists create a sovereign state with audience participation. If you've ever said (and who hasn't?), "I could run the country better than those bozos in Washington," then *The Sovereign Statement* is for you.

The premise is launched earnestly as playwright Bilal Dardai explains that he was born and raised in different countries, and thus is "from one nation but not of it" and "of" another nation but not from it. Things quickly turn comic when Dardai summons fellow actor Phil Ridarelli, a gifted and instinctive comedian, and charges him with organizing and governing a micro-nation. Having done his homework, Dardai offers ample evidence of scores of "micro-nations" around the world, phantom vanity kingdoms, empires, autocracies and republics with no legal standing and no defensible territory but with role-playing to spare.

Chairman Ridarelli the Humble of the Autonomous Empire of Neovakia soon engages the au-

dience in a semi-improvised process of setting national priorities, creating a flag and a national motto and negotiating the shifting political sands of his own administrative staff. The audience cleverly is divided into segments, with some exiting the theater proper for other parts of the building, where they participate in espionage, vote-rigging and creating a break-away micro-nation, South Neovakia.

In addition to being audience interactive, *The Sovereign Statement* also is self-referential as theater, with various cast members repeatedly discussing the script, dramatic structure and whether or not you can change protagonists in the middle of the play. You'll get the idea if you've seen *Urinetown the Musical* (FYI, created by two Neo-Futurists). Also, the six actors use their real names (vs. character names).

This is a fast-paced 90-minute or 100-minute piece but, being semi-improvised, it can run long, as it did on opening night, clocking in at nearly two hours. That's more than the premise will support. Also, what's going on in the other rooms isn't as interesting or funny as what Ridarelli is doing on the main stage. The Neo-Futurists need to be aware of the bog-down factor and should find some way to punch up what's happening everywhere. For example, the promised flag never actually is designed and a motto never is adopted. Both of these should be played out.

People don't view the Neo-Futurists as a political theater company, but they certainly are, and their satirical approach to politics includes a keen understanding of history. *The Sovereign Statement* fits right in as a self-proclaimed "cautionary tale" in which rulers have feet of clay and no nation fulfills its ideals.

CULTURE CLUB

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BY CONOR MCPHERSON
 DIRECTED BY WILLIAM BROWN

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THEATER REVIEW

The Wedding Singer

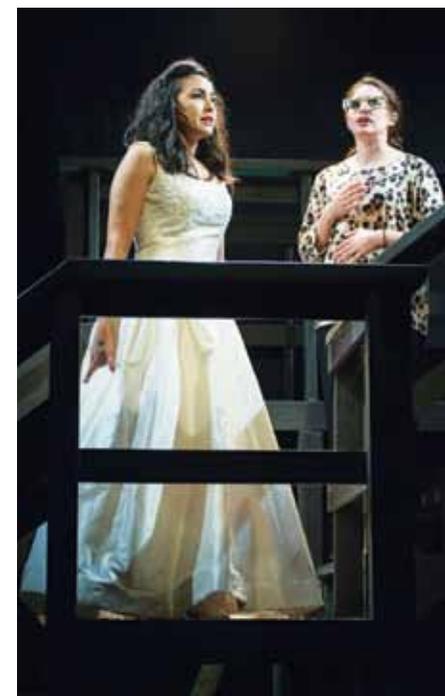
Playwright: music by Matthew Sklar, lyrics by Chad Beguelin, book by Tim Herlihy and Chad Beguelin
 At: Haven Theatre at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.
 Tickets: 773-975-8150;
 www.theaterwit.org; \$20-\$42
 Runs through: Nov. 17

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Some stories resonate in every culture the world over, one being the journey of overgrown boys to maturity, reflected in their decision to embrace the responsibilities of marriage and family. (The corresponding milestone for women is usually the opposite, with giddy girls rejecting domesticity for loftier goals, but that's a topic for another day.) That said, is it any surprise that *The Wedding Singer* has enjoyed successful tours in Spain, Japan, Australia, Germany and virtually every country where young people, and not their parents, choose whom they marry?

Wedding Warbler Robbie (note the childish diminutive) is a former rock 'n' roll musician whose band—hoggish Sammy and fey George—now earns its living by playing wedding receptions for Touch of Class caterers. Rejected by his skankish girl friend, he undergoes meltdown on the job, only to fall for co-worker Julia. Alas, Julia is engaged to a would-be capitalist pig, but faint heart ne'er won you-know-what, and after many complications—including an airline chase to Las Vegas, where our hero enlists the aid of several celebrity impersonators—Rob and Julia confess their true feelings and are joined in matrimony.

For conveying romance's cuddlier side, you can't find a better-fitting artistic form than musical comedy, especially one featuring Matthew Sklar and Chad Beguelin's score of mellow 80s-tinged ditties (with passing salutes to the influence of heavy-metal and Madonna), their energy boosted by a live back-stage band that keeps on choogling right up to the last smooch. James Beaudry's choreog-



The Wedding Singer. Photo by Dean LaPrairie

raphy swaddles full-cast production numbers into a snug studio stage, and opening-night fashion historians were heard swooning over the authentic period wardrobe (contributed by the original owners, also in attendance).

Tony Allan and Aja Wiltshire (an alumna of Griffin's *Spring Awakening*) are an immediately charming pair of reluctant sweethearts, flanked by Sarah Bockel, Daniel Martinez and Alex Heika as their cynical sidekicks, while Jacob Grubb makes a suitably slimy Mister Wrong and Judy Lea Steele steals the show as Rob's rapping granny. The catalyzing factor, however, is an ensemble that sprints through lightning costume changes to portray everything from breakdancing corporate executives to Cindy Lauper and Nancy Reagan lookalikes.

Having demonstrated its harder edge with its recent production of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, Haven Theatre now proves itself equally adept at delivering wholesome marital-friendly date night entertainment."



Kelli Harrington as Maria Callas in *Master Class*. Photo by Adam Veness

THEATER REVIEW

Master Class

Playwright: Terrence McNally

At: Theo Ubique at the

No Exit Café, 6970 N. Glenwood Ave.

Tickets: 800-595-4849;

www.theo-u.com; \$25-\$59

Runs through: Nov. 24

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

How often have we been told the tale of a poor, but talented, girl who struggles to achieve success, never forgetting the hard times even as she enjoys fame, wealth and lucrative marital attachments, only to become a martinet to her subordinates? For Maria Callas, the diva (a title not bestowed casually in grand opera) who was as internationally celebrated as any Hollywood star, this wasn't merely another dramatic role in a genre of 19th-century vintage, but the story of her own life.

CRITICS' PICKS

Cyano de Bergerac, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, through Nov. 10. Harry Groener is masterful as the poet-chevalier of the title in a lavish and vigorous production. The Anthony Burgess translation is unnecessarily potty-mouthed, still don't miss this by a mile or a nose. JA

Harry and the Thief, Pavement Group at Den Theatre, through Nov. 10. Mad scientists, urban gangstas, fugitive slaves, intrepid heroines, interracial same-sex couples and a cross-dressing narrator, all doing the time warp in a Looney Tunes version of U.S. history—what's not to like? MSB

Lydia, National Pastime Theater at Preston Bradley Arts Center, through Nov. 9. Octavio Solis' family drama evokes all the passion of classic tragedy in proportions befitting its mammoth playing space. MSB

Wrecks, Profiles Theatre Alley Stage, through Nov. 17. John Judd gives an impassioned performance of a grieving widower unloading a hidden secret in this one-man show by Neil LaBute that mines classical theater for a "shocking" conclusion. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

Playwright Terrence McNally introduces his subject in her retirement, conducting one-on-one classes at the famed Juilliard academy for advanced students, whom she bullies like a drill sergeant. Her vituperation is not based in petty temperament (as one of her pupils accuses her of doing), but a determination to instill in her pampered charges the uncompromising standards she, herself, cultivated, and to steel them for the anguish they will endure in pursuit of this perfection. They don't take well to this abuse—though some, like the cheerfully crass tenor who freely admits his ambition to be rich and famous, emerge artistically enlightened after responding to the passion fueling her exhortation.

This isn't a longhair version of a revue-style biodrama, however. We don't hear Callas' un-

Rogers Park-area theaters offer flex pass

Rogers Park-area theaters Lifeline Theatre, Raven Theatre, the side project and Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre are joining returning member BoHo Theatre for a sixth year to offer a flexible subscription pass to see a variety of Rogers Park productions throughout the season, running through Aug. 31, 2014.

The \$50, five-show pass—good for one adult or kids show, anytime during the season, at each of the five participating theaters (does not include participant shows at venues outside Rogers Park, or visiting companies' productions at participant venues)—is available at each theater's box office, and through www.rogersparkflexpass.com.

Call 773-761-4477 x701 or visit www.GlenwoodAve.org.

Steppenwolf to host 'Women in the Arts' Dec. 9

Steppenwolf Theatre Company and ensemble member Tracy Letts, Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning playwright of August: Osage County, will host Juliette Lewis, Margo Martindale and Julianne Nicholson as the guests of honor at the fifth annual Steppenwolf Salutes Women in the Arts fundraising luncheon Monday, Dec. 9.

Tickets start at \$200, and table sponsorships are available; for more info or to purchase passes, call 312-654-5632 or email SpecialEvents@Steppenwolf.org.

SPOTLIGHT



If you've seen *Mary Poppins* on stage before, you know that it calls for a plethora of special stage effects. So it should be interesting how out director Gary Griffin reconceives the show for the Marriott Theatre's distinctive in-the-round space. The timing of this regional theater premiere is also fortuitous, since there's a forthcoming movie called *Saving Mr. Banks* which is all about Walt Disney trying to convince author P.L. Travers to give him the film rights to her *Mary Poppins* books. *Mary Poppins* continues through Sunday, Jan. 5, at the Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Dr., Lincolnshire. Performances are at 1 and 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays (no show Nov. 28), 4:30 and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 1 and 5 p.m. Sundays. A special holiday schedule is in place Thursday, Dec. 26-Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014. Tickets are \$40-\$48, excluding tax and handling fees. (Dinner packages are also available.) Call 847-634-0200 or visit www.marriotttheatre.com. Photo courtesy of Marriott Theatre



mistakable voice except in recordings and one swiftly aborted trill exposing the laryngeal damage that rendered her voice distinctive initially and later, silenced it irrevocably. The scenes with her three students serve chiefly to set their professor reminiscing about the hardships and triumphs shaping her career: poverty, illness, wartime deprivation, parental neglect and sibling rivalry, a boring husband who adored her, a callous lover who deserted her to marry an American president's widow, years of public mockery and humiliation ending in 1977.

Master Class is typically performed in large touring productions showcasing "name" actresses, not tiny neighborhood cafés with non-

equity casts. Ironically, Theo Ubique's cozy room reinforces the illusion that we are participating in a tutorial. Fred Anzevino directs an ensemble led by multiple Jeff winner Kelli Harrington, who recites lyrics with such mellifluous relish that you swear she's actually singing. Filling out the stage picture are Ashlee Hardgrave, Rachel Klippel and Kevin R. Siembor (who warbles a fine "Recondita Armonia"), in addition to accompanist Jeremy Ramey and real-life stage manager Page Keedy.

