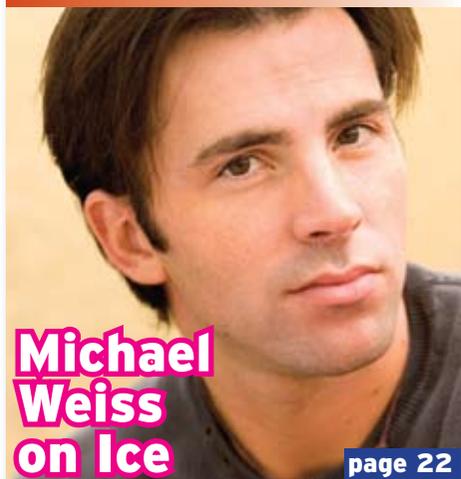




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## Slain Calif. Teen: Hate-Crime Victim?

BY AMY WOOTEN

The young, gay victim of a California school shooting has died after allegedly being shot by a 14-year-old classmate because of his sexual orientation and gender expression.

A classmate shot junior high school student Lawrence King, 15, in the head Feb. 12. King was pronounced brain-dead the following afternoon. Charges have been filed to investigate the matter as a hate crime. The attacker will be charged with murder.

The eighth-grade, openly gay student was shot by a classmate at E.O. Green School in Oxnard, Calif. Ventura County Star reported that King suffered a massive stroke Feb. 13, causing his brain to die.

The Los Angeles Times reported that friends of King say he identified as gay, and occasionally wore make-up and feminine clothing. He was also harassed at his school, according to Equality California.

Authorities are investigating the shooting as a possible hate crime.

LGBT students are often victims of bullying and harassment. LGBT students are more likely to be threatened with a weapon and feel unsafe at school, according to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network's (GLSEN's) Web site. LGBT California students are five times more likely to report being threatened or injured with a weapon, according to a survey conducted by



Photo illustration of Lawrence King. Family photo.

the California Department of Education.

Many LGBT organizations have released statements highlighting that anti-gay harassment and violence in the classrooms and hallways need to stop.

"With young people coming out at younger ages, our school—especially our junior highs and middle school—need to be proactive about teaching respect for diversity based on sexual orientation and gender identity," said Gay-Straight Alliance Network Executive Director Carolyn Laub in a statement released by the

organization. "The tragic death of Lawrence King is a wake-up call for our schools to better protect students from harassment at school. As a society, we can prevent this kind of violence from happening."

California has laws that aim to protect LGBT students. On Jan. 1, a California law (The California Student Civil Rights Act) went into effect; this statute protects students from harassment and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. Another law, The California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act, went into effect in 2000.

In a statement, Masen Davis, executive director of the Transgender Law Center, said the organization is proud that California has such laws, but "the sad reality is that even with these protections, violence against gay and gender non-conforming students happens all too often. We must address the culture of bullying in our schools to ensure that all youth have safe places to learn."

The executive director of GLSEN, Kevin Jennings, called the incident "senseless" in a recent statement. "As a nation, we've had our heads in the sand for far too long," he said. "We need to do everything we can to prevent something like this from happening again."

Award-winning documentary filmmaker Debra Chasnoff, whose work includes the film *That's El-*

**Turn to page 4**

## Reality Dating, TransAmerican Style

BY JACOB ANDERSON-MINSHALL

Anyone who's seen the short *Casting Pearls* might be surprised to find the film's star, trans actress Calpernia Addams headlining cable's latest reality dating program. After all, *Casting Pearls* openly mocked the schlocky genre that seems to reveal in catfights and demoralizing contests. But with the LGBT cable channel behind it, Addams couldn't turn down the offer to star in *TransAmerican Love Story*.

It may be for the real-life tragedy of love lost that Addams is best known for. As described in her autobiography, *Mark 947: A Life Shaped by God, Gender and Force of Will* and immortalized in the 2003 film *Solider's Girl*, Addams' boyfriend Barry Winchell was beaten to death by fellow recruits who'd discovered she was transsexual.

"Barry [was] a participant in one of the most defining moments of my life, so he'll always be sort of frozen in time in that moment. I think about him for a second or two probably every

**Turn to page 17**



**Dean's List**

From left: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Debra Shore, Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chairman Howard Dean, Alderman Sandi Jackson, and State Representative candidates Daniel Biss and Deb Mell are all smiles at a Feb. 13 DNC fundraiser at Ann Sather. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald; see more inside, at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) and at [www.MysticImagesPhotography.com](http://www.MysticImagesPhotography.com).

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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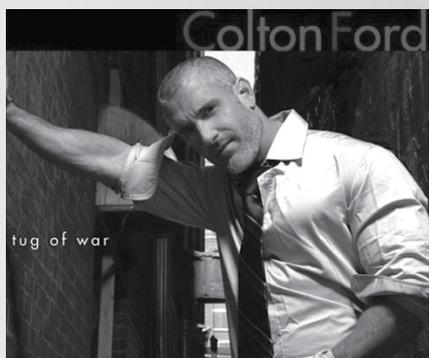


Jesus Christ Superstar's Corey Glover (above) discusses the play and his influential hard-rock band, Living Colour. See page 11.

Photo by Joan Marcus

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Colton Ford talks about making the transition from porn to his latest CD, Tug of War. See page 20.

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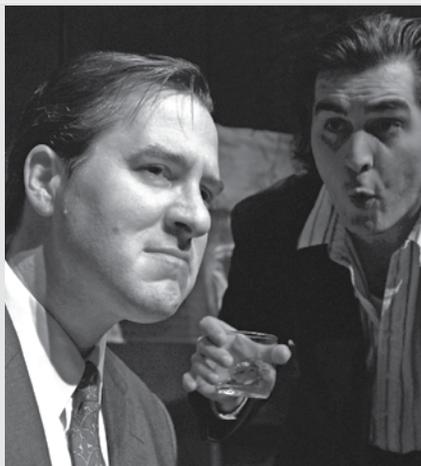
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This week's online-only features include:

- Media Watch
- Deep Inside Hollywood
- Theater reviews of Talking It Over (right) and Pitching Penguins
- One reader's meditation: "The Ledger Resolution"
- An interview with Girl 27 director David Stenn

Photo by Suzanne Plunkett



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Lorenzo Taylor. Photo by Bob Roehr

## Department Lifts Ban on Positive Diplomats

BY BOB ROEHR

The U.S. Department of State has changed its policy prohibiting the hiring of persons who are HIV-positive. The decision ends a five-year legal challenge to that policy, which was headed for arguments in a federal courtroom later this month.

The Feb. 15 announcement came while President George W. Bush was flying to Africa on a tour that would highlight the U.S. response to AIDS on that continent.

The decision lifts the blanket ban on hiring persons who are HIV-positive to serve as diplomats. The department will now hire and assign current and future employees worldwide on a case-by-case basis based on their overall health status.

The lawsuit was brought by Lorenzo Taylor, now 51, a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. He is fluent in three languages and had passed all of the hurdles to join the State Department when, in 2001, a medical review dashed his plans to become a diplomat.

State Department regulations at the time said that new employees must be available for worldwide service and that being HIV-positive was an automatic exclusion. However, current employees who seroconverted were allowed to continue to work so long as their health allowed.

Taylor, with the assistance of Lambda Legal, sought reasonable accommodations from the department. They argued that the introduction of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) had changed the medical situation and the employ-

ment policy should change to reflect that.

They tried administrative channels but those proved futile and they filed suit in federal court in 2002, charging a violation of The Rehabilitation Act.

The department threw up every procedural challenge possible to avoid having to face the substance of the issue, but it lost in court at every turn. It finally threw in the towel as the trial date approached, and changed its medical guidelines.

"We are extremely pleased with this change," said Bebe J. Anderson, HIV project director at Lambda Legal. "The new guidelines mean that candidates for Foreign Service posts who have HIV will now be assessed on a case-by-case basis, as the law requires. At long last, the State Department is taking down its sign that read 'People with HIV need not apply.'"

Taylor agreed to a settlement of his lawsuit that was not conditional upon his employment. He had moved to San Francisco the first of this year in a new position within his old agency at the Department of Health and Human Services.

In personal correspondence he said, "I'm happy that State has finally done the right thing, but I only wish that bringing them to this point had not taken so long and so much effort. With a little courage, this could have been resolved years ago instead of on the eve of the trial."

"My joy is tempered by my sadness for all the foreign service officer candidates through the years whose talents and service have been overlooked because of their HIV status and who were also victims of this archaic policy."

## Senate Admonishes Craig

BY AMY WOOTEN

A Senate ethics panel has officially admonished Sen. Larry Craig, saying he acted improperly during and after an airport bathroom sting.

The Senate Ethics Committee was displeased with Craig's actions after he was arrested for soliciting sex at a Minneapolis airport in June, according to a letter of admonition signed by all six members of the panel on Feb. 13.

Craig tried to withdraw his guilty plea and has appealed a judge's decision that his plea was accurate. The ethics panel, in a letter to Craig, wrote that they believe he "committed the offense" and knew what he was doing when he plead guilty. They also wrote that his pleas of innocence "do not appear credible." His behavior "reflected discreditably" on the Senate, they added,

"We consider your attempt to withdraw your

guilty plea to be an attempt to evade the legal consequences of an action freely undertaken by you—that is, pleading guilty," the letter said.

The panel also stated their disappointment in Craig for using campaign funds to pay his legal bills.

In a statement received by The Associated Press, Craig said he disagreed with the ethics committee.

No further action has been taken against Craig, who will continue to serve the rest of his term until it expires.

## Bush Budget Shortchanges AIDS

BY BOB ROEHR

AIDS advocates are furious with the budget that President George W. Bush has submitted for the next fiscal year. Overall, the Department of Health and Human Services will be slashed by more than \$2 billion. The Ryan White CARE Act will receive a token increase of \$1 million, to \$2.143 billion.

The budget shuffles some relatively small change around within specific AIDS programs. One hand increases grants to states by \$8 million, but it cuts \$8 million for cities. The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) picks up \$6 million, but advocates that it needs a \$133 million increase.

AIDS funding at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will stay the same, but \$40 million will be shifted from prevention to increased testing for the virus. A big winner is abstinence only programs, the darling of social conservatives, which get \$27.7 million more. The National Institutes of Health will be flat funded.

"The President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2009, if enacted, would spell disaster for the nation's health, and by extension, our national effort to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States," said Christine Lubinski, executive director of the HIV Medicine Association.

"It is appalling that the President is recommending a measly \$1 million or .004 percent increase for the Ryan White CARE Act, which provides healthcare and medications for low-income people living with HIV/AIDS," said Gene Copello, executive director of the AIDS Institute. "This does not even keep up with inflation, let alone take in account that more people need services due to new infections, new testing initiatives, and people are living longer."

That compares with billions of additional dollars that the President is seeking for international AIDS activities.

"The president has talked a good game about

the need to fight the spread of AIDS, especially in minority communities, but this budget makes all the talk sound like empty promises," said Craig E. Thompson, executive director of AIDS Project Los Angeles.

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign said, "We are deeply disappointed that, in light of recent reports of startling increases in HIV/AIDS cases in the U.S., particularly among young gay and bisexual men and in communities of color, the President is seeking even more money for anti-gay abstinence-only-until-marriage programs while neglecting so many domestic HIV/AIDS priorities."

However, proposing low funding for HIV programs is a long-standing tradition at the White House. Bill Clinton often proposed little or no increase for those programs knowing that the then Republican controlled Congress would do the job for him.

But relying upon Congress to address shortcomings has become a more difficult task under current budgetary constraints. That did not change after Democrats gained control of that body.



Michaeline Chvatal (left).

## PASSAGES Michaeline Chvatal

Michaeline Chvatal, an integral part of the local lesbian feminist choral group The Artemis Singers, passed away Feb. 16. She died surrounded by several good friends from Artemis who sang for her.

A strong supporter of the arts, Chvatal contributed to such organizations as the collective Arts of Life.

There will be a memorial March 9 at Unity Church, 1925 W. Thome. More details about Chvatal's life and memorial will be posted online as they become available, and will run in next week's Windy City Times.

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Much of this workshop will be clothes off and interactive. Each participant is asked to go deep, to be truthful, and to play in the energies of creativity, arousal, and embodiment.

## VICTIM from cover

ementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School, called the tragedy a "horrific reminder" that violence and bullying of LGBT students continues. "We wish we could say we've come a long way since 1998 when Matthew Shepard was murdered when he was in college just because he was gay. But now, similarly-motivated hate crimes are occurring in middle schools."

"This terrible incident underscores the fact that we cannot let hate go unchecked in our schools and communities," Judy Shepard, executive director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation and mother of hate-crime victim Matthew Shepard, said in a statement released by GLSEN. "Our young people need our direction and guidance to prevent this type of crime from happening. I urge all parents and teachers to educate their children and students about acceptance, understanding and compassion."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force also recently released a statement. "Right now we don't know exactly how anti-gay hate expressed itself in the murder of Lawrence King, said executive director Matt Foreman. "We do know is that he was harassed on a daily basis

because of his sexual orientation and gender expression. We do know that adults at his junior high school did not stop it and that kind of tolerance of anti-gay bigotry is pervasive in our nation's schools. Our hearts go out to Lawrence's family—and to all young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender kids who are—right now, right this minute—being bullied and beaten in school while adults look the other way."

King is being memorialized through events as well as words. On Feb. 19, the San Francisco LGBT Community Center—in conjunction with several other organizations, including Community United Against Violence and the Transgender Law Center—was slated to hold a candlelight vigil. And on Feb. 15, the Ventura County Rainbow Alliance sponsored a vigil at the Art Barn that was attended by approximately 100 people, according to the Ventura County Star. On Feb. 16, approximately 1,000 Oxnard youths and supporters took part in a march that paid tribute to King, according to the Los Angeles Times.



State Sen. Iris Martinez.

## Sen. Martinez Gets Help from Latina Lesbians

BY AMY WOOTEN

With the 2008 Illinois primaries a thing of the past, local activist Marilyn Morales is proud of the unprecedented mobilization of Latina lesbians in the 31st Ward that was sparked by the fear that State Sen. Iris Martinez would lose her legislative seat.

Many were pleased to hear that history would be made when State Rep. Rich Bradley stepped aside to allow lesbian candidate Deb Mell to run unopposed in the 40th District. However, many Latina lesbians feared that Mell's victory would come at the expense of Illinois' first Latina senator. When Bradley decided to run against incumbent Martinez, the possibility that they would lose their community ally became a reality.

Martinez kept her seat, no doubt in part because of a passionate group of Latina lesbians who organized and oversaw between eight and nine precincts (nearly half of the precincts in the 31st Ward) in the 20th District. The group won all but one precinct.

"I'm really proud of us," said Morales, an out lesbian who spearheaded much of the effort to get "just your neighborhood dykes" to knock on

doors, call registered voters and more. Not all reactions were positive, Morales said, but the women proved that they are a force to be reckoned with.

Morales purposely sought out openly gay Latinas to get involved in the campaign because she felt it was crucial to keep Martinez in office. She said she could have chosen anyone else to help with the fight, but felt the race, in addition to being a Latino issue, had become a gay issue. "We fought very hard to get her in as a state senator," Morales said.

All of the lesbians involved were new to politics. Morales called the experience a "comedy of errors." However, the fresh faces to politics—out lesbians from neighborhoods such as Pilsen and Humboldt Park—were recruiting volunteers, canvassing, manning offices and more.

Martinez, who works alongside State Senate President Emil Jones as assistant majority leader, took home over 50 percent of the vote. Bradley came in second with slightly over 42 percent of the vote.

Not only did the women help Martinez keep her seat, but also felt they received "renewed respect," Morales said. It provided much-needed visibility and recognition of gays and lesbians within the Latino community, where homophobia is still very prevalent.

Morales feels that the gay Latino community isn't as involved as it should be, and wants to use this unprecedented experience as a stepping stone for further action. The group of women plan to continue their work by, first of all, discussion of how Latina lesbians can continue to be a viable part of the Latino community. She envisions them working on issues crucial to the Latino community, such as health care, education and immigration, and working toward getting the larger LGBT community to understand the importance of these issues.

"This was a big deal for us," Morales said. "I'm just really excited about the work that we did. I think we were really instrumental."



## Howard Dean Visits Chicago

The Gay and Lesbian Leadership Council of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) hosted a reception on Wed., Feb. 13, at the Ann Sather Restaurant, 909 W. Belmont, to benefit the national party and boost support for Democratic leadership. DNC chairman and former presidential candidate Governor Howard Dean and Andrew Tobias, DNC's openly gay treasurer (in the lower left photo), headlined the event.

During a brief address to the intimate crowd, Dean made sharp remarks against the leading Republican candidate for the 2008 presidential bid, John McCain, while stating that he would be happy to support Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton.

"There is extraordinary change going on in this country," Dean added concerning the surprising voter turnout in this year's primaries. The Democratic chairman believes that more young people are inspired to vote in this election because Obama and Clinton show diversity, an attractive political trait in the under-thirty demographic. Text by Tully Satre; photos by Kat Fitzgerald. See more photos at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

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Illinois Deputy Gov. Louanner Peters. Photo courtesy of Illinois Lottery

## Instant Lottery Ticket for HIV/AIDS Unveiled

BY AMY WOOTEN

After overcoming a hurdle last year, the nation's first instant lottery ticket where 100 percent of the net proceeds go towards HIV/AIDS prevention services is now available at Illinois Lottery retail locations.

