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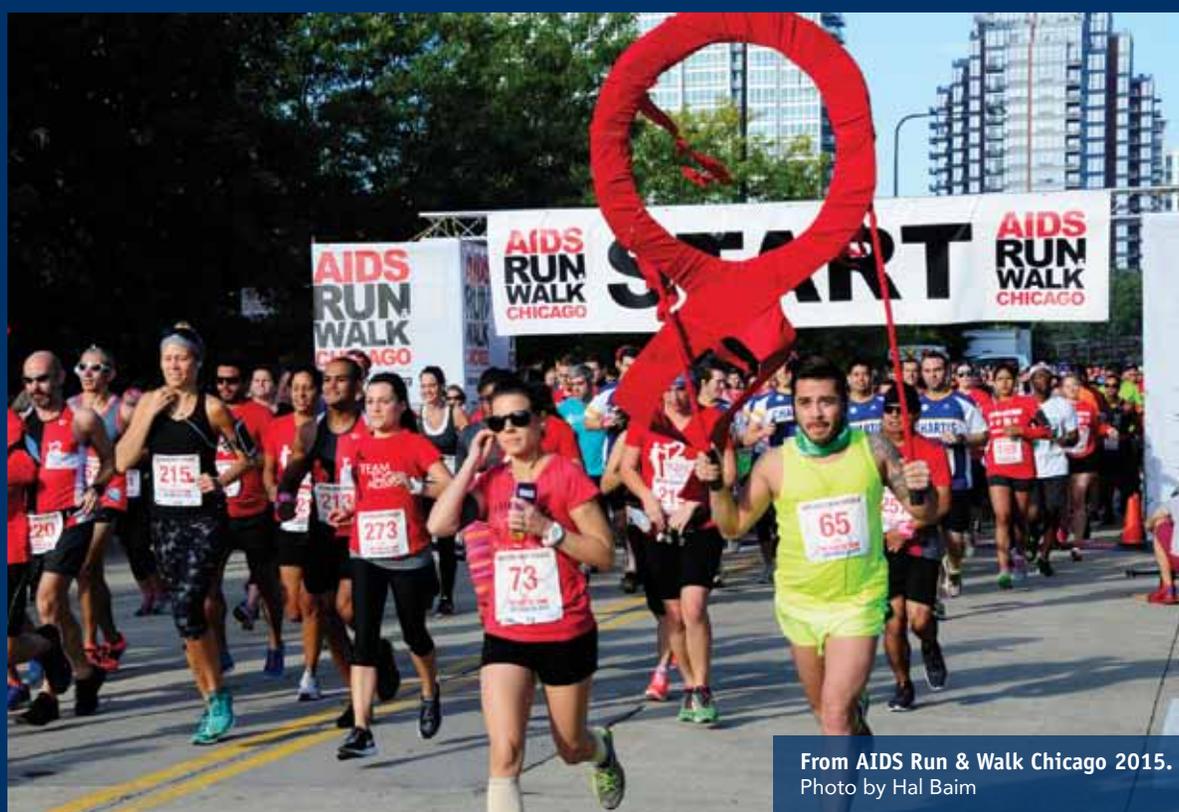


REVOLUTIONARY

Author Lillian Faderman talks about *A Gay Revolution*.

Photo by Phyllis Irwin

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From AIDS Run & Walk Chicago 2015.
Photo by Hal Baim

ON THE RUN (AND WALK)

AIDS Run & Walk Chicago 2015 hits the ground running at Soldier Field

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HBHC, Gerber/Hart to partner on North Side facility

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Officials from Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) and Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, on Sept. 29, announced that HBHC will open a clinic at 6500 N. Clark St.—the address where Gerber/Hart has been the sole tenant since 2013.

HBHC will occupy all the unused spaces in the Rogers Park building, which Clark Point Properties owns. Gerber/Hart's lease has been assigned to HBHC, effectively making the health organization the library's landlord.

According to HBHC President/CEO David Munar and Gerber/Hart Board President Carrie Barnett, the arrangement provides numerous mutual advantages for both organizations. For HBHC, it means that patients from Rogers Park, Edgewater and nearby neighborhoods will have easier access to its facilities, and space limitations will be eased at its Uptown and Lake View clinics. For Gerber/Hart, it means wider visibility and increased foot traffic in a location that is off the beaten path for many.

"This is the best situation we could have wanted," said Barnett. "Aside from taking over the building ourselves, which I admit we wanted to do. But we couldn't ask for better people to be partners with."

The 15,000-square-foot facility is tentatively expected to open with four exam rooms by the end of 2015; eight additional exam rooms are expected to be added over the course of the following 18-24 months, provided the clinic hits its

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BINATIONAL COUPLE

Couple talk about health scare, Sidetrack's *OUTspoken!* series.

Photo by Ashley King

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WCT'S 30TH ANVY PARTY

Sami Grisafe entertains the crowd at Sidetrack.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald, www.mysticimagesphotography.com

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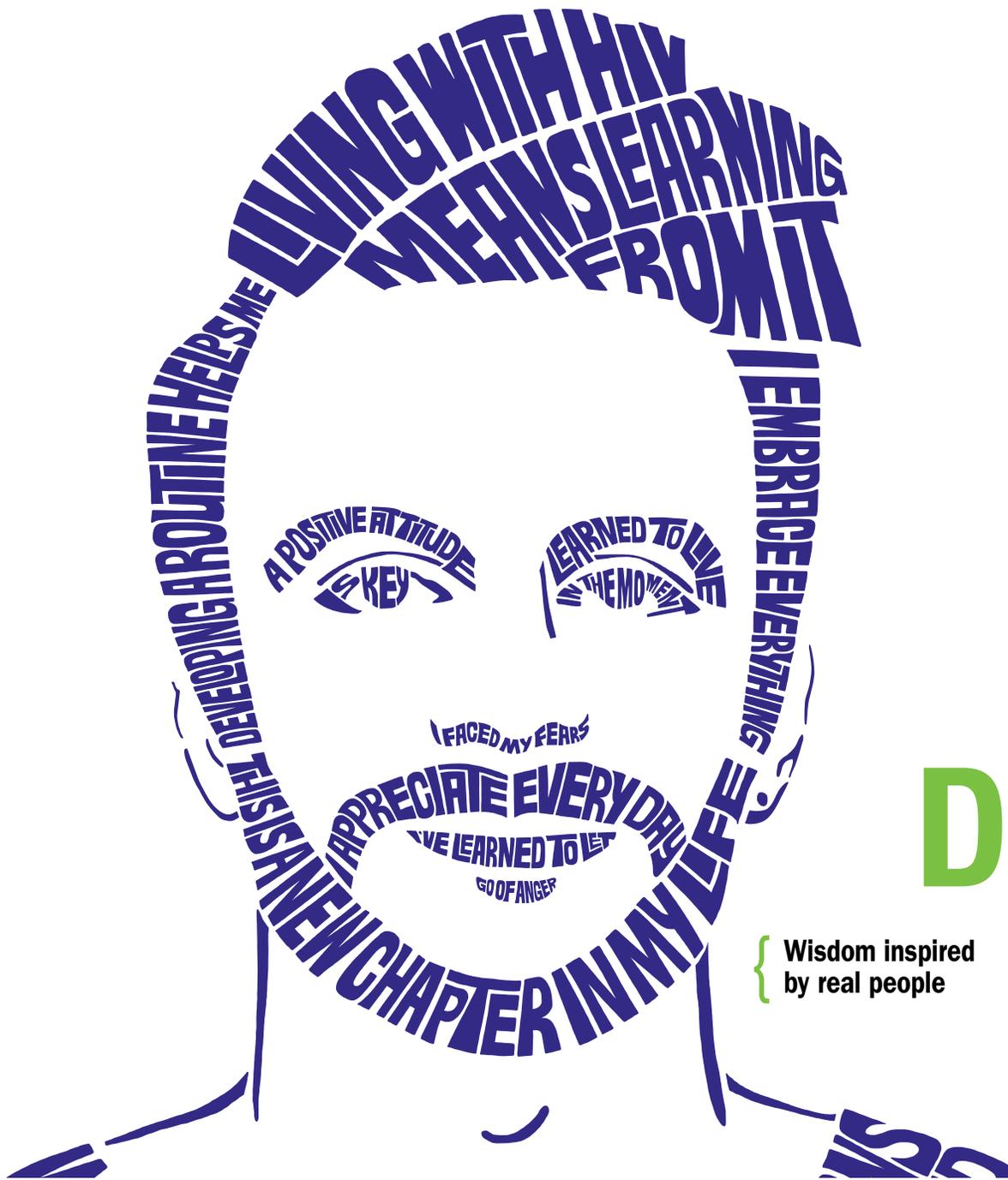


KAREN FINLEY

Performance artist on the pope, AIDS and Planned Parenthood.

Photo by Dona Ann McAdams

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DISCOVER

Wisdom inspired
by real people

WHAT IS PREZCOBIX™?

- PREZCOBIX™ is a prescription HIV-1 (Human Immunodeficiency Virus 1) medicine used with other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in adults. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). PREZCOBIX™ contains the prescription medicines PREZISTA® (darunavir) and TYBOST® (cobicistat).
- It is not known if PREZCOBIX™ is safe and effective in children under 18 years of age.
- **When used with other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection, PREZCOBIX™ may help:**
 - reduce the amount of HIV-1 in your blood. This is called “viral load.”
 - increase the number of CD4+ (T) cells in your blood that help fight off other infections.
- PREZCOBIX™ is always taken in combination with other HIV medications for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults. PREZCOBIX™ should be taken once daily with food.
- PREZCOBIX™ does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS, and you may still experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection. You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions on how to prevent passing HIV to other people.
- **Please read the Important Safety Information below and talk to your healthcare provider to learn if PREZCOBIX™ is right for you.**

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about PREZCOBIX™?

- **PREZCOBIX™ may cause liver problems.** Some people taking PREZCOBIX™ may develop liver problems which may be life-threatening. Your healthcare provider should

do blood tests before and during your treatment with PREZCOBIX™.

- Chronic hepatitis B or C infection may increase your chance of developing liver problems. Your healthcare provider should check your blood tests more often.
- Signs and symptoms of liver problems include dark (tea-colored) urine, yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes, pale-colored stools (bowel movements), nausea, vomiting, pain or tenderness on your right side below your ribs, or loss of appetite. Tell your healthcare provider if you develop any of these symptoms.
- **PREZCOBIX™ may cause severe or life-threatening skin reactions or rash.** Sometimes these skin reactions and skin rashes can become severe and require treatment in a hospital. Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash.
 - **Stop taking PREZCOBIX™** and call your healthcare provider right away if you develop any skin changes with symptoms such as fever, tiredness, muscle or joint pain, blisters or skin lesions, mouth sores or ulcers, red or inflamed eyes like “pink eye” (conjunctivitis).
- **PREZCOBIX™ when taken with certain other medicines, can cause new or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking PREZCOBIX™.

Who should not take PREZCOBIX™?

- **Do not take PREZCOBIX™** with any of the following medicines: alfuzosin (Uroxatral®), cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid® Quicksolv), colchicine (Colcrys®, Mitigare®, if you have liver or kidney problems), dronedarone (Multaq®), dihydroergotamine (D.H.E.45®, Embolex®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Ergomar®, Ergostat®, Medihaler®, Migergot®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), methylergonovine (Methergine®), lovastatin or a product that contains lovastatin (Altoprev®, Advicor®, Mevacor®), lurasidone (Latuda®), oral midazolam (Versed®), pimozone (Orap®), ranolazine (Ranexa®), rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifater®),

 **PREZCOBIX™**
(darunavir 800 mg/
cobicistat 150 mg) tablets

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Ask your provider if Once-Daily* PREZCOBIX™ is right for you.

*PREZCOBIX™ is taken in combination with other HIV medications for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults.

Rifamate®, Rimactane®, sildenafil (Revatio®) when used for pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), simvastatin or a product that contains simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®), St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) or a product that contains St. John's Wort, or triazolam (Halcion®).

- Serious problems can happen if you take any of these medicines with PREZCOBIX™.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking PREZCOBIX™?

- **About all health problems.** Tell your healthcare provider if you have liver problems, including hepatitis B or hepatitis C, have kidney problems, are allergic to sulfa (sulfonamide), have diabetes, have hemophilia, or have any other medical condition, are pregnant, breastfeeding, or plan to become pregnant or breastfeed. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking PREZCOBIX™.
- **About all medicines you take.** Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medicines interact with PREZCOBIX™. **Keep a list of your medicines to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take PREZCOBIX™ with other medicines.

What are the possible side effects of PREZCOBIX™?

- **The most common side effects of darunavir, one of the medicines in PREZCOBIX™ include** diarrhea, nausea, rash, headache, stomach area (abdominal) pain, and vomiting.
- **Other possible side effects include:**
 - **High blood sugar, diabetes or worsening diabetes, and increased**

bleeding in people with hemophilia have been reported in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines, including PREZCOBIX™.

- **Changes in body fat can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicines.** The exact cause and long-term health effects of these changes are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time.

These are not all of the possible side effects of PREZCOBIX™. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.

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

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

Please see accompanying full Product Information for more details.

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IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

PATIENT INFORMATION
PREZCOBIX (prez-koe-bix)
(darunavir and cobicistat)
tablets

Please read this information before you start taking PREZCOBIX and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

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

- **PREZCOBIX may cause liver problems.** Some people taking PREZCOBIX may develop liver problems which may be life-threatening. Your healthcare provider should do blood tests before and during your treatment with PREZCOBIX. If you have chronic hepatitis B or C infection, your healthcare provider should check your blood tests more often because you have an increased chance of developing liver problems.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any of the below signs and symptoms of liver problems.

- dark (tea colored) urine
- yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes
- pale colored stools (bowel movements)
- nausea
- vomiting
- pain or tenderness on your right side below your ribs
- loss of appetite
- **PREZCOBIX may cause severe or life-threatening skin reactions or rash.** Sometimes these skin reactions and skin rashes can become severe and require treatment in a hospital. Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash. **Stop taking PREZCOBIX** and call your healthcare provider right away if you develop any skin changes with symptoms below:
 - fever
 - tiredness
 - muscle or joint pain
 - blisters or skin lesions
 - mouth sores or ulcers
 - red or inflamed eyes, like “pink eye” (conjunctivitis)
- **PREZCOBIX when taken with certain other medicines can cause new or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking PREZCOBIX.

See “**What are the possible side effects of PREZCOBIX?**” for more information about side effects.

What is PREZCOBIX?

PREZCOBIX is a prescription HIV-1 (Human Immunodeficiency Virus 1) medicine used with other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in adults. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

PREZCOBIX contains the prescription medicines PREZISTA (darunavir) and TYBOST (cobicistat).

It is not known if PREZCOBIX is safe and effective in children under 18 years of age.

When used with other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection, PREZCOBIX may help:

- reduce the amount of HIV-1 in your blood. This is called “viral load”.
- increase the number of CD4+ (T) cells in your blood that help fight off other infections.

Reducing the amount of HIV-1 and increasing the CD4+ (T) cells in your blood may help improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or getting infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

PREZCOBIX does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 infection to others.

- Do not share or re-use needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions on how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

Who should not take PREZCOBIX?

Do not take PREZCOBIX with any of the following medicines:

- alfuzosin (Uroxatral®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid® Quicksolv)
- colchicine (Colcrys®, Mitigare®), if you have liver or kidney problems
- dronedarone (Multaq®)
- ergot-containing medicines:
 - dihydroergotamine (D.H.E. 45®, Embolex®, Migranal®)
 - ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Ergomar®, Ergostat®, Medihaler®, Migergot®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®)
 - methylergonovine (Methergine®)
- lovastatin or a product that contains lovastatin (Altoprev®, Advicor®, Mevacor®)
- lurasidone (Latuda®)
- midazolam (Versed®), when taken by mouth
- pimozone (Orap®)
- ranolazine (Ranexa®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH)
- simvastatin or a product that contains simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- St. John’s Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), or a product that contains St. John’s Wort
- triazolam (Halcion®)

Serious problems can happen if you take any of these medicines with PREZCOBIX.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking PREZCOBIX?

Before taking PREZCOBIX, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have liver problems, including hepatitis B or hepatitis C
- have kidney problems
- are allergic to sulfa (sulfonamide)
- have diabetes
- have hemophilia
- have any other medical condition
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if PREZCOBIX will harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking PREZCOBIX.
 - **Pregnancy Registry:** There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiretroviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of the registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.

IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take PREZCOBIX.
- You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV to your baby.
- It is not known if PREZCOBIX can pass into your breast milk.
- Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medicines interact with PREZCOBIX. **Keep a list of your medicines to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist.**

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with PREZCOBIX.
- **Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take PREZCOBIX with other medicines.

How should I take PREZCOBIX?

- Take PREZCOBIX exactly as your healthcare provider tells you.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking PREZCOBIX without talking to your healthcare provider.
- Take PREZCOBIX 1 time a day with food.
- If you miss a dose of PREZCOBIX by less than 12 hours, take your missed dose of PREZCOBIX right away. Then take your next dose of PREZCOBIX at your regularly scheduled time.
- If you miss a dose of PREZCOBIX by more than 12 hours, wait and then take the next dose of PREZCOBIX at your regularly scheduled time.
- If a dose of PREZCOBIX is skipped, do not double the next dose. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of PREZCOBIX at any one time.
- If you take too much PREZCOBIX, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

What are the possible side effects of PREZCOBIX?

PREZCOBIX may cause serious side effects including:

- See **“What is the most important information I should know about PREZCOBIX?”**
- **Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia).** Some people who take protease inhibitors including PREZCOBIX can get high blood sugar, develop diabetes, or your diabetes can get worse. Tell your healthcare provider if you notice an increase in thirst or urinate often while taking PREZCOBIX.
- **Changes in body fat can happen in people who take HIV-1 medications.** The changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.
- **Increased bleeding for hemophiliacs.** Some people with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors including PREZCOBIX.

The most common side effects of darunavir, one of the medicines in PREZCOBIX, include:

- diarrhea
- nausea
- rash
- headache
- stomach area (abdominal) pain
- vomiting

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

These are not all of the possible side effects of PREZCOBIX. For more information, ask your health care provider.

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

How should I store PREZCOBIX?

- Store PREZCOBIX tablets at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).

Keep PREZCOBIX and all medicines out of reach of children.

General information about PREZCOBIX

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use PREZCOBIX for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give PREZCOBIX to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.

If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about PREZCOBIX that is written for health professionals.

For more information call 1-800-526-7736.

What are the ingredients in PREZCOBIX?

Active ingredients: darunavir and cobicistat

Inactive ingredients: colloidal silicon dioxide, crospovidone, hypromellose, magnesium stearate, and silicified microcrystalline cellulose. The tablets are film-coated with a coating material containing iron oxide black, iron oxide red, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl alcohol (partially hydrolyzed), talc, and titanium dioxide.

Manufactured by:
Janssen Ortho LLC, Gurabo, PR 00778

Manufactured for:
Janssen Therapeutics, Division of Janssen Products, LP, Titusville NJ 08560

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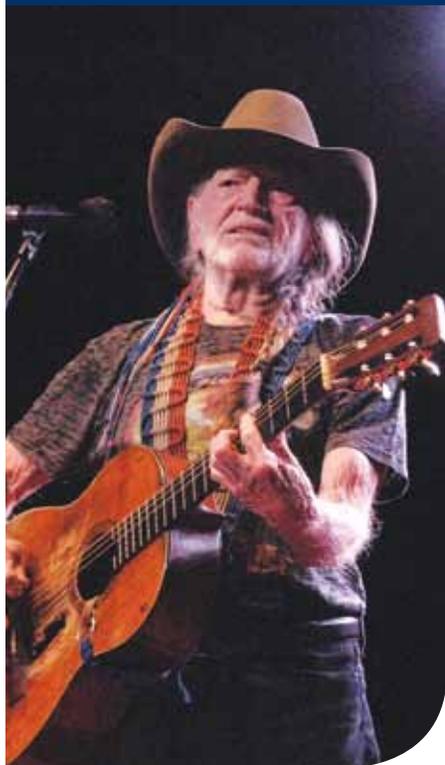
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FULL NELSON
Bent Nights reviews a show by country-music icon Willie Nelson (left).
Photo by Vern Hester



Chicago designer Laurie Underwood excels on Project Runway.
Photo from Lifetime

'REVOLUTION'-ARY
Read a review of Lillian Faderman's The Gay Revolution.