Callas' first words are "No applause"—an exhortation we cannot help but disobey. See if you don't shout "Brava!" at the end of an evening spent with *La Divina*.

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NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

John Davidson's 'Wicked' game



BY JERRY NUNN

John Davidson has had a *Wicked* career over his 71 years and now he brings it to Chicago on tour celebrating 10 years of the musical.

Wicked is one of the longest-running shows in Broadway history playing more than 4,000 performances. The story of the history of witches in Oz captivated a huge age range, breaking box-office records. The production has won a Grammy and three Tony Awards making it a huge hit.

Many know Davidson from his game show hosting with *The \$100,000 Pyramid* and *Hollywood Squares*, even reviving both franchises years later. He continued that hosting gig with *That's Incredible!* and guest hosted on *The Tonight Show* 87 times then running his own self-titled show.

He is no stranger to musicals over the years such as *State Fair*, *Carousel*, *Camelot*, *Oklahoma!* and *The Music Man*. Chicago audiences now get to see him play the Wizard in *Wicked* and *Windy City* gave him a call while on tour to talk about his lengthy career.

Windy City Times: Hi, John. How long have you been on tour with *Wicked*?

John Davidson: My agent called the *Wicked* production office about a year ago and I auditioned. I got the part a year ago Christmas. I joined the company in April. It is a 40-week contract so I go until February. It has been an incredible ride!

WCT: How does it feel playing the Wizard?

JD: I'm 71 and to have such a great part. To be working week after week is a tremendous thing for me. I do my concert tour where I play guitar and banjo in a small band, that is just now and then but this has been such a steady thing.

I am so glad they let me do it. One thing I had forgotten is that it is such a small part. It is really a cameo role.

The producers of *Wicked* didn't hire me because of my television career. It is not a star-driven show at all. They are well aware that the star of the show is *Wicked*. I have to keep that in mind that even though I have a good part in the show it is really all about the witches. Even though

they talk about the Wizard a lot it is really a cameo role. It is a pleasure to do because it is so easy and yet it is a great part. Every time I come to the stage my objectives are so huge and all consuming that it makes it easy to play. I am always doing something because I am onstage. I am never in the background. I am always the center of activity, either that or I am sitting in my dressing room. It is really a great part. I'm having a great time.

WCT: What do you do to kill time backstage?

JD: I play chess. I am only onstage about 17 minutes of the three hours. I usually play two or three games of chess with one of the stage hands backstage. We have had a rivalry going for six months now.

WCT: This role is similar to your past *Music Man* role?

JD: Yes, in the fact that he is a con man. I started out playing Curly in *Oklahoma!* on Broadway in a revival. My early career was either getting the girl or not getting the girl. It wasn't until after that I started to get parts that were more interesting like being a con man like Harold Hill in *The Music Man*.

I would rather be a con man than a romantic lead. There is spice to it. There is a lot of Alec Baldwin in the role. That is what kept Betty White all of these years, playing that mischievous character that is conning people with being charming, sweet, and nice but underneath it there is something else going on. That is what I love about the Wizard is that he is a con man.

WCT: I read you are working on a one-man show about Ted Kennedy.

JD: Years ago I did a one man show on Teddy Roosevelt called *Bully*. I tried to bring that into New York and I think I was very good in it and it was a good piece. Teddy was a big boy scout. There was nothing offbeat about him, he didn't sleep with animals, he didn't have a mistress, he never did anything bad according to this play. It made the show not as interesting even though it was very bombastic.

I have been looking for years for another one man show to do so I discovered Ted Kennedy. I see him as a tragic hero. He's a guy that has done great things and I am a fan but he had some major flaws. He made some really bad decisions many times along with all of the great things he did. It makes him a flawed, tragic hero. I think that is very stage worthy. I commissioned a play to be written for me by a guy named Richard Broadhurst.

It is a powerful piece of Kennedy facing God; he was a very religious man. He really felt there was a God and he could speak to him. In this play he is 77 and facing death. He's trying to justify his life. That is a simple way of putting the show. I can't wait to do it. We've been work-



John Davidson in *Wicked*. Photo by Joan Marcus

ing on it for a long time. I have a director and we are looking for a producer so it is moving forward.

WCT: Good luck with that project. Are you doing anything fun while in Chicago?

JD: I can't wait to get to Chicago. My wife is an artist so we will spend a lot of time at the Art Institute. They have an incredible impressionist display there that we have seen many times. Chicago has all of the great nightlife if we want to stay out after the show. Chicago is just amazing with all of those great restaurants. We are looking forward to it.

WCT: I'm actually calling you directly across the street from the Art Institute right now.

JD: Oh, my gosh—that's neat. A good friend of mine, Karen Ziemba, is doing *Hello, Dolly!* at Drury Lane there and we are also going to see *Tribes* at Steppenwolf while we are there. It is such a great city with wonderful theater, as you know.

WCT: Speaking of *Dolly*, I read that you played a cross-dresser before performing as Carol Channing in a television show.

JD: Yes, I did a segment on [the '70s show] *Streets of San Francisco* called "Mask of Death," where I was a female impersonator who couldn't stop himself from becoming a woman in this story. He would stab guys through the heart with a hatpin! It was a crazy story. [Laughs]

WCT: Perfect for Halloween.

JD: It was really fun, yeah. It was during the time when I was trying to break out of boring romantic comedies. I wanted to do something that was different. It was a very strange piece, almost like an Alfred Hitchcock murder story. I received a lot of attention for that.

WCT: You have met every celebrity under the sun with *Hollywood Squares*. Was there one who left a big impression?

JD: Oh, boy—I am pretty much in awe of a lot of people. Maybe it was because I had a talk show after that, but I'm very curious about famous people and how they get to be who they are. I usually ask them and kind of interview after I meet them. The people I like the most are the people that are open to talk about how they got where they are. Not all celebrities are open and revealing so I like the ones that are open about how they do what they do. I mentioned Betty White, who is such an open person.

Strangely enough, Burt Reynolds, who you think is a macho guy, was on *Hollywood Squares*. He was very open and easy to talk to. There would be a long list of people who I am in awe of.

WCT: I thought celebrities would be everyday for you.

JD: No, I actually get very tongue-tied and have trouble approaching people that I admire like that. The first time I met Redford I was unable to speak. He is such a big star.

WCT: It will be great seeing you in *Wicked* this run of the show.

JD: I am looking forward to it. I have done the whole tour in a motor coach with my wife and cat, named Folly that I bought and named after the Palm Springs Follies when I was in that show. In Chicago we are putting the motor coach in storage because it is so cold there and the campgrounds are closed. I will really be able to enjoy the city more instead of being outside the city camping.

Wicked celebrates its 10th anniversary at the Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St., on Wed., Oct. 30, and runs through December 21. For ticket information, visit www.broadway-inchicago.com.

Keep up with Davidson at www.johndavidson.com.

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The New York Times Critics' Pick

Olympia Dukakis at Moraine Valley Nov. 16

Olympia Dukakis will star in *Rose*, a concert reading by Martin Sherman, at Moraine Valley Community College on Saturday, Nov. 16, at 7:30 p.m.

She will read the one-woman play in the Dorothy Menker Theater, in the Fine and Performing Arts Center, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. *Rose* is a portrait of a feisty Jewish woman who has survived some of the major events that shaped the 20th century.

Tickets are \$40 for the general public and \$35 for students and seniors. Visit www.morainevalley.edu/fpac, call 708-974-5500 or stop by the box office.

Doug Birkenheuer: Marking 25 years behind the camera

BY ROSS FORMAN

Doug Birkenheuer was admittedly first hypnotized by the immediacy of photography, but truly got hooked—and turned his passion into his profession—when he started photographing people.

Birkenheuer, 45, who lives in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood, is now the owner of Birkenheuer Photography—with three high-dollar cameras in his collection, although only one is mostly used.



Doug Birkenheuer's 1991 piece, *Construction Lover*. Image courtesy of Birkenheuer

"I remember [years back], when [photography] was always spontaneous ... getting a subject, an idea, a location; never difficult making it all happen, even the weather didn't halt me," said Birkenheuer, who is openly gay and partnered with Dan Delbridge. "It was a simple 35mm film camera [that I first used], mostly [with] manual settings."

Birkenheuer, on Nov. 15, is celebrating his first 25 years as a photographer with a year-by-year look at the artistic development of his work, from 7-9 p.m., at the Center on Halsted in Lakeview. The show will include, among other highlights, scenes from 1991—when Birkenheuer called a friend who was in the middle of remodeling, and asked if he wanted to shoot some images in his house. "It was a perfectly creative evening," Birkenheuer said.

Birkenheuer said his photography has changed with the refining of lighting of his photos, "yet still keeping with the human subject," he said.

Birkenheuer was, admittedly, late to the digital photography world, joining the craze in 2006. "Initially, I kept my art for film and the commercial for digital. A year later, I moved mostly to digital for both," he said. "Digital photography has been an incredible transformation in photography. It's even more immediate and the technology is now of the same quality as analog."

His main photographic work is people, mostly in his Northside studio.

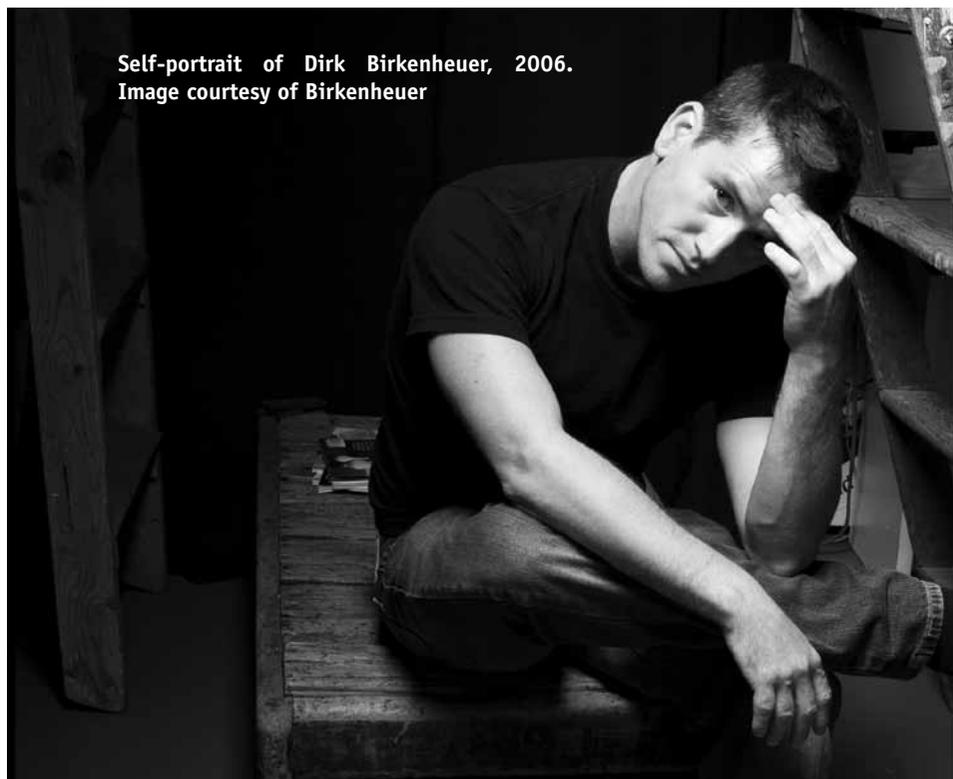
What about an all-time favorite photograph? "Hmmm, I have too many favorites," he said. "This [25-year celebration] is a milestone in the evolution of what I've always loved doing, and

what I will continue so for as long as I physically can."

