

WOMEN'S-RIGHTS DOCUMENTARY  
COMES TO CHICAGO



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# WINDY CITY TIMES

THE VOICE OF CHICAGO'S GAY, LESBIAN,  
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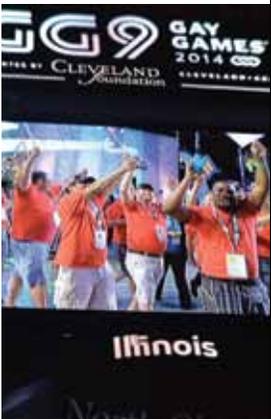
MARCH 4, 2015  
VOL 30, NO. 23



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MINNIE MINOSO'S  
SON, CHARLIE,  
REFLECTS ON LATE  
FATHER  
PAGE 17

# Military chaplains go anti-LGBT route



Forum on the Military Chaplaincy logo. Facebook photo

BY ANGLIQUE SMITH

*"Three major institutions stand in the way of LGBT equality: the military, marriage and ministry. Like a three-legged stool of prejudice, when one falls, the rest follow."*—Tom Carpenter, co-chair of the Forum on the Military Chaplaincy

Attorney Tom Carpenter, a former Marine, has been fighting against LGBT discrimination in the U.S. Armed Forces for more than two decades.

He is the co-chair of the Forum on the Military Chaplaincy, established around 2005 and made up of 10 to 15 retired chaplains, veterans and ministers.

"We were set up because, in 1993, we found out that the largest resistance to the lifting of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' [DADT] came from military chaplains," said Carpenter. "We were being told that gay and lesbian soldiers were going to their chaplains to talk about their sexual orientation and some of the chaplains were turning them into their commanders. We wrote a white paper that led to strengthening of confidentiality within the military chaplaincy."

The Forum worked to repeal DADT using real-life stories to personalize the fight—which was key to getting public and Congressional attention—and went up against conservative military chaplains who were backed by hate groups such as The Family Research Council.

But Carpenter, who compares DADT to post-integration's farce of "Separate But Equal," says the

Turn to page 4



## CHILD CARE

A.K. Summers writes about the highs and lows of having a child in Pregnant Butch. Read more on page 22. Photo by Alison Shonkwiler

page 22



## ROOM WITH A 'VIEW'

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Michael Urie (TV's Ugly Betty; the theatrical production Buyer & Cellar) talks about his new film, WTC View, which takes place a few weeks after 9/11. See page 14. Photo by John Langford

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Images on cover (left, from top): Still from *She's Beautiful When She's Angry* from official website; photo of Yousef Matariyeh and Brooke Condon by Carrie Maxwell; photo of Gay Games 9 opening ceremony by Kelly Murphy-Stevens; photo of Charlie Rice-Minoso courtesy of Rice-Minoso

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**KNIGHT MOVES**  
New Kid on the Block Jonathan Knight (left) is competing on the CBS show *The Amazing Race*.  
*Photo by Austin Hargrave*

**MADE IN THE SHADES**



A chocolate-focused event with a British mod theme took place at Union League Club.  
*Photo by Jerry Nunn*

**'CHURCH' MUSIC**



Bent Nights reviews a show by Hozier (above, of "Take Me to Church" fame) and the Empty Bottle Block Party.  
*Photo of Hozier by Vern Hester*

**CLASS SYSTEM**

Chicago's Latin School is devoting an entire week to LGBT history.

**SEEING STARS**

*Interstellar*, *Big Gay Love*, *In the Flesh* and *The Babadook* are among items that are either out on DVD or that will be out soon.

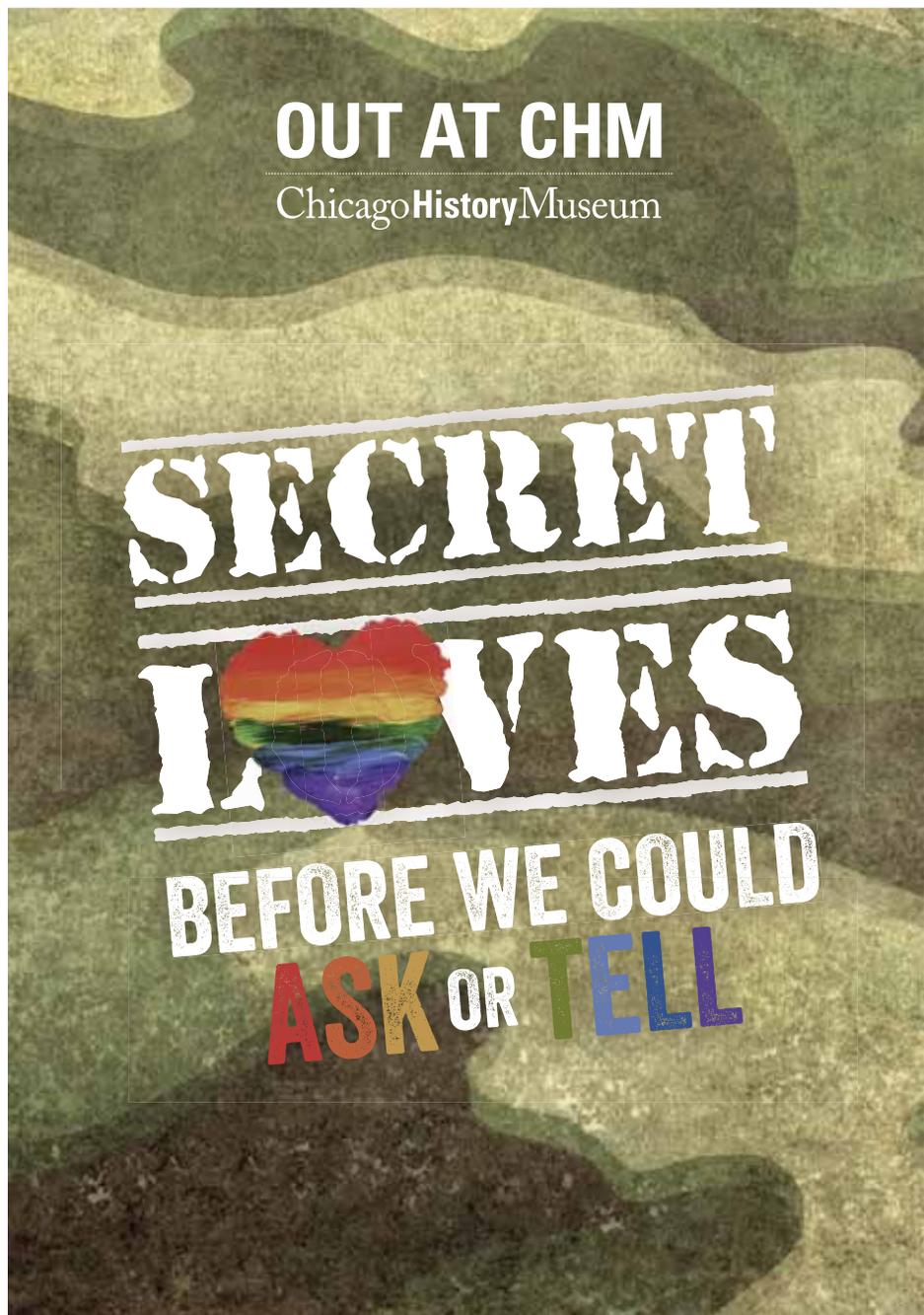
**THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT**

Find out the latest about Annie Lennox, Raven-Symone, Zachary Quinto and *The Walking Dead*.

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## MILITARY from cover

religious threat to separation of church and state, in the form of homophobia, sexism, and those in power using undue influence over troops, still affects current servicemembers.

Since the repeal, the Forum has been active in monitoring the chaplaincy overall, and has found that though oppression has lessened, LBT servicemembers still don't have the same protections as everyone else. "Our work just keeps increasing with the claim of 'Christian persecution' and the continued inability of many chaplains to provide for LBT servicemembers and their families," said Carpenter.

According to the U.S. Navy, a chaplain serves as a "spiritual guide and moral anchor" (Navy.com) and as a communicator between com-



Logo of The Forum on Military Chaplaincy's Tom Carpenter. Facebook photo

mand and individual servicemembers. To become a chaplain—a government-paid position—candidates must obtain an ecclesiastical endorsement from their faith group, certifying that they are "qualified spiritually, morally, intellectually and emotionally to serve," and are "sensitive to religious pluralism and able to provide for the free exercise of religion by all military personnel, their family members and civilians who work for the Army" (GoArmy.com). This includes being of service to those who do not have religious affiliations.

According to Wayne Hall, a representative for Army Media Relations, "When it comes to day-to-day operations, counseling, guidance, moral support, whatever soldiers need, chaplains do that in a non-denominational manner. When it comes to providing services, they are offered in line with faith groups." Basically, chaplains are expected to remain impartial in terms of general needs, but at the same time are not required to serve if they have a conflict associated with their faith group. This leaves a lot of gray area for turning faith-based ideas on and off.

## Kerry names special envoy for LGBT rights

Secretary of State John Kerry has selected an openly gay career Foreign Service officer to serve as the United States' "heart and conscience" in promoting equality for LGBT people in countries where there is extensive discrimination, The Washington Post reported.

Kerry announced Feb. 23 that Randy Berry, currently consul general in Amsterdam, would be the first special envoy for LGBT rights.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), in a statement released after Berry was chosen, said it had worked with Markey and Lowenthal, and encouraged Kerry to create the position.

In a separate press release, International

"There are groups of military chaplains who have been instructed by their endorsers not to deal with LBT servicemembers or their family members; they're not even permitted to participate in any of the family support programs such as the Army Strong Bonds Program or the Navy CREDO Program," said Carpenter. Both retreat-based programs, which are designed to help military families adjust to service life, allow chaplains to refuse treatment to same-sex couples based on "religious freedom."

According to Hall, "Chaplains perform religious support activities according to their faith and conscience and provide for those of other faith groups by coordinating with another chaplain or qualified individual to perform the support needed. In the event that a chaplain cannot provide religious support activities ... the chaplain will provide for the individual or family by referring and coordinating with another chaplain or qualified counselor who can perform support requested."

Although official policy, these extra steps leave some LBT servicemembers without the same services as heterosexual couples if an alternate chaplain is not prescheduled, readily available, or if the base in question is in a remote location.

And what of transgender servicemembers? According to Hall, "The simple answer is the Army does not have transgender soldiers—the Army policy regarding Transgendered individuals serving in the Army: Army Regulation (AR) 40-501 'Standards of Medical Fitness,' dated Dec. 14, 2007, paragraph 3-35 states '... A history of, or current manifestations of, personality disorders, disorders of impulse control not elsewhere classified, transvestism, voyeurism, other paraphilias, or factitious disorders, psychosexual conditions, transsexual, gender identity disorder to include major abnormalities or defects of the genitalia such as change of sex or a current attempt to change sex, hermaphroditism, pseudohermaphroditism, or pure gonadal dysgenesis or dysfunctional residuals from surgical correction of these conditions render an individual administratively unfit.'"

Eighteen countries other than the United States currently permit for transgender servicemembers. Last year, a study released by the Palm Center found that allowing for transgender servicemembers "is administratively feasible and will not be burdensome or complicated," and included detailed suggestions for implementing an immediate and successful policy change that could affect an estimated 15,500 transgender personnel (Source: "Report of the Planning Commission on Transgender Military Service"). There is now a new U.S. Army directive that only an Assistant Secretary of the Army can make the decision to discharge transgender soldiers—an official acknowledgment and ease in policy that might signal baby steps towards inclusivity.

Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission Executive Director Jessica Stern said, "The appointment of Randy Berry as a special diplomatic envoy brings to a pinnacle the historic trend, first put in motion by the 2011 Presidential Memorandum, of integrating the rights of LGBT people into U.S. foreign policy. Having long advocated for this step forward, we at the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission celebrate its arrival and congratulate Mr. Berry on his new role."

HRC also listed several sobering statistics, such as the fact that same-sex conduct is criminalized in 76 countries and that such conduct is punishable by death in 10 nations.

The original article is at [http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/kerry-names-openly-gay-foreign-service-officer/2015/02/23/97afa858-bb89-11e4-8668-4e7ba8439ca6\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/kerry-names-openly-gay-foreign-service-officer/2015/02/23/97afa858-bb89-11e4-8668-4e7ba8439ca6_story.html).

## Open To Thinking

BY NICK PATRICCA



## Remembering Selma

Civil Rights is personal. You either feel the issues in your gut or you don't. No set amount of rhetoric or logic, no quantifiable amount of insult, can with certainty move you to action. Not even unbearably evil murders, such as, the murders of the four Black girls in the Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, in September 1963 or the murders of the civil-rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner in June 1964 in Mississippi. Maybe you are touched by these heinous crimes. Maybe you do take some actions. But nothing definitive. Nothing that marks you and your life forever. Until one day: you act.

On March 7, 1965 the first of the three Selma marches took place. This first march was organized by James Bevel of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). Bevel wanted to channel the anger that had erupted over the Feb. 26 death of civil-rights worker Jimmie Lee Jackson. Jackson had been shot by a state trooper as he tried to enter a cafe to protect his mother from the violence that broke out during a voting-rights march in Marion, Alabama.

Bevel also wanted to focus national attention on the Selma Voting Rights Movement which he and Chicago's own Diane Nash of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) had been working on. Selma had a population of around 30,000 citizens, slightly more than half

Pennsylvania. The images and narratives of this 'Bloody Sunday' moved me and several of my classmates to ask permission from the rector to join the marchers in Selma. Permission denied.

On March 9 Martin Luther King led the second march of around 2,000 people. This 'Turnaround Tuesday' march was designed to test a court injunction against marching. The state troopers confronted the marchers and then suddenly (and suspiciously to King) stepped aside. King decided to march back to the church and seek federal protection. That night James Reeb—a Unitarian Universalist minister committed to non-violent civil disobedience—was beaten to death by a white mob. He had just arrived from Boston to join the marchers.

My mates and I decided to call an assembly of the entire community to discuss what our duties were in this struggle for justice in our country. We were committed to the principles of nonviolence both as a spirituality and as a political strategy. Our assembly drew not only students but many faculty, visiting scholars, and civil-rights workers.

We went back to the rector to ask permission to join the marchers in Selma. Again permission was denied. This time we were informed that the bishop had been advised of our requests and had also denied us permission.

On March 21 the third march to Montgomery commenced. On March 25 around 25,000 people arrived in Montgomery where King gave his speech: How Long; Not Long. On the evening of this successful day, Viola Liuzzo was shot to death by Klansmen. She had been tasked with the job of shuttling marchers to and from the airports, train stations,

"I was in my second year of graduate work at St Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. The images and narratives of this 'Bloody Sunday' moved me and several of my classmates to ask permission from the rector to join the marchers in Selma. Permission denied."

of which was Black. Yet, only 1% of the registered voters were Black. The plan was to march from Selma to Montgomery, the state capital, a distance of around 54 miles.

Between 550 and 600 people left a church in downtown Selma, walking silently two-by-two on Broad Street heading toward Montgomery. Broad Street joins U.S. Route 80 that carries traffic onto the Edmund Pettus Bridge that crosses the Alabama river. At the bridge, the peaceful marchers were attacked with billy clubs, tear gas, and other violent weapons by 200 state troopers, sheriff's deputies, and self-proclaimed posse-men who boxed marchers in, giving them no way to move forward or back. John Lewis, national director of SNCC, suffered a fractured skull. He was one of more than 150 marchers injured in this 'Bloody Sunday' march.

I was in my second year of graduate work at St Vincent Seminary in Latrobe,

bus terminals, and local homes and colleges. Her car was driven off the road by Klansmen who then fired upon the car, mortally wounding Viola. Her companion Leroy Moton, a 19-year-old Black man, was miraculously saved by being covered in Viola's blood and mistaken as dead by the killers.

This time we did not ask for permission.

We consulted with contacts we had in SNCC and various clergy organizations. They all advised us to head for Greenville, Mississippi, and assist with the voter registration work of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. But, that is another story for another time.

On August 6, President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that has become a bulwark of civil liberties for all U.S. citizens.

© nicholas.patricca@gmail.com

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

# CROI 2015 findings call for bringing PrEP for HIV prevention to scale

BY JIM PICKETT

"There is an urgent need to mobilize clinical efforts, service delivery, education, implementation research, and policy to optimize PrEP access and use," said UCLA's Dr. Raphael Landovitz in his compelling plenary address to the 4,000 participants of the 2015 Conference on Retrovirus and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) that took place in Seattle Feb. 23-26.

CROI attendees heard variations of this enthusiastic, insistent refrain everywhere, from session rooms to hallways at the Washington State Convention Center, spilling onto sidewalks, into bars and across farm-to-table restaurants across the city. Many likened this year to 1996, which ushered in combination therapy for HIV treatment, heralded the rise of highly effective protease inhibitors and called for a "hit hard, hit early" approach—a revolutionary, game-changing year.

This year was PrEP's "protease moment."

Two major trials among gay and bisexual men (conducted in the United Kingdom, France and Canada) reported extremely high rates of effectiveness at CROI. Both the UK's PROUD study and the French/Canadian IPERGAY studies reported an HIV risk-reduction rate of 86 percent. PROUD participants took Truvada as PrEP in a daily regimen. IPERGAY participants took their Truvada before and after sex, starting with a double dose two to 24 hours before sex, and one single-pill dose 24 hours after sex, and another single pill 24 hours after that. They were instructed to continue one pill daily as long as they were engaging in sexual intercourse.

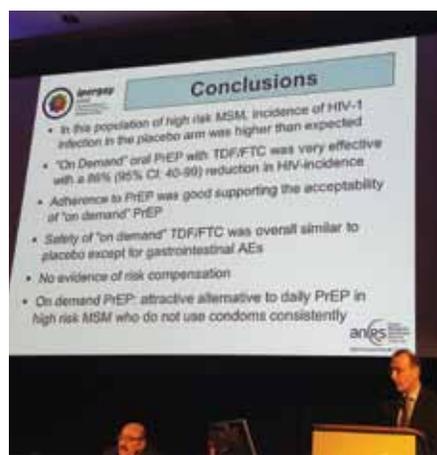
"These results are extremely exciting and show PrEP is highly effective at preventing HIV infection. Concerns that PrEP would not work in the real world were unfounded," said Dr. Sheena McCormack, chief investigator of the PROUD study. As the study was only meant to be a feasibility pilot project, McCormack described her reaction to the high rates of effectiveness as "Wow, wow, wow!"