'MUSE' YOU CAN USE
Art history gets a gender-identity makeover in the art exhibit "Muse."

THAT'S SHOW BIZ
Find out the latest about Michael Sam, Rose McGowan and the show Devious Maids.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS



Music fans are jazzed about singer Lili K.
Photo by Vern Hester



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South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg.
Photo by Matt Simonette

Victory Fund holds Chicago celebration of LGBT candidates

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Members and supporters of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, on Sept. 27, gathered at Ignite Glass Studios, 401 N. Armour St., for the organization's "Windy City Toasts" celebration.

The event called attention to the work of openly gay elected officials from across the country, and honored two Chicago politicians, state Rep. Kelly Cassidy (D) and Ald. Tom Tunney (40th Ward). Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, based in Washington, D.C., provides financial and logistical support to openly LGBT candidates in local-, state- and federal-level elections.

South Bend (Indiana) Mayor Pete Buttigieg spoke about his experience coming out, which he did in a newspaper opinion piece on June 16. In doing so, Buttigieg—who was already the youngest-ever mayor of a city with over 100,000 people—became the first openly-gay executive official in the Hoosier State's history. He detailed several challenges facing his city and state, among them South Bend's overcoming the stigma of being labeled a "dying city" by Newsweek and the state government's passage last spring of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Buttigieg called the legislation a humiliation for the state, noting that it was "a handful of legislators and our governor telling an entire segment of society that they were not welcome."

He said he was caught-off guard by the bill going through and the storm of controversy that followed, adding, "I thought it was going to come and go, that there'd just be a couple days of fuss and that it would go away. Instead, it became a rallying cry for the entire country to stand up and say, 'This isn't okay. This isn't us.'"

But Buttigieg admitted that the controversy worked in South Bend's favor, bringing to light some anti-discrimination advancements the

city had already made. "In my first year in office, we published and put into law a human rights ordinance that said you can't be fired for who love, that [included] gender identity and sexual orientation," he noted.

Despite "some static" when he came out, Buttigieg had numerous people reach out and lend support, he said. "But this isn't over," he added. "If I win in six weeks, when I'm on the ballot, it will be the first time that any LGBT person has been elected to high office in Indiana, first time ever, and ... in most parts of Indiana, it is perfectly lawful to fire somebody, or discriminate against them, simply because of who they love."

Buttigieg spoke of organizations and supporters "having his back," a thread picked up by Cassidy after she accepted an award from Victory Campaign Board Member Eric Nelson, explaining the need to cultivate a new generation of LGBT political leaders.

"Groups like Victory make it possible for us to ensure that there is a farm team, that there are always people coming up behind us," Cassidy said. "The city elections showed that; we had some wonderful new blood come onto the city council."

Tunney, who accepted his award from Victory Campaign Board Member Justin DeJong, is now one of five members, or 10 percent, of the Chicago city council. "The difference of having a gay or lesbian person on the city council is phenomenal," he said.

Among those also speaking at the event were Angie Craig, a Minnesota candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, and LaWana Mayfield, of Charlotte, North Carolina, who is that city's first openly gay city council member as well as the second Black woman to sit on the council. Victory Institute Board Member Debra Shore and Victory Campaign Board Member Clark Pellett, as well as Victory Fund Board Chair Kim Hoover, introduced the program.

GUEST COLUMN

BY JEANNE CORDOVA



A letter about dying, to my lesbian communities

This letter is meant as a notification and thank you to the thousands of members of the national lesbian community whose activism, lives, and loves have touched my own. Especially those dykes who have become family and siblings of choice over the last 40 years. Yes, the rumors are true, I have metastasized-to-the-brain cancer. I am dying from it in my cerebellum.

I have had cancer since 2008. Colon cancer. For the first four years I brushed it off, as I've done many times with physical illness or difficulties. I continued my activism with the Lesbian Exploratory project and I finished my third book, *When We Were Outlaws*. The cancer came back in 2013. Metastasized first to my lungs and then to my cerebellum. Yes, my head. With brain and back-of-the-neck cancer it has been a downhill experience the last three years, with multiple operations, radiation and chemo.

This February I had chemotherapy. Among a host of side-effects, it's given me "chemo brain," which amounts, basically, to "getting stupid." Just saying. This month's so-called side effect is peripheral neuropathy. That's from chemo, they say, and it makes your feet, fingers and hands feel tingling and numb like when you fall asleep on your leg or hands. Only, it doesn't go away. I can't stand up without holding onto a wall or background support. I can't feel where my feet are. Yeek! I freak myself out talkin' about it.

A guru once told me, "We die in increments, one piece at a time." She meant one part of our body suddenly ceases to work, an elbow or a tongue. Seemingly for no reason, like a worn-out knee. This came as a surprise. I thought we get old or die ... suddenly, and all at once. Not so!

Many of us have gotten cancer and died. I write publicly to the women who have defined my life because I want to share this last journey, as I have shared so much of my activist life with you. You gave me a life's cause: freedom and dignity for lesbians. I believe that's what lesbian feminism is really about, sharing. We built a movement by telling each other our lives and thoughts about the way life should be. We cut against the grain and re-thought almost everything. With just enough left undone for our daughters to re-invent themselves. Death should be a part of life. Not hidden, not a secret, something we never said out loud.

Being an organizer and journalist in the lesbian, gay, feminist, and women-of-color communities—and loving it—has been the focal point of my life. It has been a wild joyous ride. I feel more than adequately thanked by the many awards I have received from all the queer communities, and through all the descriptions and quotes in history books that have documented my role as an organizer, publisher, speaker and author. Thanks to all of you who have given me a place in our history.

From the age of 18 to 21, I painfully looked everywhere for Lesbian Nation. On Oct. 3, 1970, a day I celebrate as my

political birthday, I found Her in a small DOB (Daughters of Bilitis) meeting. That's when my life's work became clear. Shortly thereafter I became a core organizer for two national lesbian conferences, one of which re-directed my path to create *The Lesbian Tide* newsmagazine, a national paper of record, as the historians say, for the lesbian-feminist generation. And on it went for multiple decades of marches and later online organizing—this time intersectionally, to include all of me and my Latina identity.

Somewhere in the middle of all that I, somewhat accidentally, invented the Gay & Lesbian Community Yellow Pages, a first for our by-then national tribe. This Los Angeles 400-page guide that helped us still-half-hidden people to connect, politically I thought initially, with businesses and professionals that spoke to us within our own identities. That it did, but this directory and lucky timing in life-long real estate, also enabled me to fulfill an early personal vow to give back half of my estate to our movement. I do this with Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice (out of New York City) and other organizations. I believe it so critical to our transforming movements to leave our estates to our LGBTQ charities, not some errant heterosexual relation we hardly know! More on this political news and views to follow.

I believe that cancer or any terminal disease is the luck of the draw. As my mother used to say of my aunt who was also a nun of 90 years, "At that age, you got to die of something." I have read the obituaries in *Lesbian Connection* these last years as they chronicle the passage of my second-wave generation. The one message that rings out clearly is that so many, many in these pages were activists who articulated social justice in their local or regional spaces. Many dykes making change. So many of you or loved ones have gone through death rituals these last years. It makes me feel like one-of-the gang ... again!

I really don't know when or if I can write again. Mental competency and all that. The choice appears to be living with chemo forever off and on, or dying. I will make that choice soon enough. In the meantime, please write or speak your own truth in living with dying (which is the title of my planned next book) to your lesbian newspaper or my blog below.

I want to say THANK YOU to all of you who have loved another woman-identified-woman, who have loved me, or have loved Lesbian Nation. I wish I could still write about this kind of love more eloquently. Lesbians do have a special love for one another. I have felt it many times when women are with each other. I am happy and content to have participated in it for most of my very full and happy life. Know that I have this kind of love not only with my family of choice, but with a straight-arrow spouse with whom I have journeyed these last 26 years.

Cordova's blog is thislesbianworld.blogspot.com.



TJ Williams-Hauger (left) and Bradley Hauger in Washington, D.C.
Photo from Williams-Hauger

Gay Chicago couple witnesses pope's visit

Married couple TJ Williams-Hauger and Brad Hauger went to Washington, D.C. last week (as VIP guests) when Pope Francis visited the White House.

In a statement to Windy City Times, Williams-Hauger, a seminary student, said, "It was good to be at the White House with friends, colleagues [as well as] lovers and doers of peace and justice during such an important and historic occasion. It was exciting to see the Holy Father and the Holy Fiat! But let us be careful not to become so star-struck that we close our eyes to his message.

"He challenged us all to work in a spirit of cooperation, to be welcoming to all people in the

world. [Regarding] immigration, he reminded everyone that there is no one who is not an immigrant. He also reminded us that taking care of the environment is our responsibility and that people of faith must understand that science and faith goes hand and hand.

"He is prophetic in action as well as spoken words—as he chose not to dine with the wealthy, but to eat with the poor, as Jesus would do."

In Philadelphia on Sept. 27, the pontiff made his most direct reference to same-sex marriage, as he spoke of the "unprecedented changes" that are having "social, cultural and, unfortunately, now juridical effects on family bonds,"

The Huffington Post noted. He told bishops that, in response to these changes, they should reach out to spread their faith through the bonds of friendship.

The pope prefaced his address with remarks on the church's continuing sex-abuse crisis; he initially spoke about it earlier in his trip while

in Washington, D.C. On Sept. 27, he met with victims.

The Huffington Post item is at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/pope-francis-gay-marriage-and-families_5607eb53e4b0dd850307ed5a.

—Andrew Davis

Pope: Gov't officials can withhold licenses

On Sept. 28, Pope Francis said that government officials have a "human right" to refuse to discharge duties—such as issuing marriage licenses to gay people—if they feel it violates their conscience, Reuters reported.

The pontiff made the statement on his flight back to Rome from the United States. Asked if he backed individuals, such as government officials, who refuse to abide by some laws, such as issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, the pope said, "Conscientious objection must enter into every juridical structure because it is a right."

In Kentucky, Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis went to jail because she refused to issue licenses to same-sex couples. Although she is back in her position, she still will not personally sign off on them, although most of her deputy clerks have.

Francis also repeated his condemnation of priests who had sexually abused children, saying the victims had been "crushed by evil."

The Reuters article is at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/28/us-pope-usa-idUSKCNORS13320150928>.

Lesbian photographer/filmmaker dies

Honey Lee Cottrell—a photographer and filmmaker who pioneered lesbian erotica in the 1980s through her contributions to the women's erotica magazine *On Our Backs*—died Sept. 21, in Santa Cruz, California, of pancreatic cancer at age 69, *FeminineMoments.dk* reported.

Among other achievements, she studied at the National Sex Forum and was a member of San Francisco Sex Information in the 1970s. She co-authored *I Am My Lover*, a 1978 feminist book celebrating masturbation she created with Joani Blank and Tee Corinne. In addition, Cottrell was an early member of the Lesbian and Gay History Project, founded in late 1978 in San Francisco.

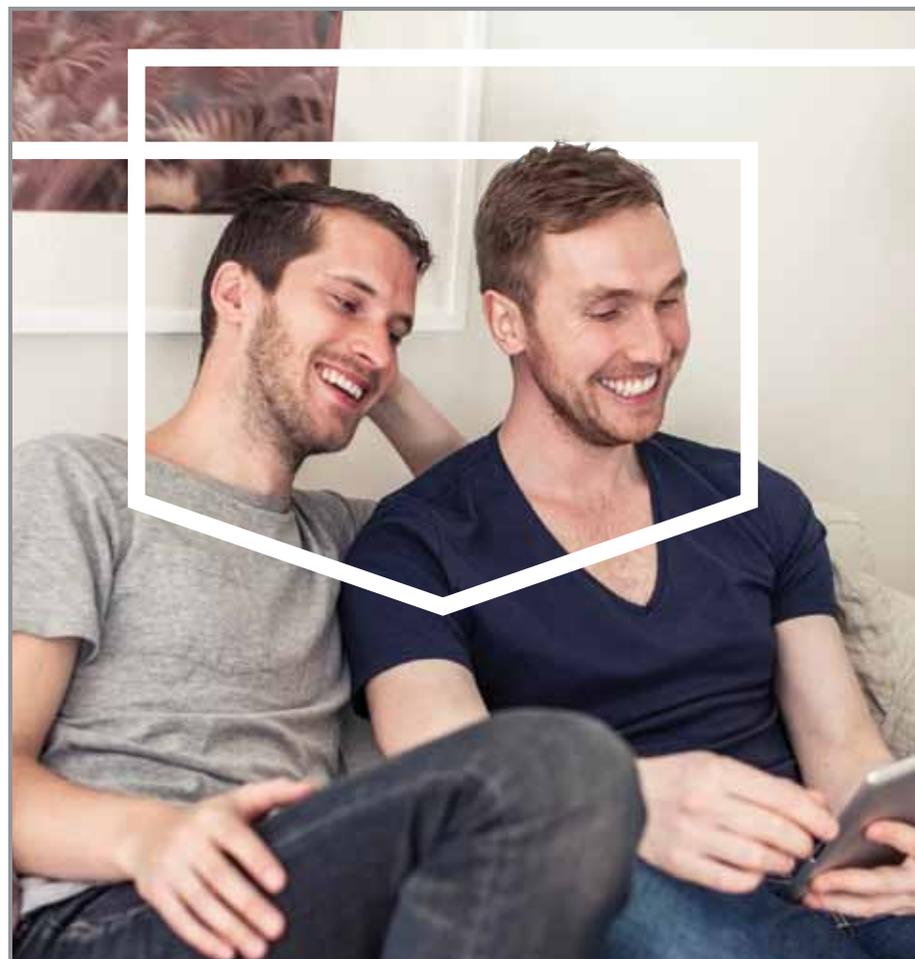
Cottrell directed the film *Sweet Dreams* and, from 1985 to the early '90s, was a cinematographer for *Fatale Video*, the first lesbian-created erotic movie company.

She is survived by mother Patricia Cottrell, brother Michael Cottrell and daughter Aretha Bright, as well as life companions Melinda Gebbe, Amber Hollibaugh and Susie Bright.

The article is at <http://www.femininemoments.dk/blog/obituary-honey-lee-cottrell-1946-2015/>.

Correction

In the June 28 issue, Ed Negrón should have been credited for coverage of the Pride 5K. Windy City Times regrets the error.



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Binational gay couple talk health scare, sharing at OUTspoken!

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Tyler Greene and Ziwu Zhou's love story has had many twists and turns, and it all started on a snowy, cold January night in 2012.

Greene, who was house sitting for a friend, decided to check out his OK Cupid account and he happened to see Zhou's profile. Greene messaged Zhou, who had just left Jackhammer and was heading home, and a short time later Zhou had taken Greene up on his offer to come over and meet him.

"That night he read to me and told me all this personal information about himself and we made out a little bit, but didn't take it any further," said Zhou. "I was texting a friend on the way home the next day and told them I met someone, and for me that's unusual since it takes me longer than one sort of date to realize if this is right person."

"We were dating for a month and on Valentine's Day we went to Hopleaf, and after that we were outside of Hamburger Mary's and that's when I told him that I loved him," said Greene. "Ziwu said it back to me but he doesn't remember saying it that night. I remember that night being very romantic. I thought he was someone who was very different from me and could test me in many different ways."

Before moving to Chicago to attend graduate school at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (MFA in Visual Communication), Zhou lived in China. He was born in a small town in the Hubei Province and moved a couple of times within the province with his parents before attending Tsinghua University where he received a BA in Information Arts and Design. Zhou now works as an interactive graphic design engineer at HP Software.

"I came out after grad school to my best friend Jinyoung and a year later I met Tyler," said Zhou. "I decided that if I was in a relationship with someone important then I would tell my parents and get their blessing. Tyler and I had been dating for about a year so I decided that I was going to come out to my parents during my annual visit for the Chinese New Year. I came out to my mom the night before I returned to the states while we were staying on the 28th floor of a hotel in Beijing. She told me that if it weren't for her parents, she would

jump out of the hotel room window. I told her that if she jumped I would jump too. She couldn't believe it and thought it was a choice. We didn't say anything to my dad at the time but my mom told my dad three days after I left China. I told my mom that I was dating Tyler but she didn't want to hear anything about my relationship and told me to break up with him. China is very different because there isn't much infrastructure for families of LGBT people. My mom finally told her parents and two brothers and they were really supportive of me being gay and that helped my mom a lot."

Shortly after his visit to Beijing, Zhou's doctors found a tumor in his spinal cord that required immediate surgery. Zhou had chronic shoulder and back pain for years and after seeing a chiropractor she recommended that he get an X-ray since nothing she did was helping to alleviate his pain. The X-ray didn't show any irregularities but his chiropractor wasn't convinced and got him an appointment to get an MRI. That's when the doctors found the mass in his spinal cord.

It took Zhou three months to recover and, while he was in the hospital, Greene stayed with him every night. Zhou's parents were still coming to terms with his being gay, so he had to hide the fact that he was in the hospital recovering from surgery; they would ask who was taking care of him and he couldn't say it was his boyfriend. Earlier this year, Zhou finally told his family about the surgery and revealed that he'd been living with Green all along. Greene explained that Zhou's parents have accepted him into their lives and thanked him for being there for their son. Now when Zhou Skypes his parents, Greene is right by his side.

"Ziwu's grandma, who is almost 90 and has been a part of nearly every social strata within China, was the one who was the most accepting," said Greene. "She really wants me to visit China."

Greene—who is the Assistant House Manager for Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me, Events Coordinator for all of WBEZ's live events and Producer for The Moth-Chicago StorySLAM—grew up in the small town of Galesburg, Michigan. He graduated from Kalamazoo College with a BA in Theatre Arts-Media Studies. While attending college, Greene did an internship in NYC and



Tyler Greene and Ziwu Zhou.

Photo by Alison King

worked as a production assistant on an off-Broadway play directed by Terry Kinney (one of the original founders Steppenwolf Theatre) and spent a year in the study abroad program at University of London, Goldsmiths College.

After graduating from college, Greene spent a year teaching English in South Korea and, since he already knew people in Chicago, he decided to move here when that assignment was finished. His first job was as About Face Theatre's social media coordinator before moving on to the Steppenwolf Theater as a call center representative.

With Greene's experience in the storytelling realm, it was only natural for him to eventually tell his own story. When he was asked to participate in Sidetrack's storytelling series OUTspoken! he decided to recount Zhou's surgery story and how that brought them even closer together. Right after Greene finished his story, Zhou proposed to him in front of everyone and Greene immediately said yes.

"It was the right moment because he was telling my surgery story to an audience," said Zhou. "While Tyler was telling the story, I was reliving that experience and got so emotional and was shaking. At the last moment it occurred to me that I had to propose right then, because there wasn't going to be a better moment than that moment. We'd already planned on getting married but no one had officially proposed. Tyler told me that if anyone was going to propose it would have to be me because he'd be too nervous to do it."

"Never in a bazillion years did I ever imagine that he would propose that night," said Greene.

The couple will be married on Oct. 11 at

Mayne Stage in Rogers Park where Greene produces many of WBEZ's live events.

The couple is looking forward to sharing their special day with family and friends although Zhou's family won't be able to attend the ceremony. Both Greene and Zhou think it's kismet that their upcoming wedding is intertwined with the OUTspoken! storytelling series.

