



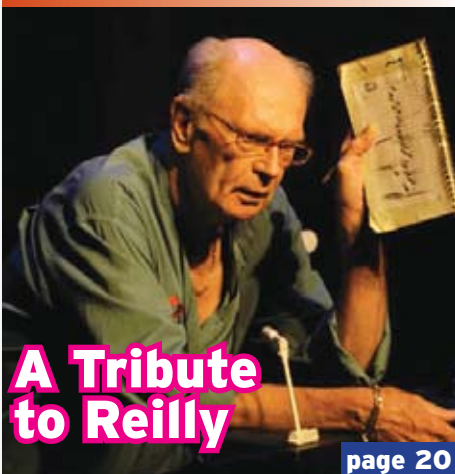
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Jason Bartlett Makes History

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A Tribute to Reilly

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pick it up take it home



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Rwandan Women: Being Positive

Marie-Jo Proulx is a former writer for Windy City Times. Last summer, she was a member of the Rwanda Initiative, a capacity building project of Carleton University's school of journalism. While in Kigali, she wrote for the Rwanda News Agency and a weekly newspaper.

The following was written after an inspiring day spent with HIV-infected women. As International Women's Day (Sat., March 8) approaches, Proulx dedicates this to them.

BY MARIE-JO PROULX
Kigali, July 11, 2007

I wasn't going to do stories on AIDS in Africa. I figured the topic had been amply covered in the mainstream media. People will be tired of white reporters harping about it, I thought.

That was foolish. You can't walk anywhere in Kigali without coming across a local or international NGO (non-governmental organization) that supports people living with HIV/AIDS. Every diagnosis is news to somebody—and especially bad news for women.

For wives and mothers, a positive test result can carry devastating consequences—not because of a lack of medication; the government subsidizes treatment for all who can't afford it.



A workshop for the Rwanda chapter of the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa. Photo by Marie-Jo Proulx

Premature death is no longer the threat it was before the development of effective drug cocktails. For many women, the real peril is rejection.

A reporter I work with is supporting his sister and her two children because her husband threw her out when he found out she was positive. She was infected by her first husband before he died. My colleague is now responsible for a household of three adults and five kids. He works two jobs, rarely eats lunch and has the office's most endearing smile.

His sister's predicament is representative of Africa's struggle with AIDS.

I spent the morning at the Rwanda chapter of the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA), where they hold daily workshops for mothers and families infected with the virus. After a few minutes of relaxation exercises, participants are divided into four groups: adults, young ones, widows and new cases. Trained counselors then lead interactive sessions tailored to their group's specific situation and needs.

Célestin, SWAA's director of behaviour change and communication, reminds his group of the importance of following drug regimens in order to stave off opportunistic infections. When a woman points out that the medication is difficult to take without food, Célestin asks one of the few men, a veteran of the disease, to explain how, on minimal resources, he manages to keep feeding himself enough to be able to take the life-saving drugs. More questions and answers follow. The sense of community makes the sadness almost bearable.

In the afternoon, I tag along with Célestin and Shamsi, SWAA's executive secretary, as they

Turn to page 4

Find out the election results in Texas and Ohio at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

Howard Brown Launches Elder Initiative

BY AMY WOOTEN

Howard Brown recently announced a partnership designed to create a model of care for local LGBT elders.

The Chicago Elder Services Community Initiative, a collaborative project aimed to reach about 1,500 LGBT seniors during its pilot year, is a partnership between Howard Brown, Council for Jewish Elderly-Senior Life, Heartland Alliance, Midwest Palliative & Hospice CareCenter and Rush University Medical Center. Its goal is to build and sustain comprehensive programs that will address the needs of local LGBT seniors.

The project will provide a broad range of much-needed services such as medical care, mental healthcare, drop-in services, an in-home visitation program, peer-to-peer support and more. The project strives to be a model of providing "one-stop-shop" services to LGBT seniors.

Howard Brown received initial funding of

Turn to page 6

At the Crossroads



Lesbian University of Chicago professor Cathy J. Cohen (right) was one of the honorees at Crossroads Fund's "Seeds of Change" annual benefit, held Fri., Feb. 29, at the Chicago Cultural Center. Cohen was one of the recipients of the Ron Soble Award for Activism. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald; see more photos on page 5, at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com and at www.MysticImagesPhotography.com.

page 5

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Marie-Jo Proulx (above) writes about her observations of HIV-positive Rwandan women. See pages 1, 4.

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The B-52s (above) are just one act profiled in this week's Pop Making Sense. See page 17.

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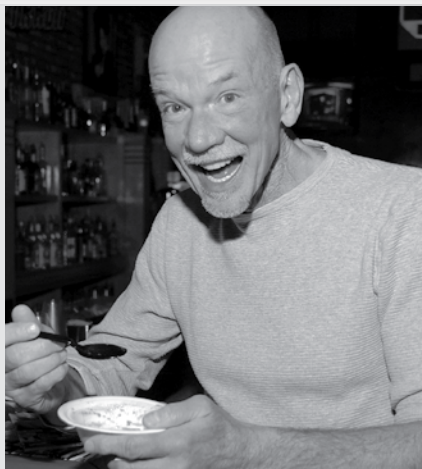
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This week's online-only features include:

- Media Watch
- Interior Motives
- Landscaping tips
- Theater reviews of Girls Will Be Girls and Richard III
- The Chamber of Commerce's Jack Daniel's Chili Cook Off pics (right)

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald



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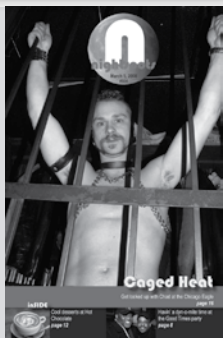
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nightspots

CAGED HEAT

Get locked up with Chad at the Chicago Eagle.

photo by Kirk Williamson



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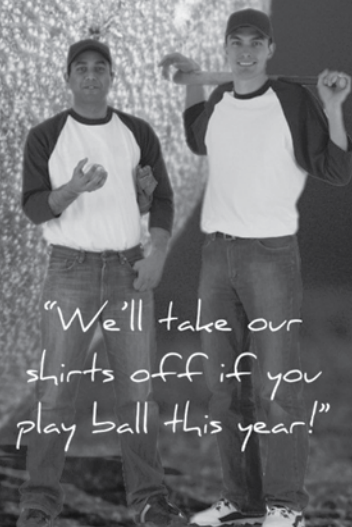
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Gay Youth More Likely to be Exploited on Internet

BY BOB ROEHR

Youth who are gay or are questioning their sexual identity are significantly more likely than others to be victims of Internet-initiated sex crimes. However, the vast majority of those encounters are illegal because of the age of the participant, not because of coercion or violence.

That finding was part of a very large comprehensive study, "Online 'Predators' and Their Victims," published February 18 in the American Psychologist. It was based upon three surveys; two were telephone interviews of 3,000 Internet users between the ages of 10 and 17 taken in 2000 and 2005; the third were 612 interviews with law enforcement officials.

Overall, it concluded that hysterical media coverage of isolated events and television programs such as "To Catch a Predator" have left a distorted picture of both the scope and nature of this activity. It noted that from 1990 to 2005, reported cases of child sex abuse declined by half and the rates of runaways and pregnancy among teens also declined.

"The reality about Internet-related sex crimes—those in which sex offenders meet juvenile victims online—is different, more complex, and serious but less archetypically frightening than the publicity about these crimes suggests."

Of the prosecuted cases, 99 percent involved youth 13 to 17, a time of growing independence and exploration, including sexual exploration. The median age for first intercourse is 17.

Romance and sex generally are key in those encounters, with sex discussed ahead of time online and anticipated by both parties. "Many victims profess love or close feelings for offenders" and 73 percent of the youth had more than one physical encounter with the same person.

The study concluded "Although a new medium for communication is involved, the nonforcible sex crimes that predominate as offenses against youths only are not particularly new or uncommon."

Youth with a history of sexual abuse, sexual orientation concerns, and patterns of risk-taking are particularly likely to find sexual encounters online with older partners. About a third of those solicitations came in chatrooms.

Males were the victim in a quarter of all criminal cases. The fact that most met their sexual partner at online sites such as a gay chatroom strongly suggests that being gay or questioning one's sexual orientation is a risk factor.

Study co-author David Finkelhor, director of the Crimes against Children Research Center, said the survey did not ask the youth to self-identify their sexual orientation. He added, male victims off-line "tend to be younger, particularly 8 to 12 years old."

He made the point, "You don't have to worry about gay sex offenders online; kids are made vulnerable by the fact that they are not able to get good information and support around sexual orientation issues from their family and schools, so they are out there online."

Social stigma, concerns about confidentiality, inability to talk with and often alienation from parents often lead some gay youth to the Internet, and the potential for exploitation by some adults.

First amendment rights advocate Bill Dobbs said, "There is a great deal of hysteria around youth sexuality, and the Internet just inflames the issue." He stressed the need to differentiate between prepubescent kids and teens "who may not be adults but are not children."

"It is an age-old story, teens on a journey of life and getting around their parents." He stressed the need for society in general to become more educated and accepting of a spectrum of sexual orientations.

The 19-page study is available online at www.apa.org/journals/releases/amp632111.pdf.



Tom Koontz. Photo courtesy of Jamie Barron

PASSAGES Tom Koontz

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Tom Koontz—a Midwesterner whose life took him to New York, Puerto Rico and Chicago, where he was, among other things, a recent sales associate for Windy City Times—died Feb. 29. He was 56.

Jamie Barron, a friend of Koontz since 1981, told Windy City Times that Koontz was awaiting a liver transplant and had only about another month to wait.

Koontz was born in Plymouth, Ind., and attended Indiana University. He then moved to Chicago, the Cayman Islands, Los Angeles and New York, where he worked at the Center for Living with spiritual activist/author Marianne Williamson. Koontz then moved to Puerto Rico, where he started a newspaper, the Puerto Rico Breeze. A change in the political climate motivated Koontz to move back to Chicago.