IPERGAY study coordinator Professor Jean-Michel Molina observed that "these very good results were obtained in MSM (men who have sex with men) at high risk of HIV infection who did not routinely use condoms" and observed that 34 percent of participants contracted other sexually transmitted infections during the study.

It is important to point out that the 86-percent effectiveness reported in both these studies included the small number of individuals who were not taking PrEP as instructed and consequently became infected with HIV. The 86 percent is a population level estimate. Individuals taking PrEP as instructed can expect much higher rates of protection, approaching 99 to 100 percent.

How does this research translate to Chicago?

"The truth of PrEP should spread like wildfire in the gay community. PrEP clearly can prevent HIV infection and save lives in Chicago. PrEP works!," exclaimed the University of Chicago's Dr. Renslow Sherer, who was at CROI. He mentioned that "work is underway in Chicago to model the possible impact of PrEP. We now have another powerful prevention tool to bring the annual number of new cases from 1,200 per year down by 30 percent ... or more."



Presentation with IPERGAY's Jean Michel Molina at podium. Photo by Jim Pickett

"These two studies are important for PrEP implementation in Chicago for different reasons," said Dr. Sybil Hosek, a psychologist and PrEP researcher based at the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center who also attended the conference. "The UK PROUD study demonstrated PrEP effectiveness in a real-world setting. The level of interest in PrEP shown by men who may benefit from it the most, along with the feasibility of implementing a PrEP study in public health clinics, suggests support for a strategy of PrEP clinics in public health settings in Chicago, such as the one we are starting at the CORE Center," she said.

Said Howard Brown Health Center's (HBHC's) CEO David Munar: "It is critical for agencies like ours to continue reaching our community with large-scale education and patient assistance to make sure that as many people who can benefit from PrEP gain access to it."

HBHC's PrEP coordinator Bryan Bautista-Gutiérrez elaborated on this theme. "We need to ensure that people get low barrier PrEP access and support on the city and state levels," he said. "We must pressure our government representatives and officials to support PrEP. We need to continue to fight for better and

more competent medical care for all LGBT people, especially those disparately impact by HIV such as young gay and bisexual men and trans women of color, and working-class queers."

Regarding IPERGAY, Hosek said "the study is important because it provides evidence for a potentially new PrEP dosing strategy." Indeed, IPERGAY's dosing strategy offers a new way to potentially prescribe PrEP. At the same time, it complicates the messaging around taking PrEP which has, until now, called for daily dosing. The IPERGAY strategy has also not been proven to work in women or injection drug users—although clinical trials have proven that daily PrEP works for these populations.

"In the context of IPERGAY, what are we now going to recommend to our gay clients?" asked clinician and PrEP researcher Dr. John Schneider of the University of Chicago. "Shared decision making will be critical, and careful attention will need to be paid to determine whether daily PrEP, or PrEP before and after sex, should be used. I may no longer be able to ask 'when was your last missed dose?' and have this information mean much in isolation."

Jeff Berry—editor of the locally produced, global Positively Aware magazine—delivered a word of caution for "event-driven" dosing of PrEP. "[This dosing regimen used in IPERGAY] is not yet approved in the United States or in the Truvada label," he said. "I think we still need to see more data to show how long you have to be on PrEP before there is enough drug in your body to reach the highest level of protection."

While there is an urgent imperative to capitalize on this historic moment in HIV history and scale up PrEP services, Munar mentioned another pressing need: "We must stop the shame and stigma around wanting to be protected against HIV. We need to applaud people who seek out education and PrEP treatment, because they are doing their part to help curb the epidemic."

**Jim Pickett is director of prevention advocacy at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.**



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# Ward by ward in the race for Chicago mayor

BY TRACY BAIM

Chicago's incredibly gerrymandered new ward map boundaries certainly created some newly competitive districts in the 2015 aldermanic races, throwing more than a dozen into April 7 runoffs. The controversial 2012 map was considered illegal by some incumbents and voters, but the Democratic kingpins won their fight to create a new world order.

The LGBT community can no longer be stereotyped as being in a handful of the city's North Lakefront districts. The community has never been restricted by geographic boundaries, but in past years the concentration of out and identifiable LGBTs was high in those districts.

Now, to court the LGBT vote, a citywide or countywide candidate has to understand a far more diverse and nuanced LGBT voter—and not just campaign in Boystown in the 44th Ward.

According to U.S. Census numbers, which are restricted to counting out same-sex couples who live together, there are heavy concentrations of such couples in the 44th, 46th, 47th, 48th and 49th wards, but they are also the 3rd, 4th, 27th, 32nd, 42nd, and beyond. Simply put, LGBTs live in all 50 wards.

So when it came to the mayor's race—which will now see a runoff between incumbent, May-

or Rahm Emanuel and challenger Jesus Garcia, a Cook County Commissioner—how did they do ward by ward? Overall, Emanuel had 45.47 percent of the vote to Garcia's 33.88 percent.

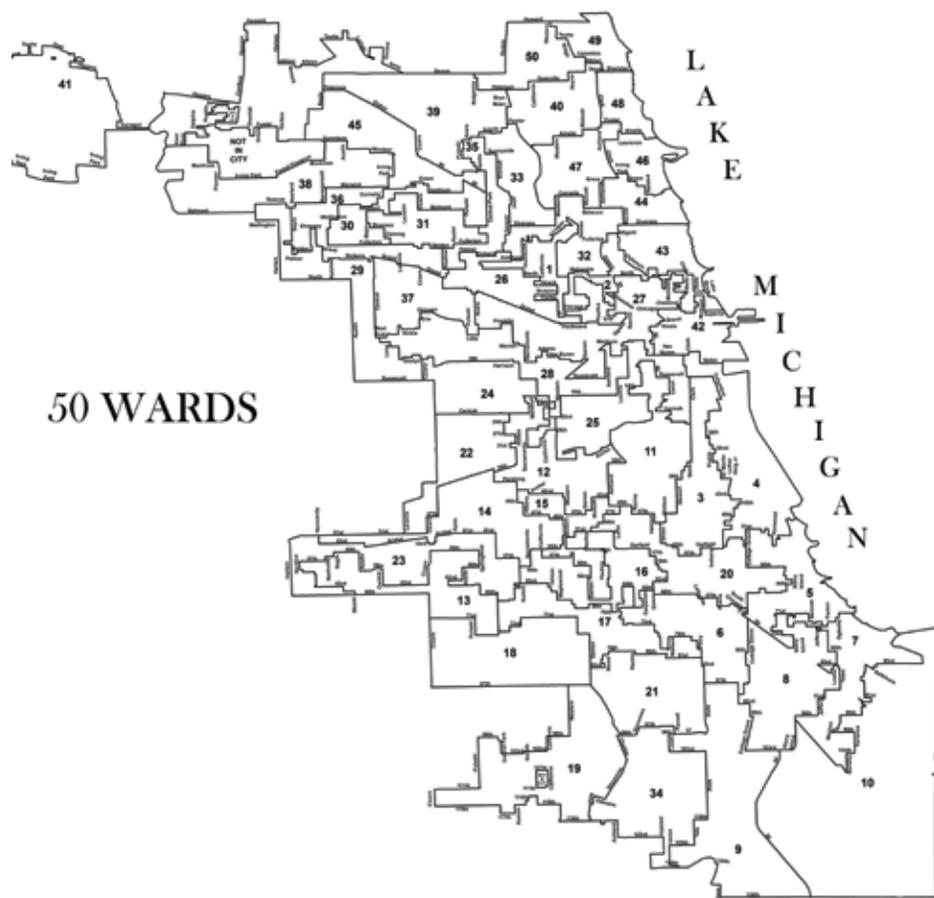
Emanuel won a majority of votes in 10 wards, and most of those were downtown and the North Lakefront. Garcia won a majority in eight wards, especially those with large Latino populations.

In the 42nd, downtown, Emanuel received a predictable 73.21 percent of the votes to Garcia's 16.72 percent. In the 44th Ward Emanuel had 64.17 percent to Garcia's 27.19 percent. In the 46th Emanuel had 57.40 percent to Garcia's 31.58 percent. In the 47th, Emanuel was at 51.22 percent to Garcia's 40.14 percent. Moving further north, in the 48th Ward Emanuel received 52.18 percent to Garcia's 47.59 percent, and in the 49th, Emanuel got 42.55 percent to Garcia's 44.14 percent.

Garcia's strongest wards were the 12th, 14th, 15th, 22nd, 25th, 26th, 31st, and 35th.

What this means is the race has started over, and both men will now have to run a new citywide race, in all 50 wards, and all 77 neighborhood communities. Courting the LGBT vote requires far more sophistication these days.

## WARD MAP OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO



The Chicago ward map. From the Chicago Board of Elections website

	TOTAL VOTES	RAHM EMANUEL	RAHM EMANUEL	JESUS GARCIA	JESUS GARCIA
1	8321	3282	39.44%	4080	49.03%
2	9857	6398	64.91%	2275	23.08%
3	9580	4686	48.91%	2028	21.17%
4	11444	5087	44.45%	3259	28.48%
5	11315	4969	43.92%	3816	33.73%
6	10225	4341	42.45%	2347	22.95%
7	10202	4445	43.57%	2505	24.55%
8	13198	5718	43.32%	3181	24.10%
9	11586	5001	43.16%	2561	22.10%
10	8969	3382	37.71%	4260	47.50%
11	8736	4275	48.94%	2837	32.47%
12	4864	1240	25.49%	3262	67.06%
13	10648	5440	51.09%	3974	37.32%
14	5851	2185	37.34%	3083	52.69%
15	4427	1317	29.75%	2297	51.89%
16	5736	2237	39.00%	1494	26.05%
17	8570	3425	39.96%	2057	24.00%
18	12060	4669	38.71%	3950	32.75%
19	17849	7447	41.72%	6436	36.06%
20	6497	2615	40.25%	1721	26.49%
21	12621	5330	42.23%	2815	22.30%
22	5137	1069	20.81%	3636	70.78%
23	9408	3745	39.81%	4106	43.64%
24	7051	2568	36.42%	1649	23.39%
25	7560	2499	33.06%	4260	56.35%
26	6520	2243	34.40%	3511	53.85%
27	8393	4035	48.08%	1824	21.73%
28	7328	2916	39.79%	1626	22.19%
29	10354	4349	42.00%	2594	25.05%
30	4767	1859	39.00%	2366	49.63%
31	5740	2323	40.47%	2947	51.34%
32	8406	3964	47.16%	3499	41.63%
33	8054	3184	39.53%	3994	49.59%
34	12327	5583	45.29%	2550	20.69%
35	6141	2057	33.50%	3520	57.32%
36	5941	2326	39.15%	2687	45.23%
37	8145	3359	41.24%	1724	21.17%
38	11027	5293	48.00%	3662	33.21%
39	11104	5351	48.19%	4147	37.35%
40	9282	4371	47.09%	3924	42.28%
41	14054	6703	47.69%	4371	31.10%
42	8498	6221	73.21%	1421	16.72%
43	9950	7151	71.87%	1827	18.36%
44	8784	5637	64.17%	2388	27.19%
45	12800	6131	47.90%	4496	35.13%
46	10206	5858	57.40%	3223	31.58%
47	12166	6232	51.22%	4883	40.14%
48	11013	5747	52.18%	4140	37.59%
49	8634	3760	43.55%	3811	44.14%
50	7767	4282	55.13%	2521	32.46%

Ward by ward breakdown of the 2015 Chicago mayoral race between incumbent Rahm Emanuel and challenger Jesus "Chuy" Garcia.

## Mell appears to win race—but more ballots to count

Incumbent 33rd Ward Ald. Deb Mell, the city's only openly lesbian alderman, may have won the race now that absentee votes have been counted from the Feb. 24 election.

There are still a few ballots to go, so it may not be clear until March 9 if she has won.

As of Feb. 27 at 5 p.m., the Chicago Board of Elections showed her at 50.03 percent of

the votes; she needs 50 percent plus one vote to avoid the runoff. Her 4,037 votes topped second-place challenger Tim Meegan's 2,754 votes, with 34.13 percent, and Anissa Watson, with 1,278 votes or 15.84 percent.

The numbers are reported as the "Unofficial Summary Report" by the Board of Elections, here: [www.chicagoelections.com/dm/general/SummaryReport.pdf](http://www.chicagoelections.com/dm/general/SummaryReport.pdf).

See related coverage, Emanuel to face Garcia in April runoff; gay Latino wins big, 2015-02-25, at the link: [www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Emanuel-to-face-Garcia-in-April-runoff-gay-Latino-wins-big/50648.html](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Emanuel-to-face-Garcia-in-April-runoff-gay-Latino-wins-big/50648.html).

# Rauner cuts hit anti-bullying programs

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Among the budget cuts handed down in the Feb. 18 budget from Gov. Bruce Rauner was the elimination of funding for programs that stem school bullying.

"There's so little rhyme or reason to this," said state Rep. Kelly Cassidy, who was chief House sponsor of SB 5707, passed in 2014, which implemented a number of anti-bullying initiatives. She called the entire budget a "veritable parade of 'horribles.' I was sadly not surprised. The cuts to anti-bullying programs were done without thought at all, which goes for many of the cuts in the budget, across the board."

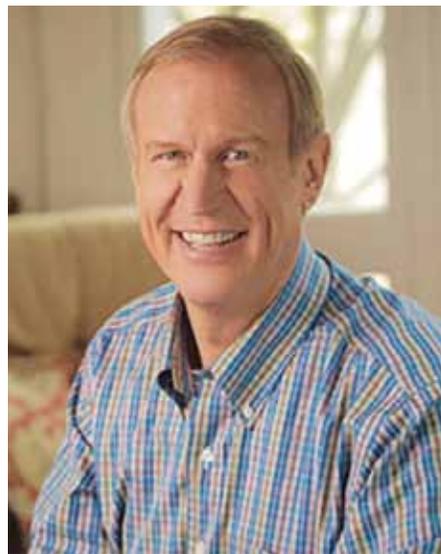
SB 5707 directed school officials to create and implement specific anti-bullying policies, as many times incidents would just be addressed on an ad hoc basis as they arose. It also directed that events be reported in a database, so state officials could have a wider view of the problem's scope and local officials

would not be able to plead ignorance of previous bullying problems. The bill was sponsored in the Senate by state Sen. Heather Steans and signed by Gov. Pat Quinn.

"While I know every penny counts right now, we're talking about half-a-million dollars that saves a lot of money for the state further down the road," said Cassidy. "Besides the human cost, there is a financial cost to bullying as well—it drives up law-enforcement costs, for example. Remember, in Minnesota a school district got sued because of the bullying that took place there."

Anthony Papini of Illinois Safe Schools Alliance said his organization will be "keeping a watchful eye" on developments across the state.

"This impacts not just LGBT students, but students with disabilities, students of color [or] students who identify as female," he added. "We need to ask ourselves, do we want to be a state that promotes unsafe learning environments for our children? This is going to



Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner. Photo from official website

"We'll keep going forward, but it is going to be tough," Papini said. "We'll have to rely more on outside resources. The Alliance operates in a lean way, but we're going to call out more [frequently] to the community for support."

The Alliance is also concerned with Rauner's appointment of Rev. James Meeks, who has opposed numerous pro-LGBT initiatives, as chair of the Illinois State Board of Education.

"He's somebody who has preached that LGBT people are not normal," Papini added. "Of course, it's an 'equal-opportunity' hate. He's spoken out against Jews and Hispanics as well. Is that the message the governor wants to send to students?"

Papini encouraged concerned Illinoisans to contact the Alliance about concerns about where schools might be headed under the new administration. "We'd happily connect them with resources. Regardless of what happens, this is an opportunity to engage in dialogue, to make sure that students are not left without a voice."

Cassidy said that she and her colleagues would keep working to make sure the cut was reinstated. "[Gov. Rauner] can try to cut what he wants, but he is still going to have to get the votes to actually do it."

Visit [illinoisafeschools.org](http://illinoisafeschools.org).

## Quigley vice chair of equality caucus

U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley (D-Ill.) was appointed vice chair of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus for the 114th Congress, according to a press release.

"As an active member of the Equality Caucus since I was elected to Congress, it has been an honor to advocate for the LGBT community on issues ranging from marriage equality and immigration reform to blood donation policies and ENDA," said Quigley. "I look forward to furthering my efforts in this new capacity as vice chair to ensure all LGBT Americans have equal access to the rights and benefits they deserve."

The six open LGBT members of the House of Representatives—Jared Polis (D-Colo.), David Cicilline (D-R.I.), Sean Patrick Maloney (D-N.Y.), Mark Pocan (D-Wis.), Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) and Mark Takano (D-Calif.)—co-chair the caucus.

The returning vice chairs of the Caucus are Reps. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), Diana DeGette (D-Colo.), Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), Mike Honda (D-Calif.), and Adam Schiff (D-Calif.). The five other new vice chairs include Reps. Ted Deutch (D-Fla.), Dan Kildee (D-Mich.), Alan Lowenthal (D-Calif.), Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.) and Ted Lieu (D-Calif.).

## Schock hires team to handle troubles

Congressman Aaron Schock (R-Ill.)—who has come under fire for his spending on office decor as well as travel—has hired a team of lawyers from the Washington, D.C., firm Jones Day, according to ABC News.

He has also hired a public relations firm, Ron Bonjean Strategies, to help the congressman respond to his recent troubles.

Schock's troubles first began when The Washington Post ran an article revealing the congressman's office was modeled after the red room in the PBS series Downton Abbey.

Investigations by the Associated Press and Politico have revealed that Schock has been living a life replete with fancy cars, surfing, Saville Row shopping, a Katy Perry concert for his interns and, private jet trips, according to Queerty.