"There's something about OUTspoken! which has been captured by many people's sentiments. The feeling is when you walk in the room you're comfortable right away," said Greene. "Art [Johnston], David [Fink] and Kim [Hunt] and the Midwestern way that they start the show makes everyone feel welcome. Everyone leans forward and listens to the storytellers in a way that I don't see in other venues. You can feel that everyone is leaning forward while you are on stage. I was very nervous. I've heard hundreds and hundreds of stories because of The Moth. What I love is when people are vulnerable, honest and raw as well as prepared and when I listen back to my performance that's what I heard."

Greene's story was also featured on Kevin Allison's RISK! podcast under the title "Like Lovers Do."

"I was getting tweets from people who've listened to my story thanking me for sharing part of my life," said Greene. "Because of Kevin's popularity it's in the top ten of the storytelling section on iTunes. Of course everyone was coming to hear Margaret Cho but they stayed and listened to my story afterward."

To listen to Greene's OUTspoken! story, visit www.risk-show.com/podcast/meant-for-each-other and go to the 52:45 mark.

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Clinton, Biden to speak at HRC events

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) announced that former Secretary of State and current presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton will speak to the organization on the morning of Oct. 3.

Approximately 800 grassroots leaders from across the country—including the HRC Board of Directors, Board of Governors, staff and volunteer leaders and supporters from the organization's approximately 1.5 million members and supporters in all 50 states—will hear from Clinton ahead of the organization's National Dinner, during which Vice President Joe Biden will speak.

"Secretary Clinton is a tremendous ad-

vocate for equality and has been a tireless champion for the advancement of LGBT rights as human rights around the globe," said HRC President Chad Griffin in a statement. "A visionary leader fighting for an America where everyone is treated with equal respect and dignity, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, we're thrilled Secretary Clinton will join us to discuss the challenges ahead in the fight for full federal equality."

HRC also announced that seven-time Emmy winner Allison Janney (TV's *The West Wing*; *Mom*) will present HRC's National Vanguard Award to Academy Award-nominated actress Ellen Page for her courage and leadership. Retired NBA athlete Jason Collins and Blossom Brown are also slated to address the sold-out gathering.

Youth experiencing homelessness rally to end budget impasse

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

On Sept. 23, shortly after Pope Francis stood in front of the White House and delivered a speech asking “all men and women of good will in this great nation to support the efforts of the international community to protect the vulnerable,” more than 100 homeless youth, their advocacy organizations and Reps. Greg Harris and Will Guzzardi rallied outside of the Thompson Center in downtown Chicago before delivering a cardboard box to Gov. Bruce Rauner’s office.

On its front was a simple request written in blue felt-tip “don’t make homeless youth live in a dirty box.”

The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) organized the rally designed—according to a press release—to call upon the governor to “end the budget stalemate so homeless youth are no longer at risk for physical, sexual and emotional harm.”

The impasse in Springfield over Rauner’s budget cuts has already had a severe impact on the city’s estimated 12,186 unaccompanied homeless youth (according to a CCH 2014 analysis) aged 14-21. Statewide, the CCH quotes Illinois State Board of Education estimated numbers from the 2013-14 public school year at 59,112.

A. Anne Holcomb is a supervisor at Ujima Village Homeless Shelter. The organization was represented at the event by some of the youth it serves alongside those from The Broadway Youth Center (BYC), Unity Parenting & Counseling Inc., Neon Street Dorms and performers from the OH! Homeless Youth Group.

“We get 98 percent of our funds from the state,” Holcomb told Windy City Times. “We haven’t had funding from them since June 30. If the city hadn’t helped us out temporarily, we would be closed by now. We had a plan in place to shut down. The parent organization would have survived but the shelter wouldn’t have made it. But the city help is not going to last forever. We’re already having to cut stuff. We can’t give kids transit cards so they have to walk across two gang lines to go to their social workers, they can’t go to job interviews. Some of them can’t go to school.”

At the open of the rally, Holcomb played devil’s advocate donning a mask of Rauner and responding to requests from two performers from OH! who begged him to sign a budget that would fund the state’s homeless youth programs.

“I am not going to sign a budget until the legislature supports my turnaround agenda,” Holcomb replied as Rauner. “Why don’t you be good kids and just go home to your parents? Why don’t you just get a job? You’re old enough to work. Are you lazy? The American dream is there for anyone who pulls themselves up by their own bootstraps.”

“It’s extremely hard to get a job when you’re homeless and you don’t have a phone, address or interview clothes or even a bus card,” the kids replied. “It’s very hard to go to college when you’re homeless and you don’t know where you are going to sleep and you have to carry your books and clothes around with you. Besides, Pell Grants don’t cover all the costs. I don’t have the credit history to qualify for student loans.”

One of Ujima’s former residents has managed to go to college. But James Ivory told the crowd that he wouldn’t be there if he didn’t have a homeless shelter to go home to at night. “When you’re outside in the cold, when you’re hungry it’s very hard to be happy,” he said. “When you’re unhappy, you make a lot of unhappy decisions.”

However no decisions are being made in Springfield despite the attempts of lawmakers like Harris and Guzzardi.

“This is a huge issue,” Harris told Windy City Times. “The governor has vetoed almost all of the state budget putting at risk homeless youth, childcare, early intervention, services for autistic kids and families and it’s just wrong. Everyone knows what the right solution is. The governor keeps trying to hold the budget hostage to his anti-union policies.”

Harris added that, on Sept. 24, he would present Senate Bill 2046 in Executive Committee that will fully fund programs including homeless youth services, mental health and substance abuse services and supportive housing. “I and my colleagues are dedicated to



James Ivory talks to the crowd during the rally. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

passing that bill over and over again as many times as it takes to provide for those in society who need our help until the governor agrees to step up to the plate and do the right thing,” he said.

“I’m frustrated,” Guzzardi told the crowd. “Frankly, it breaks my heart to have to be hearing from these young people and to have to say to them ‘I’m going to do everything in my power to pass a fair and equitable budget but I have a pretty strong feeling that the governor and the Republicans in the legislature are going to keep that from happening.’ It hurts me to hear us having to justify these services on financial grounds, to say that it’s cheaper to provide services to homeless people than to let them die in the streets. That’s not the argument we need to make. We need to talk about people’s lives. We need to be angry about this.”

Calvin Curtis, a gay youth served by Broadway Youth Center, stepped up to the microphone to speak about his life. “I became homeless about a year ago when I had issues with my family because they didn’t accept that I was gay,” he said. “BYC was one of the first places that I found. It’s helped me on a business and a personal level. If it didn’t exist, I don’t know where I would be or where a lot of my friends would be.”

“I had trouble finding work because I have mental and physical impairments,” Curtis told Windy City Times. “I’ve just been doing the best I can.”

Holcomb and James were two of a small contingent allowed up to Rauner’s office on the 16th floor of the Thompson Center in order to

deliver the cardboard box.

Holcomb—herself a survivor of homelessness—announced to the crowd that the governor was not there but that the box was accepted by his press assistant Jacquelyn Reineke who seemed genuinely moved and pledged to give the box to Rauner.

“She said she understood things were hard,” Holcomb told Windy City Times. “She acknowledged that this was not a good situation. I was pleasantly surprised. It seemed to be an encounter in good faith and I was afraid it wouldn’t be. I was homeless in the ‘80s when there were no programs. In my street family there were nine of us and I was the only one in my group to make it to age 30. If these programs close, people are going to die. You are going to cut Illinois’ right hand off if you don’t invest in our kids.”

Harris was carrying a quote from Pope Francis that he shared with the crowd. It read, “I ask you to ensure humanity is served by wealth and not ruled by it.”

On Sept 24—as Harris presented SB 2046—the pope was delivering a historic speech to a joint session of Congress. “I would encourage you to keep in mind all those people around us who are trapped in a cycle of poverty,” he told lawmakers. “They too need to be given hope.”

For more information about the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, visit <http://www.chicagohomeless.org>.

For more information on The Broadway Youth Center, visit http://www.howard-brown.org/hb_services.asp?id=50.

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WINDY CITY TIMES

HIV/AIDS

Advocates: PrEP controversy makes job difficult

BY BEN SANDERS

HIV/AIDS remains a serious problem within the LGBT community. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in 2013, "gay and bisexual men accounted for 55 percent of the estimated number of persons diagnosed with AIDS among all adults and adolescents in the United States," and "review of studies of HIV infection in countries with data available for transgender people estimated that HIV prevalence for transgender women was nearly 50 times as high as for other adults of reproductive age."

Despite those numbers, Adolfo Luna, the campaign manager for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) at Chicago House and Social Service Agency, and his colleague, Sergio Tundo, are having a difficult time referring individuals who are at risk for HIV for services related to PrEP. Individuals who are currently most at risk for HIV infection include Black men who have sex with men (MSM), MSM ages 18-24 and transgender women.

The PrEP intervention primarily involves taking an oral medication, available in the United States as the pill Truvada. Persons taking Truvada for PrEP are directed to take the pill daily, and regularly undergo blood work screenings and checkups to ensure that the intervention is working. According to San Francisco AIDS Foundation, "PrEP protects against HIV infection much like a malaria pill protects against malaria or a birth control pill protects against pregnancy." PrEP is also the only current biomedical intervention against HIV infection that is currently widely available to an HIV negative person.

Luna's team has, since the beginning of the year, referred 40 individuals to Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) for PrEP; their goal is to have 80 persons referred to HBHC by the end of 2015. Chicago House referred 20 individuals to other area providers for PrEP as well this year.

Thus, they're a little behind at this point, but that's not Luna's fault; the group of people he's targeting lack the resources that other segments of the LGBT population might have. And according to Jim Pickett, director of prevention advocacy and gay men's health at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, this problem is not unique to Luna. He said that organizations all across the country are having a difficult time enrolling at-risk populations.

"From what I can see across the country and in Chicago, the highest uptake is among middle-age white guys," Pickett told Windy City

Times. "And there are middle-aged white guys who are vulnerable to HIV and I don't begrudge anyone taking advantage of prevention tools—that's the goal. But the fact is that middle-aged white guys are not the population where HIV is hitting the hardest in our country. It's hitting the hardest among young gay Black men and among transgender women, and we aren't seeing large uptakes in those populations yet. So we have a lot of work to do."

A huge problem right now for Luna is that people are still misinformed about PrEP and don't view it as a worthwhile intervention, he said. He realized this first-hand while doing outreach work at the event known as Andersonville Midsommarfest in June.

"I don't know if they were joking or not, but some people were saying, 'Oh I'm on PrEP,' and then were like, 'Oh, I'm kidding,'" Luna said. "And others were like, 'Oh, no thank you,' and just grabbed the condoms."

Clearly, he and Tundo have a long way to go before PrEP is universally well regarded. The difficulty is highlighted by the fact that it's a relatively new drug; the FDA didn't approve Truvada for PrEP until 2012.

"It's only been around for three years," Luna said. "That being said, implementation and programs to actually get it out there and for people to actually use it is an even newer task to be dealt with."

"There's a lot of work to be done," he added. "It's about learning by doing."

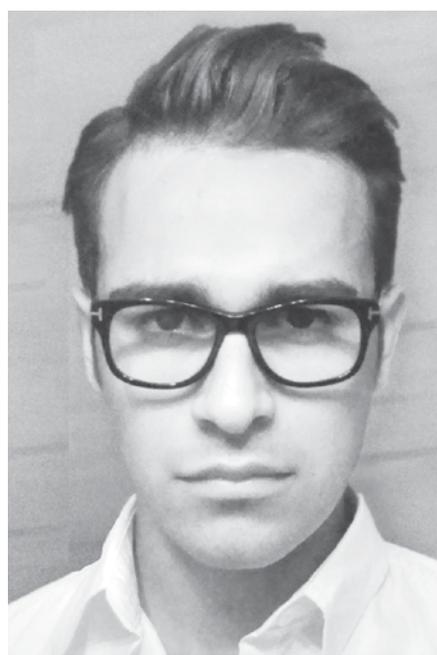
His difficulty enrolling individuals is heightened by five other key factors.

For one, there's a prevailing viewpoint among many young men that the devastation of HIV/AIDS was just a thing of the past. They feel that it is no longer something they should worry about, because they weren't raised in the '80s and early '90s, when this disease was at the forefront, according to Luna.

"HIV is such a big problem among young men, 18-24, because they are so far removed from that era, so they don't see it as a risk and a death sentence like they used to, which is why they are more likely to have condomless sex," Luna said.

Second, there's plenty of concern right now within the LGBT community that individuals on PrEP will be more likely to engage in risky behavior. But the data would suggest otherwise: A 2013 report published in the Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes indicated that there was no evidence that gay men on PrEP engaged in riskier sexual behavior.

"There's no data that shows that somebody



Chicago House's Adolfo Luna.
Photo courtesy of Luna

[on PrEP] is more inclined to be having condomless sex, or is more at risk for STIs, or is engaging in sex more frequently," Luna added.

Third, there's the reality that many doctors are still either unfamiliar with PrEP or uncomfortable prescribing it to their patients.

"It's been slow but rewarding," Luna said about the process of trying to inform the medical community about the facts related to PrEP. "Slow in that it's difficult to engage with medical providers, because we're a social service agency and we don't have access to networks that a medical provider would...but when we do tap into some networks of providers, it's rewarding because usually they receive the information pretty well and understand the value that this [PrEP] can have in impacting HIV and AIDS."

Fourth, many people, even if they are aware of PrEP, aren't sure if the intervention is effective. For example, some statistics suggests that PrEP has less than a 50-percent effectiveness rate, but those studies show those numbers increasing dramatically when testing subjects took Truvada as directed.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told Windy City Times that any study claiming that Truvada has less than a 90-percent effectiveness rate is one in which subjects aren't taking the drug as instructed.

"If you take the pill, as directed, every day, without a doubt, and you can document that there's blood levels that prove that you've taken it, it is virtually 95-plus percent effective," he said. "When you don't take the medication, you can get infected... Whenever there is an inadequate result [in a study], it is always related to adherence."

Lastly, there's the issue of expense. Truvada for PrEP is about \$1,500 a month, but there are four separate assistance options available, de-

pending on one's situation: The Gilead Co-pay Coupon Card, for individuals who are insured; Gilead's U.S. Medication Assistance Program, for HIV-negative adults who aren't insured and meet certain income restrictions; Partnership for Prescription Assistance Program, which helps uninsured Americans pay for prescriptions at little to no cost, as long as they meet certain requirements; and the Patient Access Network Foundation, a co-pay assistance program, which requires that the patient is insured, resides in the U.S., and makes less than 500 percent of the Federal Poverty Line, which was about \$58,350 in 2014.

One financial issue that arises frequently is that none of these programs cover the cost of the four doctor appointments and the four lab visits for blood work that are required each year in order to stay on PrEP. Luna acknowledges that this is a big barrier for enrollment, especially considering that the at-risk community for HIV isn't financially stable. According to Movement Advancement Project (MAP) and Center for American Progress (CAP), trans people are nearly four times more likely to have a yearly household income below \$10,000; and CAP reported that Black male couples have a poverty rates of 14.4 percent.

However, Luna doesn't believe that all of these hurdles are insurmountable. As far as finances are concerned, he said that people "who aren't insured or have really bad insurance" and aren't eligible for the sliding fee scale will be able to receive coverage from the Affordable Care Act as it continues to expand.

In addition, Luna hopes that as more people learn the true facts about PrEP, its image will change—for the better.

"Once quantitative data shows that it's a successful and effective intervention I think it's going to, one, debunk a lot of the myths and fears around PrEP and, two, help incorporate that into conversations about safer sex," he said.

PrEP community forum Oct. 1

"Are you prepared for PrEP?"—a community forum to explore the optimal use for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention—will take place Thursday, Oct. 1, at the Conference Chicago at University Center, 525 S. State St.

The event will be 5:15-8:30 p.m. for community members, and 5:15-9 p.m. for providers. Dinner will be served.

AIDS Foundation of Chicago's Jim Pickett will be the community presenter.

Providers and healthcare professionals with questions should contact Med-IQ at 866-959-7434 or info@med-iq.com. ASO/CBOs and consumers should contact HealthHIV at 202-232-6749 or christopher@healthhiv.org.

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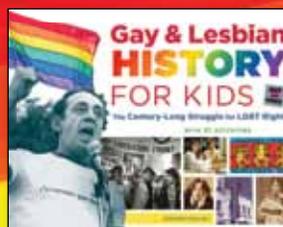
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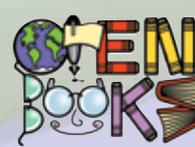
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Chicago transgender couple are engaged, inspiring others

BY ROSS FORMAN

For his 18th birthday, some older friends took Taylor Powell to a nightclub in Nashville, as he was living in Shelbyville, about an hour away. Sara Andrews was working at the club that night, as she had for quite some time, and when she came out on stage to perform, Powell was instantly smitten.

Powell immediately told his friends that Andrews was going to be his—even though Powell didn't even know her name.

They laughed at Powell and said that Andrews was too pretty, too old and way out of Powell's league.

"I had never seen a trans person, so I was very confused by the fact that this drag queen had breasts. Anyway, I didn't care. I knew that there was a beautiful person standing on that stage that I wanted to know more about," Powell said. "I was trying to think of ways to talk to her, or have her notice me. I heard over the microphone that they were holding auditions for drag kings and decided, 'What better way to talk to a drag queen than to be a drag king?'"

A week later, Powell threw on a button-down shirt, glued some hair to his face and headed back to Nashville to make his debut as "Nathan Blaze."

"I made the cast and had my first show the very next week," Powell said. "I went backstage and we just started talking about nonsense and instantly connected in my opinion. She claims she thought nothing of it. Either way, the next week I showed up with flowers. The week after that I brought my guitar and sang her a song that I'd written for her."

Three years later—and now living and working in Chicago—they are engaged to be married, though Powell still likes, and actually prefers, to simply be labeled as, boyfriend and girlfriend, which "sounds way cuter," he said.

Powell, now 21, is a trans man who is a manager at Dive Bar in Lake View, and he still enjoys dabbling in music, playing his guitar and singing the first things that come to his mind. Andrews, 34, is a trans woman and works as a national drag artist and entertainer, and a diva at The Kit Kat Lounge and Supper Club. Andrews also admittedly is a big video gamer who has received international mainstream media exposure a few years ago for supposedly "championing gay rights for gamers," she said. In fact, if you look at Wikipedia for the definition of the word 'gaymer,' you'll find her name.

Andrews transitioned at about 21, while Powell just recently started hormone replacement therapy, though he has lived as a boy for the past three years.

Their first date was three years ago—while Powell was still in high school, which Andrews didn't know at the time. Powell was working the night shift at Burger King, so, needless to say, money was scarce. He borrowed \$50 from his mom and picked up Andrews as they were going to a movie.

"I tried to take her to dinner beforehand, but she wouldn't let me," Powell said. "We went to see 'The Woman in Black.' I still don't know what happened in that movie because she was much more interesting."

"I'm a firm believer in the saying, 'Happy wife, happy life.' [So.] whatever she wants, she gets. It's been that way from the beginning. Now, she's a spoiled brat, but I guess I've got no one to blame but myself. I can be bull-headed and have a tendency to argue sometimes, but at the end of the day she ultimately wins out. I'm cool with that."

Powell said their 13-year age-difference has not been a major obstacle. In fact, "I love the

age-difference," he said. "I've always been quite the little cougar-chaser anyway. I always had crushes on my English teachers in high school. Sara is older and she's well spoken with a big vocabulary. Just my type."

Andrews laughed. "What can I say? I'm a cougar," she said. "I think the age-difference works because I'm basically a big kid with Peter Pan syndrome; I refuse to grow up. And it doesn't hurt that Taylor is way more mature than I ever was at 21 ... or am now, to be honest. He keeps me from getting too crazy, and I make sure he acts a little crazy sometimes. It works."