Birkenheuer has been in the same photography studio since 1998, though it was remodeled in 2008. "It's modest in size, but very usable for what I do," he said.

Birkenheuer has taken countless photographs for the LGBT community—from people to events and more. He's been a photographer associated with the annual Over The Rainbow charity event every November at Sidetrack that benefits people affected by cancer. He also is working on TPAN's Chicago Takes Off promotional images.

"The 25-year retrospective is organized to share my evolution as a photographic artist," he said.



Self-portrait of Doug Birkenheuer, 2006. Image courtesy of Birkenheuer



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NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Cyndi Lauper talks Chicago, holidays and Miley Cyrus

BY JERRY NUNN

Singer Cyndi Lauper released her debut album, *She's So Unusual*, in 1983 to incredible success, making her the first female singer to have four top 10 singles on an album. The album went on to sell more than 16 million copies and won her a Grammy Award for Best New Artist.

Lauper went on to great success, selling more than 50 million records and scoring 14 Grammy nods. The accolades continued as she has won a Tony and an Emmy; separately, she's won numerous honors with her True Colors Fund. She released 11 studio albums over the years, with her most recent, *Memphis Blues*, becoming the best-selling blues album of 2011.

Heading back to the Windy City this week to celebrate the 30th anniversary of her first record, Lauper talked about recent projects and keeping it all fun.

Windy City Times: Hi Cyndi, the last time we met was at the AIDS Legal event at Downtown Bar in Chicago during the run of *Kinky Boots*. It was great to see you be involved in the gay community while in town. So how was staying in Chicago during the run of the show? Did you get to have any fun?

Cyndi Lauper: I love Chicago. It's one of my favorite U.S. cities. It has all the great advantages of a big city: a great diversity of people, great architecture, music, food and culture, yet also has elements of a small-town feel. Great place to be. We didn't have a whole lot of down time when we were getting the show ready but I did a boat tour so that I could get a better feel of the city.

WCT: Any favorite restaurants?

CL: I always gotta eat right so I did get to go to some great restaurants. There are so many great places to eat in Chicago. Greek Town has so many great restaurants. I love saganaki. I also loved Hot Doug's and Au Cheval. I also went to Topolobampo and Frontera. The hotel I stayed in had The Palm in the lobby so we often went there.

WCT: Some of the cast from *Kinky Boots* told me that you explained in musical terms they could relate to from your experience in the world of music. Did that make things easier?

CL: I think being a composer actually a performer, too. It helped me to explain to the cast better what I had hoped what each song would do to move the story forward. You just can't sing the words well and make the story move forward. You have to feel and live the words and bring that across in the performance to make the story work. I know how to do that since that is what I have been doing my whole life thru my performances. You have to really think and live the words to make your performance authentic so the folks in the audience can share in the emotional moment of the song, whether it be hope, sadness, joy or a plain ol' party!

WCT: The show went on to big success in New York. How rewarding was that for you?

CL: I got to work with the best producers on Broadway—Hal Luftig and Daryl Roth. I got to work with one of Broadway's greatest book writers, Harvey Fierstein, and one of Broadway's brightest and best directors, Jerry Mitchell. The cast is just perfect. Billy Porter, Stark Sands and Annaleigh Ashford are all magnificent. I was privileged to do my first musical with Broadway's A-team. What an honor!

I am extremely proud to be accepted by the Broadway community. It's an amazing world of hard work, and dedicated true artists. I am honored to be considered one of them now. They welcomed me with open arms and for that I am

grateful.

WCT: Would you like to do another musical at some point?

CL: Yes, I definitely want to do another musical and am actually in early stages of talks with a new show. Stay tuned!

WCT: The book *Cyndi Lauper: A Memoir* really had some personal things in it. How has the reaction been for your family?

CL: My family were pretty great. I mean some of the stuff in the book is pretty heavy and for me to share my experiences with my fans through *Memoir* I also had to share their experiences and it wasn't always pretty, but they stood by me and allowed me to do what I needed to do which was to be honest.

WCT: Writing it must have been therapeutic...

CL: Yes, it was.

WCT: You mentioned in the book a lot of the trials of being an opinionated woman in the music business. How have things gotten better or worse?

CL: Music business, like the world, has changed for women. There are more women in power at the labels and certainly a lot of great success is being had by female artists but it's still not equal. We have made progress but there's still a lot to be done to achieve equality.

WCT: Your reality show on WE tv, *Cyndi Lauper: Still So Unusual*, went behind the scenes of your personal life. You seemed really comfortable doing it. Was it easy for you?

CL: I did a deal for a year. It was for them to cover me while I was doing two major projects when I was at a crossroad in my life. I was writing *Memoir* and I was writing songs and getting *Kinky Boots* ready for Broadway, while I tried my best to be a good wife and mother. Again, I just was myself, warts and all, so of course it was easy because I wasn't trying to hide anything.

WCT: What was your favorite part of making the reality show?

CL: The best part was "working" with David and Declyn. David is a great actor so, of course, the cameras love him. My son Declyn has a lot of charisma and that came across. Being with them doing the show was a lot of fun.

WCT: Any chance for a season two?

CL: We are not doing it again, as it was just a one-season commitment. We did not intend to do a second year.

WCT: It has been 30 years after the album *She's So Unusual* was released. You are performing the entire album. Will that leave much time [for other songs] from your big catalogue?

CL: I am doing the entire *She's So Unusual* album from beginning to end. I am going to play the same arrangements as the album. We are going to be true note to note. We even are bringing out the keyboards from the '80s because while you can find programs that simulate some of those great keyboard sounds, it's not the same. It has been a lot of fun to go back and really listen to the album and play it the way we did back then.

WCT: Do you have a favorite song you like to perform from that album?

CL: I don't really have a song on the album that I love to perform more than the others. Of course, I am really proud of "Girls." All these years later it is still an anthem for women.

WCT: Your third annual holiday show benefiting LGBT homeless youth for the Forty to None Project sounds amazing. Talk about the line-up for this important cause.

CL: It's going to be a great show. We have P!nk who I love! She's not only a great singer and



Cyndi Lauper.

a great performer, but she's also a killer songwriter.

There is Josh Grobin. The voice ... wow, that guy has some pipes. We may even do a tune together.

We have Matt & Kim, who are, hands down, one of my favorite live bands.

The Hives are gonna kick it live that night. I recorded a song with them a few years back and we are going to perform that.

Ingrid Michaelson and Matt Nathanson will be there, who are amazing singers and songwriters.

The Indigo Girls—who have always been a favorite of mine who have supported True Colors Fund since I started it—[will be there].

Of course, Rosie O'Donnell and Carson Kressley will bring the laughs!

WCT: Do you cook much for the holidays?

CL: I am a pretty good cook so, yes, I love to cook for the holidays. I am in New York City for both holidays this year so I am thrilled! We are doing Thanksgiving at my Mom's and Christmas at my place.

WCT: What is your favorite thing about the holidays?

CL: The best thing about the holidays is being together with family. Greatest gift of all...

WCT: What advice do you give to female singers today?

CL: Be true to yourself.

WCT: Do you think Miley Cyrus is unusual, too?

CL: I think she is a young artist that is finding her own voice. She should be allowed to be the artist she wants. Most performers are a bit unusual, don't you think?

Cyndi Lauper bops at The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State Street, on Friday, Nov. 1. In addition, Lauper goes Home for the Holidays for a Cyndi & Friends concert on Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Beacon Theatre, 2124 Broadway, in New York.

For tickets visit www.truecolorsfund.org/homefortheholidays and www.thechicagotheatre.com.

CGMC's 'Lipstick & Lyrics' Nov. 2 at Mayne Stage

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus' annual "Lipstick & Lyrics" event will take place Saturday, Nov. 2, at The Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m.

The theme this year is "Sex Is in the Heel." According to the chorus' website, the event will feature "choreography by Chicago's top choreographers, fabulous costumes, and some of the greatest hits of pop music."

Tickets are \$25-\$50; visit www.brownpaper-tickets.com/event/481959.

SOFA Nov. 1-3

Sculpture Objects Functional Art + Design (SOFA) will mark its 20th annual presentation Nov. 1-3 at Navy Pier.

More than 800 artists, including artists from

the United States and abroad, will participate in the three-day event that kicks off with the opening-night preview Thursday, Oct. 31, 5-9 p.m.

General admission is \$15, and a three-day pass is \$25. (The preview is \$50.) See www.sofaexpo.com for information and purchases.

Reeling volunteer meeting Nov. 2

Reeling 31 Chicago LGBT International Film Festival runs Nov. 7-14, and organizers are seeking volunteers.

There are many ways people can volunteer: box office assistance, visiting filmmaker transportation, special events, bartending, photography, answering phones and more.

A meeting will be held Saturday, Nov. 2, at 3-4:30 p.m. at Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark St., second floor. RSVP to volunteer4reeling@chicagofilmmakers.org.

KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT JR.

Kill Your Darlings

There really is nothing like that moment when the unformed, eager student happens upon the teacher who, knowingly or not, unleashes the fiery spirit within the pupil. For budding artists, this moment is particularly palpable—it's something never to be forgotten. There's nothing quite as intoxicating as finding a mentor who not only "gets you" but who also can't wait to impart what he or she knows you are dying to learn and to experience; a person to expand your horizons and help you articulate your dreams.

For budding poet Allen Ginsberg—winningly portrayed by Daniel Radcliffe in out writer-director John Krokidas' debut feature, *Kill Your Darlings*—desire amplified the intoxication. Ginsberg would become the most celebrated of the Beat poets thanks to his gay screed "Howl" but in 1944 he was just starting out as a freshman at Columbia University, unsure of his talent, his future and, certainly, about his gay yearnings. Yet as the film makes abundantly clear, all those things were crystalized for the dark-haired, Jewish Ginsberg when he was taken up by fellow classmate Lucien Carr (Dane DeHaan), a blond, WASPY rich boy who advises him with brash confidence that "life is only interesting when it gets wider."