USA Today revealed that Schock has repaid the government \$35,000 from his personal funds to cover the cost of redecorating his House office.

The original article is at <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/embattled-downton-abbey-congressman-aaron-schock-hires-lawyers/story?id=29229233>.

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# Parenting/teaching conference focuses on trans youth

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

About 200 teachers, principals, support staff, social workers, healthcare professionals and parents gathered for a day-long conference "A Day in the Life of Transgender Students: Creative Approaches to Teaching and Parenting Elementary, Middle and High School Youth" at BMO Harris Bank in Naperville, Illinois, on Feb. 27.

The conference—which the Naperville Community Network: Professionals Supporting LGBTQ Youth and the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance (the Alliance) co-sponsored—featured a keynote address by Fran Zucco (manager of the adolescent unit at Linden Oaks Hospital), a number of breakout sessions and stories from a trans high-school student and parents of trans kids.

The breakout sessions included Trans 101 (facilitated by Owen Daniel-McCarter of the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance and Transformative Justice Law Project), Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Trends with Trans and Gender Expansive Youth (facilitated by Zucco and David Fischer of Health and Medicine Policy Research Group), Inclusive Curriculum and Lesson Planning for both Middle/High School (facilitated by Brooke Condon and Robin Enders of Clinton Rosette Middle School and Yousef Matariyeh of Lisle Senior High School) and Elementary School (facilitated by members of the Alliance) populations.

Nancy Mullen, executive director of Youth Outlook, provided words of welcome ahead of the day's events.

During Zucco's keynote address she spoke about the services that Linden Oaks provides for trans youth and noted that a year ago she wasn't knowledgeable about trans people/issues. Zucco said that in the past Linden Oaks wasn't friendly to trans patients until the staff met Aaron, a trans patient who was being treated for depression and anxiety.

"I realized that our policies went completely against our mission statement which was healthcare with compassion, dignity and respect. I didn't feel that we were being that way with Aaron. I wanted him to feel comfortable and safe enough so he could learn the coping skills that we wanted him to learn," said Zucco. "I talked to my boss, the chief nursing officer, who for years had been asking if the hospital was doing the right thing by trans patients. As a manager, I realized that I was the one who was causing the barrier because I was worried about my staff's comfort level instead of the patients. My supervisor really supported me



David Fischer and Fran Zucco. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

when I told her about Aaron and how much he touched my heart. I couldn't imagine treating him as a female when he identified as a male. She encouraged me to start a task force and I ended up getting at least one person from every unit to join the task force."

Zucco explained that as a result of the task force findings the hospital added a gender identity section to their admission process including information about the patients preferred name, whether or not trans patients wanted a roommate or a single room and trans inclusive training for all new and current employees.

During the breakout session Zucco explained that they see the results of the community/schools/parents response to trans kids when they are admitted to Linden Oaks for treatment. Fischer noted the higher rates of incarceration among LGBT and POC youth as compared to their straight, white peers as well as the disproportionate negative discipline that LGBT youth experience as opposed to their straight cisgender peers.

Condon, Enders and Matariyeh's remarks focused on the importance of LGBT inclusive instruction throughout the school year as well as across the curriculum, not just in history class. They also emphasized the importance of having active GSAs and supportive teachers and staff so LGBT students feel safe and welcome in their schools.

See [www.illinoisafeschools.org](http://www.illinoisafeschools.org) and [www.facebook.com/pages/Naperville-Community-Network-for-Professionals-Serving-LGBT-Youth/124659820278](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Naperville-Community-Network-for-Professionals-Serving-LGBT-Youth/124659820278) for more information.



From left: Waverly Deutsch, Sam Kirk and Bernard Bartilad participated in the youth-oriented event. Photos by Hal Baim

## Entrepreneurs event focuses on youth

Windy City Times, StartOut, Center on Halsted and MB Financial Bank hosted a one-day seminar on entrepreneurship Feb. 28.

About two dozen LGBTQ and allied youth worked alongside MBA students and other volunteers, discussing ideas and the "how-to" of starting and running your own business. Some of the youth came through Chicago-area organizations that help those who are unstably housed.

Sam Kirk started the day discussing her own experience growing up on Chicago's South Side, and struggling through poverty to make it as a nationally acclaimed artist and interior designer.

Waverly Deutsch, clinical professor of entrepreneurship at Chicago Booth, gave a crash course in just what it takes to create a new business, and then the youth broke into groups to work with her MBA students on ideas for startups.

Bernard Bartilad, senior vice president at MB Financial Bank, gave the youth tools when seeking financing, but also practical advice about organizations that can help entrepreneurs one-on-one.

Investor Timo spoke to the youth about what he looks for when investing, and entrepreneur Brian spoke about marketing and getting to profitability.

James Bain, president of the Chicago chapter of StartOut, a national network of LGBT entrepreneurs, coordinated the day's presentations. Center on Halsted hosted the seminar, and MB Financial Bank sponsored the event so the youth could be paid for their time attending.

The event was created as an outcome of the Windy City Times 2014 summit on LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness, as one of the initiatives youth asked to have.

For videos and more photos of the event, see online version of this article at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/-Entrepreneurs-event-hosted-for-youth/50688.html>.

## Chicago Urban League hosts StoryCorps Black queer event

BY LIZ BAUDLER

StoryCorpsOUTloud presented "Queering Black History With Our Stories" (which Affinity Community Services also sponsored) Feb. 26 at the Chicago Urban League, 4510 S. Michigan Ave.

The Legacy Project included a display about famous Black LGBTQ individuals. About 80 people listened to four short audio pieces about the queer Black experience, and discussed the issues they addressed.

Chicago StoryCorps' Andre Perez said the mission of StoryCorps is to "facilitate stories between everyday people." He said the StoryCorps booth at the Chicago Cultural Center is open for booking and recording, and that StoryCorps has recently focused on both LGBTQ and African-American stories. The latter will be archived in both the Smithsonian and Library of Congress.

Kai Marshall Green, a Northwestern University professor of sexuality and African-American studies, hosted the evening. Beginning with a poem about Black queer identity, he followed with a clip of a Studs Terkel interview with James Baldwin. Society had made a young Baldwin suspect that being Black was "terrible", and his words started a group dialogue about crafting identities in spite of stereotypes.

Local HIV activist and playwright Vincent Mormon said he wanted to present parts of himself and community in an honest light. His StoryCorps piece dealt with his childhood sexual molestation and his adult HIV

infection. "All of these things which society tried to hurt me with, they can't," he said. Mormon's story fostered conversation about creating both healing and safe spaces in community.

Goodman Theatre director Willa Taylor was recorded in conversation with writer M. Shelly Connor. They discussed how queer people existed acknowledged but not discussed in their churches and families. Green let this segue into discussion of open secrets in communities.

Trans activist Gloria Allen brought down the house with an impromptu introduction to her story. She applauded the event's focus by commenting that in her youth, "we didn't have any place to discuss this." Her story focused on her childhood and supportive family. As she put it, "I only had to go into the closet to hang up my clothes," and concluded, "If you let people pull you down, they will always pull you down."

Green's final discussion questions focused on bisexual and trans marginalization within the queer community. Listener Margaret Davis spoke poignantly about how as a bisexual woman, she didn't feel accepted at church, with family or in the queer community. "People point fingers at us," she said.

Green invited the crowd to join him in a closing group affirmation. Shirley Alfano, StoryCorps' Chicago site supervisor, then stood up to thank her team and the sponsors—and pointed out that the evening's brief stories were edited from 40 minutes of tape.



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# The second coming of the man who would be queen

VIEWPOINT BY DANA BEYER

There are times when you read an article that's nothing more than a screed, a scream of resentment, in this case on behalf of a man who has slid into irrelevancy. In what appears to me to be an attempt to capitalize on the alleged Jenner transition, win some plaudits from reactionary fellow travelers, and prepare the ground to promote Professor J. Michael Bailey once again into the limelight, along comes Charlotte Allen. Her article in the Weekly Standard, "The Transgender Triumph," which reads like a greatest-hits album of the scientifically ignorant and hateful anti-trans rabble, leads with the return of Professor J. Michael Bailey to the scene of the crimes in Chicago's Boystown that originally led to his fall from grace. It's a surprisingly tone-deaf way to stage-manage your Second Coming.

The trans community has triumphed, as the title suggests, to the degree it has because we've come out in greater numbers and educated our neighbors about our unique characteristics as one of many sexual minorities. In the world of science, of which Bailey is a part, we've made great progress not through bullying and political correctness but by slowly and persistently presenting the science that shows that trans persons are normal like everyone else. It has taken time—the DSM 5 was only published two years ago. "Transgender" was first mentioned in a State of the Union speech last month. Open trans military service is continuing to plod forward.

And into this environment—because of this environment—those who have resisted and those who have hated have become increasingly public about their feelings and increasingly shrill in expressing them. It's the backlash part of the civil rights dialectic, which is why it is not unexpected, but apparently the Bailey-Blanchard-Dreger crowd hasn't really been paying attention.

As I mentioned in the previous paragraph, the scientific consensus has radically changed in this century. In 2003 the trans civil rights movement was young and ineffective. It was Bailey's publication of *The Man Who Would Be Queen* that galvanized and mobilized the trans activists. The book was published, remarkably, by the National Academies Press, associated with the Institute of Medicine, and included an encomium from scientific luminary and then-MIT professor Steven Pinker, who wrote on the back cover:

"With a mixture of science, humanity, and fine writing, J. Michael Bailey illuminates the mysteries of sexual orientation and identity in the best book yet written on the subject. *The Man Who Would Be Queen* may upset the guardians of political correctness on both the left and the right, but it will be welcomed by intellectually curious people of all sexes and sexual orientations. A truly fascinating book."

There is little science in the book, and less humanity. The book is an expression of Bailey's salacious interest in the sexuality of trans women, not their humanity. In a remarkable exploration of his personal desires, which he substitutes for data, he fits right in with the Freudians and fetish systematizers who have been marginalized and limited to ever smaller circles in the scientific community. And, remarkably, the author of this review jumps right back into that sensationalistic approach, starting her article with this objectifying comment in the second paragraph: "I stared at her [Sara Andrews] mesmerized, looking for signs that she had once been male." There are images of her "scanty costume" and her "smooth and



Dana Beyer. Photo courtesy of Beyer

hairless skin," and she is described as "shy and demure." Language focused on physicality and sexuality, the natural vs. unnatural—this is the focus of the author and her patron, Professor Bailey. Apparently one needn't have a penis for membership in his crowd.

Sloppiness and calumny abound in this essay. Don't let the essay's title fool you; it's one of the few instances where the title accurately portrays reality in a positive sense (though not intentionally), while the article itself is a hit piece.

She uses the term "transgenderism," calling it the new politically correct term for transsexualism, but had she done a minimum of searching, she'd have learned that it has never been accepted in the trans community. It is a term used by the Weekly Standard crowd to disparage trans persons. The same goes for the use of "transgender" as a noun, which is just as unacceptable grammatically. She calls Sara Andrews a "transwoman," in parentheses, denying her right to self-identification (and misspelling "trans woman" in the process). She mentions the 1970s meme that "transgenderism is an overwhelmingly male phenomenon," in spite of the fact that the numbers have been equal at least since the turn of the century. Doing so plays into Bailey's fetishist theme and again denies the identity of her interviewee, Sara, who "insisted on defying Bailey's sexual-desire hypothesis. 'It's not a sexual thing,' Andrews said. 'It's who I am.'"

Allen says the Bailey thesis was controversial in 2003 and is even more controversial now. Now, not really, because while it was controversial then, it is laughable today, held only by this cast of characters increasingly ignored by their colleagues. The two APAs—the American Psychological and Psychiatric Associations—and the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and growing numbers of therapists of all schools recognize the biological innateness of gender identity and its manifestations, contrary to her belief that "[t]he medical evidence for a mismatch between brains and bodies is ambiguous." The most recent review was published just last

week in Boston. The classic paper on the biological roots of transsexualism, entitled, "Atypical Gender Development," was published nine years ago.

Bailey's attempt to fetishize trans women, who today are still being manhandled by his colleagues, Drs. Ray Blanchard and Ken Zucker in Toronto, plummeted into a sinkhole in 2003 by virtue of his refusal to recognize the existence of trans men, who don't fit the male fetishist profile. Today we see ever larger numbers of children announcing their identity to accepting parents—are they proof of what Ms. Allen calls, in support of Bailey, "a matter of sexual desire and romantic yearning"? Sexual desire and romantic yearning in 4-year-olds? Even the intellectual leader of the Bailey clan, Professor Paul McHugh of Johns Hopkins, recognized in 2005 that gender identity exists in the human brain. It confuses him, and he still can't separate sexual orientation from gender identity in his mind, but he's an old man and can possibly be forgiven for his closed-mindedness. But that doesn't stop Allen from referencing McHugh's misreading of the Karolinska study to suit his anti-trans conclusion (trans women actually benefit greatly from transition with appropriate support) or completely misinterpreting the significance of the Reimer case. David Reimer was not trans, was surgically feminized at birth after developing in utero as a male and raised female, and was lied to about his traumatic circumcision until Professor Mickey Diamond of the University of Hawai'i discovered the John Money cover-up.

Allen's cultural transphobia factoids come fast and furious. She's uncomfortable with properly identifying victims of hate crimes, such as CeCe McDonald, whom she makes into a perpetrator rather than a victim, and uses Chelsea Manning (a convicted traitor) and Michele Kosilek (a convicted killer) as poster girls. Then she targets older women for the crime of being late-in-life transitioners, thereby supporting Bailey's theory that this class of women, unlike the "homosexual transsexuals" (an archaic British classification) over whom Bailey drools in drag bars, is just composed of fetishists. The accomplishments of Martine Rothblatt, Jenny

Boylan, Diedre McCloskey and Meghan Stabler are masculinized in a manner Janice Raymond, the notorious second-wave feminist hater of all things trans and author of *The Transsexual Empire*, would applaud.

I will leave it to Professor Lynn Conway and Andrea James to once again take the lead in exposing this stew of pseudoscientific salaciousness. The people with the sexual fetishes are Bailey and his friends, not the trans women who struggled with their gender incongruence before finding the courage to lead authentic lives.

Alice Dreger should know soon that her attempt, in her soon-to-be-published book, and with this article, to resurrect the reputation of J. Michael ("isn't gay himself") Bailey, will land not on virgin ground but in the lap of an engaged, erudite and committed group of activists who are proud of their identities and contributions to society. It's worth noting that the hotbed of Baileyism, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (isn't that a welcoming name for a scared family looking for support?) in Toronto, formerly known as the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, home to both Drs. Zucker and Blanchard, is today reconsidering its long history of reparative therapy and resistance to scientific progress. When what is affectionately known as "Jurassic Clarke" fades into history, the major battle in the war for legitimacy will be over.

**Dana Beyer is a retired eye surgeon who was a candidate for the Maryland state Senate in 2014. She is currently executive director of Gender Rights Maryland, the state's trans political organization. She is chair of the national advisory board of Freedom to Work, and writes a weekly column for the Huffington Post.**

**Beyer has been VP of Equality Maryland and Maryland NOW, a Human Rights Campaign (HRC) governor and a board member of the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE). She helped write the gender dysphoria text for the DSM 5, declassifying being transgender as a mental disorder. This column originally ran in the Huffington Post.**

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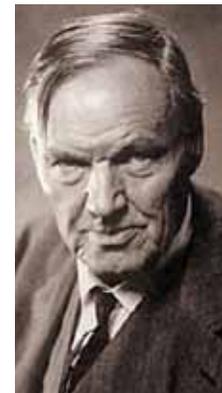
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WINDY CITY  
TIMES

VOL. 30, No. 23, March 4, 2015

*The combined forces of Windy City Times,  
founded Sept. 1985, and Outlines newspaper,  
founded May 1987.*

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 U.S.A.  
 (MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

*Windy City Times* Deadline every Wednesday.  
**Nightspots** Deadline Wednesday prior to street date.  
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 Community Marketing, Inc.



DANA  
RUDOLPH

## MOMBIAN

Equity in the  
doctor's office

A news story has been circulating about a Michigan pediatrician who, "after much prayer," refused to care for a newborn because the baby had two moms. It's a story of personal discrimination and ignorance—but also indicates systemic problems.

Jami and Krista Contreras said they'd chosen Dr. Vesna Roi of Eastlake Pediatrics because of her holistic and natural approach, reported the Detroit Free Press. After a prenatal visit, they went to her office last October for the first appointment with their six-day-old daughter. Roi was not there, however. Another pediatrician in the practice, Dr. Karam, told them Roi had decided that because they are lesbians, she couldn't care for their baby.

On Feb. 9, once the story began to spread, Roi explained in a letter to the Contreras that she "never meant to hurt either one of you" and that "after much prayer following your prenatal, I felt that I would not be able to develop the personal patient doctor relationship that I normally do with my patients. ... I felt that you deserved that type of relationship and I knew you could get that with Dr. Karam." She apologized for not notifying them in advance, saying she had no way of contacting them. She also thought that if she shared her decision during the first appointment with their child, it would "take away much of the excitement."

Ultimately, I think the Contreras will be better off with a doctor who is more comfortable with their family—and to the extent that Roi herself realized that, I cannot blame her. Perhaps her refusal to serve them came less from animosity and more from insecurity over how

to interact with a type of family she had never encountered before.

If that were true, however, she still could have explained in person that she was questioning whether her lack of experience with same-sex parents would make her the best doctor for them. She could have left it up to them to decide. Simply avoiding them, though, speaks of deeper discomfort and bias.

To go about it the way she did is discrimination. Even worse, it's legal discrimination in Michigan, which has no law banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. There are also no federal regulations prohibiting such discrimination. That must change.

It is unlikely to change soon in Michigan, where a "religious freedom" bill has passed the state House and now sits before the Senate. It would allow a person to claim religious freedom even in the face of any anti-discrimination laws that might pass.