Powell said his family has been very supportive of his transition. Some of his longtime friends, though, are a bit small town-small minded, he said. They say to Powell, "I love you, but you will always be a girl to me."

"But they love me regardless, so I guess that's the silver lining," he said.

Andrews admitted that a lot of her friends were at first "very freaked out" by her relationship with Taylor. "They didn't understand it," she said. "It's funny how, even in the gay community, people can be less open-minded than you would think they would be."

The loving trans duo truly are role-models for a younger generation of trans, trans-curious and trans-questioning. But each is modest in that spot.

"I don't think I'm anyone's idol," he said. "I'm just a lucky guy [who] had a little hurdle to jump over in the beginning. I just feel lucky to have a great job, a loving family, and a person who loves me to share my life with. I don't think I should be idolized for that. I just want the younger trans people who are scared to transition to know that they can make it through whatever life throws at them. Work hard, think hard, try hard, and love hard. That's what we all have to do, trans or not."

Andrews added, with a smile, "Oh gosh, I pity the poor soul [who] would look up to me as a role model." But still, Andrews has had quite a few girls over the years tell her that it was seeing her onstage that inspired them to start their transition. "That's pretty awesome to think that I had something to do with inspiring others to live their lives the way that they want," she said.

"I've always believed that drag queens are sort of like muses. We inspire people. And that's why I think it's important to have transgender drag queens in the mix. Chances are, there are going to be some young trans individuals in that audience that just happened to discover their sexuality before discovering what it means to be transgender and that need a little inspiration and courage."

Andrews definitely has helped Powell with his transition, without question.

"She was a tremendous help to me," he said. "When we first got together I was still in the in-between phase. I was a lesbian in my home town, but too afraid to be a boy in Nashville. When we got together, she called me [male pronouns]. But, when she realized that I still lived as a girl she told me, 'I don't care if you want to be a girl or a boy; I just need to know whether to call you my boyfriend or my girlfriend.'"

"As simple a statement [as] it was, I took it to heart and realized that I could find someone who cared about me regardless of my gender conformity. She was the relief to the last fear I had about transitioning. The fear being, 'Who will love someone like me?'"

Powell didn't start his transition until he lived in Chicago. Doing it in Tennessee just wasn't the right time, the right place for him.



Sara Andrews and Taylor Powell.

Photo by Ross Forman

"I was too shy and uneducated about the subject to deal with," it in Tennessee, he said. "I felt like I was supposed to be a boy and that is all I knew. Then, when I moved here, I discovered the Howard Brown Health Center. They made starting my transition so easy. They treated me like a person and just had me read and sign a written consent form. I did blood work the same day and started hormones the following week. It was amazing. I wish all trans people in the nation were so fortunate to have a place like that."

When asked about Caitlyn Jenner, arguably the world's most high-profile transgender, Andrews said, "I think, despite some of the flaws I see in the situation and in her political views, her presence in the media is going to do far more good than bad for the trans community. And that's awesome. Overall, I'd say that her media attention has helped move the trans-equality movement forward quite a bit. Because of her, I might actually witness a

time when transgender people aren't so taboo. Imagine how much sooner I might have transitioned if I wasn't so worried about being considered a 'freak.' Hopefully future generations won't have that to worry about that."

Powell said trans man Skyler Kergil was "inspiring" and helped him feel more comfortable with the idea of being trans.

"My biggest trans role model is Calpernia Sarah Addams," Andrews said. "She was actually the first trans person I ever met. She was also a drag queen at the big gay club in Nashville when I first started sneaking in to perform at age 17. She hosted the amateur night, so she became one of my first mentors. But, more importantly, she became a huge trans activist some years later. And, when I decided to transition, she helped me find resources both locally and online to get me started. Because of that, I took her middle name as my first and dropped the 'H.' She's one of the funniest and most intelligent trans women I know."

LGBTQ health symposium Oct. 2

Howard Brown Health Center and Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center will present the Midwest LGBTQ Health Symposium Friday, Oct. 2, at Advocate's Olson Auditorium, 836 W. Wellington Ave.

Health-care professionals will learn about LGBTQ health-care best practices and challenges. Among the topics that will be discussed are LGBTQ health disparities, advances practices in HIV care, transgender health and hormone replacement therapy, and surgical solutions.

For more information, contact Cecilia Hardacker at CeciliaH@HowardBrown.org or 773-388-1600, ext. 5123. To register, visit AdvocateHealth.com/seminars or call 800-323-8622 Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-7 p.m. or Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.



U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin.

Planned Parenthood thanks Durbin, Kirk

President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Illinois Action Carole Brite recently issued a press release thanking Republican U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk and Democratic U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin for opposing another bill that would have blocked federal funding for Planned Parenthood.

Kirk was one of at least six Republicans who voted against this "shutdown bill"—a measure that the organization said would have taken away care from millions of pa-

tients, including the nearly 70,000 Planned Parenthood patients in Illinois.

Brite said, "Fortunately for us in Illinois, we were able to count on the leadership of Senators Kirk and Durbin who wisely voted against defunding Planned Parenthood. Thanks to Illinois's two Senators Planned Parenthood is able to continue to provide critical care like breast and cervical cancer screenings, STI tests and birth control to serve thousands of Illinois women it sees every year."

Cecile Richards, the president of Planned Parenthood Action Fund, also thanked the senators.

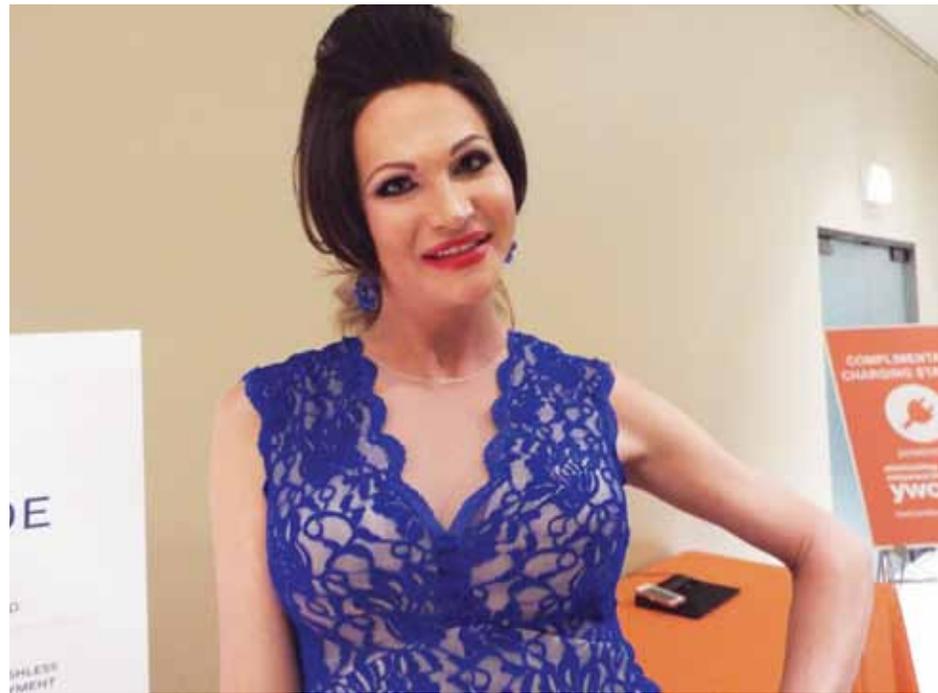
YWCA honors trans woman with New Look of Leadership

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

The YWCA Metropolitan Chicago made a significant declaration during its 4th annual New Look of Leadership fundraiser and fashion event at Macy's on Sept. 22 when local entre-

preneur and advocate Kinley Preston stepped up to the catwalk and dazzled the over 350 attendees, wearing an elegant gown and fur.

Preston was the first transgender woman to be honored by the YWCA as one of the evening's 23 "business, civic and community leaders who



Kinley Preston.
Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

demonstrate the strength, diversity and style that is positively impacting Chicago's workplaces," according to a YWCA press release.

The owner of Vanité and member of multiple boards including GLAAD and the Chicago House TransLife Center advisory committee, Preston has been singled out for redefining empowerment, having fought her way out of a personal abyss of homelessness, police profiling, abuse and discrimination to become a prolific leader and benevolent source of inspiration for the transgender community.

"We have amazing leaders in Chicago," YWCA Metropolitan Chicago Chief Executive Officer Dorri McWhorter told Windy City Times. "They are doing good things in the community and really making Chicago an amazing place. Kinley is our first transgender leader and we are so excited to demonstrate that the city is doing some things differently."

Preston joined a roll call of diversity, each adorned in the latest design chic for every occasion. The names included author and Northwestern University Associate Director Dr. Susanna Catherine Calkins, owner and founder of BECLOTHESMINDED Heidi Best, and PNC Bank Executive Vice President Terri Cable.

Event emcees were Kathleen Henson, founder and CEO of Henson Consulting, and Challenger, Gray & Christmas Inc. Senior Vice President

Cindi Cervone Carlson.

"With the YWCA being one of the oldest and largest women's organizations—let alone a Christian organization—I think this speaks volumes to where we have come as trans people," Preston told Windy City Times. "I feel validated by an amazing organization not just as a woman but for all the work I do. What's also amazing is that this has come from outside the LGBT world."

According to McWhorter, the event's honorees are referred to the YWCA by individuals who have recognized their work in the community. She said the organization was impressed by Preston's courage and ability to be a role model for others. "We like people with voices and who use them," she added.

"It's a little overwhelming," Preston acknowledged. "I was sweating bullets when I walked in because you never know how things are going to go. But I felt very welcomed by the YWCA and all the other nominees."

Funds raised from the evening go towards the YWCA's mission of "eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all."

For more information about the YWCA, visit <http://www.ywcachicago.org/site/c.fmJWkC0ZJkI6G/b.8235297/k.BF47/Home.htm>.

Nat'l Coming Out Day event Oct. 10

The National LGBTQ Task Force and the 2016 Creating Change conference host committee are hosting a "National Coming Out Day" celebration on Saturday, Oct. 10, at the University of Illinois in Chicago's Puja Gallery, 1255 S. Halsted St., 1-3 p.m.

LGBTQ people of all ages will get together to share their stories about "coming out" and living their lives genuinely on National Com-

ing Out Day. The event is free and open to the public.

This event leads up to the 28th Creating Change conference set to take place Jan. 20-24, 2016, at the Hilton Chicago. See CreatingChange.org for more information about the conference.

For more information about the Oct. 10 event, RSVP at <https://www.facebook.com/events/986451214731884/>. Also, performers can register at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16skyX-qyVfQF_4sBKGfIERxSFBrlFTdjlQtA48C494/viewform?c=0&w=1.

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Faderman puts history in its place in 'The Gay Revolution'

BY SARAH TOCE

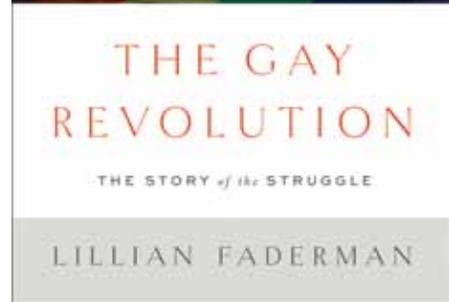
Six-time Lambda Literary Award winner Lillian Faderman is breaking new ground with a historical account of the LGBT movement that encompasses almost seven decades.

In *The Gay Revolution: The Story of the Struggle*, Faderman takes the temperature of a civil-rights battle spanning multiple generations across many divides in an effort to unite a community that has, it seems, splintered into various silos.

"W. Dorr Legg, one of the founders in the '50s of the first national homosexual magazine [ONE], said that homosexuals had to battle the Four Horsemen of the Gay Apocalypse: the psychiatrists, the law, social prejudice and religion. We've slayed three of them," Faderman explained. "The American Psychiatric Association declared us sane in 1973 and took us out of its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. The Supreme Court declared our lovemaking legal by repealing all sodomy laws in 2003. Public opinion has changed so much in our favor that over 60 percent of Americans said they were in favor of same-sex marriage before DOMA was repealed on June 26, 2015. But the battle isn't over."

Insert the Kim Davis prototypes throughout the country here.

"Though some denominations of Protestant-



ism and most of Judaism now even support same-sex marriage, the Fourth Horseman still hasn't given up the joust," Faderman said. "We see that by the dust up with the Fundamental marriage clerk in Kentucky [Davis] who wants to bring her prejudices to work in the name of religious freedom, and by the attempts—fortunately unsuccessful—in Indiana and Arkansas a few months ago to pass a homophobic Religious Freedom Restoration Act."

Faderman utilized the Four Horsemen mentality for conceptualizing *The Gay Revolution*.

"I wanted two sorts of subjects: the movers and shakers who were in the forefront of fighting for our rights, and everyday LGBTQ people who had stories to tell about how those 'Four Horsemen' affected them, or stories about their experiences as foot soldiers in the struggle," she said. "I wanted people from all generations, and I wanted a geographical spread: so I interviewed not only people from New York, California and Washington, D.C., but also people from areas such as Washington state, Massachusetts, Texas, Florida, Minnesota, and Colorado—places where crucial things happened

in the story of the struggle for civil rights."

Davis is a not-so-gentle reminder of how much work still needs to be done post-Supreme Court marriage equality victory.

"It's impossible to believe that because the Supreme Court decided that same-sex couples can get married all our struggles for LGBT rights are over," Faderman said. "We've been loudly reminded by county clerk Kim Davis's refusal to marry same-sex couples in Kentucky—and the Right's rush to depict her as a Christian martyr—that not even the marriage battles are over."

There are other battles to be won at the present time as well.

"In 1974 and '75, Bella Abzug and Ed Koch, U.S. representatives from New York, proposed to Congress an Equality Act that would give gay people federal protections against discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations—all the protections enjoyed by other minorities," she said. "Abzug and Koch could get no traction for their bill. Forty years later, we still don't have those federal protections. As long as Congress remains in the hands of the Republicans, we're unlikely to get them. And the battle for trans rights has barely begun. Despite the passage of the 2009 federal hate-crimes bill, transgender people are, it seems, increasingly frequent victims of hate crimes. It's obvious that we still have a way to go before all LGBT people will truly be first-class American citizens."

With a myriad of historical accounts to comb through in order to even scratch the surface of the LGBT movement over the course of the past 65 years, there are bound to be a few critics.

"Of course, there have been critics who would have liked more emphasis on whatever is most important to them, less emphasis on whatever isn't; more discussion about what happened in their city, less discussion about what happened in another city," Faderman said. "As I traced almost 70 of the struggles for our rights, I tried to look at how the fights were waged by radicals and mainstreamers; the rich and the poor; white people and people of color; people on the coasts, in the South, in the Midwest; lesbians, gays, trans people and so on. I tried to make the story as inclusive as I could in one volume."

Faderman recalled one particular story of interest that she believes will appeal to a younger generation of activists.

"I want young people reading the book to understand what a long hard fight it's been to win the rights we now enjoy," she said. "I hope they'll be moved by stories such as that of Charlene Strong, a Seattle woman whose partner, Kate Fleming, drowned in a 2006 flash flood. Though they'd been together for 10 years, Charlene wasn't even allowed to go into the hospital room when Kate was dying because they had no legal or blood ties; the mortuary didn't even allow Charlene to make decisions about Kate's funeral, though it was Charlene who'd be paying the mortuary's bill. But the happy side of the story is that Charlene's powerful testimony to the Washington state legislature led eventually to the passage of Washington's domestic-partnership law, which led in 2012 to its legalization of same-sex marriage."

The older generation of readers might relate more to Frank Kameny's story of struggle.

"Frank Kameny was a Harvard Ph.D. who was thrown out of his government job in the 1950s when it was discovered that he'd been arrested as a homosexual in a police sting," Faderman recalled. "His firing made him one of the first militant activists. In 1965, at a time when most



Lillian Faderman.

Photo by Phyllis Irwin

gay people lived deep in the closet, Kameny organized homosexual pickets in front of the White House, the State Department and the Pentagon. He helped scores of other homosexuals fight their dismissal from government jobs. He was the one who encouraged Leonard Matlovich to be the first 'avowed homosexual' to fight his military discharge—and they enjoyed an unprecedented win against the Department of Defense."

Approximately 75 pages of *The Gay Revolution* were left on the cutting room floor.

"I'd written a lot about LGBT people in sports—stories of figures like Billie Jean King, Martina Navratilova, Michael Sam and Jason Collins. I cut all of that," she said. "I'd also traced in a lot more detail stories of the way the media has changed: for instance I'd written about Ellen DeGeneres' struggle in 1997 to keep working after she came out as a lesbian on her sitcom *Ellen*. And I also cut a whole section that focused on the most homophobic churches and included stories such as Sister Jeannine Gramick's challenge to the Catholic Church through her New Ways Ministry that serves LGBT people. I was afraid a book that was approaching a thousand pages would get few readers. But I hope to publish a lot of that material in articles."

One topic that could not be cut for the first edition involved the HIV/AIDS crisis.

"The AIDS epidemic was the greatest tragedy

in LGBT history," Faderman said. "But, ironically, it also led to important things for the community. It brought a lot of people out of the closet. Some were involuntarily outed by the signs of the disease; but many others made the decision that in the face of such calamity the closet was a stupid place to be. They came out to help fight for more government funding to search for a cure. They came out to be at the side of friends who were dying. They came out in expressions of brotherhood and sisterhood with the ill."

The epidemic also united a community that had previously been divided.

"In the 1970s, lesbian feminism had fostered a serious split between lesbians and gay men, whom lesbians considered to be no less chauvinistic than straight men," she remembered. "But as the women saw how appalling the epidemic was, they put aside their old animosities: they created food banks for people with AIDS; they sat at the side of the sick and dying; they joined groups such as ACT UP or AIDS Project Los Angeles, fighting alongside gay men or raising money to help in the fight. It don't think any of us in the LGBT community, sick or well, was unaffected by the horrors of the epidemic. The struggle to control the disease was ultimately victorious; and I think it helped us realize we could work together and fight together and win."

Politically speaking, the best candidate for the 2016 will not be in the red party.

"No Republican candidate has dared to make an unequivocal statement of support for us," Faderman said. "All the Democratic candidates are on our side. So if you care about the LGBT fight for equality, I think party choice is a no-brainer. I also think it's time America had a woman in the Oval Office; and I absolutely trust Hillary to do the right thing by us—to fight on our side and to win."

When President Barack Obama exits the Oval Office, his legacy will include a host of LGBT accomplishments.

"President Obama helped us accomplish vital goals," she said. "In 2009, he signed into law the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. It was the first federal law that offered protection not only to gay people, but to trans people as well. That same year, as soon as he got into office, he also urged the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and though it took another three years, LGBT people can now serve openly in the military. But I think he'll be remembered most for having 'evolved' on the issue of same-sex marriage and coming out in support of it. His Presidential statement made a big difference in changing the minds of the preponderance of the American public in favor not only of same-sex marriage but of lesbian and gay rights in general."

One of the most common misconceptions about the overall arc of the LGBT movement involves the timeline.

"I've heard so often statements like, 'Look how quickly society changed its mind about LGBT rights,' but it took seven decades of intense struggle," Faderman explained. "That's hardly quick."

Faderman and her wife, Phyllis Irwin, reside in San Diego. They have one son, Avrom Irwin Faderman, who is 40 years old, and a grandson named Nilakash Irwin Roy-Faderman.

Learn more about Lillian Faderman and *The Gay Revolution: The Story of the Struggle* at <http://www.lillianfaderman.net>.

ACLU of Illinois' legal director stepping down

After more than three decades appearing in courts and legislative bodies on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, Legal Director Harvey Grossman will step down from the position while continuing to serve as a senior counsel to the organization, according to a press release.

Grossman, a celebrated civil-rights lawyer,

has tried cases at all levels of state and federal courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States.