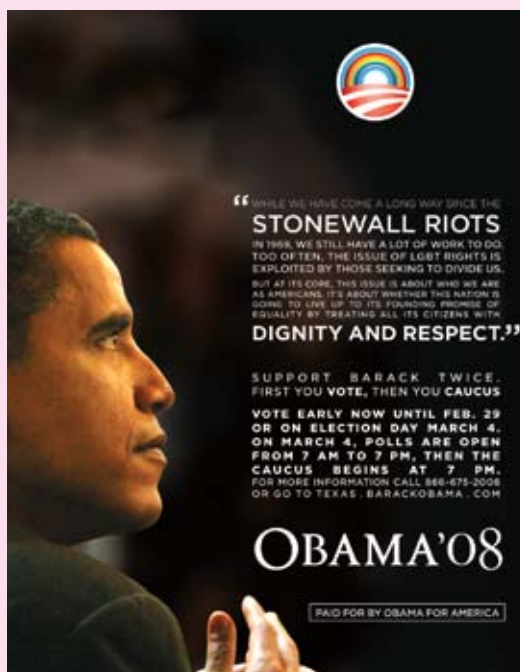
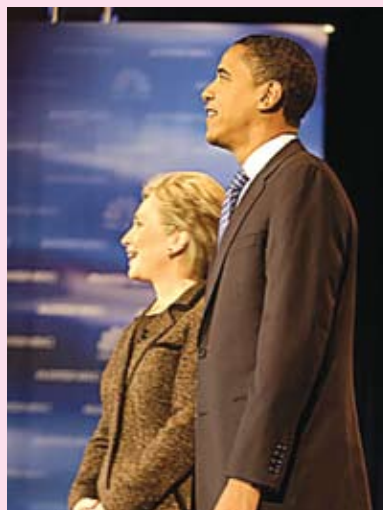
When asked what he will miss the most about Koontz, Barron answered "his sense of humor and his laugh. He enjoyed insult humor and we'd do that to each other quite a bit; we had that kind of relationship since we met each other. Especially in the last year, I was happy if I could get him to laugh. He had a wicked sense of humor—evil, in a way. I think that was part of the reason we liked each other so much."

Joe Klene, who was Koontz' partner for over a decade (before the relationship ended in 1992), agreed that Koontz had a quirky sense of humor. "He was very much a person who enjoyed having fun," he said. "He liked to entertain and he really liked [having] friends. The sense of community was really important to him."

Windy City Media Group (WCMG) Assistant Publisher Terri Klinsky said, "Tom was a great guy with a huge heart. Although he became ill shortly after he started to work at WCMG, he still wanted to do his best and work as hard as he could."

Koontz is survived by his parents, Donald and Betty; sisters Trudy and Terry; and niece Mindy.

Barron indicated that a memorial service would take place for Koontz in the spring. Details will be published as they become available.



Down to the Wire

As expected, Democratic presidential candidates Sen. Hillary Clinton and Sen. Barack Obama were campaigning heavily before the March 4 primaries in Texas and Ohio. Clinton held a rally at Cleveland State University Sun., March 2, with support from married actors Ted Danson (in lower left photo) and Mary Steenburgen, days after debating Obama at the same school. (Chelsea Clinton and Jesse Jackson, upper right, were among those attending the debate.) Obama's campaign team has taken the step of addressing the LGBT community by placing ads in gay newspapers in the two states, including The Dallas Voice. An open letter to the LGBT community is on page 10 of this issue. Clinton and debate photos by Bob Olayas

RWANDAN from cover

check in on the delivery of HIV/AIDS services in Nyamirambo, Kigali's oldest neighbourhood.

As she drives the association's pick-up over the mangled dirt roads, Shamsi, a spunky and independent Muslim Rwandan, generously answers my many questions about her work, prior training and early years in the DRC. I estimate she is about 30. She says her family and friends are always on her case because she is not married yet. I want to ask why not, but I decide not to probe any further.

When we get to the large, one-room community center, about 50 people (again, mostly women) are waiting for us. They applaud as we enter, which makes me rather uncomfortable.

Shamsi asks me to introduce myself and explain why I have come to visit. I tell them of my interest in global health issues and I mention that I used to cover the work of several AIDS organizations in my previous job at a paper in Chicago. I thank them for welcoming me and allowing me to learn from them.

An animated counseling session then begins. Jean-Claude, Nyamirambo's director of social affairs, reviews how to avoid mother-to-child transmission and stresses the advantages of giving birth in a hospital. The use of condoms is discussed openly. The women understand the need to protect themselves against more virulent strains of HIV, but they complain that men are not very cooperative. When they are drunk, they say, there is no reasoning with

their husbands. In Rwanda, as in other African countries, men make most decisions when it comes to sex.

Unexpectedly, Shamsi and Jean-Claude urge me to ask the women about any health issue I may be interested in. I seize the opportunity and inquire about children. I want to know how many they each have. They use fingers to show me and enthusiastically pose for photos.

A finger for every child

I am curious to hear what they think of family planning. When I ask if they remember the first time they were ever told about contraception, I hear "two years ago" from a mother of seven, and "back in school" from a gregarious woman who has recently delivered her ninth child.

The government is currently considering a bill that would limit children to three per couple. Too late for these proud women.

I tell them I admire their resilience and can't imagine myself caring for so many kids. They laugh heartily and make a few comments in Kinyarwanda. They look at me with warm smiles, but I wonder if they think I am a privileged wimp.

Although testing positive for HIV/AIDS has changed their destiny forever, the women I have met remain surprisingly, well, positive. Before I leave, they ask me to talk and write about them when I go home. I don't tell them about my obtuse initial plan not to tell their story.

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Sowing the 'Seeds'

The social-justice organization known as The Crossroads Fund held its annual benefit, "Seeds of Change," Fri., Feb. 29, at the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph. Among the award recipients were Dr. Cathy Cohen and the Metropolitan Area Group for Igniting Civilization, Inc. (MAGIC), who both received the Ron Sable Award for Activism. In addition, the Coalition Against War & Injustice received the first Donald F. Erickson Synapses Award. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald; see more at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com and www.MysticImagesPhotography.com.



A Kat Fitzgerald photo.

Center to host lesbian photography show

As part of Center on Halsted's celebration of Women's History Month, four Chicago lesbians whose ages span four generations will present Cycles: A Generational Snapshot from Four Chicago Lesbians.

The exhibit, which will be installed at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, March 6-March 30, will feature photographs from Corri Christensen, Kat Fitzgerald, Chelcie Porter and Betty Lark Ross. An opening reception will be held Fri., March 7, 6:30-9:30 p.m., in the Center's second-floor living room space. A \$5 donation is requested for the opening reception.

See www.centeronhalsted.org.

Civil-union bill introduced in Ill. Senate

A Peoria senator recently agreed to sponsor the Senate version of Rep. Greg Harris' civil unions bill, the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act.

State Sen. David Koehler, D-Peoria, introduced Senate Bill 2436, which was assigned to the Senate Judiciary Civil Law Committee.

The House version, introduced by Harris last year, has advanced out of committee, but has yet to come to the House floor for full debate.

The legislation would give same-sex couples all the same rights as marriage, and would recognize same-sex civil unions and marriages performed in other states.

AIDS Run/Walk's corporate breakfast

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago is hosting a corporate breakfast Thurs., March 6, 8:30-9:30 a.m. at 411 S. Wells in the second-floor conference room.

Items on the agenda include learning about the Corporate Challenge, getting employees involved and sharing fundraising ideas. RSVP Chris Matthews at 312-334-0917 or cmatthews@aidschicago.org.



A Federal Case

Human Rights Campaign held its Annual Federal Club Dinner Sat., March 1, at the Metropolitan Club's Oak Room, 233 S. Wacker (Sears Tower). The featured speaker was Eric Alva (upper left), the first U.S. resident wounded in the Iraq War, a Purple Heart recipient and the HRC spokesperson against the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Among the attendees was Iraq War veteran and former U.S. House Democratic candidate Tammy Duckworth (left). Photos by Kat Fitzgerald; see more at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com and www.MysticImagesPhotography.com.



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www.healthpolicy.iupui.edu/growupLGBT.htm

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Harris responds to Calif. slaying

Openly gay State Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago, has expressed his concern and outrage regarding the Feb. 12 murder of 15-year-old California student Lawrence King.

King, an openly gay junior high school student, was shot and killed by a classmate in Oxnard, Calif.

In a recent press release, Harris said, "I am outraged by this act of classroom violence and wish to make clear that intending harm against people based on their sexual orientation is, without exception, completely and totally unacceptable, as are attacks based on religion, race, ethnicity, gender or any personal characteristic. Members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and questioning community deserve to live their lives proudly without fear of being victimized by these despicable acts of targeted violence. I urge my colleagues across the nation to join me in condemning this act of disturbing brutality."

Darrow remembrance March 13

There will be a ceremony to commemorate the 70th anniversary of famed attorney Clarence Darrow Thurs., March 13, 10 a.m., at the Clarence Darrow Bridge in Jackson Park, south of the Museum of Science and Industry.

Northwestern University School of Law Associate Professor Catherine Crawford will be the principal speaker. Crawford will speak on "The Jena 6: Challenging Racially Motivated Prosecutions."

More than 100 Darrow regulars are expected to attend the annual outdoor wreath-throwing ceremonies at the bridge before moving into the Rosenwald Auditorium of the museum for the discussion.

Darrow died March 13, 1938. His ashes—and, later, the ashes of his wife Ruby, and his son Paul—were scattered from the bridge that was dedicated to his memory by the Chicago Park District in 1957.

For more information, contact Herb Kraus at 312-578-9114.

TPAN tea March 9

Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) will host "Jacket Required," a traditional English tea and champagne event, at the Palm Court of the Drake Hotel, 140 E. Walton, Sun., March 9, at 3:30 p.m.

The event will feature jackets designed by

celebrities, fashion designers and artists, and they will be packaged with other great prizes and auctioned throughout the afternoon. In addition, the collection of jackets is currently on display for preview in the Bloomingdale's store windows at 900 N. Michigan.

This event is exclusive and limited to the first 150 ticket purchasers. Tickets are \$100 and may be purchased online at www.tpantea.org.

Morten to be honored

Mary F. Morten, interim executive director of the Chicago Foundation for Women, will be among those recognized at the Anti-Defamation League's 15th Annual Women of Achievement Awards Dinner.

The dinner will take place Thurs., March 20, at the Fairmont Chicago, 200 N. Columbus. For more information or to RSVP, contact Rebecca Gruenspan at the Anti-Defamation League at 312-782-5080, ext. 243.