Nevertheless, the fact that Roi ultimately felt the need to apologize at all is a sign of progress. She was also not adverse to another doctor at her practice helping the family. That does not excuse her actions—but indicates a growing awareness that anti-LGBTQ bias is no longer generally acceptable.

But Roi's actions, whether from overt bias or mere insecurity, are not just a failure of her personally, but of a system that still has a long way to go in teaching medical professionals about LGBTQ cultural competence.

Some organizations have taken initial steps. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), of which Roi is a member (according to the Eastlake Pediatrics website), has a nondiscrimination policy that says, "The AAP is opposed to discrimination in the care of any patient on the basis of ... gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression ... of the patient or patient's parent(s) or guardian(s)." AAP policies don't have the force of law, but should cause pediatricians to hesitate when they flout them.

The larger American Medical Association (AMA) has an even more strongly worded policy, "Physicians cannot refuse to care for patients based on race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other criteria that

riding handsome, apparently happy horses in gorgeous settings. Copy includes "We're a community that shares a love for adventure, fun and the beautiful, challenging sport of polo," and "Polo is a sport rich with history, tradition, speed and skill. We encourage you to join us and experience it firsthand." It's all very lovely and Ralph Lauren, with no images or descriptions of the profound suffering horses endure in training, competition and, for those that aren't shot following an injury on the field, retirement.

I understand that in official rulebook of the United States Polo Association, horses are never referred to as horses, but "mounts," clearly to encourage a perception that these living, sensitive creatures have no more value than a dune buggy or Big Wheel. At 55 pages, only one-half of one addresses the safety of horses. Whips, spurs and riding crops are not prohibited, protection for horses' back legs is not required and a five-minute "time out" is available during which "visible blood" can be cleaned off a horse and a rider may change clothes. The mandate of the USPA insofar as horses are concerned is to "take positive action to protect players and the sport from the perception of animal abuse." Bless the Association's heart for not pretending to care about horses at all.

As with racing horses, carriage horses and those used for labor, polo horses are slaughtered when they're no longer useful. Others, like Prince Harry of England's "Drizzle," die of

would constitute invidious discrimination." (Roi was a member of the AMA only between 1996 and 2001, however.)

I wonder, though, what more could be done to reach out to medical professionals like Roi. They need to be aware of relevant laws and policies and of recent medical and social science research on LGBTQ people and families, but also of how to make us feel welcome (e.g., with forms that say "Parent" and "Parent" instead of "Mother" and "Father"). They need to hear our stories and learn how we are like—and unlike—other families.

Some organizations have already made inroads here. The National LGBT Cancer Network offers a cultural competency program and a best practices guide for health and social service agencies on delivering such trainings. The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association offers a set of Guidelines for Care of LGBT Patients, a webinar series on LGBT cultural competence, and an annual conference for medical practitioners and students. I fear practitioners like Roi, however, would never attend such a conference.

Most of these materials, too, focus on the health needs of LGBT adults—important, certainly, but not complete. I would love to see more programs incorporate resources from youth and family programs like Human Rights Campaign's Welcoming Schools initiative and the Family Acceptance Project. Simple things, like putting LGBTQ-inclusive children's books in a waiting room, could go a long way towards making all families feel welcome in health-care environments.

I feel for the Contreras, and commend them for wanting to make their story known. As a community, we need to make sure that the situation they faced doesn't happen to any more families.

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

heart failure on the field. Most retired, sick or injured horses in the United States are sold at auctions and transported in long, harrowing rides to either Mexico or Canada, where they're killed for food consumed by other animals and, yes, humans. As tragic and disturbing as all animal slaughter is, there's something about frightened horses watching each other have their throats cut that is particularly devastating.

Please query the Internet for horse slaughter. Your search will list sites that aren't as pretty as The Gay Polo League's, the most galling part of which is this bit of whiny copy: "Our goal is to provide a safe place for active people to enjoy the excitement and competition and the camaraderie that comes with team sports, knowing that many of us didn't have as many opportunities to play a team sport growing up." Whatever. Whaa-whaa-whaa. The league is concerned only with the players and spectators and the sad childhoods I have no doubt most of them had. Nothing about the horses ... I mean, "mounts." Please avoid the April event and discourage everyone you know from participating in this cruel, exploitive activity.

**Christopher Murphy—a writer, paralegal and former Fabsout model—lives in Orlando, Florida, with his nine special-needs dogs. See [www.rp-author.com/murphy](http://www.rp-author.com/murphy).**

Photo by Miriam Lorenzi



CHRIS  
MURPHY

Gay or not,  
polo harms horses

It was with extreme disappointment, but not surprise, that I learned that there is a Gay Polo League operating in the United States and that the 6th Annual International Gay Polo Week will occur at the International Polo Club in Palm Beach in April.

Abused and murdered from dawn of recorded history—and, likely, eons before that—in cultures throughout the world, I would expect gay men and women to be more compassionate to animals abused and murdered for food and entertainment than the general population. Sadly, they're not, as evidenced by there being sufficient interest in polo not just to form a team but to warrant an international league.

The Gay Polo League's website, which I visited upon learning about the group, is nicely done. Attractive and easy to navigate, it features images of well groomed, smartly dressed people of different ages, sexes and ethnicities, all of whom are gay and have really good teeth,

# GOINGS-ON



WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo of Gay Games 9 dancesport competitors by Kelly Murphy-Stevens

## DANCE FEVER

Gay Games 9, held last year in Ohio, has been deemed a financial success. Read more on page 16.

### THEATER

**How 'Sweet.'**  
Page 12

Photo from *The Sweeter Option*  
by Kyle Hamman/KBH Media



### DISH

**Bowled over.**  
Page 19

Photo of bellyQ's chicken katsu bowl by Andrew Davis



### SPORTS

**Remembering Minnie.**  
Page 17

Photo of Minnie Minoso  
courtesy of Charlie Rice-Minoso



### SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

## Garage activism

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Steppenwolf Theatre Company's sixth annual Garage Rep is underway, and two of its three rotating repertory productions prominently focus on LGBTQ characters and issues.

"It really was just kind of a happy accident," said Greta Honold, a Steppenwolf producing associate who curates Garage Rep. "But we looked at it and realized for all three shows that activism emerges as a main theme."

On the roster this year is Pride Films and Plays' Chicago premiere of Topher Payne's dark comedy *Angry Fags* about gay vigilantes avenging a violent hate crime, Cold Basement Dramatics' take on Steven Simonci's drama *Heat Wave* about Chicago's deadly summer in 1995 and Red Tape Theatre's Chicago premiere of Taylor Mac and Ellen Maddow's *The Walk Across America for Mother Earth*, a drag show mixed with Commedia dell'arte that depicts a flamboyant protest march from Washington, D.C., to Nevada.

Of course Honold stresses that theater companies selected to participate in Garage Rep aren't judged solely on their show's content. Many companies that submit proposals are considered for their status as rising itinerant storefront theater companies and how their programming will compliment or expand on what Steppenwolf currently offers on its own stages.

"It's a way for companies to get a little more exposure," Honold said, adding that the Garage Rep companies get an extended two-month-long run and hopefully extra word-of-mouth attendance since they're playing cheek-by-jowl with the other company's audiences—particularly those of Steppenwolf.

"The other cool thing about the Rep is you pick the three companies and throughout the

fall we have a series of meetings with them and we try to give them a focus and concentrated creative and administrative mentorship," said Honold, adding that Garage Rep also exists in part for Steppenwolf to help bolster Chicago's vibrant storefront theater scene.

And occasionally a major hit emerges. In the 2012 Garage Rep, *The Inconvenience's* world premiere of Ike Holter's *Stonewall Riots* drama *Hit the Wall* became a hard-to-get ticket, and the show went on to be produced off-Broadway in New York.

For this year's Garage Rep, LGBTQ characters and issues are both prominently featured in *Angry Fags* and *The Walk Across America for Mother Earth*.

*Angry Fags* is the brainchild of Atlanta-based performer and playwright Topher Payne, and director Derek Van Barham is excited to stage it after its initial Pride Films and Plays reading back in 2013.

"When we talk about the show, we say things like 'Oscar Wilde meets Fight Club or Quentin Tarantino.' And I think that's really accurate because the language has a heightened sense, but it's also mixed with a very modern edgy aesthetic," said Van Barham about *Angry Fags* as a comedy where sitcom-type comedic characters get thrust into violent and tragic circumstances.

Van Barham also says that Pride Films and Plays is more than ready to play *Angry Fags* in repertory at Steppenwolf's Garage space since so many of their past productions at the Apollo Studio or Mary's Attic had to be physically taken down and removed after each performance and then reassembled for the next one.

As for Red Tape Theatre, the company is in a bit of restructuring as an itinerant company since it was recently forced to leave its longtime home at St. Peter's Episcopal Church on



The Walk Across America for Mother Earth. Photo by Anna Sodziak

Belmont Avenue. But for major creative support, Red Tape Theatre turned to former About Face Theatre artistic director Bonnie Metzgar to direct *The Walk Across America for Mother Earth*.

"I understand the place that they're in trying to figure out 'who are we now?' How does a theater company exist outside of four walls?" Metzgar said. "So it's amazing to be a part of Garage Rep and that Steppenwolf stepped in help figure out what's next for Red Tape."

Metzgar is also grateful that she's exposing Chicago to Taylor Mac predominantly as a playwright and not solely as a one-man queer drag performance artist (Metzgar notably imported Taylor Mac to Chicago for the first time for the 2008 About Face Theatre run of his one-man show *The Young Ladies Of*).

"Taylor Mac is so energetically surprising. You think you're going in one direction stylistically. In this play there's so many literary references and references to American activism and

to lyrics of protest songs," Metzgar said. "But at its heart, it's a social critique and it's critiquing those of us who are blind to the idea of preaching to the choir—it's really all about a critique of the choir and just because we think that we are fighting a good fight, it does not mean that we are excused from seeking our higher selves."

**Pride Films and Plays' *Angry Fags*, Red Tape Theatre's *The Walk Across America for Mother Earth* and Cold Basement Dramatics' *Heat Wave* continue in previews through March 6 with an official press opening weekend on March 7 and 8 at the Steppenwolf Garage Theatre, 1624 N. Halsted St. Regular repertory performances of all three plays continue through Sunday, April 26.**

Tickets are \$20 and \$45 for a festival pass; call 312-335-1650 or visit [www.steppenwolf.org](http://www.steppenwolf.org) for a complete Garage Rep schedule.



The Glass Protege. Photo from Giant Cherry Productions

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Glass Protege

**Playwright:** Dylan Costello  
**At:** Giant Cherry/Glitterati Productions at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.  
**Tickets:** 773-975-8150;  
**www.theaterwit.org;** \$30-\$40  
**Runs through:** March 29

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The contractual restrictions exercised by the studios over not only the careers, but the private lives, of its employees in the early days of the United States film industry is nowadays universally acknowledged. High-profile cinema celebrities were required by their employers to sign an agreement promising to behave in accordance with moral standards of the time. They might also be encouraged to supply proof of these lifestyles by means of fabricated liaisons, arranged marriages and even offspring—all designed to fuel the fantasies of consumers eager to share in the “secret lives” of their favorites.

Reforms in labor negotiations, coupled with more sophisticated audiences, have rendered these draconian practices virtually non-existent nowadays, but the old myths linger on—especially those encompassing elements of classical romantic fiction. What could be more logical, then, than a story of thwarted love incorporating the historical details of those repressive times, recounted in the very style of the period under scrutiny?

Audiences prepared for campy mock-melodrama are advised to leave their Joan Crawford pumps at home, though—Dylan Costello didn’t cross the Atlantic to write that kind of play. Instead, his story begins in 1989, with the arrival at former screen idol Patrick Glass’ Hollywood Hills mansion of a young immigrant woman, hired by son George to serve as caregiver to his now-retired father. George’s creepy advances on the new servant at first lead us to anticipate gothic-noir antics, but papa Glass turns out to be a sensible, if reclusive, geezer, who will not tolerate bullies in his house. As we become privy to his memories, enacted in flashback, we learn how 40 years earlier, his future, along with that of box-office star Jackson Harper and girl-pal Candice Carlyle, were manipulated and ultimately destroyed by the machinations of greedy producers and self-serving gossip columnists.

Costello’s script mandates characters bordering on comic-book proportions undergoing abrupt reversals in service of the plot, as well as an unlikely cameo by a volume of Dickens’ *Great Expectations*, hinting at a lovers’ reunion. What elevates this material above the genre it mimics, however, is the author’s message of hope arising from lessons rooted in the suffering of past martyrs—a manifesto amplified by John Nasca’s crisp direction of actors embracing their surprisingly articulate dialogue with unhurried ease, assisted by Robert Hornbostel’s museum-accurate score of incidental music displaying just the right amount of schmaltz to bring us to the happy ending demanded of movies in an age of illusion forged from the blood and tears of those charged with its preservation.

## CRITICS’ PICKS

**First Date**, Royal George Cabaret, in an open run. How this fun and intimate musical about the perils and pitfalls of a first date played on Broadway is questionable since it fits so perfectly in the intimate confines of the Royal George Cabaret. SCM  
**A Nice Indian Boy**, Rasaka Theatre Company at Victory Gardens Richard C. Christiansen Theater, through March 8. Interracial same-sex lovers are happily united after following the precepts of Bollywood’s most famous film in Madhuri Shekar’s sweetly romantic comedy. MSB

**Sondheim on Sondheim**, Porchlight Music Theatre, through March 15. Marvel at the writing practices, inspirations and life stories behind Broadway songwriter Stephen Sondheim in this superlative documentary musical revue staged by director Nick Bowling and featuring the amazingly talented music director Austin Cook. SCM

**West Side Story**, Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace, through March 29. OK, this is the all-English original vs. the newer part-Spanish version. It’s not PC, but Broadway-worthy in most respects: scenic design, crisp sound, sharp orchestra and athletic dancing. A huge, attractive cast features Chicago’s own Christina Nieves standing out as Maria. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Sweeter Option

**Playwright:** John Henry Roberts  
**At:** Strawdog Theatre Company, 3829 N. Broadway  
**Tickets:** 866-811-4111;  
**www.strawdog.org;** \$28  
**Runs through:** March 28

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

There’s this big cache of money, you see, or maybe a few people just *think* there is—it doesn’t really make any difference. Once the alleged existence of a fortune in stray cash has been clearly established, it’s only a matter of time before guns appear, fugitives flee for the border in the night, betrayal follows on betrayal, corpses pile up and at least one poor schnook is warned “you’re in over your head” before succumbing to existential despair.

Increasing our slippery foothold on the events transpiring during an already brief time span of three days in 1971 is playwright John Henry Roberts’ decision to present the facts in non-sequential order. In the first scene, we are in a lakeside cabin near Eagle Creek, Wisconsin, where a mysterious man claiming to be an insurance investigator has brought an unconscious nightgown-clad wife who may—or may not—know where her missing husband has stashed the you-know-what. The second scene takes us back to the previous day, when we watch as the

husband’s mistress persuades a stranger to masquerade as the false insurance rep. The third then leaps ahead to the wife and her bewildered escort in a car bound north on Sheridan Road, where a gas station attendant recognizes one of them. Oh, and did I mention disconcerting interruptions by a small-time thief, his teenage sister and the cabin’s owner?

Fortunately, the pulp-noir aesthetic is characterized by elevation of atmosphere over coherence. A plot premised on the art of the double-cross can tolerate any number of unexplained occurrences—especially after our hero begins to experience hallucinations and blackouts following 72 sleepless hours—as long as it delivers a requisite number of lurid thrills. These Roberts provides with alacrity, assisted by Ryan Bourque’s imaginative violence design and technical teamwork replicating the exterior soundscape with an accuracy forestalling any temptation to spoil the fun with disruptive contemplation.

Roberts’ personnel adheres to generic types, but the cast assembled by director Marti Lyons embrace their hackneyed mannerisms with a steely-eyed concentration that grabs our attention and keeps us riveted in anticipation of each sudden reversal. (Is there a more alluring femme fatale on the storefront circuit than Michaela Petro? Or a likelier candidate for fall guy than Rudy Galvan?) The results make for a yarn that unspools swiftly and relentlessly for the 80 minutes it takes to arrive at a conclusion still curiously satisfying, for all its loose-ended enigma.

## THEATER REVIEW

### Four

**Playwright:** Christopher Shinn  
**At:** Jackalope Theatre at Broadway Armory Park, 5917 N. Broadway  
**Tickets:** www.jackalopetheatre.org; \$20  
**Runs through:** March 28

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Christopher Shinn’s play had a 1998 London world premiere, with its American premiere a year later in Chicago at About Face Theatre. Seeing it again after 15 years offers perspective on how much things have/haven’t changed.

It’s Fourth of July in Hartford, Connecticut (Shinn’s birthplace), and four needy people pair up into somewhat odd couples. June (Michael Kurowski), a 16 year-old gay boy, hooks up with Joe (Robert Howard), a man of 40 who is married and on the DL. Shinn offers no explanation for the boy’s female name. June is relatively inexperienced, scared, insecure and horny but neither transgender nor transvestite. Quite separately, Joe’s 16 year-old daughter, Abigayle (Paige Collins), leaves her invalid mother at home to join her quasi-boyfriend Dexter (Danny Martinez), a slightly older low-level drug dealer and high-school dropout. Eventually both couples have sex, instigated by June and Abigayle, respectively. Joe and Dexter give their partners escape opportunities—Dexter protests that he doesn’t have condoms—but nonetheless take advantage of their situations, which seems particularly exploitive in Joe’s case. Shinn makes nothing of the fact that June and Abigayle are underage.

What makes *Four* a little more interesting is that Joe and Abigayle are African-American, well-educated and well-spoken while their partners—respectively white and, perhaps, Latino—represent the underclass. The overly loquacious Joe must work to draw any verbal communication from June beyond the minimal, while Dexter delivers a constant stream of often-amusing trash-talk. However, Shinn’s reversal of class/social stereotypes has no specific purpose because that’s not what the play is about; it’s merely a fact of *Four* rather than a subject. The same holds true about Joe and Ab-



Four. Photo by Joel Maisonet

igayle being father and daughter. It’s a fact of the play and nothing more, although it seems like a 900-lb. gorilla that Shinn ignores.