The withdrawn Allen—already a misfit at the intellectually and socially superior Columbia, given his minority status and economic background—is instantly smitten. When Luc takes Allen to a party he practically shrinks when confronted by the other confident dandies he encounters, each doing his youthful best to parade his smarts and individualism. The party's host, the sneering David Kammerer (Dexter's Michael C. Hall), is the most withering in his criticism of Allen—no doubt because he's jealous of the link between Ginsberg and Luc, who, it turns out, is his one-time lover.

As the relationship between Allen and Luc blossoms, with Luc advocating for rebellion at every turn to the dazzled Allen, David becomes more jealous. A not-so-subtle love triangle forms even before Allen and Luc can consummate their friendship (and it's clear that Allen is dying to do just that). There have also been plenty of danger signs about Luc's erratic character, which Allen purposely ignores, and no amount of warnings from his other new friends—the acidic, scratchy-voiced William Burroughs (a spot-on Ben Foster) or the handsome womanizer Jack Kerouac (Jack Huston)—can get through.

Things reach a boiling point and, in a pivotal sequence, Luc kills David. (Krokidas contrasts this with the sexually frustrated Allen picking up his first trick and being taken from the rear just as Luc is stabbing David to death.) When Luc is arrested he claims justifiable homicide, insisting that it was an "honor killing" because David was preying on him sexually. This line of defense was actually used in the real case (and in many others during this period) and was considered a valid reason for committing murder. Luc begs Allen to back up his story (although, apparently, he doesn't really need his corroboration) and Allen wrestles with his decision—the



From left: Ben Foster, Daniel Radcliffe and Dane DeHaan in *Kill Your Darlings*. Photo by Clay Enos

framing device for the movie. Are the passionate friendship and his unbridled attraction to his mentor strong enough for Allen to lie for Luc?

Krokidas palpably shows the allure of a tarnished angel like Luc and, though we are watching a history lesson (the film is based in fact), there's a suspenseful moment when it's easy to forget the actual outcome. The movie is helped by its period art direction and music (and even the intrusion of a modern-day song on the soundtrack isn't enough of an anachronism to throw one out of the picture for long). It's also shot in the murky, desaturated Technicolor of the period mostly in close-ups and midshots that keep us near enough to the actors that their every sigh and gesture speaks volumes.

But for all this attention to detail—an enormous aid to the story—along with some wonderful performances (Radcliffe, as noted, is very winning and Jennifer Jason Leigh as Allen's mentally distributed mother is particularly fine)—the movie doesn't quite hang together. Part of that, I think, is because I wanted the

actor in the role of Luc to be physically and emotionally irresistible. DeHaan is very good and he's certainly easy on the eyes, looking like a young Leonardo DiCaprio. But he's not quite the alluring object of desire (to my eye, anyway) that would make Ginsberg's hero worship more believable, not to mention the possibility that he would continue being enthralled by his young mentor after his would be lover committed murder.

Also, the little-known "honor killing" defense used by Luc's lawyers opened a door that just wouldn't close for me. As soon as this horrific line of defense was mentioned in the film, I wanted that explored in much more detail instead of being tossed in as an afterthought.

But those hesitations aside, *Kill Your Darlings* is a very well-made film that gives us a peek into the formation of several future gay icons. Although Ginsberg is taught by a writing professor at Columbia that "there can be no creation without imitation," Krokidas' film easily begs to differ with that repellent opinion.

Of related interest: It's a double dose of homoerotic Hitchcock when the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., programs both *Rope* and *Strangers on a Train*. *Rope* is a 1948 variation on the infamous Leopold and Loeb murder case, in which two gay college lovers committed a murder just for the intellectual stimulation. That's playing Friday, Nov. 1, at the Siskel at 6 p.m. while Hitchcock's 1951 film *Strangers on a Train*—in which two men meet on said train and one, who is clearly gay, suggests that the two switch murders and goes ahead with the plan before the other figures out what he's up to—is playing Saturday, Nov. 2, at 3:30 p.m. *Rope* plays again that day at 5:30 p.m.

The former is renowned for being shot in only eight elongated takes—in essence, a stage play—but it has grown in stature while the latter is a masterpiece of suspense and contains the one great screen performance of Robert Walker Jr., who died not long after shooting ended. www.siskelfilmcenter.com



Shane Bitney Crone and Laura Ricketts. Photo by Tracy Baim

Shane Bitney Crone screens 'Bridegroom' in Chicago

OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network is airing the *Bridegroom* movie this week nationally. Shane Bitney Crone was in Chicago Oct. 27 for an advance screening, to benefit Illinois Unites, at Wrigley Field.

Event hosts were Cubs co-owner Laura Ricketts, Mark Pino, Brooke Skinner and Jeremy Gottschalk.

Bridegroom is a documentary directed by Linda Bloodworth-Thomason that tells the emotional journey of Shane and Tom, two young men in a loving and committed relationship—a relationship that was cut tragically short by a misstep off the side of a roof. The story of what happened after this accidental death—of how people without the legal protections of marriage can find themselves completely shut out and ostracized—is poignant, engaging and opens a window onto the issue of marriage equality like no speech or lecture ever will.

See <http://bridegroommovie.com/#about-the-film>.

Video from the event is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ts_A73kJQf4&feature=youtu.be. Video by Jean Albright/Windy City Times.

BOOKS

Margot Weiss talks BDSM and sexuality

BY YASMIN NAIR

Margot Weiss' book, *Techniques of Pleasure: BDSM and the Circuits of Sexuality* (Duke University Press, 2011) has become a fixture in several ongoing conversations about the BDSM community. It received the 2012 Ruth Benedict Book Prize and was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Awards.

The sexual practices reflected in BDSM have long been the site of deeply contentious rifts in the LGBTQ community. As Weiss, Associate Professor of American Studies and Anthropology at Wesleyan University, put it in an interview with *Windy City Times*, "the need to defend BDSM practice and play from the feminist attack limited the pro-sex or pro-BDSM analysis. The stuckness of this debate—pro- vs anti-BDSM—is a legacy of the late 1970s and early 1980s sex wars. The book reflects my own process of unpacking and dislodging the terms of that debate, and trying to say something else about the politics of BDSM and sexuality in general."

That "something else" is a rich and dynamic history and analysis of BDSM as part of larger economic shifts, especially exemplified by San Francisco, the city where this book is based. Once home to an idealistic—and idealized—form of bohemian gay culture but now more firmly rooted in several manifestations of a burgeoning neoliberal economy, few can afford to escape there.

For Weiss, BDSM, which also requires a high degree of consumption in terms of its paraphernalia and access to the economic means to buy them, is not simply a set of desires but "produced in and through the relationship between capitalism (specifically consumerism) and community." *Windy City Times* spoke to her about that and more.

Windy City Times: In your book, you write that the BDSM community resists claiming a sexual identity. Could you elaborate on that?

Margot Weiss: What I finally settled on in my book is the term "identity in practice," by which I mean that BDSM folks certainly claim an identity, but it is an identity organized by or as practice. In queer and feminist theory, "identity" typically refers to a set of binary relationships defined in large part by genitalia—male/female, gay/straight.

BDSM identities—such as top, bottom, switch, femme femme, pony, etc.—are not fixed



Margot Weiss. Photo courtesy of Weiss

and stable identities in the same way; they are not primarily based on body type or type of body you are into. Which is not to say that BDSM labels are not critical ways that folks organize their desires, and their sense of themselves. But they are based on practices, more than on binary identity.

WCT: The book also counters a dominant understanding of the BDSM community as subversive and even politically radical. It's often assumed that because of the nature of its unconventional practices, it must also be, for instance, anti-capitalist, anti-racist and so on.

You trouble that conception. Was this a surprise to you, going in?

MW: So my first surprise when I got to San Francisco was the size of the "pansexual" BDSM scene there, a scene that is open to everyone, but in practice tends to include mostly straight and bisexual folks. This scene was also intimately tied to commodities—to sex toys and other stuff—that was surprising to me when I first started going to events and meeting folks. The first real BDSM event I attended, as I write about in the beginning of the book, was a combination play party, "slave auction," and bazaar, so the ways BDSM is also a sexual marketplace was one of my first impressions.

No one I had read up until that point had talked about the role of toys in the scene, or the ways classes and workshops on BDSM techniques have transformed the scene, or the other aspects of the BDSM scene that are not, at least on the surface, either oppositional to capitalism or about challenging norms.

WCT: You mentioned the "sexual marketplace," and your book contextualizes BDSM within neoliberalism and in particular with the shifts in San Francisco. Could you discuss your definition of neoliberalism and its relationship to BDSM and to San Francisco in particular? Most people in the LGBTQ community have historically thought of the city as a liberatory space where queers can finally go to be themselves.

MW: The core of neoliberalism is a logic of the market, and the privatization that goes along with this. In terms of BDSM, and sexuality more generally, we need to think about neoliberalism as a cultural formation (rather than a strictly economic policy) that makes some ideas, choices, values, relationships or situations seem good, reasonable, the way things are, etc.

In terms of San Francisco, or really the Bay Area, the economic changes that I think about in terms of late capitalism play a large role in this: the tech explosion in Silicon Valley, the Internet, the niche marketization of sexuality and sexual practices, the marketing of San Francisco

as a tourist city (as a queer tourist city, to reference your question), the gentrification of San Francisco and the suburbanization of the east and south bay (aka white flight), the allocation of resources away from communities of color in the city and toward those newly developed cities and towns. ... This is the economic history of San Francisco's current incarnation.

The BDSM scene that exists today exists because of these changes. Some of those intersections are obvious: there is a straight line between technology (the introduction of personal modems, graphical user interfaces, and more robust Internet connectivity) and the forms of socializing and networking common in the scene today (the munch, for example). Some are less so: the allure of queer San Francisco as a marketed image obscures or effaces the real (economic and structural) violence against poor, young, queer and trans, and folks of color that makes that image possible.

WCT: In a key opening part of the book, you write specifically about a scenario involving race play, a re-enacted slave auction—and it's something you return to (along with a

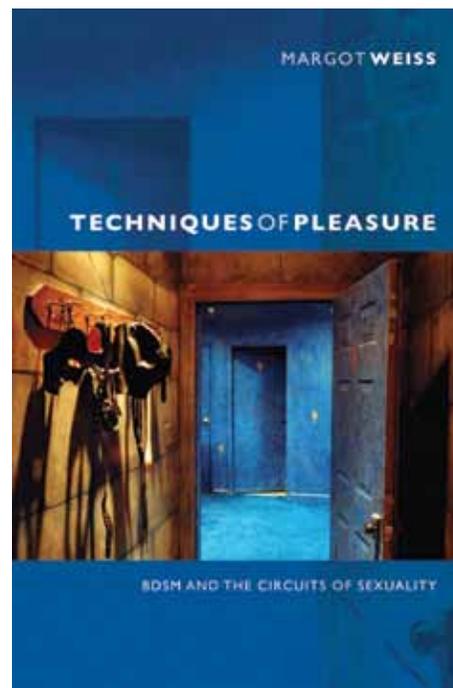
sis. In some ways, those first scenes became an event I was accountable to: my analysis or argument had to account for those scenes. I needed to move past my own white liberal responses to the racialization of those scenes, and also the taken-for-granted (at least in queer studies) transgressive analytics, and get somewhere else in order to do justice to what I'd seen. Those opening scenes were, in a way, my own stumbling block in the book.