Illinois Lottery officially unveiled the "Red Ribbon Cash for Quality of Life" instant lottery ticket Feb. 11 at the James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph, after what Illinois Lottery Acting Superintendent Jodie Winnett called a "very long journey." Illinois Lottery estimates that the tickets will raise \$3 million annually. On Feb. 15, the tickets started being distributed; they will be fully distributed across the state by Feb. 22.

The idea for "Red Ribbon Cash" happened in a Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus meeting. The measure was passed by the General Assembly in June 2007. It received an amendatory veto by Gov. Rod Blagojevich back in August, causing a

bump in the road. However, the veto, which attempted to limit the availability of the tickets, was overridden and became law when it received enough legislative votes in October.

"This is an outstanding day," said Illinois Deputy Gov. Louanner Peters at the unveiling. "This is a fight worth fighting."

Also on hand were U.S. Rep. Danny Davis; several bill sponsors such as State Sen. Jacqueline Collins and State Reps. Greg Harris, Connie Howard and Eddie Washington; and local activists Ida W. Byther-Smith, Marc Loveless, Ben Montgomery and Michael O'Connor.

One hundred percent of the net proceeds from the sale of the tickets—a little over 27 cents per dollar—will fund HIV/AIDS prevention, education and treatment programs. The money will be appropriated to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), which will award grants to local HIV/AIDS organizations.

Harris, who is HIV-positive, spoke of the activists and local organizations who have been "working in the trenches" over the years. He feels the "real beauty" of the ticket is that it will help fund services provided by local HIV/AIDS organizations. "The real impact is in the small community organizations ... that know the folks on the block," Harris said.

Tickets are available 30 weeks out of the year through Dec. 31, 2012. The top prize is \$20,000.

Illinois ranks sixth in the nation for AIDS cases. Also, the face of HIV/AIDS has been changing locally and beyond. Minority populations, such as African-American women, are disproportionately affected. At the event, Collins said she felt a "moral imperative" to sponsor legislation for the "Quality of Life" ticket and push it forward.

"This ticket today is a step forward in mankind and humankind," said IDPH Director Dr. Damon Arnold.

## Pro-Trans Ruling in Name Case

BY AMY WOOTEN

Illinois' highest court ruled that a suburban disabled transgender woman should no longer be denied access to the judicial process because of her gender identity or financial status.

Duann Turner, a 52-year-old low-income transgender woman represented by Lambda Legal, was denied access to the judicial process last summer when the Will County Circuit Court refused to file her papers and provide her an official case number because it felt her request was unnecessary. Turner wanted to begin the process of legally changing her name, and also requested a waiver of court fees. The Illinois Supreme Court ordered the lower court to file her Petition to Change Name and her Application To Sue As a Poor Person.

Lambda Legal's Midwest Regional Office considers the case a victory. "From our perspective, this case has always been about providing equal access to the court system," senior staff attorney Christopher Clark said.

In July 2007, Turner submitted applications to change her name and sue as a low-income individual. According to the lawsuit, Turner was allegedly told by Twelfth Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Stephen White that her application was denied because he felt a name change was unnecessary and not urgent.

Illinois law entitles low-income people to a waiver of court fees if they can't afford them. Turner requested that the fees associated with legally changing her name be waived. Lambda Legal filed suit, requesting that the Will County Circuit Court comply with the law so that Turner could begin the name-changing process.

Clark said that although there is no way to estimate how many times the court has failed to comply with the law over the years, individuals across the nation still face unequal access to the judicial process due to bias.

According to Clark, the case highlights that there is not only transgender bias in the court system, but also a bias against low-income individuals. "It's a victory in both of those respects," Clark said.

Lambda Legal expects the Will County Circuit Court to comply with the order.

## Chicago Takes Off raises \$100K

Test Positive Aware Network's two Chicago Takes Off shows raised more than \$100,000. Over 1,200 people attended the steamy event Feb. 9 at Park West, 322 W. Armitage.

This was the artistic event's second year, and featured choreographed dances, performers and elaborate costumes. In a statement released by TPAN Executive Director Rick Bejlovec, he thanked the Chicago community for its "overwhelming support."

## WTTW to run 'Out and Proud'

Local television station WTTW-11 has begun production on a new special profiling the history of Chicago's LGBT community. Out & Proud In Chicago is in production and will premiere in June.

Out & Proud In Chicago—which features Windy City Media Group Publisher Tracy Baim as its special consultant—will profile a wide range of people, from everyday folks to the famous. Among those who will be profiled are lesbian author/activist Valerie Taylor, activist/Baton Show Lounge owner Jim Flint, the late cartoonist Danny Sotomayor and social-activist couple Jane Addams and Mary Rozet Smith.

Individuals interested in contributing to the production fund should call 773-509-5535. For more info, see [www.wttw.com](http://www.wttw.com).

## Center receives prestigious award

Center on Halsted has received the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Award for Outstanding Non-Profit Real Estate Project at the 14th Annual Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards.

The Center received the award and \$15,000 during the Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Chicago's annual award ceremony on Feb. 7. It was recognized for its commitment to the LGBT community and its "design ingenuity," according to a statement released.

## Participants needed for HIV survey

The Illinois Women of African Descent Coalition is seeking women of color ages 12 and older to participate in an HIV attitudes and beliefs survey. The coalition wants a better understanding of the needs of women of African descent for use in future messages and interventions. The survey can be accessed at [http://www.survey-monkey.com/s.aspx?sm=UrLOUx7mgbWkIX5E\\_2bTwu6Q\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.survey-monkey.com/s.aspx?sm=UrLOUx7mgbWkIX5E_2bTwu6Q_3d_3d).

## Artreach to hold benefit concerts at gay bars

Artreach Educational Theatre, which teaches children performance skills such as acting and singing, will hold a number of benefit concerts at local LGBT bars throughout Spring.

Artreach instructors will perform Broadway's hit showtunes at shows that will take place Feb. 23 at @mosphere; March 1 at Hydrate; March 15 at Hunters Nightclub; March 22 at Krave Club and March 29 at Mary's Attic. Learn more at [www.artreachspotlite.com](http://www.artreachspotlite.com).

## Center to honor Sheahan

Center on Halsted will honor Patrick Sheahan at its 18th Annual Human First Gala Sat., April 12, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan.

Sheahan will be honored as the Center's 2008 Human First recipient for his significant contributions with the LGBT community and its allies. As a significant force behind building the new Center and being the organization's co-chair for its opening gala co-chair, among other things, he has worked among corporate, public and non-profit sectors to build consensus around specific LGBT issues, according to a press release.

Lesbian comedian Kate Clinton will be the evening's mistress of ceremonies. Tickets are \$300 per person; \$500 includes a premium seating and private reception.

See [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org).

## Fairygodmother Foundation holds raffle

Tickets are now available for Fairygodmother Foundation's Spring Raffle. The package includes a relaxing weekend downtown at the Hotel Cass, complete with dining, a comedy at Second City and more. Tickets are \$10 each or six for \$50, and can be purchased by calling 312-573-0028 ext. 10 or online at [www.fairygodmother.org](http://www.fairygodmother.org). The raffle will be drawn April 1.

The Fairygodmother Foundation grants wishes to terminally ill adults.

## Art Against AIDS Feb. 28

Artists from across the nation will come together for Heartland Alliance's Art Against AIDS benefit Feb. 28.

The event will take place from 6-10 p.m. at the River East Art Center, 435 E. Illinois. Over 80 works of art by local and national artists will be auctioned off.

Tickets are \$100 in advance and \$125 at the door. Call 312-660-1313 or see [www.heartlandalliance.org](http://www.heartlandalliance.org).

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# NATIONAL ROUNDUP

BY AMY WOOTEN

After becoming the first state to reject a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage back in 2006, **legislators are pushing to ask voters to ban gay marriage in Arizona again.** According to The Arizona Republic, leaders in both houses introduced a measure to place a same-sex marriage ban on the November ballot. This ballot measure is slightly different this time around because it does not ban other relationships, such as domestic partnerships.

Bay Windows reports that Stan McGee, **one of Massachusetts' Gov. Deval Patrick's openly gay aides, was arrested in Florida** for allegedly sexually assaulting a 15-year-old. McGee is an aide for the state's Secretary of Housing and Economic Development. He was arrested in late December.

San Jose State University's president **suspended the school's on-campus blood drive in protest of anti-gay federal donation guidelines** that prohibit gay men from donating, according to Out in America. The university's president, Don Kassing, announced his decision to students via e-mail, writing that the federal guidelines conflict with the school's non-discrimination policy. He said that the suspension of the blood drive will continue until the Food and Drug Administration reviews its policies.

Former Bush aide **Karl Rove revealed that he is uncertain whether or not his adoptive father, who died in 2004, was gay** at a recent chat at a Connecticut high school, reported the Hartford Courant. He was responding to a student's question, which referenced published accounts of his sexual orientation. Rove, when asked by a student, also discussed his thoughts on gay marriage. He explained that he feels that the issue of marriage should be left up to a state legislature, not the courts.

Democratic presidential candidate **Hillary Clinton has more gay super delegates** than Sen. Barack Obama, according to the Washington Blade. Because the race is neck-and-neck, super delegates will play a very important role in deciding who will be nominated. The Blade reports that there are 21 super delegates who identify as LGBT in the electoral system. Twelve of those delegates have pledged their support for Clinton, while two have pledged their support for Obama. Seven remain undecided.

A Colorado lesbian couple who wants to get married recently filed suit in Denver County court, reported The Advocate. **The couple wants Colorado's ban on same-sex marriage to be declared unconstitutional.** In 2006, voters approved a ballot measure that amended the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage. The lesbian couple was arrested in 2007 on trespassing charges after they attempted to obtain a marriage license.

In Massachusetts, **a federal appeals court ruled that it is okay for an elementary school to use children's books that promote gay tolerance,** reported Gaywired.com. The families of two students filed suit because of the school's position of not providing parental notification for LGBT-friendly materials used in the classroom. They felt that the school's use of children's books Molly's Family, King & King and Who's in a Family? conflicted with their personal religious beliefs and the religious training of their kids.

**A lesbian mom was recently convicted in the murder of her infant son,** according to 365gay.com. The New York City mother was sentenced to 15 years to life for the murder of her 23-month-old son. Her partner, who pled guilty in May, is currently serving her 15-year sentence. The infant was beaten to death in September, and both women blamed each other for the death.

**An openly gay student who was shot in the head by a classmate was recently declared brain dead,** according to the Los Angeles Times. The 15-year-old Oxnard, Calif., junior high student, Lawrence King, was declared brain dead on Feb. 13. The 14-year-old suspect, who has not been identified by local authorities because of his young age, will now face first-degree murder charges. Students at the school say that King was targeted because of his sexual orientation.

**A new gay travel social networking site, Gaypedia.com, launched on Valentine's Day.** The site serves as a one stop shop for travel information, as well as social networking. The site gives visitors an inside peek into numerous travel destinations by informing them of the laws that impact LGBT people at each destination.

The Williams Institute at UCLA Law School announced that **\$5.5 million in new gifts has been contributed to support its research on sexual orientation law and policy.** The Williams Institute is the first national think tank to dedicate itself to such issues and research. The institute's endowment is now up to \$15 million.

**Straight ally and brother of activist Larry Kramer, Arthur Kramer, died** at age 81, according to GLAAD. Kramer was the lead funder of his brother's initiative for Lesbian & Gay Studies at Yale University, donating \$1 million in 2001. Kramer's law firm, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Franke, tackles many LGBT issues.

According to Outincolumbus.com, the Ohio Health Department plans to **study gay teens' smoking habits.** The state's health officials allocated \$60,000 in federal dollars to study the issue. Nationwide, gay and lesbian teenagers, and the LGBT community in general, tend to smoke more than their straight counterparts. Ohio wants to conduct the study because it does not have any statewide data on LGBT smoking habits.



## KEEN ON THE TRAIL

Gay news from the presidential campaign trail ...  
BY LISA KEEN, KEEN NEWS SERVICE

### Obama takes lead

The winds of change blew in Barack Obama's direction last week, as the Illinois senator overtook U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York in the delegate race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

After first winning the caucus and primary races over the weekend in Washington, Louisiana, Nebraska and Maine, Obama made another clean sweep of the newly dubbed "Potomac Primary" states of Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia on Tuesday.

Obama's latest winnings boosted his delegate count above that of Clinton's for the first time in the campaign, though both counts are relatively close and Clinton is favored to take the giant delegate states of Texas and Ohio March 4.

On Tuesday night, Clinton and Obama reached out to rallies in their favored strongholds --Clinton to the large state of Texas, speaking in El Paso; and Obama in the small state of Wisconsin, speaking in Madison.

On the Republican side, U.S. Senator John McCain of Arizona bested former Governor Mike Huckabee of Arkansas in four out of six states last weekend and Tuesday. McCain, with 812 delegates, appears poised to reach the magic number of 1,191 as early as March 4 in Texas or Ohio.

But on the Democratic side, Obama and Clinton are in a delegate-by-delegate fight for the nomination that has some party officials worried that a resolution may require a contentious and controversial vote by "superdelegates"—796 (current) party leaders who can vote on the nomination by virtue of their having held public office or party leadership positions. National Stonewall Democrats said Feb. 12 that at least 21 of these are openly LGBT.

### Talking the talk

Obama mentioned gays in his stump speech at least twice during last week—before large, general audiences in Seattle, Wash., and Alexandria, Va.

In Alexandria, he said, "I've seen how politicians can exploit our fears to make us afraid of each other," said Obama. "Afraid of immigrants, afraid of gay people. I've seen how destructive, how corrosive fear can be."

He was also prompted by a questioner in the audience in Alexandria, a gay veteran named Dustin Davis, to explain what he would do to repeal the military's "don't ask/don't tell" policy.

"Why would we not want able men and women who are willing to sacrifice on our behalf—why would we tell them no?" said

Obama. "Why would we spend money kicking out Arab-speaking linguists that we need right now in order to apprehend terrorists because of some hang-ups that are outdated and outmoded and make no sense. We are going to overturn it."

"How am I going to do it?" he continued. "I'm going to do it by putting together a military panel made up of people like General [John Shalikashvili]."

Shalikashvili, who was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during President Bill Clinton's first term, said last year that, although he initially supported the "don't ask, don't tell" policy of excluding all but the most closeted of gay men and lesbians from the military, he no longer believes gays would undermine military efficacy.

"If we can get military officers to credibly talk about this issue—the most recent polls have shown the average person who is serving in Iraq and Afghanistan don't think this is an issue," said Obama. "This is a political issue. It needs to stop being a political issue. We need to solve the problem."

There seemed to be only scattered other mention of gay issues in the campaigns in this week's primary and caucus states. Several news reports in Washington State made note of the fact that caucus ballots asked voters whether they were gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

"I went to the Democratic gathering at Highland Middle School, in the Overlake part of Bellevue," wrote Seattle Times reporter Danny Westneat. "...Practically everyone refused to fill out the part of the ballot that asked whether they were gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. Why a political party needs to know who you're sleeping with, I have no idea."

And campaigning for her mother in Wisconsin, which holds its primary Feb. 19, Chelsea Clinton was asked about Sen. Clinton's position on equal rights for gays. According to the Capital Times, a Madison newspaper, Chelsea Clinton was well-versed in her mother's positions. She noted, among other things, that Clinton supports civil unions but not marriage and believes "don't ask, don't tell" should be repealed.

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# WORLD ROUNDUP

BY REX WOCKNER

## Cuban culture minister supports same-sex marriage

Cuba's culture minister, Abel Prieto, has come out in support of same-sex marriage, the Miami Herald reported Feb. 6.

"I think that marriage between lesbians, between homosexuals can be perfectly approved and that in Cuba that wouldn't cause an earthquake or anything like that," Prieto, who is a member of the Politburo, told reporters after a screening of a new documentary about folk singer Silvio Rodríguez.

Prieto, 57, also is a member of the Council of State, Cuba's governing body. The Herald noted that he is the only top government official with "shoulder-length hair."

Prieto's statement is one of several pro-gay developments in Cuba in the past year.

In November, Mariela Castro Espín, director of National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX), said her dad, Raúl Castro, supports letting open gays serve in the military. Raúl Castro is leading Cuba during his brother Fidel's lengthy illness.

Castro Espín also has said the island will begin offering sex-change operations.

"There are 27 transsexuals waiting for the operation [and] the medical team is being trained," she told the Buenos Aires newspaper Clarín three months ago. "As soon as it's ready ... they will start to operate."

In December, two Havana lesbians were symbolically married in CENESEX's courtyard. Mónica, 19, and Elizabeth, 28, tied the knot before 60 friends and supporters in the first-ever same-sex union to receive support from a government agency.

The ceremony was filmed by students from the Cuban Higher Institute of Art.

And last July, the Roman Catholic vicar general of Havana, Monsignor Carlos Manuel de Céspedes García-Menocal, wrote that he supports "stable same-sex relationships" being "protected by civil laws."

