

JOHN LEGUIZAMO
'KLOWNS' AROUND

PAGE 15

WINDY CITY TIMES

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MARIANO'S EMPLOYEE CLAIMS ANTI-GAY BIAS
PAGE 6



PROFILING FINANCIAL ADVISOR JOE DELLA MONICA
PAGE 6



'OUT IN THE UNION' AUTHOR MIRIAM FRANK
PAGE 16

LGBT-friendly housing to open by mid-Sept.

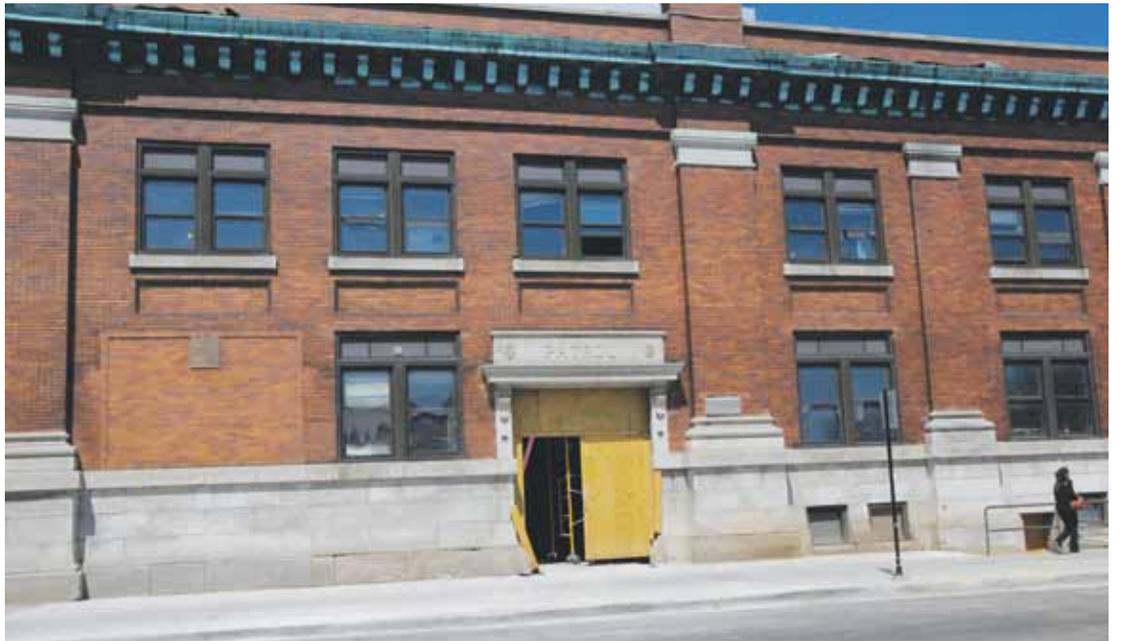
BY MATT SIMONETTE

Officials for Town Hall Apartments, 3600 N. Halsted St., say that they are aiming for a mid-September opening date for the residences, which are intended to be an LGBT-friendly housing option for seniors.

"We're hoping to have 79 people moved into Town Hall by Sept. 15," said Kandyse McCoy Cunningham, director of property management for Heartland Housing. "I'm saying that with my fingers, and everything else on me, crossed."

The project is the result of a collaboration between Heartland Housing and Center on Halsted. While the project was conceived of in response to growing concerns over safe and affordable housing options for LGBT seniors, the complex will be LGBT-friendly, not LGBT-exclusive. Such a building is known as "affinity housing."

Being a member of the LGBT community "is not a requirement to be an applicant or resident at Town Hall Apartments," noted Cunningham. "[The] Fair Housing [Act] would not allow you to ask those



The former Town Hall Police Station at the corner of Halsted and Addison will be the anchor for new senior housing; this portion will house the community center. Photo by Hal Baim

Turn to page 8

CLOTHES CALL



page 17

Kempe Scanlan is turning his grad-school project into a business by making "gender-liberated" undergarments. Read more about this intriguing undertaking on page 17. Photo courtesy of Scanlan

Connor leads new veteran-focused business incubator

BY ROSS FORMAN

His military world dates back about 15 years, when Todd Connor signed up for ROTC at Northwestern University—and upon graduating in 2000, he was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy.

Connor spent four years on active duty, stationed during that time on board the guided missile cruiser the USS Bunker Hill as a navigator. And Connor went to the Persian Gulf after 9/11 and spent an extended deployment off the coast of Iraq for the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Looking back, Connor, now 36 and living in Chicago's Lake View neighborhood, said the military was a "great experience."

"I loved the camaraderie, the mission, the work, the diversity. I really have good things to say about the Navy," he said.

Even though his stint in the Navy ran during the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" era, he was not out until after he left the military in 2005.

"Serving in the military is one of the cornerstone experiences of my life," said Connor, who is married to Andrew Tourney, 32. The two have been together for six years.

"In the military, I just learned to keep my personal life private," he said. "I'm glad ["Don't Ask, Don't Tell"] has been overturned because we want to have a more inclusive military that, ultimately, is truly representative of all Americans.

"While on active duty, I just made a point to not share personal details about my life, which probably was easier to do at my level. I know, when you get into higher ranks as an officer [of the military], a lot of the infrastructure is set up around the assumption that you are married, so [being gay] might have been problematic."

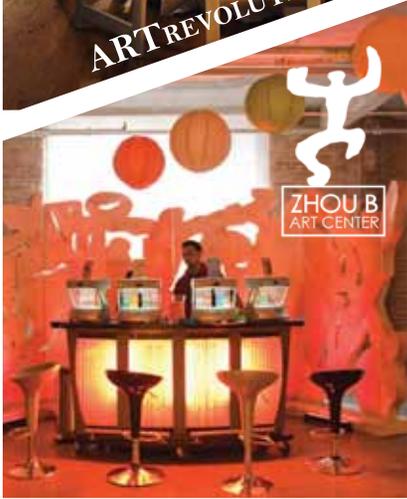
Connor's military world also has included a stint leading six military programs in CPS high schools, through their ROTC programs. He was in charge of 165 retired military officers, from all four branches of the U.S. military, each of whom had full military careers, and then was teaching in CPS as a second career.

Turn to page 6

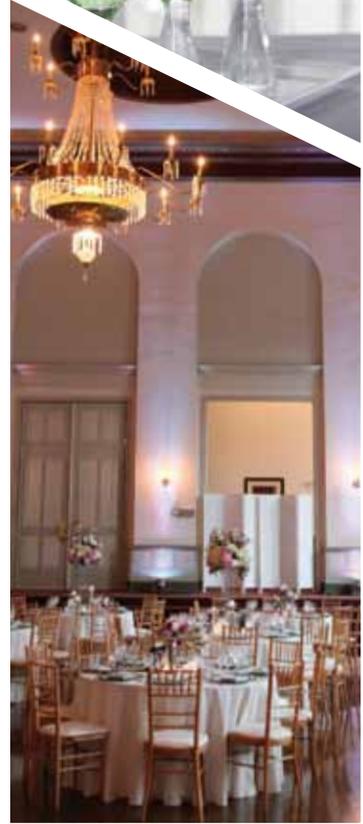
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this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

NEWS

- Nick Patricca column 4
- 7th Circuit hearing 5
- Mariano's worker claims anti-gay bias 6
- HBHC responds to ad 7
- Profile of Joe Della Monica; housing 8
- Gay in the Life 9
- VEWS: Monroe; letters 10

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

- Scottish Play Scott 11
- Knight: The Last of Robin Hood 14
- John Leguizamo interview 15
- Miriam Frank; book reviews 16
- Kempe Scanlan; Borris J. Powell 17
- Dish: Sugar & Spice 18
- FGG co-chair talks Gay Games 9 19
- Billy Masters 21

OUTLINES

- Classifieds 18
- Calendar 20
- Michael Sam's career hits wall 22

Images on cover (left, from top): Photo of John Leguizamo by Carol Rosegg; photo of Jason Beck by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer; photo of Joe Della Monica courtesy of Della Monica; photo of Miriam Frank by Jackie Skye Kim

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SPEAKING OUT

Judy Shepard (left) visited the Center on Halsted to talk about new anti-hate initiatives.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer



Openly gay comic artist Jeff Balke talked at Wizard World Comic Con about his craft.

Photo by Jerry Nunn



Brandon Rohlwing works to reduce stigma regarding suicide and mental health issues.

Photo by Zeke Dolezalek

FLOWER POWER

Jim Edminister returns with his Fairy Gardener column.

COMING UP ROSE

Musician Ariana & The Rose (aka Ariana DiLorenzo) talks about LGBTs and that other musical Ariana.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Find out the latest about Matt Bomer, Sophia Loren and John Barrowman.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

RULES OF GRAMMAR



Two members of the popular musical act London Grammar discuss everything from their backgrounds to Game of Thrones.

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Steven White and Matthew McCrea. Photo courtesy of Lambda Legal

Chicago couple files suit against cab company

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A gay couple has filed suit against a cab company whose driver allegedly tried to eject them from his taxi—on the shoulder of the Kennedy Expressway—after seeing them kiss, NBC-5 reported Aug. 28.

Matthew McCrea and Steven White filed the lawsuit last week against Sun Taxi.

The suit alleges that in May 2013, McCrea and White commissioned driver Jama Anshur, not named in the suit, to drive them home from O'Hare Airport, but suddenly stopped the cab after accusing them of "making sex" in the backseat. The couple told Windy City Times in June 2013 that they had just finished watching a YouTube video on White's phone.

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

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

McCrea and White eventually got through to police on their phone. Anshur eventually took them to a grocery store parking lot at the Cumberland exit in Park Ridge, where the couple again refused to exit until officers arrived on the scene.

After the incident took place, Anshur was fined \$1,540 when he failed to show up for a hearing before the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection. McCrea and White also unsuccessfully filed a complaint against Sun Taxi in October 2013, but it was

dismissed because Anshur was an independent contractor.

"It's ludicrous to suggest that a cab company is not responsible for the discrimination enacted by its drivers," Christopher Clark of Lambda Legal, who is representing McCrea and White, told NBC-5. "They should be liable under the law for the conduct of their agents."

Street being named for Women & Children First

A street on Chicago's North Side will be dedicated to Women & Children First Bookstore by the office of Ald. Harry Osterman. Women & Children First Way will be in honor of store founders Linda Bubon and Ann Christophersen.

The dedication will begin near the store, at the northeast corner of Farragut and Clark, at 10 a.m. Oct. 11, during the Andersonville Arts Weekend. It will be followed by a gathering at the store to meet new owners Lynn Mooney and Sarah Hollenbeck.

Corrections

In the Aug. 27 issue of Windy City Times, it should have stated in the dining section that Cafe Creme serves dinner Thursday through Sunday.

Also, in the same issue, Joe Della Monica, a producer of Love Is Strange, was misidentified in the introduction to an interview with Ira Sachs and Alfred Molina as a realtor. Della Monica is actually a private wealth advisor and owns an independent Ameriprise Financial practice in Lake View.

Windy City Times regrets the errors.

PASSAGES

Caryn Berman

Longtime healthcare advocate Caryn Berman, 62, died Sept. 1 of cancer.

Berman told the story of her fight against cancer for an Aug. 6 Windy City Times article. She spoke of her wife of 36 years, Laura Cuzzillo, and of saying goodbye to friends and family.

Berman helped organize the AIDS Foundation of Chicago with William Young and Drs. Ron Sable and Renslow Sherer. She also was instrumental in founding the Hispanic AIDS Network, and she was on the city's first Mayor's Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues, under Mayor Harold Washington. Berman, a psychotherapist and social worker, was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 1995.

See online for more details, and next week's paper for a more complete story.



Caryn Berman. Photo by Tracy Baim

Open To Thinking

BY NICK PATRICCA



It's Your Money: Illinois

The Tea Party would have one believe that fiscal responsibility in government can be understood in the same ways we understand our own personal budgets. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

W.C. Fields, in a famous comedy skit, tries to teach his loutish, spendthrift nephews the basics of economics: more money coming in than going out = happiness; more money going out than coming in = misery. This rule of a Fieldsian 101 econ class does not seem to apply to our Federal government for many reasons, primarily because it has the authority to print money. (I'll tackle the Federal budget in a future column.) The Fieldsian rule also does not seem to apply to our state and local governments which do not have this power to print money.

So, as our beloved Daily News columnist Mike Royko used to say: 'OK, boys and girls, time for a civics lesson.'

The constitution of the state of Illinois requires us to have a 'balanced budget.' Again, the meaning of this phrase seems

the state of Illinois comptroller, issued a report indicating total state bond debt at \$127 billion with \$1.5 billion interest for debt service.

The consensus of the experts: the outstanding debts of the state of Illinois are the fourth worst in the nation; the pension systems debts are the worst in the nation. The rating agencies keep lowering our credit rating.

So, how is it that we can have a constitution that requires a balanced budget and at the same time have such huge outstanding debts?

I read Judy Baar Topinka's online explanation of the three 'definitions' of a balanced budget. I was not enlightened. It seems to me, for example, that, if the governor does not ask for and/or the legislature does not make an appropriation for an expenditure, then that expense does not show up in the budget. Thus, if the debt payment is not in the budget, then it doesn't exist: a classic case of the ostrich with its head in the hole.

Since the state of Illinois cannot print

money to meet its debt obligations, the only way it can generate income is through taxation. Because it is an election year, the state legislature refused to extend the 'temporary' hike of the state income tax from 3.75% to 5%—making the hole in our budget even bigger.

Rich Miller (Crain's Chicago Business, Aug.

"The consensus of the experts: the outstanding debts of the state of Illinois are the fourth worst in the nation; the pension systems debts are the worst in the nation. The rating agencies keep lowering our credit rating."

clear enough. You and I know what it means to balance our household budget. Forget that meaning: it won't help you to understand state of Illinois budgeting processes.

ARTICLE VIII [FINANCE], Section 2 [State Finance], sub-section (a) obligates the Governor to prepare and submit to the state legislature a budget in which: "Proposed expenditures shall not exceed funds estimated to be available for the fiscal year as shown in the budget." Sub-section (b) states: "The General Assembly by law shall make appropriations for all expenditures of public funds by the State. Appropriations for a fiscal year shall not exceed funds estimated by the General Assembly to be available during that year."

Corey Eucalitto, who runs the web site State Budget Solutions (SBS), assigns a total debt of over \$321 billion to the state of Illinois which comes to a per person debt of almost \$25,000. There are other sites which estimate the per person debt at over \$40,000. SBS lists c. \$255 billion for unfunded pensions; \$33 billion for unfunded debts and a similar amount for other unfunded liabilities. In December of 2013, Judy Baar Topinka,

4 2014) suggests it's time for the state to tax retirement income. According to Miller, a state tax on retirement income over \$50,000 a year would generate \$1.5 billion in much needed revenues. Such a tax would appropriately fall hardest on those who receive two or more state pensions.

No one likes to pay taxes, especially when we do not trust the ways in which our taxes are spent. But, in this case, perceptions of taxation are greater than the realities. Miller cites a poll showing that the vast majority of Illinois citizens believe their retirement income is already taxed by the state and that the tax rate is too high. In my own informal survey of my friends, 100% believe this non-fact.

Fiscal responsibility in government?! An oxymoron!?

It's time for our gubernatorial candidates to get serious, to help us to understand our state of Illinois finances.

It's time to abandon the fiction of a balanced budget in favor of accurate transparent accounting of actual debts and revenues.

© nicholas.patricca@gmail.com

Nick Patricca is professor emeritus at Loyola University Chicago, president of Chicago Network and playwright emeritus at Victory Gardens Theater.

7th Circuit judges hear Indiana, Wisconsin appeals

BY MATT SIMONETTE

About 150 spectators, many of whom stood in line for nearly three hours, crowded into a courtroom at the Dirksen Federal Courthouse in Chicago as the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals heard marriage-equality cases from Indiana and Wisconsin.

Both states are within the 7th Circuit, so each state's cases—three from Indiana, one from Wisconsin—were heard at the same time. The panel presiding over the hearing was composed of Judges Richard Posner, David F. Hamilton and Ann Claire Williams.

The panel said they were "poking holes" in the weakest parts of the cases the attorneys were making. As Indiana Solicitor General Thomas Fisher opened, Posner immediately began grilling him on the state's contention that marriage laws are ostensibly to ensure that children are born into stable homes, and that the number of children born out of wedlock is low.

Posner suggested that the state might be contributing to that instability, however, by impeding efforts of same-sex parents to get the identical legal and financial benefits of marriage.

"Wouldn't those children like their parents to be married?" Posner asked. "Wouldn't it help them if their parents were married?"

But Fisher contended that marriage laws were a "mechanism" the state used to cut down on the number of "unintentional" births.

Hamilton, however, asked why the state gov-

ernment fixated on that one particular problem, while Williams suggested that "intent" was probably not a relevant issue in this matter since a good number of gay and lesbian parents would have strong intentions behind their decisions to raise families.

Camilla Taylor of Lambda Legal, who argued for the Indiana plaintiffs, was asked what fundamental right they were being deprived of, to which Taylor answered that it was largely a matter of autonomy. Taylor had intended to speak about Henry Greene and Glenn Funkhouser, the most recent plaintiffs to join the lawsuit, early in her argument, but was cut off by Posner. But shortly before she finished speaking, she spoke of their family, which included their son, Casey, who sat with them in the chambers.

Indiana's law, she said, "not only demeans couples, but it has also humiliated the children in these families."

Kenneth Falk of ACLU, Taylor's co-litigator, added that Indiana had no other means by which it encouraged "responsible" procreation and said that the state uses other means to encourage bonds between non-procreating, opposite-sex spouses.

Wisconsin Assistant Attorney General Timothy C. Samuelson bore the brunt of the judges' questioning. He initially suggested that "tradition" was a motivating factor behind the state's ban on marriage.

But Hamilton would not accept that. "Tradition is not grounds for this—We've been doing this stupid thing for a thousand years and so we're just going to keep doing it?"