WCT: You do write about people like J. and Paul, who try to bring their consciousness about the problematics of power play into their scenarios. Is that what the book might advocate for? Is that likely to happen soon? In other words, is there a way to rethink BDSM/transform it so that it might live up to its radical potential? Or is it that we need to keep BDSM in a space of contestation, examining and questioning what its practices might represent? Is that the ultimate radical potential of BDSM?

MW: I think the book advocates a more complicated and dynamic and, indeed, economic understanding of sexual politics, in BDSM and otherwise. There are definitely people in the book, along with many others, who are challenging the white privilege and the casual racism and sexism and classism that are part of the BDSM scene, and I hope the book can support those efforts. But it's not really up to me to instruct folks in how to do more radical BDSM.

I think that my pretty limited role as an academic is to try and find new ways to think about the politics and analysis of our sexual relationships, to open up spaces to rethink sex, and to uncover what might already be experienced as unjust—and to offer tools that might be helpful in contesting these dynamics. I think academics and cultural critics, maybe especially in queer studies, can sometimes fall back on ways of thinking about transgression or sexual politics that don't do that, and I hope that the book might play a small role in shifting the conversation.

But in the end, the potential of BDSM sexuality to serve as politics—that I am actually not so certain about. In so far as sexuality is a social relation, and opens (and closes) intimacies with others, BDSM has the potential to create (and destroy) the kinds of relationships we'd like more of. But in terms of large scale or structural social change ... maybe I'll leave this with Patrick Califia's words: "I do not believe that we can fuck our way to freedom."



larger analysis of the role of race in BDSM) to a few times. There are those who argue that this has nothing to do with racism—your own summation and analysis is more complicated, than simply arguing for or against. Could you describe your initial contact with that and whether it was more troubling than gender play?

MW: Yes, it was more troubling, at least for me, in part because the way I understood BDSM play was that it transgressed normative gender roles...part of the question for me was not so much that there were more straight men in the scene than I'd expected, or bisexual women married to men, or whatever (not so much about sexual identity/orientation).

But it was about how to read—politically—a scene where a man is the top, with a woman as bottom—in the context of a community in which most straight men are tops. It was a challenge for me to analyze the politics of scenes that reflect, rather than reverse, normative arrangements of power. And I couldn't really leave it at an analysis that presupposes that reversed or queer scenes are transgressive—this reading was not sustainable in scenes that repeat gendered relations.

So, those scenes at the slave auction really bothered me. They didn't, on the face of it, seem to allow for a transgression-through-reversal reading. And, in the context of a "slave auction," I really didn't know what to make of those scenes. I was, frankly, upset by what I was seeing, and it took me a very long time to find ways to think through those scenes. I tried, at first, to analyze them as (somehow) resistant to contemporary racialization: They exaggerated it, or parodied it, or replayed traumatic history (real slave auctions) in a scene that neutralized racial history.

But I was unsatisfied with this kind of analy-

Chicago musician gets three RightOutTV nods

Chicago musician Scott Free has been nominated for three RightOutTV Music & Video Awards.

His song "Happy Pride Day Moscow" is nominated for Best Rock Song, and his duet with Lester Greene, entitled "He's My Shortie," is up for both Best Hip Hop/R&B Song and Best Hip Hop/R&B Video.

Winners will be announced on a video broadcast at RightOutTV.com on Oct. 30; see www.RightOutTVAwards.com.

"Moscow" is available as a free download at <http://thescottfree.bandcamp.com/track/happy-pride-day-moscow>. The video for "Shortie" is at <https://vimeo.com/75157876>.



Scott Free.

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Sin City Shootout to unite LGBT sports in Las Vegas

BY ROSS FORMAN

The 7th annual Sin City Shootout, a multi-event extravaganza of gay sports, has expanded by four sports for 2014, bringing the total to 16 events—with more than 6,500 people expected to participate and about 7,500 total attendees expected, including family and friends.

The event will be held Jan. 16-20 in Las Vegas, with kickball, billiards, darts and bowling now



Soccer at the 2013 Sin City Shootout. Photo by Ross Forman

among the mix. The Shootout also features softball, ice hockey, flag football, basketball, soccer, bowling, golf, volleyball and tennis, among other sports.

It is the largest annual LGBT sporting event in North America.

"I am really excited for the 2014. With four new sports, there is something for everyone's athletic ability," said Shootout director Eric Ryan, of Los Angeles. "My goal for 2014 is to make sure 99 percent of our athletes, family and friends have a good time on and off the field. I know you can't please all the people all the time, but if we can please 99 percent, then I would call it a success."

After the 2013 event, organizers sent out a survey, and it received a 98.3 percent approval rating, Ryan said. "That's pretty darn good for such a large scale event, with all the moving components we put together."

The 2013 Shootout drew just under 6,000 participants—with Chicago residents participating in almost all sports.

"The 2013 ice hockey event was relatively small, as it was our first year," said Jeff Kagan, who lives in New York City and runs the NYC Gay Hockey League. "We plan to expand [the Shootout in 2014] by doubling the number of teams [participating]. We are planning for eight teams [in 2014, split between] recreational and competitive divisions." All hockey teams are co-ed.

"As 2014 is a Gay Games year, [the Shootout] is a good way for players to start working their way to the gold [at the Games]." Kagan is co-producing the Gay Games ice hockey tournament next August in Cleveland.

The inaugural Shootout in 2008 was strictly a softball tournament, with about 50 teams.

"The event grew bigger and bigger every year, and in year four, I had so many friends who played other LGBT sports hear the stories and good times our athletes were having and they

said they wished they had an event like ours. So the light bulb went off and I started approaching other LGBT sport associations to see if they wanted to be a part of the Sin City Shootout," Ryan said.

Wrestling, bodybuilding and tennis were quickly added.

Softball remains the largest draw in the Shootout, with about 170 teams registered—which is about 15 more teams than participated this past August in the annual Gay Softball World Series. Ryan said there might be as many as 180 softball teams in 2014.

The Sin City Shootout is the largest LGBT softball event in the world for three consecutive years.

Bodybuilding, meanwhile, is the smallest sport at the Shootout, with potentially as few as four participants. "I encourage more people to sign up [for bodybuilding] as it really has nothing to do with how huge you are; that is just one category of the competition," Ryan said.

Kickball and bowling are also very popular events, Ryan said.

"I am always open to different sports being added every year. Most sports are either added by me contacting one of their representatives, or they contact me. I would love to add some type of aquatics, track and field events, or even

martial arts," Ryan said. "The Sin City Shootout is so special because of the participants, no doubt about it. It is about each and every person attending having a good time, enjoying their stay, competitions and the camaraderie all the sports bring together as one."

Andrew Sobotka, president of the Chicago Gay Hockey Association (CGHA), skated with and against CGHA members in the 2013 event—and he said it was a "great experience."

"To have that many gay athletes and allies in one place was spectacular," Sobotka said. "Just being able to see how many people participate in athletics at so many different levels was very interesting. From a hockey perspective it was funny to see thousands of gay softball players and then realize that there were only about 50 gay hockey players. Gay hockey has a long way to go to catch up to softball."

The Tropicana is the host hotel once again, with all rooms reserved for the event.

"For a Las Vegas strip hotel to be so welcoming to the LGBT community and let us totally take over the hotel and make it ours, from banners everywhere, to all the dealers wearing shirts with our logos and even our Sin City Shootout logo with a rainbow background in neon lights 100-feet up on the Las Vegas Strip, it's amazing."

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WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES



Bull Horns Taco Bar

BY MEGHAN STREIT

After dinner service one Sunday evening in August, Andersonville's Marigold unceremoniously closed its doors. I was bummed about that—I think the "gayborhood" needed a good Indian restaurant. Two months later, a cheap-looking banner was slapped over the original awning, and the Marigold owners reopened the restaurant as **Bull Horns Taco Bar**. Tacos, you say? Stuffed with classics like carne asada or reinvented with fried chicken and bacon? For just three bucks each? Sounds like a fun addition to the Clark Street strip, right?

Wrong. This place is a complete failure—start to finish. From what I can tell, the interior is basically Marigold with a set of bull horns (the kind that come from an animal) hanging behind the bar. Oh, and there is one leather saddle perched in the back. However, it is an English riding saddle, which, I hate to break it to these guys, has nothing to do with cowboys, bulls or Mexican food.

I'll forgive unimaginative décor if excellent food is being served. Unfortunately, that's not the case at Bull Horns. I'm a tamale fanatic, so I started with an order of those. Aside from the fact that I couldn't differentiate between the chicken and the pork until my very last bite of each tamale, they were fine, but most certainly not special. You can get much better tamales

up the street from the guy selling them out of a cooler in front of Edgewater Produce.

Next I tried the nachos, which were, at best, a joke and, at worst, an insult to Mexican restaurants everywhere. The chips were undeniably store-bought (and not even the good kind that you splurge on when you want a treat at home). And, the cheese? It was the scary orange sauce that only baseball stadiums and movie theatres can get away with serving.

I persevered, hoping that the starters would not be indicative of the quality of the tacos. The place does, after all, bill itself as a taco bar. The menu boasts a nice selection of classic tacos like blackened tilapia and barbecue pork, as well as a few quirky specialty tacos that sound intriguing. There's a meatball and marinara taco topped with mozzarella cheese and another stuffed with pork, beans and bacon.

The carne asada taco was filled with some of the driest, chewiest beef I've ever eaten—and virtually nothing else: no cheese, no salsa, no sour cream. Nada, except for a few sad onions. Comparatively, the barbecue pork taco was pretty darn good. But, in reality, it was a scoop of ho-hum pork thrown into a bland flour tortilla. Yawn.

The one high point in an otherwise tragic meal was the bacon, Swiss and chicken taco. A nicely fried chicken strip was topped with a good amount of melted Swiss cheese and topped with a singular piece of crisp bacon. It's basically a tiny chicken sandwich in a tortilla, which is the only thing vaguely taco-like about it. The shrimp taco somehow wound up in the specialty taco section, which is perplexing because there is nothing remotely inventive or interesting about it. The small shrimp, which the menu claims are sautéed in a "ranchero salsa," have no discernable spice. They are topped with way



Some selections at Bull Horns Taco Bar.
Photo by Shira Kollins

too many peppers, which don't do much to improve the overall flavor of the taco.

The only thing worse than the shrimp taco was the pork, beans and bacon abomination. The black beans could not have been more flavorless—like if you opened a can of generic black beans and ate them cold with a fork,

they would taste better than these beans. It's as if they found a way to actually remove flavor from beans, leaving tasteless black mush in their place. The one strip of bacon (is there a bacon shortage I don't know about?) and the decent pork couldn't compensate for the flavorless beans.