LGBT student filmmakers to compete

Columbia College Chicago will hold the second annual Q* Film Fest, which features a gender identity theme, Wed., March 19.

At the festival, five student short films will be screened. The winner will attend the San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival.

The screening and reception, which begins at 7 p.m., will be held at Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash, 8th floor, is free. Call 312-344-6700 for more information.

Black women's HIV event March 11

"Women of African descent and HIV/AIDS: How do we protect, uplift and save our sisters?" will take place Tues., March 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the DuSable Museum of African-American History, 740 E. 56th Place.

There will be refreshments, displays, HIV/AIDS prevention presentations, free HIV Testing, the FACES of AIDS and entertainment at the event, which is presented by The Office on Women's Health (in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) and the National HIV Testing Mobilization Campaign. For more information, call 630-709-8536.



Earl K. Smith.

PASSAGES Earl K. Smith

Earl K. Smith, age 41, passed away Fri., Feb. 29, near his home in Kenosha Wis. He was 41.

Smith was a former chef concierge at Chicago's Palmer House Hotel as well as a regular of the now-defunct bar/restaurant Buddies. He is survived by his mother, Louadell "Mama Lou-Lou" Smith; his stepfather, Jack VanWie; his sisters, Robin Martin and Lori Hoeksema; his special companion, Harley/Spot; and countless friends and family members.

His infectious laughter, generosity of spirit, and warm, loving nature will be missed by all who knew him.

A memorial service will be held 11 a.m., Sat., March 8, at Marsh Funeral Home, 308 N. Cemetery, Gurnee, Ill.

Any donations to the family to assist with funeral expenses would be greatly appreciated.

**Send obituaries to
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WindyCity
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John D. Malzone.

PASSAGES John D. Malzone

John D. Malzone, a.k.a. "Mame" and "Mama", passed away Feb. 26. He was 79.

Malzone was born in Chicago, and attended DePaul University. He served in the United States Navy, and was a window dresser at Marshall Field's. He also worked in advertising in New York and in public relations in Paris, later returning home to teach developmentally challenged children for Chicago Public Schools. Malzone was also regarded as a mover and shaker in the early local gay-rights movement.

Throughout his life, Malzone used his adroit wit and humor to defend and defame where required, was a constant friend, and was a fascinating storyteller. Very active in the gay liberation scene in the early 1970s through the '80s, he was known both for being hospitable and for challenging authority. Malzone exercised his faith through his participation in the local LGBT Catholic organization Dignity Chicago, becoming an early president of the group.

Malzone is survived by his partner of 35 years, Robert Van Vooren.

Visitation was at Drake & Son Funeral Home, 5303 N. Western, Thurs., Feb. 28. The funeral Mass took place Fri., Feb. 29, at St. Matthias Church, 2310 W. Ansley. Donations may be made to the American Heart Association in Malzone's name.

ELDER from cover

\$120,000 from Baxter International Foundation and the Chicago Community Trust. Long-time supporter U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., sponsored a \$383,000 federal grant to further support the project.

Schakowsky, who was present for the press conference, said she was "thrilled" and "honored" to contribute to a program that addresses such a tremendous need.

"I wake up every day thankful to be in a position that I can do things like this," the congresswoman said.

The Chicago Elder Services Community Initiative is taking a proactive approach to serving the needs of a growing LGBT senior population across the United States. One national agency estimates there will be between three and six million LGBT elders in the next 30 years.

Providing care for these elders—already a vul-

nerable population regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity—is important considering the barriers they continue to face, including access to healthcare and the higher likelihood of growing older alone.

According to Howard Brown, there are an estimated 40,000 LGBT seniors in Chicago. Of these LGBT elders, one in five has an annual income below \$20,000. The organization has found that LGBT seniors are more likely to face depression, substance abuse and more.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force senior strategist Amber Hollibaugh was present for the announcement. Hollibaugh called the project a "replicable model" that NGLTF is very excited about. According to Hollibaugh, there is an absence of programs for LGBT elders across the nation, and NGLTF estimates the number of LGBT seniors will double by 2030.

"This is incredibly historic," community activist Vernita Gray told Windy City Times, adding

that she never thought she'd live to see the recent strides that the community has made in terms of offering LGBT senior programming.

"Not only am I a senior now, but I'm in a community that will be taking care of me as I am aging," Gray said.

For more information, contact Rebecca Finer, Elder Services program director, at 773-388-8901 or rebeccaf@howardbrown.org.



From left: Alderman Helen Shiller, U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky, Howard Brown Health Center CEO Mike Cook and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force senior strategist Amber Hollibaugh at the press conference.

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NATIONAL ROUNDUP

BY AMY WOOTEN

An **openly gay Florida teenager was shot to death** while dressed as a woman, Sun-sentinel.com reported. Simmie Williams, Jr., 17, was shot by two young men in Fort Lauderdale. Transgender prostitutes often hang out in the area where Williams was killed. Police are currently investigating, and are looking into the possibility that it was a hate crime. The victim's mother said he was occasionally picked on because of his sexual orientation.

Lambda Legal recently issued a letter to the City of Los Angeles requesting that it **cut ties with a Boy Scouts of America affiliate** that administers youth programs for the city's Police and Fire Departments. Lambda Legal said Los Angeles should honor its own non-discrimination policy by cutting ties with the affiliate program, called Learning for Life, which does not discriminate based on sexual orientation but has ties to Boy Scouts of America, which does. Boy Scouts of American bars gays and lesbians.

A recent study shows that **aging is a major concern among many gays and lesbians**. According to a press release by Community Marketing, Inc., which conducted the study, over 70 percent of gays and lesbians over 40 are worried about getting older and not being able to take care of themselves. The study also indicated that many older gays and lesbians are not prepared for issues that go hand-in-hand with old age, such as caring for a partner, outliving their savings and more.

Openly lesbian **U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) is calling on Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to change the U.S. Department of State's LGBT policies**. According to a press released issued by Baldwin's office, she and other legislators demand that Rice institute changes in the State Department's policies in order to provide same-sex partner benefits for its employees. "As in the case of Former Ambassador to Romania Michael Guest, the inequitable treatment of gay and lesbian Foreign Service Officers (FSOs) and their partners should not be allowed to lead highly qualified employees to leave the State Department at a time when their service is needed more than ever," the letter read.

EdgeBoston.com reported that identical **twin gay porn actors have been arrested for burglary**. Keyontyli and Taleon Goffney (stage names Teyon and Keyon) were charged in connection with the robbery of a South Philadelphia business, where they allegedly cut through the roof to gain access. According to Philly.com, the twins are part of a multi-state investigation, and are suspected of roughly 35 other burglaries.

A judge recently ruled that a lesbian couple should be able to divorce in New York, even though they can't legally wed in the state. A New York Supreme Court judge ruled that the couple, who were wed in Canada in 2004, should be allowed to legally end their relationship by divorcing, reported the New York Daily News. This means one of the women can now proceed with her divorce and custody battle. New York Law prohibits gay marriage, but its laws don't specifically prohibit recognizing same-sex marriages performed elsewhere. An attorney for one of the women plans to appeal the case.

The Matthew Shepard Foundation announced that at its upcoming 7th Annual Bear to Make a Difference Gala, it will launch an **aggressive anti-hate campaign** that will engage about one million people. Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard, the gay college student who was killed in Wyoming, will unveil the campaign in observance of the 10 years since his death.

According to the San Jose Mercury News, a **California county board said that it formally opposes the Food and Drug Administration's lifetime ban on blood donations by gay men**. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to oppose the FDA's ban, but

won't go so far as banning all blood drives until the federal policy is lifted. San Jose State University recently took a stand against the ban by banning campus blood donations until the FDA changes its policy. The county board said such a ban would hurt the region's blood supply.

A Florida eatery is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the person who attacked a gay man, according to South Florida's Sun-Sentinel. **A gay Fort Lauderdale man was verbally and physically attacked** while dining at the restaurant with his partner. The restaurant's owner is putting up the reward with his own money. Police are currently investigating the attack, and are looking into it as a possible hate crime.

Viewers of the daytime serial As the World Turns have started a protest campaign, wondering why fictional same-sex couple Luke Snyder and Noah Mayer have not kissed since September, CNN.com reported. Fans have started a letter-writing campaign and have even started a Web site that counts the last time they smooched.

On a recent episode of The Tyra Banks Show, the talk-show host interviewed Republican presidential candidate Gov. Mike Huckabee. During the interview, **Tyra Banks questioned Huckabee about his thoughts on homosexuality**. She

questioned whether or not he wanted the gay vote, why he was opposed to same-sex marriage and more. "I'm asking you so many questions about this because I love the gays and the gays love me," Banks said. "And I know I cannot walk

down the street here in New York City if I didn't press that issue and truly ask you that." Huckabee remained firm on his positions.

WCT Seeks 30 Under 30 Nominees for Awards

Windy City Times is seeking to recognize 30 more outstanding LGBT individuals (and allies) who are under 30 years of age.

In 2000, Windy City Times established an award to acknowledge the young movers and shakers of the LGBT community: the 30 Under 30 Awards. Thirty young activists, journalists, students, HIV/AIDS volunteers and performers who were each under the age of 30 were honored for their achievements in moving the LGBT community forward. Each year since, another 30 get their day in the sun.

Nominees should be under 30 years of age and should have made some substantial contributions to the LGBT community, whether in the fields of entertainment, politics, health and/or other areas. (The deadline to nominate individuals is Fri., April 25.)

Individuals themselves, organizations, co-workers, etc. can nominate a person by sending an e-mail or fax to WCMG. The nomination should be 100 words or less and should state what achievements or contributions the nominee has made. Nominators should include their own names and contact information as well as the contact information of the nominee. Those nominations can be sent to Andrew@Windy-CityMediaGroup.com or faxed to Andrew Davis' attention to 773-871-7609.

(NOTE: Following the policy instituted in 2005 that individuals can only win once, those have won the award since that year are ineligible for this year's awards.)

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WORLD ROUNDUP

BY REX WOCKNER

Five gays run for legislature in Nepal

Five gay men are running for seats in Nepal's national legislature in the April 10 election.