He successfully argued two cases before the Supreme Court of the United States and more than fifteen cases in the United States Courts of Appeal for the Seventh and Ninth Circuits, the Illinois Supreme Court and the Illinois Appellate Court. He has litigated more than 50 civil-rights cases, primarily class actions, to judgment in the trial courts.

Associate Legal Director Ben Wolf has been named as the acting legal director.

HBHC from cover

benchmark numbers of patients. A full litany of services, including primary medical care, behavioral health services, STI/HIV screening and treatment and social services are expected by early 2016. There will also be a pharmacy, meeting room and space for social functions.

Besides continuing to operate its library, archives and exhibition areas, Gerber/Hart will organize exhibits in HBHC's public spaces, Barnett explained, adding, "It allows us to show our archival material, but also speaks to the patients in this environment, in a way that can be something more than looking at a People Magazine."

"Our hope is that the relationship creates a seamless experience for people who visit the building," Munar noted. "The cultural activities in the library and archive are kind of embedded in the clinical and wellness activities that we have downstairs."

Gerber/Hart has a new volunteer coordinator and will be undergoing heavy recruitment of volunteers, which will be needed as the library expands its hours. The organization also continues to look for a new executive director.

Rogers Park is an extremely diverse part of the city, and Munar said that its demographics fit in well with HBHC's mission.

"There's a thriving LGBT community and it's increasingly a cultural hub," he said. "Our mission is to serve individuals who are medically underserved. Rogers Park has high rates of uninsurance, health disparities and poverty. There's documented unmet need. It's also important because we've grown significantly in our two clinics—last year we saw a 25-percent increase in patients, expanded our workforce and hours and added examination rooms, but we're about at capacity in those sites."

Each week, about 50-70 individuals seek services at HBHC for the first time, Munar added.



Artist's rendering of the new HBHC clinic in Rogers Park.

"For folks at this northern tip of the city, it will be more convenient to get here, and when folks need more timely appointments, this will give us another option and open our schedule at the other two clinics," he added. "When we were named a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), we had to designate a service area, and for us that area was the Red Line corridor from Howard to Diversey. Our goal is to eventually

diversify into other parts of the city as well."

Munar and Barnett said the organizations had been in talks for a year and had been prepared to move ahead with the plan even had HBHC not gotten an FQHC designation, which it did receive this summer.

"Being given that was a huge stamp of approval from the feds, and given our rocky history, that was like the Good Housekeeping Seal

of Approval," Munar said.

"We like to think of ourselves as the organizations with rocky pasts that are emerging from the ashes together," added Barnett, laughing. "But the visibility this will bring us is significant, and will only enhance our ability to provide our services to the community. Having this partnership will remind people that Gerber/Hart is alive and well."

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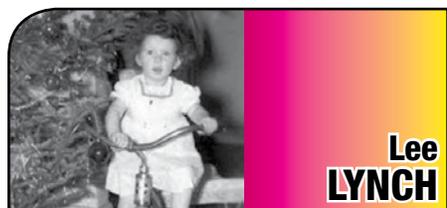
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viewpoints



Lee
LYNCH

THE AMAZON TRAIL Lesbian vacations

Right this minute, friends are traveling through France. I am excited for them—the vacation of a lifetime. They post photos of their adventures on Facebook so I'm following them across France: Paris, Cassis, Marseilles, geocaching in Aix-en-Provence!

I'm not much of a traveler myself. When my sweetheart asked where I'd like to go for my birthday, I gave the usual answer: nowhere. Then I reconsidered. We've been trying to get over to Crater Lake, a geographic wonder filled with the bluest water in the world. We have friends along the way, two of whom have birthdays on either side of mine so it would have been fun to celebrate my 70th with them.

The birthdays happen during the Pacific Northwest's prime fire season. Like most animals, human or not, I don't do well under smoke-filled skies. Still, I'd gotten a bit excited about a short vacation. Who wouldn't? This would be our first, ever, alone-together, no-deadlines, event-free time off—kind of a mini-honeymoon.

Back east, when I took vacations, I'd usually travel to Provincetown, Massachusetts. So did a lot of other gay people. I felt comfortable there holding another woman's hand on the street. Often, of course, these destinations became zoos where non-gays could observe and mock our otherness, our mating rituals, our gloriously outrageous entertainers.

Things are different now. There's no need to seek out a gaycation destination. We decided to avoid the inland threats and travel down the coast. We went as far as the redwood forests, turned all touristy and visited The Trees of Mystery in Klamath, California. It was terrific G-rated nuclear-family-type fun—one of Mother Nature's theme parks—even without gay compatriots around us, though I wondered about the two motorcycle guys in leather. I could have wagged my pinky ring at them, but they never looked our way. We felt safe holding hands everywhere on the grounds.

My favorite things about the Trees of Mystery were: the colossal trees (overawing), the gondola ride above the trees (which we did twice), hiking the easy trail (also twice) and learning life is good, even at age 70. I treated myself to a Three Musketeers Bar, while my sweetheart had a Babe's Blue Berry Frozen Daiquiri topped with whipped cream (named for Paul Bunyon's Babe the Blue Ox). A perfect day.

By the time we returned to our motel, my sweetheart had every symptom of the flu. I put her to bed and raced to Safeway for Dayquil, Nyquil, a thermometer and orange juice.

I suspect anyone fortunate enough to be able to take a vacation risks falling apart at the first incredible moment of breathing free. I know I have. After spending a big chunk of time working and taking care of home, dependents, bills, and every other detail of daily life, if you even hint to your body that it's time to relax, beware. Your immune system may throw in the towel and let the rough-and-tumble germs stampede.

My sweetheart is a good sport. She wasn't about to ruin our vacation or my birthday. The next morning she insisted on visiting the local farmers' market with me. She sat in the car while I plunged into the excited energy of the noisy vendors and shoppers. I was looking for late melons and found my birthday present as



Clovis.

Photo by Lee Lynch

well. It's a red, handmade, oversized, slatted wood cat on wheels that wiggles as you pull it (pictured). I tried to pass it by. I only wanted it for decorative purposes, not to play with—honest. My sweetheart named her Clovis.

We went for a little ride off the main drag. Just followed our noses and ended up at a body of water called Dead Lake. Looked for live birds, saw middle-aged couples fishing (not everything was dead) and two homeless guys warming up on the boat launch dock. Found a small airport and watched a commuter plane land. Put my sweetheart back to bed and went looking for the hidden Shangri-La of a park I'd found years ago. It was impossibly overgrown and the dirt road had potholes the depth of Dead Lake. Guys were coming out of the brush with skateboards under their arms. Shangri-La no more.

Our long weekend went on like that. Lots of quirky surprises. Lots of sleeping for my sweetheart, lots of reading for me. Breakfasting on motel grub and the seeded baguette we brought from home. (Were our friends in France eating baguettes too?) Take out dinners from eateries recommended by locals. Long walks around the harbor for me, snapping photos as I went of dandied up trailer park spaces and surfers in the tame waves. Sitting at the open motel window watching the harbor, falling asleep to the music of barking harbor seals and a fog horn.

One day we drove on a fiendishly narrow gravel road through Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park where my sweetheart felt good enough to accompany me on my annual birth-

day walk over a bridge (all 60 steps of it). This bridge spanned a tributary of the gloriously wild Smith River.

We stopped at every park and ranger station we passed. My sweetheart, on shaky legs, used a walking stick to gather maps and, our passion, post cards! I bought a souvenir mug. My sweetheart bought a souvenir watch cap. We found gifts for friends and family. We took more pictures, especially of old buildings and exotic manzanita trees. Such tourists we were!

We drove halfway home and stopped at another seaside town. My sweetheart had splurged on a room high above the ocean, which was prescient of her because the flu wasn't about to let finish the trip in one day. As we approached the town we saw, then smelled, oily-looking yellow smoke roiling overhead like poisonous steam from a cauldron. We thought the smoke had reached us from the hot, dry east! But no, it was a 60 to 70 acre gorse fire just outside town, started by the backfire of an ATV on the dunes. Gorse burns ferociously and had once leveled that whole town. Our room escaped everything but the soggy smell.

We continued on home—our cooler filled with leftover takeout—nervous to get the invalid into our own bed and rested. She was due at work in the morning. Our friends are posting pictures of Saint-Remy-de-Provence today, including Roman ruins and Van Gogh's asylum. Our camera is filled with ghost signs on Old West brick buildings. Lesbian vacations—as varied and quirky as lesbians.

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Pope and circumstance

Dear Editor:

So much has been made of the pope's visit. As my mother was fond to say, the proof is in the pudding.

So he has come and gone, and still we cannot raise the issue of homophobia in the Church. Some of my friends think I expect to much too soon, and perhaps that is a valid observation about me. After all, I am aged gay man, retired and having a wonderful life, and I've had the opportunity to watch this LGBT-rights movement grow over the years. One wonders where the alphabet soup will end; I see that as strength, not a weakness.

In Chicago, there are still some of our icons who are alive, such as Jim Flint and Chuck Renslow. While I was not always in agreement with their positions over the years, I learned to respect their ethical standards. They were always true to the community. They understood the spirit of compromise, as I hope this pope does.

Most of the LGBT-rights movement of the Stonewall area came not from the heights of society, but from the working class. That may startle some of our young professionals who

are so dazzled by corporate America.

In the twilight of my life I thank God, and all the wonderful people present and past that I have known. One name comes to mind: the Polish Princess. His voice was loud about his faith and commitment to the poor.

Our lesbian sisters have shown me what community means. My mind goes to those at the height of the HIV/AIDS pandemic when fresh blood supplies were needed for those dying of HIV/AIDS, they became our blood sisters. These wonderful lesbians came forward without fanfare, and gave their blood. They humbled me with their actions.

I also remember a group back in the 1980s known as the Committee of Black Gay Men. These took me under their wing to talk to me about racism, and the part I played in it without cutting off dialogue. Those were the days.

So the pope's visit for me was bittersweet. I recognize the reform that is called for in the Church, as it is called for in my life, and the new life the Church appears to be birthing. Yet, I understand that reform cannot happen if we are locked in the ancient hates of the past. By the same token, I do recognize we do not live in a perfect world.

Joe Murray
Chicago

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George Wendt (of Cheers fame, left) and Tim Kazurinsky are in Funnyman.

Photo by Evan Hanover

SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

A 'Marvin's Room' milestone

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

The award-winning comic drama *Marvin's Room*, by the late gay playwright Scott McPherson, isn't a "gay play," per se. The script features no openly gay characters, nor does it explicitly deal with HIV/AIDS like so many other pioneering gay plays of the 1980s and '90s.

But anyone who knows the backstory behind *Marvin's Room* can forcefully argue why the work deserves to be included in the pantheon of great LGBTQ plays. Audiences can once again see why now that Sandy Shinner is directing a 25th anniversary production of *Marvin's Room* for Shattered Globe Theatre. As the company's producing artistic director, Shinner was able to gather a starry cast for *Marvin's Room* that includes Tony Award winner Deanna Dunagan (August: Osage County) and Jeff Award nomi-

nee Linda Reiter (*The Testament of Mary*).

"I knew Scott shortly after he moved to Chicago in 1981 when he was an actor," said Shinner, noting how she directed McPherson in Victory Gardens Theater productions of Dean Corrin's plays *Butler County* and *Gentrification*. McPherson also performed in the area premiere of Larry Kramer's AIDS drama *The Normal Heart* for Next Theatre in Evanston.

"Scott was a joy to work with. We used to go across the street (from the former Victory Gardens Theater space on Lincoln Avenue) to [Potbelly] and have lunch as a cast because he would regale us with stories of his family and things that happened to him," Shinner said. "He clearly had a playwriting voice."

"Till the Fat Lady Sings was McPherson's first full-length play (first produced by Lifeline Theatre in 1987), while the Organic Theater

Company staged his early short play *Scraped*. However, it would be *Marvin's Room* that would ultimately be McPherson's lasting legacy.

Marvin's Room focuses on Bessie, who has devoted a good portion of her life to being a caretaker of elderly and ill family members. But when Bessie herself is diagnosed with leukemia, she has to reach out to her estranged sister's family for help.

Shinner worked as a dramaturg on *Marvin's Room* in workshops and for its 1990 Goodman Theatre debut. She learned from Corrin that McPherson merged two separate plays he was working on at the time regarding medical testing and a dysfunctional family taking a Florida vacation into *Marvin's Room*. But Shinner couldn't exactly pinpoint when McPherson learned about his HIV-positive status in the writing process.

"He wasn't sick at the time, but of course as we know, it was a terrifying diagnosis with dire consequences down the road," Shinner said.

Shinner felt it was so important to reprint McPherson's 1990 program note for the second production of *Marvin's Room* at Hartford Stage for Shattered Globe. In it, McPherson disclosed that he was serving as a caretaker for his lover, the cartoonist and activist Daniel Sotomayor, who was ill from AIDS.

"It's important to remember the history of AIDS when you talk about *Marvin's Room*, but this play is also about caregiving—the rewards of looking after other people and how that is a reward in itself," Shinner said. "That is a universal story that affects all of us. So the play will never go out of fashion."

Marvin's Room was showered with critical praise and a couple of Best Play awards when it opened in 1991 at Playwrights Horizons in New York. It later transferred to the off-Broadway Minetta Lane Theatre for a commercial run.

"Scott knew with the reception *Marvin's Room* got in New York that it was going to live on and that this was going to be a play that would continue on with multiple productions," said Shinner, adding that McPherson was able to finish a screenplay adaptation of *Marvin's Room* before he passed away from AIDS-related complications in November 1992.

To honor McPherson, both the Goodman Theatre and Victory Gardens Theater created a playwriting award in his name. The film version of *Marvin's Room* was subsequently released in 1996 with a starry cast that included Diane Keaton, Meryl Streep and Leonardo DiCaprio.

"I also think it's important to talk about how Scott was out there as a gay artist," Shinner said, adding that even though Sotomayor was known for being much more of an activist, McPherson also did his part by being out and open as gay and HIV-positive at a time when there was so much fear and misunderstanding.

"The great thing about the play is that there's joy and hope and sadness and sorrow

in the same world," Shinner said. "It's a really delicate balance because it's so moving and also so funny—and that was Scott. It's always grounded, it's always real. The tone of the play is who he was."

Shattered Globe Theatre's 25th anniversary production of *Marvin's Room* plays from Thursday, Oct. 1, through Saturday, Nov. 14, at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave. Previews run through Saturday, Oct. 3, with an official press opening at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4.

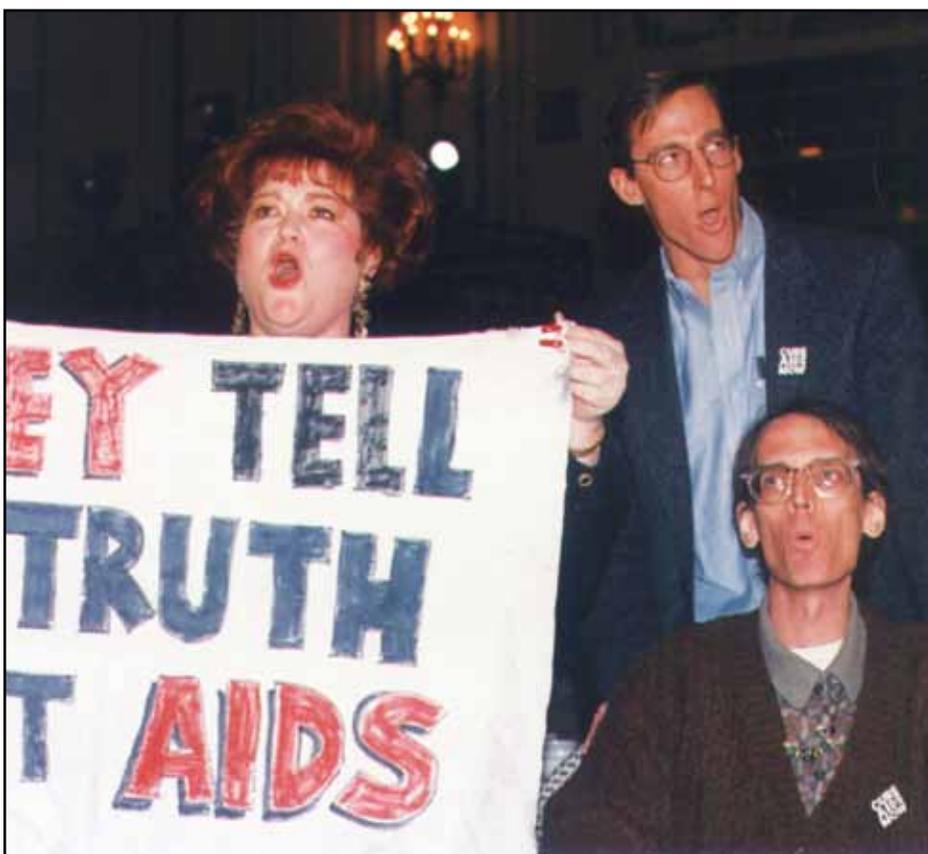
The regular run is 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays with 3 p.m. matinees Sundays (also an added 3 p.m. matinee on Saturday, Nov. 14). Preview tickets are \$20 and \$33 for the regular run. Student and senior discounts are available for select performances. For more information, call 773-975-8150 or visit www.theaterwit.org or www.shatteredglobe.org.

LGBTRIVIA



This Chicago-based actor and playwright is known for such parodies as *Scarrie! The Musical* and *The Birds*, and he is co-founder of the rock band *The Joans*, dedicated to Joan Crawford.

Answer on page 30



Lori Cannon, Mark Schoofs and playwright Scott McPherson at an AIDS protest against Mayor Daley, early 1990s.

Photo by Rex Wockner

River North's Chaves farewell Oct. 3

The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., will host River North Dance Chicago (RNDC) for a special fall engagement as the company says farewell to retiring Artistic Director Frank Chaves Saturday, Oct. 3, at 7:30 p.m.

RNDC's only Chicago performance this season will feature three of Chaves' signature pieces: "Love Will Follow," "Temporal Trance" and "Habaneras, The Music of Cuba." There will also be performances of pieces by others, including Randy Duncan and Nejia Yatkina.

In addition, there will be a cast party at 9:45 p.m. at Roosevelt University's Fainman Lounge, 430 S. Michigan Ave. Tickets (\$100) to the cast party are sold separately from the Auditorium Theatre engagement tickets. To purchase tickets, visit rivernorthchicago.wufoo.com/forms/rivno-cast-party/.

THEATER REVIEW

Disgraced

Playwright: Ayad Akhtar

At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.

Tickets: 312-443-3800;

www.goodmantheatre.org; \$25-\$82

Runs through: Oct. 18

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Immigrants arriving in the United States are usually eager to embrace the reinvention promised those seeking to make our country their home. When this goal is not quickly achieved, the tendency is for their children—lacking first-hand memories of their former society and why their parents left it—to romanticize the old customs. A few more generations are necessary to render families comfortable with hyphenated ethnic designations, celebrations of ancient holidays and vacations (safely protected by North American passports) in the land of their ancestors.

Amir Kapoor, born Abdullah, is first-generation South Asian, his name change reflecting the 1947 restructuring of India's western border to create the nation of Pakistan. He is now a successful corporate attorney, in line for partnership in a prestigious law firm. His Anglo-Caucasian wife, Emily (born Hughes), is an artist heavily influenced by Islamic iconography, and is currently being considered for exhibition at the prestigious Whitney museum. Their nephew, Abe (born Hussein), has succumbed to second-generation nostalgia, speaking fondly of "my people"—as distinct from his present company—and pressuring Amir to involve himself in the high-profile case



Disgraced.

Photo by Liz Lauren

of an imam imprisoned under the Patriot Act. One evening, Jory Brathwaite and her husband, Isaac—co-worker to Amir and curator at the Whitney, respectively—come to dinner and the conversation proceeds to go as wrong as it can go.