To their credit, Joe and Dexter seem more concerned about June and Abigayle than vice versa, but perhaps that’s the self-focused nature of 16-year-olds. Joe, particularly—his DL routine honed to an art form—understands June’s feelings of shame and insecurity and delivers an “It gets better” message in his own way.

*Four* is written in a hypernaturalistic slice-of-life style delivered with believable dexterity by the cast, directed by Nate Silver. Even so, the first 30 or 40 minutes of this 90-minute play seem really sluggish, perhaps because the wanderings of the couples around Hartford are random and unexciting, or perhaps because we know too little about the characters to have any emotional investment. Slowly this changes, especially regarding June (from my gay perspective). *Four*, however, provides no neat ending. The characters have no emotional breakthroughs but go their separate ways seemingly unchanged—their longings unfulfilled and mostly unspoken. It’s rather sad, if true.

## Dunsinane

Playwright: David Greig  
At: National Theatre of Scotland  
and Royal Shakespeare Company at  
Chicago Shakespeare Theater,  
800 E. Grand Ave.  
Tickets: 312-595-5600;  
www.chicagoshakes.com; \$58-\$78  
Runs through March 22

## Macbeth

Playwright: William Shakespeare  
At: The Artistic Home, 1376 W. Grand Ave.  
Tickets: 866-811-4111;  
www.theartistichome.org; \$28-\$32  
Runs through April 4

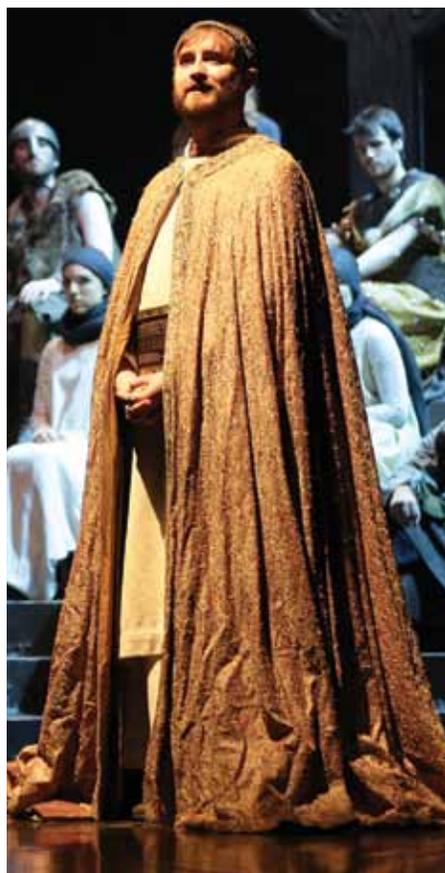
BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Just three miles separate a home-grown reimagining of Shakespeare's Macbeth and David Greig's high-profile touring sequel from the United Kingdom called Dunsinane. Both productions are playing on Chicago's Grand Avenue, and both have vital things to say about our world today.

Macbeth, of course, is Shakespeare's Scottish tragedy about a warrior thane and his ambitious wife who plot to murder the king, only to be later overthrown. For The Artistic Home production, director Scott Westerman has reset Macbeth to a post-apocalyptic land where clean water is the most precious commodity. Westerman has also teamed with set and lighting designer Jake Bray to create an eerie and watery production with a haphazard set that is as full of surprises as much as it is a likely health-and-safety nightmare for the cast.

The Artistic Home certainly succeeds in its inventive creepiness, particularly with the ever-manipulative weird sisters who crawl and writhe out of the most unexpected places. The rest of the cast is also very game to enhance Westerman's vision, even if it does require actors like Frank Nall as Macduff and John Mossman as Macbeth to engage in some very painful looking fight choreography by David Blixt, or the Malcolm of Julian Hester to show off his considerably toned body in a bathtub scene to symbolically show the power and resources of England when it comes to clean water.

The Artistic Home's Macbeth bathing sequence is notable since it features dialogue that is often trimmed or deemphasized where Malcolm points out that he could be an even worse tyrant ruling Scotland. Dunsinane, a masterfully performed touring co-production by the National Theatre of Scotland and the Royal Shakespeare Company, picks up on that notion by showing how difficult it is for the



Dunsinane. Photo by Jason Ma

invading English forces to maintain its idea of peace in a foreign land where they don't know the power alliances between rival clans.

Unlike Shakespeare's play, Lady Macbeth (called Gruach here, and played with firm regal authority by Siobhan Redmond) survives her second husband's overthrow and proves to be an entrancing and dangerous power player opposing the foppish King Malcolm (Ewan Donald) and the commanding Earl of Northumberland, Siward (Darrell d'Silva).

Though Greig and director Roxana Silbert set Dunsinane in medieval Scotland, the drama is really more of a commentary on Britain and America's muddled military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan during the past decade. Greig and Silbert especially hammer this fact home in scenes featuring frustrated English soldiers biding their time or following some horrific orders.

Although it does have a few moments that drag, Dunsinane largely succeeds as a Macbeth sequel and as a wartime drama. But the real winners are Chicago Shakespeare fans who have two great productions both dealing with Macbeth in such close proximity.

# CULTURE CLUB

# SPOTLIGHT



Fans of 1980s pop music and films by director John Hughes like Pretty in Pink, The Breakfast Club, Sixteen Candles and more won't want to miss the immersive concert experience **For the Record: Dear John Hughes**. Originally staged in Los Angeles, the Chicago run notably features some Hollywood glamour since Rumer Willis (daughter of Demi Moore and Bruce Willis) performs during the first week, while Evan Rachel Wood (The Wrestler, Across the Universe) performs for the second week. For the Record: Dear John Hughes plays March 5-15 at the Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place, 175 E. Chestnut St. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$32-\$79; call 800-775-2000 or visit www.broadwayinchicago.com. Photo of Wood by Abel Armas



Michael Urie.

## NUNN ON ONE

# Michael Urie airs his 'View'

BY JERRY NUNN

Actor Michael Urie brings his past movie, *WTC View*, back to life this month with new distribution. Originally released in 2005, the film tells the story of gay photographer Eric—who has an apartment with a view of the World Trade Center—searching for a roommate in the weeks following 9/11.

Known from his breakout role on *Ugly Betty* as Marc St. James, Urie has gone on to Broadway and various television projects. His live performance in the Barbra Streisand's basement-inspired fictional show *Buyer & Cellar* won a Clarence Derwent Award.

After talking with him previously about that project, WCT caught up to him on the phone about *WTC*.

**Windy City Times:** Hi, Michael. Good to talk to you again. How was your stay in Chicago during the run of *Buyer & Cellar*?

Michael Urie: I had the best time. Chicago is so cool. I am dying to go back. I tried to go back a few times for a quick trip since then but I haven't been able to. I loved doing the play there. I had the best steak of my life there and I'm from Texas. We love beef!

I loved being surrounded by those amazing buildings and the theater scene is so exciting.

**WCT:** So was *WTC View* your first movie ever?

MU: Yes, aside from movies that my friends made on our camcorders! Technically, I was in a movie called *Uptown Girls* with Brittany Murphy and Dakota Fanning, but they cut my part out. I was only in one scene. I filmed a movie but had actually never been in one before that.

*WTC View* was my first play I got out of school. Nine months later, we made the film.

**WCT:** You have to carry this film on your shoulders, so that must have been intimidating.

MU: I learned a lot. I feel like it was a 12-day shoot and I was in every frame. I was in every scene and had to be there all day, every day. I loved every minute of it, don't get me wrong, but is usually not the norm when you acting in something unless you are the star you won't be there all the time.

It was a good experience but a trial by fire. This is how you act in a movie and go!

**WCT:** How was transforming it from a play in 2003 to a movie two years later?

MU: What I now know it is impossible to be prepared for a film or television shoot as we were for *WTC View* because the entire cast had done the play. We had already spent seven weeks with the play and had weeks of intense discussion and rehearsal. We knew it inside and out so by the time we got on set that was the easiest part. We knew the words and the characters so well.

This was very helpful on 12-day shoot. Normally, it is not possible to rehearse at all. We really had a huge leg up as far as the storytelling and the characters. Usually you meet your co-star on the day of the shoot, at least that has been my experience, sometimes you get a little rehearsal, like maybe a day for an entire movie.

**WCT:** Did you relate to this movie with having bad roommates?

MU: Not a lot but I have definitely spent time talking to strangers about potentially living together. That is a unique conversation. Not only are you getting to know someone for the first time but you are trying to decide if you can share your life with them. Sharing a bathroom with someone is such a personal thing. I did know that feeling and those kinds of conversations. I was in New York after 9/11 so I also know how often we found ourselves talking to strangers in that time.

In New York people don't talk to strangers very often. You coexist and if you need to you will talk to each other but you don't strike up conversations very often on the subways. That was happening all the time after 9/11. People were venting, and talking about it constantly. We were brought together in a tragic and sad way but it was beautiful. It went back to normal after a while but it was special.

Those conversations we had in the movie were so authentic. They really feel like a normal occurrence in those times. At the time that was what was happening. We were talking to strangers, telling our stories, and crying in front of each other. We were helping each other.

The play is really a great microcosm of New York during the second half of 2001.

**WCT:** Your character is very traumatized by 9/11.

MU: Yeah; it really hit him very hard. Part of that was because he watched it happen—not on television but from his window. He would always have that view everyday. He couldn't put it out of his mind or even to the back of his mind. It overwhelms him.

**WCT:** How does it feel watching *WTC View* 10 years later? Is it like the movie *Boyhood* for you?

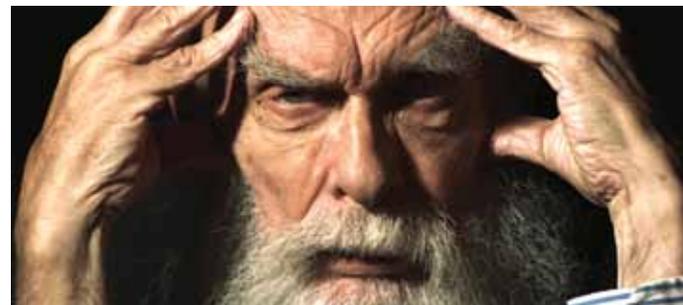
MU: [Laughs] Well, you know I am now the right age for the guy. I was 10 years too young for the part when we did it. I should be doing it now because you learn a lot in 10 years. Brian Sloan, the director of the movie, and also Andrew Volkoff, the director of the play, were the right age for the character. The writing was so strong back then. There were no great mysteries, they were so well thought out. If I didn't know what the feelings were I could still

## MOVIES

# 'Honest Liar' a revealing doc with gay magician

BY GARY M. KRAMER

There's a sucker born every minute, perhaps, but there are all too few people who try to expose the swindlers, charlatans and con men who deceive them. A magician, like James "The Amazing" Randi the subject of the fantastic documentary, *An Honest Liar*, is one such debunker. Directors Tyler Measom and Justin Weinstein show how Randi relentlessly challenged the fake psychic and paranormal claims of folks including mentalist Uri Geller and faith healer Peter Popoff, who use trickery to con people.

The Amazing Randi in *An Honest Liar*.

Co-director Justin Weinstein knew about "The Amazing" Randi from seeing him on TV on programs such as *The Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson, *Happy Days*, and *Wonderama*. He said in a recent Skype interview, "I knew who Randi was, and about his mission as a skeptical magician. It influenced me as a kid."

The filmmaker explained that making a documentary on Randi appealed to him because he was interested in "how people could believe things that were demonstratively untrue."

Weinstein also admired Randi because "he knows how to tell a good story; he's a showman. But he is doing that in the service of being a truth-teller."

Randi, who came out at age 81, has said, "It is only OK to fool people if you teach them a lesson to show them how the real world works." And when the film reveals a surprising real-world situation, *An Honest Liar* is particularly astounding.

Randi and his partner, artist Jose Alvarez (one of his many identities in the film) spoke via Skype about truth, deception and their partnership.

**Windy City Times:** *An Honest Liar* is all about deception, which, the film explains, can conceal or reveal the truth. You practice it for entertainment purposes, Randi. What can you say about your work versus those charlatans you expose?

James "The Amazing" Randi: Magicians are honest folks: they deceive you the same way an actor fools you. I am an actor as a magician. I play the part of a magician. If you see Hamlet and at the end of the play the actor said, "I really am a Prince of Denmark," you would be insulted. But there are folks who say they can look at the stars and tell you the name of your firstborn. Why do people believe one thing and not the other? The psychics don't say, "I'm going to fool you." They say, "I'm in touch with Jesus, the spirits, and can see the future and the past." They take money under false pretenses, and cripple people by causing them mental anguish and deceiving them without care if they harm them. Tell them to throw away their medicine as Popoff did...

Jose Alvarez: People turn to folks like Popoff because they are desperate and think they have no choice. They will try anything, and that's when these evil people come and take advantage of it. It's not a lack of intelligence of the "victims"; they are at a moment in their lives when they want to have their spirits uplifted. They need to believe.

**WCT:** Jose, as the film shows, you worked

with Randi by pretending to be a channeler named Carlos. What can you say about your experiences with this hoax, which was perpetrated in Australia?

Jose Alvarez: It was done as a vehicle not for duping people, but for the purpose of empowering or informing them about a charismatic figure and how you need to challenge people's claims—how easy it could be done. It took on a life of its own. It was a hyper-reality. For me that was what was so revealing—the power of the medium. These folks never heard of Carlos outside of [Australian] TV, but seeing their faces and how they were not questioning

me was shocking. They were enthralled in their own narratives of wanting to believe whoever is on stage.

"The Amazing" Randi: The reaction in Australia was excellent. We said we'd reveal it when the time came.

Jose Alvarez: It's interesting that at the same time, the reporters put in the hot seat [by the hoax] got very upset about the project. But they are putting people in that hot seat and questioning them, so the same dynamics should be applied to them!

**WCT:** Randi, you indicate in the film that people do not want straightforward facts, but would rather have romance and lies. Do you, even with your skepticism, ever find yourself swept up wanting to believe something, or taking something on faith?

"The Amazing" Randi: I'm willing to take things as they come. I'm not afraid of the truth as reality. I don't have wishful thinking. I'm pretty free of that. Look me in the eye and tell me. I'm a professional magician and have been for all of my life. I know how things are done. The signs are right there. I've never had a problem solving how psychics do their tricks.

Jose Alvarez: There's a lack of understanding [and a lack] of critical thinking about how things should work.

"The Amazing" Randi: I am an atheist because I kept asking for proof. The Bible wasn't enough proof for me. They didn't have the answers that satisfy me, and I didn't find any evidence that a 2,000-year old story was true. I have belief in the basic goodness of our species. There are some evil folks, though, look at the news. But you have to have bravery and courage to face the world as it is. You got to have G-U-T-S.

**WCT:** Speaking of courage, you came out at age 81. What prompted that?

"The Amazing" Randi: I was fortunate to see Milk. That film affected me a great deal. I didn't find any real necessity before then. When I was a teen, if you came out, you'd be ostracized. You didn't think about it. Things changed. I'm fully grown up now. The film inspired me.

Jose Alvarez: We were watching Milk, and it was a powerful film. I remember that Randi was very pensive. The following day, he handed me a piece of paper and said, "Read this." It was his coming out letter. It shocked me. I said, "Are you sure you want to do this?" He said, "Yes, I am." I also think that he was thinking about his whole life was about truth-telling.

© 2015 Gary M. Kramer



Still from *She's Beautiful When She's Angry*.

## MOVIES

# Documentary looks at women's-rights movement

BY SARAH TOCE

As the hot-button topic of same-sex marriage wiggles its way into the mainstream at an ever-hungry pace, there is another movement doing quite the same, albeit with far less fanfare. The women's-rights movement took off in the '60s and yet, nearly 50 years later, female workers still do not get paid the same wage as their male counterparts, their childbearing abilities are forever on the voting block for white men in Congress to decide, and God forbid she ever gets angry about it...

A new documentary by filmmaker Mary Dore sheds light on the women's-rights movement during 1966-1971. *She's Beautiful When She's Angry* is currently making the rounds, opening for one week in Chicago on Friday, March 13, at the Music Box Theatre. As a special treat to moviegoers, women from the film will be on hand to participate in a Q&A following the opening night screening.

"I think it's important for all people to know their history, and this story has been so ignored, and often distorted. Too many people know the term 'feminazi' more than they know of anything about the 1960s women's movement," Dore said, while at a screening in Boston February 26. "These women thought big. They demanded free 24-hour childcare, free abortions on demand, and while they didn't realize all their goals, they re-imagined the world and brought about so many important changes."

*She's Beautiful When She's Angry* takes viewers for a ride through the founding of the National Organization for Women (NOW) as well as the socialist feminist world of Women's International Terrorist Conspiracy from Hell (W.I.T.C.H.). Up until this point, there has not been a theatrical documentary concerning the early women's-rights movement. According to the film's website, Dore's retelling does not "... shy away from the controversies over race, sexual preference and leadership that arose in the women's movement. *She's Beautiful* captures the spirit of the time—thrilling, scandalous and often hilarious."

"I was always interested in the very early days of the women's movement, and the important question has always been, 'How do you start a movement?' As I did more research, it was clear that the women's movement was closely tied to earlier activism, particularly in the civil rights movement, and the new left of the 1960s," Dore said. "I initially planned to cover from 1966 (the founding of the Na-

tional Organization for Women) through 1970 (when across the country, tens of thousands of women marched on Women's Strike Day, August 26, 1970). We decided to extend the period to 1971 because of the little-known story of the near passage of a national childcare bill in late 1971, and because we wanted to include footage from Town Bloody Hall, the Chris Hegedus and D. A. Pennebaker documentary about fascinating debate between Norman Mailer and several prominent feminists."

Dore hopes the crowds leave with a sense of grit, gusto and, possibly, some organizational oomph.