The new 601-seat Constituent Assembly will replace an interim legislature that has been in place since Parliament was dissolved in early 2007.

The gay men are candidates for the large Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), which is part of the ruling alliance.

Sunil Pant, founder of Nepal's leading gay group, the Blue Diamond Society, is among those seeking office.

In December, Nepal's Supreme Court ordered the government to pass new laws and rewrite old ones to extend equal rights and anti-discrimination protections to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and intersex people. The ruling came in a public-interest case filed by gay organizations.

"Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex are natural persons irrespective of their masculine and feminine gender and they have the right to exercise their rights and live an independent life in society," the court said.

The court also ordered the government to form a committee to study same-sex marriage in other nations with a view to changing Nepalese law in that area, as well.

At present, "unnatural" sex is illegal in Nepal under penalty of up to two years in prison.

Argentine president said to support gay marriage

New Argentine President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner supports legalization of same-sex marriage, according to the president of the National Institute Against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism (INADI).

In a Feb. 24 interview with the Buenos Aires newspaper Clarín, María José Lubertino was asked, "With [former President Raúl] Alfonsín the divorce law was established. Will Cristina's accomplishment be gay marriage?"

Lubertino responded, "I have no doubt. ... If they didn't want me to advance this issue, they wouldn't have put me in charge of INADI."



Sunil Pant, founder of Nepal's leading gay group, the Blue Diamond Society. File photo

90 cops visit Mexico City gay bar

Some 90 police officers descended on the Mexico City gay bar Neón in the gay Zona Rosa district Feb. 16.

A city official called the incident a "verification visit" to check for irregularities and the presence of minors.

Seven patrons were detained for alleged drug-dealing.

Other patrons said some of the officers behaved violently during the visit.

About 200 gay people protested outside in Plaza del Ángel during the raid, according to a NotieSe report.

In recent months, eight gay bars have been shut down in the Zona Rosa by city officials from the Cuauhtémoc borough—Boy Bar, Colors, Crazy, Lipstick, Liverpool 100, Oasis, The Puss and VIP, NotieSe said.

Activists have blamed the closures on the local government district's "homophobia."

Palestinian gay group sets out on its own

Al-Qaws, the Palestinian LGBT project of Jerusalem's Open House gay center, has spun off as an independent organization.

"With this decision, our community begins a new journey with a committed leadership group and widespread local activists, friends and supporters," the group said in a press release.

Al-Qaws achieved official status as a nonprofit organization in November, and renamed itself "Al-Qaws - for Sexual & Gender Diversity in the Palestinian Society."

"This new phase presents new opportunities with promises of growth through self-definition for Palestinian LGBTQs," said Director Haneen Maikey.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley



Hilary Neiman.

Changes in LGBT Adoption Laws

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

The United States recently became signatories to the Hague Adoption Convention, which protects children and families against unregulated adoption risks and issues involving intercountry adoption. The move closes off adoption from some countries where families previously could adopt children, and will make international adoption even harder for LGBT families. Windy City Times spoke with Hilary Neiman, attorney for The National Adoption and Surrogacy Center, LLC, in Rockville, Md., about the adoption climate for LGBT parents.

Windy City Times: Could you explain some of the implications of the U.S.'s decision to sign the Hague Adoption Convention?

Hilary Neiman: Countries where the U.S. was formally able to adopt from that were LGBT friendly, such as Guatemala, are no longer adoption options for the U.S. because these countries are not signatories of the Hague Convention. To further complicate matters, many countries around the world are also in a period of transition and are changing their own adoption regulations. For example, China, which used to allow adoption by unmarried persons, is now prohibiting adoptions by parents who are unmarried. China's reasoning is that they wanted to increase their own domestic adoption program. Consequently very few countries are currently open to the LGBT community.

WCT: What is the current situation for LGBT adoptive parents in the U.S.?

HN: Although the adoption climate is not favorable for international adoptions, the domestic situation is still a great option for the LGBT community. In fact, there is a huge de-

mand for parents and singles to adopt in the U.S. Families can choose either foster care adoption, domestic independent adoption, or domestic agency adoption. ... Another great family building option is surrogacy.

WCT: When considering surrogacy, what should potential parents keep in mind?

HN: In many states, such as Maryland and California, two dads' or two moms' names can go directly on the birth certificate. In other states, only one parent would be able to go on the birth certificate and the other parent would have to go through a second-parent adoption after the child is born. However, in some states, second-parent adoptions are not legal. Therefore, it is important to work with a surrogate in a surrogate-friendly state.

It is also important that parents and their surrogate enter into a carefully and properly drafted contract. It is necessary that all parties understand their rights and responsibilities. A surrogacy contract should detail each party's duties and all the critical issues involved in the surrogacy process, such as confidentiality, abortion/selective reduction issues, medical/psychological screening, parental rights, contact, compensation, and expectations. Both the parents and the surrogate need to feel comfortable with the contract before moving ahead. Whether pursuing adoption or surrogacy, it is important to consult with an adoption and/or surrogacy attorney to make sure that you are well protected before you start down your road to parenthood.

WCT: Overall, have things improved or declined for LGBT couples over the past few years?

HN: In domestic adoption and surrogacy, the situation has improved. For example, many states are now allowing two dads and two moms' names to go directly on the birth certificate in a surrogacy situation. And, in some states, LGBT couples can adopt together (as opposed to adopting as a single person and then having the other partner do a second-parent adoption). It's a tough time for international adoptions right now though. Very few countries will allow single women to adopt and no countries will allow single men.

WCT: What should Illinois LGBT families understand about the adoption climate?

HN: They have many options and Illinois is a GLBT friendly adoption/surrogacy state. However, intended parent's birth parents (with an adoption situation) or surrogate do not have to reside in Illinois.

See www.hilaryneiman.com.

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VIEWPOINT

JASMYNE
CANNICKMy Apology to
Charles Knipp for
Gay America

At this year's State of the Black Union, Dick Gregory apologized to President Bill Clinton on behalf of Blacks for our role in allowing Clinton to believe that he was Black.

In that same spirit, I feel compelled to apologize to Charles Knipp on behalf of gays for allowing him to think that he's one of the Black women that he unsuccessfully tries to emulate. Knipp's latest cry for help involved superimposing my head on some other Black woman's naked body (jasmynecannick.typepad.com/shirleyliquor_defamation.jpg) and then tactlessly posting it on his Web site for continuing to expose his constant mockery of the Black woman.

Knipp is a self-described 45-year-old, fat, gay white man who believes he's on a mission from God—a mission that involves mimicking Black women as his alter ego, Shirley Q. Liquor. Knipp describes Liquor as being “a welfare mother with nineteen kids who guzzles malt liquor, and drives a Caddy.” (See www.rollingstone.com/news/story/14474389/shirley_q_liquor_after_imus_a_black_face_comic_who_sings_12_days_of_kwanzaa.) The character is a favorite among his core audience, whom Knipp describes as being “gay men, their moms, and rednecks.”

And while Isaiah Washington was unable to escape the wrath of gay America, Knipp's blackface minstrel show continues to be rewarded by gay Americans to the tune of \$90K annually.

Imus may have called Black women “nappy-headed ho's,” but it's Knipp who routinely tries to bring that image to life onstage as Shirley Q. Liquor when she tries to recollect the names of her “chirun” with his skit “Who Is My Baby Daddy? Cheeto, Orangello, Chlamydia, and Kmartina...”

I blame gay America, from the political leaders to the club owners, for turning a blind eye to Knipp's blatantly racist routines that in his words are performed mostly for “gay men, their moms and rednecks.” We are the reason that his racist act continues to go nearly undetected on the race radar.

And no matter how I feel about gay America—in particular, white gay America—as a lesbian, a Black lesbian, by virtue of my sexual orientation, I am reluctantly tied to you as much as you are tied to me.

So I am just as much to blame for failing to help you understand that just because you usurp the Black civil rights movement's strategies and language and proudly display photos of your leaders with late civil rights icons on your Web sites, that doesn't mean that there aren't still very serious race issues still at play in gay America.

I should have told you that Black women continue to remain under attack in this country. And that it doesn't matter what our standing in corporate America, the White House, the media, who we're married to, what our sexual orientation is, how straight and long our hair is or how light our skin, we are still Black and we are still under attack. Hear me.

I should have sat your leaders down and explained that it is not okay for any white man, straight or gay, to perform in blackface and mock African-American names and holidays. I should have made you understand that many of the same gay nightclubs that book Knipp are owned by the same people that donate money to many of your gay civil rights groups. I should have connected the dots for you. My bad.

It was I who forgot to explain that while Ru-

Paul is African-American, he's as disconnected from Black America as Ward Connerly. So when he defends Knipp's act, it should be taken with a grain of salt.

I should have introduced you to Angela Davis, bell hooks, June Jordan, Audre Lorde, Sojourner Truth, Alice Walker, Ida Wells-Barnett and the plight of the Black woman. Then maybe you'd understand why Charles Knipp's act is so offensive to me as a Black woman. Then maybe you'd care.

Please forgive my shortsightedness. It won't happen again.

Blacks are so often referred to as being the conscience of America. I want you to know that from this day forward, gay America can count on this Black lesbian to be its conscience when it comes to your involuntary and voluntary racist ways.

As for Charles Knipp, some would say that you need therapy. But I say forget therapy, I'm going to tell you this for free.

I'm sorry that you weren't born one of the Black women that you so love to impersonate. I know how beautiful we are and how unfair it is that we are blessed with what your race often has to go out and pay for. But I say to you: Love the skin you're in. Most people in your situation settle for surrounding themselves with Black friends, marrying someone Black, moving into a Black neighborhood, listening to hip-hop, watching BET, eating Soul Food and voting for Barack Obama. Why don't you give it try and leave the act of being Black to those of us who are? We have enough confused Black folks out there without having to take on a confused 45-year-old, fat, gay white man who thinks he's Black.

At 30, Jasmyne Cannick is a critic and commentator based in Los Angeles who writes about the worlds of pop culture, race, class, sexuality, and politics as it relates to the African-American community. She can be reached at www.jasmynecannick.com or www.myspace.com/jasmynecannick.