"Contemporary Western society is no longer the same as that which arrived at present clarifications concerning marriage," Céspedes said.



**Boris Dittrich, advocacy director of Human Rights Watch's LGBT Rights Program. HRW photo**

## Romania considers same-sex marriage ban

Romania's parliament is considering defining marriage as between a man and a woman. Current law defines it as "between spouses."

A bill passed unanimously Feb. 4 by the Senate Judiciary Committee would change the law to read, "The marriage between a man and a woman is the basis of the family."

Human Rights Watch denounced the measure. "There is no excuse for playing politics with families' welfare," said Boris Dittrich, advocacy director of HRW's LGBT Rights Program.

"These proposals not only deliberately discriminate against same-sex couples but threaten their families, including children. It is an insult to Romania's achievements elsewhere in overcoming discrimination."

## Spaniards support same-sex marriage law

Three-quarters of Spaniards support the nation's two-year-old law that lets same-sex couples marry.

Spain is one of six countries that have opened traditional marriage to gay couples.

A new Instituto Opina/Cadena Ser poll found that 74.5 percent of respondents support the law and only 18.1 percent want to see it repealed. The remainder had no opinion.

President José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero recently reaffirmed his support for gay marriage, saying, "We will not take one step backward in our defense of tolerance and freedom."

Pollsters questioned 1,000 Spanish adults by telephone on Jan. 8 and reported a margin of error of 3.1 percent.

Same-sex couples also have access to full marriage in Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, South Africa and the U.S. state of Massachusetts.

## Swedish court: Lesbians can buy puppies

Lesbians must be allowed to buy dogs, a Stockholm appeals court affirmed Feb. 11.

A kennel owner in the Stockholm suburb of Värmdö, Anette Sjöholm, had refused to sell a puppy to a lesbian, Smila Bergström, because Sjöholm had read that transvestites are involved in animal pornography and she believed that made homosexuals untrustworthy.

The court unanimously rejected Sjöholm's defense, as did a lower district court, according to a report in the Stockholm publication The Local.

Sjöholm must pay Bergström \$3,085 in damages for discrimination and harassment, and reimburse \$6,940 to the state Ombudsman against Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation for its legal expenses.

## U.N. turns down gay groups

The United Nations Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations is again opposing and delaying gay groups' requests for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

On Feb. 11, the committee recommended denial of, or deferred action on, the applications of Spain's State Federation of Lesbians, Gays, Transsexuals and Bisexuals (FELGTB); the Brazilian Association of Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transvestites and Transsexuals (ABGLT); and the Dutch national gay organization COC (its former initials are now its full name).

"It was a shocking first experience at the U.N.," said Joyce Hamilton of COC, whose application, along with that of ABGLT, was deferred. "This blatant structural discrimination against LGBT organizations shows the need for a continued battle."

FELGTB's application was recommended for rejection in a tie vote. Support for the application came from Colombia, Dominica, Israel, Peru, Romania, the United Kingdom and the U.S. Opposition came from Burundi, China, Egypt, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia and Sudan. Four nations abstained—Angola, Guinea, India and Turkey—

and Cuba missed the vote.

"Even getting this negative recommendation was difficult in the NGO committee today," said FELGTB's Toni Poveda. "Representatives of Egypt, Pakistan and Qatar constantly came up with additional questions for us and claimed that proceeding to a vote on whether or not to grant consultative status to the group—before all questions are answered—would constitute preferential treatment."

The negative recommendation actually puts FELGTB in a better position than COC and ABGLT.

"There is clearly a group of countries in this committee which insists on blocking the applications of LGBT groups from one session to another, preventing them to reach the full ECOSOC, where [this committee's] position does not have a majority," said FELGTB's Sylvia Jaén. "We were successful in overcoming this situation but unfortunately our Dutch and Brazilian friends were not."

Groups that have succeeded in achieving ECOSOC consultative status in recent years include the Swedish national gay group RFSL (its former initials are now its full name), Canada's Coalition gaie et lesbienne du Québec, the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians, the Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany, International Wages Due Lesbians, Australia's Coalition of Activist Lesbians, and the European branch of the International Lesbian and Gay Association.

The status allows nongovernmental organizations—some 2,900 in all—to access U.N. meetings, deliver oral and written reports, contact country representatives and organize events.

## Israel OKs gay adoption

Israel's Justice Ministry announced Feb. 10 that same-sex couples can adopt children.

"When it is for the good of the adopted child, it is possible to agree to requests from same-sex couples to adopt a child who is not the child of one of the partners," the ministry announced on behalf of Attorney General Menachem Mazuz.

Welfare Minister Isaac Herzog welcomed the move, saying: "There is no reason why same-sex couples who meet the criteria for adoption should not be able to join the process of adoption and of parenthood. We must adapt to the spirit of the times and the changes that are afoot."

Ultra-Orthodox lawmakers denounced the decision, saying it will lead to children being placed in an unnatural environment.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

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## Greg Sanchez: Turning His Life Around

BY ROSS FORMAN

Greg Sanchez has lived more than half his live HIV-positive.

It was early 1989 when he tested positive and, of course, he thought there was something wrong with the test—perhaps confusion with the test number he had been given, since the analysis was done anonymously. Sanchez was certain nothing was wrong with him since he felt fine and didn't look sick.

When he finally realized that he was positive, Sanchez was shocked, saddened and, quite simply, at rock bottom.

"I was scared to death, living in northwest Indiana in a large Catholic family," said Sanchez. "It was very difficult to talk to anyone or even access any resources. I felt hopeless.

"When I learned I was positive, I went into denial, mostly because I didn't know how I was going to tell anyone. I didn't think I was going to be alive."

Sanchez even cashed in his life insurance policy.

In 1997, Sanchez went from an HIV-positive status to an AIDS diagnosis.

Now 42, openly gay and living in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood, Sanchez has had a wide-ranging, amazing life, especially over the past 10 years. That life included a high-profile stint on a locally produced reality show for FOX-TV.

"Cancer, for instance, is very important to support," Sanchez said. "I know people with cancer and support it, too. I support the cancer pink-ribbon campaign [for breast cancer] and any other types of cancers that happen to people. I'm hoping one day soon, I'll see a red ribbon [in support of AIDS research] on a pack of Tic Tacs like I've recently seen with the breast cancer pink ribbon. And why not red Tic Tacs, too?"

"HIV/AIDS needs to be supported by more big community businesses, big corporations and our government through a bigger awareness campaign, and not just putting the emphasis on Africa, but in our own backyard, too. The local venues—like the bars—are always hit up for money, and I'm sure it can wear on them to have that expectation so often.

"HIV/AIDS still a stigma attached to it. It involves talking about death, sex, drugs, and diverse populations of people who usually are perceived in some communities as marginalized, different and/or outcasts from family, friends and others.

Sanchez now works at Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV) as an education outreach prevention specialist, making HIV/AIDS-related presentations to schools and elsewhere in the community.

He is involved with testing and counseling regarding HIV, among other STDs. He also works in crisis intervention. The bulk of his work is done in the Chicago Public School System.



Greg Sanchez. Photo courtesy of Sanchez

"Back when I found out I was positive, there was only one [treatment] pill and there still were a lot of deaths [among patients]. I went to a lot of funerals," he said. "Hopefully we're changing that, especially since treatment has gotten a lot easier.

"So many kids today hear about AIDS and HIV, but they don't really relate with it. We're trying to change that."

Thus, his presentations—especially at schools—are very visual, showing HIV-infected patients of all shapes, sizes, colors, religions and nationalities.

"We have to remember where we have been, where we are and where are we going and learn from those people who have passed on before us and no longer have a voice," Sanchez said. "We need to bridge the gap between the generations that experienced AIDS at its worst and today.

"Back when I came out about AIDS publicly it had its repercussions. But [today's youth can be] strong and their lives meaningful."

Sanchez has had quite a diverse life since learning he was HIV-positive and, ultimately, afflicted with AIDS. Just consider:

—He was part of an ex-gay ministry for about three years in the 1990s.

—He was one of the first in South Bend, Ind., to speak out about AIDS and HIV, "and, of course, that had its own repercussions," he said, referring to his house being egged and having to endure vandalism of his property, among other things. "It was scary, but [what I was doing was] gratifying."

—In 1990, he was involved with an abusive relationship.

—Chicago's FOX-TV affiliate, WFLD, held an experiment a few years ago, mixing gays, lesbians and straights. They lived together for a week, debating numerous hot-button subjects, such as HIV, hate crimes, adoption, marriage, etc. Sanchez admits he was hesitant to participate, but ultimately was chosen from among about 800 applicants. "And it really was a great experience in my life, though quite stressful," he said. "Some of us really bonded and still talk today. Not so with others." In fact, Sanchez said a five-year reunion of the 2003 crew was discussed, but some would not participate, he predicted. "It was a great experience, especially since I heard from so many people who were struggling with their sexuality, their spirituality and their personal lives," he said.

For 2008 and beyond, Sanchez said, "I have just one goal, and that's to help people, whatever way that is."

## QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

**"LET ME TELL YOU WHAT I HAVE BEEN TELLING VOTERS ACROSS AMERICA.** I am fully committed to the fair and equal treatment of LGBT Americans. For seven long years, the Bush Administration has tried to divide us—only seeing people who matter to them. It's been a government of the few, by the few, and for the few. And no community has been more invisible to this administration than the LGBT community. I will change that." — *Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Feb. 4 in "A Message to LGBT Americans: I Want to be Your President."*

**"THERE WERE, INDEED, SOME FACTUAL INACCURACIES** in President Clinton's statement

about 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' ... Military members cannot be out to anyone, at any time, while serving under the law. Statements to friends, family members or anyone else are grounds for dismissal from the armed forces, as they have been since day one. The law, indeed, practically prevents any gay American, who is out in any way, from serving in the military." — *Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, to syndicated gay press columnist Chris Crain, Jan. 24.*

**"WHAT'S A FEMINIST CIVIL-RIGHTS SUPPORTER TO DO?** This is an embarrassment of riches we have

in the Democratic primary. Sure, they all have their limitations, but when was the last time we had some viable, charismatic choices? When didn't you hold your nose to vote for the president. ... We feminists are between a Barack and a hard place. Our fantasy presidential teams are flush." — *Tracy Baim, publisher of the Chicago gay newspaper Windy City Times, in a Jan. 16 opinion column.*

**"I ALWAYS WANTED TO DESIGN CLOTHES, OR DECORATE HOUSES,** or just be fabulous, but I didn't expect it to come in the form of fame, and certainly didn't expect to have a TV show. I never even imagined that. Queer Eye was just an amazing, happy accident. I guess it's like that old adage where preparation met luck and it all worked out and was just really

good karma." — *Carson Kressley to AfterElton.com, Jan. 30.*

**"IF I SAY I WAS BEING STEREOTYPICAL AND I [THEN] DO** what 'shouldn't' be stereotypical, then I'm living my life for somebody else and I'm marching to the beat of somebody else's drummer, and that, I think, is a worse thing. [Being out is just about being who you are. It's a worse crime to have to be a certain [non-stereotypical] way. And really, I think that is being a little homophobic. It's just me being me, and if you don't like it, that's just too bad." — *TV celebrity Carson Kressley, of Queer Eye fame, to AfterElton.com, Jan. 30.*



**Being out is just about being who you are.**

—Carson Kressley.



GLAAD photo.



**"I'M SUPPORTING HER [HILLARY CLINTON] BECAUSE** I know her and I like her and she's smart and a tough girl. But I don't have much respect for either party. I just think Republicans are worse." — *Cher to USA Today, Feb. 6.*

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

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REV. IRENE  
MONROEYes, You Can  
Change Obama!

Obama has "barack'd the vote" by getting disinterested and disenfranchised Americans involved in his campaign for the presidential bid. His promise to cease partisan politics and the old beltway boys' bickering has not only raised the hope of the American public, but it has also brought out untold numbers of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer Americans to cast our votes for him. And with Obama's win of the Democratic presidential primary in South Carolina last month, his inspiring "Yes, we can change" speech proved that not only can he reach across this nation's dividing lines, but we as Americans can, too:

"This election is about the past vs. the future. It's about whether we settle for the same divisions and distractions and drama that passes for politics today or whether we reach for a politics of common sense and innovation, a politics of shared sacrifice and shared prosperity....

"Don't tell me we can't change. Yes, we can. Yes, we can change. Yes, we can. Yes, we can heal this nation. Yes, we can seize our future."

But as Obama helps the nation to seize a better future, "the same divisions and distractions and drama that passes for politics today" concerning LGBTQ Americans' civil rights seem to either haunt him or come out of his campaign closet.

With news outlets reporting that in 2004 Obama asked to not have his picture taken with San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, because of the mayor's support of same-sex marriage, we must ask ourselves this question about Obama, as Obama challenges us: Can he change?

"I gave a fundraiser, at his [Obama's] request

at the Waterfront restaurant. And he said to me, he would really appreciate it if he didn't get his photo taken with my mayor. He said he would really not like to have his picture taken with Gavin," former Mayor Willie Brown told the San Francisco Chronicle.

Four years later and a denial from the Obama campaign, Newsom told Reuters: "One of the three Democrats you mentioned as presidential candidates, as God is my witness, will not be photographed with me, will not be in the same room with me, even though I've done fund-raisers for that particular person—not once, but twice—because of this issue."

Newsom's a staunch ally to our community. He has neither publicly veered away from photo-ops with us nor from our allies promoting marriage equality.

Many LGBTQ supporters of Obama, however, will argue that Obama, then like now, must tactically do what he has to do to shave off the vitriol of religious conservatives to win.

Okay!

But how is he then the candidate of change? And how does Obama's political strategy reconcile with these words he spoke in South Carolina?

"We're up against the idea that it's acceptable to say anything and do anything to win an election. But we know that this is exactly what's wrong with our politics. This is why people don't believe what their leaders say anymore. This is why they tune out. And this election is our chance to give the American people a reason to believe again."

Hmm?!

While it is true, in Obama's case, that a picture with us would perhaps now say more than his eloquent equivocating words on behalf of us, Obama can't risk the political fallout.

Matt Comer, owner and editor of InterstateQ.com stated in his article "President Obama—Why Gays need to worry" that "If Obama wins the presidency the LGBT community is in for four (and possibly eight) years of being subjected to a dangerously employed "big tent" strategy that places an oppressed group of citizens at the same table as their oppressors. Obama's presidency would see

James Dobson, Pat Robertson, Donnie McClurkin and other anti-gay leaders sitting down with LGBT community leaders telling them how much they are evil and going to hell while Obama sits back and says, "We should work together and hope for change."

And while many of us will rationalize and embrace Obama's "big tent" strategy, in truth, Obama is on the "down low" with the LGBTQ community. He has repackaged a softer and more gentler anti-gay platform than the Republicans which is perhaps why so many of us uncritically and defensively come to Obama's defensive.

"You and the white gay establishment are holding Obama to a double standard that is ridiculous and disingenuous. What about Hillary Clinton? If you're going to judge people by the company they keep, it should be across the the board and not selective condemnation," an avid critic of mine wrote me.

The argument that Hilary isn't and Bill wasn't any better on LGBTQ issues is true. However, that's not the issue here.

Why?

Because Obama is the new guy on the block challenging the old establishment. He's allegedly espousing a differently political platform, one where he says if... we are met with cynicism and doubt and fear and those who tell us that we can't, we will respond with that timeless creed that sums up the spirit of the American people in three simple words—yes, we can."

But Obama's "big tent strategy" to ascend to the White House and his elusive and "down low" promises to the LGBTQ community play us like pawns on a chess board. And, consequently, if we neither hold him to his promises to us nor have him to expound on them, we will then have participated in the closeting of ourselves and the disenfranchisement of our full and equal rights when he's elected.

So, the real question on the table is can we get Obama to change.

I am going to throw caution to the wind and say, "Yes, Obama can!"

## LETTERS

## LCR and DADT

In response to several articles written recently about the DADT military policy, the Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) have been unequivocal in their messaging and work against this failed military policy. Log Cabin has worked tirelessly to help overturn this policy. We are opposed to the idea that any Republican presidential candidate can not do anything regarding the DADT policy. This includes Gov. Huckabee's recent statement that we don't "need a president who's trying to tell the military how to run the military." After all, it only took Truman's signature in 1948 to Executive Order 9981 to ensure that our nation's military was integrated racially, something fairminded Americans knew was the right thing to do then as it is now.

LCR sharply criticized former President Clinton and pointed out the facts when he recently tried to orally rewrite the history of DADT blaming the Pentagon alone for the failed 1993 policy saying that as soon as it was signed into law, "the anti-gay forces in the military started to use it as a excuse to kick [gay] people out." "If this was true," says National LCR President Patrick Sammon, "why didn't he do anything about it for the seven years he served as President after signing the legislation?"

LCR has also been meeting with three of the current Republican Presidential candidates to voice our opinions and concerns on several issues having to do with the LGBT community including DADT to much agreement and appreciation from these three candidates. To see some of what LCR

has done toward this important work, go to [www.logcabin.org](http://www.logcabin.org). LCR will continue to work with the remaining Republican candidates and the Republican members of the Armed Services Committee to overturn the disastrous DADT policy.