Williams added, "*Loving [v. Virginia]* threw out that kind of distinction. I don't think you're going to get around *Loving*."

Hamilton then said, "It reminds me of several states' response to *Brown v. the Board of Education*."

Samuelson's questioning became more heated, especially once the judges pressed him on who in Wisconsin would actually be harmed should gay marriage be allowed. Finally, he told the judges that his yellow light, indicating his time was almost up, was on.

"The yellow light won't save you," said Williams.

"It was worth a shot," replied Samuelson.

The panel also appeared unmoved by his assertion that the law was a matter that should be voted upon, either by a ballot initiative, as it was in Wisconsin, or legislatively. "Every time a law is invalidated as unconstitutional, a democratic process is overridden," Posner said.

Hate-crime summit Oct. 20 in Chicago

A hate-crime summit for educators, law enforcement, researchers, service providers and the general community will be held Monday, Oct. 20, at the University of Illinois at Chicago, 750 S. Halsted St. The City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations will host, along with other agencies.

October will mark the fifth anniversary of the Matthew Shepard & James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act that President Obama signed into law in October 2009.

Students with an interest in the interdisciplinary understanding and prevention of hate crimes are invited to participate and submit an abstract for a research poster to display during the summit. To apply for a poster presentation, submit a one-page abstract of the proposed presentation to Dr. Paul Schewe at schewepa@uic.edu.

See www.facebook.com/ChicagoCHR.



Carl Strickland.

Point Foundation co-founder, 40, dies

Point Foundation co-founder Carl Strickland, 40, has died in a boating accident at Lake Tahoe, Nevada, *Frontiers LA* reported.

Strickland and his partner of 17 years, Bruce Lindstrom, created the Point Foundation in 2001 to provide scholarship funds to LGBT students. Since its inception, Point has provided more than \$15 million in the education and support of its scholars.

According to a Point Foundation press release, Strickland is survived by Lindstrom of Crystal Bay, Nevada; his parents, Jeanne Thomas (Wayne Auer) of Boise, Idaho, and Richard Strickland (Pamela) of Overland Park, Kansas; his sister, Kathy Weinert (Mike, Ryan & Julianna) of Boise, Idaho; his grandmother, Betty Thomas Baker of Boise, Idaho; and many loving family members and friends.

The organization will hold its Voices on Point concert and dinner at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza on Sept. 13; honoree Diane Warren is slated to attend.

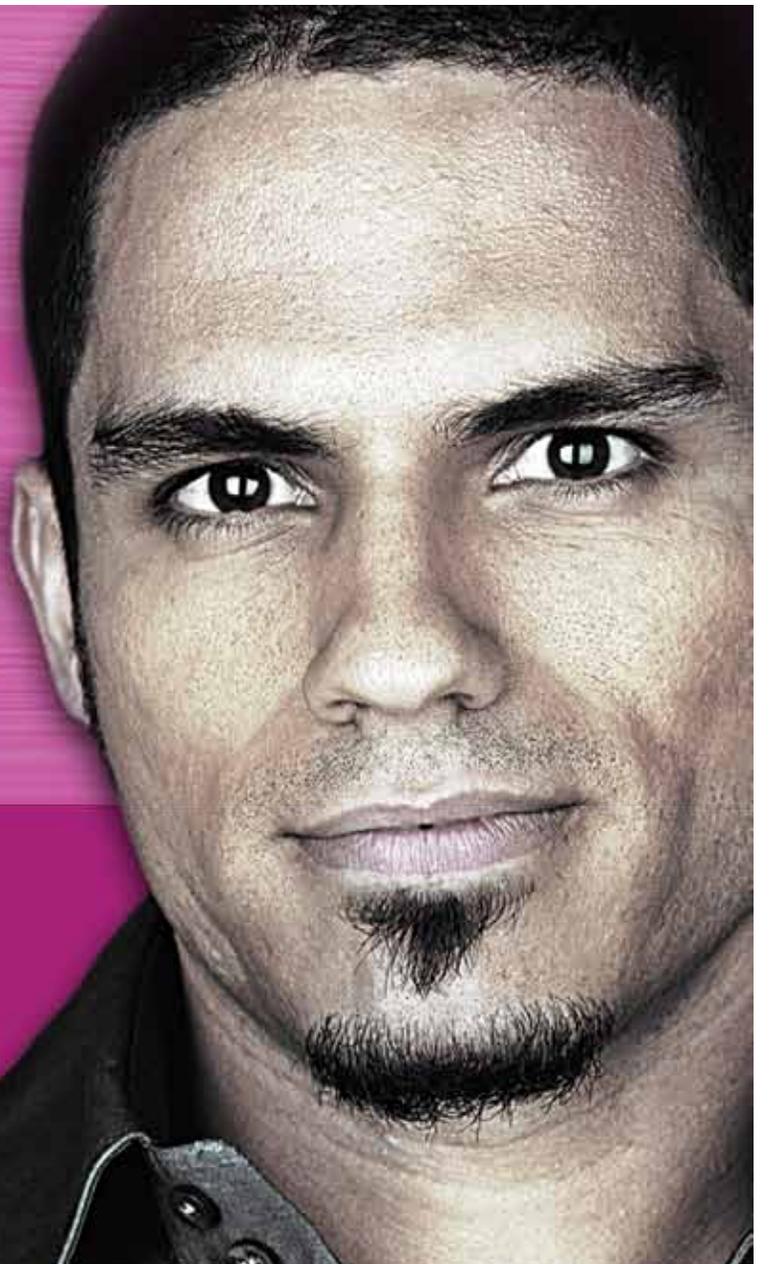
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Mariano's employee claims he was fired for being gay

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSDEFER

At the end of January 2014, James Beck—a 44-year-old resident of Edgewater—was laid off from his job at Macy's. The very same day, he walked into a recruitment center for Mariano's Fresh Market. Beck said he was hired within four weeks. By the middle of April, he was the supervisor to eight Mariano's employees and the team lead for the smoothie bar at the Ravenswood store in the 1800 block of West Lawrence Avenue. Beck couldn't believe his luck.

Less than three months later, Beck had been fired. The store manager claimed it was for excessive absences. In August, in filings with both the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations and the Illinois Department of Human Rights, Beck alleges it was because he was gay.

Mariano's parent company is Roundy's Supermarkets Inc. based in Milwaukee. In December of 2013, they bought 11 former Dominick's locations after Safeway announced closures of the stores across Chicago. The Ravenswood Mariano's opened in early April.

Beck told Windy City Times that his problems began two weeks after the store opened when a colleague—named in the complaint as the "Team Lead (Vero Coffee) Brian Morgan"—began to make "flirtatious comments to me."

"He baited me," Beck said. "Even though he said he was straight, he would touch me on the arm or the shoulder and would say things like 'you know more about my body than girlfriends I've had.'" Beck further alleges that Morgan took him up to what Morgan termed the "secret garden" on the roof of the store telling Beck, "I wanted to show this to you so we would have somewhere to sneak off and be alone together."

On another occasion, Beck claims Morgan called him on the phone and—during that conversation—said that he "wanted the lines of communication, both professional and personal, to be wide open between us."

"It was the tone in which he said it," Beck maintained. "It was in an intimate, not a professional, way."

One of Beck's co-workers—who asked not to be identified—claimed that she witnessed Morgan's actions towards Beck over a period of two or three months. "I saw them interact a lot," she said. "And [Morgan] made it seem like he was interested in Jim. He was just being real flirtatious with him. I thought it was inappropriate."

Although Beck informed his therapist of how uncomfortable Morgan was making him, he did not approach store management with a complaint. "I genuinely liked Brian," he said. "I didn't want to get him in trouble."

Beck said that Morgan joined him and other colleagues on two separate occasions at Scot's, a gay bar on the North Side of Chicago. After one such visit on June 7, Beck hailed a cab and Morgan jumped in next to him—much to Beck's surprise. "We didn't say anything during the ride," Beck said. "It was late and the cab took me to my car. Brian took the cab to his home."

On returning to work two days later, Beck said he learned Morgan had been furious about insinuations that he and Beck were a couple and had told the store's director Mike Binder that he believed Beck had started the rumor.

On June 10, Beck was transferred to the produce department. Beck informed store management that back problems plus a sinus condition would prevent him from performing duties including heavy lifting and extended periods of time in the store's cooler. "Mike made it clear that this [transfer] was permanent," Beck said. "I was told that that if I wanted to keep my job, I had to go to produce."

After four days on the job, Beck's sinus condition flared up and he called in sick for one day. On June 23, he was terminated. The form handed to him read "you have had six absences since you were hired and that is unacceptable."

Beck provided proof to Windy City Times via his pay stubs that he accrued no more than three absences throughout the entire term of his employment with Mariano's. He added that store management would not listen to him. "I was extremely upset," Beck said. "I couldn't eat or sleep."

The Illinois Department of Employment Security deemed him eligible for benefits saying



James Beck. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickensdefer

"the evidence shows that the claimant's actions resulting on this discharge was not deliberate or willful."

Beck acknowledged that he knew other gay workers at Mariano's who were not subjected to the same treatment. "Because no one made accusations that [the other gay employees] were spreading rumors," he said, "nobody came to me and asked me for my side of the story. They took [Morgan's] word for it because he's 'straight' and they just transferred me against

my will and then fired me."

He added that he is seeking compensation from Mariano's for loss of wages and the pain and suffering of losing his job. The Illinois Department of Human Rights filing claims discrimination based on "sex" and as "retaliation." The City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations filing claims discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Roundy's Supermarkets, Inc., refused comment on the matter, saying that it is currently performing its own internal investigation.

AFC holding policy roadshow

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) is traveling around Illinois to gather input from people living with HIV/AIDS, service providers and other community members about the most pressing issues facing the HIV/AIDS community.

The input gathered will be used to build 2014-2015 Illinois HIV/AIDS Policy Priorities.

The meetings will take place as follows:

- Tuesday, Sept. 9 - Waukegan
- Monday, Sept. 15 - Chicago
- Wed., Sept. 24 - Chicago
- Thursday, Oct. 16 - East St. Louis
- Tuesday, Oct. 28 - Springfield - IDPH Illinois HIV Planning Prevention Council
- Wed., Oct. 29 - Springfield - IPHA HIV/STI Conference

Email mmcandrew@aidschicago.org or call 312-334-0909. Otherwise, individuals can take the survey at <http://surveymonkey.com/s/T8R2VM7>.

INCUBATOR from cover

He was in that role for three years and has nothing but fond memories, he said.

Now he's moving into The Bunker, located on the 12th floor inside the Merchandise Mart—at 1871, a co-working mix of designers, coders and entrepreneurs in a not-for-profit, community endeavor.

Encompassing 25,000 square feet, 1871 is a tech hub that features a veteran-focused technology incubator called The Bunker. The incubator, which will be veteran-operated, is the first of its kind in the country—and Connor will serve as The Bunker's CEO.

The Bunker is supported by Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Pat Tillman Foundation, which supports veteran education. The \$2.5-million investment from the State of Illinois for the 25,000-square-foot expansion also will support The Bunker.

"We are for early-stage, veteran-owned growth companies," Connor said. "Companies have to be veteran-owned for the majority (51 percent). We take them through a six-month process to strengthen their business strategy, connect them with investors, help with strategic decisions, help with talent ... basically, we bring a lot of resources to bear that help early-stage companies grow in terms of revenue, employees and capital raised."

Military service and business acumen go hand in hand, Connor said.

"Veterans make great entrepreneurs because they have the natural skill set, which is going into an environment with a lot of unknowns and taking on a mission—and getting the mission done, regardless of the adversity or circumstances," Connor said. "I see a very clear transition between what veterans do on the battlefield and what they can do in the start-up world."

"Great startup businesses need great leaders who know how to get it done amidst uncertain and challenging circumstances."

The Bunker will officially launch in October.

Emanuel said in a release, "We as a nation and a city have a special obligation to

provide opportunities for success to our veterans once they return home. Veterans are among the best, brightest and most talented individuals our country has to offer."

Connor predicted that by early 2015, there will be a national network of similar operations to The Bunker—and there already are



Todd Connor. Photo courtesy of Connor

six cities targeted as destinations, "where the veteran leaders in those cities who are [already] leading entrepreneur programs, so they can re-brand as Bunkers," he said.

National expansion seems "inevitable," he added.

Connor admitted that he is "the least likely" veteran to run The Bunker because he had a short military career, but his fresh business approach and marketing ideas are appreciated and respected, he said.

"What I want to create with The Bunker is basically the modern-day version of the VFW—a place where people come because, truly, it's their community, where people can connect, have fun, swap ideas, network and more."

"I want people in Chicago to look at The Bunker and think, 'That's a place where cool stuff happens—and not just for veterans, but for the city overall.'"

fall leagues now forming

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HBHC responds to AHF anti-PrEP ads

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The top official from Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) responded to a new nationwide advertising campaign that questions the effectiveness of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) with an assertion that PrEP remains a viable option for persons who might be at risk for HIV infection.

"We're coming from a completely different position than those ads," said David Ernesto Munar, president and CEO of HBHC. "We think people should be given all the information they need to make an informed decision about PrEP."

Los Angeles-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF)—whose president, Michael Weinstein, has spoken out against PrEP—paid for the ads, which launched Aug. 22. Though AHF does not have a presence in Chicago, Munar said that news about the ads, which are scheduled to appear in a number of publications, would contribute to widespread misinformation about PrEP, which is largely available as the pill Truvada.

According to one of the ads, "AIDS Healthcare Foundation has taken the position that the scientific data do not support the large-scale use of Truvada as a community-wide public health intervention. Overall efficacy was low in all studies due to low adherence. Even in carefully monitored clinical trials, most participants did not take Truvada as prescribed by medical professionals. Low adherence means low effectiveness in preventing HIV."

Munar said, "AHF highlights adherence as an issue, but that's fundamental to any intervention for any condition."



HBHC CEO/President David Ernesto Munar. Photo by Andrew Collins

According to a study whose findings were released in July, known as the iPrex OLE study, Truvada was more than 90-percent effective at preventing HIV infection, provided the patient took the medication at least four times a week. Researchers, however, have not yet determined any kind of strategy to support taking the pill intermittently, so the recommendation remains taking the pill every day.

Munar added that much of the information cited in the AHF ads make use of old data as well. "We're just concerned that there's misinformation floating around," said Munar. "Some

of those were old studies from before anyone knew how PrEP worked. PrEP is endorsed by both the FDA and the CDC, both of them conservative agencies in terms of their recommendations."

About 200 people have obtained PrEP through HBHC, according to Munar. Over the past summer the organization has been delivering information on PrEP through online dating and hookup sites such as Manhunt and Jack'd. Thanks to links from those ads, about 2,300 people visited the HBHC website for information about PrEP.

Munar said service providers have "a duty to let people know the facts and let them make their own decisions." He added that few people using PrEP take the decision lightly, since a Truvada prescription requires regular HIV testing and facing many potential hurdles, among them the drug's high costs and their insurance carrier's scope of coverage.

"A lot of people don't have a primary care physician, or at least one that they fully trust," he noted. "Many people are unaccustomed to going in and asking about any drug, so that's a barrier too."

He recommended that anyone interested in PrEP contact HBHC, where they can be set up with a counselor. "They are dedicated to helping people learn about it. We counsel them about access and adherence. PrEP is not for everyone, but we can help navigate those issues should it be the right thing for you."

Munar added, "Frankly, we should give props to the people who use PrEP. They're doing something important for themselves and are taking charge of their own health. Preventing HIV infection is still optimal. It's still incurable, lifelong and, if untreated, deadly. Staying HIV-negative is still an important goal for anybody."

UIC symposium on John D'Emilio Sept. 11-12

The University of Illinois at Chicago's gender and women's studies department is hosting a two-day symposium honoring Professor Emeritus John D'Emilio's work.

On Thursday, Sept. 11, a reception and a lecture, "Sexual Violence and Citizenship: Rape Reform in American History" will take place at Student Center West, 828 S. Wolcott Ave. The reception is 6 p.m., which Stanford University's Estelle Freedman delivering the lecture at 7 p.m.

On Friday, Sept. 12, events will take place at Jane Addams Hull-House, 800 S. Halsted St. There will be three panels (at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.) featuring such individuals as University of Chicago's Cathy Cohen and Ramon Gutierrez, scholar Amber Hollibaugh,

University of Illinois' Kevin Mumford and Siohban Somerville, and the University of Massachusetts Julio Capo, among others.

See <http://johndemiliosymposium.uic.edu/>.

'A Day with HIV' reception Sept. 5

TPAN (Test Positive Aware Network) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will host a community exhibit of "A Day with HIV" on Friday, Sept. 5, 4-6 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center, Preston-Bradley Hall, 78 E. Washington St.

On Tuesday, Sept. 9, Positively Aware is inviting everyone around the world, regardless of HIV status, to get in the picture and participate in the "A Day with HIV" photo campaign.

Visit www.positivelyaware.com or www.tpan.com.

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NEW PATIENTS WELCOME. BY APPOINTMENT.

Financial advisor Joe Della Monica works for LGBTQ clients

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Joe Della Monica, an Ameriprise private wealth advisor for 18 years, describes his job like this: "What I do with my clients is help them avoid making mistakes financially, and then really maximize the good decisions in life."

He specializes in LGBTQ clients, and has a history of community service, thanks in part to his company. "I'm never ashamed to be who I am, and that's one of the reasons I associate with Ameriprise. They get it. They are a big-time community supporter as far as equality in the workplace."

"I've been in a relationship with my partner for 31 years. When I was looking for a company to work under, I wanted a company that was respectful of my lifestyle, and I also wanted to give back to the community. I got involved with the Center on Halsted, Equality Illinois and the AIDS foundation."

At the center, Della Monica is the chair of the development committee, working on projects such as senior housing, breaking ground this fall, and future youth housing.

"I believe that it's not what you get in life, it's what you give. It is our responsibility, once you reach a certain level in life, to really think about others, and what you can do for others to make their life easier and better."