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LETTER

With Sen. Barack Obama submitting an ad to run in LGBT newspapers in Texas and Ohio, he also submitted this letter:

I'm running for president to build an America that lives up to our founding promise of equality for all—a promise that extends to our gay brothers and sisters. It's wrong to have millions of Americans living as second-class citizens in this nation. And I ask for your support in this election so that together we can bring about real change for all LGBT Americans.

Equality is a moral imperative. That's why throughout my career, I have fought to eliminate discrimination against LGBT Americans. In Illinois, I co-sponsored a fully inclusive bill that prohibited discrimination on the basis of both sexual orientation and gender identity, extending protection to the workplace, housing, and places of public accommodation. In the U.S. Senate, I have co-sponsored bills that would equalize tax treatment for same-sex couples and provide benefits to domestic partners of federal employees. And as president, I will place the weight of my administration behind the enactment of the Matthew Shepard Act to outlaw hate crimes and a fully inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act to outlaw workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

As your president, I will use the bully pulpit to urge states to treat same-sex couples with full equality in their family and adoption laws. I personally believe that civil unions represent the best way to secure that equal treatment. But I also believe that the federal government should not stand in the way of states that want to decide on their own how best to pursue equal-

ity for gay and lesbian couples—whether that means a domestic partnership, a civil union, or a civil marriage. Unlike Senator Clinton, I support the complete repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)—a position I have held since before arriving in the U.S. Senate. While some say we should repeal only part of the law, I believe we should get rid of that statute altogether. Federal law should not discriminate in any way against gay and lesbian couples, which is precisely what DOMA does. I have also called for us to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and I have worked to improve the Uniting American Families Act so we can afford same-sex couples the same rights and obligations as married couples in our immigration system.

The next president must also address the HIV/AIDS epidemic. When it comes to prevention, we do not have to choose between values and science. While abstinence education should be part of any strategy, we also need to use common sense. We should have age-appropriate sex education that includes information about contraception. We should pass the JUSTICE Act to combat infection within our prison population. And we should lift the federal ban on needle exchange, which could dramatically reduce rates of infection among drug users. In addition, local governments can protect public health by distributing contraceptives.

We also need a president who's willing to confront the stigma—too often tied to homophobia—that continues to surround HIV/AIDS. I confronted this stigma directly in a speech to evangelicals at Rick Warren's Saddleback Church, and will continue to speak out as president. That is where I stand on the major issues of the day.

But having the right positions on the issues is only half the battle. The other half is to win broad support for those positions. And winning broad support will require stepping outside our comfort zone. If we want to repeal DOMA, repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and implement fully inclusive laws outlawing hate crimes and discrimination in the workplace, we need to bring the message of LGBT equality to skeptical audiences as well as friendly ones—and that's what I've done throughout my career. I brought this message of inclusiveness to all of America in my keynote address at the 2004 Democratic convention. I talked about the need to fight homophobia when I announced my candidacy for President, and I have been talking about LGBT equality to a number of groups during this campaign—from local LGBT activists to rural farmers to parishioners at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, where Dr. Martin Luther King once preached.

Just as important, I have been listening to what all Americans have to say. I will never compromise on my commitment to equal rights for all LGBT Americans. But neither will I close my ears to the voices of those who still need to be convinced. That is the work we must do to move forward together. It is difficult. It is challenging. And it is necessary.

Americans are yearning for leadership that can empower us to reach for what we know is possible. I believe that we can achieve the goal of full equality for the millions of LGBT people in this country. To do that, we need leadership that can appeal to the best parts of the human spirit. Join with me, and I will provide that leadership. Together, we will achieve real equality for all Americans, gay and straight alike.

Jason Bartlett: Making History

BY ANDREW DAVIS

When Connecticut State Rep. Jason Bartlett recently came out to the public, he did more than make a declaration about his life—he made history. According to The Victory Fund—an organization that supports LGBT elected officials—Bartlett is now the first openly gay, Black state legislator in the country's history.

Bartlett, 41, recently talked with Windy City Times about his reasons for coming out as well as the feedback he has gotten from the public.

Windy City Times: Why did you decide to come out at this point?

Jason Bartlett: I ran three times, and I always knew that I could be outed during my campaigns. I talked with one of my best friends—who's gay and political—and I decided that if I ever won, I'd come out because I didn't want that distance between myself and the voters. And I didn't want someone else try to define me by twisting the fact that I am gay for their own political motivation.

So I knew that I was going to come out after I won. Somebody on my campaign [team] said, "Come out now," ... but the whole conversation is a struggle. I didn't want people to think I was hiding something from them.

People felt after I came out that I shouldn't have [done it], saying "You shouldn't have to." Other people hugged me and cried because they were so happy, and [coming out] was affirming to them. So people had different reactions.

My struggle was that, well, I'm 41 and I hadn't come out and, quite frankly, I was doing what I wanted to do. Like I told a local paper, I raised two kids, I went to PTA meetings, I coached basketball, I went to all the games and got to know the other parents, I had my own business and ran for office. So when you get into a comfort zone, why upset the apple cart? I was achieving my goals and living my life.

Looking back, if I had come out [sooner], would some of my personal relationships have been better? Yes. Would I have been closer to some friends? I don't know. However, I would say my biggest regret of not coming out is not sharing your partner with the larger family—the voters. I was in a relationship for over 10 years and [not coming out sooner] was a regret.

As a politician, you want people to not look at you personally—not to look at your lifestyle, your [race] or if you've put on some weight. You want people to say, "Wow. You went up to the capital and you took a strong stand on taxes." You want to develop a record and be able to stand on that record [without] your personal life distracting voters. [Coming out] was a balance I had to strike and I hope that I did it well and right. Hopefully, the voters will see that I'm proud of my record and will not [refuse] to vote for me because I'm gay or Black.



State Rep. Jason Bartlett at the Feb. 23 Human Rights Campaign dinner in New York City. Photo courtesy of Bartlett

WCT: When you decided to come out, did you have any idea you'd be making history?

JB: No. [Laughs.] The Victory Fund had mentioned to me the day before that they were continuing to research that I was the openly gay African-American state lawmaker, and that would capture people's attention. They thought that I'd give a local interview, I'd tell the state paper and that I'd never talk about it again—and that was my plan. [But] by the time I drove from my district to the capital, I had already begun to receive e-mails. I happen to love [the Web site] Towleroad and when I checked it, there I was. I was like, "Oh, my God."

I had also reached out to the National Black Justice Coalition because I wanted to do what I'm doing now—I wanted to allow myself to be more open with the coalition because I'm African-American. I wanted to be able to talk about those issues a little more intimately, and I knew it wasn't applicable with my district because it's white.

I did the Human Rights Campaign dinner in New York. I was asked that Thursday to attend and give a speech. I also got to meet [actress/singer] Vanessa Williams.

WCT: How long have you been out to your family?

JB: Right after college—in my early 20s. I was in my first relationship and we broke up; it's hard to have a relationship if you don't tell your family. So I did address that right away because I really wasn't a happy person.

WCT: How have your sons dealt with all of this newfound attention?

JB: I just spoke with my older son. I didn't know what was going to happen and I guess they [didn't know] that it would be bigger for them. I warned them that this would be in the paper but they said that it wouldn't be an issue for them; [however,] it sounds like the oldest son has gotten more phone calls than I did.

Read the entire interview at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

"MATT FOREMAN, WHO ANNOUNCED JANUARY 23 THAT HE WOULD BE resigning as executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, was many things during his five years at the top of one of the country's preeminent gay rights organizations. He was an outspoken opponent of the war in Iraq. He fought against privatizing Social Security. He stood foursquare against the erosion of abortion rights. But what any of these issues have to do with lobbying for gay rights—presumably Foreman's job description—is beyond me. His job description, though, was the problem. Foreman, after all, is just a symptom of the larger problem with NGLTF: It's a garden-variety liberal interest group posing as a gay rights organization." — James Kirchick, an assistant editor of *The New Republic*, writing at *Advocate.com*, Feb. 5.

"DON'T YOU FIND IT TO BE HORRENDOUS THAT we have a president of the United States of America that's sat up on his, I don't know what you want to call it, his throne that he thinks it is, and said that gay couples shouldn't be allowed to marry? That's insane." — Lorna Luft, *Judy Garland's daughter*, to *London's Pink Paper*, Jan. 24.

"I THINK THE GAY COMMUNITY HAS GROWN UP AND EVOLVED. There's a new driver and vehicle to explore and a wider spectrum of existence not focused only on coming out—it's a more expansive culture that is accepting of transgendered people, bisexuals and others. Remember when we used to hate bisexuals? I think society is more open about sexual orientation in general. Look at Larry Craig or the whole Catholic Church scandal. It's not all black and white anymore; even in the gay and lesbian community there is a spectrum. And that's very heartening." — *Singer k.d. lang* to the *lesbian glossy Curve*, March issue.

"PART OF ME IS TITILLATED BY the fact that I'm gay. I remember when being gay was all very cryptic. You'd sneak into the back door and down the stairs and back around and then you're suddenly in some magical world called gay culture. It was very exciting and very underworld. I actually kind of miss those days." — *Singer k.d. lang* to the *Toronto gay newspaper Xtra!*, Feb. 1.

"WELL, IT WASN'T THAT I WASN'T A BIG FAN. I hadn't seen the play. I live in Georgia, OK? I was asked to do a monologue called 'Cunt.' And I said, 'I don't think so, I got enough problems.'" — *Jane Fonda* discussing her starring role in the play *"The Vagina Monologues,"* on *NBC's Today show*, Feb. 14.

"NOT SINCE JANET JACKSON'S FAKE TIT POPPED OUT OF HER whore outfit and destroyed a whole generation has there been such a televised outrage! In case you haven't heard, Jane Fonda ignored all civilized codes of decency on the *Today show* this morning and proved herself to be the syphilitic heathen

I've always known her to be! In discussing *The Vagina Monologues* with a suitably mortified Meredith Vieira, Jane slipped out the vilest, most barbaric emission since she announced that she was Hanoi Jane. She said a word that is so coarsely repellent I can't even bring myself to repeat it for fear it will corrupt my own millions of impressionable fans and turn them into unpaid sex workers! You see, the J-word said the c-word and this little f-word was absolutely...thrilled, actually! Bless you, Jane! I love the fact that you said cunt on national TV. Let's hope this becomes cunt-agious and all the other Oscar winners start spouting it too. Come on, Helen Mirren, say it! Say 'cunt!' Say 'cunt'!!!!!!" — *Gay Village Voice* columnist Michael Musto on his blog, Feb. 14.