The only way a taco bar of this caliber could survive in a food town like Chicago is to be a bar that happens to serve tacos—because the only people who are going to eat these things more than once are those who were too intoxicated to remember having eaten them the first time around. Unfortunately, based on my margarita experience, I don't see people running up big bar tabs here (at least not on purpose). The "raging bull" margarita looked like a fun time—it's served with a mini bottle of Corona floating in it upside down. But, the margarita tasted as if it came from a mass produced mix, without a hint of fresh lime juice. And, as you sip it down, you're left with Corona on ice, which tastes like the mixology mistake that it is.

I can't help but wonder what compelled the Marigold owners to turn their reliable and at least moderately successful Indian restaurant into a bizarre and uninspired taco bar. Just like the banner haphazardly hung on the front awning, this whole operation feels slipshod—from the runny scoop of sour cream plopped on the plate of tamales to the insanely slow service to the tragically bland black beans to the saccharine margaritas. My advice: Toss the tacos and resurrect Marigold.

Bull Horns Taco Bar is located at 5413 N. Clark St.

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

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SPORTS

Skater Moby Nipps reflects as Rollers vie for championship

BY ROSS FORMAN

When the Windy City Rollers All-Stars compete Nov. 8-10 in Milwaukee for The Hydra Trophy, the top prize awarded at the annual Championships of the women's flat track roller derby league, the Chicago crew will have a minor home track advantage, thanks to Sarah Knippel, the real-life Moby Nipps.

Knippel, 30, lives in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood and works in the financial industry. She moved to Chicago about a year ago and started playing with the Windy City Rollers All-Stars immediately, and even played in the 2012 World Championships.

Moby Nipps started her roller-derby career in Nashville in early 2007 and moved to Milwaukee at the end of that same year. She played in Milwaukee from December 2007 until August, 2012.

"I am beyond excited to play Championships in Milwaukee," Knippel said. "So many of my friends and former teammates will be there cheering me on, and it will be so nice to have an arena full of supportive people."

Moby Nipps is, admittedly, a "tenacious, brutal, and funny" player on the track. "I play best when I'm having fun," she said. Moby Nipps also skates for one of Windy City Rollers four home teams, The Fury, which went undefeated and

claimed the Ivy King Cup this past June.

"Our [2013 home] season has had a lot of ups and downs, with some incredible victories, as well as a few disappointing losses," she said. "I think WCR has worked hard to prove to the world that we deserve a top spot at the world championships and we will train as hard as possible to get there."

Knippel skates against her real-life partner, Carlie Lusk, 28, an educator, who doubles as Baberham Lincoln of the Hell's Belles and the Third Coast on WCR. The two have been together for six years, and married three years as of Sept. 24.

"I only skated with WCR for tournament season last year, and it was incredible," Moby Nipps said. "Although we didn't perform as well as I know we are capable at Championships last year, I know we will bring it this year."

Most of WCR's skaters are at least 30, working by day in countless professions—from bartenders to lawyers to educators to accountants. Some live blocks away from the club's practice facility, while others live in the suburbs and drive an hour-plus each way for practices. One of WCR's All-Stars even lives in Milwaukee.

The top 40 teams in the world, based on WFTDA.com rankings, were separated into four Division I playoffs, which were held in September. The top three teams from each playoff qualified



Moby Nipps (right) in a roller-derby match. Photo courtesy of Nipps

to compete in the Championships in Milwaukee. WCR competed in the playoffs in Asheville, N.C., and snagged a third-place title after a defeating the Minnesota RollerGirls.

"Championships is the most important tournament of the year. This is the culmination of all of our hard work and our biggest chance to show how strong we are," Moby Nipps said.

The WCR All-Stars open play at the championships with a bout against Philadelphia, a team that defeated WCR this past June.

"We are a stronger team now than we were then," Moby Nipps said. "In order to take first-

place, we will have to win four games in one weekend, and we have been training non-stop to do exactly this. Championships is an elimination-[style] tournament, but we are planning to play no fewer than four games that weekend."

The championships draw 12 teams from across the U.S., including the Gotham Girls Roller Derby club that has claimed first-place at Championships for the past two years, and has gone undefeated in sanctioned play for about two years.

"I feel pretty confident that 2013 is our year," Moby Nipps said.

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First time offering of this designer-owned historic Pattington 2 bedroom+den with 1.5 baths in Lakeview near the lake. Pristine vintage detailing throughout include formal dining room, ceiling crown moldings, hardwood floor, 9.6ft ceilings, etc. plus new modern kitchen, washer/dryer, huge private balcony. All the new building updates includes new roof, windows, tuck pointing and boiler. Garage and outdoor spaces available. Listed at \$365,000.

Robert John Anderson

Real Estate Broker
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CALENDAR

Brought to you by the
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WINDY CITY
TIMES

nightspots

Wed., Oct. 30

Nunn's Halloween Habit. Nunn on the Run presents a charity affair. Singers, comedians, female illusionist, costume contest. \$20 benefits Vital Bridges Center on Chronic Care. 6-9pm. The Call, 1547 W. Bryn Mawr, Chicago. Info jnunn@mac.com

Sara Paretsky with special guests: Girls from Sisters4Science. Launch of new book, *Critical Mass*, which exposes V.I. Warshawski to a long-buried piece of the history of the atom bomb. 6:30pm. Swedish American Museum, 5211 N. Clark St.

Long Live the Queen! The Persistence of Gay Culture. How to Be Gay author David Halperin. 7pm. Elmhurst College, Founders Lounge of the Frick Center, 190 Prospect Ave., Elmhurst. www.elmhurst.edu/campusmap. 630-617-3390.

UIC Feminist Book Celebration. The Gender and Women's Studies Department and The Institute for Research on Race & Public Policy. Featuring the work of UIC scholars Claire Decoteau, Lorena Garcia, Nilda Flores-Gonzalez, Anna Guevarra, Sekile Nzinga Johnson, Nadine Naber, Barbara Ransby, 5-7 p.m. | IRRPP Reception Area

Reception honoring state Rep. Greg Harris. 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, \$1000-\$100. hosted by Sean Tenner, KNI Communications. 4802 N. Broadway, #200, Chicago (above Green Mill). info@gregharris.org

12th Annual Chicago Innovation Awards For the 12th consecutive year, the Chicago Innovation Awards will celebrate the creative spirit of the Chicago region by honoring its most innovative new products and services. This year's winning organizations may be large or small, for-profit or not-for-profit, high tech, low tech or no tech, across all industries, but they are all tied together by their commitment to innovation. 1pm-1:15pm, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., www.harristheaterchicago.org/

Rocky Horror and a Little Bit More Cabaret Show The Chicago Cabaret, starring Amy Armstrong and Freddy Allen. 8pm-10pm, Circuit Nightclub, 3641 N. Halsted St, <https://buytix.net/Default.aspx?ShowID=f88ae3f2-8c5f-4715-8b44-051c14515d98>

Thursday, Oct. 31

Halloween Costume Contest Roscoe's is hosting a costume contest with a \$750 grand prize! Sign up by 9pm, contest at 10pm. 9pm-10pm, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted St., <http://www.roscoes.com>

17th Annual Northalsted Halloween Pa-

rade: Twisted Circus! Bigger and bolder. 6:30pm-10pm, Halsted Street, Belmont to Addison.

Zombie Bar Crawl MB Financial Park at Rosemont hosts a Halloween pub crawl to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. 8pm, 847-349-5008, MB Financial Park at Rosemont, <http://www.mbpar-katrosemont.com>

Rocky Horror Picture Show Film with Live Cast WOWMS presents THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW at 27 Live in Chicagoland - Movie with Live Cast 8pm, 855-927-5483, 27 Live, <http://www.27live.com>

White Party Exclusive weekly underground party. Reserve for VIP service and priority seating. 9pm, Minibar, 3341 N. Halsted St., <http://www.minibarchicago.com/#>

Friday, Nov. 1

Cyndi Lauper—30th anniversary of She's So Unusual. 8pm. Use password WINDY for presale tickets. \$30-\$95. Chicago Theater, 175 N. State, www.thechicagotheatre.com/events/2013/november/cyndi-lauper-at-the-chicago-theatre.html

Persons of Interest exhibit Twenty-eight iconic figures of the 20th century. Opening 6-9pm. Through Nov. 27. August House Studios and Oakland Arts. 2113 W. Roscoe St., 773-327-5644

SOFA Chicago 20th Annual Fair The 20th annual SOFA CHICAGO, the world's foremost fair devoted to sculpture objects functional art plus design, will be on view at Navy Pier's Festival Hall through Nov. 3. 11am-7pm, 773-327-3830, Navy Pier, 600 E Grand Ave., <http://www.sofaexpo.com>

Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry An array of acclaimed artists from Chicago and beyond tell the powerful story of an African-American family living in a crowded apartment on Chicago's South Side during the 1950s. Through Nov. 17. 8pm, TimeLine Theatre, 615 W. Wellington Ave., <http://timelinetheatre.com>

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/>

Saturday, Nov. 2

CGMC's Lipstick & Lyrics: Sex Is In The Heel. Chicago Gay Men's Chorus's , Drag Divas sing some of the greats of pop music live: 7:30pm, Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., <http://www.cgmc.org>; Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/>

event/481959

Writer and activist Jay Michaelson "The Parts of the Bible Your Fundamentalist Cousin Doesn't Want You to Know About." 8pm. Lakeside Congregation for Reform Judaism, 1221 County Line Rd. in Highland Park. www.lakesidecongregation.org or www.jaymichaelson.net.

Chicago League of Lady Arm Wrestlers (CLLAW) Return for CLLAW XVII, The Day of The Dead. Doors open at 10 pm, first match at 10:30 pm. Benefits Sideshow Theatre Company and Barrel of Monkeys. \$10. Cash bar available. Advance tickets available at www.cllaw.org Logan Square Auditorium, 2539 N. Kedzie Ave.