David J. Valkema  
 President, Log Cabin Republicans-Illinois  
 National Board Director, Log Cabin Republicans

Building Bridges  
over the Rainbow

Dear Charles O'Neill,

The intention of this open letter is to engage you and members of the National AGLO (Archdiocesan Gay and Lesbian Outreach) board of directors in a public dialogue about ministry to the LGBT community with members of the board of directors of the Rainbow Sash Movement. Both are national LGBT Catholic organizations with different approaches to ministry.

As we observe the season of Lent, in my opinion, all Roman Catholics should take this opportunity to reflect on our life journey, and how we have fallen short not only individually, but also as a church. Lent continues to be a journey from life to death, and back to life. It is in that spirit I would like to ask the following questions of you.

Should ministry to the LGBT community be more concerned with teaching and imposing orthodoxy than being involved in social-justice issues of the community? Is it the place of ministry to challenge the patterns of homophobia in archdioceses around the nation? Do you view this form activism

as political, or do you think that social justice-related concerns of the LGBT community should be publicly supported by your ministry? Is silence in the face of injustice sound pastoral practice? Is it wise to compartmentalize our beliefs?

The Catholic hierarchy has actively worked against legislation that would prohibit job discrimination, and housing for same-sex people in various jurisdictions around the nation. On the surface it would appear you hold your position as a national Catholic organization, with the permission of the National Council of Catholic Bishops, over the social needs of the LGBT community. Is my interpretation correct, or am I in error?

Dialogue requires that we engage in a truly honest inquiry into the painful relationship of the LGBT community with the Roman Catholic Church. Certainly, this type of discussion would call us to unlearn in order to learn; brace for some levels of pain; seek first to understand; recognize the sanctity and power of language; and focus on the reality of the present situation.

Integrity and maturity, I believe, call us to this type of honesty, and respectful dialogue. Given the deep fissures in the relationships between the LGBT Community and the Catholic bishops of the United States, what are called for are honesty and courage. We are sisters and brothers in Christ; we really need to respect that relationship, and show it by communicating with each other and our community in a transparent manner, with love in our hearts.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,  
 Joe Murray  
 U.S. Convener  
 Rainbow Sash Movement

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



## SKATE EXPECTATIONS

Smucker's Stars on Ice will be in town Feb. 23. One of the featured skaters, Michael Weiss, talks with Windy City Times. Page 22.

## DANCE

'Steep' thoughts.  
page 14



## MOVIES

Bad 'Vantage'?  
page 17



## MUSIC

Ford tough.  
page 20



## Corey Glover: From Colour to 'Christ'

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The traveling theatrical production of Jesus Christ Superstar is in Chicago this week—and an integral part of this musical is Corey Glover, who plays the traitorous Judas Iscariot. Glover—best known as the lead singer of the Grammy Award-winning Black hard-rock band Living Colour—talked with Windy City Times about the play, the classic war movie Platoon (in which Glover has a role) and Amy Winehouse.

**Windy City Times: What initially drew you to this production?**

CG: The fact that it was Jesus Christ Superstar—this show that I've loved for a very long time and there's this part I've always wanted to play in it. And, it was a chance for me to do something outside what people would've expected of me. There was a whole bunch of [reasons].

**WCT: I was looking up Jesus Christ Superstar and came across Ted Neeley's name. I thought I had accessed info about the 1973 movie [which Neeley stars in]—but he's the lead in this current production as well. What's it like performing alongside him?**

CG: It's really great. He's still doing what he did in the movie—not exactly [all], but you hear all that stuff—so you feel that much more comfortable; you're right there and are completely immersed in it.

**WCT: Do you become so immersed that you become lost doing your performance?**

CG: That has happened to me once or twice, I must admit. But you get over it and you keep going.

**WCT: The late Carl Anderson played Judas in the movie. Were you concerned about being compared to him and filling his shoes?**

CG: I'm trying to be me, although I have to



Corey Glover (right) and Ted Neeley in Jesus Christ Superstar. Photo by Joan Marcus

admit—and I'm admitting a lot of stuff to you today—that what I do is a bad imitation of Carl, anyway.

**WCT: I'm not sure I believe that, because the reviews have been great. One review called you "deeply talented" and another referred to your performance as "riveting." Just wondering: Do you read reviews?**

CG: Sometimes I do, but I disregard them all. After a while, they make no sense. What [reviewers] see on the outside is based on that day. A music review [may] be based on one or two listens of a song or several songs, so they don't have the depth of what it is we're going through.

**WCT: So if someone is reviewed badly on a particular night, that review is unwarranted because the reviewer has no idea of what you all are going through?**

CG: Absolutely. Something could be a director's choice and they blame it on the actor—that makes no sense to me.

**WCT: What are the best and worst aspects of touring?**

CG: Traveling and traveling. You get to see a lot of different places but you're on a bus, so you're constantly moving and you don't get to

really see these places. And I have little children, and I'd like to see them every now and then. They come out and see me periodically, but it's not the same thing as putting them to bed and waking up with them.

**WCT: So what places are you looking forward to checking out in Chicago?**

CG: I don't know because it's snowy and cold! Actually, my children and wife are coming up, so I'm looking forward to that more

than anything else.

**WCT: Something I did not know is that you're in the 1986 film Platoon. What was filming that like?**

CG: Very interesting. We spent three months in the Philippines shooting that. What was interesting is that originally someone else was picked for the gig, and that person decided not to do it. So they contacted me on a Monday, and on Tuesday I was on my way to the Philippines. I had no time to prepare and they gave me a script when I got there. Plus, to prepare us all, on Thursday they put us in a jungle for two weeks, with no hotel, no nothing. [Laughs]

**WCT: Now, switching to music, this year is the 25th anniversary of the start of Living Colour.**

CG: Yes, [although] I wasn't in the band when it originally started. But it's also the 20th anniversary of [the Grammy-winning album] Vivid.

**WCT: Thanks for making me feel old, Corey.**

CG: Hey! You're younger than me. I can guarantee you that. [Interviewer laughs]

**WCT: What's in the future for Living Colour?**

CG: We're making a record right now. It's ten-

tatively titled The Chair in the Doorway and it's, basically, Living Colour. We're trying to take some real interesting [things] and turn things upside-down.

**WCT: Living Colour has won a couple of Grammys. Did you catch the most recent Grammys?**

CG: No, I did not. I was working that day, and the television in my hotel room only gave me MSNBC. And I wasn't going to the hotel bar to watch the Grammys.

**WCT: I was going to ask what you thought of [singer] Amy Winehouse and some of the other performers.**

CG: I think [she's] great. Some folks have been saying [her winning] was like rewarding bad behavior. It's not about her behavior—shouldn't it be about her singing? Ms. Winehouse has a problem; that's pretty evident. But when you hear her songs like Back to Black, you can really hear her pain and you can't deny it. I couldn't care less about her antics; I'd like to hear more from her. There's a lot more to that album than the fact that she has a severe problem.

If the Grammys were not about awarding [artistry], it'd be a completely different show. Were you honoring Tina Turner because she was abused? What about Bob Dylan or Frank Sinatra or Billie Holiday—because of what they did outside of their artistry? Half of that stuff informed their artistry, there's no doubt in my mind. But we honor what they put on vinyl or plastic, or what you can download. It's just a recent phenomenon that you're actually privy to artists' personal lives.

**WCT: What's your advice to someone breaking into the biz?**

CG: Never stop doing what you do and don't deviate from what you do. What you bring to the table is unique and viable, and worth someone's time.

Jesus Christ Superstar is at the Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph, through Feb. 24. Tickets are \$20-\$75; visit [www.TicketMaster.com](http://www.TicketMaster.com), stop by the Broadway in Chicago box offices or call 312-902-1400.



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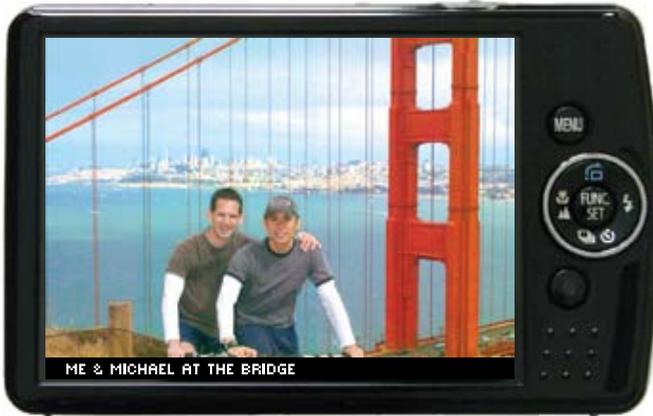
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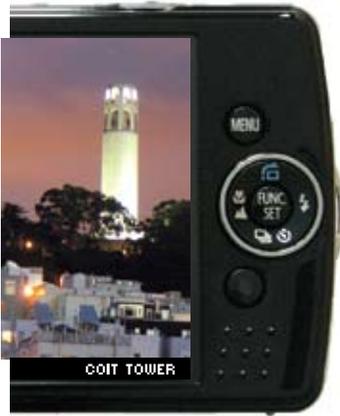
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*Without Wings  
the Way is Steep*

The Autobiography of Sybil Shearer



The cover of Sybil Shearer's autobiography. Photo by Helen Balfour Morrison

**Stage Door  
Jonny**

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

You're young, you're Jewish and you're a fagalah. No? OK, you're young, you're not Jewish but you go coo-coo-nuts for Jewish guys like those butch, dark-haired Israeli soldiers in tight uniforms. Yummy! Either way, such a deal Jonny's got for you. For the first time to Jonny's knowledge, an LGBT trip is being offered for young professionals in their 20s and 30s who wish to explore gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues in Israel. **Pride in Israel** invites inquiries from groups, couples or individuals.

The 10-day trip is being offered in June and again in August—Oy! In the desert in the middle of summer!—with stops in Tel Aviv (beaches), Jerusalem, Massada and the Dead Sea, among other classic sites. **Pride in Israel** includes the opportunity to meet gay soldiers in the Israeli army; dance at gay and lesbian clubs; attend the Tel Aviv Gay and Lesbian Film Festival; and speak with LGBT activists and leaders. For more info contact Linda at 212-303-7462 or pride@yjimpact.org. As the **Pride in Israel** announcement says, "You never thought a trip to Israel could be so gay. You never thought a gay trip could be so Jewish."

One of the first events of Women's History Month will be a free screening of **The Dances of Sybil Shearer On Film**, hosted March 5 by the Morrison-Shearer Foundation at The Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, 610 S. Michigan, 6-7:30 P.M. The screening includes both public performances by the legendary dancer and choreographer as well as rare footage of Shearer

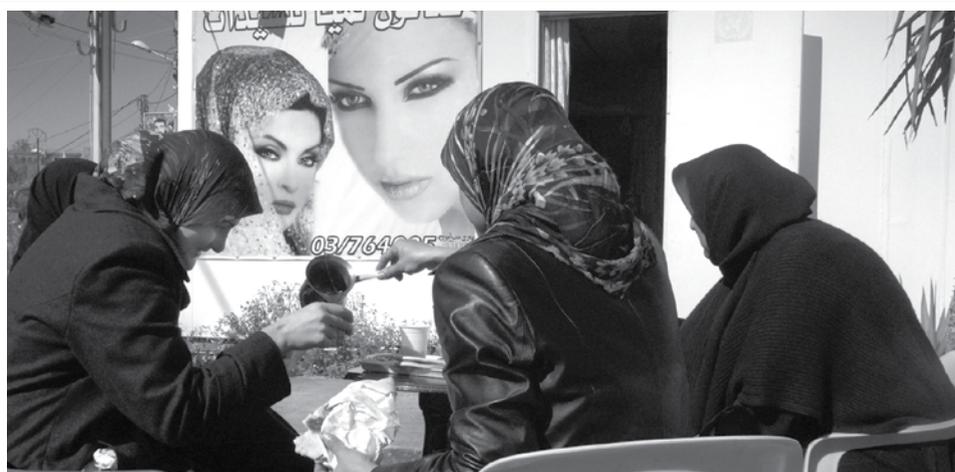
dancing on the grounds of her Northbrook home and studio, as shot by her longtime artistic collaborator, Helen Balfour Morrison (1901-1984). A notable photographer, Morrison photographed scores of the major artists of her day, but none more than Shearer, with whom she shared not only a professional relationship but also the closest personal relationship—a fact borne out by the name of the Foundation dedicated to preserving their work. The screening coincides with the publication of volume one of Shearer's autobiography, *Without Wings the Way is Steep*. The first volume is entitled *Within This Thicket*.

Shearer (1912-2005) was a leading pioneer of modern dance and is considered one of the finest dancers of the 20th century. After a critically acclaimed solo debut at Carnegie Hall in 1941 she moved to Chicago, where she worked independently, close to nature, and in her own unorthodox way. Soon after arriving in Illinois she met Morrison, who became her lighting director, photographer, filmographer and artistic collaborator for 40 years. The screening is free but seating is limited and reservations are recommended: 847-291-9161 or www.morrisonsshearer.org.

The **Second Sex Women's Theater Series** at Bailiwick is getting a jump on Women's History Month with a one-night reinvention of a classic TV game show, and you're invited to be a contestant!! The **Lesbian Dating Game** (single lesbians come out, come out) and **The Lesbian Newly-Bed Game** (couples who have been together at least three months). It's tomorrow night (Feb. 21) starting at 7 p.m. at T's Bar in Andersonville, 5025 N. Clark, and you're invited whether you're straight, lesbian, gay or something in-between. Kelsie Huff is the host. There is a \$10 entry fee that benefits the Second Sex Series. Hey, there are prizes, too!

The new exhibit at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) is a survey of 15 years of painting, drawing, sculpture, photographs, video and installation by scatter artist **Karen Kilimnik**, featuring celebrity images of Leonardo DiCaprio, Paris Hilton and Elizabeth Taylor as well as Old Master-influences works. Kilimnik is known for combining the romantic tradition, childhood nostalgia, pop culture and feminine psychology, some of which is patently punk and deconstructionist, thus leading to the "scatter are" label. The exhibit, which runs at the MCA through June 8, is Kilimnik's first solo U.S. survey exhibition.

Jonny's friends at the **Silk Road Theatre Project**, real-life couple Jamil Houry and Malik Gilani, are the recipients of two prestigious awards unique to Chicago, one of which comes with a check for \$5,000, which sure beats a stick in the eye. The League of Chicago Theatres will present its Emerging Theater Award to Silk Road at a March 31 gala, a presentation that includes \$5,000 underwritten by Broadway In Chicago.



Beauty Salon, Aita El Chaab Southern Lebanon 2007 (above) is just one of the prints to be shown at the **Women of Islam: Photographs** by Rania Matar exhibit running through March 30.

Also, on Jan. 29 the Silk Road Theatre Project was honored by the Chicago Commission on Human Relations with an award for "outstanding achievements in promoting cross-cultural interactions" and "efforts in using the theatre as a means of fighting discrimination and prejudice."

Cabaret diva **Kat' (sic) Taylor** warbles this Saturday, Feb. 23, 12-1 p.m., at the Chicago Cultural Center's Randolph Street Cage. Her program—billed as "steamy old and new Broadway hits"—will feature such songs as *Steam Heat*,

*It's Too Darn Hot* and *Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered* in a wintertime indoor warm-up that's part of the city's Museum of Modern Ice programming. And it's free!

The Chicago Cultural Center always has several art exhibits going in its various halls and galleries. Among the current crop is **Women of Islam: Photographs** by Rania Matar, running through March 30—another good choice for Women's History Month.

**SPOTLIGHT**

How I Learned to Drive



A young woman, her dysfunctional family, her too-loving uncle and the driving lessons he gave her during her adolescence create the territory of pain, surprising humor and profound emotion covered in **How I Learned to Drive**, by out playwright Paula Vogel (whose interview ran in the WCT last Nov. 21). Winner of both the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, Vogel's powerful play has lost none of its punch since its 1998 premiere. Now Back-Stage (sic) Theatre Company has mounted a new production of *How I Learned to Drive*, presented at The Viaduct, 3111 N. Western, through March 9; 312-683-5347; \$20.

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Augusta.

## THEATER REVIEW Augusta

**Playwright:** Richard Dresser  
**At:** American Theater Company,  
1909 W. Byron  
**Phone:** 773-929-1031; \$30, \$35  
**Runs through:** March 2

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Edward Kross is a comedic actor whose eccentric charm could generate laughs reading the phone book. But even Kross can't redeem Augusta, Richard Dresser's tiresome attempt to tell us that—surprise!—it's tough going for the working poor in these United States. With laborious exposition and preposterous plotting, Augusta trots out ideas that are neither original nor originally presented. Directed by Nora Dunn, the piece is a singularly inauspicious beginning for American Theatre Company under the reign of new artistic director PJ Paparelli.

If Kross's talents are squandered, that goes double for Kate Buddeke, a powerhouse actor who radiates an unconventional, battle-scarred beauty. She's a master craftsman whose seen-it-all, world-weary expressiveness often seems to be barely containing an inner imp that, if unleashed, could turn a High Latin Mass into a Fat Tuesday bacchanal. Sadly for Chicago, Buddeke is now based in New York. It should be a joy to have Buddeke back and performing with the company she helped shape. But there is no joy in Augusta.