Part of me
is
titillated
by the fact
that I'm
gay.

—Singer k.d. lang



Outgames photo

"IT'S REALLY SAD IF PEOPLE SEE ME LIKE THAT. Just because somebody has kinky tastes doesn't mean that they're seedy. People who know me and love me would never call me that." — *Boy George* to *London's Daily Mail*, Jan. 18. *George recently was charged with falsely imprisoning a male escort by chaining him to the wall of his flat.*

"IT'S SO IMPORTANT FOR GAY PEOPLE TO COME OUT. It's the young people I've always been so concerned about. When a young person has to hide, then you start having a very strange life. Then you start sneaking around, going to weird places and then you're not safe and you're embarrassed and not feeling good about yourself and you can't have a healthy, safe relationship. It becomes sort of underground and perverse, and it's just no good! It's so important to me to have people be themselves, and it's so important to have more talk about it and have it out in the open." — *Actress Bernadette Peters* to the *Palm Springs gay magazine the BottomLine*, Feb. 1.

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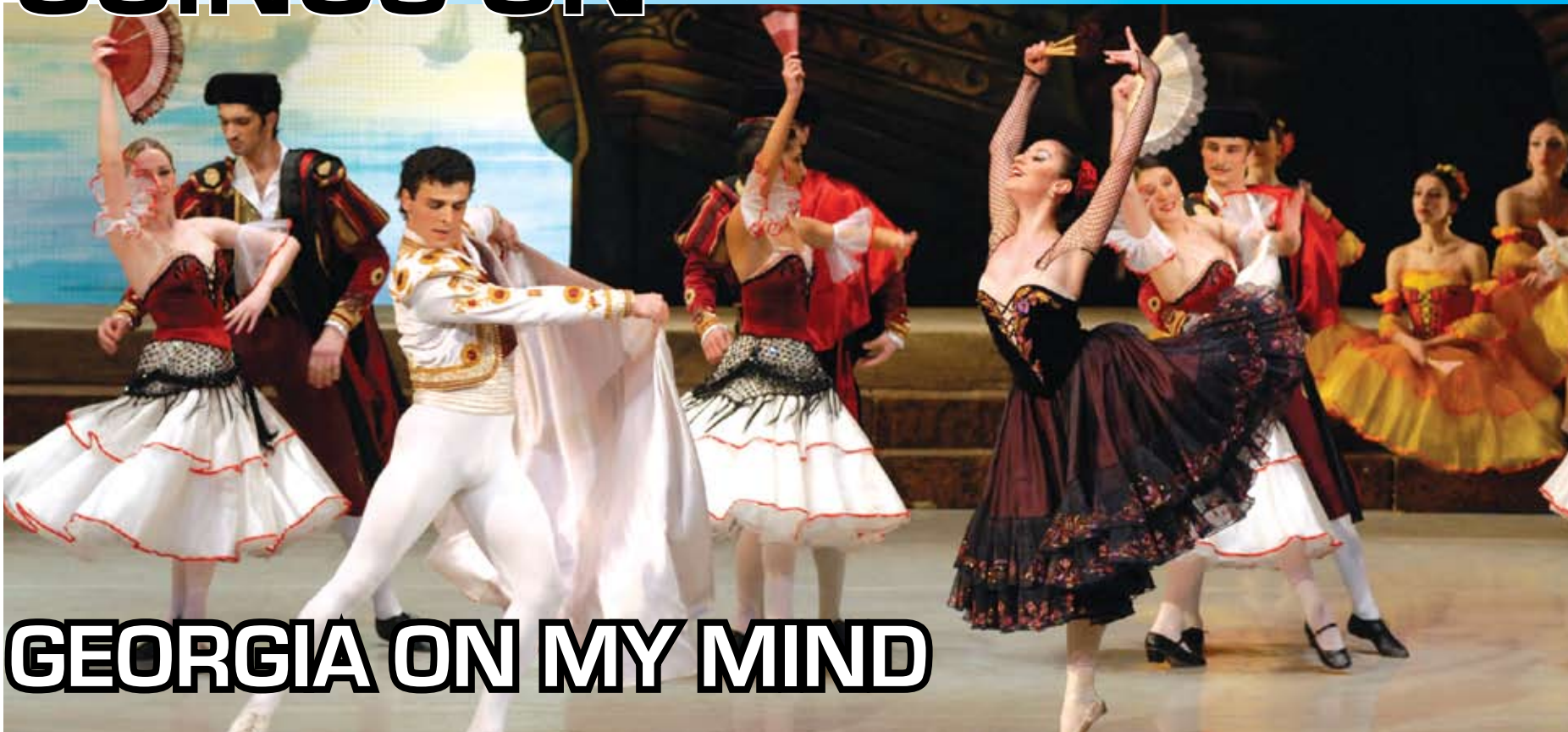
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GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



GEORGIA ON MY MIND

The State Ballet of Georgia (above) will entertain Chicagoans through this weekend. See page 14.

MOVIES

'Life' lessons.
Page 20.



THEATER

Feeling the 'Heat'.
Page 14.



SPORTS

Net gain.
Page 22.



Stage Door Jonny

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

March! You know what Jonny always says about March: "In like a lion, out like a lamb. Just like a man makes love." There's utterly no doubt that the March action is in the cabarets. Jonny is swimming in cabaret news, Jonny is swamped in cabaret news—Jonny is drowning in cabaret news.

As ever, Davenport's, 1383 N. Milwaukee, hosts much of the action, beginning with **Counting Down the Decades: 50 Years of Song**, presented at 7 p.m. every Sunday in March by Chicago Cabaret Professionals in their 20th Century Songwriter's Series. Sunday after Sunday, they will march through the century decade-by-decade, highlighting music of the 1970s (March 9), 1960s (March 16), 1950s (March 23) and 1940s (March 30). The talent line-up varies from week to week with most of our town's top cabaret artists participating one week or another; 773-278-1830; \$15.

Maxim's, 1300 N. Astor, also hosts March action and if you've never been there, it's a gorgeous room. Originally a private restaurant modeled after its Art Nouveau namesake in Paris, Maxim's now is owned by the City of Chicago, which uses it for special receptions and parties. You'll feel swank just walking in, so dress up. Jonny suggests Maxim's Wed., March 12, 7 p.m., when MaryMonica Thomas stars in **Everything is Chita, A Musical Tribute to Chita Rivera**. In addition to Ms. Thomas, performers will include 3Girls3, Suzy Petri, Kat' Taylor, Noelle Michaels-Frost, Brad Thacker and the fabulous George Howe. Maxim's is intimate, too; reservations are suggested: 312-744-1423; \$25 (includes hors d'oeuvres).

Another venue of growing reputation is the Gorilla Tango Theatre complex, 1919 N. Milwaukee, just up the street from Davenport's. Gorilla Tango plays host to a weekly scene called **Three**



Spider Saloff.

Cat Thursdays, offering a variety of musical artists each Thursday at 8 p.m.. This week (March 6) offers Matt Griffo in scenes from his new one-man musical comedy show, plus comedian Will Miles and singers Clarissa Grigg and Sarah Allison. The March 13 line-up features Timothy Hairston showcasing music written or performed by Jimmy Webb or Bobby Short. March 20 is a showcase for cabaret performers and singer-songwriters. Three Cat Thursday borrows heavily from local theaters and goes well beyond the familiar circuit of Chicago cabaret talent (as wonderful as they all are); 773-598-4559; \$10; wine/beer only for purchase.

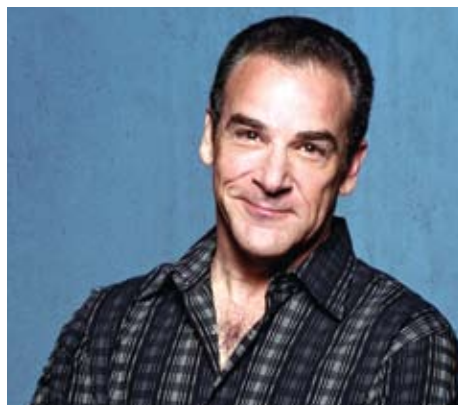
Yet another favorite cabaret venue is Katerina's, 1920 W. Irving Park, which offers not only a full bar but also complete restaurant service. Yes—get ready for the pun—Katerina's is a venue with a menu. There are musical offerings several times weekly, but none will be better than great cabaret diva **Spider Saloff**, with guitarist Steve Ramsdell, Sat., March 22, playing early dinner sets 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.. The \$5 cover charge might be the best deal in town, and it's for Spider Saloff, who recently sold out a concert in Berlin! 773-348-7592.

Hey, what do Gwen Verdon, Bernadette Peters, Carol Burnett and Faith Prince all have in common, besides being stars of Broadway, films and TV? That's right! They all are redheads (or were in their prime). Another redhead is Chicago cab-

aret star Melissa Young (who recently made her Big Apple debut), who's made an evening out of hair color. In her cabaret act, **Red Headed Broadway**, Young offers career highlights, anecdotes, and Broadway hits of her famous fellow red-heads, accompanied by Claire Bigley at the piano. Catch Red Headed Broadway at Davenport's, March 22 and 29; \$15 plus two-drink minimum.

A man, a piano and a spotlight is a good formula for cabaret, but sometimes it can work in a cavernous 3,400-seat theater, too, if the sound system is topnotch and the man is one-time Chicagoan **Mandy Patinkin**. He'll be at the Chicago Theatre 8 p.m., on Sat., March 29 (one night only), accompanied by pianist Paul Ford. Expect great American standards, the best of Broadway and even a song or two sung in Yiddish. Patinkin is a powerful singer who always delivers 110 percent. If anyone can fill the Chicago Theatre, he can; 312-902-1500; \$38-\$78.