Evening of Elegance 2013 Fundraiser This formal event will raise funds for Arden Shore Child and Family Services, a 501c3 child welfare organization. Chef Art Smith and Jesus Salgueiro will be the honorary chairs for this elegant and exciting gala. Tickets \$250 per person or table for 10 for \$2,000. Email bpayton@ardenshore.com or call 847-623-1730x127; 5pm-11:30pm, <http://ardenshore.com>

CAKE Chicago. LGBTQ Arts Showcase hosted by Ripley Caine, featuring Ripley Caine & The Full Moon, Andy Karol, Megan Sieberg. \$5 cover, 9pm. Red Line Tap, 7006 N. Glenwood Ave., Morse El Stop

MEGL: all about being gay & lesbian Te esperamos este sabado en nuestra sesion informativa sobre los GAYS y LESBIANAS; por que somos como somos? seran cierto todos los estereotipos? Hacia donde vamos? que nos une? que nos separa? 6pm-8pm, 773-658-5420, DePaul U. 2250 N. Sheffield Ave., Suite 102, <http://ministerioegl.weebly.com>

Nettelhorst French Market-closing day The last Saturday to enjoy the freshest flowers, vegetables, fruits, breads, meats, and crafts from local farmers, at this popular farmers market in the heart of Boystown. 8am-2pm, Chicago Nettelhorst French Market, 3252 N Broadway, <http://www.bensidounusa.com>

Sunday, Nov. 3

Hinsdale PFLAG. Speaker Lynne Kennedy of the Open Door Clinic. Open door Clinic is a not-for-profit sexual health and wellness organization in the western suburb of Elgin. 2pm to 4pm, Unitarian Church of Hinsdale, 11 W. Maple, Hinsdale

Divalicious Brunch Kit Kat Lounge and Supper Club presents "Divalicious Brunch", starring the one and only Madam X. Enjoy tasty tini's, delicious eats and the talents of the iconic. 11am-4pm, Kit Kat Lounge & Supper Club, 3700 N. Halsted St., <http://www.kitkatchicago.com>

Working For Queer Acceptance: Finding Love Amongst the Religious Right Golda Goldberg. Part of Lavender University LGBTQ programs, a nine-month series of LGBTQ educational programs featuring prominent scholars known nationally for their innovative research and work. Res-

ervations online or tickets at door. Questions to publisher@windycitymediagroup.com or lkarlic@centeronhalsted.org. 1pm-3pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, Chicago, <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/lavenderuniversity>

Show Tunes and Retro Sunday Enjoy your favorite show tunes from 4-9pm, followed by retro '60s-'80s videos; 3pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

Monday, Nov. 4

Personal PAC Annual Awards Luncheon with U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, who is challenging the military on sexual assault. Noon. Tickets \$150 - \$250 at 312-422-0005, www.personalpac.org. Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave.

Women of the Wall (WOW) Goal: religious freedom and the right to pray aloud at the Western Wall. On Rosh Hodesh Kislev, Monday morning, there will be a women-led Torah service 8am to 9am, hosted by Temple Jeremiah, 937 Happ Rd., Northfield, in support of Women of the Wall (WOW). <http://womenofthewall.org.il>

Sinead O'Connor American Kindness Tour. Through Nov. 6, City Winery Chicago, 1200 W Randolph St. Chicago. www.citywinery.com. 312-733-9463

Asian Pacific Islander Coming Out Group Open to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and queer APIs. Adoptees, hapas and multiracial folks welcome. Free. Light snacks. chicago2i@yahoo.com. 6pm-7:30pm, Asian Human Services in Uptown, 4753 N. Broadway

Pub Stumpers Trivia Mondays Teams of 1-4 players can sign up with a chance to win a Crew gift card. Prizes awarded to top three teams. Class time is 8pm. 8pm, Crew Bar & Grill, 4804 N Broadway, <http://www.worldsgreatestbar.com>

Tuesday, Nov. 5

The Kindness of Strangers Through the intimate act of storytelling, these forty artists will share heartwarming, heart breaking, and powerful personal stories about how strangers have affected their lives. Each night, three to four different artists. All performances at The Side Project Theatre, 1439 W. Jarvis Ave. in Rogers Park; 7:30pm-9:30pm, 773-340-0140, The Side Project Theatre, <http://www.thesideproject.net>

Pop Quiz Trivia Bring your smartest friends and test your knowledge of random trivia every Tuesday night at Hamburger Mary's Rec Room. It's free to play, and loads of fun. They'll give away a round of shots after each round of questions, and the winning team at the end of the night will win great prizes 8pm-10:30pm, Hamburger Mary's, 5400 N Clark St., <http://www.hamburgermaryschicago.com>

Drag Queen BINGO with Comedienne Mercedes every Tuesday. Win fun prizes and stay for the grand prize at the end of the



AM I BLUE?

Thursday, Oct. 31

The annual Northalsted Halloween Parade will start at Belmont Avenue and Halsted Street

Photo from 2012 by Jerry Nunn

night 10pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., <http://www.spin-nightclub.com>

Wed., Nov. 6

Equality Illinois Holiday Season Wine Tasting Enjoy a variety of more than 99 different wines from around the world as well as light hors d'oeuvres at the Equality IL wine tasting. 6:30pm-9pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., <http://www.equalityillinois.org>; Tickets: <http://www.eqil.org/events.html>

Gay Liberation Network meeting Chicago's multi-issue, LGBT direct action group calling attention to equality and liberation for LGBTs, against America's wars, supporting labor and immigrant rights, and more. 7pm-9pm, 312-543-7552, Berger Park Cultural Center, 6205 N. Sheridan Rd., <http://www.gayliberation.net>

Adult Education Classes for Fall 2013 at Congregation Or Chadash 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/>

Saturday, Nov. 9

Kimberly Peirce: From Boys Don't Cry to Carrie Feature film director of 1999 feature film, *Boys Don't Cry*, a fact-based drama about the life and tragic death of Brandon Teena, a Nebraska transgender who was brutally raped and murdered after his double life was exposed. 5 pm-6 pm. Francis W. Parker School, Diane and David B Heller Auditorium, 2233 N. Clark St.

BOOK REVIEW

To Eat

by Joe Eck and Wayne Winterrowd
\$25; Farrar, Straus and Giroux; 194 pages
BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

It's 10 minutes to lunchtime, and your stomach is smarter than you are.

You want to finish the project in front of you, but your stomach has other ideas. It snarls and aches and reminds you that breakfast was hours ago. At that point, you know you might as well give in, no matter what kind of work is on your plate. You won't get anything done anyhow.

But where will that next meal come from? In the new book *To Eat* by Joe Eck and Wayne Winterrowd, you'll read a tribute to gardening and to knowing what's really on your plate.

In early 1970, Eck and his partner, Winterrowd, moved from Boston to Pepperell, Mass., and into a 211-year-old farmhouse surrounded by wooded land and a vegetable garden. They'd always wanted to be country gentlemen, and they "could not have been more lucky than to start in that house."

There, they learned and they ate. They discovered gardening tricks, and they ate. They delighted in experimenting with crops ... and they ate.

"Eating," they say, "has always been central."

After a "glorious year" in Copenhagen (where chickens happily scabbled on parquet floors and gardening was sorely missed), the men moved on to Boston, and a Victory Garden near the Fenway. In 1974, they moved onto 28 acres of weeds and woods in South Vermont. They named their estate North Hill, and set about making gardens, arbors and meals.

They planted four different kinds of apple trees, each "near sticks" when put in the ground. Those trees yield snacks and—ultimately—pies and sauce. Their spinach crop is good, but not as good as they had in Pepperell; then again, spinach is tricky. Beets were used for salads and sides; carrots were found wild and cultivated; roadside "weeds" became delicious meals; and while they once grew unusual kinds of potatoes, they gladly saw their favorites become national staples. They raised pigs ("Showering with a pig is not a common experience"), beef, and chickens; and delighted in Brussels sprouts in winter, rhubarb in spring, lettuce all summer long, and onions in the fall.

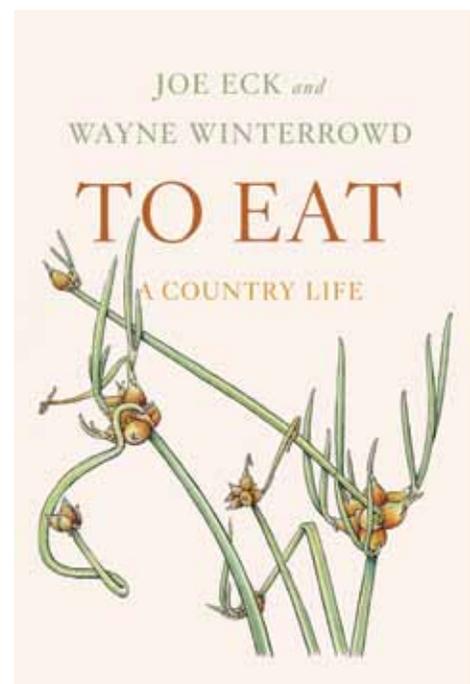
"No matter how excellent... the produce of your best local supermarket may be," they say, "there is something deeply rewarding to growing your own food..."

Partly a love letter to the earth, and partly a paean to good eating, "To Eat" is one of those delicious little books that, like a great meal, you'll want to savor.

With the circumspection of veteran gardeners, New England authors Eck and the late Winterrowd share their observations about growing plants, livestock, and together. I took great delight in their quietly humorous stories of being gentlemen farmers; if you're a gardener, you'll find solid tips in each quick-to-read chapter and if you're a gourmand, you'll drool at the recipes here, too.

At just under 200 pages, this book will last you through two or three quick lunches or meal-preps, and it may give you some new ideas. So grab *To Eat* and take a bite.

Want more? Then look for "Our Life in Gardens" and "A Year at North Hill: Four Seasons in a Vermont Garden," both by Joe Eck and Wayne Winterrowd



BILLY MASTERS

"This is the fashion Olympics. [The judges] make their decisions and someone is going home. And if this show were manipulated and rigged, Mondo Guerra would have won Season Eight—plain and simple."—Tim Gunn addresses accusations from contestants from last season's Project Runway.

Despite a good time slot, adequate publicity, and promising cast, Sean Saves the World has been disappointing, to say the least. It has moments that work (any scene starring Linda Lavin) and moments that don't (any scene not starring Linda Lavin). Reviews have been mixed and ratings have been mediocre, but Sean Hayes says he knows what the problem is—it's the network! Yes, in what can only be termed as a brazen move, Hayes told an interviewer that perhaps the show would be a better fit elsewhere: "To me, the show is working. It's just the struggle of the elephant in the room which is 'How do you get viewers to NBC?' NBC programs great shows, it just doesn't have the eyeballs CBS does." Other than that, he sees no problem with the program. "Even if I wasn't on the show, it'd be the funniest sitcom, to me, on the air right now. I watch it and go, 'Well, this is really fucking funny.' I wouldn't change anything right now. I think it's all working." Are we watching the same show? Ironically, days after he made these statements, NBC actually ordered four more episodes. Are THEY watching the same show?

Remakes are all over the television landscape. CBS has ordered a new version of Charmed—because apparently nobody with the network's

out against the anti-gay legislation, he said, "I risk jail time just going there, but the Olympics are not the place to make a political statement. I'm not a politician and I don't really talk about politics. You don't have to agree with the politics, but you have to respect the culture of the country you are visiting."

Although Weir has announced that he's retired from competition, he still plans to skate as a professional. In fact, he'll be touring Russia with Olympic gold medallist Yevgeny Plushenko after the Sochi games. And he's unconcerned by criticism that performing in Russia is the wrong thing to do: "If it's good enough for Elton John, it's good enough for me."

This leads to two Olympic-related "Ask Billy" questions. The first comes from Art in Seattle: "I just received my copy of Brian Boitano's new cookbook, and while he proudly seems to display a wedding ring on his right hand (i.e. gay wedding finger), nowhere in the book does he seem to dedicate or thank a husband figure. Is the ring just symbolic or is dear Brian still hiding in the closet?"