Augusta's best scene is its first, when cleaning lady Molly (Buddeke) must justify her position—and by extension, her very existence—to her new boss Jimmy (Kross). Anyone who has suffered the insufferableness of a middle-management punk half his age and an eighth of his intelligence will empathize immediately with Molly's humiliation.

It's downhill from there, as Molly and twenty-something Claire (Gwendolyn Whiteside) scrub their way through the absent Mrs. Townshend's house and too much exposition. About 40 minutes into this 90-minute morass, the plot finally starts to show up. This is not an improvement.

There's some ludicrous nonsense about a set of 10 spoons Claire and Molly believe are so valuable they'd solve all their financial problems. When you realize you've been doing math in your head for the better part of a scene (Let's see, 10 spoons = maybe \$10,000 = maybe a year's bare survival), you know that the story at hand is less than engaging. Even if you buy the premise that a set of utensils will set you up for life, Dresser keeps piling inconsistencies upon unlikelyhoods. There's Claire's shock when Jimmy makes a pass at her—after she checks into a single hotel room with him at a company conference. Her abrupt naivete is almost as patently unbelievable as the fact that she's certain that attending a conference of cleaning company managers will usher her into the halls of power and a land of untold riches. There's Jimmy

visiting Mrs. Townshend in the hospital. (Having worked for a cleaning service during grad school, we can tell you that'd never happen. Had he done even a modicum of research, Dresser would have discovered likewise.)

And finally there is Grant Sabin's representational set, a sweep of pink marble that works beautifully—until Molly brings in a pair of silver candlesticks and inserts a glaringly inconsistent element of literal realism into the proceedings.

Polish though they might, even the most gifted actors can't save Augusta.

## THEATER REVIEW Othello

**Playwright:** William Shakespeare  
**At:** Chicago Shakespeare Theater  
at Navy Pier, 800 W. Grand  
**Phone:** 312-595-5600; \$44-\$70  
**Runs through:** April 6

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Imagine a band of former prep-school chums, now grown to adulthood, but still fond of playing adolescent pranks on one another. Inject into this privileged milieu a lad of humble birth whose rise to success exceeds their own, but who never adopted his new comrades' irreverent attitudes. Then introduce a diehard elitist who so resents this upstart that he takes what begins as a nasty, but potentially harmless, joke much too far, resulting in violence and murder.

Thus, director Marti Maraden reveals just how close Shakespeare's gloomy fable of vengeful deception comes to Wodehousian farce. Her transposition of the story to late-Victorian period makes for an ambience of straitlaced artifice recalling the comedies of Oscar Wilde, or even Gilbert & Sullivan. And the casting of fresh-faced Paul Niebanck as the duplicitous Iago, as contrasted with Derrick Lee Weeden's rustic-accented Othello, renders us immediately aware of the cultural dissimilarities between the two. In this context, our villain is no brooding, teeth-gnashing, moustache-twirling schemer—indeed, Iago's ruses are so transparent that only the gullibility of his peers allows him to get away with as much as he does—but a sociopathic brat whose fault lies in his refusal to let his victims in on the gag, even after the stakes grow deadly.

Playgoers who prefer their tragedies to be hankie-wringers from beginning to end may be dismayed by the number of laughs excavated in the early parts of the action by Maraden's contemporary approach. Those on the alert for subtexts associated with race-based tensions will likewise have to search hard for evidence attributing the Moor's outsider status to anything beyond Venetian snobbery. If Othello's home had been located, not on the African, but the European coast of the Mediterranean Sea—Calabria, say, or Corsica—it's no likelier that Desdemona's stuffy old dad would have welcomed him any more warmly as a potential son-in-law.

The technical expertise required to sustain the pace required for a show running just minutes over three hours—Niebanck's superlative long-line phrasing, for example, or Weeden's pristine-edged enunciation—never calls attention to itself, but instead is seamlessly integrated into the psychological dynamic in this Chicago Shakespeare production. Vocal coach Christine Adaire and text coach Larry Yando together share the credit for this accomplishment this time. In the future, when attending any Shakespeare play, check the playbill roster for staff consultants employed in this capacity. If you don't find them, ask why not.



Linda Eder.

## Eder Sings with Pops Orchestra

Broadway legend Linda Eder will sing alongside the Chicagoland Pops Orchestra Sat., Feb. 23, at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River, Rosemont, at 8 p.m.

Besides her success on the Broadway stage, Eder has recorded seven albums, each a blend of standards, pop hits and original music. She has sung renditions of everything from Somewhere Over the Rainbow to Bring On the Men. From her Drama Desk and Outer Critics' Circle Award nominations for Best Actress in a Musical for *Jeckyll & Hyde* (which was her Broadway debut) to her award-winning recordings, she is compared to the great female voices of our time.

Tickets are \$45-\$60. Visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), call 312-559-1212 or go to the Rosemont Theatre box office.

Listen to Eder's interview with Amy Matheny by visiting [www.WindyCityQueercast.com](http://www.WindyCityQueercast.com).

## Athenaeum to Debut Horror Classic

On Sun., Feb. 24, at 7 p.m., WildClaw Theatre will perform the world stage premiere of Arthur Machen's *The Great God Pan* at Chicago's Athenaeum Theater, 2936 N. Southport.

Considered one of the Victorian era's most controversial tales, Machen's mix of dark sensuality and horror provoked controversy and outrage when it was first published. The story has been credited with inspiring horror writers such as H.P. Lovecraft, Stephen King and Peter Straub.

After Feb. 24, *The Great God Pan* will run Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. until March 30. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased through Ticketmaster or at the Athenaeum Theater 773-935-6860. For more info, please visit [www.wildclawtheatre.org](http://www.wildclawtheatre.org).

## Illness Changes Opera Lineup

Peruvian tenor Juan Diego Flórez has been forced to cancel all performances in Lyric Opera of Chicago's production of *The Barber of Seville*, running through Mar. 22, due to a throat infection caused by swallowing a fishbone, Lyric's general director William Mason announced. American tenor John Osborn will replace Flórez.

This summer, Osborn will debut at the Salzburg Festival as Romeo in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* opposite Anna Netrebko. Future projects include *La Juive* for the Netherlands Opera, *L'Italiana in Algeri* for the Teatro Comunale in Florence and his first Edgardo in Lucia di Lammermoor for the Theatre Royale de la Monnaie in Brussels.

Tickets are \$42-\$187. See [www.lyricopera.org](http://www.lyricopera.org).

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**BROADWAY  
IN CHICAGO**



Charlette Speigner and Penelope Walker in *Gee's Bend*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

## THEATER REVIEW

### Gee's Bend

**Playwright:** Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder  
**At:** Northlight Theatre,  
 9501 Skokie, Skokie  
**Phone:** 847-673-6300; \$35-\$55  
**Runs through:** March 9

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

There are great performances to behold in Northlight Theatre's production of Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder's 2007 drama *Gee's Bend*. Unfortunately, the play itself doesn't rise to the occasion of its compelling subject matter, or the fine cast and crew assembled at Northlight.

The isolated Alabama town of *Gee's Bend* has become famous this decade due to the finely crafted folk art quilts made by generations of its African-American women. Award-winning newspaper articles on these women have helped put *Gee's Bend* on the map, while their praised handcrafted work has been displayed in major museums and featured on a series of U.S. postage stamps.

Now comes Wilder's definitively titled play *Gee's Bend*, but it comes up lacking despite the comprehensive 60-year timeline attached to it. Wilder tries to make a five-character composite family (played by four actors) to represent the wider *Gee's Bend* community at large.

Unfortunately, the drama Wilder creates is largely of an everyday domestic nature, making you feel that a more dramatic angle could have

been explored. Also, the actual quilt making and its significance is left largely in the background without a stronger metaphor to tie the women's lives to their practical art.

The small cast size in *Gee's Bend* also points to an unfortunate trend where American playwrights are encouraged to create economical works by keeping the number of actors low. The fact that the cast sings along with pre-recorded gospel tracks to provide a richer sound shows just what is missing.

Though Wilder's play isn't the greatest, the Northlight cast assembled by director Chuck Smith for *Gee's Bend* is superlative.

Charlette Speigner shows once again that she is a formidable Chicago actress to watch as she embodies the headstrong quilt maker Sadie. Speigner particularly impresses in the scenes where Sadie defies her husband to march in the Civil Rights movement and get her voter registration card.

John Steven Crowley is strong as Sadie's equally headstrong husband, Macon, while Jacqueline Williams wins most of the laughs as Sadie's blunt and unwed sister, Nella. Penelope Walker provides solid support work as both Sadie's wise mother, Alice, and her grown daughter, Asia.

In *Gee's Bend*, one gets the message that despite all the hardships of poverty and institutionalized racism, the talented women of the community went on to unwittingly create admirable and practical works of art. As a play to educate and enlighten (particularly during Black History Month), *Gee's Bend* does its duty, but not to the fullest or finest effect.

## ONLINE THIS WEEK...

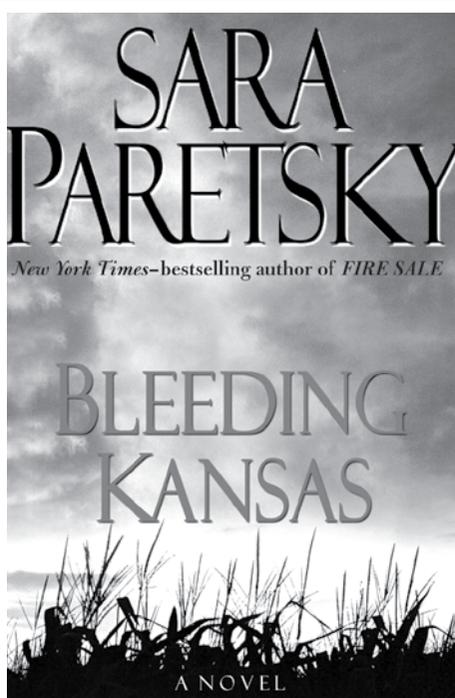


## BOOK REVIEW

**Bleeding Kansas**  
 by Sara Paretsky,  
 431 pages, \$25.95  
 REVIEW BY YASMIN NAIR

Pity Kansas. Its reputation as a conservative state has reached idiomatic proportions, and the query posed by Thomas Frank's 2004 book, *What's the Matter with Kansas?*, doesn't help it much.

Sara Paretsky's latest is her first novel that's not a spy story, and it rests upon a familiar novelistic device: uncovering the layers of life in a small town with the assumption that these are somehow paralleled in the larger nation. Set in present-day Kaw Valley, Kan., its events spring from a decades-long feud between the Grelliers and the Schapens. Susan Grellier, wife of Jim and mother to Lara and Chip, is committed to "communist" ideas like grocery co-ops and organic farming. In contrast, Myra Schapen is a fundamentalist Christian matriarch and the writer of a blog that promises hell and damnation upon sinners, her neighbors included. *Bleeding Kansas* is a novel of big ideas—war, peace, historical memory—filled with details straight out of a horror film: an ancient, abandoned mansion; a tale of a mysterious fire that killed a young male hippie in the free-love '60s; an indigent and demented woman Elaine who mutters about her murdered baby; a perfectly red



heifer whose arrival is hailed by fundamentalist Christians and Jews as the signal to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem.

Was the fire started by Myra Schapen? Was the young hippie Elaine's lover and the father of her baby? Will the heifer's existence spark another conflict in the Middle East?

Do we really care?

While Paretsky vividly describes the strange

## THEATER REVIEW

### Breathing Corpses

**Playwright:** Laura Wade  
**At:** Steep Theatre, 3902 N. Sheridan  
**Phone:** 312-458-0722; \$18  
**Runs through:** March 22

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

British playwright Laura Wade draws her title from Sophocles: "When a man has lost all happiness, he's not alive. Call him a breathing corpse." The old Greek was on to something profound, but Wade isn't quite up to delving into it. Her seven characters are discontent, dysfunctional and unhappy with themselves and relationships, but not so fundamentally disenchanting as to lack all happiness. Wade parades contemporary disaffection and boredom rather than deeply metaphysical despair.

Her circular 85-minute play jumps in time as each of its five intimate scenes carries over a character or situation from the scene before. Death is omnipresent: three characters discover bodies and two become bodies themselves. Thus, in Scene Two a storage facility owner discovers a murder victim in locker B16; in Scene Three we see the victim and the cause of death; in Scene Four we witness the locker facility owner's post-traumatic distress that leads to his suicide previously revealed in Scene One.

*Breathing Corpses* is grim—although sprinkled with quirky humor—but it's never tragic, and that's the limitation. The characters lack gravitas; they are silly people. Wade is a young author not yet of weight and depth, although her crisp dialogue technique shines. Wade provides fine opportunities for actors and a clearly focused director in a series of two-character and three-character scenes, most of which could be little one-act plays all by themselves.

Fortunately, Steep is deep in talented actors guided by the experienced director Robin Witt. Scene Three is the prime showcase, in which Lucy Carapetyan and Jonathan Edwards portray an attractive young couple bound by mutually inflicted physical violence, both sexual and asexual. The fury of their self-centered characters is both terrifying and titillating. Julia Siple opens and closes the play as a whimsical hotel housekeeper a bit too fascinated by the bodies she finds in the beds. In the final scene she meets a live one at last, yet despite their flirtation the

beauty of the Kansas landscape, she falters in her attempts to maintain suspense. For instance: Susan Grellier's anti-war stance alienates her son Chip; he enlists in the army and dies in Iraq. That's not a plot spoiler because Paretsky tells us as much in the pages that lead up to Chip's death in a series of annoying asides like "If he'd [Jim] left Chip alone...If. If." And: "He often wondered ... if things would have turned out differently." Bereft of the accoutrements of a spy story, Paretsky is like a talkative child entrusted with a secret.

The characters are as flat as the landscape they inhabit. Gina, a lesbian wiccan from Manhattan, is saddled with a cappuccino machine to signify her urbane lifestyle. Susan, despite her dedication to alternative politics, is somehow unaware that the rationale for war has long been disputed until Gina shows her the light. But when even Myra (who lacks only a broom to complete the witch-like caricature of her) has a blog, it's ridiculously unrealistic to think that Susan wouldn't have come across the anti-war discourse that permeates even conservative Web sites these days.

*Bleeding Kansas* strains hard to make a meaningful statement about war and the battle between conservatives and liberals, but Paretsky is behind the curve on these issues. The sad and unbearable reality about this war, which even a novelist could not have dreamed up, is that fiction loses out to the lies we have heard and upon which we have chosen to act.

## CRITICS' PICS

**Jesus Christ Superstar**, Cadillac Palace, through Feb. 24. Hey sanna, hosanna, sanna ho isn't the latest gangsta rap but Andrew Lloyd Webber's ode to Nazareth's native son. Ted Neeley's gotta be 30 years older than JC when he died, but *Superstar* is about miracles. CS

**Machos**, Teatro Luna at 16th Street Theatre, Berwyn, through Feb. 17. Based on scores of interviews with men, Teatro Luna's all-Latina writers and performers create a drag king show of serious intent and dead-on impersonation, void of camp. Closes this weekend. JA

**The Mystery of Edwin Drood**, Noble Fool Theatricals, through April 12. Director Kevin Bellie whips up plenty of Victorian silliness in his rolling remount of Rupert Holmes interactive musical comedy adaptation of Charles Dickens' unfinished novel. SCM

**The Time Of Your Life**, Provision Theater at the Viaduct, through March 2. You'll find flashier versions of Saroyan's richly-textured mural depicting America in troubled times between wars, but none more forthright or uncluttered than this sturdy ensemble. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge,  
 Morgan and Sullivan

play closes on an ambiguous note: Is her glow of happiness one of joy or merely excitement and potential danger?

Marcus Stephens' beige-and-yellow scenic design creates four distinct playing areas lined up across the wide but shallow stage, surrounded by corrugated steel panels—a *la* storage lockers—to suggest the constricting box-like rooms referenced by several characters. It's good-looking but limits the staging possibilities for several scenes that are self-consciously static.

The company use rather good British accents and yet there's nothing singularly British about *Breathing Corpses*—a few word changes and it could be American. This underscores the generic nature of this early Wade play. For real British despair, the late Sarah Kane remains the unbeatable champ. Perhaps *Breathing Corpses* is intended to be taken completely as comedy, and I didn't get it.

## Entertainment News

Grammy-winning **Amy Winehouse claims that her new male companion**, artist Blake Wood, seen with her everywhere while husband Blake Feilder-Civil sits in the slammer, **is gay**, according to The Sun. The two have been seen all around town since Winehouse left rehab. The Sun reports that Winehouse met Wood through Kelly Osbourne, and her husband has nothing to worry about because Wood is gay, although his Facebook page says he is bisexual.

The creators behind the 2003 **cult movie Girls Will Be Girls** recently announced they will be releasing a series of **comedic webisodes**. The first webisodes are now available online at [www.girlswillbegirlsonline.com](http://www.girlswillbegirlsonline.com), and feature original characters Evie and Coco, as well as comedian Scott Thompson (Kids in the Hall). New shorts will be released each month.

Porn director **Chi Chi LaRue** recently took a stand against **barebacking** in the gay porn industry, according to Gaywired.com. LaRue's gay adult company, Channel One Releasing, released a new Web site and public service announcements that come out against the trend of barebacking videos. The message: "safe sex is hot sex." LaRue has come out against unsafe sex practices in the industry before.