Della Monica's life informs much of the advice he gives clients. An East Coast boy who moved to Chicago for love, a love that's still strong 31 years later, he went to school for acting, and saw the world as a flight attendant for American Airlines. Eventually, though, he wanted to settle down and have a long, successful career. "I always wanted to find something that I believed in and could enjoy doing as a career. You've got to push yourself sometimes even though it might be scary, it might be costly."

"But you have to have a plan in place. It's not a pie in the sky type of thing. You really have to say, OK, what's going to get me there? What are the steps necessary and what is the action plan? Whether it's my clients or making a dream come true like for the Center on Halsted."

Marriage equality has lent new importance to his role as financial advisor.

"I guide clients through what they need to be thinking about, what they don't know that they don't know. We only have a certain amount of time to make sure that you can really reach the point in time where you can retire. And retirement for everyone is different, but you can't reach that point financially unless you really plan properly. Not only for the financial aspect of things that affect same-sex



Joe Della Monica. Photo from Della Monica

marriage, but what happens if that unravels for my clients. That's where I come into play, understanding some of those things and how they affect you both currently and long-term."

In many ways, Della Monica said, "it's not the same world as it was for our parents and grandparents." Not only is this true when it comes to pensions and social security, but as LGBTQ acceptance grows and policies change, "we still haven't felt the impact of some of these changes," he said.

Marriage is not always a sound financial decision for LGBTQ couples, he said. "Even though we get swept up with the euphoria of now having that right and privilege of getting married and it being federally recognized, it is something that you have to take a step back and say 'is this the best thing for me? What are the pros and cons?' I'm not discouraging someone from moving forward with that decision. There are things to make sure that you understand before you take the plunge."

Outside of the office, Della Monica is fun-loving, a guy whose friends tease him about being both "Business Joe" and "Party Joe." His hobbies include fishing, cooking, and playing softball with his partner, Mike. Of late, his biggest accomplishments include being an associate producer on the Ira Sachs movie Love

Is Strange, starring John Lithgow and Alfred Molina as an older gay couple who fall on hard times.

He also plans to marry Mike sometime this year. "With an old couple like [us], we're not in any great rush, we've been together for so long. We didn't want to be at the front of the line of the Illinois excitement over the June 1st date."

Tunney posts survey about Pride Parade location change

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The office of 44th Ward Ald. Tom Tunney has released a survey asking whether the Pride Parade should be moved downtown.

"Each year, City departments meet to recap what went well and what can be improved upon after each Pride Parade," Tunney wrote in a Facebook posting Aug. 15. "I have created a Pride Parade survey to hear from you as we continue to examine the pride parade route and evaluate all options for next year, which could include a move downtown. It will be available until Friday, Sept. 5, and we will follow up with feedback from the survey."

The survey, available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XJ92NDB>, asks about respondents' main concerns about the parade as well as their thoughts about the potential change of location.

Talk turned to moving the parade downtown in the days following this year's parade after some members of the public complained of public drunkenness and fights the day of the parade, which was this year held on June 29. Competing petitions—one asking that the parade be moved, the other demanding that it stay in Lakeview and Uptown—went online as well.

On July 1, Tunney said, "I'm not saying 'yes' and I'm not saying 'no,'" about a potential change of venue.

The following day, at the July 19th District CAPS meeting, police officials said that there were about 45 arrests made in the area between 5 a.m. June 29 and 5 a.m. June 30.

Della Monica's career—he said he's one of the top LGBTQ financial advisors in Chicago—can be summed up by yet another piece of client advice: "You have to stretch yourself and say I'm not going to give up. Recognize that it can be done with hard work and determination. I really couldn't ask for a better career and life."

Victory Fund event to feature Houston's mayor

Lesbian Houston Mayor Annise Parker will be the featured guest at The Victory Fund's annual Chicago Champagne Brunch.

The event will take place Sunday, Sept. 7, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel, 221 N. Columbus Dr.

Others slated to speak include Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner and Gay & Lesbian Victory Institute Chair Debra Shore; Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and Institute President/CEO Chuck Wolfe; author Zach Wahls; Michigan state Rep. candidates Jon Hoadley and Jeremy Moss; and Ken



Houston Mayor Annise Parker.

Stromdahl, scheduling associate at the office of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

Laura Ricketts, co-owner of the Chicago Cubs; and Ray Koenig, member of Clark Hill, will receive awards.

For more information, email baraq.stein@victoryfund.org or see <https://www.victoryfund.org/get-involved/events/victory-fund-chicago-champagne-brunch>.

The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund works to elect LGBT leaders to public office.

HOUSING from cover

questions of an applicant. ... This building was marketed to a certain extent to let people know that it was LGBT-friendly. We don't distinguish because of sexual orientation."

A number of residents will be individuals on Chicago Housing Authority's (CHA's) waiting lists, but Cunningham was did not yet know how many. A CHA contract, which was capped at \$970,800 a year and \$29,124,000 over 30 years, was awarded to the project under the city's Housing Choice Voucher Program in September, 2013.

That program assists Chicagoans in renting privately owned housing and means that those on CHA wait lists can opt to live at 3600 N. Halsted St. if they are 55 and older and qualify for the voucher program. When the contract was awarded, officials estimated that half the building would also be filled through community referrals.

Cunningham said that Heartland and Center on Halsted "outreached to various organizations in the Lake View community and CHA participants as well. Whether they were on the CHA waiting list, or individuals from the community, they were asked to attend a session where they did what we call pre-application, when they get their 'ranking' and are pre-approved at that process for Town Hall Apartments. That pre-approval was just age requirements. If weren't 55 at the time you submitted the application, the system

wouldn't let you go further."

About 440 people showed up to that session, which took place last May.

Some individuals have maintained that the pre-approval process for the apartments lacked transparency, among them Chicagoan Patricia Skora. A former building manager in Lake View, she had to leave the neighborhood when the cost of housing there became too expensive. She is currently in CHA housing and began checking on availability at Town Hall soon after it was announced. Her name was taken at Center on Halsted as what officials called "a person of interest," but she was not put on an official waiting list.

Skora said she arrived an hour after the session began, and that she was the 92nd person there. "They gave us a number to call when we were there, but nobody ever called us back. The process was the complete opposite of transparent," she added.

Cunningham, when informed of Skora's situation, said she was surprised. "Someone should have called her back," Cunningham said.

Heartland will manage and operate the facility, but the Center on Halsted will provide wraparound and support services.

"That's something many of our buildings offer," Cunningham noted. "Our residents often face economic challenges and Town Hall offer services that help with finding employment, or helping spruce up your resume. It's not mandatory, but more of an amenity."

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GAY *in the* **LIFE**
David Friedland
 TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN
 PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRIEDLAND

Age
40

Neighborhood
Uptown

Relationship status
Married to Jack Quinones, 49, operations planning manager

Job title
Flight attendant

Hobbies
Cooking and eating, travel, movies, museums, exploring Chicago

Favorite TV show
Mad Men

Favorite movie
Maurice

Four people (living or dead) you'd like to have dinner with
Armistead Maupin, Diane Rehm, Wanda Sykes and Betty White

Favorite pizza topping
Mushrooms

Preferred drink at a bar
Craft beer

Little-known fact
"I speak Portuguese."

David Friedland is running the Chicago Half Marathon Sept. 7, in memory of an aunt who passed away from non-Hodgkin lymphoma, "and knowing so many people who have been impacted by blood cancers," he said.

Friedland will be proud in purple on race day, the official jersey color for his endurance-training team, Team In Training, which supports the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). He is running 13.1 miles from the event's starting line at Jackson Park.

He has fund raised about \$1,200 this summer for LLS.

This is Friedland's third year as an endurance-sport runner and his goal remains pretty simple: "to finish," he said.

And then, no doubt it'll be a post-run craft beer, or two.

"I'm good [running] 13.1 miles; I don't have any aspirations to run [a full marathon of] 26.2 [miles]," he said.



Friedland and Jack Quinones met Aug. 25, 1995, at 5 a.m., inside the Customs and Immigration Hall at Miami International Airport. Friedland was working for an exchange student organization and Quinones was working as a ticket agent at an airline. "We chatted about travel, living abroad and foreign languages. Realizing that we had so much in common, I decided to give him my number. Plus it was my last day on the job, so if I hadn't given him my number then, I wouldn't have had the chance," Friedland said.

Quinones called and their first date was Sept. 13, 1995. "The most important things that binds us are our shared interests," Friedland said. "We are both very interested in current events, international affairs, foreign and domestic travel, food, and languages, so we are never at a loss for things to talk about. We're also both very independent and easy-going and get along remarkably well."

They got married this past May 22.

"We have always said that we'd get married only when we lived in a state in which it was legal," Friedland said. "When it became legal in Illinois, we picked a date that worked for us. So, on May 21, we went to the Cook County Clerk's office in the Loop to get the license. We waited the minimum one day before having the marriage officiated. Then, on May 22, we went to Cook County Marriage Court, also in the Loop and got married. We followed that with brunch at the Atwood Café with our best friend and that was that. Simple. No fuss. Just the way we wanted it."

That night, Quinones flew to Brazil for a business trip. "People joked that he went on our honeymoon without [me]," Friedland said, laughing. "We still haven't had an official honeymoon. We will, soon—probably to the Canary Islands."

During his flying career, Friedland once met Colin Powell, and he said one of the best perks of the job is "free travel, and also interacting with different people every day."

"Every day brings a different group of customers and fellow employees," he said. "Being highly social, I enjoy talking and interacting with people during the bulk of my day."

The worst part of his job is the long hours and changing time zones, he said.



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VIEWPOINTS

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Celibacy is the new ex-gay ministry

Embracing celibacy as an appropriate religious calling to be a God-abiding LGBTQ Christian is now on the rise—no joke.

Progress has been made on federal and state levels concerning LGBTQ rights but many churches, especially in certain religious conservative circles, are far behind.

For example, at its 221st General Assembly this June, the Presbyterian Church removed the provision (Amendment 10-A) prohibiting the ordination of sexually active unmarried Presbyterians as church officers. The ratification came with a scolding and heterosexist caveat—church officers must be either celibate (allowing for non-celibate LGBTQs to be ordained) or be active with a member of the opposite gender.

While such a proviso on how church officers are to be sexually active or celibate is laughable to anyone living in present time, the governing body of the Presbyterian Church isn't kidding.

And neither are many church conservatives—both straight and, surprisingly, LGBTQ.

For those heterosexual Christians who embrace the theological qualifier "to love the sinner but hate the sin" homosexuality is merely on the laundry list of transgressions.

But for LGBTQ Christian conservatives the debate has literally taken sides—with celibate LGBTQ Christian bloggers referring to themselves in shorthand as "Side A" Christians and "Side B" Christians. "Side A" Christians support marriage equality and queer sexual orientations, whereas "Side B" support a hardline Biblical literalism.

Last year, the "ex-gay" ministries would have

had both "Side A" and "Side B" Christians in their folds.

But in 2013, Alan Chambers, president of Exodus International, announced the closing of the organization.

At the 2012 Exodus International annual conference Chambers stated, "I do not believe that cure is a word that is applicable to really any struggle, homosexuality included. ... For someone to put out a shingle and say, 'I can cure homosexuality'—that to me is as bizarre as someone saying they can cure any other common temptation or struggle that anyone faces on Planet Earth." Chambers is a married man with two adopted children, and a purported ex-gay convert himself.

What appeared as a seismic shift or a closing chapter in the harmful history of ex-gay ministries was neither. His new *modus operandi*—that has both monetary and ideological backing—is to peddle the theological rhetoric of celibacy. And it's working.

Just this year, the 50,000-member American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC) released its revised 2014 code of ethics, replacing reparative therapies with celibacy.

"Counselors acknowledge the client's fundamental right to self-determination and further understand that deeply held religious values and beliefs may conflict with same-sex attraction and/or behavior, resulting in anxiety, depression, stress, and inner turmoil," the code now says.

However, just six years ago, the American Psychological Association put out an official position paper stating, "The longstanding consensus of the behavioral and social sciences and the health and mental health professions is that homosexuality *per se* is a normal and positive variation of human sexual orientation."

The negative health outcomes both emotional and psychological these "conversion" programs exact are untold and include depression, anxiety, self-destructive behavior, sexual dysfunction, avoidance of intimacy, loss of faith and spirituality, and the reinforcement of internalized homophobia and self-hatred, to name a few.

There are, however, still groups, usually motivated by religion-based homophobic therapies and ministries, who are hell-bent on the idea that LGBTQ individuals can, and should, be

made straight.

These groups proselytize ex-gay rhetoric as both their Christian and patriotic duty.

But truth be told, as Chambers recognizes, these conversions from being "homosexual" to "heterosexual" don't "cure." And these therapies attempt to put LGBTQ people on the road to outwardly live a straight life.

Case in point: John Paulk, "ex-gay" poster boy, who appeared in Human Rights Campaign's 2000 photo album with a one-word caption—"Gotcha!"

In his public apology for spewing the lies of Exodus International, Paulk has decided to finally stay out of the closet, hoping the LGBTQ community will not only forgive him, but will also allow him to make restitution to the community.

"I no longer support the ex-gay movement or efforts to attempt to change individuals—especially teens who already feel insecure and alienated. I feel great sorrow over the pain that has been caused when my words were misconstrued. I have worked at giving generously to the gay community in Portland where I work and live. I am working hard to be authentic and genuine in all of my relationships," Paulk stated in the 2013 April/May issue of *Proud Queer (PQ) Monthly*.

Religion's Latin root, "*religio*," means to bind. And it has served as a legitimate power in binding people's shared hatred—especially when it comes LGBTQs sexual orientation.

Straight and LGBTQ Christians intolerant of the wide spectrum of sexual expressions must reconcile their phobia with Jesus's mandate—"...to love one another," as stated in (John 13:34)—in order to experience the deepest desire and expression of spiritual communion. How we express that love sexually is not mandated to be heterosexual.

But now, with more ex-gay ministries not only losing potential clients and political leverage but also losing monies reparative therapies generate, there is a gradually shift from "curing" one's LGBTQ sexual orientation to abstinence from it.

In other words, the theological message that homosexuality is an abomination to God and is a sin remain intact; however, more emphasis is now placed on celibacy.

LETTERS

Wards hurt

Dear Editor:

After reading the Aug. 27 Windy City Times article "Protesters Congregate at Cappleman Election Kickoff" article, I felt an incredible sense of relief in knowing that both the Northside Action for Justice and the Gay Liberation Network continue to understand the important of "speaking justice to power!"

I'd like to publicly thank both organizations for raising their collective voices in protest against 46th Ward Ald. James Cappleman's re-election effort.

I wholeheartedly agree with Andy Thayer's statements—specifically, where he's quoted as stating, "We, as LGBT people, can't stand aside as he puts himself forward as a 'former social worker' and gay alderman, and attacks most LGBT, and non-LGBT, people in this ward who are not wealthy,"

Why should anyone regardless of sexual orientation, but especially LGBTQ economically disadvantaged persons who reside in the 46th Ward, continue to "stand aside" in support of an incumbent alderman who politically goes along repeatedly for the wealthy developers at

the expense of low-income 46th Ward constituents?

Additionally I'm glad that the protesters wanted to get Cappleman to back away from "his attacks on the poor residents of the area." Cappleman's antics against the poor are notorious among many Chicagoans, regardless of the ward.

For example, remember the alderman's legislative attempt to make it a crime to be in a bus stop if you're not waiting for a bus? Remember, the alderman's legislative attempts to ban low-rent cubicle hotels, commonly known as the last resort for poor persons to get off the streets at night?

I wonder if the readers remember the Windy City Times article in the Jan. 17, 2013, edition, concerning the alderman's antics regarding economically disadvantaged residents of the Hotel Chateau who were given a 30-day notice and evicted! Look at that property now!

Furthermore, I hope your readers ask themselves what kind of person—whose former professional background includes being a member of a religious order, specifically, a Franciscan friar—would be mean enough to ban an organization, especially a faith-based one, from feeding the hungry at night in his ward?

And finally, a comment to Windy City Times: Cappleman said, "I welcome any form of discussion and support the right of those protesting. My only disappointment is that the information being disseminated during this protest was not factual." The alderman's statement is a blatant lie, and a perfect example of why LGBT persons and others should continue their direct action efforts to speak justice to power—especially during an election session!

Michael O'Connor
Chicago

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GOINGS-ON



WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Chris Ocken, Ocken Photography

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE...

Windy City Times reviews the production *The Arsonists*. See page 12.

THEATER

'Paper' chase.
Page 13

Photo of *The Yellow Wallpaper*
by Doug McGoldrick



MOVIES

Flynn or lose.
Page 14

Photo of Kevin Kline in *The Last of Robin Hood*
Hood by Quantrell Colbert



SPORTS

The unkindest cut.
Page 22

Michael Sam on
the cover of *Sports Illustrated*



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Almodovar adaptation

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Musical-theater fans salivated back in 2010 when they saw the starry stage cast attached to *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*, a Broadway musical adaptation of the 1988 film by out Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar (*Talk to Her*, *All About My Mother*).

Tony Award winners Patti LuPone, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Laura Benanti and more were featured in this reunion project for Dirty Rotten Scoundrels collaborators Jeffrey Lane and composer-lyricist David Yazbek (also famed for *The Full Monty*). But the show opened cold on Broadway without an out-of-town tryout to largely mixed and negative reviews. After a run of only 69 performances, *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* closed.

However, you can't keep these *Women* down. David Yazbek was nominated for a Tony Award for his score later that season. And now a thoroughly revised production of *Women on the Verge...* is set to begin a limited run in London this December.

But before that happens, *Women on the Verge...* will have its Chicago-area debut this month at Theatre at the Center in Munster, Indiana. The production's multi-Jeff Award-winning ensemble includes Cory Goodrich as the jilted girlfriend Pepa, Hollis Resnik as the mentally unstable ex-wife Lucia, Summer Smart as Pepa's friend Candela and Bernie Yvon as the genial narrating Taxi Driver.