Ayad Akhtar's play is not without symposial manipulations designed to keep characters from abandoning the problematic discussion altogether. Once we accept that what we are viewing is not meant to reflect real-life human behavior, but human thought, we can focus on

the questions raised by Akhtar's spokespersons. Is Emily's xenophilia an unconscious refutation of her WASP privilege? Was Isaac's marriage to African-American Jory fueled by similar unease with tribal myths, and did she see in his rebellion a tool facilitating her entry into the power elite? Is Amir correct to reject the bigotry of his forebearers, self-loathing often being the spur to self-improvement? When we gasp in horror at his venting his frustration on his spouse, as the Quran dictates, do we recall how many NON-Muslim husbands have also done so?

Akhtar's play draws no conclusions, its chief purpose being to "get people talking," as the buzzphrase goes. What you take away from hearing things hitherto unsaid, but that the author feels *should* be said, depends largely on what you bring, but next time you see crowds on St. Patrick's Day wearing badges proclaiming "Kiss me! I'm Irish!," take time to appreciate the decades of suffering and hardships upon which such small freedoms are founded.

THEATER REVIEW

Miss Buncle's Book

Playwright: adapted by Christina Calvit from the novel by D.E. Stevenson

At: Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave.

Tickets: 773-761-4477;

www.lifelinetheatre.com; \$40

Runs through: Nov. 1

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Once upon a time—1932, to be specific—in a quiet village located "a short train ride" from London, middle-aged spinster Barbara Buncle finds her income sharply reduced by falling interest rates. To stave off penury, she proposes to write a novel, basing its characters on her

neighbors (with all names changed, of course, including her own) whom she portrays as they are—or in some cases, as they COULD be. The book is an immediate success, but then the citizens of Silverstream begin to recognize themselves in the outrageous populace of "Copperfield"—enraging some, but leading others to question their own lifestyles. By the time a sequel is announced, its publisher's interest in the pseudonymous "John Smith" has extended beyond its lucrative sales figures.

Real-life author Dorothy Emily Stevenson shares with her fictional scribbler a candor inviting her personae to "see themselves as others see them" (as Robert Burns famously remarked), but also to nudge those in need of "waking up." This may require third-party assistance: the cohabiting Ellen King and Angela Pretty may not REALLY be trouser-wearing lesbians exploring the fleshpots of Afghanistan like their literary counterparts, but when the doctor—who, like everybody else in Silverstream, has read the titillating roman à clef—



Miss Buncle's Book.

Photo by Suzanne Plunkett

prescribes a therapeutic holiday in a warm and dry climate, the ladies are soon enjoying camel-back adventures in Egypt.

These are not Downton Abbey nostalgia-porn neurasthenics, however, nor are they mean-spirited Wodehouse-style caricatures (though the frivolous Vivian Greensleeves declaring that she would marry "the devil himself" as long as he had lots of money comes close).

Small economies engendered by post-WWI depression—margarine instead of butter, the prospect of raising chickens at home—play as great a part in the eventual outcomes as the ease of eloping to Paris should the impulse to do so strike, keeping the action always accessible to our Yankee sensibilities.

Long-time Lifeline Theatre subscribers require no more recommendation for this production than its inclusion of Christina Calvit, Peter Greenberg and Jenifer Tyler, though newcomers may have to be told that Calvit's page-to-stage adaptations have made her a five-time Jeff award-winner and that the duo of Greenberg and Tyler have been kindling slow-burning sparks since 2001 in literary romances ranging from Jane Austen to Dorothy Sayers. Add in a tech team savvy in small-space environments and a supporting cast of ensemble regulars in multiple roles, and the results are precisely the kind of engaging entertainment constituting this company's hallmark for more than three decades.

CRITICS' PICKS



American Idiot, The Hypocrites through Oct. 25. A silly and thin story of angst-riddled young adults has been cobbled around the really fine songs of Green Day, but—wowie-zowie!—do these kids ever put on a show! There are kick-ass vitality and talent under director Steven Wilson and music director Andra Velis Simon. JA

How the World Began, Rivendell Theatre, through Oct. 10. Don't be distracted by easy issues like the clueless adults in Catharine Trischmann's un-caricatured portrait of Middle America, or this smart new playwright will pull the rug out from under you, too. MSB

Oklahoma!, Paramount Theatre, Aurora, through Oct. 18. Despite Scott Davis' puzzlingly abstracted set designs, this rendition of Rodgers and Hammerstein's groundbreaking 1943 Broadway musical is smartly cast and expertly performed. SCM

Samantha and Her Acro-Cats, Vittum Theatre, Oct. 1-4. Eat your heart out, Andrew Lloyd Webber! Samantha Martin's amazing trained kitties and their nationally renowned stunt-show are the real furry-pawed deal. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

Funnyman

Playwright: Bruce Graham

At: Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie

Tickets: 847-673-6300

or www.northlight.org; \$25-\$79

Runs through Oct. 18

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

The ongoing love affair between Northlight Theatre and playwright Bruce Graham continues with the world premiere of Funnyman. This reflective and history-inspired comedy would stand very well on its own from the playwright with previous Northlight hits like *The Outgoing Tide*, *Stella & Lou* and *White Guy on the Bus*.

But what makes Funnyman even more of a must-see is its starry headliners: George Wendt of Cheers sitcom fame and Tim Kazurinsky, who appeared in a number of Police Academy films. Wendt and Kazurinsky were supposed to appear in a Northlight revival of Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* a few years back,

but Wendt had to pull out due to health issues. So it's great that the two stars get to finally share the stage together.

Graham's main inspiration for Funnyman is drawn from the unconventional casting of film and stage comic Bert Lahr (best remembered as *The Cowardly Lion* in MGM's 1939 film version of *The Wizard of Oz*) in the American premiere of Samuel Beckett's groundbreaking existential play *Waiting for Godot*. Graham doesn't specifically use Lahr's story, but alternately creates a fictional comic named Chick Sherman (Wendt) who is pressured by his astute agent Milt "Junior" Karp (Kazurinsky) to take on a challenging absurdist comedy called *In Lucy's Kitchen*.

But, of course, there are complications. Sherman doesn't want to perform off-Broadway, and then he gets caught in the constant sparring between young hotshot director Matthew Baroni (Steve Haggard) and flamboyant gay playwright Victor LaPlant (Rob Lindley).

Sherman's family life is also awkward since his grown daughter, Katharine (Amanda Drinkall), enlists the help of her pushily amorous co-worker, Nathan Wise (Michael Perez), to dredge up the story behind the scandalous

disappearance of her late mother.

Now some might find fault with Funnyman since it lacks a sense of urgency. The vital importance of Sherman succeeding with *In Lucy's Kitchen* isn't divulged until late in the game. Meanwhile, the big reveal behind Katharine's mother is a tad too matter-of-fact.

But what is truly enjoyable is watching the personal and professional dynamics unfold between the characters since director BJ Jones has made sure that there aren't any wrong notes between the actors. Wendt in particular is great at showing a showman when he doesn't have to turn the charm on, while Kazurinsky is fun as the constant cheerleader egging Sherman to take greater career risks. The rest of the cast fill out their character types quite nicely in making them real and believable.

Funnyman hammers home the fact that we all must grow and adapt to change, even if that means deviating from the tried-and-true formulas. And that's exactly what Graham has shown with his string of fine Northlight premieres that dramatically vary from play to play.



Gem of the Ocean.
Photo by Michael Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW

Gem of the Ocean

Playwright: August Wilson
At: Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Ave.
Tickets: 1-773-753-4472;
wwwCourtTheatre.org; \$45-\$65
Runs through: Oct. 11

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Gem of the Ocean is the ninth play August Wilson wrote in his great cycle of 10 plays about African-American life in the 20th century, but it's the first in chronology, set in 1904. As are most of the plays, it's set in the Hill District ghetto of Pittsburgh when it still was a vital community, with great homes and important people as well as ordinary folks.

Gem of the Ocean—a slave ship's name—takes place in one of the great houses, home to revered healer Aunt Ester (Jacqueline Williams), who says she's 285 years old. She's spoken of several times in Wilson's Century Cycle, but she appears only in this play in which she conducts a soul-cleansing spirit journey for the troubled young hero, Citizen Barlow (Jerod Haynes). Several characters, notably brother and sister Caesar (David Alan Anderson) and "Black" Mary Wilks (Tyla Abercrombie), are names that recur in following plays as their descendants populate other works in the Cycle. Several more characters were born into slavery and are veterans of the Underground Railroad. Gem of the Ocean, then, is intended as a bridge between the past and future of African-American life and sets the stage for the plays which follow it chronologically, even if not written in se-

SPOTLIGHT



The Kinsey Sicks are so serious about being "America's Favorite Dragapella® Beautyshop Quartet" that they've gone so far as to register the word "Dragapella®" with the national trademark office. So see what these amazing *a cappella* artists have cooked up for their latest revue, Chicks with Shticks, that promises to feature a bit of Carole King, lots of pop hits and even some Gershwin classics. The Kinsey Sicks in Chicks with Shticks plays at 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, at the Mayne Stage, 1330 W. Morse Ave. Tickets are \$25 to \$35; call 773-381-4554 or visit www.maynestage.com or www.kinseysicks.com.

Photo by Paco Ojeda

quence.

It's beautiful, mystical and frequently warm and humorous but also hard-edged as Wilson doesn't hesitate to illustrate conflicts which sometimes lead to Black-on-Black violence. The play's antagonist is the appropriately named Caesar Wilks. Narrow-minded and doctrinaire, he focuses his anger and suspicion on his own people. He's the arm of White Man's Law on The Hill, wearing a badge and carrying a gun which he doesn't hesitate to use.

This worthy production reveals the pleasures and power of the play in the richly-detailed characters and lovely language, but it still needed time to gel as of the second performance, which I saw. The highly-respected and capable Williams took over the pivotal part of

Aunt Ester late in rehearsals (due to the illness of the original actor) and was not fully on top of the role. Without question, she will be by the time you read this. The cast around her is splendid, colorful and nuanced, made up mostly of seasoned Court Theatre and Chicago veterans such as A. C. Smith, Alfred H. Wilson and Steve Schine. If there's a weakness, it's director Ron OJ Parson's decision to downplay the mystical spirit and environment of Aunt Ester's household in favor of realism and a matter-of-fact approach to character and action. Only Jack Magaw's scenic design—the great beams of the house looking like the ribs of a ship—offers physical connection to slave history and the ship Aunt Ester conjures to carry souls on spirit journeys.

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Ryan Wilks' "Straight Acting."
Image courtesy of Polarr



ART

'Gender Treason': Being queer in Kansas City

BY EMILY VON HOFFMAN

Artist and gay-rights activist Ryan Wilks told Polarr about his newest project, which includes long form interviews with and portraits of members of Kansas City's LGBTQIA community. The interviews focus on his subjects as people living more or less ordinary lives—rather than necessarily portraying them as victims of oppression.

Emily Von Hoffman: Can you tell me how the idea for "Gender Treason" came about?

Ryan Wilks: When gay marriage was legalized, I saw this boom on Facebook and other social media platforms of people who were just very very happy, they were thrilled; but then I also noticed a lot of negativity from people who were angry that straight people and queer people now have equality. A lot of those people were in close proximity to my home in Kansas

City, Missouri, so I realized there is still a lot of ignorance in my hometown and in the Midwest, in general. I live in the Bible Belt, so it's pretty dominated by conservative theology. I started realizing that I have a voice, I had been wanting to use my voice for so long to address this ignorance that I've seen my entire life, and I just realized that I have every capability in my bones and in my fingertips to make an impactful commentary on the queer population surrounding me in Kansas City, Missouri.

I recently spoke with my FTM Trans friend, who had just gotten his breasts removed a few days prior. I met him around the same time as the Supreme Court decision and started asking him questions, and I realized that if I hadn't talked to him and if I hadn't gotten this story, I never would have had the insight that he was able to give me. I never would have been able to get there on my own. And so then I realized

that basically that's applicable to the entire queer spectrum, even as gay man there's so much I don't know about my own culture. So as much as this is a learning opportunity for everyone living in Kansas City, gay or straight, it's definitely a learning opportunity for me.

EVH: It's interesting to me that you felt, pretty acutely, that the negative social media responses were anchored near you geographically. After Transparent won a Golden Globe, all the people on my feeds were like "Welp, we're there. The revolution happened already," which of course isn't quite accurate, but it feels like the sentiment didn't extend to people around you.

RW: I think it has reached the Midwest in the cities. St. Louis is pretty progressive, Kansas City, Missouri is pretty progressive, but it's the hundreds of miles between the cities in the Bible Belt that are still playing catch-up, and are still transitioning into this new era of acceptance. That's my experience.

EVH: Did you grow up in Kansas City, or outside?

RW: I grew up in Overland Park, Kansas, which is a suburb of Kansas City, and then I spent the second half of my youth in the suburbs of Chicago. And just by being gay in the Midwest, I experienced a lot of bullying as a child, and as a teenager, and as a young adult. So it has always been affecting me.

EVH: Were your family members accepting?

RW: My brother is also gay, and when he came out my family really grasped the totality of it, and they were able to accept it in its entirety. They weren't accepting of it at first at all, I did have to struggle a little bit with getting my parents to understand what it meant and why I was the way I was. And there isn't really any explanation for that, except that I just was.

EVH: It strikes me that a person has to be very self-aware to be able to articulate being anything at any time. That sounds hard.

RW: Yeah, it was a little difficult. It doesn't hinder me now, because generally I'm surround-

ed by people on a daily basis who love me, and it's no longer an issue. But I look around and I see that it is still a huge issue for many other people. There are a lot of resources in Kansas City; Passages is one of them, it's an organization that helps homeless queer youth. It's not an uncommon thing in the Midwest to come out as a teenager and be kicked out of your home, which can lead to underaged prostitution, drug abuse and all that kind of stuff. So I recognize that while it may not be an issue for me anymore, it still is very much an issue for a lot of people in the Midwest.

EVH: On your Kickstarter page, you say that you'll be conducting longer interviews with people you meet, and also painting portraits. Can you talk about what you plan to cover in those interviews, and what went into the decision to include that portion, since most of your past work is exclusively visual?

RW: Yes, so I've already conducted a couple of interviews, one of which was with a transgender woman living in Kansas City. She's a lawyer and she shared about her transition and what it was like before, what it's like now and basically where she hopes to be in the future. With all the subjects, the resounding message in what they're willing to talk about ends up being a very normalized perspective of the human experience. Queer people have been showcased as abnormal, they've been showcased as eccentric and eclectic, but they have never really been framed as normal. So the interview kind of allows the queer person being interviewed to just share their experience, and what I've found already in this project is that their experience is not drastically different than what we expect from heteronormativity.

I mean, we get into relationships, we go get drinks with friends, we order pizza and watch Netflix. And so I'm not really asking questions about their coming out stories, or even nec-

Turn to page 30

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Thousands attend AIDS Run & Walk Chicago

While funds are still being solicited and collected for the 2015 Chicago AIDS Run & Walk, the event was held under beautiful skies Sept. 26 and already has raised more than \$375,000 as the event welcomed more than 2,500 runners, walkers and volunteers.

The annual event raises money in support of AIDS Foundation of Chicago and 35 HIV/AIDS-related beneficiaries, which receive 90 percent of the agency's fundraising.

All money raised is considered "unrestricted" and can be used to support HIV/AIDS programs

and services not fully funded by grants.

The opening ceremony featured music and dance, as well as a loud call for Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner to provide full funding for HIV/AIDS services. Media personality Dean Richards, a longtime AIDS Run & Walk supporter, once again emceed the event. AFC Executive Director John Peller also addressed the crowd.

There was also a display of NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt panels.

To donate or learn more, visit aidsrunwalk.org or call 312-334-0946.



One of the sets of AIDS Quilts on display at AIDS Run & Walk Chicago 2015. Photo by Hal Baim



Above: Chicago Women's AIDS Project at AIDS Run & Walk Chicago 2015. Below: AFC President/CEO John Peller (left) and WGN personality Dean Richards. Photos by Hal Baim



Free CrossTown classes at Center

Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., has teamed with CrossTown Fitness to offer a complimentary high-intensity training experience. The gym, currently located in the West Loop, will open its second location in the Lakeview neighborhood in early fall.

CTF certified trainer Tres Rodgers is hosting the Free Community Total Body Class at Center on Halsted. Classes will be every Tuesday and Saturday, 7:30-8:20 a.m., through the end of November.

Classes will be capped at 40 people; participants can sign up on the CrossTown Fitness website (www.crosstownfitness.com) to secure a class spot. Participants of a Free Community Total Body Class can also enjoy 25 percent off at My Fit Foods, located across the street from Center on Halsted.

Chicago Sky's season over

The Chicago Sky's season is over, as the WNBA team fell to the Indiana Fever 100-89 in Allstate Arena in the deciding third game of their playoff series.

The Fever now advance to the Eastern Conference finals to play either the Washington Mystics or New York Liberty.

Elena Delle Donne—who has been named the league's MVP for this year—scored 40 points, a playoff career high. Tamika Catchings led the Fever with 27 points.

Athlete Ally remembers Berra

Pro-LGBT sports organization Athlete Ally issued a statement in the wake of the passing of iconic baseball player Yogi Berra. Berra died Sept. 22 at age 90.

"We will remember Yogi Berra for his values and his courage. He was a true pioneer for inclusion in sport, and a personal hero of mine. Not only was he one of the best catchers in MLB history, but he was strongly committed to diversity, inclusion and education," said Athlete Ally Founder/Executive Director Hudson Taylor.

Berra joined Athlete Ally as a champion for inclusion in sports and as an Athlete Ally Pro Ambassador in 2013. In July, the organization sent a letter to the White House recommending that Berra receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

“★★★★★” (OUT OF 5) TIME OUT CHICAGO

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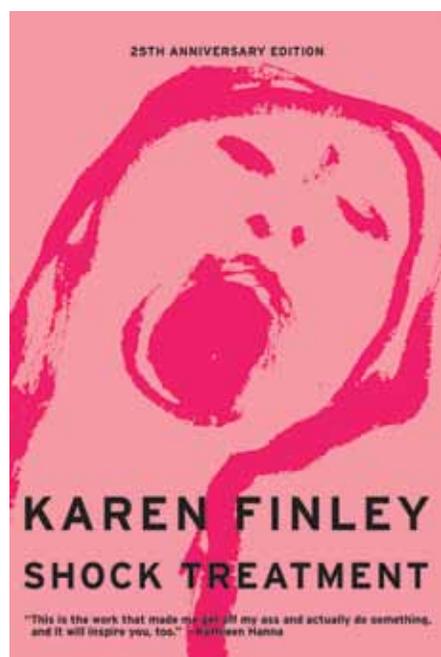
Performance artist Karen Finley talks AIDS, pope and Planned Parenthood

BY SARAH TOCE

Provocative, authentic, engaging, masterful—these are four descriptors that have come to mind when the mere mention of performance artist Karen Finley is presented. From her famous pieces, “We Keep Our Victims Ready” and “Written in Sand,” to a brand-new project that hasn’t even seen the light of day yet called “Sext Me If You Can,” Finley’s emotionally raw endeavors into fine art and the human experience transcends generations.

Finley will appear at Women & Children First Bookstore on Friday, Oct. 2, to support the re-release of *Shock Treatment: Expanded 25th Anniversary Edition*.

“At first, I was thinking that the 25th anniversary of this book wouldn’t have any significance because of thinking the issues that I was



writing about—how would that be responded to today?” Finley reflected. “The book was written in the late ‘80s and came out in 1990, and at that time it was the AIDS crisis. There was extraordinary political indifference to the AIDS crisis and the impact on marginalized people—genderqueer, bi, gay, lesbian—it was at a time when it was being imposed in Congress that there should be camps for people who had HIV. It’s difficult for younger people to imagine the stigmatization at this time. If you died, your death wouldn’t even be announced. It was the family’s right to take the bodies of their loved ones. Death wasn’t announced, just like their lives weren’t announced. We were in war like

we were in war now.”