## Be Kind Rewind, Vantage Point

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

The first great movie of 2008 is here and, ironically, it's about the unforgettable impact movies have on all of us. **Be Kind Rewind** is not just movie-crazy—a plus for anyone who shares a similar passion—its story and characters are also daffy and writer-director Michel Gondry works from an irresistible viewpoint that is both innocent and effervescent. This is a movie for mad, hopeless dreamers tilting at windmills. **Be Kind Rewind** is nostalgic and endearing and it's also funny as hell—a supremely blissful movie going experience.

Gondry's setting has the scruffy charm of two signature Norman Lear sitcoms from the 1970s—*Chico & the Man* and *Sanford & Son*—and given the premise, this isn't surprising. Two simpletons in a rundown area of Passaic, N.J.—Jerry (Jack Black) and Mike (Mos Def)—are good friends who endlessly pick at each other in the manner of their TV forebears. Feisty, wild-eyed Jerry lives in a camper in the junkyard where he works, just across the street from the video store where Mike, who doesn't say much, tends cus-

tomers for Mr. Fletcher (Danny Glover). The duo seems like a modern-day update on Ralph Kramden and Ed Norton of TV's *The Honeymooners*.

When the taciturn Mr. Fletcher is told that the building that houses the failing video store is to be condemned, he sets out to explore ways to improve his business by checking out his competition. He leaves Mike in charge and warns him to keep Jerry, who he doesn't trust, out of the store. During a failed sabotage attempt on the nearby electrical plant (which he's convinced is melting his brain), Jerry becomes magnetized and, the next day, accidentally erases all the VHS tapes in the store. (DVDs have yet to come to Mr. Fletcher's.) In order to keep their few loyal customers happy, including the dotty Mrs. Falewicz (Mia Farrow), Jerry and Mike recreate mini-versions of *Ghostbusters*, *Rush Hour*, *The Lion King*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Robocop* and other movies, enlisting Alma (Melonie Diaz) to come on board as the love interest. Eventually, the newfound popularity of the one-of-a-kind recreations alerts the authorities, who charge the trio with copyright infringement.

In one last ditch attempt to save the store, Jerry, Mike and Alma decide to film an original story—the life of Fats Waller, the great jazz musician who Mr. Fletcher told them once lived in the building. The recreations have been wildly inventive up to this point but when movie fever overtakes the whole neighborhood during the making of the Waller movie, it goes into hyperdrive—making the scene in which the locals gather to watch their little masterpiece almost unbearably bittersweet. Scored to a forlorn solo piano piece called *Solitude* (written by Jean-Michel Bernard), the sequence is almost as powerful as the final moments of *It's a Wonderful Life* (and Gondry should have taken a cue from Capra and ended his film with it).

Gondry's valentine to the movies is aided enormously by his diverse cast—especially Black, whose exuberant, comic mugging could easily have overwhelmed the others (particularly Def, who gets sneaky laughs as Black's straight man). The quiet authority of Glover, the spaci-



From left: Melonie Diaz, Jack Black and Mos Def in *Be Kind Rewind*.

ness of Farrow and the spunkiness of Diaz are also standouts, while Gondry's script pulls off the neat trick of being nearly epithet-free—a refreshing rarity in a contemporary urban comedy.

Unlike previous Gondry films, the imaginative *The Science of Sleep* and *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Be Kind Rewind* may push the writer-director into the mainstream. Just as original in its own way as those two offbeat indie efforts, *Be Kind*'s simplicity and subject matter give it an edge. Sleep deprivation and memory loss (the subjects of *Science of Sleep* and *Eternal Sunshine*) are filled with complexity, while the visceral impact that movies—even not very good ones—can have on receptive audiences is so simple and tantalizing that even simple dreamers like Jerry and Mike understand it.

To fall for **Vantage Point**, a political thriller in which the assassination of the U.S. president (played by William Hurt) is told from multiple viewpoints, you have to throw away any connection to reality. Nothing in it is faintly plausible—from the CNN-like reporter espousing her own political views on camera to Forrest Whitaker as a camcorder-wielding tourist chasing after a group of terrorists to Dennis Quaid and Matthew Fox (TV's *Lost*) as handsome but flawed

Secret Service agents. There's also the fact that the main action (set in Spain) places the president on an outdoor stage in broad daylight in a courtyard ringed by windowed buildings in front of screaming hordes—a scenario that, given our current standing worldwide, is highly unlikely to occur for years to come.

The gimmick of the movie, as stated, is in the *Run, Lola, Run* style, which recaps the 20 minutes or so following the president's murder many, many times (it might have been as many as eight—I lost count). Each time, more clues as to who really killed the president, who planted the bomb, etc., are revealed—and as the pretzel logic of the plots get intertwined the movie, too, gets backed into a corner. But if you decide to toss out reason and plausibility, *Vantage Point* is an entertaining, shamelessly good time (with one of those kick-ass car chases to boot). And there's a great bonus for gay audiences—the terrorists are some of the most beautiful men you're likely to see outside of a circuit party.

Check out my archived reviews at [www.windycitytimes.com](http://www.windycitytimes.com) or [www.knightatthemovies.com](http://www.knightatthemovies.com). Readers can leave feedback at the latter Web site, where there is also ordering information on my new book of collected film reviews, *Knight at the Movies 2004-2006*.

## DATING from cover

day, and I have ever since it happened almost nine years ago. But he's just like a fond memory or like an angel hovering over my shoulder now. I don't compare anybody I'm dating now with Barry. I wouldn't expect a man I date now in my mid-thirties to act like or do anything like Barry and I did in our early twenties."

Witnessing the impact of *Solider's Girl*, Addams set out to form a production company to provide positive images of trans people. She moved to Hollywood, co-founded Deep Stealth Productions ([www.deepstealth.com](http://www.deepstealth.com)), and was soon consulting on and appearing in multiple television shows like *CSI* and, later, the Oscar nominated film, *TransAmerica*. From that role, Deep Stealth moved on to producing the short film *Casting Pearls*, which played frequently on Logo and paved the way for a collaboration.

Addams ([www.Calpernia.com](http://www.Calpernia.com)) explains, that she and her friend and business partner Andrea James pitched Logo a scripted series. The channel liked their idea, but with the writers strike and budget constraints in mind, they suggested the dating show instead.

"At first, I had reservations," Addams admits. "We actually made fun of reality TV in our short film *Casting Pearls*. There's a general level of concern that reality television tends to make people look...horrible, grasping [and] sad."

For example, Addams blasts *I Love New York*'s star: "I'm sure that what New York puts on screen is somewhat of a character. That character, I think, is the basement of humanity. I won't judge Tiffany as a person, but I will say that the character I see on television is horrible."

In the end, Addams says, "The bigger concern [was] what is this doing for trans people's portrayal in the media?" She decided Logo's reputation made the difference. "This is made by LGBT people. The producers, the directors, even down



Calpernia Addams (right) with best friend/business partner Andrea James (left) and *TransAmerican Love Story* host Alec Mapa.

to the office staff, people are trans and bi and gay and lesbian; so there's just an awareness of the issues and it's from top to bottom. Nothing guarantees a perfect understanding of transsexuals. A lot of gay people still don't get us but...heterosexual media has tended to exploit us a lot more for the freak factor."

To avoid that kind of treatment, Addams insisted that *Love Story* be upfront about her gender. "The guys know that I'm trans. They know they are going to be on television and out about dating me. The show is really just about a girl dating guys...and what it's like for straight men to date me. It's normal."

Recognizing that dating is difficult for everyone, Addams suggests that trans women face particular struggles. "I never learned any of the heterosexual dating rituals mothers teach their daughters. I never dated women at all, so I never even sort of saw it from the other side. A lot of trans women share that experience, so that once we transition we start dating this weird animal that we know nothing about. Then...you

have to deal with the men's misconceptions and preconceptions of what a trans woman is."

"These last two or three years have been like the dawning of opportunity for trans actors and actresses," Addams contends. But she's still nervous about the future. "We, as trans women at least have been so hypersexualized that we're being accepted pretty quickly and we're being allowed to be sexual, which is kind of interesting, but kind of dangerous that we'll be oversexualized."

Although she appreciated the dating assistance, Addams confesses, "It was humbling to have myself put up as some object of desire... as, 'She's hot, she's beautiful, she's sexy and you should want her!' I'm just like, 'Oh, God I hope I live up to that!'"

She's a little embarrassed that the men of *TransAmerican Love Story* all end up being a bunch of white guys. "Just know that we really did look across the board in terms of age and race and experience. We cast with diversity in mind. [But] there's a pretty tough screening

process for dating shows. I told them I've dated a five-foot-six Puerto Rican guy from New York; I've dated a six-foot-six Danish guy; I've dated all different shapes and sizes and educational backgrounds. The core things that are important to me are a kind and gentle heart and a sense of humor."

Having gone into the show not knowing if she would really connect on a personal level with the suitors, Addams was surprised. "Actually, I did get emotionally invested in the guys. I cried almost every single time I had to send someone home. It was a real experience for me. We all sort of mutually agreed to enter into this situation of heightened reality. The circumstances are managed by the show producers but our reactions are real."

Neither audiences nor the guys will get to see the biker side of Addams on *Love Story*. "I wrecked my motorcycle last Thanksgiving... so I didn't have a bike while we were doing the show. You just never know what's going to happen. I love to ride so much, it feels like flying to me. It's my alone time that I need desperately; at the same time, I think—if you have a motorcycle you have to kind of be ready to die."

But the viewers and guys will see Addams whip out her fiddle in a scene or two, and even debut a dance single on one of the episodes. "It's really inspired me," she reveals. "I can't promise that I'll have a whole album but I'm going to be putting out some more music."

Trans author Jacob Anderson-Minshall writes the weekly syndicated column, *TransNation*. He can be reached at [jake@trans-nation.org](mailto:jake@trans-nation.org).

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*TransAmerican Love Story* airs Mondays on the Logo channel at 9 p.m. CT. For more information, see [www.logoonline.com](http://www.logoonline.com).

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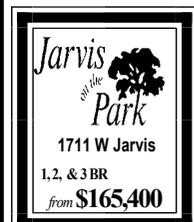
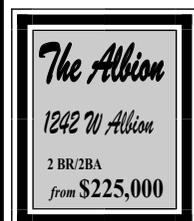
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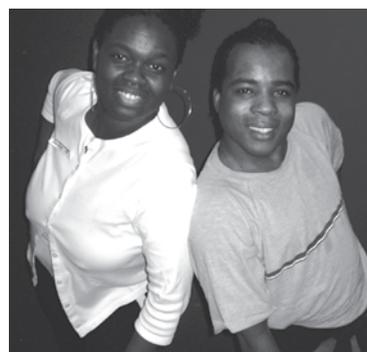
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**That's Valls, Folks**

Latina lesbian comedian Sandra Valls visited the Windy City Feb. 16-17, with appearances at Spyners Pub, 4623 N. Western, and Joe's, 940 W. Weed. Photos from Valls' show at Joe's by Linda "Kizzy" Ramos

**Rock of SAGES**

Center on Halsted's SAGE (Services & Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders) program hosted its first WinterPride: A Cool Night Out party and dance Feb. 16. The ages of the attendees spanned several generations, with most between 30 and 60—something that didn't faze popular DJ Levilynn Chriss, who managed to play something for everyone and keep the partygoers on the dance floor all night long. The event also included speed dating, topical chat rooms, light snacks, a cash bar and the opportunity to mingle or just kick back in the lounge. This mixer featured a long list of hosts, including lesbian community icons Pat McCombs, Betty Lark Ross and Jackie Anderson. For more information, contact SAGE Director Serena Worthington at 773-472-6469, ext. 160, or at [sworthington@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:sworthington@centeronhalsted.org). Photos and text by Mel Ferrand; more photos at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)

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*Part of the following story was inadvertently omitted from the Feb. 13 issue. It is now being run in its entirety. Windy City Times regrets the error.*

## LOCAL NEWS

### Obama Captures Heavily Gay Wards

BY AMY WOOTEN

Now that Super Tuesday is in the past, how did Chicago wards with large LGBT populations vote?

Keeping in line with the rest of the state, Sen. Barack Obama was the most popular candidate in Chicago's heavily LGBT-populated wards in the Democratic Party presidential primary. He won by a two-to-one margin or more in all wards with large LGBT populations. In the 4th Ward, which includes Hyde Park, nearly 92 percent voted for Obama. In the 32nd Ward—which includes neighborhoods such as Lincoln Park, Wicker Park and Bucktown—Obama received nearly 70 percent of the vote. In Boystown's 44th Ward, nearly 67 percent of voters chose Obama and 31.4 percent voted for Sen. Hillary Clinton. Uptown's 46th and 47th wards favored Obama identically, with each giving him 66 percent of the vote. In the 48th, which includes neighborhoods such as Andersonville and Edgewater, 64.5 percent voted for Obama. Obama was even more dominant in the more diverse 49th Ward—which includes the Rogers Park neighborhood—taking 72.7 percent

of the vote.

Obama also took suburban Oak Park with 78 percent of the vote to Clinton's 20 percent.

Although it was no surprise that Obama would carry his home state, exit polling done by NBC showed that voters in California and New York who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual favored Clinton over the Illinois senator. NBC was the only mainstream organization to include sexual orientation in its exit polling, but only did so in two states, not Illinois.

In other races, U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky defeated opponent John Nocita by a landslide in the 9th District, which includes North Side wards such as the 44th and 48th. The longtime LGBT ally received the most Chicago votes in the 44th Ward, where she received nearly 93 percent of the vote.

In one countywide race, the candidate with the longest history with the local LGBT community typically fared best. Cook County State's Attorney insider Anita Alvarez will go head-to-head with Republican candidate Tony Peraica in November's general election after a tough battle for the Democratic ticket. On Feb. 5, the six-person contest became a close race between Alvarez and long-time Northwest Side Ald. Tom Allen as the evening went on. However, Cook County Commissioner and community ally Larry Suffredin was the favorite in LGBT-heavy wards.

In the 32nd Ward, Suffredin came in first with 29 percent of the vote. In the 44th Ward, Suffredin took home nearly 34 percent of the vote. Allen came in second with 28 percent, and Al-

varez trailed behind with 27 percent. Suffredin took home a third of the vote in the 46th, where he received the most votes. Alvarez was second with nearly 29 percent. Allen took the 47th Ward with 35 percent of the vote. Suffredin was also favored in the 48th Ward, with 37 percent of the vote to Alvarez's 27 percent. He was also most popular in the 29th, with 42 percent of the vote, and in the 43rd Ward, with 34 percent of the vote.

The 4th Ward favored Brookins, who received 32 percent of the vote, followed by Suffredin with nearly 22 percent. Suffredin also carried suburban Oak Park, followed by Alvarez.

Openly gay Board of Review candidate Jay Paul Deratany may have lost to Democratic Party heavyweight Joe Berrios after giving him a run for his money in this countywide race, but he was favored most in wards heavily populated by LGBT's. Over 56 percent of 44th Ward voters favored Deratany. Although Berrios took the 47th Ward with 53 percent of the vote, Deratany took 53 percent of the 48th Ward and 57 percent of the 43rd Ward as well.

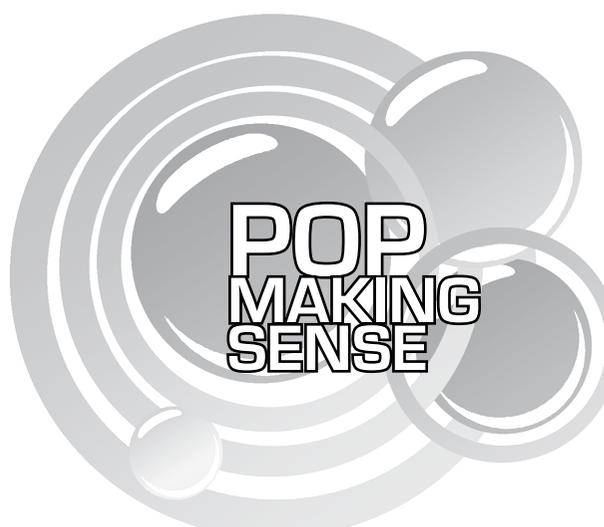
## Local Events

**Listen in:** Tune in to Sargam radio (WSBC 1240AM-WCKF 1470AM), a gay-friendly radio program catering to the East Indian, Pakistani and Bangla Deshi community, every Sunday night from 9-11 p.m. See [sargamradio.us](http://sargamradio.us) for more info.

**Pair up:** The Second Sex Theater Series presents The Lesbian Dating Game and The Lesbian Newly-Bed Game on Feb. 21, starting at 7 p.m., at T's Bar & Grill, 5025 N. Clark St. A \$10 donation supports the Second Sex Theater Series. Email your photo and description to [thelesbiandatinggame@gmail.com](mailto:thelesbiandatinggame@gmail.com) if you are interested in being a contestant.

**Work it:** The Sex Workers Art Show, a cabaret-style show featuring visual and performance artists like Erin Markey, Tre Vasquez and more, comes to town Feb. 23, from 7-9 p.m., at Funky Buddha Lounge, 728 W. Grand Ave. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. See [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or [www.sexworkersartshow.com](http://www.sexworkersartshow.com) for tickets.