"It's about love and passion and the choices we make," said Goodrich, adding that the show is funny because so much of it is like farce. "David Yazbek has a gift of putting place in his music. He so beautifully describes Madrid in the 1980s with his music."

Like Goodrich, Smart was unfamiliar with the show, but now she's grateful that director William Pullinsi asked her to play the flighty Candela (who might be mistakenly dating a terrorist).

"She's the kind of woman who has a huge heart and a lot of emotion. She's very dramatic and is the kind of woman who 'falls in love' quite easily," Smart said. "The stakes are very high in this show for each one of these characters which adds a lot of dynamics. And I'm sure people will be able to relate to it because who hasn't felt like they've been on the verge of a nervous breakdown?"

Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown plays from Sept. 11 through Oct. 12 at Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana. Previews run through Sept. 13 with an official press opening at 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14. Regular-run performances are 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Sundays with select Thursday evening and Saturday matinees scheduled throughout the run. Tickets are \$40-\$44; call 219-836-3255 or visit www.theatreatthecenter.com.

Soggy days in London town

Rain should always be factored into any trip to the United Kingdom, and it alternately played both an unwanted and a welcome part in a recent theatergoing trip I took there—in particular with a 20th-anniversary staging of an important drama touching upon AIDS.

The rain thankfully stayed away for my regional visits to see Mozart's early opera *La Finta Giardiniera* (*The False Garden Girl*) at the Glyndebourne Festival in East Sussex and a West End-ready staging of *Guys and Dolls* at



Cory Goodrich in *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*. Photo from Theatre at the Center

the Chichester Festival Theatre in West Sussex. However, the rain was out in force for two London productions I caught.

I've been to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre twice before, but I had previously experienced

the amazing historically recreated Elizabethan theater only from the pricier gallery seats under the building's thatched roof. So I opted to save some money for my third visit by standing through an entire performance of Shakespeare's *Anthony and Cleopatra* with a "groundling" ticket for a Thursday matinee.

Alas, it turned out to be an extremely soggy encounter since the rain came pouring down through the theater's exposed center during all of Act I before lessening to a drizzle for Act II. My last-minute decision to pay two pounds for a plastic rain poncho turned out to be a very wise investment.

But the rain probably played a factor in my ability to get a prime seat to a sold-out performance of the Donmar Warehouse's critically acclaimed revival of Kevin Elyot's Olivier Award-winning 1994 drama *My Night with Reg* starring Julian Ovenden of *Downton Abbey* fame. A friend and I queued up early in the morning for standing-room balcony tickets (sold only on the day of performance) to see this drama about a group of gay friends coping with love and betrayal in the age of AIDS.

But as the seconds ticked down to curtain time, the ushers moved most of the standing-room audience into empty available seats from no-show ticket holders. It was probably the awful August Bank Holiday rain that probably deterred a few people from showing up.

Although now a period piece harkening back to the height of the AIDS crisis when infected friends and lovers within the gay community were dying with alarming regularity, *My Night with Reg* still feels very current with the depiction of its characters' relationship struggles. The Donmar production also took on an added poignancy with the recent death of the playwright Kevin Elyot at the age of 62 this past June in the run up to the current revival.

My Night with Reg continues at the Donmar Warehouse in London through Sept. 27. Visit www.donmarwarehouse.com for more information.



Asher Lev (Alex Weisman, center) and parents (Danica Monroe and Lawrence Grimm) in *My Name Is Asher Lev*. Photo by Lara Goetsch

THEATER REVIEW

My Name Is Asher Lev

Playwright: adapted by Aaron Posner from the novel by Chaim Potok
At: Timeline Theatre Company at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.
Tickets: 773-327-5252;
www.timelinetheatre.com; \$37-\$50
Runs through: Oct. 18

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

To be a member of Brooklyn's Ladover Hassidic Jewish settlement in the 1940s and '50s was to occupy—take a deep breath, now—a subset of a subset of yet another subset of a religious minority whose numbers recently suffered a severe reduction at the hands of first, the Germans, then the Russians. Combine these factors with the Biblical proscription against the forging of graven images, and there can be no unlikelier spawning ground for a genius whose compulsive response to the chaos of his surroundings is to draw pictures of it.

The conflict between these two spheres is immediately apparent in Brian Sidney Bembridge's scenic design for this Timeline Theatre production, its predominant feature being a steep staircase against a bare wall that will soon be covered in sketches we can only imagine. Upstairs is young Asher Lev's room, underneath are the musicians—violin, cello and clarinet—who provide a running commentary on the action, and at floor level, we see the world of his parents, whose obsession with the rescue and reparation of their persecuted brethren matches that of their son. This latter world also encompasses the wise rabbi who reluctantly permits Asher to study art under the tutelage of a sculptor who warns his pupil that the muse will lure him into dangerous realms, where his agony will eventually find its voice in the forbidden iconography of *goyisch* strangers.

"Be a great artist," Asher's mentor exhorts him. "It is the only justification for the pain you will cause." This pain dominates the themes in Chaim Potok's novel, narrated in first-person flashback by the "prodigy in *payos*" whose career-making masterwork (foreshadowed in Bembridge's stage picture, but not revealed until the climactic moment) will forever banish him from his hitherto-secure place in the universe. Aaron Posner's adaptation likewise roots

its account in the perceptions of the devout acolyte portrayed with unflinching candor by Alex Weisman, while Danica Monroe and Lawrence Grimm acquit themselves in a diversity of roles, ranging from the troubled Rivkeh and Aryeh Lev to the secularized Jacob Kahn and his nude studio model.

Those whom the gods touch cannot escape undamaged. Our hero's origins may be parochial in the extreme, but his experience is that of every pilgrim forced to abandon home, community, family—every vestige of identity—to follow the call of the simultaneously "divine and demonic" creative power that art bestows upon disciples with the courage to receive it.

CRITICS' PICKS

Avenue Q, Mercury Theater Chicago, through Oct. 26. This Tony-winning hit musical that smartly spoofs Sesame Street feels right at home at the intimate Mercury Theater. And now with an extension through October, the show is finally getting the long Chicago run it really should have had when it was brand new. SCM

C.S. Lewis Onstage, Provision Theater, Sept. 6-Oct. 19. Brad Armacost's solo show delivered a warm and vibrant portrait of the eccentric theologian (better known as the epic-fantasy author of *The Narnia Chronicles*) when first performed in 2008, now revived for South Side audiences by Provision Theater. MSB

Depraved New World, The Second City, open run. With elements of long-form improv, Second City's 102nd mainstage revue features an extremely sharp cast (especially John Hartman), some high-risk musical improv, several gay-specific scenes and advanced use of music and sound. JA

Stupid Fucking Bird, Sideshow Theatre Company at Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, through Sept. 21. The title might make it look like a parody, but Aaron Posner's real-time analysis of Chekhov's *The Seagull* is smarter—and funnier, too—than a simple deconstructionist romp. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

The Arsonists

Playwright: Max Frisch, adapted by Alistair Beaton
At: Strawdog Theatre Company, 3829 N. Broadway
Tickets: 866-811-4111;
www.strawdog.org; \$28
Runs through: Sept. 27

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The most reliable tool for gulling foolish citizens, says one of pyromaniacs lending Max Frisch's cautionary tale its title, is the unvarnished truth—"because no one ever believes it." The irony of his observation is illustrated with unflinching accuracy by the example of Gottlieb Biedermann, a humble hero no better or worse than average.

Of course, definitions of "average" may differ widely. Though the prosperous hair- tonic manufacturer professes to be an upstanding member of his community, he thinks nothing of discharging the inventor of his money-making product, leaving the latter's family destitute, and forcing his former employee to suicidal despair. Unconcerned with the welfare of his peers, even to shrugging off news of mysterious fires breaking out within his city, Biedermann is more annoyed than alarmed when a homeless man turns up at his door and quickly secures himself a berth in his host's attic. Soon another vagrant arrives, along with several barrels of gasoline, bundles of kindling, a spool of fuse-wire and a detonation device. When

the uneasy homeowner proposes to eject the intruders, they remind him that he is not innocent of crimes against society.

At the play's premiere in 1958, audiences immediately recognized Hitler as the perpetrator of the coming holocaust, but the propensity of otherwise blameless citizens to ignore imminent threats is a universal human flaw. Later productions have identified the Atomic Bomb or Global Warming as the encroaching evil, and political parties have assigned blame for Biedermann's indecision upon liberal idealism (as if genuine convictions, and not hypocrisy, were his ultimate undoing). Indeed, late in the play, Biedermann addresses the audience, demanding of us, "When did you guess? What would you have done—and when?"

However astute (not to mention timely) its moral, a sermon as didactic as Frisch's needs additional spectacle to hold our attention for 90 intermissionless minutes. Director Matt Hawkins has enlisted a technical team to surround us with thunderstorms, smoke, sirens and the ominous roar of rising flames. More important, he has instructed his actors to adopt individual idiosyncrasies for their characters, rendering always coherent even such cryptic conventions as a classical-Greek chorus of firefighters who lament their inability to do their job when people like Biedermann exacerbate the danger through selfish denial. (Also indicted for his complicity is a "Doctor of Philosophy" who attempts to impose a manifesto upon wanton hooliganism, only to recoil in horror at the discovery that "they do it because they like it!") Whatever may disturb *your* sleep nowadays, you can't say you weren't warned.

THEATER REVIEW

Reasons to Be Happy

Playwright: Neil LaBute
At: Profiles Theatre, 4139 N. Broadway
Tickets: 1-773-549-1815;
www.profiles theatre.org; \$35-\$40
Runs through: Oct. 12

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Neil LaBute's attitude about relationships is mellowing.

His men still are pigs with women in many ways, but at least they seem conflicted about it in LaBute's recent plays. Of course, his men also are pigs with other men, as seen in this new characteristic LaBute four-hander. Before the play begins, best friends Greg (Eric Burgher) and Kent (Dennis Bisto) and Steph (Domenica Cameron-Scorsese) and Carly (Sarah Loveland) have switched partners when longtime couple Greg and Steph break up, and married Kent and Carly divorce. Kent marries Steph while Greg begins seeing Carly. The play opens with Steph furiously confronting Greg for what she deems a betrayal. Soon, she admits that she still loves Greg and he returns the feeling, vowing to end things with Carly as Steph separates from Kent. But all bets are off when Carly tells Greg she's pregnant. There only are four characters, but you still need a scorecard.

Many readers will remember the Lovin' Spoonfuls hit "Did You Ever Have to Make Up Your Mind," and that describes Greg's situation. Like a lot of LaBute men he's a nice guy, not intentionally unkind but weak. He repeatedly says "I don't know yet" and "I'm not sure" when asked if he loves Carly or Steph, vacillating between them. Ultimately, he proposes a fairly preposterous solution which would allow him to escape without choosing; a solution rejected by both women who already have made crucial decisions about their futures. Thus, Greg is the central character but the game-changing heroic action of the play is shifted to the women.

All of this is played out in an interesting and driving fashion by Profiles' hard-sweating, intensely-focused cast, guided by direc-



Reasons to Be Happy. Photo by Michael Brosilow

tor Darrell W. Cox, a veteran LaBute actor and director. There really isn't false note sounded by anyone, which doesn't necessarily make the characters likeable. Steph is a loose cannon whose angry emotions make her unattractive. Kent is a muscle head seemingly too thick to understand Greg's role in his misery. Greg's lack of honesty with himself and others quickly discredits him. Only Carly really emerges with integrity, realizing it's not enough merely to be desired by men. Each character is sad in his/her own way, but LaBute is too skillful a writer to make his play sad, leavening it with humor and punchy, rhythmic, realistic dialogue.

Scenic designer Shaun Renfro's handsome but simple setting utilizes an alley stage (a long platform with the audience along two sides) divided between a workplace lunchroom and a grassy terrace, skillfully lit by Claire Chrzan. The actors have no place to hide and, fortunately, don't need one in this full-throttle evening. As always, it's anyone's guess whether LaBute's can't-live-with-them/can't-live-without-them attitude will move you.

THEATER REVIEW

Methtacular!

Playwright: Steven Strafford
 At: About Face Theatre at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.
 Tickets: 773-975-8150;
 www.aboutface theatre.org; \$35
 Runs through: Sept. 28

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

One-person shows always begin in peculiar, artificial fashion. With no second actor to kick-start the action, the solo performer must directly acknowledge the audience, or pretend the audience isn't there, or pretend the audience is another character. ("I've been expecting you. Sit down and have some tea.")

Then, depending on the text, the solo performer may play multiple characters or just one. These opening oddities always are self-conscious and can be allayed only by the charisma and charm of the artist. Methtacular author/performer Steven Strafford has plenty of both, engaging the audience directly and playing only himself. He describes other characters and their actions but he doesn't act them out.

These prove to be good choices, since the story of Strafford's methamphetamine addiction is entirely personal but hardly uncommon. His story allows him to range far beyond the somewhat-fey thirtysomething man we initially meet, and display his strong and varied singing voice, fine comedy chops and his ability to change pace and mood (very nicely shaped by director Adam Fitzgerald), thus deepening the tale as Strafford relates it.

Since some of us today probably have known people who are substance abusers, much of Strafford's story is neither new nor unique: the euphoric high, the sensuality, the denial, episodes of violence, the lying, the denial, the thievery, the near (or actual) prostitution, the psychotic breaks, the denial. Even so, few of us have lived with a meth-dealer lover, as Strafford did, and most snorters don't progress to shooting up, as Strafford did. This boy was in deep.

Frankly, I still wouldn't care—I'm not sympathetic to self-enablers (don't get me started about Rent)—if it weren't for the unabashed



Steven Strafford in Methtacular! Photo by Kevin Thomas Garcia

showbiz pizzazz of Strafford's presentation. He's a musical-theater queen who fills Methtacular with pop-culture TV, movie and music references, and snatches of Broadway tunes. He also performs several original songs (composed by William TN Hall) such as "I'm Living the Life of a Number Two Wife" and the gospel-tinged "I'm Bringing Down this House of Pain" which expand the showbiz framework, as does a very funny audience-participation game show. In short, Methtacular is slick, well-put-together and never attempts to disguise its artifice. I was put off by that self-referential artifice at first, but Strafford soon won me.

Strafford is graphic in describing sex and drug use, yet never discusses the physical horrors of meth addiction except weight loss. Perhaps he escaped the sores, nasal destruction and gum decay that accompany Tina usage or felt Methtacular was graphic enough without them, although they might persuasively embellish his cautionary tale. But then, I've never understood the allure of party drugs that unleash libido but inhibit erections.

SPOTLIGHT



A nun in 1968 Detroit uncovers all sorts of unsettling secrets about her family in Chuck O'Connor's drama **Miracles in the Fall**, a winner of Polarity Ensemble Theatre's Dionysos Cup Award for play writing. Polarity Ensemble Theatre presents the world premiere of **Miracles in the Fall** now through Sunday, Oct. 5, at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. Previews run through Sept. 5 with an official press opening at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6. Subsequent performances are at 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays with 3 p.m. matinees on Sundays. Tickets are \$15 for previews and \$25 during the regular run; call 773-404-7336 or visit www.petheatre.com for tickets and more information. Photo by Richard Engling

THEATER REVIEW

The Yellow Wallpaper

Playwright: adapted by Lorelei Sturm from the short story by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
 At: The Mill at the Chopin, 1543 W. Division St.
 Tickets: 773-764-8317;
 www.brownpapertickets.com; \$20
 Runs through: Sept. 14

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

You don't often hear the word "neurasthenia" invoked nowadays to describe a type of nervous breakdown—another archaic medical term—characterized by extreme enervation arising from no apparent source. In the 19th century, however, it was a very real malady, afflicting both men and women. The remedy was extended bed-rest surrounded by minimal activity, until such time as alleviation of stress (or sheer boredom) re-energized the sufferer. Thus it is that Charlotte Perkins Gilman's heroine finds herself confined within a house offering no sensory stimulus but its shabby interior and pastoral environment.

What we know from Gilman's nameless first-person narrator is that her husband is a doctor, and that following the birth of their first child, he rented this country residence and hired a nurse-housekeeper so that his wife could recover from what he feels is not quite a disease, but instead, a "nervous condition" calling for fresh air, long walks and wholesome food. De-

spite this regimen and her spouse's exhortation to resist her "foolish fancies," the new mother finds herself obsessing over her bedroom's peeling yellow wallpaper, her imagination conjuring forest landscapes from its fragmented patterns, leading to hallucinations of a shadowy lady who nightly crawls around the perimeter of what its occupant comes to regard as a cell.

Since Gilman wrote her story in 1892, it has become commonplace in academic circles to read it as a feminist criticism of the tyranny exercised by paternalistic males fearful of females adopting independent physical and intellectual pursuits—is not our distressed matron forbidden visitors and books, and must she not keep her journal a secret from the people she considers her "jailers?" On the other hand, the phenomenon of "post-partum depression" is well-documented in 2014, and with no way of ascertaining whether our informant *is*, in fact, batcrackers, her paranoia is likewise suspect. Our sympathy for her plight, after all, is not diminished by the level of credence we assign her terror.

Lorelei Sturm's adaptation wisely suspends judgment to focus on the psychological aspects of Gilman's semi-autobiographical account for The Mill performance ensemble. Eleanor Kahn's scenic design marks out the chamber's sinister walls with a web of crisscrossed ropes, so that when our invalid appears, shackled at one ankle by a bright yellow cord, and proceeds to create a cat's-cradle labyrinth as she roams her cloister, we accept director Jaclyn Biskup's visual metaphor immediately, even as we dread the moment when it will arrive at its tragic, but inevitable, conclusion.

CULTURE CLUB

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PRIDE FILMS & PLAYS

KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT JR.