Jonny knows folks who think the only difference between a cabaret artiste and an open mic performer is the tip jar on the piano. Folks who believe this would go home with nothing if they ever performed for tips themselves. Fortunately, most of them save it for the karaoke bars where anyone can be a star. It's also fortunate that Chicago can boast several substantial and cre-



Mandy Patinkin.

ative open mic events each month, among them **Proyecto Latina**, now back for the third year but in a new venue, Radio Arte/Yollocalli, 1401 W. 18th. Proyecto Latina is the third Monday of every month (March 17, this month; yes, St. Pat's Day) and welcomes poetry, spoken word, music, monologues and short performance works of all types in Spanish or English (or, Jonny supposes, any language). The host is Coya Paz, co-founder of Teatro Luna, which sponsors Proyecto Latina along with Tianguis Books and Mariposa Atomica, Inc. Open Mic sing-up is at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 p.m.

CRITICS' PICS

Can-Can, Center Theatre, through April 6. This troupe has a knack for mining gold from neglected musicals. This time up it's a 1953 Broadway French pastry with a book by Abe Burrows and a Cole Porter score featuring *C'est Magnifique* and *I Love Paris*. JA

Columbinus, Raven Theatre, through March 15. Director Greg Kolack spent a week interviewing Columbine High School massacre survivors, and people who knew the killers. His take on this docu-drama about the 1999 tragedy is intense and authentic. CS

Journey's End, Griffin Theatre at Theatre Building Chicago, through March 9. We love our boys in uniform, especially fresh-faced Brits bravely defending their country; but war is war, and there's only one end to a soldier's journey in R.C. Sherriff's 1928 classic. MSB

Drood (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

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge, Morgan and Sullivan

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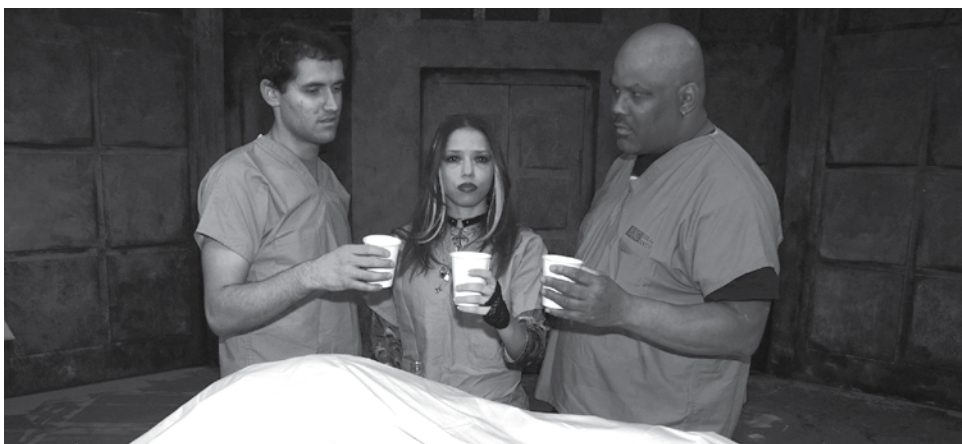
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Heat Wave. Photo by Jennifer Girard

THEATER REVIEW

Heat Wave

Playwright: Eric Simoncic

At: Pegasus Players and Live Bait theaters

at the O'Rourke Center at

Truman College, 1125 W. Wilson

Phone: 773-878-9761

Runs through: April 6

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Within the air-conditioned sanctuaries of the Gold Coast or Lincoln Park, the summer of 1995 was a scorcher of complaint-worthy intensity. Away from the AC, people didn't just complain about the heat—they died from it. As Eric Klinenberg details in *Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago*, 739 Chicagoans died during the heat wave of 1995—more than twice as many people as perished in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

When temperatures reached 106 and the heat index (what the heat actually feels like once humidity is taken into consideration) reached 120, the expressways began to buckle. Train

rails warped. Public works employees had to water bridges to keep them from collapsing as the tropical temperatures caused them to bake and bend. Such was the impact, Klinenberg describes, of the sun on massive structures of steel and concrete. Its impact on the fragile construction of fluid and muscle and bone that makes up the human body left corpses overflowing in the hallways and bathrooms of the city morgues.

In adapting Klinenberg's book for a co-production between Pegasus Players and Live Bait theaters, Steven Simoncic does an effective job giving human voice to some of the statistics of 1995, a group that came almost exclusively from Chicago's less affluent zip codes. He also captures the book's scathing, factually rich indictment of a mayor who vacationed in Michigan and denied the heat was anything more than an inconvenience, even as the bodies were stacking up like cordwood.

Given that inherently dramatic material, it's unfortunate that director Ilesa Duncan's clunky staging fails to recreate either the chaos of the morgue or the sweltering SROs and public housing projects where so many of the city's most vulnerable citizens were left to die alone.

Heat Wave has two through-lines that eventually merge. The first involves City Hall, where mayoral lackeys bicker over media manipulation strategies and argue about how—indeed whether—the city should respond to the heat. While the cast makes us understand how and why the city dithered while its residents died, the drama inherent to the neglect is mired in talking points. The scenes have the feel of a high school debating match. The second major component of *Heat Wave* unfolds in the city morgue, where an overworked veteran body bagger clashes with a sassy volunteer working off her court-mandated community service. The primary problem here is Duncan's failure to create any sense of frantic

catastrophe. On the looming O'Rourke Center stage, the supposedly besieged morgue looks half-empty even at its fullest. Finally, a scene that involves a senior citizen slowly dying while his landlord hammers on the door has a supernatural element that makes it feel like it belongs in another play altogether.

For telling of the awful toll of the 1995 heat wave, *Heat Wave* the book is far more effective than its scripted counterpart.

SPOTLIGHT

State Ballet of Georgia



The State Ballet of Georgia sweeps into Chicago tonight through Sun., March 9, with *Don Quixote*, featuring the virtuoso dancing of international ballet superstars Nina Ananiashvili and Vasil Akhmeteli. Originally choreographed by Marius Petipa and Alexander Gorsky, *Don Quixote* is considered one of the most joyous and technically demanding classical ballets. Prima ballerina Ananiashvili—who's also the troupe's artistic director—and Akhmeteli will dance *Don Quixote* March 5 and 9, and a mixed repertory program on March 7. State Ballet of Georgia dancers Anna Muradeli and Lasha Khodzashvili will dance the March 8 performance of *Don Quixote*. All performances of *Don Quixote* will feature live orchestral accompaniment. At the Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress; 312-902-1500; \$30-\$89.

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Drood (The Mystery of Edwin Drood).

THEATER REVIEW

Drood (The Mystery of Edwin Drood)

Playwright: Rupert Holmes

At: Noble Fool Theatricals at Pheasant

Run Resort, 4051 E. Main, St. Charles

Phone: 630-584-6342; \$27-\$38

Runs through: April 12

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

There's a jolly Jekyll-and-Hyde duality to The Mystery of Edwin Drood, or Drood for short. This clever, Tony Award-winning 1985 Broadway musical comedy revels in constantly twisting perspectives for its own solve-it mystery structure.

With so much going on, thank heaven that Noble Fool Theatricals has employed Circle Theatre artistic director Kevin Bellie to direct and choreograph this rollicking show. Bellie previously directed a much admired Drood for Circle Theatre in 2005, and now it's clear he has worked his magic again on this silly show for Noble Fool.

Drood is based upon the Charles Dickens novel of the same name, which was left unfinished at the time of the author's death. If you only know Rupert Holmes for his hit single Escape (The Piña Colada Song), prepare to be impressed by his triple-threat work as Drood's composer, lyricist and playwright.

Instead of a conventional narrative, Holmes sets the whole show within a bawdy English music hall (complete with the traditional female male impersonator, bad puns and loads of not-so-subtle innuendo). In a twist, the actors switch in and out of character in the Dickens mystery to assume their music hall personas. This unconventional structure allows for songs to both grow out of the mystery plot and when the rowdy actors demand to sing favorites from the music hall's repertory like the rousing Act I closer Off to the Races.

Since no one knows how the mystery is supposed to end, Holmes has ingeniously created a series of different outcomes that get voted upon by the audience at every performance. Just who gets to be the secret detective, the murderer and the set of lovers changes each and every night (the unlikely lovers on opening night left the audience in convulsive stitches).

Bellie skillfully navigates all the shifts and sudden changes with panache, drawing finely tuned performances from his energetic and vocally strong cast. If there's one drawback to Bellie's work, it's his tendency to busy up the musical numbers with extra bits of needless domestic duties for walk-on chorus members.

In the ensemble, the operatic soprano of Julie Bayer as the virginal love interest Rose Bud is a particular stand out. Bayer teams nicely with Cat Davis' Drood, particularly in their break-up song

"Perfect Strangers."

Kenneth Z. Kendall impresses as the vocally-dexterous two-faced villain John Jasper, as do Jeff Diebold and Darci Nalepa as the stereotypical hot-blooded twins from Ceylon. Tom Weber wins loads of laughs as the gross-out grave digger Durdles, as does Richard Marlatt doubling as the busybody Chairman and the incontinent elderly mayor.

Drood is loads of fun, especially if you're a die-hard Anglophile. Noble Fool's fine Drood should certainly win a few more fans for this quirky interactive show.

THEATER REVIEW

The Great God Pan

Playwright: adapted by Charley Sherman

from the novella by Arthur Machen

At: WildClaw Theatre Company at

the Athenaeum, 2936 N. Southport

Phone: 773-935-6860; \$20

Runs through: March 30

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Arthur Machen's 1890 novella deserves its place among the prototypes for the next century of horror fiction, ranking alongside the classic shockers of H. G. Wells, Robert Louis Stevenson and Arthur Conan Doyle. But Machen's liberal invocation of themes associated with the so-called "decadent" art of the late 19th century—a movement identified with Oscar Wilde and his compatriots—soon contributed to its eclipse by his more conservative peers.

Playwright Charley Sherman is still remembered in Chicago for his award-winning page-to-stage adaptations of contemporary creep-lit authors, and his rendition of this period thriller is laudable for its roster of elements associated with the genre: esoteric cult-worship, gloomy abandoned houses, gruesome unnatural deaths, masquerade balls attended by licentious guests, strolls through the fleshpots of *fin-de-siècle* London, innocent virgins strapped to surgical tables, callow youths driven to ruin by *femmes* ex-

tremely-fatales (reflecting the gilded age's fear and fascination with the notion of uninhibited sexuality—especially in women) and, of course, gallons of lovingly-replicated gore.