**Have a ball:** Save the date for LCCP's 17th Annual Ball Sat., March 8, from 6 p.m. to midnight at the South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 South Shore Dr. For information and to purchase tickets, see [www.lccp.org](http://www.lccp.org).



## POP MAKING SENSE

BY DAVID BYRNE AND TONY PEREGRIN

With her recent releases, there have been questions whether **Janet Jackson** would make a triumphant comeback. During this time, only *Don't Stop* stands out. Hopefully, a new label and a hit-making production team (Jermaine Dupri, Ne-Yo, Stargate, Tricky Stewart and The-Dream) will help Miss Jackson with her latest, *Discipline*. Pre-orders from iTunes grant buyers the new track *Rock with U*. Despite popular belief, it is not a cover of older brother Michael's post-disco hit—but a subtle sample is there. Don't fear, the youngest of the Jacksons proved she can redo something from the family vault with the 1993 B-side *One More Chance*. *Discipline*'s first single, *Feedback*, has been remixed by Moto Blanco and Ralph Rosario, and it's her best reworking since the *Brothers in Rhythm* added some magic to their mix of *If*. Expect the 41-year-old superstar to dominate the club charts with material from her new set. Also a standing ovation will be in order when Jackson will receive the Vanguard Award at the 19th Annual GLAAD Media Awards ceremony April 26.

Feedback may be Jackson's latest hit, but there's no feedback or distortion quite like what is heard on the eponymous titled outing by **Liars**, out now on Mute. Here, the trio steps out of the big shadow cast by crossover alternative pioneers Depeche Mode and Radiohead. Just check out the video for *Plaster Casts of Everything*. Here, Karen O from the Yeah Yeah Yeahs makes a cameo in this clip directed by Patrick Daughters. A headlining tour is wrapping now, but Liars previously opened for Interpol.

During this never-ending winter, **X-press 2** provides warmth with its dance hit *Give It*, an ode using visuals to recount a summer ending prematurely. Best known for recruiting former Talking Heads frontman David Byrne for the surprise Ibiza anthem *Lazy* six years ago, X-press 2 has Lambchop's Kurt Wagner lending his southern styled vocals and poetic delivery on *Give It*. The flawless production perfectly fuses the irresistible grooves and the uplifting gospel choir, making *Give It* reminiscent of the classic *Love Come Home* by Our Tribe featuring Franke Pharoah and Kristine W. *Give It* can be found on X-press 2's album *Makeshift Feelgood*.

Critically acclaimed singer-songwriter **Shelby Lynne** makes heads turn with *Just a Little Lovin'* by resurrecting Dusty Springfield's catalog. Produced by Phil Ramone (Aretha Franklin, Elton John), Lynne's latest is no "identity crisis"—it reminds listeners why she won the Best New Artist Grammy in 2001. Ever the musical chameleon, she admits to having studied videos of Springfield before going into the studio to capture her essence. Lynne glides through Springfield's favorites such as *The Look of Love* and



Shelby Lynne.

*Breakfast in Bed* effortlessly. No beehives were harmed in the process.

Many have tackled Springfield's songs, including Samantha Fox, the Puppini Sisters and Annie Lennox's former band, The Tourists. Add bright-eyed Broadway veteran **Kelli O'Hara** to the list. The beautiful songbird steps off the stage to remake *Spooky* along with James Taylor's *Fire and Rain* and Billy Joel's *And So It Goes* on her full-length *Wonder of the World*. Not only does Harry Connick, Jr., chime in the title track, but he also handles the arrangements for these compositions. O'Hara does not limit herself to covers, though; she also pens two of the numbers of her stellar jazzy debut. This two-time Tony Award nominee has been in *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Folies*, *Sweet Smell of Success* and *Dracula*.

There are some albums where it is clear the band had a lot of fun recording it. This is apparent on *Clothes Minded People* by **Austin Atteberry and Friends**. But *Clothes Minded People* is not just another soundtrack to excuse twentysomethings getting festive, as heard on *Party Tonight*. The Chicago-based quintet wears authentic rock quite well on *Letter of Three Words* and *Guitar Man*. While the more carefree tunes *Fish On* and *Jesse James* may become crowd

favorites, this noteworthy debut has a lot to quench music-thirsty fans.

**Lightspeed Champion** lands on his feet with *Falling off the Lavender Bridge*. The guitarist from the short-lived indie favorite *Test Icicles*, Dev Hynes, returns under this new moniker. Now on his own, Hynes cites multiple influences from country to alternative rock, but remains a crafty songwriter. The slide guitar compliments his quirky aching vocals throughout this bow. Windy City fans will be treated to an acoustic show on Sat., March 1 at Av-aerie, 2000 W. Fulton.

Pop-culture references run rampantly throughout electronic outfit **Peachcake**'s work like on the cleverly titled tracks *If I Were Superman* *You'd Be My Lois Lane*, *Did I Just Do That* or *Was It Jim Carrey?* and *I Fell in Love with You While Listening to My Favorite Morrissey Album*. Just when it seems Peachcake could not get any sweeter, the pair is featured in the independent film *Dreams Are Essential* and volunteer for hotlines helping troubled teens. The duo is due to stop at The Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont, for the early show on Sat., Feb. 23.

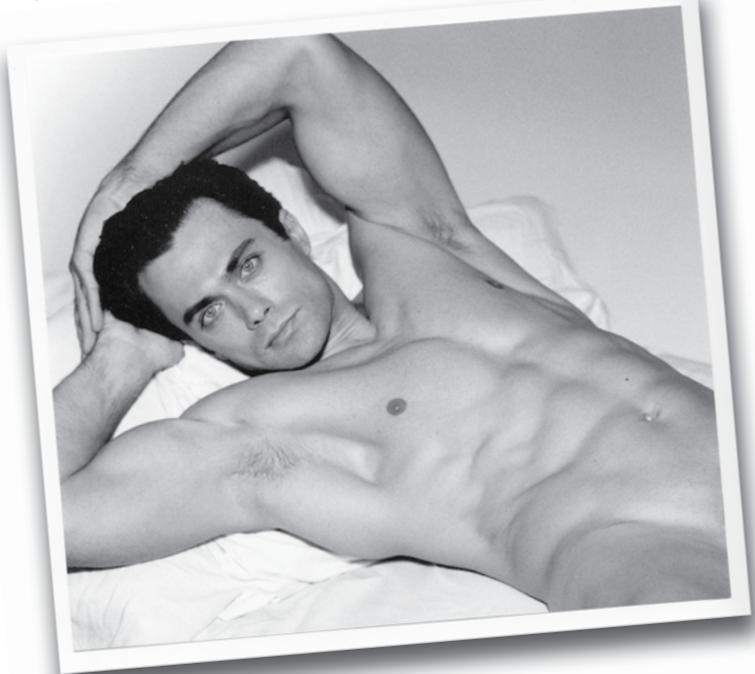


Janet Jackson.

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Colton Ford. Photo by Joe Oppedisano

## Colton Ford: Feel the Difference

BY MICHAEL A. KNIPP

Porn is a hard act to follow. Literally.

But former skin-flick actor Colton Ford, whose foray into filmed fornication gained him underground notoriety in 2002, is trying to put his penis-bearing past behind him.

Two years ago he allowed cameras to follow his transition from porn star to pop star in the documentary film *Naked Fame*. And now, the fruit of that years-long labor has come to fruition as Ford drops his debut album, *Tug of War*, a glistening, gutter-rich release that gives his chops a shot at professional redemption.

In a recent interview, Ford attempts to untangle that tawdry web—in anticipation of *Tug of War*'s release—by detailing how he became an adult-film A-lister, the reason he has no regrets, why his new career makes perfect sense and why he thinks you should bank on him.

**Michael A. Knipp:** There's no point in beating around the bush, so let's get right to it. Before you embarked on your new career as a recording artist you were a porn star. How did you fall into that career?

**Colton Ford:** First, let me clarify something. I've been a recording artist for about 25 years, and I've been performing and making music all of my life. I did porn for 10 months. What I'm doing now with my music is a continuation of a long journey for me. The opportunity to do porn came to me six years ago through my partner at the time, Blake Harper.

**MK:** How old were you when you started making adult films? What were you doing before you turned to porn? Why did you decide to go that route?

**CF:** I was 39 when I did porn. Before that, I was in a jazz quartet, had two major label deals, was signed to Denise Rich, paired up with Frankie Knuckles, basically just doing my musical thing. In between my deals, I had a corporate job. The corporate experience was always a means to an end, and it had to end. An opportunity to do porn came to me through my partner at the time, and after thinking about it I decided to go for it. It enabled me to get out of corporate America, experience a fantasy with my partner and create Colton Ford, which I've used to draw attention to my other endeavors.

**MK:** With that behind you, now you're breaking out as a pop artist. You've been performing music on and off for 25 years, but why now did you want to leave the adult industry and pursue a music career?

**CF:** My musical endeavors have been a constant in my life. I got everything out of my porn experience that I was going to get, so when it was time for me to move on, it was time for me to move on. It just so happened that things started opening up again with my music right around the time I was getting out of the adult industry.

Read much more about Colton Ford at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

Michael A. Knipp is a freelance writer and founder of *Line/Byline Communications*. E-mail him at [michael.knipp@gmail.com](mailto:michael.knipp@gmail.com).

# WHAT TO DO?

## Wednesday, Feb. 20

3160 Paul Marinaro w/ Russ Long, 3160 N. Clark St., 773-327-5969

**Howard Brown** Legal presentations for LGBT community: Estate Planning and Advance Directives. 6:30 p.m., 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., RSVP at rsvp@howardbrown.org or call Hope at 773-388-8906, www.howardbrown.org

**Threat Level** An Evening of Queer Shorts. Queer short films with local filmmakers in attendance. 7:30 p.m., \$5-\$10 sliding scale, Elegant Mr. Gallery, 1355 N. Milwaukee Ave., 3rd floor, www.myspace.com/threatlevelqueershorts

**Women and Children First** Rick Wirick: Siberian Postcards. 7:30 p.m., 5233 N. Clark St., 773-769-9299, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

## Thursday, Feb. 21

3160 Laura Friedman, 3160 N. Clark St., 773-327-5969

**Mary's Attic** Paper Dolls Drag Revue (benefit for Mercedes) at 10 p.m. with \$4 Stolli cocktails, no cover, 5400 N. Clark St., 773-784-6969

**Second Sex Series** The Lesbian Dating Game and The Lesbian Newly-bed Game. Host: Kelsie Huff. Starts 7 p.m., \$10 donation, T's Bar, 5025 N. Clark, email photo and description to thelesbiandatinggame@gmail.com if you want to be a contestant

**Women and Children First** Grace Paley Tribute. 7:30 p.m., 5233 N. Clark St., 773-769-9299, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

## Friday, Feb. 22

**Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference 2008** "Liberty & Justice for All: Voting for Change." Speakers such as Leslie Feinberg and Eric Alva (Feb. 22), as well as Angela Davis (Feb. 24), workshops, entertainment activities and more. Through Feb. 24. Non-UIUC

attendees \$50 plus convenience charge, UIUC students, faculty and staff can register for free, University of Illinois, mblgtacc@gmail.com, www.mblgtacc2008.org

**PRIDE Up North** Gay Friday Fish Fry. 7 p.m., Amphora Restaurant, 7545 N. Clark St.

**Sexual Orientation and Gender Institute** Seminar Series: Making Difficult Ethical Decisions in Psychotherapy, presented by Maryanne Williams, Psy.D. and Braden Berkey, Psy.D. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., \$75 registration fee/\$50 for grad students with school ID, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org, sogi@centeronhalsted.org, 773-661-0739

**Urbanest** Cocktail reception for new painted work by Bret Grafton: Ephemera. 6-9 p.m., 5228 N. Clark St., www.urbanestliving.com

**Women and Children First** An Evening of Fierce Spoken Word presented by the POW-WOW Performance Ensemble. 7 p.m., 5233 N. Clark St., 773-769-9299, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

## Saturday, Feb. 23

**Artreach Educational Theatre** Benefit concert featuring Broadway's hit showtunes. @mosphere, 5355 N. Clark St., www.artreachspotlite.com

**Chicago Cultural Center** Local gay artist Jason Messinger talks about his new artwork on display. 1-3 p.m., Chicago Rooms Gallery, 2nd floor, 77 E. Randolph St.

**Club Krave** Smirnoff Divas starring Lindsey Devereaux, Tina Roberts, Serina Devine and more, 13126 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, 708-597-8379

**Eagle** Buzz Kut Crazy—free haircuts (and not just your head) by Alan, 5015 N. Clark St.

**Man's Country** Martin, Geo, Blake & Kurtis, free cockrings, 5017 N. Clark

**Nitro** and Nightlife Unlimited present the 3rd annual Ice Ball, DJ Peter Rauhofer, \$35 at door, \$20 in ad-

vance, \$15 for members, Circuit, 3641 N. Halsted St.

**Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders** Saturday Night at the Movies: Tsotsi. 6:30-9 p.m., free, 3656 N. Halsted, 773.472.6469, ext. 444

**Sex Workers Art Show** Cabaret lineup of performers, including burlesque sensation Miss Dirty Martina, author Kirk Read, porn star Lorelei Lee, performance artist BOB, performer Erin Markey, rapper Tre Vasquez and more. Doors 6:30 p.m., show 7-9 p.m., Funky Buddha Lounge, 728 W. Grand Ave., \$20 advance, \$25 at door, www.brownpapertickets.com, www.sexworkersartshow.com

**West Suburban Gay Association** Uniforms/Flannel by the Fire party at a member's home. 8 p.m., see www.wsga.com for more information.

## Sunday, Feb. 24

**Brando's** Ladies only Oscar/L Word Party. Oscar ballot, Fathom DJ and DJ Kimya. Doors open 5 p.m.-2 a.m., \$10 cover, 343 S. Dearborn

**Center on Halsted** The Oscar Party 2008. Live telecast, silent auction and buffet. 6 p.m. doors open, 7 p.m. live telecast, \$50, Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted St., tickets by calling 773-472-6469

**Chicago Cultural Center** Gay artist Jason Messinger talks about his new artwork on display. 1-3 p.m., Chicago Rooms Gallery, second floor, 77 E. Randolph

**Euclid Ave. United Methodist Church** "Out in Scripture" Lenten study group five-week series (through March 16). 5 p.m., 405 S. Euclid, Oak Park, 708-848-7360

**Mary's Attic** "Getting Off" Cabaret show at 7:30 p.m., \$10 cover, Bingo MaryOke at 9 p.m. with \$3 well drinks & Lite draft, no cover. 5400 N. Clark St., 773-784-6969

**Royal George Theatre** A special Sunday School Cinema and Dick O'Day's Big Lovely Bingo. 3 p.m., 1651 N. Halsted, see www.sundayschoolcinema.com for more info

**Sidetrack** Oscar and His Men: Where Hollywood Meets Halsted. One-of-a-kind Oscar benefit for CGMC. Food, drink, live entertainment, high-end raffles. VIP reception 5 p.m., open to public at 7 p.m., VIP tickets \$50 advance or \$60 at door, 3349 N. Halsted, tickets at www.cgmc.org, call 773-296-0541 for info

**Urban Art Retreat** Lesbian brunch, a lesbian-only event. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., donation requested, 1957 S. Spaulding Ave., sophiebella@sbcglobal.net, www.urbanartretreat.com, www.sistersplacechicago.org

## Monday, Feb. 25

**Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders** Women's Book Club: Water in Broken Glass by Odessa Rose. 2-4 p.m., 3656 N. Halsted, 773.472.6469, ext. 444

## Tuesday, Feb. 26

**Center on Halsted** OUTfront and Center Theatre Series: The Goodman Theatre and COH bring first of three-part series: Gay Theatre? What's That? 608 p.m., \$10, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

**Funky Buddha Lounge** Outdanced: Juiceboxxx (live) and Rand Sevilla. 10 p.m.-2 a.m., 728 W. Grand Ave., www.funkybuddha.com

**Gerber/Hart Library** Men's Book Group: Dancing on Tisha b'Av by Lev Raphael. 7:30-9 p.m., 1127 W. Granville Ave., www.gerberhart.org

**Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders** Illinois Circuit Breaker Workshop. 1:30-2:30 p.m., free, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., 773-472-6469 ext. 444, www.centeronhalsted.org

## Fri., Feb. 22



## ALVA AND OUT

Former Marine Staff Sgt. **Eric Alva** (left) will speak at the Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference 2008 at the University of Illinois.

Photo by Tracy Baim

## Sun., Feb. 24



## ART AND SOUL

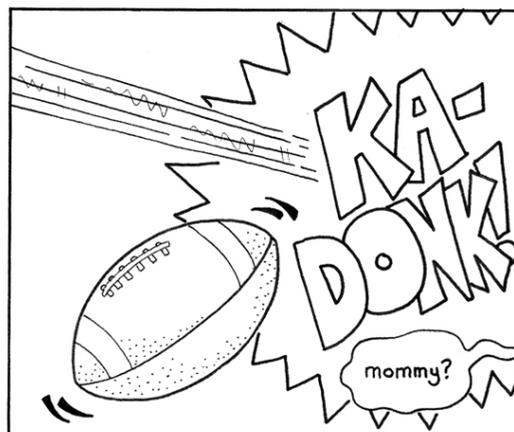
Out artist **Jason Messinger** will talk about his new work at the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph.