The Last of Robin Hood; film notes

Kevin Kline—who came to prominence playing the lead in a revival of *The Pirates of Penzance* and has played many larger-than-life characters in his subsequent film and stage roles—is an inspired choice to play the king of classic Hollywood swashbucklers, Errol Flynn. And then, of course, there are the physical and vocal resemblances that, even at the end of the debonair Flynn's decadent life, were still rather striking.

Kline, who says he has turned down previous opportunities to play the womanizing Flynn, at last essays the actor in *The Last of Robin Hood*. Physical similarities aside, Kline also captures the Flynn charm and devilish wit. Also, with his chest shaved and what appears to be several visits to the gym, he gives an approximation of the rogue's undimmed physical sex appeal that remained intact even as the hard-living actor was entering his twilight years—at the age of 50.

The last two years of Flynn's tempestuous life, which ended in 1959, were caught up in yet another sex scandal with an underage girl (the actor had been narrowly acquitted of statutory rape charges in 1942), which the movie details. The object of Flynn's ardor was a dancer and Hollywood extra named Beverly Aadland who was 15 when the two first met (played by Dakota Fanning who, ironically, is now a tad too old for the part). In the film version, gay costume designer Orry-Kelly (played by out actor Bryan Batt), a longtime friend of Flynn's, introduces the aging lothario to his final conquest (whom he promptly dubs "woody," shorthand for "wood nymph").

Gay co-directors, screenwriters and real-life partners Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland have spent a decade working on shaping the scandal—which was hot stuff at the time and was further inflamed by the tabloids upon Flynn's death—into *The Last of Robin Hood*. The duo used the salacious, tell-all book about the affair, *The Big Love*, as the basis for their script. Written by the third principal in the affair—Aadland's starstruck stage mother, Florence (played with genuine relish by Susan Sarandon)—the book's first line, "There's one thing I want to make clear right off: My baby was a virgin the day she met Errol Flynn" sets the tone for a Jacqueline Susann-ish guilty pleasure.

Rare interviews by Glatzer and Westmoreland with the normally press-shy Beverly (who lived quietly with her third husband up to her death in 2010) and Flynn's personal assistant Ronnie Shedlo unearthed several fascinating, previously unreported details about the affair that have been incorporated into the script (such as Flynn turning down an offer to play Humbert Humbert in Kubrick's *Lolita* when the director refused to consider Aadland to play the title nymph).

While these new tidbits help freshen this decades-old scandal, the careful handling of the story has the unintended effect of sucking the



Dakota Fanning as Beverly Aadland and Kevin Kline as Errol Flynn in *The Last of Robin Hood*. Photo by Quantrell Colbert

life (and practically all the juice) out of what could have been a more-than-delicious piece of cinema trash. Had the co-directors gone the *Valley of the Dolls/Where Love Has Gone/Madame X* route, their movie would have been a lot more fun and Flynn's admittedly repulsive behavior a bit more palatable. What Glatzer and Westmoreland's film needed was a much healthier dollop of Flo Aadland's gushy, tacky tell-all approach.

Instead, the movie tries to present everyone's point of view—Flynn found something in Beverly to soothe his encroaching old age, Beverly loved the reflected glory of Flynn's life and came to love the sex, and Flo loved the prospect of life at the top. This wobbly balancing act simply distances us from Flynn, Beverly and, most regrettably, Florence. Especially problematic is that we never quite understand why Flynn was so enamored (beyond the physical) with the rather colorless Beverly, who doesn't have much vibrancy.

Like Kline, Sarandon is a great choice to play the part of the over-the-top mother, a former dancer who now sports a wooden leg thanks to an unlucky accident. Dazzled by the prospect of a movie career for her daughter, it seems apparent that Flo looked the other way while the unrepentant roué that Flynn had become took advantage of Beverly. The approach that Sarandon takes, while tough and overbearing at times, also gives us a peek at the vulnerable woman inside, a woman still aching because of her own deferred dreams of stardom. Fanning is a good physical match for Sarandon but is scarecrow-thin and has none of the ripe, baby carnality that the role (and that the real-life Aadland sported) needs.

Christine Vachon's Killer Films produced the film, but the skimpy budget for the late 1950s settings is not nearly as convincing as that lavished on *Far From Heaven*, Todd Haynes' 2003 masterpiece of kitsch drama from the same time period. (Haynes was an executive producer on this film). And the carefully constructed set pieces—one vintage car that is shown repeatedly, a few well-chosen extras in period costumes at a cocktail party, etc.—constantly remind us of the film's budgetary constraints which can't help but throw one out of the film.

Glatzer's and Westmoreland's talents were much better served in their previous films—the queer-themed *Quinceanera* and *The Fluffer*—and perhaps the duo got caught up thinking that trying to humanize and balance the colorful trio at the heart of this Hollywood scandal of yore would give it some vibrancy and relevancy. Instead, it has unfortunately dulled its impact and left Kline, Sarandon and, to a

much lesser degree, Fanning—three excellent film actors—in search of the juicy characters the tatty story seemed to promise.

Reeling details unveiled

The organizers of Reeling, the second longest-running LGBT film festival in the world, announced a line-up of movies for its 32nd edition, taking place Sept. 18-25.

Reeling returns to the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., for its opening-night gala on Thursday, Sept. 18, and then moves on to its main venue, Landmark's Century Centre Cinema, 2828 N. Clark St., Sept. 19-25. The fest's home base, Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark St., will also host select screenings.

Reeling launches with the presentation of Eric Schaeffer's *Boy Meets Girl* at the Music Box. The movie stars transgender actress Michelle Hendley. The closing-night film will be Patrik-Ian Polk's *Blackbird*, which stars Julian Walker, Mo'Nique and Isaiah Washington.

The complete festival lineup and schedule, including shorts programs and special-event information, are available online. Tickets may be purchased online at www.reelingfilm-festival.org or in person at Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark St., starting Aug. 25.

Emmys program has familiar ring

Despite cable and outlets such as Netflix delivering more original programming, the 66th Annual Emmy Awards (which aired on NBC Aug. 25) featured familiar names as the winners, for the most part.

For example, the AMC drama *Breaking Bad*—which aired its series finale earlier this year—won its second consecutive Emmy for drama series for its fifth and final season. (Three of its actors—Bryan Cranston, Aaron Paul and Anna Gunn—also won again in their categories.) Likewise, *Modern Family* was a repeat winner for best comedy, snagging its fifth consecutive award and tying a mark *Frasier* set.

One of the few surprises was that the program was held on a Monday—the first time since 1976 (as host Seth Meyers noted).

Another surprise, to some, was that *Sherlock: His Last Vow*'s Martin Freeman won for outstanding supporting actor in a miniseries

Film notes:

Call Me Kuchu is Katherine Fairfax Wright and Malika Zouhali-Worrall's probing documentary about the struggle for LGBT rights in the virulently anti-gay African country of Uganda and the tragic assassination of David Kato, the movement's leader. The film will be shown Friday, Sept. 12, at the Broadway United Methodist Church, 3338 N. Broadway, at 6:30 p.m. The screening is a fundraiser for the Chicago LGBT Asylum Project (CLASP) and there will be a free-will offering, with no one turned away for lack of funds. The Gay Liberation Network is sponsoring the event.

Two more LGBT-festival faves from last year are being released on DVD. **Two: The Story of Roman and Nyro** is Heather Winters' charming documentary portrait of the twin sons of renowned songwriter and vocalist Desmond Child and husband Curtis Shaw. Their story—which includes the birth mother, her husband, her parents and various other relatives and friends—is a true example of a modern family. Arriving Sept. 2 on DVD is director DMW Greer's **Burning Blue**, a slick romantic drama that is a gay variation on *Top Gun* set at the height of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." It's sexy and enlivened by its cast, which includes some easy-on-the-eyes male eye candy and several Broadway stage veterans.

Now available: *The Best of Knight at the Movies: 2004-2014*—a compilation book of more than 150 of my film reviews from a queer perspective for *Windy City Times*—is now available. Visit www.knightatthemovies.com.

or a movie, besting four actors nominated for Larry Kramer's AIDS film *The Normal Heart* (which aired on HBO). However, "Heart" did win for outstanding television movie.

Out actor Jim Parsons, who plays Sheldon Cooper on CBS' *The Big Bang Theory*, strolled onstage to pick up his fourth Emmy. Jessica Lange also won her third Emmy, this time for Ryan Murphy's *American Horror Story: Coven*. Kathy Bates also won for "Cover," picking up the Outstanding Supporting Actress In A Miniseries Or A Movie award.

Julia Louis-Dreyfus won her fifth overall Emmy, and third for HBO's comedy *Veep*. She has also won for *Seinfeld* and *The New Adventures of Old Christine*. The *Amazing Race* took the reality-competition award for the 10th time in 12 tries.

Netflix struck out, despite having two highly watched and critically acclaimed shows in *Orange Is the New Black* and *House of Cards*.

Queer poetry event Sept. 4

The Poetry Foundation, in conjunction with the Lambda Literary Foundation, will host "Launch of *Nepantla: A Journal Dedicated to Queer Poets of Color*."

The event will take place Thursday, Sept. 4, at 7 p.m. at the foundation, 61 W. Superior St. Admission is free.

Duriel E. Harris, Ching-In Chen, Ruben Quezada and Francisco Aragon are slated to help the initial edition of a new literary magazine whose mission is to nurture, celebrate and preserve diversity within the queer poetry community. See www.poetryfoundation.org.



Duriel E. Harris.

John Leguizamo 'Klowns' around, talks 'To Wong Foo'

BY JERRY NUNN

John Leguizamo continues to have a long and varied career. He began on television on Miami Vice in 1984, then had his first movie role that year with Mixed Blood. He then continued on a string of high-profile roles with Casualties of War, Die Hard 2 and Regarding Henry. Carlito's Way moved him into the serious parts; then, he stole the show in heels as Chi-Chi Rodriguez in To Wong Foo.

His voice work with the rat in Dr. Doolittle and Sid the Sloth in Ice Age have made him unforgettable in the ears of children everywhere.

Other notables were his work with Baz Luhrmann on Moulin Rouge and Rome + Juliet along with starring in Summer of Sam produced by Spike Lee.

While his movie career kept him busy over the years he has always made time to perform one-man shows like Mambo Mouth, Freak, and now Ghetto Klown being his fifth.

For two weeks, Leguizamo brought his unplugged version of Ghetto Klown to Chicago audiences before taking it to Broadway, where he earned a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Solo Performance, an Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Performance, and a Drama League Award for Distinguished Performance for this show.

We gave the talented performer a call before his triumphant return with a revamped version of Ghetto Klown to the Windy City.

Windy City Times: Hi, John. I saw Ghetto Klown when you first workshopped it in Chicago.

John Leguizamo: Yeah, yeah—at the Royal George, across the street from the Steppenwolf. Remember the snowstorm? People came in snowmobiles and skis; we had a little bit of an audience even with that weather.

WCT: It was nice opportunity to see a work in progress.

JL: I have always enjoyed Chicago. I have done almost all of my shows there. I did Freak and Spic-O-rama there. That was the first city out of New York that I ever went to. Audiences are great there. It is a real theater town. It is multiethnic and hip. It's a good crowd for me.

WCT: Do you ever get nervous with being alone onstage?

JL: Yeah. I guess I get nervous but as soon as the audience is laughing and on my side; then I feel I can do anything. I can go bonkers and it is all going to be good. The more bonkers you go, the more they laugh. We feed off each other.

WCT: You have done several one-man shows over the years but is Ghetto Klown special to you?

JL: Yes, this is the one that is nearest and dearest to my heart. I worked on it for a long time. It took me a couple of years to tell my life story and break that paradigm about the psychological one-man show.

This is about my whole life. It about how I got into show business, getting arrested in the subway for commandeering it, my math teacher telling me I could be somebody, from Miami Vice, my first acting teacher to fighting with Steven Seagal in Executive Decision and getting advice from Pacino in Carlito's Way, then duking it out in full garb with Patrick Swayze.

WCT: What did you learn from playing Chi-Chi Rodriguez in Too Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar?

JL: Wow—women go through a lot of pain to look that hot! It was brutal. I was running seven miles every day to try to stay in shape

for my legs. We had to shave every day and they put gender-benders on us and strap our chests. It was crazy.

WCT: You were the new kid on the block and the cute little one.

JL: I was the ingenue.

WCT: It was like RuPaul's Drag Race on the big screen. What have people's reactions been after describing them in your show?

JL: Seagal said he was going to knock me out if he saw me on another red carpet. Swayze wrote his version of the incident in his book. I think everyone else has been pretty cool. Pacino hasn't seen it yet, but his girlfriend and his best friend saw it.

WCT: If audiences have seen it on HBO already, is it better to see it live and in person?

JL: It is very different. On HBO, they cut out a lot of jokes and material because it had to be 90 minutes. Onstage, it is a full two hours with intermission. I can do all of my gags and the jokes back. It has become a beautiful piece. Now it is really tight and compressed at the same time. I'm going a little further acting wise. I'm more comfortable going deeper. We did a lot more in a full way.

WCT: Do you have a particular character that you like portraying now?

JL: The Pacino one comes out pretty well; people go nuts over that. I didn't know if I could do Pacino that well but I guess I got better at it as time went on.

WCT: Did you enjoy PBS doing a Tales From a Ghetto Klown, going behind the scenes?

JL: It was very cool. I didn't know how I felt about it from the beginning. Of course, I was honored because it was PBS and the highlight of television but having a camera following you around during the process is not much fun. I was trying to be in the moment and really figure shit out. There was a camera there all the time. It was annoying. Not everyone is themselves. Some people see the camera and start acting for it. I was trying to get my work done and about to open on Broadway. People were trying to be discovered or wanted to run away!

WCT: Talk a bit about your new movies. You were just in Ride Along, which was a huge success.

JL: That was a blast. Kevin Hart and Ice Cube are really nice dudes and very down to earth. We had a lot of laughs on the set with Bryan Callen and all of the talent that was there. It was a huge success and made my pocket very happy.

WCT: You play a food worker on the new film Chef.

JL: That was a passion project of Jon Favreau. He wrote a beautiful tender script. We studied hard and did a few more months in the kitchen of a cooking school. We did a month at a restaurant in New York then a couple of places in LA. We gave it all we had and it was fun. We went to Miami, LA, New Orleans and Austin. I gained 20 pounds for that role!

WCT: Are you a good cook?

JL: I am better and improved. Cymbeline, my Shakespeare piece, just got into Venice so I am pretty proud of that. It is with Ethan Hawke, Dakota Johnson and Ed Harris. It is great and a crazy cast.

WCT: How was working with Ethan?

JL: He's a sweetheart and what a talent. He blossomed into an incredibly gifted actor. He's so brave and courageous.

WCT: You have part five of Ice Age coming out?

JL: It won't quit, man. It is the franchise



John Leguizamo. Photo by Carol Rosegg

that keeps giving! People love it. It plays around the world. It give parents a chance to keep some conjugals going so let's keep doing it so people will keep propagating.

WCT: Where did you come up with Sid's voice?

JL: I looked at the Discovery Channel on sloths. I found out that they stored food in their cheek pouches. It would ferment and turn into alcohol. I walked around with food in my mouth like a sandwich and started to talk like that. I called the director and in the Sid voice said, "Guess who this is?" He said, "I don't know maybe Daffy Duck?" I said, "No, guess again!"

WCT: Hilarious. So Sid is always drunk?

JL: Well, he's kind of goofy and a little off. He's a little slower than everybody else mentally.

WCT: I read you were in Madonna's "Borderline" video.

JL: I was many years ago, when I was but a young buck. I thought I was going to get some

because I heard Madonna liked Latin guys and would go around the neighborhood looking for them. I thought with me she wouldn't have to look for them anymore.

WCT: How was the undertaking of translating Ghetto Klown into Spanish and taking it to Columbia?

JL: Oh, dude—I almost had a brain aneurysm. I love the language but it almost killed me. It was eight months every day. It was speech classes and tongue-twisters. It was rough.

When I got there, I was really surprised that I was able to do it and really thrive. Spanish became my second language. I loosened up and can now have conversations.

WCT: Has it inspired you to do more?

JL: I am working on my next one-man show. The next one is not personal at all.

Leguizamo's one-man show is Saturday, Sept. 13, at The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St., at 8 p.m.

Visit www.thechicagotheatre.com to reserve a ticket today.

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Talking with queer labor activist Miriam Frank

BY JOE FRANCO

Miriam Frank, a current professor at New York University has something to say about queer American labor. So much so that she's just finished a book about it entitled, *Out in the Union: A Labor History of Queer America*. Frank was born and raised in a blue collar household in Newark, New Jersey, and she credits her upbringing with her early education in labor and unions. She spent the better part of her adult years in and around New York City, and got her bachelor's degree and doctorate from New York University with a concentration in German Literature.

"It doesn't seem the kind of degree a labor person would have now does it?" asked Frank during her conversation with Windy City Times. But while she was living in Detroit, she met some union organizers who needed documents translated that had originally been written by a colleague of Karl Marx. It was her involvement Detroit labor organizers in the late 1960s that began Frank's deeper education and interest in the history of the American labor movement.

In 1982, Frank wrote *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter*, a book chronicling the migration of women from the home front to the work front during the Second World War. Frank's book also led to a critically acclaimed documentary of the same name. "This led to a

gamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. "It was this relationship that began my deeper interest in LGBT involvement in labor," added Frank.

In 1993, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Magazine decided to run a story on the rise of LGBT issues in the labor movement. However, SEIU soon found out that very little if anything had been written about



Miriam Frank. Photo by Jackie Skye Kim

LGBT labor interests and even less had been written about LGBT labor history. "This book, *Out in the Union*, told me I had to write it," said Frank. In 1994, she was a master teacher at New York University and was able to get a semester off to begin collecting oral histories from all over the country. She traveled to Boston, Washington, D.C., Detroit, San Francisco and Portland, collecting as much information on LGBT and queer labor culture.

"I wasn't able to make it to every locale. That's why I called the book a labor history not the labor history," said Frank. "In the last 20 years, the discussion in labor has shifted to LGBT interests. People are talking about these issues and really wanted to know about this subject. I became dedicated to this book," added Frank.