Sorry, he hasn't come out of the closet—yet. But I think releasing this cookbook is a step in that direction. As I'm sure you know, he showed off his willingness to serve in a series for the Food Network in 2009 called "What Would Brian Boitano Make?" which was shot in his San Francisco home. This show launched two years after his cameo in "Blades of Glory" and after his special "Brian Boitano Skating Spectacular Starring Barry Manilow." Frankly, I really think any public



The NBC show Sean Saves the World has been struggling—and star Sean Hayes is blaming the network, Billy says. Photo of cast members Hayes (left) and Echo Kellum from NBC

eyeballs has seen Lifetime's new version of Charmed, called Witches of East End. This new Charmed would allegedly have no ties with the original show or its cast. So, why bother?

A sequel is in the planning stages for Remington Steele. This would revolve around the daughter of Remington (Pierce Brosnan) and Laura Holt (Stephanie Zimbalist) reopening her dad's detective agency. Unlike the original's one-hour format, this sequel would be a half-hour sitcom. Has anyone thought to bring back Doris Roberts?

After a series of delays, the Elton John biopic is going to happen—although production won't start for about a year. Until then, the singer is re-recording songs for the film and the script is being tweaked. The hold-up has been casting. Unfortunately, Elton isn't getting his first choice—Justin Timberlake passed on the project. The lead character in Rocketman will be played by Tom Hardy, who you know from Inception and saw naked in Bronson. What? You missed it? Check out BillyMasters.com.

Although he won't be competing in the Olympics, Johnny Weir is still heading to Sochi—he just signed on as an Olympic correspondent with NBC. However, Weir knows that he could be on thin ice. When asked if he'll be speaking

statement at this point would be redundant.

Our next question comes from Ryan in Salt Lake City: "I heard there's an Olympian with a huge penis who has posted pics online. Do you know who he is?"

You need to be more specific—these days, I don't believe you even qualify for the Olympics without two nude selfies and a sex tape. But a bit of buzz surfaced last week about pole-vaulter Andrew Zollner. You may recall him causing a kerfuffle during the last Olympics because his sizeable pole could be seen through his Lycra shorts. For whatever reason (perhaps pride) he allegedly took some photos of his fantastic phallus unsheathed and aroused. I'd say he's certainly going for the gold—judging from the photos you can find on BillyMasters.com.

When a pole-vaulter is showing off his javelin, it's definitely time to end yet another column. It makes sense since Zollner has competed in the decathlon. Check him out on www.BillyMasters.com, the site that proves ten is his lucky number. If you'd like to get lucky, send your queries along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Boitano considers switching sports ... not teams. Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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NEXT LECTURE



SUN., NOV. 3, 2013, 11AM-1PM

GOLDIE GOLDBLOOM

Working For Queer Acceptance:

Finding Love Amongst the Religious Right

Goldie Goldbloom is a writer, a professor, a mother of 8, a trans mentor and a queer activist. Goldbloom's award winning fiction has been published internationally. Her novel, The Paperbark Shoe, won the AWP Novel Award and was the Independent Publishers Literary Novel of the Year. She is a professor of creative writing at Northwestern University, and the mother of eight children. Goldie was a contributor to the groundbreaking anthology Keep Your Wives Away From Them: Orthodox Women, Unorthodox Desires, and continues to work as an activist in the Orthodox Jewish community for queer inclusion. She is a mentor for transgender youth.

UPCOMING LECTURES

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>

SOFA Nov. 1-3

Sculpture Objects Functional Art + Design (SOFA) will mark its 20th annual presentation Nov. 1-3 at Navy Pier.

More than 800 artists, including artists from the United States and abroad, will participate in the three-day event that kicks off with the opening-night preview Thursday, Oct. 31, 5-9 p.m.

General admission is \$15, and a three-day pass is \$25. (The preview is \$50.) See www.sofaexpo.com for information and purchases.

'CLLAW XVII' Nov. 2

The Chicago League of Lady Arm Wrestlers (CLLAW) is resurrecting past champions (and a few new souls) in celebration of The Day of The Dead on Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Logan Square Auditorium, 2539 N. Kedzie Ave.

Sideshow Theatre Company is presenting the event.



SOFA Chicago in 2011. Photo by Andrew Davis

All proceeds from CLLAW XVII will benefit Sideshow and this match's partner charity, Barrel of Monkeys. Tickets for CLLAW XVII are \$10 with a cash bar available. Doors open at 10 p.m. with the first match beginning at 10:30 p.m. Visit www.cllaw.org.

Voting open for pro-LGBT Mud Run

Out-Fit Challenge Mud Run, a state-to-state sporting event supporting LGBT family Equality, has a voting contest where the public gets to choose the city of their next major sporting event.

Cities to choose from include San Francisco, Miami, Dallas, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Boston, Houston, Seattle, Philadelphia and Atlanta.

The contest is open until Nov. 15; see <http://www.out-fitchallenge.com/events>.

Sinead O' Connor at City Winery Nov. 4-6

City Winery Chicago, 1200 W. Randolph St., will host the only Chicago engagement of iconic Irish singer-songwriter Sinead O'Connor as part of her "American Kindness Tour" in three performances Nov. 4-6.

O'Connor has had a 25-year career and released her latest LP, *How About I Be Me (And You Be You)?*, last year. Her albums have included *The Lion and the Cobra*, *I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got* (which has her cover of Prince's "Nothing Compares 2 U"), *Faith and Courage*, and *Throw Down Your Arms*, among others.

Tickets are \$115-\$150 each; call 312-733-WINE (9463) or visit www.citywinery.com.

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Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC

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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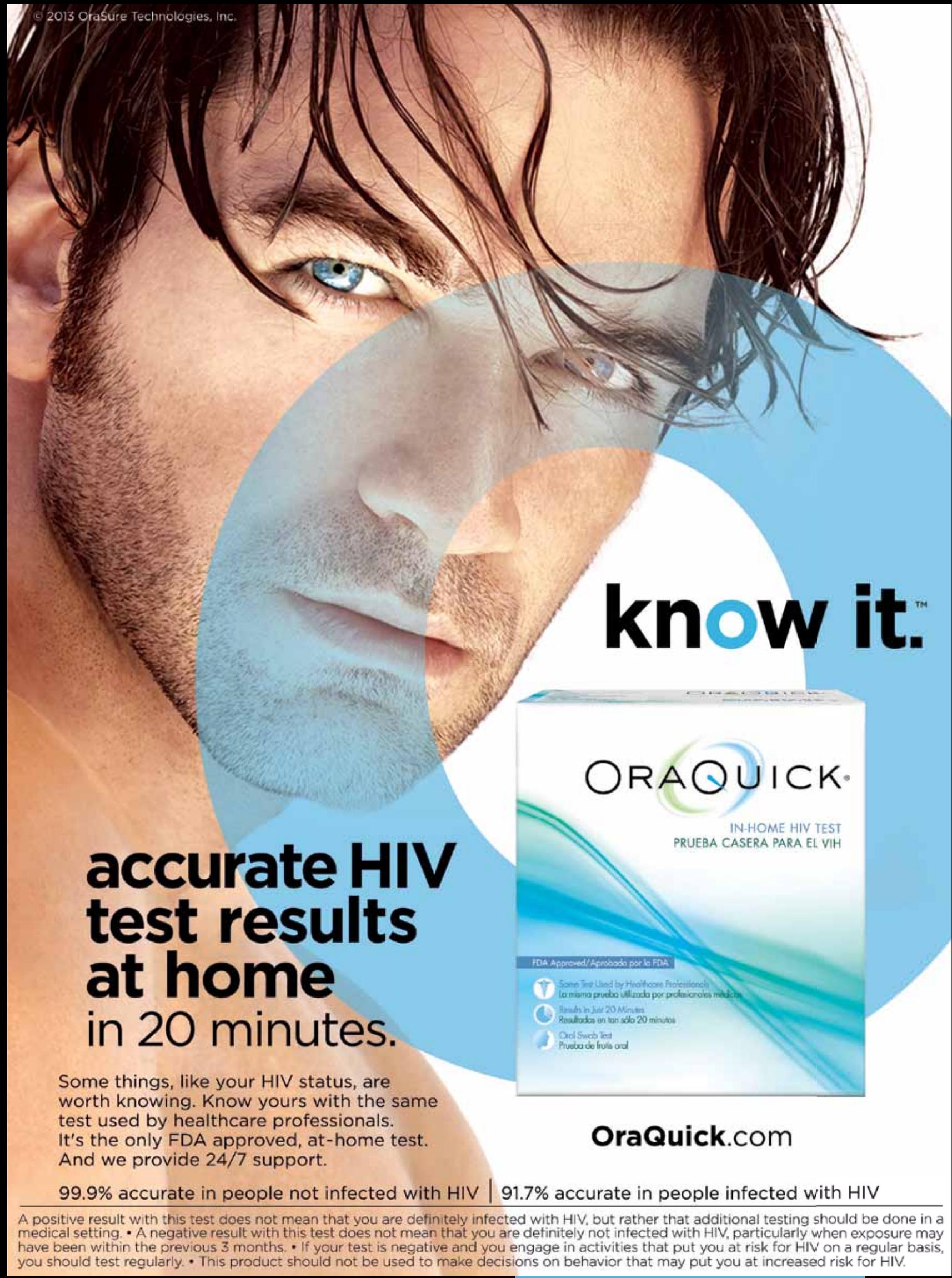
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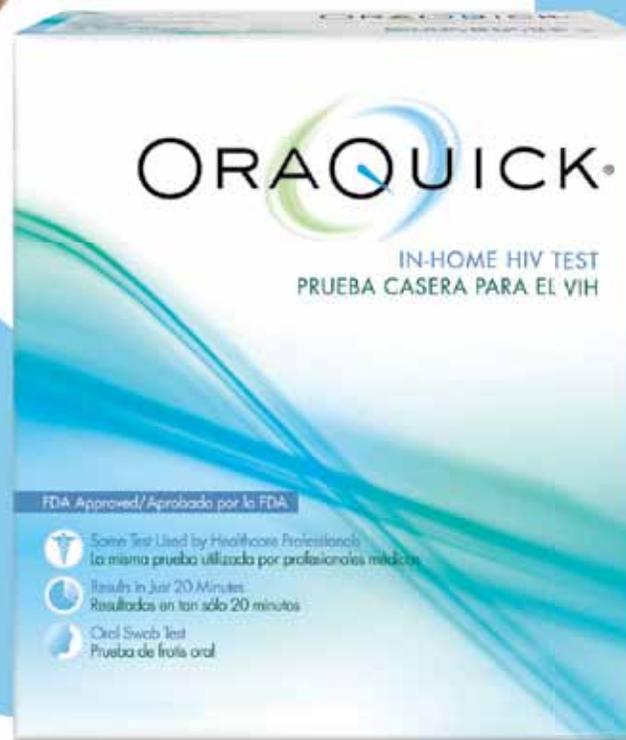
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