Photo by Andrew Davis

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Michael Weiss.

## SPORTS Michael Weiss on Ice

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Michael Weiss has been entertaining people with his skating since he was 9 years old. Now, the three-time U.S. champion, 31, is part of the traveling Smucker's Stars on Ice "Live and In Color" show that will visit Rosemont's Allstate Arena, 5400 N. River, Feb. 23. Weiss discussed everything from the revised scoring system to the perception that skating is a "gay" sport with Windy City Times.

**Windy City Times: What can fans expect at this show?**

Michael Weiss: They can expect a show that's pretty entertaining for everybody—like they say, "entertaining for the whole family." [Laughs] I have a 9 year old and an 8 year old who actually watch the show pretty regularly, and it keeps their attention the whole time—which is pretty difficult to do at that age.

Sasha Cohen does a program that's the classic figure-skating beauty, with flexibility and fast spins; a lot of women like that number. There's [also] one rock-and-roll number we do, and Jennifer Robinson performs in that; it's a pretty sexy number, and some of the husbands like that. [Laughs] And there's something for the kids, too: Todd Eldridge does a number that's pretty funny. Everybody goes away happy.

And there are seats on the ice, which is one of the cool things. I get comments from people, saying that they've never been that close to Olympic-level figure skating. You see it on TV, but you don't really get the perspective of speed and power. You also realize how small the girls are, although they take up the whole TV screen.

**WCT: How did you become interested in figure skating?**

MW: I had two older sisters, and one of them was a world junior champion in diving, and I actually dove when I was younger. The other sister was a figure skater, and I followed her to the rink and tried on a pair of skates. I got a lot of praise and recognition from some of the coaches

about how quickly I picked up some of the elements and maneuvers, and that's what continued to motivate me to get better and better.

When you're a young kid, any type of attention or acknowledgment or recognition that you get for doing something better than other kids ... you want even more. That's what motivated me to continue to skate. Now, years later, I'm performing each night, doing what I love and getting paid to do it.

**WCT: What do you like most and least about touring?**

MW: It's almost the same thing sometimes. You get to travel the world; by the time I was 25, I had seen everything—and that's cool. But I have [two children] and a wife at home, and the worst part is being away from them. It's [tough] balancing being on the road and being a family man. I've been able to do things seasonally, so I'm on the road for four to five months and the rest of time I'm able to be with my family. It's kind of a give and take; I'm gone for a long time but when I'm home, I'm completely devoted to them.

**WCT: It's interesting that you talk about enjoying cities, because I kept thinking it'd be practice, practice, practice and that you wouldn't get to [take in] these cities.**

MW: We do [when we're] on tour. We just had two and a half days off in San Diego, and my wife and kids flew to spend those days with me. The weather was perfect—75 degrees—and we were at SeaWorld and on the aircraft carrier USS Midway. Also, for my kids it's cool; for people who live on the West Coast, In-n-Out Burger is no big deal but for kids on the East Coast... My sons told all of his friends that he was going to In-n-Out Burger.

**WCT: What do you think of the revised scoring system?**

MW: I've competed under the old and new systems. Right now, it's kind of confusing for the spectators; it's difficult to understand all the details. [The new system] has potential to be good. Before you started with the 6.0, and if you made mistakes, [the judges] subtracted points. With this new system, you accumulate points for everything you do positively; you start at zero and a triple toe is four points and a triple axel is 7.5 points—but then the skaters learn what the best point-scoring elements are and they all do the exact same thing. Then, it starts to become a cookie-cutter performance. Also, [judges'] cheating is easier to hide in a system with many different nuances.

**WCT: Now, you have this move called the "tornado" [a backflip with a full twist]. How does one even come up with something like that?**

MW: My dad was an Olympic gymnast, so I've been flipping and twisting since I was a kid. My dad actually taught [skater] Scott Hamilton his backflip when I was a kid, and then Scott tried to learn [the tornado] but was unsuccessful at being confident and comfortable enough to do it.

[In 2002,] the skaters were in town for a tour in my hometown of Washington, D.C., so they

came over, and I have a trampoline that I grew up on. I could do [the tornado] on the trampoline, and the other skaters said, "You have to do that on the ice." In 2003, I did it for the first time in a performance—and, luckily, I survived it.

**WCT: You also have a foundation. Could you talk a little bit about that?**

MW: Sure. I started the Michael Weiss Foundation a few years ago. When I was a kid, my parents struggled to keep all of us in athletics—they were spending \$50,000 a year to keep us skating. I always said that if I were in a situation where I could give back, I would. I am fortunate enough to use my resources and name to make money for the foundation and give scholarships to young kids. We've raised and awarded over \$115,000 in scholarships for young figure skaters—and one of our recipients for the last couple of years, Mirai Nagasu, won the ladies' national championship this year. [Editor's note: Another recipient, Adam Rippon, won the junior men's championship.]

**WCT: Figure skating is often stereotyped as a "gay" sport. Do you have any comment on that?**

MW: Like with any stereotype, it's about not understanding the sport. Figure skating certainly has its share of gay people in it, but I think it provides an atmosphere for gay people to be themselves and be open. If you go to football locker rooms, there are gay people there, but it's not as accepted for a football player to go out on the field with a sequined football helmet. But figure skating not only accepts it, but also rewards it, with grace, athleticism and ballet—but it's also a stereotype that you would consider gay people to be more graceful.

It's also something a lot of young figure skaters deal with growing up; some people will say that figure skating is for girls and not for boys.

[However,] a lot of people have broken those molds: Elvis Stojko was very macho who did tae kwon do, and Scott Hamilton and Kurt Browning skate in jeans and T-shirts as opposed to the stereotypical figure-skating outfits. Football players get labeled as dumb jocks, and that's not true in all cases.

**WCT: What do you consider the highlight of your career to be?**

MW: I've had a number of great moments in competitive figure skating that I really enjoyed. One of my coolest moments was in [the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics]. Not many Olympic athletes get to perform in an Olympic games in their home country. All they had to do was announce my name and that I'm from the United States, and all the people in the venue were on my side. Then, to go out in front of those 18,000 people in the venue as well as millions of people behind the camera and perform one of the best programs in my life—including landing a quad-toe, triple-toe, double-loop combination, the first time anyone landed that [combo] in Olympic competition—and to finish my program to a standing ovation and see the Olympic rings was a pretty special moment for me.

**WCT: One more question: Did you see Blades of Glory?**

MW: [Laughs] Yes—it was hilarious. It was one of the funniest movies I've seen in years.

**Smucker's Stars on Ice will perform at Allstate Arena Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$25 and may be purchased at the Allstate Arena box office or Ticketmaster ticket centers; by logging onto [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com); or by calling 312-559-1212.**

**For more info on Michael Weiss, see [www.michaelweiss.org](http://www.michaelweiss.org).**

## Brady Quinn Accused of Anti-Gay Comments

BY ROSS FORMAN

He is one of the most popular pro athletes within the gay community for his boyish looks and sculpted physique, but Cleveland Browns quarterback Brady Quinn is under fire for allegedly yelling anti-gay slurs and harassing patrons outside a Cleveland bar.

Quinn vehemently denies the accusations and the Browns have stood by their player. Quinn was not arrested and no charges have been filed against him.

On New Year's Eve, Seth Harris placed a call to 911, accusing Quinn of harassing gay patrons at a local bar. According to the Associated Press, Harris told the 911 operator, "There's a group of football players, Brady Quinn from the Browns ... and he's trying to cause a fight. His friends are yelling at all of the gay people that are around here."

Police arrived on the scene outside of La Fogata Grill, and Quinn was seen arguing with 32-year-old Jason Thompson. According to police spokeswoman Amanda Ford, Quinn stepped back from the argument, and the police did not hear any anti-gay comments during the altercation. They did apprehend Thompson after he turned his anger toward officers and refused to leave the scene.

In a statement released by Quinn, he said, "At no time that night was I involved in a

verbal or physical altercation, nor did I have any interaction with the police. I want to be clear that I did not engage in any of the alleged conduct, nor did I make inappropriate comments to anyone. Any allegations to the contrary are either untrue or the result of misidentification."

In a statement, the Browns stand by Quinn. "We are aware of the alleged comments made by Brady Quinn, which the Browns take seriously. After speaking with Brady and his representatives we find these reported accusations without merit."

Quinn was the Browns' first-round draft pick in 2007 and appeared in one game last season, completing three of eight pass attempts for 45 yards. He threw no touchdowns.

Quinn was a standout at Notre Dame, breaking 36 school records during his four-year run with the Fighting Irish.

## Elevation 2008 Set for March 12-16

Elevation 2008, the sixth annual Mammoth Gay Ski Week, will be held in Mammoth Lakes, Calif., March 12-16. Elevation is the third largest gay ski event of its kind in the world.

More than 2,000 are expected to attend this year to partake in the après-ski and specially organized nighttime events. Top-name DJs, such as Brett Henrichsen and Roland Belmares, will be brought in to spin at all the events.

A party pass is \$140 and a VIP pass is \$180. See [www.mammothgayski.com](http://www.mammothgayski.com).

## BOWLING - CMSA Mixed Standings

<b>Division A</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	Crew's Ball Busters	19	30	Windy City Sweets	30	19
Hamburger Mary's	39	10	Bowleros	17	32	Castaways	29	20
Cornelia's	33	16	Jury's	17	32	Great Scots	29	20
GYOF	32	17	Gutter Fluffers	14	35	Rough Trade	29	20
FVB Interiors	24	25	Marty's	10	39	Wicked	27	22
Second to None	24	25				Juana Bees	26	23
REMAX Edge	23	26	<b>Division B</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	Scot Shotz	25	24
Bowlers-A-GO-GO	22	27	Bobby Love's	43	6	Lady & Her Tramps	17	32
Funky Five	21	28	Salon Michael	32	17	Extremely Striking	17	32
5 Pins 10 Balls	20	29	Wells Fargo ONYX 5	31	18	Done More 5 Less	17	32
North End	20	29	Halsted Bar & Grill	30	19	Looney Tunes	16	33

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6 HOU ● 1:20	7 PIT ● 12:35	8	9 PIT ● 6:05	10 PIT ● 6:05	11 PHI ● 6:05	12 PHI ● 6:05
13 PHI ● 12:35	14	15 CIN ■ 7:05	16 CIN ■ 7:05	17 CIN ■ 1:20	18 PIT ■ 1:20	19 PIT ■ 12:05
20 PIT ● 1:20	21 NYM ● 6:05	22 NYM ■ 1:20	23 COL ● 7:35	24 COL ● 2:05	25 WSH ■ 6:35	26 WSH ■ 6:10
27 WSH ● 12:35	28	29 MIL ■ 7:05	30 MIL ■ 7:05	<b>March/April</b>		

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 MIL ● 1:20	2 STL ● 7:15	3 STL ● 2:45
4 STL ▲ 7:05	5 CIN ● 6:10	6 CIN ● 6:10	7 CIN ■ 11:35	8	9 AZ ■ 1:20	10 AZ ■ 12:05
11 AZ ● 1:20	12 SD ● 7:05	13 SD ■ 7:05	14 SD ■ 7:05	15 SD ■ 1:20	16 PIT ■ 1:20	17 PIT ■ 12:05
18 PIT ● 1:20	19 HOU ● 6:05	20 HOU ● 7:05	21 HOU ● 7:05	22	23 PIT ● 6:05	24 PIT ● 6:05
25 PIT ● 12:35	26 LAD ● 1:20	27 LAD ● 6:05	28 LAD ● 7:05	29 COL ■ 7:05	30 COL ■ 1:20	31 COL ■ 12:05

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 COL ● 1:20	2 SD ■ 9:05	3 SD ■ 9:05	4 SD ● 9:05	5 LAD ● 9:10	6 LAD ● 9:40	7 LAD ● 2:55
8 LAD TBD	9	10 ATL ■ 7:05	11 ATL ■ 7:05	12 ATL ■ 1:20	13 TOR ● 6:07	14 TOR ■ 12:07
15 TOR ● 12:07	16	17 TB ■ 6:10	18 TB ■ 6:10	19 TB ■ 6:10	20 CWS ■ 1:20	21 CWS ■ 12:05
22 CWS TBD	23	24 BAL ● 7:05	25 BAL ■ 7:05	26 BAL ■ 1:20	27 CWS ■ 3:05	28 CWS ● 2:55
29 CWS ● 1:05	30 SF ● 9:15	<b>June</b>				

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 SF ● 9:15	2 SF ● 9:15	3 SF ● 6:05	4 STL ● 7:15	5 STL ● 2:55
6 STL ● 2:15	7	8 CIN ■ 7:05	9 CIN ■ 7:05	10 CIN ■ 1:20	11 SF ■ 1:20	12 SF ● 2:55
13 SF ● 1:20	14	15 All-Star Game New York A.L.	16	17	18 HOU ● 7:05	19 HOU ● 6:05
20 HOU ● 1:05	21 AZ ■ 8:40	22 AZ ■ 8:40	23 AZ ■ 8:40	24 FLA ■ 7:05	25 FLA ■ 1:20	26 FLA ■ 12:05
27 FLA ■ 1:20	28 MIL ■ 7:05	29 MIL ● 7:05	30 MIL ■ 7:05	31 MIL ● 1:05	<b>July</b>	

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 PIT ■ 1:20	2 PIT ■ 12:05
3 PIT ● 1:20	4 HOU ■ 7:05	5 HOU ■ 1:20	6 HOU ■ 1:20	7	8 STL ■ 1:20	9 STL ● 2:55
10 STL TBD	11	12 ATL ● 6:10	13 ATL ● 6:10	14 ATL ■ 6:10	15 FLA ■ 6:10	16 FLA ■ 6:10
17 FLA ■ 12:10	18	19 CIN ■ 7:05	20 CIN ■ 7:05	21 CIN ■ 1:20	22 WSH ■ 1:20	23 WSH ■ 12:05
24 WSH ■ 1:20	25 PIT ■ 6:05	26 PIT ■ 6:05	27 PIT ■ 11:35	28 PHI ■ 7:05	29 PHI ■ 1:20	30 PHI ● 2:55

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 HOU ● 3:05	2 HOU ■ 7:05	3 HOU ■ 7:05	4	5 CIN ● 6:10	6 CIN ■ 6:10
7 CIN ● 12:15	8	9 STL ■ 7:15	10 STL ■ 7:15	11 STL ■ 7:15	12 HOU ■ 7:05	13 HOU ■ 6:05
14 HOU ● 1:05	15	16 MIL ■ 7:05	17 MIL ■ 7:05	18 MIL ■ 1:20	19 STL ■ 1:20	20 STL ■ 12:05
21 STL TBD	22 NYM ■ 6:10	23 NYM ■ 6:10	24 NYM ■ 6:10	25 NYM ■ 6:10	26 MIL ■ 7:05	27 MIL ● 12:05
28 MIL ● 1:05	29	30	<b>September</b>			

● WGN ■ Comcast SportsNet ○ WCIU ▲ ESPN  
◆ FOX (Saturday regional) ◆ Comcast SportsNet Plus\*

regular value prime

**AT THE WRIGLEY FIELD BOX OFFICE:** Tickets will go on sale at 8:00 a.m. through a random wristband system.

- Wristbands will be available at Wrigley Field from 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. on Wednesday, February 20 and from 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. on Thursday, February 21. There is a limit of one wristband per person. You will be required to show two (2) forms of identification, one of which needs to be a government issued photo ID. The wristbands will only be used at Wrigley Field on Friday, February 22.
- A random drawing will be held shortly after 6 a.m. on Friday, February 22 to determine the starting number for the ticket lines.  
**THE WINNING NUMBER WILL IMMEDIATELY BE ANNOUNCED ON WGN RADIO (720 AM) AND ON CUBS.COM.** All other numbers will follow the selected number.

**BY TELEPHONE:** Beginning at 10 a.m. **ILLINOIS RESIDENTS: 800-THE-CUBS (800-843-2827) OUT-OF-STATE: 866-652-2827.**

**VIA THE INTERNET ON CUBS.COM:** Beginning at 10 a.m.

**TICKET LIMITS:** On February 22, 23 and 24 various ticket limits will be put in place. These limits will be imposed based on various factors including customer name, household, credit card and e-mail address. Internet customers who use computer-based scripting language may have all orders cancelled.

- There will be a limit of six tickets per game.
- At the Wrigley Field Box Office, you will be limited to ordering a maximum of forty two (42) tickets.
- Internet and Phone customers will be limited to one game per order of up to six tickets. Internet and Phone customers will be limited to a maximum of forty two (42) tickets for the weekend. All customers who order more than this limit may have all orders cancelled.

In an effort to provide the best ticket availability for Cubs fans, all customers when receiving a wristband on February 20 or 21 and while purchasing tickets at Wrigley Field on February 22 will be required to show two (2) forms of identification, one of which needs to be a government issued photo ID.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT CUBS.COM**