"*She's Beautiful When She's Angry* is a portrait of grass roots organizers who took many approaches to fighting for equality. They didn't agree on everything, but ultimately they broke open the narrow gender roles of that period,

which reverberated worldwide. The message is that ordinary people can make significant social change, if they get together and organize," she said.

With a subject rooted decades ago, was it difficult to compile copious amounts of footage into one legible piece?

"Yes and no. I've made a lot of history films and I'm an archive nerd, so finding footage isn't horribly difficult—except that it takes a lot of time and money," Dore said. "Many state and public archives are seriously underfunded, so they don't have the staff to index all of their materials. A lot of great people went way beyond their duties when I asked them for help."

Still, sometimes the help is worth it.

"I randomly called the State Historical Society of Iowa and a librarian there, Mary Bennett, found the amazing news clip of a self-professed

## 'The Homestretch' screening March 14

Community Cinema, WTTW, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, and the Polk Bros Foundation are presenting an advance screening of *The Homestretch*, a film by Anne de Mare and Kirsten Kelly.

The screening will take place Saturday, March 14, 2-3 p.m., at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St. (A panel discussion and resource fair will take place 3-5 p.m.)

*The Homestretch* follows three homeless teens (Roque, Kasey and Anthony) as they fight to stay in school, graduate and build a more stable future. As their stories unfold, the film explores their plights within the larger issues of poverty, race, juvenile justice, immigration, foster care and LGBTQ rights.

RSVP at <https://the-homestretch-chicago.eventbrite.com>.

## Tret Fure concert March 7 in Hinsdale

Lesbian musician Tret Fure will perform with Buddy Mondlock at the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale, 11 W. Maple St., on Saturday, March 7, at 8 p.m.

Fure's career spans four decades. Along the way, she worked as a duo with Cris Williamson throughout the '90s, releasing three CDs together during those years.

In 2009, Fure received the Janine C. Rae Award for her work in women's music.

Fure has her own label, Tomboy girl Records, and has a line of clothing also called Tomboy girl.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors and students; email [randy@computronics.com](mailto:randy@computronics.com), or visit <http://www.tretfure.com> and <http://www.hinsdaleunitarian.org/new/>.

## 'Louder than a Bomb' festival in March

The organization Young Chicago Authors (YCA) will present *Louder than a Bomb* (LTAB), a youth-poetry festival that culminates March 21 and 28 (both 6-9 p.m.) with Indy and team finals at the Rubloff Theater at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Arie Crown Theater, respectively.

This marks the 15th anniversary of LTAB, which has been supported this year by people such as Alec Baldwin, Alfre Woodard and hip-hop composer Ali Shaheed Muhammad (a.k.a. Ali from A Tribe Called Quest). The 2015 *Louder Than a Bomb* festival encompasses more than 90 performances at 10 venues, featuring the talents of 1,300 students from more than 130 schools across 100 different Chicagoland zip codes.

For a complete schedule of events, visit [www.youngchicagoauthors.org](http://www.youngchicagoauthors.org).

'male chauvinist' reporting on Women's Strike Day. Some of this footage hasn't been seen in over 40 years, and some of it never aired at all," Dore said.

Such historical footage has potential to alter the lives of young women everywhere—should the subjects at hand choose to participate. Regarding future activists, Dore shared, "History is important, and women's history has been buried or maligned forever. It's your job to learn from previous movements' successes, and from their mistakes. Each generation builds on the next and doesn't buy the nonsense that these things 'evolve' naturally. No, it takes movements to make change."

In fact, local organizers have the opportunity to start now by helping to screen *She's Beautiful When She's Angry* in their proximity.

"People can write to us on the website and suggest a theater or a town where they would like to get the film shown. When the theatrical winds down in a couple of months, we will also be organizing community and group screenings via an online group like TUGG, where people can organize their own events at a local theater," Dore said.

Dore took the leap while living in Boston.

"My first women's group was organized around studying an early paperback version of *Our Bodies, Ourselves* in Boston. I still have my copy with my consciousness-raising group's phone numbers written inside the cover. At that time, most of us were utterly ignorant about our bodies and the term for anything below your navel was 'down there.' That book had an enormous impact on millions of people, so I knew from the beginning that the Boston Women's Health Book Collective was one of the stories we had to include," Dore said. "They were ordinary women, who fought their way into medical libraries and gathered materials from women all over to write that book. *Our Bodies, Ourselves* has provided the book materials to progressive women around the world to adapt it for their own cultural context. For free! For decades! How admirable is that? Many other women's health groups at the time did amazing work, too, but I thought their story was amazing on so many levels."

**Hear these and more stories when *She's Beautiful When She's Angry* heads to Chicago at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., on March 13.**



Pioneers of African-American Cinema. Concept art

## African-American movie collection is funded

The company Kino Lorber successfully campaigned via Kickstarter to fund the collection *Pioneers of African-American Cinema*, according to a press release.

The \$35,000 target goal will support the creation of HD masters, the production of interviews and the recording of new scores for the silent films. (As of Feb. 28, Kino had raised more than \$38,000. The campaign ends in late March.) The four-Blu-ray collection will showcase the works of such influential figures as Oscar Micheaux, Spencer Williams, Zora Neale Hurston, James and Eloyce Gist, and others.

Visit <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/kinolorber/pioneers-of-african-american-cinema>.

# Gay Games 9: Financial success and lasting memories

BY ROSS FORMAN

Gay Games 9—the multi-day, multi-event LGBT sports spectacular, held last summer in Cleveland and Akron, Ohio—was a monster financial success for Northeast Ohio, and long will live on in countless memories for the thousands of worldwide participants and, believe it or not, through funds generated for the future.

The ninth edition of the quadrennial Gay Games were the most profitable in the event's 32-year history, generating \$120,000 for the Gay Games LGBT Legacy Fund at the Cleveland Foundation and \$27,000 for the Gay Commu-



Rob Smitherman. Photo courtesy of Smitherman

nity Endowment Fund of Akron Community Foundation.

The Games released its final financial numbers at the "2014 Gay Games Lessons and Legacies" panel discussion in late February, hosted by The (Cleveland) City Club. The donations represent the net profit from the Games.

Plus, the Games had a \$52.1 million impact on the local economy, it was reported.

"An event of this magnitude brings significant spending from both locals and visitors," said Rob Smitherman, a longtime Chicagoan who was the associate executive director and director of sports and events for Gay Games 9. He officially worked on the Cleveland event from October 2011 through this past December. Smitherman is now back living in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood and working for Northwestern University.

"During the week [of the Games], the downtown [Cleveland] hotels, restaurants and bars, and the parties and vendors, all saw a great deal of spending. So the event is a major financial impact on the region."

So how did Gay Games 9 stay on track financially, which has been a major shortcoming of past Games?

Smitherman said there were two major reasons.

—"Our fundraising goals were exceeded because of the incredible work of our fundraising team, both staff and volunteers, and the overwhelming support from local and regional businesses, individuals, governments and foundations;" and

—"From the beginning, GG9 was very focused on not overspending. Our Opening and Closing Ceremonies and Festival Village were all pro-

duced under extremely tight budgets. We were able to get in-kind support for many of our venues. And we had a great team that understood the conservative spending approach and worked within the limited budget."

Smitherman, 55, who also had key roles working on the Games held in 2006 in Chicago and in 2010 in Cologne, Germany, said the legacy of Gay Games 9 will be "that welcoming community of people from a somewhat surprising destination produced a fun and incredible week of sports and events, and the success extended to the finances and economic impact for the event.

"Most of all, the event changed hearts and minds in the area and region while providing a great sports festival for all participants."

So now the focus of the Gay Games, specifically, the Federation of Gay Games, which oversees the event, is on Paris, France—host city for the next Games, in 2018.

"Paris 2018 is already deep into the planning of the 2018 Gay Games," Smitherman said. "It is going to be different than GG9, bigger and in one of the top destinations of the world. They will be ready for everyone by the summer of 2018."

Smitherman is helping Paris organizers as a volunteer in a couple of areas, "but Paris has a great team that will be able to produce an outstanding event," he said. "I am planning on going and actually participating and enjoying the week."

Smitherman, a longtime gay basketball player, said Gay Games 9 "will always be special because of the spectacular success of the week of events. The team producing the Games worked for about 5 years to create a unique and memorable experience."

His personal highlight was watching the Closing Ceremony, "realizing that all the hard work of the staff, board and thousands of volunteers created a safe, fun and memorable week for everyone."

Smitherman said he long was impressed with the way Cleveland and Akron supported the Games. "The partnerships with the cities of Cleveland and Akron, the counties, the local corporate support, and the hundreds of small businesses all provided the support necessary for the success of the Games," he said. "But most of all, the people of Cleveland and Akron genuinely embraced the events. Three thousand people volunteered, and almost everyone was so welcoming to the participants. People opened their homes to scholarship recipients, donated their time, and applauded when participants got on the bus wearing their medals."

Gay Games 9 attracted "between 7,000 and 8,000" participants, Smitherman said, though media reports and statements last summer said the participation total was only about 5,000.

"Each Gay Games is different," Smitherman said. "Chicago offered its incredible city that people love to visit, as well as one of the hottest weeks on record. Cologne is one of the gay capitals of Europe and knows how to throw a fantastic party. Gay Games 9 was smaller, so it allowed the participants to get to know the area and the residents. Everyone in Cleveland and Akron knew about the Gay Games months before and displayed their genuine Midwestern nice welcome."

Smitherman said the opening ceremony in Cleveland "was the best that I have attended." He said the worst part of Gay Games 9 was that "more people did not participate."

"Cleveland is not a major tourist destination, so some chose not to come," for that reason, he said. "[But], they missed the best party



A physique competitor in Gay Games 9. Photo by Jordyn Parks

week that the area had ever produced, and a great sports festival."

Smitherman added, "I have so many memories [from Gay Games 9], including getting into a dumpster to dig out 5K racing bibs that were inadvertently thrown away, and having no time to shower the rest of the day. But one of my strongest memories came a few weeks before the Gay Games. I took a call from an elderly gentleman from Akron who wanted to register for the track and field event. He was not com-

puter literate, so he wanted to pay by check. We did not normally do that, but we arranged for a staff person to meet him to get the check. It turns out that the gentleman was the father of a man who had recently come out, divorced his wife and moved away from his family, including his children, because the man did not think his family would accept him. His father wanted to participate in the Gay Games to show his son that he loved him and accepted him for who he is. The story still makes me tear up."

## SCOTCH bowling tourney grows in second year

BY ROSS FORMAN

The 2nd annual SCOTCH—that's short for, Second City Open Tournament Chicago—bowling tournament has expanded by about 10 percent, and participants are expected from California, New Mexico, Florida and, of course, the Chicagoland area.

The event will be held March 7-8 at Waveland Bowl, and about 140 are expected to participate, including about 70 percent of those from Chicago, and about 20 percent are female.

"We're capitalizing on the success and fun of the inaugural 2014 SCOTCH tournament to bring everyone another fantastic weekend of bowling and camaraderie," said Jason Kallen, the event's co-director. "[The event] is actually very similar to last year. We changed some technical things, such as the oil pattern, the order of events, our fundraising events, and side-pots. One interesting thing is that Waveland Bowl renovated their lanes in the past year, so bowlers will be bowling on very new lanes. Also, this year we are incorporating a social media element and are encouraging all tournament bowlers to submit their commentary and photos to #scotch2015 so we can see how much fun everyone is having."

This SCOTCH event evolved from the Chicago Pride Invitational, a gay bowling tournament that ran for 25 years.

"Having the LGBTQ bowling community gather together in Chicago each March is one of the best parts of the weekend," said Kallen, 43, who lives in Oak Park and is the president of Latitude 42 Media. "We have a couple great host bars (Crew and Hydrate) to ensure that the bowlers can socialize outside of the alley and have a good time. We also have a fun awards banquet planned for Sunday evening at Center on Halsted."

Kallen—who has bowled in Chicago's gay leagues for 10 years, and has a 205 game-average with a 289 high—said the 2014 event ran smoothly and, naturally, led to a lot of laughter.

"There were few complaints [in 2014] and a lot of compliments about how much fun the participants had. I can only hope that SCOTCH 2015 goes as well as last year," he said. "One of our volunteers stripped down to his underwear at the bowling alley [last year] to help raise raffle money during the weekend ... now that's dedication."

There's no word yet if there will be volunteers stripping to their skivvies this year.

The event is a handicapped tournament, meaning, "anyone can cash, no matter what their average is," Kallen said. "In fact, one of the top winners in last year's tournament is a 130-average bowler."

There are 28 total trophies given out, and money distributed to even more. Categories include first, second and third place for singles, doubles, team and all events. Also in men's and women's high scratch series and high scratch game.

"We have an amazing executive board this year with my co-director Scott Marz, treasurer Tyson Hurst, and secretary Scott Allen," Kallen said. "We also have had lots of help from our extended committee members Early Quintana (statistician), Justin Brown (volunteer coordinator), Mike Gaudreau (designer), Sally Hodge (social-media manager) and Scott Weston (webmaster). This was a fabulous team to work with, [and] we also have about a dozen volunteers who will be helping us out to run the side pots, verify scores and handle registration throughout the weekend."

For more information about the annual event, go to [www.scotchbowling.com](http://www.scotchbowling.com).



## Chicago House pleases with 'The Tease'

Chicago House presented its second annual burlesque event, The Tease, with two showings Feb. 28 at Moonlight Studios. Producers Keith Elliott and Todd Kiech wowed audience as they once again delivered an elaborate show featuring exceptionally talented performances of burlesque, cirque and dance. Performers included Miss Exotic World 2005 Michelle L'Amour; world-famous Boylesque performer and Burlesque Hall of Fame winner Jett Adore; Chicago's very own Circuit Mom; and the hostess of the evening, Nadine DuBois.

Proceeds from The Tease are slated to benefit Chicago House and Social Service Agency. This year, Chicago House celebrates 30 years of providing services to individuals and families who are disenfranchised by HIV/AIDS, LGBTQ marginalization, poverty, homelessness and/or gender nonconformity.

Photos and text by Ed Negron. See more photos online and in this week's issue of Nightspots



# Sox great Minnie Minoso passes away

BY ROSS FORMAN

Minnie Minoso, a legendary, longtime baseball player and the first Black player for the Chicago White Sox, died unexpectedly on March 1. He was 90.

Minoso died from a tear in his pulmonary artery caused by "chronic obstructive pulmonary disease," an autopsy found Sunday afternoon, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Minoso went out Saturday night for a friend's birthday party when he apparently fell ill and pulled over in the Lakeview neighborhood, according to police and family, the Tribune reported. He was found unresponsive in the driver's seat of his car near a gas station on North Ashland Avenue around 1 a.m. Sunday, according to police.

His son, Charlie Rice-Minoso, a Chicago resident who is openly gay, said March 1 that his dad had been "in great health and great spirits."

Rice-Minoso was a Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree in 2014.

"Dad never looked at people's labels," such as sexual orientation, said Rice-Minoso, who has received worldwide support since news broke that the former baseball player had passed, including friends/fans in London, the Dominican Republic and San Diego, among other places.

Minoso was born in Cuba, began his professional career in the Negro Leagues before breaking into the majors with the Cleveland Indians in 1949. He played for the White Sox from 1951-1957, and then again in 1964, 1976 and 1980. He was a seven-time All-Star whose uniform number (9) has been retired by the

White Sox and the team dedicated a statue of him at U.S. Cellular Field in 2004.

"For South Siders and Sox fans all across the country, including me, Minnie Minoso is and will always be 'Mr. White Sox,'" President Obama said in a statement, released by the White House.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel released a statement hours after Minoso's death: "With the passing of Minnie Minoso, the City of Chicago has lost a legend on and off the field. He went from playing in the Negro leagues to reaching the very top of the major leagues, becoming the first African-American to play for the White Sox in 1951. His heroics, combining speed and power, brought joy to generations of fans on the South Side and his infectious enthusiasm forever solidified his place as a Chicago icon for the ages. I send my deepest condolences to his family, his friends, and his legion of fans. Soon it will be spring, the Sox will take the field, and 'The Cuban Comet' will be looming large in spirit. Thank you, Minnie for the many great memories."

Minoso, a member of the Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame, was a White Sox coach after playing and still a team ambassador, if not a representative for all of baseball and sports overall with his gracious, caring, loving, heartfelt ways. He never turned down autograph-seekers and always posed for photos. Minoso signed autographs in late January at the annual team-run convention, SoxFest, held at the Hilton Chicago—his last public signing sessions, according to signshotline.com, a website that tracks sports autographs and appearances. Minoso also signed autographs last June at a

major sports memorabilia convention held at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont.

His last media interview, conducted in mid-February, was with Chicago transgender sports-writer Christina Kahrl, Rice-Minoso said.

"They really connected," Rice-Minoso said of his dad and Kahrl. "He really enjoyed her, and loved, loved [the story she wrote for ESPN.com.]"

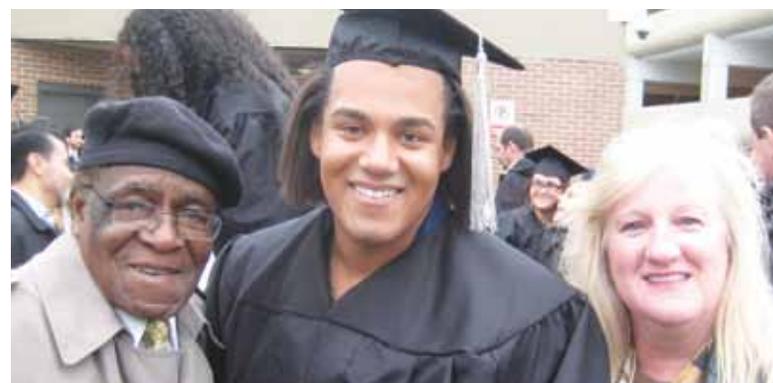
Rice-Minoso said his dad was a "pioneer for equal rights," and added that "it meant a lot that he supported me."

Kahrl, on March 1, said, "Among the gifts the

Reinsdorf said, "Our organization and our city have suffered a heart-breaking loss today. We have lost our dear friend and a great man. Many tears are falling.