Finley further elaborated, “Women’s rights were under siege; right now Planned Parenthood’s rights are under siege. At the same time we’re supposed to be looking at progress in some areas, but it’s still not enough—like #BlackLivesMatter. I felt that it was important to put the writing out there again because there is a relationship about voicing the political issues for today. I wouldn’t say I’m excited about the re-release because I’m not excited about the political issues—human issues—we’re facing today.”

In her repertoire, Finley famously performs a piece she calls “Written in Sand,” about her friends who died from AIDS during the height of the epidemic.

“At that particular time the loss was compounded by the lack of dignity and the lack of announcements and acceptance,” Finley said. “That compounded the pain and the loss—that I and my friends—were not allowed to mourn our friends. Everyone was so excited about the Pope, well, where is the Pope? I don’t need the Pope’s forgiveness. I don’t need the Pope’s acceptance. Who is the Church to judge? It concerns me that the Church would curtail the dignity of the right to be buried. The right to be handled with the dignity of mourning ... and that I’m still angry about, and I think it still exists. It’s a paler shade of pain, but it still exists.”

Asked if she had any advice to give the younger generation not alive during the AIDS reaping of the ‘80s and ‘90s who may think they will eventually get the disease, Finley once again stated the best option is non-judgment.

“People are still dying now from sex and HIV,” Finley said. “In terms of political cruelty and policing, people of color are dying—#BlackLivesMatter, for instance. I would never propose for me, as a white, heterosexual woman, to ever tell a person who feels that something is in their future, to ever make a correction about their lives. With that said, a friend of mine decided to commit suicide, and I was always trying to give him hope. I wish I could have been a better friend to let my friend cry a million tears. I cannot be in that person’s space. It’s important to take that anger and that despair and fight for the next generation. Instead of thinking you can walk up the entire staircase, you take one step.”

Finley is currently mulling over a concept she feels more people should explore—acceptance and living in a non-binary way.

“How is a person able to voice their despair in a way that is positive so that they are allowed to have a space like that?” she asked. “Too many times we have the ‘queer character’ and archetype that we allow within our culture and society—within families—and that is very painful to have to live within the narrow spaces where you’re allowed to exist. I want to ask individuals—instead of thinking in black and white because that is binary, too—what are ways of expression that we can all be supporting our bodies and resist against stereotypes?”

Performance art has always held a prominent space in Finley’s heart and she’s circling back around to a couple of concepts she’s been itching to try for quite some time.

“What I’ve been working on in these past two years is finally compiling my writing with music [with Chicago musician Paul Leventhal]. We’re going to be performing in London,” she said.

She is also working on addressing shame and stigma that comes with the subject of sexuality.

“I have a project called ‘Sext Me If You Can.’ In this project, I am in a gallery or in a museum and people send me sexts,” she explained. “They actually purchase a time and go to a



Karen Finley.

Photo by Dona Ann McAdams

green room or an area in the museum and have 10 minutes and then they sext me and I create art based on that image that’s sent to me.”

What happens next walks the line of “healthy” voyeurism.

“The audience can then watch me create the artwork during the compilation,” she said. “It’s

LGBT-history celebration at Open Books Oct. 17

Windy City Times, Open Books and Chicago Review Press will co-host a gathering to promote LGBT history at Open Books’ West Loop location, 651 W. Lake St., Saturday, Oct. 17, 1-3 p.m.

Families of all backgrounds are invited to explore the history of the LGBT rights movement with author Jerome Pohlen, who will lead activities and read from his book *Gay and Lesbian History for Kids*.

Part of the popular *For Kids* series, this book puts the historic struggle for LGBT equality into perspective. Given today’s news, it would be easy to get the impression that the campaign for LGBT equality is a recent development, but it is only the final act in a struggle that started more than a century ago. This timely resource helps put recent events into context for kids ages nine and up.

After a brief history up to 1900, each chapter discusses an era in the struggle for LGBT civil rights from the 1920s to today. The history is told through personal stories and firsthand accounts of the movement’s key events like the 1950s “Lavender Scare,” the Stonewall Inn uprising, and the AIDS crisis.

Readers will learn about civil-rights mavericks, like Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, founder of the first gay-rights organization; Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, who turned the Daughters of Bilitis from a lesbian social club into a powerhouse for LGBT freedom; and Harvey Milk, the first out candidate to win a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Also chronicled are the historic contributions of famous LGBT individuals, and 21 activities enliven the history. Kids can write a free-verse poem like Walt Whitman, learn the Madison line dance, design an AIDS quilt

a way to show that sexting can be a creative outlet and that creative activities can also be sexual and erotic. We shouldn’t be shaming people to the point where they’re committing suicide or losing their livelihood from the humiliation of it. It’s just sophomoric and wrong—and cruel.”

Finley quickly added, “There’s still this hidden desire about sexuality—having it and owning it. If you send an image or receive an image, the whole world comes down. It’s really disproportionate. I’m an artist, I can’t address all the different—people always like to bring up the pathology of desire—children—but that’s not what I’m talking about here.”

The lifelong artist also spearheads a group called Artists Anonymous.

“I created an artist support group that is based on 13 steps for artists who are addicted to art,” she said. “I am powerless over art so I create meetings. I also create participatory walks that I do at certain locations. It’s very small—like 15-20 people—that walk with me.”

Finley will perform readings from her book and offer discussions.

“There will be dramatic readings from some of the texts,” she said. “Some of these texts were deemed obscene or indecent and were part of the culture wars. In 1990 when I was performing and I applied for a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, myself and three other artists’ grants were denied. We had a suit that went to the Supreme Court [Finley vs. the NEA] and my work was considered indecent. I will be performing some of those selections, and then I will be talking about the culture wars.”

Chicago is home to Finley.

“Chicago is my home. It’s where I started creating my work,” she said. “When I go there I feel—to me, it’s my memory of home.”

Find out more about Karen Finley and her upcoming appearance at Women & Children First at <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/author-reading-karen-finley-shock-treatment>.

panel, and write a song parody to learn about the spirited ways in which the LGBT community has pushed for positive social change.

See <http://www.open-books.org/event/lgbt-history-celebration/>.

Jane Lynch dates rescheduled

Lyric Opera will present actress, comedian and singer Jane Lynch (*Glee*) in her cabaret show *See Jane Sing* during the 2015-16 season.

Due to a scheduling conflict resulting from the production schedule of her new CBS series *Angel from Hell*, the dates for Lynch’s *Lyric* performances are moving from the previously announced Dec. 17-18, 2015, to newly confirmed dates on June 17-18, 2016, with performances at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. each evening.

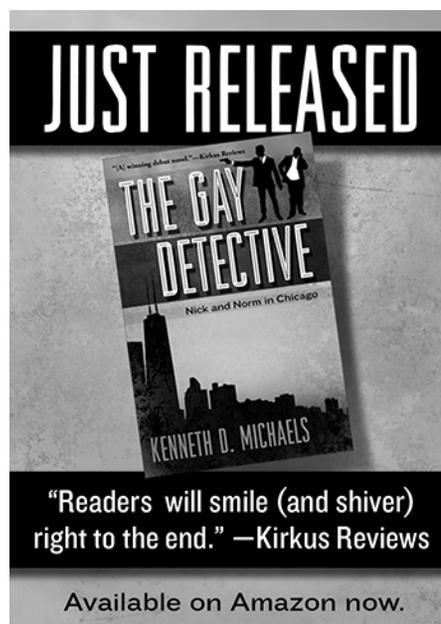
Ticket holders need do nothing to keep their tickets for the new dates, or may choose to call Lyric Opera at 312-827-5600 to exchange into one of the other three *See Jane Sing* performances. Tickets (\$50-\$150) for the four June performances of *See Jane Sing* are on sale now at LyricOpera.org or 312-827-5600.

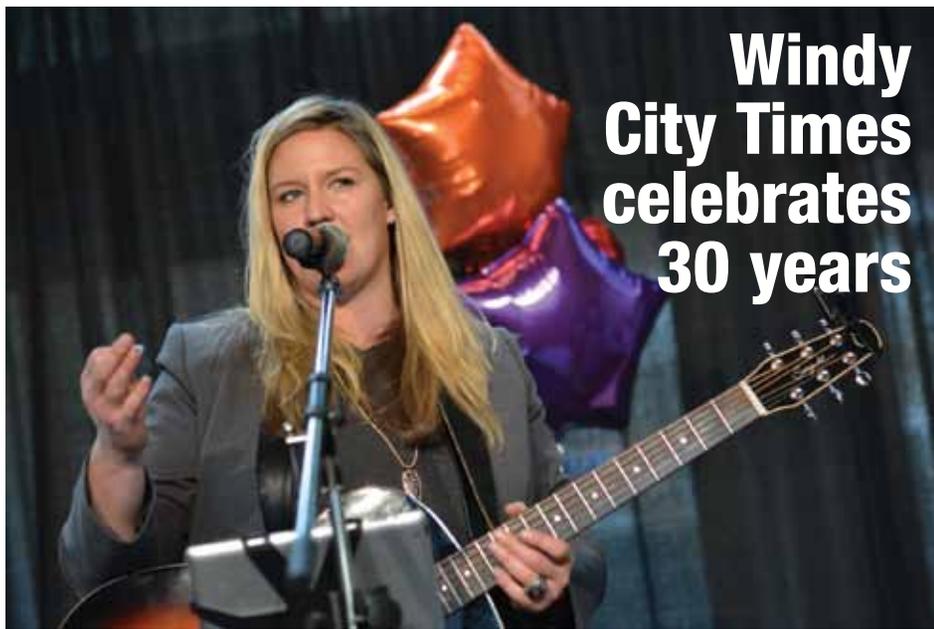
Martin and Short at Rosemont Nov. 22

Legendary actors and comedians Steve Martin and Martin Short are teaming for a night of live comedy and music.

“An Evening You Will Forget For the Rest of Your Life” will include stand-up, musical numbers, film clips and conversations about their show business experiences.

Tickets are at Ticketmaster.com, the venue box office and by phone at 800-745-3000. Visit <http://www.rosemont.com/theatre>, or www.nitelite.com.





Windy City Times celebrates 30 years



The Windy City Times 30th anniversary Sept. 27, 2015 at Sidetrack was hosted by Amy Matheny and Scott Duff, featuring singer Sami Grisafe (pictured). Publisher Tracy Baim took questions on the history of her work and Windy City Times.

Windy City Times was founded in 1985 and Grisafe performed music from the era. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (www.mysticimagesphotography.com). See Hal Baim's photos on page 26. See more on the history of the newspaper at the link: www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Windy-City-Times-at-30-/52882.html.



VEHICLE REVIEW

2015 Lexus GX 460: If you've got the money, honey, get the RX

BY SAM GOMEZ, GAYWHEELS.COM

The good news is that if you have always wanted a new GX 460, now is your time to pounce. The sticker runs about \$66,000 for all the luxury, bells and whistles, but now in the fall of 2015, you can find some dealer closeouts for a little over \$50,000. This car has everything, as you would expect. Blind spot monitor, telescopic steering wheel ... all the stuff that should come with a hefty price tag.

The bad news is that, wow, for the money, you would, IMHO, be better off with the more affordable Lexus RX. Unless you really need big and imposing (and some nights, that's exactly what I want), the RX is much gayer than the GX. Did that make sense? Heck, even a Porsche SUV can come in cheaper and offer more luxury and power.

Okay, okay, that may be a little harsh. For starters, this was a fun car to drive. When you are in the driver's seat of the GX 460, you are sitting high above everyone else. That can be fun, but like many kings and queens have noted, managing a kingdom can be challenging, even from your heated/cooled adjustable throne.

Often while driving this behemoth, I felt like I was trying to maneuver a Mac truck. For example, when you hit the accelerator, there is a bit of a delay, and that's because you are haul-

ing some 5,000 pounds—and that's just to get out of your garage. And like a Mac Truck, you can't just hit the brakes and expect to stop. I often found myself having to be very careful when I stopped and accelerated, as I just wasn't sure how the car was going to react. Sure, that's common in big luxury SUVs, but I still found it a little problematic. At least with a date, when you give it gas, the reaction may be bad but not costly.

I also had concerns about the largess of the GX 460. Sure, I sat high above it all, and that saved my insurance premium from going up because I could clearly see how I was not going to fit into a petite or Junior Miss parking space. Normally, I am a size queen, but in the city, having such largess can be problematic, especially when just a little gas (and boy, did I use gas) can cause you to spring forward into the little Scion that is parked in front of you.

First, let me say thank you to Jessica and Melissa for getting me this King Kong to drive around. That said, I much prefer the Lexus RX, a cheaper and, IMHO, better SUV than the GX. I'm not really sure what to think of the GX, but I would suggest that if you indeed have assets and not necessarily care for largess, try out the 2015 or 2016 RX.

I just tested the 2016 RX and, Man-O-Manischewitz, this car has everything—namely this new cruise-control feature where it liter-



2015 Lexus GX 460. Photo from Gaywheels.com

ally keeps you a predetermined distance from the car in front of you while driving, even when you stop paying attention. Everything on it was so intuitive. I just loved it, and I will be sharing my thoughts in an upcoming review, so stay tuned.

We here at Gaywheels.com just want you to get a really good bang for your buck (or other -uck). Again, I love the people at Lexus but I, as your fairy godmother, would advise you to look at the new 2016 RX and save some money for rent or your higher education

... something that may, over time, really give you gas and bloating.

Auto news

—**Showing pride:** In the United Kingdom, Sussex police force spent hundreds of pounds giving a patrol car and a motorbike a colourful makeover in rainbow colors ahead of a gay-pride parade, The Daily Mail reported. The vehicles were each decorated with graphics showing rainbows and brightly colored stars with the word "Pride."

—**It's electric:** Just after the IAA Frankfurt Motor Show 2015, Mercedes-Benz confirmed it's working on an all-electric rival to the Tesla Model S, GTspirit noted. It could be released as soon as 2018.



nightspots

weekly nightlife section in



SIDETRACK

More from Windy City Times' 30th anniversary party, Sun., September 27.
Photos by Hal Baim

DANCING ABOUT ARCHITECTURE

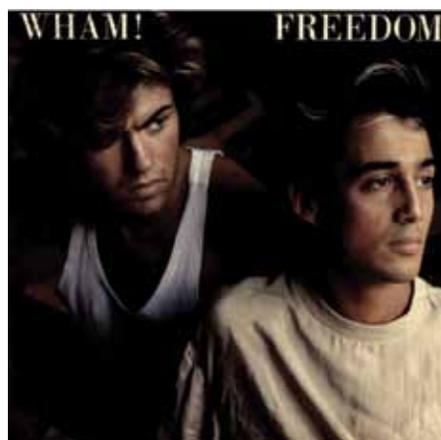
BY MARC 'MOOSE' MODER



Reading Billboard Gay: 1985

It was thirty years ago this past week, as regular readers know, that we launched Windy City Times. Some things have changed since 1985, but some have remained constant, like the lack of gay role models in pop music and the low level of LGBT references on the charts. Sure, artists have come out in droves, but most remain fringe—or at least mid-level with dedicated followings—and you have, as always, young pop singers professing their bisexuality whether it takes or not. With that, let's take a look back at the charts from September 28, 1985, and see how gay the charts were three decades ago.

"Money For Nothing" by **Dire Straits** was number one, and is such an interesting song, owing to the controversy over the lyrics including the phrase "faggot" three different times. We all know that wouldn't fly today—at least not to number one—and since then, even Canadian radio has banned the song for hate speech. Truth is, the song is sung from the point of view of a blue-collar character, and is meant to point out how ignorant he sounded. Back then, that only played to a small, knowing crowd, while the rest of the record buyers didn't mind the word or its context.

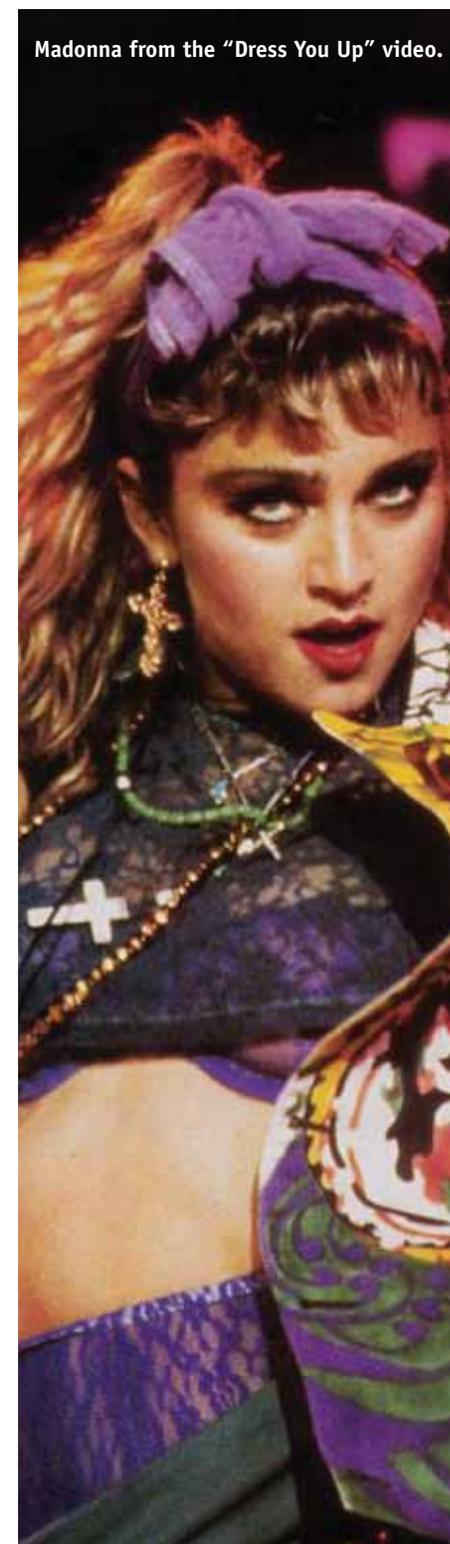


At number three we have **Wham!**, featuring future out icon, George Michael, with "Freedom." Even as a tween, I could spot that George wasn't your heteronormative pop star, but he steadfastly did his due closeted diligence: Dating Brooke Shields; saying he was with the lady in the video of "I Want Your Sex." All the while, we all secretly knew. He kept this up for another decade, believe it or not, until he was outed in a sex sting, but at least he flung those doors wide open and didn't look back after that.

Slot number seven was held by the dreamiest

Nords to ever grace the charts: **a-ha's** "Take On Me" (new album out now). Our beloved **Whitney Houston** was having her second massive hit as a superstar with "Saving All My Love For You," but the star in our eyes was, as she is now, **Madonna**. "Dress You Up" (number six) was Madge's seventh consecutive top-five hit, and the last single off the blockbuster Like a Virgin album. The video was her first live one, memorable only for that unfortunate brocade jacket and her cherubic face. But what stood out for me was this was the first song of hers that I took seriously as a budding gay youth of 15. Before that, she seemed too gimmicky and her songs too fluffy. "Dress You Up" had balls (and ovaries) and was the first single that got me hooked and believing this little girl could really sing, and could make a go of it. So as I'm off to my fourth Madonna show, I won't be checking the set lists. I'm hoping she'll be saving all that love for me, and rocking "Dress You Up" on its 30th birthday.

Madonna from the "Dress You Up" video.





"I have this feeling that I was a cheetah or a panther in another life and that I was also a Black soul singer: Male. So I do believe that you come back as something else or someone else."—**Jackie Collins** shares her personal belief with People five days before her death. Maybe it was the medication talking.