The book opens with an anecdotal story of a woman, left on her own, who lives her life as a man and becomes "a union man." She lives as a man and works as a man and even is elected a union steward. "The story leads to a deeper discussion of gender identity and what issues are important to a union because it is important to the union's membership." Frank does not beat around the bush when it comes to labor's involvement in both the emergence of the domestic partnership and later marriage equality. "These were labor issues because they were issues to the members of the unions. There were LGBT members who needed these benefits. The union was interested in marriage and the rights that flow from marriage because we are everywhere," said Frank.

Frank said she sees the future of labor rights and civil rights being transgender and gender-identity rights. "Trans individuals are no longer waiting until they are 40 to identify themselves. This is a present, here-and-now issue. If we are going to identify the movement as 'LGBT' we cannot forget about the 'T'. This is not an 'Oh, Them!' situation," urged Frank. If the idea of transgender rights and labor rights seem incongruous, Frank said only one word—"bathroom"—and the entirety of the argument made logical sense. An individual who identifies as female, though born with male genitalia needs the right to use the women's bathroom and vice versa. "In many plants

and workplaces, this is a non-issue and was added to contracts. But in some cases there is significant workplace hostility," said Frank. But which bathroom to use just touches the subject, she said, adding that the costs of treatment and surgery need to be considered. "There is an entire period of preparation that includes therapy and medication and surgeries that should be covered by the trans employee's

health care plan. Most people don't view this as a life-or-death issue but, in reality, it is," said Frank.

Out in the Union chronicles the story of queer U.S. labor and its significant impact on the rights that affect the LGBT community. Frank has seen it as her solemn duty to make certain that we, as a community, do not forget that involvement.



BOOK REVIEWS

Starting from Here
by Lisa Jenn Bigelow
Amazon Publishing; 282 pages

Further Adventures of Sissy Van Dyke
by Sissy Van Dyke: \$8.98
SVD Productions; 246 pages
BY SALLY PARSONS

Two books about lesbians finding their way in the world, complete with road trips, lots of drama, and insights into growing up and finding oneself.

Starting from Here chronicles the adventures of Colby, a 16-year-old lesbian, broken up over a girl who has dumped her for a boy. Colby lives alone in a trailer park, as her mom is dead and her dad is a long-distance truck driver who is seldom home. They stay in touch by regular phone calls and his infrequent short visits.

Written for children 14 and older, *Starting from Here* deals with the confusion surrounding teen angst (particularly lesbian teen angst), making mistakes and learning from them, as well as dealing with severe loss, and discovering the dawn of a new love.

Colby hangs out with her best friend Van and her other classmates in a small community in rural Michigan. She takes in a roommate—a stray dog she names Mo—to fill the gap left by her father's long road trip absences. Mo fills her heart and leads her to several new friends, including the vet who saves Mo's life and a classmate who wants to write a feature on Colby and Mo for their high school paper.

Written in a relaxed style, the author's first novel captures the heartbreak, humor, and hope of Colby's world. Mo the dog is a definite scene stealer. Likeable characters, with plenty of insights for both adults and teens to ponder.

Further Adventures of Sissy Van Dyke is about the title character, a 25-year-old lesbian free spirit chasing her dream to make it big-time with her singing and compositions, and filling her down time with lots of casual sex. As Sissy herself says, "It's not just a name, it's a lifestyle."

We catch up with Sissy as she takes time off from work in a San Francisco music store, says good-bye to her parents and friends and hits the road with a demo CD to catch a

break at one (or more) music events around the country. After striking out at a desert fest in Nevada, Sissy heads for Madison and a gig that turns out to be slanted more toward the business end of things than performance. Eventually, she ends up at the Michigan Womyn's Fest, where she describes in charming detail much of the life at the fest that has become a ritual for so many lesbians every August.

On her journey, Sissy meets many women, two of whom lead her to make significant decisions about her life. Wanda is a fast-thinking lawyer with music producer connections. Wanda has big plans for Sissy; she wants to turn Sissy's songs into commercial jingles (not at all to the musician's liking). The other woman we meet who makes a big dent in Sissy's life is Ava Nesta, who constantly presses Sissy to become part of her world.

All good things must end and so, as Michigan fades, Sissy must decide where to plant herself. She knows she doesn't want to go back to California. Enter Ava once again, who persuades her to move to Chicago.

As the book ends, Sissy settles in to her new life in the Windy City. One wonders where her next adventure will take her. Let's hope she invites us to come along. Sissy is someone in whose journey you want to share.

This is the follow-up novel to *The Adventures of Sissy Van Dyke*, published in 2010.



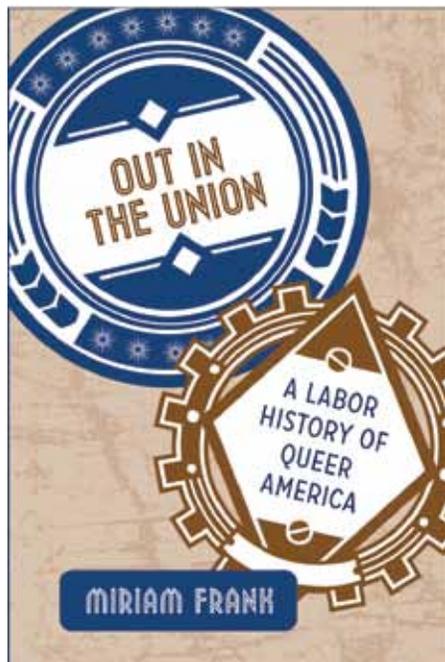
Sissy Van Dyke. Photo from Van Dyke

Women's Words Film Festival on Sept. 15

Pride Films and Plays has announced seven short films and two episodes from tello films receiving their Chicago premieres during Pride Films and Plays Women's Words Film Festival at the Public House Theatre, 3914 N. Clark St., on Monday, Sept. 15.

The screening will start at 7:30 p.m. and will be followed by a brief talkback with a few of the filmmakers. The Pub Theater bar will be open beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 and VIP passes are available for \$15; visit www.brownpapertickets.com or call 800-838-3006.



deeper interest in women and labor history and eventually led me to coming out in a union job," said Frank. Eventually Frank returned to New York City in the 1980s and fell in with Desma Holcomb, a noted out LGBT organizer and negotiator with District 65 of the United Auto Workers and a researcher with the Amal-



BUSINESS

Gay Chicagoan launching 'gender-liberated' undergarments

BY ROSS FORMAN

Kempe Scanlan is looking to turn his graduate-school thesis project into his profession.

While at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Scanlan focused on making gender-liberated undergarments, inspired by the transgender community.

The start-up company will be known as Kempe, a Viking name that means "champion" or "warrior." The company name came from a focus group of mixed LGBT and cisgender individuals who were considering name options. Someone asked about his name, and its meaning struck with the group.

"When I get dressed in the morning, I put on my armor for the day—and people really seemed to resonate with that idea. That became the new branding of our company," said Scanlan, 32, who lives in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood.

Scanlan has done extensive transgender research, intrigued "by the way they morph their body to match their mindset," he said. Scanlan studied already-existing products, which he frowned upon and labeled as "really hyper sexualized," especially since the transgender community, though lumped in with three other sexual-based communities (gay, lesbian and bisexual), it is not.

"I started creating [garments], inspired by my own athletic endeavors, looking at sportswear-like prosthetics," he said.

Scanlan was able to pitch the concept locally, and it drew positive reviews. So, he's spent 2014 developing the prototype, "trying to perfect something new and different, something that focuses on helping people transition," he said. "What makes us different is, our product is one that you can add to. So, it's really a garment that you can transition with."

Scanlan attended the 13th Philadelphia Trans-Health Conference in mid-June, and naturally shared his concept.

"The company has really shifted from being about from being just about the transition from one gender to another, to having a healthier body image, having a healthier transformation in whatever capacity you want," Scanlan said.

The company is developing prototype garments for cisgender, gay, lesbian, transgender and other individuals.

"We're really most proud of the prosthetics that we've been prototyping for the Trans community, and the Trans community is really the inspiration behind what is becoming a much larger entity right now," he said.

The first garments are expected to launch in October, with more later in the year.

The first garment will be geared for the transgender community, with interchangeable padding, allowing them to transition with their garment, he said.

Kempe initially will be sold online, and possibly soon thereafter in select specialty stores in Chicago and New York.

Scanlan, who split his childhood in upstate New York and Charleston, South Carolina, was a multi-sport competitor in high school, playing tennis and soccer, competing in track & field, and excelling on the rowing team. He then moved on to Skidmore College, where he played intramural sports and earned a degree in economics and a minor in sculpture.

After graduating, he got hooked on triathlons—and has completed 10, most recently the Chicago Triathlon in 2013. He also plays flag football and kickball in the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA), and admitted he is more of a college sports fan than a pro sports fan. Scanlan also enjoys hiking, camping and surfing.



Kempe Scanlan (right) discusses his clothing. Photo courtesy of Scanlan

He is a Duke University basketball fan and also cheers for Notre Dame football and basketball. After all, his late, basketball-playing great-grandfather, Raymond Scanlan, was Notre Dame's first All-American ever.

Scanlan is openly gay, single and came out on Easter at age 23.

"We've seen a lot of stereotypes about what a perfect body form is. Spanx is a great example of that. We also see so many people trying to perfect the hourglass [body form], and more," Scanlan said. "With the transgender community, it's not just about looks. There's a huge aspect of comfort, of finding the right body-mind connection."

And it all starts with that first layer of clothing, Scanlan stressed.

"We want to create a more empowering undergarment," he said.

Controversial 'RuPaul' performer in Chicago Sept. 3

The Illinois Humanities Council will present a conversation with controversial performer Alaska Thunderfuck 5000, a runner up in the fifth season of Logo's RuPaul's Drag Race on Wed., Sept. 3, at 7 p.m. at Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave.

Alaska, aka Justin Andrew Honard, is teaming with soul singer Jomama Jones and the Illinois Humanities Council's Angel Ysaguirre for a conversation about drag, gender, and building a community through performance. This is the fourth installment of Now What? a five-part series about current issues.

Alaska made a video earlier this year in which Alaska portrayed RuPaul shooting a transgender blogger in the head for her remarks against the phrase "tranny" being used. The person in the video is widely believed to be transgender writer Parker Molloy.

"I listened closely to a lot of the responses to my controversial 'Season 76' video," Alaska told WCT's Jerry Nunn. "In order to facilitate togetherness and peace among the drag community and the trans community I took the video down. In response I posted a video named 'RuPaul's Drag Race Season 77' in which a Dolly Parton-esque Alaska and the previously murdered character Joy Less sing a happy song together in peace and harmony."

Event details are at <http://www.prairie.org/events/28805/now-what-conversation-creators-alaska-and-jomama-jones>.



Borris Powell (left) and Kyle Thomas. Photography by Ronald Leon Hale

Fashion is life for Borris J. Powell

BY ROSS FORMAN

About eight years ago, Borris J. Powell made a red silk skirt suit for his mom. It was the first thing he ever designed and made. She still has it—but is forbidden to wear it, he said with a smile.

"My mom was my first and main influence," Powell said. "She was a seamstress as I was growing up and [we] had an old sewing machine. I wasn't allowed to touch it, but I would sneak and play around with it when she wasn't home. I would always watch my mother get ready for church, [or] a night out with her girlfriends. I was hooked from the beginning."

Spring forward to 2014, and Powell has been a full-time fashion designer for almost four years. He is 39, lives in Chicago's West Loop and has called Chicago home, after being raised in Alabama, for the past 18 years. He is a successful, single gay businessman.

"I didn't choose fashion; it chose me," Powell said. "Looking back at my childhood, I was meant to do this. There were signs before I even knew that a fashion designer existed. I was always attracted to beauty."

In 2011, Powell won the fashion-driven Oscar Designer Challenge in Los Angeles, which was one year after showing in London's Fashion Week. "Needless to say, [after winning] I was feeling that I could play in this crazy world of fashion, and make a difference."

"[The award] changed my life and how people saw me. I met one of my favorite designers, talked with and met amazing actors who I had always loved. It has opened so many amazing doors for me. I've dressed many amazing people, including fabulous celebrities. I've had my garments pulled for some Hollywood shows."

Most recently, he was named fashion director of SEX + LOVE, a project in conjunction with Kyle Thomas, and Powell said he is "super excited" for it, though full details have not been revealed yet. "We have the same vision and drive, and this is so refreshing. I was honored and shocked all in one that he asked me to be the [fashion director]. What we have planned for SEX + LOVE will blow everyone's mind. I will give you fashion like you've never seen before and he's bringing you laughter, romance, drama, and the desire to court again."

Powell's FREEDOM Collection, which de-

buted this past March and will be available in September, was inspired from a trip he had taken to Dallas, where everyone was dressing up no matter the time of day or where they were. "I fell in love with fashion all over," while in Dallas, he said. "It had been years since I've seen this sort of fashion moment. The last time was when I was in Italy where everyone was dressed to the nines. So from this trip to Dallas, I designed a collection that is meant to give us the FREEDOM to dress up again."

Powell has been producing women's wear for almost eight years, and he slowly added men's into his collections in 2013 due to the "natural demand" of needing to expand his brand.

"A very dear friend of mine begged me for years to make him a suit. I finally caved and now he owns seven suits, one tuxedo, and five or six blazers," Powell said. "The men's line has grown so fast. I never thought this would have happened, nor did I think I would enjoy it so much. I love it. In one year, it grew so much that I'm quickly focusing on men's ready-to-wear. I feel that the market is ready for Borris Powell's Men's off the Rack."

—Current fashion trend: For now, it's men in bright colored pants, floral printed pants and blazers. "Be bold, guys," Powell advised. "While the guys are being bold in current fashion, the women are being a bit more relaxed, but still chic. It's a very effortless look, but still put together. I'm excited that the comfy dressing is finally taking a back seat. Finally, it's time to pay attention to dressing up again."

—Fashion trend that is so ... 2013: "Comfy dressing, which I refer to as lazy dressing"

—Biggest fashion error you see nowadays: "The continuous wearing of the old school Ugg boots and active wear as a cute fashion statement"

—Best part of your job: "To wake up every day doing what I love. Living within my passion. And seeing someone wear one of my pieces and watching the change in their step, or having a client text me that they were stopped on the streets about a piece of mine that they are wearing. That never gets old."

—Worst part of your job: "When someone wants luxury, custom items at a flea market price"

—Lipstick: He soon will be adding eye shadow and lip-gloss to the mix. He has one lipstick that launched last March, called, RedGarden, and it sold out in three weeks. Two new shades are expected in the fall.



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taKOs K0reanos

BY MEGHAN STREIT

Andersonville's Cosina was replaced a few weeks ago by **taKOs K0reanos**, which, as the name implies, serves a fusion of Mexican and Korean cuisine. The resulting dishes taste as interesting as they sound. Think tacos filled with Korean-seasoned beef and guacamole spiked with tangy kimchi.

The Foster Ave. restaurant is a casual spot, but the design doesn't feel like an afterthought. taKOs K0reanos is BYOB (at least for now), so you can have a fun and unique meal for less than \$20 per person. Bring cash because plastic isn't accepted.

The Mexican and Korean flavors are combined in clever ways, succeeding roundly in some instances and ending up more bizarre than brilliant in others. The pork belly mini egg rolls are

a tempting-sounding starter—and they taste good, too. My complaint is that the filling is so scant that the flavors of the pork belly and the kimchi are barely discernible through the crispy fried shell. If the egg rolls were a bit plumper with filling, they'd be a clear winner.

The "Korea" fries were my favorite appetizer. Thin, golden French fries are covered in slightly sweet braised short ribs, and then topped with grilled onions, scallions, cheddar cheese and sour cream. It's a like a cross between nachos and poutine, and every gooey bit is delicious.

The menu features a nice selection of tacos and bahn mi. The tacos all make an effort to infuse the traditional Mexican snack with Korean flavor, while cilantro, jalapeno and sides of chips and guac lend some Mexican flair to the traditional Asian sandwiches. I really enjoyed the shrimp tacos. The plump shrimp are fried to a crunchy golden exterior and drizzled with honey chili sauce. I found the chicken tacos less satisfying. The chicken was nicely seasoned, but the texture was too dry, worsened by the fact that the taco features little other than a flour tortilla and chicken. Some cheese and veggies may have gone a long way in adding some moisture to the taco. Which ever taco you order, you'll want to dress it with

the chipotle mayo delivered to your table in a squeezable bottle for precise application. In fact, the mayo is so good that just about every menu item can benefit from a little squirt.

In addition to the nice selection of tacos and bahn mi, there are also a few rice plates on the menu. For my money, I'd stick with the more straightforward offerings. The rice plates come with your choice of meat (Korean beef, spicy chicken, spicy pork or braised pork belly). The meat is piled onto a plateful of slightly sticky rice, tossed with some greens, and then baked into an omelet. The notion of eggs for dinner always turns me off, and the bulgogi rice plate did nothing to reverse that opinion. The combination of white rice and scrambled eggs resulted in an overall blandness that the nicely seasoned beef could not overcome. While I can see how a dish like this would satisfy as comfort food eaten in the cozy confines of your mother's kitchen, it simply didn't translate for me as an entrée at a restaurant.

taKOs K0reanos is at 1706 W. Foster Ave.; call 773-654-1220.

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.

Brooke Lynn Hytes wins Miss Continental title



In an evening full of glitz, swimsuits, evening wear, professionally choreographed talent segments and more, one of the highlights of the Miss Continental contest Sept. 1 at the Vic Theatre was a cheering tribute to the late Tajma Hall, a well-known Chicago-based entertainer and MC.

The winner of Miss Continental 2014 was Brooke Lynn Hytes, All-Star Continental. First runner-up was Joan Jullian, European Continental, and second runner-up was Queen Bee Ho, Royal Continental.