Minoso is survived by his wife of 30 years, Sharon, sons Orestes Jr. and Charlie, and daughters Marilyn and Cecilia.

"Minnie truly was the heart, soul and smile of the White Sox," Christine O'Reilly, vice president of community relations for the White Sox, said in a statement. "We saw him every day at the ballpark and he loved the fans and the White Sox dearly. Nothing made him prouder than to be at the ballpark."



Charlie Rice-Minoso (center) with parents Minnie Minoso (left) and Sharon Rice. Photo from Rice-Minoso

game of baseball gives to all of us, one of its greatest was to give to Chicago and to fans everywhere a man like Minnie Minoso. There was no one more willing to embrace people through a shared love of baseball, and no one more unselfish with himself for the benefit of fans across generation after generation."

Jeff Book, a White Sox fan, said Chicago lost "a great baseball legend" with Minoso's passing. "Minnie Minoso was timeless and played across five decades which we will never see again. Hopefully he will be inducted to the Hall of Fame posthumously," Book said.

The White Sox released a press release about Minoso's passing, and team chairman Jerry

The Minoso family released a statement: "Our entire family appreciates the kind expressions of concern, sympathy and compassion from so many of our friends and fans of the White Sox during this most difficult time. Minnie lived a full life of joy and happiness, surrounded always by friends and family. It is during moments like these that love matters most. Minnie enjoyed nothing more than to be at the ballpark cheering on his White Sox. For Minnie, every day was a reason to smile, and he would want us all to remember him that way, smiling at a ballgame. As he so often said, "God Bless you, my friends."

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## ENO Wine Bar

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Sometimes a person just want to snack on something and drink a couple glasses of wine in a casual yet elegant place.

All of those things can be had at ENO Wine Bar (505 N. Michigan Ave., at the InterContinental Hotel Chicago Magnificent Mile; <http://www.enowinerooms.com/>), a cozy spot located in Streeterville.

True to its name, ENO excels in wines, with more than 500 bottles to choose from—some only available only at this site. A wine flight is an excellent way to sample three different varieties. (Right now, it's about the roses.) There are even sulfite-free reds for those, like me, who tend to stick with white wines because of allergies.

A recent trip to ENO proved to be a warm (down to the fireplace) and inviting experience I'm eager to repeat. One should not be intimidated by the menu, as the staff will practically walk you through the options. One flight I tried

included a 2013 Domaine de l'Ecu, a 2013 Negro Angelo & Figli and a 2011 Aphros Ten from, respectively, France, Italy and Portugal. All were quite impressive—although I knew better than to try more.

We also tried a cheese flight (just as impressive as the wine list). The selections we sampled included Taleggio DOP, Caciocavallo and Peccorino alla Grappa—with both of us particularly swooning over the Taleggio.

If you want a little more to eat, there are also sumptuous chocolates, flatbreads/pizzas (the goat-cheese one is sinful) and charcuterie platters.

So, the next time you're looking for a place to nosh, drink and just relax while the rest of the bustling world goes by, check out ENO Wine Bar.

## URIE from PAGE 14

experience them. Brian and Andrew would help me find them. The cast was so good.

I remember it being a hard play to execute because it was so emotional but I don't remember it being hard to figure out. It was a great rehearsal process and shoot. It worked really well. In hindsight, I feel I would be a lot better now.

**WCT: How are you finishing out this year with your career?**

MU: On Tuesday, I go to London to do Buyer & Cellar at the Menier Chocolate Factory. I will do that for two months there. I saw you at the beginning of my tour so that tour lasted until fall and since then I have spent a lot of time working on my web series called What's Your Emergency. It is available now on Stage17. I directed it, and my partner Ryan Spahn and Halley Feiffer wrote it.

I have been back and forth to LA to do some scenes in Modern Family and the hilarious Comedy Central show Workaholics.

When I come back from Buyer & Cellar then I do a play at Lincoln Center with Patti LuPone.

**WCT: You are busy.**

MU: It has been a nice stretch. It is all because of you, really, and our first interview. Before that, I had nothing going on...

**WCT: [Laughs] I got you some publicity! Patti did an anniversary show here at the Auditorium Theatre recently, by the way.**

MU: She is really good. She played my mom on Ugly Betty. We have been friendly ever since. She has been so supportive of me. I totally love her. Jerry Zaks is directing it and it's a new play by Douglas Cater Beane called Shows For Days.

**WCT: Do you know how many gay people are jealous of you because of knowing her?**

MU: Actually, I do!

**Look for Urie's View, released digitally on iTunes for the first time, with availability on DVD at TLA Video.**



bellyQ. Photos by Andrew Davis



## bellyQ brunch

BY ANDREW DAVIS

I admit that it was curiosity that drew me to bellyQ (1400 W. Randolph St.; <http://www.bellyqchicago.com/>).

Chef Bill Kim's West Loop spot has garnered all sorts of acclaim over its three years—and this columnist has gotten in line with those praising the restaurant.

A friend recently went there for lunch. (Note: If you take the Green Line to get there, it can be an adventure.) As testimony to its popularity, we were the first ones at bellyQ, getting there precisely at 11 a.m. However, practically a half-hour later, the place was practically packed, despite its somewhat isolated location.

We started with two varieties of dumplings—Wagyu beef and cheddar, and sweet potato and maple. The former contains horseradish as well as a Japanese pepper and, while they certainly added kick, they threatened to overwhelm the

dumplings. In fact, if they were called horse-radish dumplings, that might've been more fitting. The sweet potato and maple items were better and more suited for my (apparently sensitive) tastes.

However, the main selections really won over both of us. The beef brisket skillet is a tasty concoction of potatoes, peppers, onions, cheddar and a fried egg. And the chicken katsu bowl is even better—a combination of crispy chicken thigh, jasmine rice, fried egg and pork sausage gravy that could put a smile on Tommy Lee Jones' face. (By the way, there are also vegetarian options such as a Vietnamese omelet with feta, spinach and quinoa.)

Lastly, we had a pair of cinnamon-sugar-dusted donuts with berry compote. The phrase "sinfully good" does not do these piping-hot desserts justice—and it was just the right amount to conclude a brunch that turned out to be more than satisfying.

**Note: Urban Belly (another Kim establishment) is right next door—and it offers everything from pad thai to wheatberry bibimbap.**

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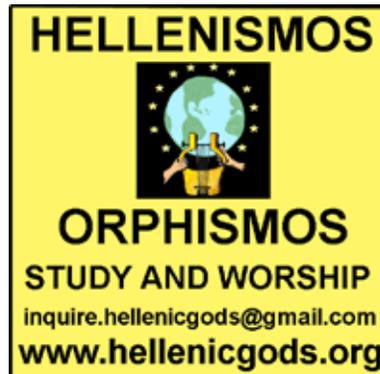
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**Martha Feldman, author The Castrato: Reflections on Natures and Kinds** Reading and signing 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

**Vogue Studies** Movement workshop based on the Black and Latino queer dance form known as voguing, using community history to inside action. Workshop for People of Color only. Register online. \$5. 6:00pm - 9:00pm 24 E Congress Pkwy; Tickets: [TinyURL.com/oq7xjnj](http://TinyURL.com/oq7xjnj)

**Wednesday Night Live at Or Chadash** Party as Emanuel joins Or Chadash in the main sanctuary for a wacky Maariv service, a meshuganah Megillah reading. Volunteer at [Office@OrChadash.org](mailto:Office@OrChadash.org). 7:00pm Congregation Or Chadash at Emanuel Congregation 5959 N Sheridan Rd Chicago <http://OrChadash.org>

## Thursday, March 5

**Senior Hot Lunch** Center on Halsted is a City of Chicago Golden Diners site, where seniors age 60+ receive a hot lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon. The suggested donation for lunch is \$1.50. No pre-registration required, but we ask that you sign in for lunch before 11:30 to ensure that you receive a lunch ticket. 12:00pm - 1:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=9271>

**Meditation Class** Open to participants 40+. No previous meditation experience necessary. Free. Contact Troy Johnson at [tjohnson@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:tjohnson@centeronhalsted.org) or by phone 1:00pm - 2:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago 773-472-6469

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**Shaka McGlotten, "Black Data"** Shaka McGlotten (Media, Society, and the Arts, Purchase College, State University of New York) seeks to bring Black queer studies into dialogue with critical studies of new technologies and network cultures. 4:30pm - 6:30pm Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, University of Chicago, 5733 S University Ave., 773-795-6503 <http://gendersexuality.uchicago.edu/>

**Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois open house** Learn about TJLP's history, political frameworks, current projects, and volunteer opportunities. Food. Wheelchair accessible. All ages 6:00pm Transformative Justice Law Project, Suite 307, 4707 N. Broadway, 773-272-1822 <http://www.tjlp.org>

**The Book of Merman** Pride Films and Plays comedy by Jeff Award-winning playwright Leo Schwartz. When two Mormons ring a doorbell marked E.M. in a small town, they have no idea that a certain Ethel will open the door. 7:30pm Apollo Theater Studio 2540 N. Lincoln Ave. Chicago 773-935-6100 <http://www.ticketmaster.com>

## Friday, March 6

**Trans sex worker support group** For those who have traded sexual labor for housing, money, or material goods, want an inviting space to talk about their experiences and identify as trans or gender non-conforming/non-binary. [info@swop-chicago.org](mailto:info@swop-chicago.org) 3:30pm - 5:00pm Contact an organizer for location 773-248-5200

**Dance For A DIFFERENCE Winter Ball** The Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS/Chicago (DIFFA/Chicago) Auxiliary Board hosts its third annual dance, this time with a "Prom" theme. \$100. 6:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://chicago.thelocaltourist.com/events/dance-difference-winter-ball>

**Scotch - Second City Open Tournament** Chicago Registration 7:00pm Waveland Bowl 3700 N Western Chicago <http://www.scotchbowling.com/tournament/schedule>

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**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** Each show of this North American tour will include 3 to 4 different pieces from the company's extensive repertoire. - 7:00pm Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University 50 E Congress Pkwy Chicago 800-982-ARTS (2787) Tickets: <http://AuditoriumTheatre.org>. Through March 15.

**Team TPAN Takes Off** An evening of fundraising and fellowship for the Ride for Aids Chicago. \$20 suggested donation for 2 drink tix (well, wine or beer) and a raffle ticket. Additional raffle tickets and Jell-O shots for purchase. Bring your friends and co-workers and family members. 7:00pm - 10:00pm Big Chicks 5024 N Sheridan Rd Chicago <http://www.rideforaids.org>

## Saturday, March 7

**Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (LGBTQ)** Support meeting to talk about illnesses, symptoms, treatment, doctors, and personal issues such as dating, relationships and work. Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted 11:00am - 12:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com>

**LGBT Wedding Expo** Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Free and open to public. Lambda Legal Presents: State of Marriage Equality presentation 10:30am. 11:30am - 2:30am Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, 3179 N. Clark St. 2nd Floor of MB Building 773-303-0167 <http://glchamber.org>

**Heroes & Villains Group Show** International artists with unique interpretation of comic characters. 6:00pm - 10:00pm Vertical Gallery, 1016 N Western Ave., Chicago 773-697-3846 <http://verticalgallery.com/pages/heroes-villains> Tickets: free

**International Women's Day Dance Reboot: Our Difference Is Our Strength!** Open to people of all identities, ages 21+. Individual ticket early bird price: \$40. Individual at door: \$50. Accessibility questions, contact Rhiannon Rossi at [rossi@cfw.org](mailto:rossi@cfw.org) or by phone. Sponsored by the Chicago Foundation for Women LGBT Giving Council. Proceeds will go to the Lavender Fund of the LGBTQ Giving Council of CFW. 7:00pm - 12:00pm National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, 3015 W. Division St., 312-577-2825 Tickets: <http://www.cfw.org/internationalwomensdaydance>



## EBB AND FLOW

### Saturday, March 7

The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus will sing the music of Kander & Ebb in Oak Brook, Illinois.

Photo by Ed Negron

**Chicago Gay men's Chorus, "Don't Tell Mama"** The Music of Kander & Ebb. under the Artistic Direction of Jimmy Morehead 7:00pm Mayslake Peabody Estate 1717 W. 31st Street Oak Brook, IL 60523 <http://www.cgmc.org> Tickets: <http://cgmc.org/event/2015/winter-cabaret>

**Champagne Showcase: A Night in the Jazz Age** Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles' third annual benefit featuring shhh...OUT! Lakeside Pride Jazz Ensemble. \$35 advance; \$40 at door online 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St. Tickets: <http://LakesidePride.org>

## Sunday, March 8

**OutChicago, LGBT radio** Progressive talk with Scott Duff. Streaming live online 11:00am - 1:00pm WCPT 820 am <http://www.chicagosprogressivetalk.com/pages/pages.php?page=451>

**Persimmon Brunch. Feminism is always in fashion** YWCA Metropolitan Chicago Sunday Brunch celebrates the women who have shaped history. Presented by Macy's in celebration of Women's History Month and International Women's Day. \$50 11:00am - 1:00am Walnut Room 111 N State Chicago Tickets: [http://www.ywcachicago.org/site/c.fmJWkc0ZJkI6G/b.9244251/k.EC62/Persimmon\\_Brunch\\_2015.htm](http://www.ywcachicago.org/site/c.fmJWkc0ZJkI6G/b.9244251/k.EC62/Persimmon_Brunch_2015.htm)

**"Under the Covers" Daylight Savings Jamaica Party** Put on your favorite PJs and celebrate the spring ahead as VJ Bobby Marley plays all your favorite cover hits. Free brunch buffet, \$1 Miller Lite drafts, \$3 Mimosas, \$6 Effen Bloody Marys. 12:00pm - 3:00am Roscoe's Tavern 3356 N Halsted St. <http://www.roscoes.com>

## Monday, March 9

**QueerCast** Windy City Queercast with host Amy Matheny joined weekly by guest hosts. 12:00pm Online <http://www.windycityqueercast.com/shows.html>

**Rupaul's Drag Race Viewing Party feat. Dida Ritz** "The Legs of Halsted" and Rupaul's Drag Race vet DiDa Ritz is the special guest for this week's viewing of the drag sensation. Stick around for show-tunes 'til 2. 8:00pm - 11:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

## Tuesday, March 10

**To Work As a Man: Transgender Narratives and Labor in Early Nineteenth-Century America** Jen Manion, assistant professor of history and director of the LGBTQ center at Connecticut College will speak. He co-edited Taking Back The Academy: History of Activism, History as Activism (Routledge, 2004). 1:00pm - 2:30pm Richardson Library 300, 2350 N. Kenmore Ave. <http://las.depaul.edu/departments/history/about/news-and-announcements/Pages/default.aspx>

**Bootylicious Bingo Fundraiser for Zafina Hasheesh** Come out and support Zafina Hasheesh as she raises funds for her shot at the Miss Continental Plus pageant. Hosted by Velocity Metropolis. 8:00pm - 12:00am The Glenwood Bar 6962 N Glenwood Ave. <http://www.theglenwoodbar.com>

## Wed., March 11

**Living For Madonna: Album Release Party** Official album release party for Madonna's Rebel Heart. Videos from 8 pm. Inspired drag performances from 9 pm by Alexis Bevels, Dixie Lynn Cartwright, Angel LeBare, Rhonda Rae Morse, Saya Naomi, Zuleyka Noir and Coco Sho-Nell. No cover. 8:00pm - 2:00am Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

## MUSIC

# Jimmy Somerville celebrates disco, Bronski Beat past

BY TERRI-LYNNE WALDRON

Last year marked the 30th anniversary of the song "Small Town Boy," the breakthrough hit by Bronski Beat. Former lead singer Jimmy Somerville is back with a brand-new disco beat and is set to release his new CD, *Homage*, on March 10.

Windy City Times spoke with Somerville about his love of disco, being openly gay at the start of his career and that signature voice.

**Windy City Times: The first single from *Homage* is "Travesty." What is the song about?**

Jimmy Somerville: "Travesty" is a kind of social comment about state of affairs and it's just such a travesty that we have government—especially rich Western government—bemoaning the fact that there is no money left and yet we fund wars and still manage to have a nuclear arsenal. You know what? Shut up—there is money, and that's the travesty.

**WCT: Is disco your favorite type of music?**

JS: It's what I kind of always go back to—and I have such an eclectic taste in music—but I will always have disco somewhere in the background. It's music that makes me happy and it's music that's part of my musical history. It's a sound that I really love and respect and

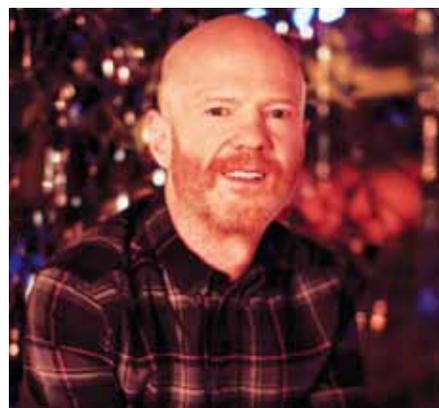
jump to the defence of because it's highly underrated and it's much more sophisticated than people give it credit for.

**WCT: Last year was the 30th anniversary of the release of the Bronski Beat song "Small Town Boy." What are people's reaction to the song today?**

JS: I did a new version of the song online and it brought back a lot of memories for people, but it opened up a whole new audience and people are very kind. That song is very special for people and I understand that. But that's the great thing about music, it's such a soundtrack to our lives. You hear a song and you suddenly think about a place, a time a person and an event. I still get letters from younger kids who say, "This song really affects me," and I'm really proud of that—that I made something that can tap into people's emotions.

**WCT: When you started your music career, were you already an out gay man?**

JS: We [the members of Bronski Beat] were already out and then we started our musical career and there was no discussion where we said, "Maybe we should be quiet if we want to have a career." We were just basically being who we were, which was very important to what we were doing and how we were expressing ourselves. Today still—there are artists,



Jimmy Somerville. PR photo by James Kemmenoe

musicians, sports people, television people and film people who are still too scared to come out in case that affects their career. It's kind of sad that when it's happening to you inside emotionally and psychologically, and you're prepared to suffer that pain for the sake of a career.