In my zeal to include Emmy gossip in last week's column, I didn't get to write anything about the HBO party. The Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood was transformed into a flame-engulfed fantasy, courtesy of premier party planner Billy Butchkavitz. Since HBO was the biggest winner of the night, the place was buzzing with oodles of folks from Veep, Game of Thrones and Olive Kitteridge brandishing statuettes. Gone are the days when the biggest names at this party were Lorraine Bracco and Aida Turturro. HBO's bash has become de rigueur to anyone who's anyone—not to mention quite a few nobodies! There were some strange pairings around the room: **Adrien Brody** and **Marilyn Manson**, **Laverne Cox** and **John Stamos**, **Mel Brooks** and **Justin Theroux**. I had a brief conversation with designer **Zac Posen** (wearing an ill-fitting suit), who entered on the arm of **Naomi Campbell**. The supermodel seemed annoyed that I ignored her while gabbing with Zac about Project Runway. I don't think I was ever in any danger, but I kept an eye on her cellphone ... just in case.

Around the same time, a very butch **Queen Latifah** entered wearing a white pant suit and a green fedora. And that leads me to answering one of your questions. Many wondered why **Bradley Whitford** was wearing a fedora at the awards. That's because his hair has been significantly altered to play the role of Vice President Hubert Humphrey in the HBO adaptation of the Broadway play *All The Way*, about Lyndon Johnson. Others were curious why so many attendees were sporting green ribbons. Those were in support of the Environmental Protection Agency and were embossed with the words "Demand Climate Action." And now, you know.

When a filmmaker tackles a big subject such as the Holocaust or World War II, that person often does so through the eyes of a character the audience will identify with. **Roland Emmerich** has done that with *Stonewall*. Like most people, lead actor **Jeremy Irvine** also cannot act—nope, not even a little. But he is pretty (actually prettier and taller in person) and, these days, that tends to suffice. He kinda strikes me as an aspiring porn actor who got lucky—well, I'm sure SOMEONE got lucky. But he was not nearly as pretty as the people who were at this premiere in WeHo. The really pretty ones were part of the lovely **Bryan Singer's** posse, but let's not go there. Back to the movie: The lead actor isn't even the biggest problem. That honor is saved for the script, written by the usually serviceable Jon Robin Baitz, which is filled with more pitfalls and potholes than any street in Greenwich Village. What the film DOES have going for it is the bravura, highly skilled performance of **Jonny Beauchamp**, who you may know from *Penny Dreadful* (where he has appeared naked, and you can see every inch of him on *BillyMasters.com*).

Last week, Disney announced that it is making a new *Mary Poppins* film. This is not a remake of the classic Julie Andrews flick, nor is it a sequel. The movie will utilize other stories taken from the *Poppins* books—stories that happen roughly 20 years after we last saw Mary. The new songs



According to Billy, actor **Jeremy Irvine** isn't even the worst thing about the film *Stonewall* ... and that's saying a lot. Photo by Philippe Bosse

will be written by my pals **Marc Shaiman** and **Scott Wittman**—the talented guys behind the musical version of *Hairspray*. The film will be directed by **Rob Marshall**, who previously directed big-screen adaptations of *Chicago*, *Nine* and *Into the Woods*. I'm told that the Disney brass would like to find some way to include **Julie Andrews** and **Dick Van Dyke** into the new project. Sounds like a winner to me. And this goes to show that, contrary to popular belief, I CAN keep a secret. I knew about these negotiations for months, and did I tell you? No. 'Cause, I've got scruples ... which was a brilliant miniseries starring my beloved **Lindsay Wagner**.

Many of my less scrupulous colleagues pay lots of money for gossip stories—as if I haven't proven that you can get good stories using nature's credit card. This tit-for-tat is actually illegal, as an ex-prison official from London found out. Back in 2010, **George Michael** spent a month in jail after he was caught driving under the influence. One of the officers in that prison, **Amanda Watts**, was paid more than \$3,000 by the UK tabloid *The Sun* for information used in five different stories. She has pleaded guilty to misconduct in public office and is facing jail time when she is sentenced Oct. 16.

Just before we went to press, little **Danny Pintauro** made some revelations to Oprah Winfrey. First, he had been hooked on crystal meth: "I had just come out of a two-year relationship, and I discovered in that relationship that there was more I wanted to explore sexually. Crystal meth takes away your inhibitions, and if you want to explore that adventurous side, taking the drug is going to put you there." What it also did was lead to his next revelation—he's been HIV-positive for the past 12 years. "I know exactly when it happened," he said. "I was living in New York at the time and completely clueless to the idea that I was positive. I went in for a regular checkup. It was just regular blood work. You go in, and you sort of waited two weeks on pins and needles—or at least I did, because I was just terrified of the idea of getting HIV." He said that the diagnosis was almost a relief: "You spend so much time terrified that you're going to get it, and then you have it. You don't have to be terrified anymore." Let us hope young people everywhere are not following his example.

When **Danny Pintauro** is newsworthy, it's definitely time to end yet another column. And what a busy week I have ahead of me—one night with **Linda Ronstadt**, another with **Susanna Hoffs** and then *Gay Days* Anaheim. I'm exhausted just thinking about it. But I'm never too tired to update www.BillyMasters.com, the site that is anything but tired. If you have a question for me, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before **Jackie Collins** wins a (posthumous) Tony. Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



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Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Chicago Gourmet draws hundreds; new Freshii opens

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Bon Appétit presents Chicago Gourmet took place Sept. 25-27 in Millennium Park, drawing hundreds to take part in various events, see some esteemed chefs—and, of course, sample culinary treats.

One of the highlights of Chicago Gourmet was Grand Cru (with law firm Eimer Stahl LLP presenting), which featured chefs such as The Purple Pig's Jimmy Bannos Jr., Trencherman's Patrick Sheerin and Mott Street/Ruxbin's Edward Kim as well as master sommeliers like The Boarding House/Seven Lions' Alpana Singh, among others.

However, they were far from the only well-known culinary figures present, as Chicago Gourmet, as the Bon Appétit Main and Culinary stages had such people as Rick Bayless, Emeril Lagasse, Gail Gand, Lee Ann Whippen and Tony Priolo. (Local media figures, such as Catherine De Orio of Check, Please!, hosted the various seminars and demonstrations.)

Hamburger Hop started off things in a tasty way Sept. 25 at the Harris Theater rooftop, with more than a dozen chefs participating/competing. Chef Dino Tsaknis of David Burke's Primehouse was named the Buckhead Beef Hamburger Hop Award



Photos from Chicago Gourmet. Above: Barilla's LGBT stand. Top right: Liquid Lab NYC's Gregory Lucas (left) and Parker Boase. Bottom right: Bistronomic's Martial Noguier (left) and Mayor Rahm Emanuel (right). Photos by Andrew Davis

winner for his "Porchetta Burger," while Chef Daniel Grynevich, Kuma's Too earned the People's Choice Award for his "Sourvein" burger (certified Angus prime Buckhead beef topped with cheddar cheese, raspberry maple aioli, bacon, waffle, blackened chicken tender and maple syrup served on a mini-Turano pretzel bun). Both chefs took home a magnum of wine from Josh Cellars and a set of premium chef's knives for the win.

Overall, dozens of restaurants and other businesses took part at Bon Appétit presents Chicago Gourmet, including Hugo's Frog Bar & Fish House Chicago, The Duck Inn, Rosebud restaurants, XOCO, Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant, Ceres' Table, Mercat a la Planxa and 312 Chicago. One particular standout was Barilla, as the pasta company came a long way from its 2013 anti-LGBT controversy with a booth dedicated to Spirit Day (Oct. 15), in which people don purple to take a stand against bullying and to show their support for LGBT youth.



A Freshii start

Fast-casual health-food spot Freshii has opened a new spot at 1871, a collective (of digital designers, engineers and entrepreneurs) in the Merchandise Mart—and marked things with a grand opening Sept. 25.

The event featured tech demos; appearances by Freshii CEO Matthew Corrin, 1871 CEO Howard Tullman and Freshii owner Alex Blair (a Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree); and—of course—selections from Freshii's menu, including salads and juices.



Photo by Sean Su

nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR



'Sync It lip-sync-off

Wed., Sept. 30

Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.
Lip-syncing is all the rage! Show your stuff at this third installment of Sidetrack's new monthly contest, hosted by the inimitable Dixie Lynn Cartwright. No drag required to perform. Enter to win great prizes.



LQKS: Teaches of Peaches with Christeene

Thu., Oct. 1, 10 pm

Berlin, 954 W. Belmont Ave.
An evening dedicated to our love of the rock goddess Peaches with a little help from Christeene (pictured). Featuring performances from Queerella Fistolot, Pangea, Claire Van Eijk, Chemise Cagoule and more.



Charlie's Man of the Month contest

Fri., Oct. 2, 10 pm

Charlie's, 3726 N. Broadway
See who will be chosen Mr. October 2015 at this monthly contest. Free line dance and two-step lessons. DJ Michael B spinning your favorite country tunes.



MADONNA @ UNITED CENTER

Friends of Madge, Mon., Sept. 28.
Photos by Jerry Nunn. See concert photos and more online.

MAD DECENT BLOCK PARTY

Photos by Jerry Nunn



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., Sept. 30

Genderqueer Chicago A grassroots group that works to create safe spaces for everyone to talk about, think about, explore and express gender. 7:00pm - 8:15pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.

Shop in Lake View to Fight Hunger Lakeview Pantry has launched "Shop to Fight Hunger." For the month of September, a number of local businesses will offer special promotions that will benefit the Pantry. More info at the link. 9:00pm Various locations <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Shop-to-Fight-Hunger-in-Lakeview-for-Lakeview-Pantry-during-Hunger-Action-Month-/52774.html>

L Lounge A safe place where Lesbians can connect to each other as a community in a friendly, helpful environment. Free. 6:30pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted

Thursday, Oct. 1

Open Gym Volleyball Every Monday and Thursday for 18 and over. All gender and experience levels welcome. Cost \$7/night or \$30/month. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

Are You Prepared for PrEP?: A community forum to explore the optimal use of pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention. RSVP/registration required. 5:15pm Conference Chicago at University Center, 525 S.State St., Chicago Tickets: <https://www.signup4.net/Public/ap.aspx?EID=MED011E&OID=130>

Girl Scouts Girl Scouts serve all girls regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, economic status, or disability. Girl Scouts meeting are free, but fees may be required for supplies and uniforms. No one will be turned away if fees are not possible or reasonable for your family and interested scout. 6:15pm



FUNNY GIRL Saturday, Oct. 3

Margaret Cho will be at the Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St.

Photo by Todd V. Wolfson

- 8:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.; CenterOnHalsted.org

American Veterans for Equal Rights (gay veterans) monthly meeting AVER is a non-profit, chapter-based association of active, reserve and veteran servicemembers dedicated to full and equal rights and equitable treatment for all present and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces. 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

Friday, Oct. 2

Midwest LGBTQ Health Symposium 2015 Howard Brown Health Center and Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center present.

Health-care professionals will learn about LGBTQ health-care best practices and challenges, LGBTQ health disparities, advances practices in HIV care, transgender health and hormone replacement therapy, and surgical solutions. Questions to Cecilia Hardacker at CeciliaH@HowardBrown.org or 773-388-1600, ext. 5123. Register online or call 800-323-8622 Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-7 p.m. or Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Registration at 7 a.m. 7:30am - 4:30pm at the Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Olson Auditorium, 836 W. Wellington. Chicago <http://AdvocateHealth.com/seminars>

Man Cave A peer lead group for individuals that were assigned female at birth (AFAB) AND ALSO who identify as either: FtM (female-to-male), trans*masculine, genderqueer/non-conforming and masculine, or who are questioning their gender. Free. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

Karen Finley Reflecting on the day when Jesse Helms and fellow conservatives denied her NEA grant, calling her art obscene. New expanded edition out now of Finley's landmark book Shock Treatment. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

World premiere of Funnyman George Wendt, Tim Kazurinsky, Amanda Drinkall, Steve Haggard and Rob Lindley. Through Oct. 18, 2015. 8:00pm Northlight Theatre 9501 Skokie Blvd Skokie, IL 60077 Tickets: <http://northlight.org>

The Kinsey Sicks "Chicks with Shticks" Dragtastic a cappella musical. \$35 main floor, \$25 balcony 9:00pm Mayne Stage 1328 W Morse Ave Chicago 866-468.3401 Tickets: <http://www.maynestage.com/>

Saturday, Oct. 3

Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (LGBTQ) Support meeting to talk about illnesses, symptoms, treatment, doctors, and personal issues such as dating, relationships and work. Every Saturday. 11:00am - 12:30am Center on Halsted 3656 N Hal-

sted St., <http://dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com>
Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago The goal of Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago is to erase the invisibility of bisexual people within the LGBTQ community. This group is open to bisexual people and their allies. Free. 12:00pm - 2:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

CineKink: Chicago Celebrating and exploring a wide diversity of sexuality, the films and videos in this sex-positive and kink-friendly showcase range from documentary to drama, comedy to experimental, mildly spicy to quite explicit - and everything in between. Separate tickets required for each screening: 7 pm - Best of CineKink 2015, 9:10 pm - Marriage 2.0 7:00pm - 11:00pm Leather Archives & Museum 6418 N Greenview Ave Chicago (773)761-9100 <http://cinekink.com/programs-and-events/tour/tour-2015/chicago/>

50 States of Gay Chicago's premiere LGBTQ sketch company GayCo Productions (www.gayco.com) unleashes its most patriotic sketch variety revue in its 19-year history, a completely unique sketch-variety hybrid experience. Through Oct. 31 7:30pm Under the Gun Theater, 956 W Newport Ave., Chicago Tickets: <http://GayCo.com>

Margaret Cho, The psyCHO Tour Three time Grammy and Emmy nominee, comedian. \$29.50 - \$59.50 8:00pm The Chicago Theatre (Chicago) 175 N State St Chicago Tickets: <http://www.thechicagotheatre.com/tickets.html>

Sunday, Oct. 4

The Lighthouse Church of Chicago Multi-ethnic and LGBT-inclusive with Pastor Jamie Frazier, 10:00am Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway St., Chicago <http://www.lighthousechicago.org>

Fashion Focus CHICAGO Fashion Week Runway, market and professional development events. Citywide celebration of Chicago's fashion industry. Through Oct. 12. 12:00pm Locations throughout the city <http://fashionfocuschicago.org>

The Life and Music of Billy Strayhorn Free event. 3:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

Melissa Ferrick Singer-songwriter Melissa Ferrick tours in support of her 12th album, Independent Music Award-winner The Truth Is. Tickets \$25/30/35. Open to all ages. 8:00pm City Winery Chicago 1200 W Randolph St Chicago 312-733-WINE (9463) Tickets: <http://www.citywinery.com/chicago/>

Monday, Oct. 5

Transworks Peer leaders run a job program for gender non-conforming community members in the John Baran Cyber Center. Walk-ins welcome. Free. 12:00pm - 2:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted

Tuesday, Oct. 6

Intersex group meeting Casual conversation for those who identify as Intersex or are interested in learning more about Intersex issues. Group is open to allies, friends, family, and significant others. Free. 6:30pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Homolatte Bea Cordelia, Jakob Paul. Hosted by Scott Free Free admission 7:45pm Big Chicks 5024 N Sheridan Rd., Chicago <http://www.homolatte.com>

Wed., Oct. 7

Joan Armatrading's "Me Myself I" tour The British singer/songwriter/guitarist/instrumentalist, best known for such worldwide hits as "Love And Affection," "Me Myself I," "Drop The Pilot" and many more, performs for nearly two hours per show sharing the highlights of her extensive career, singing, playing guitar and piano. Doors open 6 pm. 8:00pm City Winery Chicago 1200 W Randolph St Chicago <http://www.joanarmatrading.com> Tickets: <http://www.citywinery.com>

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SUPPORT/THERAPY MEN'S GROUP There are currently two openings in an ongoing support/therapy group for gay men over the age of 40. If interested in being part of a milieu exploring what it means to be gay and middle-aged, consider joining. **Contact: scylle.me@gmail.com. (9/30/15-1)**

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Chicago, IL 60657. The true and real full name(s) and residence address of the owner(s)/partner(s) is: DAVID TIMOTHY RUDZIEWICZ, 3180 N. LAKE SHORE DRIVE 23B, CHICAGO, IL 60657, USA. (9/30/15-3)

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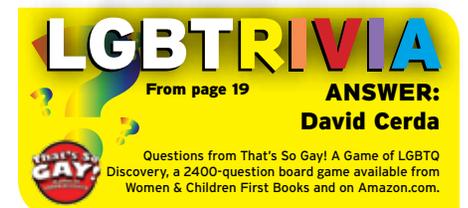
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SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

ARE YOU INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED? Are you interested in meeting other LGBTs like you? Come join the LGBT and Allies Special Interest Group in Chicago Area Mensa. **To inquire, contact lgbt@chicago.us.mensa.org. (4/20/16-52)**

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LGBT TRIVIA
From page 19 **ANSWER: David Cerda**
Questions from That's So Gay! A Game of LGBTQ Discovery, a 2400-question board game available from Women & Children First Books and on Amazon.com.

KANSAS CITY from page 22

essarily with the transgender subjects, about what their transition was like. I'm really just allowing them to just share what their story is, and if their story has to do with oppression then so be it. I have one subject who opened up about when his relationship ended about 10 months ago, how he realized he didn't know who he was outside of that relationship, so he spent the last 10 months confronting that reality.

And he also was open about some of his body image issues, about how gay male relationships with food are similar to those that women have. Even within our own community we feel guilt and shame around eating, like, a cheeseburger. It's interesting to realize that our sexuality and gender don't really segment us that much. Our

human experience is not vastly different than anybody else's, we're all just people.

EVH: Some feminists are suspicious of men who describe themselves as feminists, because they're unsure of what motivates the interest in their struggle. I'm interested in whether there's any similar tension between segments of the queer community, and whether that might affect your work.

RW: Well I identify more with women emotionally than I do with men, because I am an effeminate gay man, so I don't personally feel any opposition even within the community from women or men. But I also realize that in this project there are going to be entire gamuts of the queer population that feel they were not represented, but the queer culture is so rich and expansive.

I'm limited to the 12 paintings and 12 transcribed interviews in the project, but I'm trying

really hard to get a balanced perspective. So I have transgender women of color; I have an interviewee who's sharing what it's like being a gay Black man in the Midwest, which is an entirely different reality from mine. So I'm trying to get a very broad representation of the queer populace in Kansas City. But I just have to realize it's impossible to showcase all of it.

EVH: What was it like to move back?

RW: The decision to move back to Kansas City from San Francisco was made because there was this really persistent knowledge deep within myself that I was not doing what I was put here to do. When I say that it sounds predestined; and it is, I think I had a spiritual calling to come back to Kansas City and to create artwork. I made the conscious decision when I realized that I wasn't doing what I wanted to do, there was an artist inside of me that had been trying to get out since high school.

I was completely blinded with fear from the age of 17 when I first picked up a paintbrush, until 24, that I wouldn't be successful as an artist, that it wasn't a viable career choice, that I couldn't, I didn't have it in me to create works that mattered or could change hearts. I was just consumed with this fear of failing and so I just couldn't take living in that space anymore. It's one of the reasons I had been moving around the country so much in my early 20s, because I was trying to outrun that fear. When it became so heavy that I couldn't live my life, and I couldn't be happy, I came back to Kansas City to begin my art career.

The article originally appeared in Pixel Magazine Blog, the online blog of photo editor Polarr. Read the entire interview online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

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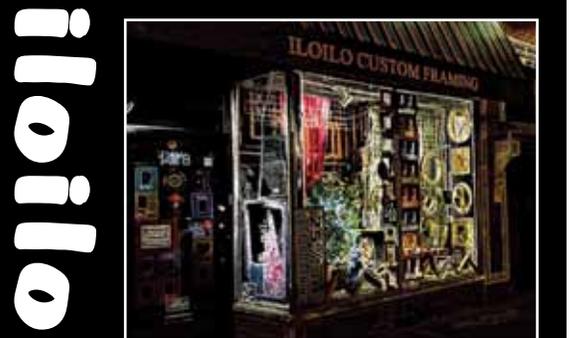
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