Created by Jim Flint, owner of the Baton Show Lounge, Miss Continental, and its sister pageants Miss Continental Plus, Elite, Mr. Continental and more, have been held for decades in the Windy City. They feature some of the tops in performers from around the U.S., and even outside the country.

As their website states: "Through the years the Continental Pageantry Systems have become famous for their success in producing the most elite and competitive pageants around the globe with the best of the best in the art of female impersonation competing for the coveted titles."

For more details on the Continental Pageantry Systems, see <http://www.thebaton-showlounge.com/continental.html>.

Above: Miss Continental 2014 Brooke Lynn Hytes (center) with The Baton's Dan Neniskis (left) and Jim Flint (right). Photos by Hal Baim. See many more photos online at www.windycitymediagroup.com and in the next issue of Nightspots.



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FGG co-president talks about Gay Games past, present and future

BY ROSS FORMAN

Despite significantly fewer participants than either of the past two Gay Games, the recently-completed Gay Games 9 in Cleveland was the best of the past three, said a co-president of the Federation of Gay Games (FGG).

Kurt Dahl, the FGG male co-president and a Chicago-area resident, ranked the Cleveland event, which culminated its eight-day run on Aug. 10, ahead of the Games held in Chicago (in 2006) and Cologne, Germany (2010)—in that order.

Dahl, who hesitated for about 10 seconds before offering his ranking of the past three Games, said Cleveland had the biggest impact of the three locally.

Dahl said the daily mainstream media coverage in Cleveland was much more expansive than in 2006 or 2010—in both print and electronic media.

Gay Games 9 “was the news for the day,” in Cleveland, he said. “There was an impact on the city of Chicago and with the [local mainstream] media, but not like it was in Cleveland. And that’s what we wanted—to make an impact.”

Dahl also praised the venues in Cleveland in comparison to Chicago and Cologne, mostly because university facilities were used, such as Cleveland State and the University of Akron.

It appears that a new model for the Games was delivered in Cleveland, which attracted only about 5,000 participants—as opposed to close to 12,000 in Chicago and 10,000 in Cologne. Cleveland certainly does not have the ‘star appeal’ as a destination city that Chicago or Cologne carry, or Paris for the 2018 Games, so some potential participants opted out of these Games for that reason. But the locals seemed to embrace the Games more, Dahl said. Both of the other two finalists to have hosted the 2014 Games, Boston and Washington D.C., likely would have drawn participant totals on par with Chicago and Cologne.

“The participant level [for Cleveland] was short of what we were expecting, but it wasn’t totally unexpected. Some people, especially if they have never been to Cleveland had a [wrong] perception of the city and the Northeast Ohio region. That was unfortunate,” Dahl said. “But for those who came to Cleveland, I’m sure they’re telling everyone, ‘You should have come; you missed a great time.’”

Another major factor impacting participation in Cleveland is the abundance of other prominent sport-specific gay sports tournaments, as well as multi-sport festivals, such as the annual Sin City Shootout in Las Vegas, which will hold its eighth-annual event in January and is expecting more than 7,500 participants for its 18 sports.

Flag football calls its annual national championship the Gay Bowl—and the city of Philadelphia will play host to Gay Bowl XIV in early October, with 40 teams expected to play—28 men and 12 women. For flag football in Cleveland, there were only three teams.

Participation also lagged in Cleveland for ice hockey, in which the Chicago Gay Hockey Association (CGHA) captured gold—but the CGHA was one of only two teams in its division.

“The Federation is definitely looking at how,” to incorporate sport-specific championships into the Games, or space them apart enough so participants can attend both, Dahl said. However, a factor that needs to be addressed, Dahl said, is that sport-specific events limit who can participate, perhaps a local league champion only, which clashes with the FGG motto of ‘participation, inclusion and personal best.’

Dahl confirmed that smaller markets, such as Cleveland as opposed to Chicago, and the potential for a prominent impact locally that the Games will have, will definitely affect decisions for locations of the 2022 Games and beyond.

“I think we really need to look at the model of being [held in] a smaller city and have a big impact,” he said.

Dahl said representatives of several worldwide cities approached him in Cleveland, stat-



Kurt Dahl. Photo courtesy of Dahl

ing their initial interest in hosting the 2022 Games. He did not name those cities, but said that representatives about 10 cities have chimed in already that they are potentially interested in hosting in 2022.

An announcement for the host of the 2022 Gay Games is still years away.

Dahl said no city would be excluded from bidding on the 2022 Games, including a U.S. city. Dahl noted that the Games have not been in the Southern Hemisphere since the 2002 Games in Sydney, Australia. Plus, the Games have never been held in South America. “That doesn’t mean that’s where we’d want to go, regardless of what the bid is,” he said.

Dahl said the “possibility exists” that the 2022 event is a mixed Gay Games-World OutGames venture, despite the failed attempt to merge the two multi-sport events for 2018.

Dahl confirmed that FGG and the Gay and Lesbian International Sports Association (GLISA), which runs the quadrennial World OutGames, have resumed talks to merge the events into one. There were meetings between FGG and GLISA personnel in Cleveland.

In fact, after the Cleveland Games, a survey was sent to all associated members of FGG and GLISA, seeking input on what a merged, multi-sport event would look like, include, etc. The survey will eventually be open for all LGBT sports participants.

Dahl said he is “very hopeful” the 2022 event will be a merged Gay Games-World OutGames event, “but there is a lot of work that needs to be done.”

“We’ve heard it from constituents that they want one event. We on the Federation side want [one event]. GLISA also wants it. But it’s got to work well for everybody, especially the participants and whoever that host city it,” Dahl said.

Dahl, 53, said merging the Gay Games and the World OutGames is “one of my goals—to

get that done,” he said.

The 2018 Games in Paris likely will draw participant totals much closer to Chicago and Cologne than Cleveland. Tennis will, no doubt, draw worldwide participants in 2018 simply because of the venue. Tennis at the 2018 Games will be held at Le Stade Roland Garros (“Roland Garros Stadium”), the same venue that annually hosts the French Open, a Grand Slam championship tournament played annually in May or June.

The Paris 2018 delegation, and all French participants, “got treated like rock stars” in Cleveland, Dahl said. “The buzz is there, already, for Paris in 2018.”

Registration for Paris 2018 will open in 2016.

Dahl, who is married to Jeff Clark, was re-elected for two more years (into 2016) as FGG male co-president, it was announced in Cleveland. He was first appointed as co-president in 2009. Dahl did not participate in any sport in Cleveland, but is planning to swim in Paris. Joanie Evans of London is the female co-president.

“I’m excited,” about being re-elected, Dahl

said. “The Gay Games has been my passion ever since I joined the Chicago [organizing] team in 2001. I enjoy what I’m doing, and there certainly are some things that I want to get done.”

This personal to-do list includes expanding the number of women associated with the Games, both as FGG board members and also as Gay Games participants.

Dahl said a final financial report on Cleveland has not been submitted yet, “but I believe [the local organizing committee] is going to be fine [financially]. They either will be at the break-even point, where they expected [to be], or they will show some small profit,” Dahl said. “They were very tight. As they saw the registration numbers were not coming in as expected, they adjusted their expenses accordingly, consolidating venues if need be, and just doing whatever need be in order to manage the expenses.”

Any funds that fall into the profit category will be split between FGG and a local LGBT endowment in Cleveland to honor GG9, though specific details have not been announced.

“The overall event [in Cleveland] was terrific,” Dahl said. “The city of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio overall were great, so welcoming, so electric. It was amazing, so great. Northeast Ohio was so open, so welcoming. People were literally thanking us for coming to the area, just being there. That was amazing.”

AIDS Run & Walk has 31 Community-Direct partners

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) has announced the 31 community organizations that will raise funds through this year’s AIDS Run & Walk Chicago event on Sunday, Sept. 14, at Arvey Field in Grant Park.

This annual event, produced by AFC and Special Events Management, will raise money and awareness in the fight against HIV/AIDS for both AFC and its CommunityDirect partners.

The CommunityDirect partners serving the South Side are Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Greater Full Gospel Church, Men & Women in Prison Ministries, Michael Reese Research & Education Foundation, South Suburban HIV/AIDS Regional Clinics (SSHARC) and University of Chicago (Care2Prevent).

Those serving the North are Asian Human Services, Center on Halsted, Chicago House, Fred Says, Howard Brown Health Center and Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN).

CommunityDirect partners on the West Side include the Austin CBC Initiative, CALOR, The Children’s Place, New Age Services, and Puerto Rican Cultural Center (VIDA/Sida).

Organizations that provide citywide services are AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, Alexian Brothers Alliance for Housing & Health, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Chicago Recovery Alliance (CRA), FCAN, Heartland Health Outreach, Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH), The Night Ministry, PACPI, Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center and Season of Concern.

Lastly, those organizations that serve people outside of Chicago are Agape Missions (NFP), Canticle Ministries, Open Door Clinic and Youth Outlook.

Event registration is \$30 in advance for 5K walkers and \$40 for 5K or 10K runners. To register as an individual or as a team, find course routes and more, visit aidsrunwalk.org or call 312-334-0946. Online registration ends Sept. 3.

‘Race Judicata’ Sept. 4

Race Judicata—the popular weeknight 5K run-and-walk that raises money for the Chi-

cago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS) Foundation—returns for its 20th anniversary Thursday, Sept. 4, at 6:30 p.m.

Attracting nearly 5,000 participants (including support from many of the city’s top law firms), the after-work run/walk takes place at Roosevelt and Columbus in Grant Park.

Registration is \$39; visit www.cvls.org/judicata.

King, Elton hosting tennis tournament

Billie Jean King and Elton John will host a tennis match at Royal Albert Hall in London, ESPN.com reported.

The longtime friends will coach teams that feature former top-ranked Kim Clijsters and John McEnroe as well as Britain’s Tim Henman and 2013 Wimbledon runner-up Sabine Lisicki.



Billie Jean King.

King’s World Team Tennis Smash Hits event will be held Dec. 7, and will benefit the Elton John AIDS Foundation. John has said the aim is “an AIDS-free future” and “access to lifesaving treatment to more people living with HIV in Africa.”

CALENDAR

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WINDY CITY
TIMES **nightspots**

Wed., Sept. 3

Trans Youth Resources and Advocacy

Youth Drop-In Center Every Wednesday, safe, confidential place for transgender people between the ages of 14 to 24. Meet other youth who also identify as transgender, or are questioning their gender identity. Free food, snacks and refreshments, music, peer support, adult supervision, referrals and education. 5:00pm - 7:00pm Broadway Youth Center, 615 W Wellington Ave., <http://www.genderadvocates.org/Tyra/TYRADropIn.html>

Now What? Alaska Thunderf*#K and Jomama Jones, Salonathon, BAATHHAUS Justin Honard and Daniel Alexander Jones (Alaska Thunderfuck and Jomama Jones) join the Illinois Humanities Council's Angel Ysaguirre for a lively conversation about drag, performance, femininity and sexuality. Salonathon* Presents drag and drag-inspired performances immediately following the discussion. Queer art quad BAATHHAUS closes with music, dance and art. Performers: DARLING SHEAR JUDY (of JOYCE & JUDY) KIM CHI LUCY STOOLE MISTER JUNIOR PRECIOUS DAVIS TRANNIKA REX And queer art quad BAATHHAUS closes out the night with an unforgettable explosion of music, dance and art. 7:00pm The Empty Bottle 1035 N Western Ave., Tickets: <https://go.prairie.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=496>

Thursday, Sept. 4

Jane Addams Birthday Wikipedia Queer/Trans Edit-a-thon When Hull-House realized that today's speaker had no Wiki entry, they knew the popular online encyclopedia needed to be queered up. Bring laptops, power cords, and ideas for entries that need updating. Pizza available. Free but reservations needed. 12:00pm - 4:00pm Jane Addams Hull House Museum 800 S. Halsted St. Chicago Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wikipedia-queertrans-edit-a-thon-with-jane-addams-birthday-honoree-miss-major-tickets-12803472531>

Jane Addams Birthday "The Ebb and Flow of Resistance" Transgender and prison rights activist Miss Major Griffin-Gracy, a

black transgender woman who participated in the 1971 Attica State prison uprising. One of several free events today, reservations encouraged. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Jane Addams Hull House Museum 800 S. Halsted St. Chicago Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2014-jane-addams-birthday-conversation-the-ebb-and-flow-of-resistance-with-miss-major-tickets-12803659089>

American Veterans for Equal Rights monthly meeting All veterans and those interested in veteran issues and activities are welcome. 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago 773-472-6469 <http://www.averchicago.com>

Nepantla: A Journal Dedicated to Queer Poets of Color Poets Duriel E. Harris, Ching-In Chen, Ruben Quesada, and Francisco Aragon will help celebrate this new literary magazine whose mission is to nurture, celebrate, and preserve diversity within the queer poetry community. Nepantla is a new poetry e-journal being curated by Christopher Soto in collaboration with The Lambda Literary Foundation. 7:00pm Poetry Foundation, 61 West Superior St., Chicago <http://www.poetry-foundation.org/programs/event/3601>

Sex-Positive Variety Show Menage-A-Hah Collaborative effort of comedian Mary Zee, filmmaker David Wolff, and sex-positive podcast host Eric Barry. Sex, kink, and LGBT friendly performances in a show where those with non-conformist sexual identities share their stories in a safe and supportive space. 8:00pm Hamburger Mary's 5400 N Clark Chicago <http://www.hamburgermarys.com>

Friday, Sept. 5

Collateral Damage: The Human Faces of War Vincent Cianni, gay New York-based documentary photographer captures the struggles of gay members of the military. Through Sept. 24. 10:00am Safety-Kleen Gallery One, Building H Arts Center, 1700 Spartan Dr., Elgin Community College

A Day with HIV TPAN, Positively Aware and the Centers for Disease Control present a community exhibit and reception. Light refreshments will be served. 4:00pm -

6:00pm Chicago Cultural Center 78 E. Washington St. Chicago <http://www.ADayWithHIV.com>

Stand Up To Cancer telecast viewing party Star-studded telecast to build awareness and raise funds for the fight against cancer. Watching the show from your own home or attending a local viewing party makes you part of a national event. Libations and bites. 21+ 6:00pm - 8:00pm Parliament, 324 W. Chicago http://community.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=63321&pg=entry

Rachel Dewoskin, author Blind When Emma Sasha Silver loses her eyesight in a nightmare accident, she must relearn everything from walking across the street to recognizing her own sisters to imagining colors. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Bible Bingo & Late Nite Catechism Bible Bingo is a comedy about the Catholic culture of fundraising and bingo, featuring the character, Mrs. Mary Margaret O'Brien, a former nun who now heads a fictitious archdiocese fundraising department. Now in its 21st year in Chicago. 8:00pm Royal George Theatre 1641 N Halsted St Chicago 312-988-9000 <http://www.latenitecatechism.info>. Tickets: <http://highconcept-laboratories.ticketleap.com/>

A.r.t. Francisco Avina One-man dance and theater performance called ART, which stands for antiretroviral therapy, addresses the artist's time since being diagnosed positive for HIV (also Sept. 6), \$18 8:00pm - 9:30pm 8 Mana Contemporary, 2233 S. Throop St., Tickets: <http://highconcept-laboratories.ticketleap.com/>

Or Chadash Shabbat Service with the Chicagoland synagogue serving LGBT Jews, their families, friends and loved ones. Membership is open to everyone. 8:00pm Congregation Or Chadash at Emanuel Congregation 5959 N Sheridan Rd Chicago <http://OrChadash.org>

Saturday, Sept. 6

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, Chicago-area GLBT Chapter Specifically founded to meet the needs of the Chicago-area GLBT community with mood disorders or other significant psychological conditions, as well as their friends, partners, and family members. Free. No RSVP needed. 11:00am - 12:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com/>

Shock Top Oyster Fest in Roscoe Village Tunes... brews... and mollusks. Music acts include Gaelic Storm, The Giving Tree Band and 16 Candles. Raw oysters will again be sold by the Village Tap Bar & Grill, 2055



CHO BUSINESS

Saturday, Sept. 6

Margaret Cho will be at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie.

Photo from Lifetime

W. Roscoe. There will also be arts & crafts and a kids' area with inflatables and more. 11:00am - 10:00pm 2000 block of West Roscoe at Damen), Roscoe Village, Chicago 773-868-3010 <http://www.chicagoevents.com>

Fitness training Chicago Gay Hockey Association off-ice workout training classes every Saturday each week. Free to members. \$5 for non-members 1:00pm Urban Athlete, 4437 N. Ravenswood Ave., Chicago <http://chicagogayhockey.org/calendar/>

Something Something New Vagina Rebecca Kling, transgender artist and educator, solo performance about loving one's self and one's body. It's also about a vagina: Kling's fancy new vagina. Part of the Chicago Fringe Festival. 7:00pm Jefferson Park Tickets: <http://www.chicagofringe.org/>

Margaret Cho Strong supporter of LGBT rights, comedian, actress, author, fashion designer and singer-songwriter who critiques social and political issues, especially issues on race and sexuality. 8:00pm North Shore Center for the Performing Arts 9501 Skokie Blvd. Skokie, IL 60077 http://www.northshorecenter.org/ai1ec_event/margaret-cho/?instance_id

Sunday, Sept. 7

Houston Mayor Annise Parker Annual Victory Fund Chicago Champagne Brunch will feature Parker and other special guests: Debra Shore, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and Chair of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Institute; Chuck Wolfe, President and CEO of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and Institute; and Zach Wahls, author, advocate, entrepreneur. 11:30am - 2:30am Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel, 221 N. Columbus Dr., Chicago <https://www.victoryfund.org/get-involved/events/victory-fund-chicago-champagne-brunch>

Family of Women Book Group Eight Girls Taking Pictures by Whitney Otto 2:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St., <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Monday, Sept. 8

AUTHOR PANEL / The Places We've Been: Field Reports from Travelers Under 35 Join MARVEL comics editor and "Geeks Out" LGBT in Comics presenter Daniel Ketchum, National Endowment for the Arts 2014 Literature Fellow Kim Coleman Foote, BBC journalist and "Love in the Time of Crisis" filmmaker Theopi Skarlatos, and several more, for a panel discussion. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Chicago Cultural Center 78 E. Washington St. Chicago <http://theplaces35.com/collaborate/author-panel-september-8-2014/>

Tuesday, Sept. 9

Bi discussion group Every other Tuesday, chat about upcoming bisexual events, concerns, and answer each other's questions about the community. Soft drinks, water are provided by the Center, or bring anything else you'd like to share, whether it's snacks or a good book! 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Wed., Sept. 10

Mitchell Gold and Bob Williams Toast our first 25 years, benefit Chicago House. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, Mexico City's DJs Tom and Collins. RSVP rsypchicago@mbwhome.com 6:00pm - 9:00pm Mitchell Gold and Bob Williams, 1555 N. Halsted St., Chicago 312-397-3135 Tickets: http://www.chicagohouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/MGBW_Chicago_FormalInvite_25thAnniversary_9-10-14-2.jpg

Three couples tie the knot in festive fashion

BY JONATHAN JONES

Diana Moreno heard about the 103.5 KISS-FM's wedding sweepstakes one morning and told her partner, Emma Rodriguez, that they should enter. The sweepstakes invited couples to submit their love stories and explain they should receive a free wedding.