**WCT: Early in your career, what kind of negative reaction did you get from people because of your orientation?**

JS: I remember when a man approached me once and said that he disliked me and didn't like what I stood for, what I spoke about or who I was. But he respected my honesty. I would rather someone tell me that, rather than be a producer of a radio show and not play the record and say, "It's not our type of record." You are saying this because you don't like the

fact that I'm gay. That happened a lot. That was all the more determination for me to stand my ground and just be as honest as I possibly could.

**WCT: How have you managed to maintain the falsetto in your voice?**

JS: People always get confused but it's not falsetto—it's countertenor, which means that it's not as high as falsetto, so it's easy for me to go there as opposed to going much higher. If the octave gets higher, I can bring it down and I can control it more. I guess it's just how I'm made genetically and I'm lucky that my voice is hanging in there. My voice is getting raspy and there are lines on my face, buy hey—that's just life. [Both laugh.]

**WCT: You have been quoted as saying that with *Homage*, "You've finally made the disco album you've always wanted to make and never thought you could."**

JS: With the recording of the record I rediscovered my love of music and it has opened up my heart to what I really love doing. It's about contribution and who you work with, and it's about feeling it. It's a process and there has to be a certain amount of love and passion and I get all of that with the people that I work with on this album and everyone was generous with their creative energy and that was a real treat.

**WCT: Speaking of paying homage to the disco era, would you release the upcoming record on vinyl?**

JS: The record is coming out on gatefold vinyl. I'm really going back to old school.

**For more info about Somerville, visit <http://www.jimmysomerville.co.uk/>.**

# BILLY MASTERS



Kelly Clarkson. Photo by Jill Greenberg

"She's a hard act to follow! I just relate to that character, and I've loved it since I was a little girl."—Kelly Clarkson puts it out there that she'd be interested in headlining a Broadway revival of *Funny Girl*. And it might be fate—she shares a birthday with Babs. We'll share a video of her singing "My Man" in concert on *BillyMasters.com*.

For those of you not keeping track (or who simply don't care) it's been widely reported that Kelly Osbourne quit E!'s *Fashion Police* because Giuliana Rancic said that Zendaya looked like she smelled of patchouli oil and weed because of her dreadlocks. First, the "joke"—Giuliana didn't come up with it; it was scripted for her by the writers. Did anyone think to ask what the hell Zendaya was doing at the Oscars, anyway? But that's all beside the point.

I can tell you exclusively that Kelly only returned to *Fashion Police* this season because she was contractually obligated to. I hear that when Kathy Griffin got the gig, she wanted a clean slate and new people. E! was obliged to use Kelly and Giuliana, but both knew that they weren't really welcomed. Adding insult to injury, the raise Kelly was promised didn't happen, allegedly due to the money E! was spending on Kathy. Osbourne let it be known that she was thinking of quitting, and E! let her know that she was more than welcomed to—but she couldn't do any other television for the length of her contract. It was all very ugly. The one person who stood up for Kelly was Melissa Rivers. As executive producer, Missy fought for Kelly to stay—primarily because Joan Rivers looked to Kelly as a protegee (kinda like the daughter she never had). She cajoled Kelly to make the best of it. But from the beginning, the chemistry wasn't there—on camera or off. Even worse, the ratings were down roughly 25 percent from last year. So this whole Zendaya thing is all just a convenient excuse for Kelly to leave.

Now, onto the wardrobe malfunction heard 'round the world—Madonna flying backward and landing on her ass. At the Brit Awards, Madonna was singing "Living For Love," which started with her standing backward on the top of a staircase in a very long Armani cape. She was supposed to untie the cape, the dancers were supposed to pull it away, and she would be revealed in ... well, some kind of bullfighters outfit. But in a moment that was either unfortunate or hilarious (depending on your perspective), the timing was off.

While initially the dancers were blamed for pulling the cape too soon, that isn't what happened. I'm told from people who were in the rehearsal room, Madonna was very clear about what she wanted and kept screaming, "Pull the cape harder and faster—I want it to be a dramatic moment!" Well, it certainly was that! She later blamed the people who dressed her: "Everyone was worried my cape would slide off,

so they tied it really tight around my neck. I got to the top of the stairs and I pulled the silky string, and it wouldn't come undone. I had two choices: I could either be strangled or fall. And I chose to fall." Leave it to Madge to once again make the wrong choice.

In my Oscars recap, I revealed what I thought was quite obvious—Neil Patrick Harris' briefs were padded during his *Birdman* tribute. Either that, or he has a penis shaped kinda like a trapezoid ... which we know isn't the case since you can see his penis on *BillyMasters.com*. In discussing his bit, he said, "We did the dress rehearsal, and I just had the pair of regular underwear on. But the lights! They see through things! So the Academy or the network or someone said we had to do something so you couldn't tell my religion. So what they did was they had to take a second pair and sew it into the first to make it so that you couldn't sort of see through it." And if there was a bit of judicious padding along the way, all the better.

In a related story, men who have been circumcised may soon be able to grow back their foreskin. While it's a long way from human trials, Foregen is developing the technology based on the ability a lizard has to regrow its tail.

Speaking of lizards, the North Dakota State football player who was accused of stalking David Geffen has pled no contest to the charges. You may recall that when Jamie Ralph Kuntz's teammates saw the couple kissing, he explained that Geffen was his grandfather—so, in other words, he acted like a real Kuntz. (He was also kicked off the team.) Once Geffen dumped him, the kid continued to pursue grandpa. While he insists he's innocent, Kuntz is taking the deal basically to get out of jail—he could not afford the \$150,000 bail. But let's put this in perspective. He kissed David Geffen. Hasn't the poor boy suffered enough?

Many of you have written in asking if I have the nude photos of Calvin Harris. The rest of you are asking, who the fuck is Calvin Harris? He's a DJ/singer/producer/model ... because these days, if you can't add "/model" to your title, forget it. A website recently claimed that nude photos and a video of Calvin are being peddled to the highest bidder. Harris immediately lawyered up and threatened to sue anyone who published such filth (which, as you know, is our birth name). Several less-than-reputable sites have sunk so low as to take Harris' Armani underwear photo shoot, blur out the undies, and say they are showing you censored versions of the nude photos. So let me tell you: They are all lying. And I'll prove it by posting the delicious Armani shots on *BillyMasters.com*. The real nude photos are candid photos of Harris with various women; they are not professionally photographed shots. And in case anyone is wondering, we'll share 'em with you should they fall into our enormous hands.

Someone who has no problem showing off is singer Ashley Parker Angel, currently touring the country in *Wicked*. And why not? He looks more gorgeous than ever, as you'll see on *BillyMasters.com*.

When an Oscar host is wearing two pairs of undies and a Wickedly hot boy ain't wearing any, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Since we ran long and I have to run and catch a plane, I will quickly direct you to *www.BillyMasters.com*, the site that has nothing to hide. This week, I'll be in South Beach for the Winter Party, a benefit for the National LGBTQ Task Force. If you're in the neighborhood, grab a ticket at *WinterParty.com*, come by and say hi. No matter where you are, you can reach out and touch me—via email. Just send a note to *Billy@BillyMasters.com*, and I promise to get back to you before Calvin Harris does a private photo shoot for Calvin Klein. Until next time, remember one man's filth is another man's bible.

**Official Album Release Party!**  
in stores & online March 10

**WEDNESDAY MAR. 11**

**MADONNA**  
The brand-new album from global superstar  
featuring the hit single "Living For Love," "Ghosttown," "Unapologetic Bitch" and "Bitch I'm Madonna" feat. Nicki Minaj  
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[SidetrackChicago.com](http://SidetrackChicago.com)

Madonna Videos from 8pm  
Performances from 9pm

## Queen Latifah starring in 'Bessie' May 16

HBO has confirmed the debut date for *Bessie*, with the HBO Films presentation scheduled to debut Saturday, May 16, at 7 p.m. CT. Starring Oscar nominee Queen Latifah (Chicago) in the title role, *Bessie* focuses on legendary blues singer Bessie Smith's transformation from a struggling young singer into "The Empress of the Blues."

The film also stars Michael Kenneth Williams as Bessie's husband, Jack Gee; Khandi Alexander as Bessie's older sister, Viola; Tory Kittles as Bessie's older brother, Clarence; Mike Epps as Richard, a bootlegger and romantic interest; Tika Sumpter as Lucille, a performer and romantic interest; Oliver Platt as photographer/writer Carl Van Vechten; Bryan Greenberg as record producer and music critic John Hammond; with Charles S. Dutton as Ma Rainey's husband, William "Pa" Rainey; and Oscar winner Mo'Nique as blues legend Ma Rainey.

Several sources have stated that Smith was bisexual. It is not known how much the film will delve into that aspect of the late singer's life.

## Gay horror-movie screening March 5

Executive producer Steven Deibert and producer/actor/director Brock Riebe have announced that the Chicago-premiere screening of their film *Incall* will be held at The Landmark's Century Centre Cinema, 2828 N. Clark St., on Thursday, March 5, at 9:30 p.m.

It had been slated to show Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. at The Patio Theater, 6008 W. Irving

Park Rd. However, that screening was cancelled.

The plot revolves around massage therapist Kasey and Marco, a drifter.

Admission is \$10; visit [www.incallmovie.com](http://www.incallmovie.com).

## Library exhibit explores marriage

As recognition of same-sex marriage grows, the Chicago Public Library presents "Love Me Forever! Oh! Oh! Oh!," by cartoonist Jeremy Sorese.

In this illustrated exhibit, Sorese, a gay man explores the idea of getting married. Selected from *The Best American Comics 2013*, "Love Me Forever! Oh! Oh! Oh!" is on display through March 8 in the Congress Corridor, ground level, at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St.

## Madonna in Chicago Sept. 28 at UC

Live Nation has officially listed the dates of Madonna's "Rebel Heart" world tour.

Opening night is slated for Aug. 29 in Miami. Other cities on the North America segment of the tour include New York, LA, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Vancouver, Montreal and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

She will perform in Chicago Sept. 28 at the United Center.

The Grammy winner's current single, "Living For Love," has topped the Billboard Dance Charts—her 44th time at number one on this list.

Tickets for the tour go on sale March 9; see [www.LiveNation.com](http://www.LiveNation.com).

# Humorous memoir 'Butch' details pregnancy woes

BY TERRI-LYNNE WALDRON

In her graphic memoir, *Pregnant Butch: Nine Long Months Spent in Drag*, A.K. Summers chronicles her difficult journey as a butch lesbian navigating her way through pregnancy. Summers—who also illustrated the novel—started writing it in 2005 after giving birth to her son Franklin. Despite being taken out of her comfort zone, Summers injects humor into her memoir even during some of her darkest days.

**Windy City Times: Where did the idea for your graphic memoir, *Pregnant Butch: Nine Long Months Spent in Drag*, come from?**

A.K. Summers: It came from the experience that I had being a pregnant butch, and telling a lot of stories about it afterwards.

**WCT: Although it is based on your life, did you embellish at all?**

AS: I changed all the names, but that's about it.

**WCT: Were you out as a teenager and, if not, when did you come out?**

AS: I was absolutely not out as a teenager. That felt far too dangerous to me although I was certainly self-aware. I didn't come out until I was in college and safely away from home.



A.K. Summers. Photo by Alison Shonkwiler

**WCT: Did you see it that way as well?**

AS: I really wasn't concerned about it as I was 18.

**WCT: Were there any lesbians in your surroundings that you could talk to or identify with?**

AS: I didn't know any gay people before I went away to college, although I was lucky enough to have a girlfriend in high school—so of course I knew her.

**WCT: Was there a time when you did meet a pregnant butch lesbian?**

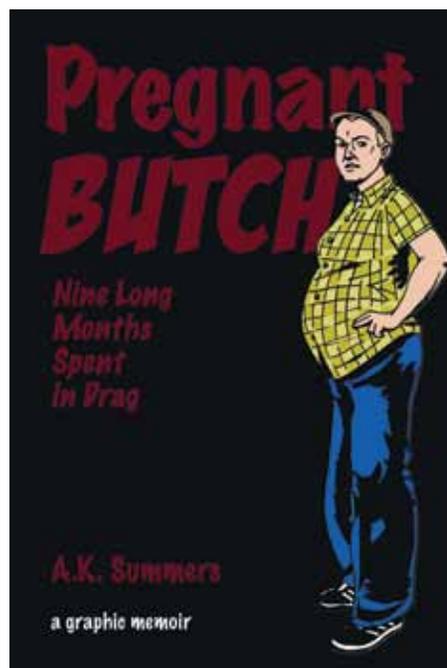
AS: I definitely have met pregnant lesbians, but I never met a pregnant butch lesbian.

**WCT: Did you feel like an outsider of sorts because you did not know anyone that you could relate to or talk to?**

AS: At the time it was kind of a discovery about how it was going to effect me. I didn't go into it thinking that it was going to be a huge deal being butch and pregnant. I wasn't looking forward to it, but I didn't realize how deeply it would effect me.

**WCT: When did the idea of motherhood become important to you?**

AS: It really didn't occur to me until I was in my mid-30s and I had straight friends who started having kids. I had an eerie fairy fantasy about having kids and having a family. I wasn't one of those people that was certain that they wanted to have five kids and that they wanted to have them by age 28. I had a very warm, friendly and laughter-filled family experience of my own and I wanted something like that.



**WCT: When did you come out to your parents and what was their reaction?**

AS: I came out to my parents about two weeks after leaving for college. They were very solemn. My mom cried, but they weren't particularly surprised. This was the late '80s and it seemed like a very difficult life path. They were worried for me and they thought—I think—that this meant that I would never have a family.

But I didn't have very concrete goals about it until I got a warning from seeing my peers start doing it. My ex-girlfriend said to me, "You really need to get on a stick—you at 35. This stuff starts to get a lot harder."

**WCT: What was it like living outside of your norm for nine months, in terms of the clothes you wore while pregnant?**

AS: That's kind of the meaning of the subtitle of my book—*Nine Longs Months Spent in Drag*. I did not feel like myself.

**WCT: Is there a significance in the book of drawing men with large bellies?**

AS: I draw lots of fat guys in the comic. It's an ironic comment. I am making a point about the difference between pregnancy and just being a fat guy. I certainly was mistaken for a fat guy a number of times while pregnant. As the pregnancy got on, that happened less frequently, because I started to look really pregnant and not just like a fat guy.

## Lady Gaga, Vaughn take polar plunge

In Chicago, singer Lady Gaga and actor Vince Vaughn were among several thousand people who plunged into the icy waters of Lake Michigan March 1 to support the Special Olympics, *The Chicago Tribune* noted.

The 15th annual Polar Plunge in Chicago took place at North Avenue Beach. Vaughn, a longtime Chicago Blackhawks fan and Lake Forest native, wore his Blackhawks jersey.

Gaga took the plunge with fiance and Chicago Fire actor Taylor Kinney, NBC 5 Chicago reported. Mayoral candidate Jesus "Chuy" Garcia was scheduled to appear at the plunge, as was Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez.

Last year, comedian Jimmy Fallon helped raise more than \$1 million at the event.

## Michael Sam to take up 'Dancing'

Michael Sam is competing in a different area: dancing.

TMZ has reported that Sam will be participating on ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*, Yahoo! Sports noted. Sam, who announced to the world a little more than a year ago that he's gay, is not currently on an NFL roster.

The free-agent defensive end has been out of work since being released by the Dallas Cowboys from their practice squad last season.

The show is set to start filming its 20th season on March 16. In addition, Sam has said he'd like to participate in the NFL's first-ever veterans combine, which takes place on March 22.

The article is at <http://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/nfl-shutdown-corner/report--michael-sam-to-take-part-in--dancing-with-the-stars-234206797.html>.

**WCT: When you look back on your pregnancy today, what feelings come to mind?**

AS: There is a lot that was funny about it, but I think, even more, it was a wrenching and deepening experience for me. I anticipated a certain kind of struggle and I got a different one. There was more to being pregnant than I anticipated. When it was over I felt that I was tougher and more flexible, and better able to not be so concerned with the way the world treated me.

**A.K. Summers will be part of a panel of three leading graphic novelists at Northeastern Illinois University, NEIU Auditorium, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave., on Tuesday, March 24, at 6 p.m. Visit <http://neiu.edu/university-life/arts-northeastern/visiting-writers-series/graphic-novelists-panel>; for more on A.K. Summers go to <http://aksummers.com/>.**

## Big East women's tourney March 7-10

The Big East women's basketball tournament will return to Allstate Arena in suburban Chicago for a second consecutive year.

The 2015 tournament will take place at the 18,500-seat professional arena March 7-10 in Rosemont, Illinois, with all nine games slated to be played at Allstate.

The conference held its women's basketball tournament at Allstate Arena for the first time in March 2014, with quarterfinal, semifinal and final games played in Rosemont following first-round contests at DePaul University's McGrath-Phillips Arena.

The first round will feature two games on March 7, with times yet to be determined. Quarterfinals will follow on March 8, starting at noon and continuing at 2:30, 6 and 8:30 p.m. A bid to the title game will be on the line in the semifinals at 5:30 and 8 p.m. on March 9. The championship game will be March 10 at 7 p.m.

Schools in the conference include Butler, Creighton, DePaul, Georgetown, Marquette, Providence, St. John's, Seton Hall, Villanova and Xavier.

Call 773-325-SLAM (7526) or visit <http://www.bigeast.com/sports/w-baskbl/spec-rel/120314aaa.html> to purchase tickets.

## Hockey event calls for volunteers

The Chicago Gay Hockey Association will host the Chicago Pride Classic hockey tournament June 25-28, during the city's annual Pride weekend.

The tournament will be held at Chicago Park District's McFetridge Sports Center, 3843 N. California Ave. Online registration is open.

Visit <http://www.ChicagoGayHockey.org/ChicagoPrideClassic> or email [anthony@chicagogayhockey.org](mailto:anthony@chicagogayhockey.org).

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