Moreno and Rodriguez submitted their 100-word story and a photo of them with their two dogs, a Yorkie and a pit bull. Then, last Saturday, August 16, they and two other same-sex couples tied the knot amid vibrant décor and two-hundred guests at Carnivale, a Latin fusion restaurant in the West Loop. KISS FM's morning host, Christopher "Fred" Frederick, presided.

It all started when Frederick told his co-host, Angi Taylor, that he wanted to be the first radio personality to marry a same-sex couple after marriage equality became law in Illinois June 1.

"Really, it began as a celebration of union and love, and we asked all couples to submit entries, including same-sex couples, and it just happened that the people who won were all women-women couples," Frederick said.

Before the weddings took place, Frederick's

co-host, Taylor, indicated that this ceremony was personally meaningful to her because her brother is gay.

"It's great to see these ladies here with their family and friends and know that they're supported by the radio station and Carnivale, who want to let everyone know that we support same-sex marriage," she said.

Along with Moreno and Rodriguez, the two other couples who were married were Deanna Gebbia and Jennifer Grove, and Yessenia Castellano and Genesis Matthiesen. The couples are all from the Chicago area.

Gebbia and Grove were engaged in 2010, and Grove's 9-year-old daughter acted as their flower girl. In her vows, Grove thanked her partner for accepting her daughter as her own. "With Chicago being one of the biggest gay and lesbian communities in the country, it's about time that we are able to get married here in Illinois," Grove said.

Castellano and Matthiesen have been together for 11 years and couldn't believe they were finally going to be married. "We met our sophomore year of high school in 2003 and are basically high school sweethearts," Matthiesen said.

The couples' 200 guests busily snapped photos as each woman processed down the steps to meet her partner at the front of the banquet hall festively lit by hot pink and chartreuse lanterns hanging from the ceiling.

"We have always been a supporter of the LGBT community and we're thrilled to have



Carnivale banquet hall. Photo by Alexandra Luber

been a part of this historic time in a celebratory way," Jim Jablonski, Carnivale's general manager, told Windy City Times.

For Moreno and Rodriguez, who are in the process of closing on a house, the sweepstakes

couldn't have come at a better moment. "Words really can't describe how I feel. Just so grateful, humbled, and blessed," Moreno said.

More photos are available at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

BILLY MASTERS



Billy got to meet Jessica Lange—but didn't get to film her. Photo courtesy of FX

"Usually they're very, very fit. They're usually very 'GQ' looking. They're very poised. Not to generalize, but that's my viewpoint."—Vicki Gunvalson of *Real Housewives of Orange County* explains what she means by someone "looking gay." I can live with that.

This week, Joan Rivers' health crisis weighs heavily on my mind. At the time of this writing, all we know is that the morning after a show in Manhattan, Auntie Joan was having a minor procedure on her vocal chords and went into cardiac arrest. She stopped breathing, the paramedics resuscitated her and she was taken to Mount Sinai Hospital, where she was placed in a medically induced coma and listed in critical condition. Since then, she has reportedly been on life support. Not good news for an 81-year-old woman. At 81, stubbing your toe can be fatal! It's hard for me to imagine a world without Joan Rivers—the person probably most responsible for my development as a comedian and writer. My prayers are with Joan and her family.

As for this year's Emmys, I loved them. Seth Meyers was a terrific host and kept things moving. My favorite part was his pre-taped bit with Billy Eichner. Sofia Vergara was a great sport showing off her curves to perk up a lull, while Julia Louis-Dreyfus never disappoints ... ever. As for the winners, well, what can one say? It was somewhat of a yawn-fest. While it didn't win many awards, kudos to *The Normal Heart* for snagging Outstanding Television Movie—and to Ryan Murphy for what was a wonderful acceptance speech.

For me, the highlight of the night was the HBO Emmy Party. Premier party planner Billy Butchkevitz pulled out all the stops and created one of the most magnificent venues I've ever seen. Time and again, Billy and his crew walk into an empty space and virtually build a wonderland from the ground up. When I walked in behind Julia Roberts, she actually stopped and gasped. I spent time chatting with friends from *Veep* (specifically, Sufe Bradshaw and Anna Chlumsky). The outrageous Jennifer Coolidge looked beyond gorgeous, and told me

we can expect to see more of her on *2 Broke Girls*. Niecy Nash said she'll be on *The Mindy Project* this season, playing a lesbian from Boston. Kaley Cuoco introduced me to her hunky hubby Ryan Sweeting, and explained that she put his bowtie around her neck while he had her shoes around his. They're a kooky couple!

As far as I'm concerned, Jessica Lange is in a class of her own. Standing next to Kathy Bates, you never forget that Lange is a movie star. I've never met her before, but I really wanted a photo with her. I swooped in, sat down next to her (I do things like that) and called her "Miss Lange." (I usually don't do things like that.) She turned in my direction and out of the corner of her eye, saw my friend holding a camera. She immediately put her hand up in front of her face. I quickly allayed her fears by saying that I would never take a photo without asking her permission. She relaxed and we had a nice long chat. At one point she had her hand on my knee, so I felt emboldened enough to say, "Now that we're so close, would you mind taking a photo?" She said, "Dear, I'm sorry—I don't do that." Do what? Show up on film? She was nice about it and I didn't press the point, but really? I kinda hoped my friend would snap the photo anyway but, alas, all I have is the memory.

This was a big week over at ABC News as Diane Sawyer stepped down (or, depending on who you ask, was nudged). While watching Diane sign off for the last time, I had one overwhelming thought—that's a lot of mascara! The anchor is now our own David Muir. Here's a minor little tidbit about Muir. The last time I referred to him as "our own David Muir," one of my papers called ABC News to get confirmation that he was gay—something I was sure no one would confirm. The PR person simply said, "David doesn't talk about his personal life."

It's just been announced that Reed Kelly and Josh Canfield will be appearing on the upcoming season of *Survivor*. You may remember Reed's name—he's one of the most gorgeous performers on Broadway and has previously been linked with Clay Aiken. He also has the distinction of being one of the top (so to speak) fundraisers for "Broadway Bares"—and you'll see why on *BillyMasters.com*. Canfield is his current boyfriend and is also a performer (and ain't so bad on the eyes). Much is being made of the fact that they are also both Christians—but I'm not sure why that's relevant. Perhaps those of you who watch the show will be able to fill me in.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Marcus in New York: "Is anyone really making money with the ALS ice bucket challenge? And which have been your favorite videos? [There have] been lots of hot ones."

According to the ALS Association, more than \$94 million has been raised by the ice-bucket phenomenon. If that's true, it's remarkable, but I will save my applause until I get a look at their books. As to my favorite videos, I think Patti LuPone's is right up there—she's so deadpan, it's hysterical. And seeing Ethel Kennedy and the rest of her kin dumping ice on their heads was kinda amazing—especially since Ethel has enormous difficulty raising the bucket over her head. In terms of hot, I think Henry Cavill's as Superman was quite exceptional. John Barrowman's was good, too—more for his jockstrapped husband than for Johnny himself.

When I'm looking forward to *Survivor: The Musical*, it's definitely time to end yet another column. This was a busy bicoastal week for me. You can read even more about my exploits on www.BillyMasters.com—the site that is always uncut. If you've got a question for me, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I dump a bucket of ice on Jessica Lange's head (and film it)! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Hidden Expressions release party with Monica Jones

A release party for the Transformative Justice Law Project's (TJLP) *Hidden Expressions Volume 2* will take place Saturday, Sept. 6, 6-9 p.m., at Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, 800 S. Halsted St.

Hidden Expressions is a zine with stories, artwork, erotica, how-to guides, survival tips and poetry created by and for incarcerated transgender and gender nonconforming people.

A release stated, "The goal of this publication is to combat the isolation and silence that the prison-industrial complex inflicts by connecting incarcerated trans and gender non-conforming people with each other, as well as with their friends, family, allies, and the larger Prison Abolition movement, both inside and outside of prisons and jails."

Monica Jones, an LGBT and sex-worker-rights activist, will be featured. In May 2013, Monica was wrongfully arrested and then convicted in April 2014 of "manifesting prostitution." With the help of the ACLU and SWOP (Sex Workers Outreach Project) Phoenix, Jones is appealing the conviction.

The first volume of *Hidden Expressions* is available for free download at www.tjlp.org.

See "Hidden Expressions v.2 Release Party WSG Monica Jones!" on Facebook.

WPA-era printmaking exhibit to open Sept. 11

Images of city life, labor and the workplace, and protests against social injustice will be among the fine-art prints in an ex-



1938 lithograph "Trouble in Frisco" by Fletcher Martin. Image courtesy of DPAM-Collection of Belverd Needles Jr. and Marian Powers Needles

hibition opening Sept. 11 at the DePaul Art Museum, 935 W. Fullerton Ave.

The 56 prints in the exhibition were produced during the Great Depression, when the federal government was providing financial support to a wide range of artistic projects, from fiction to fine art, through the Works Progress Administration-Federal Arts Project (WPA-FAP).

On Sept. 11, a lecture on how prints were viewed by audiences in the 1930s will be presented by Helen Langa, an associate professor of art history at American University in Washington, D.C. The lecture begins at 5:30 p.m. and a public reception will follow.

On Oct. 15, a lecture on the controversies over political content in the prints will be presented by Liz Seaton, curator at Kansas State University's Beach Museum of Art. The lecture begins at 5:30 p.m.

Call 773-325-7506 or visit www.depaul.edu/museum.

St. Louis cuts Michael Sam; move cited as 'football decision'

BY ROSS FORMAN

Although the St. Louis Rams drafted him this past spring, it appears Michael Sam will not become the first openly gay player in the National Football League (NFL) as a member of the Rams.

The Rams cut Sam on Aug. 30, as teams trimmed their rosters to 53 players.

The six-foot-two, 260-pound Sam also failed to make the St. Louis Rams' 10-man practice squad.

The 2014 NFL season kicks off Thursday, Sept. 4, and the Rams open their season Sunday, Sept. 7.

Sam, the SEC co-defensive player of the year last season at the University of Missouri, was selected 249th overall pick out of 256 overall during the annual NFL draft in May. Sam, who was out to his Missouri teammates as a senior, came out before the draft, and was selected in the seventh round.

St. Louis head coach Jeff Fisher said at a press conference on Aug. 30 that, when Sam was informed, he replied, "Thanks for the opportunity." Sam was at the Missouri season-opener on Aug. 30.

Fisher said the move to release Sam was "a football decision," adding that Sam "was no distraction. Mike fit in very, very well. He was fun to be around. No issues."

Sam had 10.5 tackles and his three sacks—including two of noted rookie Cleveland quarterback Johnny Manziel—in the team's four preseason games tied him for third-most in the NFL. Sam led the Rams with 5.5 tackles in the team's last preseason game, against Miami.

"I want to thank the entire Rams organization and the city of St. Louis for giving me



Michael Sam on the cover of Sports Illustrated.

this tremendous opportunity and allowing me to show I can play at this level," Sam tweeted Aug. 30. "I look forward to continuing to build on the progress I made here toward a long and successful career."

Sam still has a chance to get picked up by another team, or make the Rams' practice squad. The other 31 NFL teams can claim Sam, and he would go to the team that claimed him first. If Sam is unclaimed, he can sign with the Rams' 10-member developmental unit. He then could practice with the Rams, but not play in games.

"From all indications, Michael was given every opportunity to make the squad," said Anthony Nicodemo, an out high school basketball

coach in New York. "The Rams handled the media with grace. In my opinion, the bigger question is if another team picks him up. He's proven he can play in the league, so time will tell."

"I'm very proud of how Michael played this preseason. He showed the entire world that a gay man can compete in the NFL," said Eric Lueshen, of Chicago, who in the early 2000s was a kicker on the University of Nebraska football team. "I'm confident he'll be picked up by another NFL team. It was strictly a numbers game, not homophobia, for why the Rams let him go. The Rams are too stacked at his posi-

tion and didn't need another one.

"There are other NFL teams in desperate need of a good pass rusher like Michael. These teams would be lucky to have him join their squad. Everything happens for a reason. As Michael said today, 'The most worthwhile things in life rarely come easy, this is a lesson I've always known. The journey continues.'

"It'll be interesting to see what plays out over the next 24 hours. Another team not picking him up would be a bigger disappointment. He is good enough to make an NFL roster."

Since it appears no team claimed him on waivers, Sam is now free to sign with any team.

ENTERTAINMENT

Rosie, other celebs in baby-boomer documentary

Timothy Greenfield-Sanders' new documentary American Masters: The Boomer List will premiere nationwide Tuesday, Sept. 23, on PBS in honor of the last baby boomers turning 50 this year, according to a press release.

The film explores the story of the influential baby boomer generation (1946-1964) through the lives of 19 iconic boomers—one born each year of the baby boom. Subjects such as Rosie O'Donnell, Tommy Hilfiger, Erin Brockovich, Billy Joel, David LaChapelle, Samuel L. Jackson, Kim Cattrall, Maria Shriver and gay-rights activist Peter Staley illuminate the important movements and changes that shaped the world during these years.

A DVD will be released via Perfect Day Films, and Greenfield-Sanders' 19 large-scale master portraits of the film's subjects will be featured in a companion coffee table book (Luxury Press), both available Oct. 1. In addition, his portraits will be part of an exhibition at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. "The Boomer List: Photographs by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders" opens Sept. 26, 2014, and will be on display through July 5, 2015.



Rosie O'Donnell. Image ©Timothy Greenfield-Sanders

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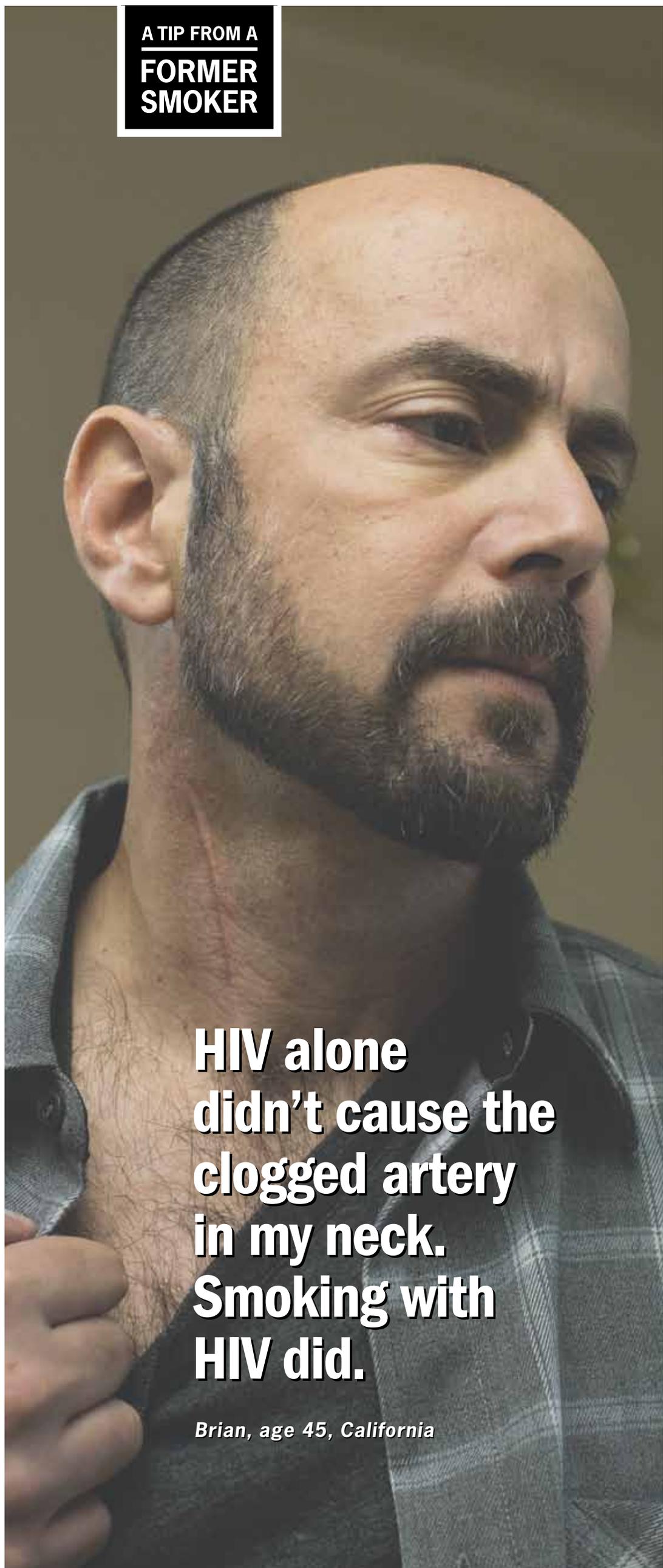


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