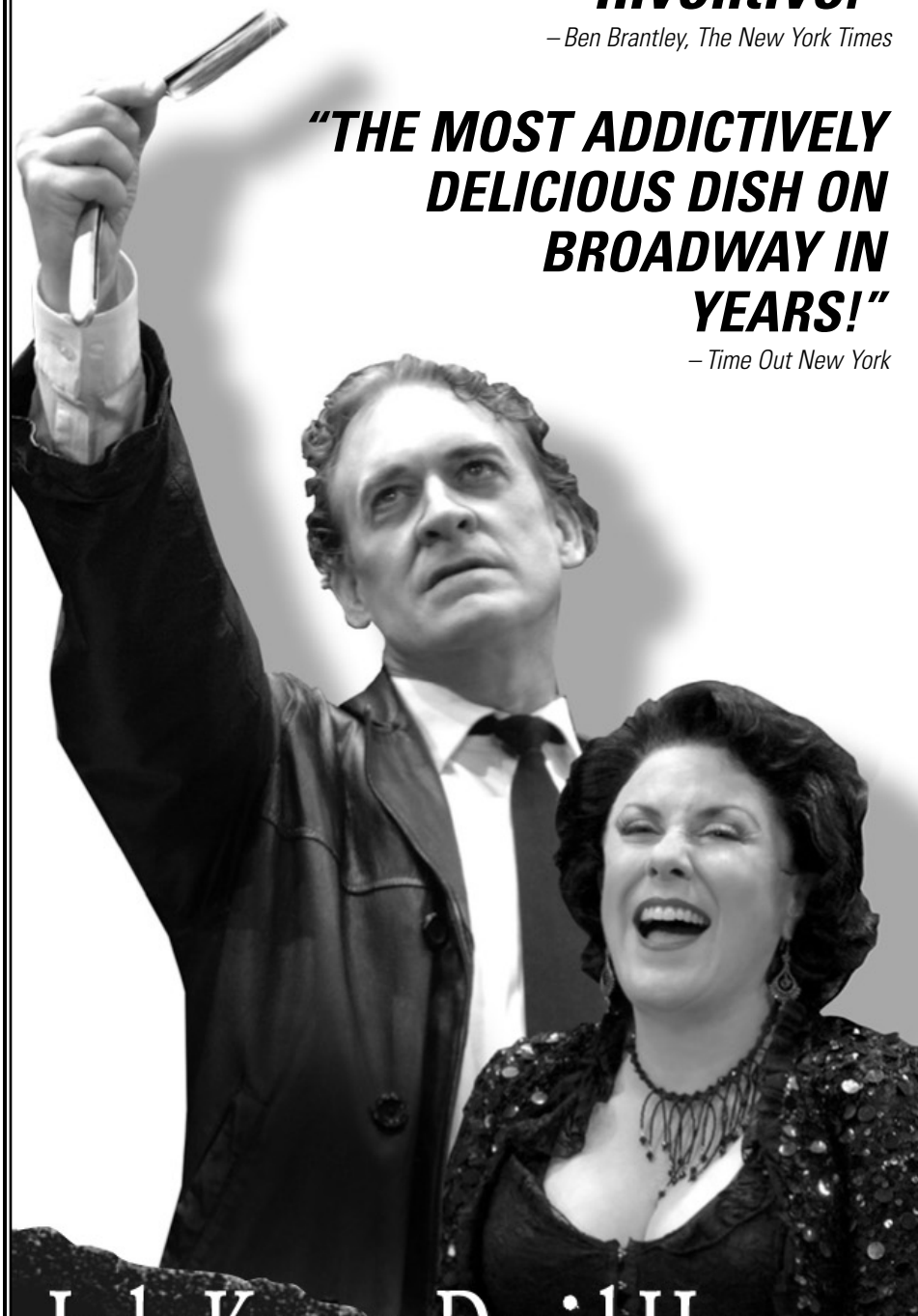
Forging a concise dramatic through-line from the retrospective, largely epistolary, narrative structure then in vogue is no easy task. (Consider, for example, the extensive reconfigurations of Bram Stoker's Dracula or Gaston Leroux' The Phantom of the Opera into the familiar legends we know today.) But even in its final preview performance, all evidence pointed toward Sherman's text being well on its way to providing us a single hero and villain confronting one another in a linear progression, thus allowing us to see the serial killer at work, rather than experiencing our lurid shivers by means of diluted after-the-fact accounts.

The actors assembled for this WildClaw Theatre Company production were likewise near to achieving fulfillment of their nowadays often-trivialized roles: Assisted by Elise Kauzlaric's superlative dialect instruction, Tom Hickey makes a suitably buttoned-up skeptic to Lily Mojekwu's sensual mystic. Steve Herson projects conviction in the role of the technologist unable to cope with moral ambiguity, as does J. David Moeller's elderly witness whose testimony frames our story, along with an ensemble of actors and designers—in particular, Adam Kozlowski's sound, Allison Greaves' costumes and Ryan Oliver's "biological effects." Together, they transform what could have been merely a quaint study of prudish Victorian intolerance into a timely lesson for audiences today.

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THEATER REVIEW

As You Like It

Playwright: William Shakespeare

At: Writers' Theatre, 325 Tudor, Glencoe

Phone: 847-242-6000; \$45-\$58

Runs through: April 13

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Sometimes a critic doesn't like a production that's executed with intelligence, skill and attention to detail. The critic may take exception to the script itself or disagree with the director's interpretation. So it is with *As You Like It*. Will Shakespeare's script is dandy, so my quibble is with director William Brown, a very fine actor who's become a very fine director.

What's wrong with me? Well, I miss the comedic and romantic highs in this romantic comedy, given a very subdued interpretation by Brown. He's not only reined in the histrionics to suit the intimate 104-seat playhouse, but he's restricted the show's physical and emotional colors, too. Except for Rosalind's first dress, there's scarcely a hint of any bright color in the costumes, most of which fall in the neutral brown/beige range. Emotionally, the production follows suit. There are few laughs and no big laughs despite an abundance of comic material which often has been staged to raucous effect. On the other end, the scenes between lovers Orlando and Rosalind—disguised as a boy—lack soaring romanticism and/or the ambiguous genderfuck edge (except for one or two moments) for which the play's famous.

I'm not suggesting a director must hew to a

standard interpretation. I understand what's being done. Brown takes his brief from the play's wintry Acts I and II (remember, Shakespeare's plays as published are divided into five acts). Act I shows life under a paranoid, despotic duke who has overthrown his kinder older brother. Act II finds the former duke in rural wintertime exile, his famous first words being "Sweet are the uses of adversity." Director David H. Bell took a similar wintry cue in a lavish Chicago Shakespeare Theater production three years ago.

But there's a middle ground I feel is missing in this carefully-spoken, carefully-measured, well-manicured production. Its modern dress look (Rachel Anne Healy costumes) and scenic nod to Romanticism (by Keith Pitts) are effective, and the show has grace and charm. But it never quite catches fire and certainly never boils over, content to bubble and simmer from time to time. Even Andrew Hansen's original music is lovely but understated in Shakespeare's most musical play.

Brown's cast features such very good familiar actors as Ross Lehman (a suave Touchstone), Larry Yando (Jaques as an elegant, aging beatnik), Kevin Asselin (an edgy Oliver), Tracy Michelle Arnold (a trim drag Rosalind), Carol Kuykendall (Audrey, female clown and fine singer) and Nancy Moricette (rustic Phebe with rich, Jamaican accent). New to me are Marcus Truschinski (boyish yet manly Orlando) and Eric Parks (fine clowning as Silvius). I greatly respect their work and both the intelligence and elegance of Brown's interpretation; however, alas, it's not as I like it.

STARRLIGHT

Altar Boyz at the W
and the Drury Lane

BY STEVE STARR



As though being young and cute weren't enough, this wonderful group of five men also exhibit an amazing amount of talent and

stage presence as they act, sing and dance.

It is quite impressive for anyone at all to perform satire, which must be exactly in the right line of fire, with as much precision and timing as the Altar Boyz do. The impressive and completely original choreography—created particularly for a compact space—was a joy and a revelation of the possibilities that still exist when the right mixture of talent and dedication combines to present nothing less than the best.

I was invited to attend and photograph a preview teaser performance Jan. 29 in the lobby of the beautiful W Hotel, 644 N. Lake Shore, where three friends joined me in the intimate crowd. We were all treated to healthful chocolate martinis and desserts while we watched the five guys play Mathew, Mark,

Luke, Abraham and Juan, who decide to save the world by saving their adoring fans. Soon, we traveled to Drury Lane, 175 E. Chestnut, to revel in the entire staged performance of Altar Boyz, where we were all completely and totally entertained—which is usually the whole reason we go out in the first place.

Steve Starr is the author of *Picture Perfect: Art Deco Photo Frames 1926-1946*, published by Rizzoli International Publications. A photographer, writer, designer and artist, he is the owner of Steve Starr Studios.

Steve Starr's column and photography, *STARRLIGHT*, appears in various publications including the *Windy City Times*, *IMAGE Chicago Magazine*, *Entertainment Magazine Online-EMOL.org*/reporters/Starr, *Extra!*, *Nightspots*, *Splendor*, and the *Chicago Art Deco Society Magazine*. Visit www.SteveStarrStudios.com where you can enter *The Starrlight Room* and view a portion of his frame collection, read *Starrlight* stories and enjoy photos, letters, and autographs that he has received from his favorite luminaries. His book, *STARRLIGHT-Glamorous Latin Movie Stars of Early Hollywood*, will be published in 2008.

STARRLIGHT-Radiant Photography by Steve Starr is available for portraits and events. Phone 773-252-5171. E-mail Steve Starr at ssschicago@ameritech.net.

Photo of Steve Starr in Chicago, Sept. 2, 2006, by Patrick Hipskind

Photo of the Altar Boyz at the W Hotel, Jan. 29 by Steve Starr





POP MAKING SENSE

BY DAVID BYRNE AND TONY PEREGRIN

Living up to the adage, March will start off with a lion's roar as **The Flesh Hungry Dog Show** takes place at Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark, on Fri., March 7. This time, the monthly concert will be a special release party for **Scott Free**'s third outing, *The Pink Album (A Pop Opera)*. Heralded as the godfather of Chicago's LGBT music scene, Free collects different tales of the struggles surrounding the coming-out process and the accompanying self-acceptance. It may seem long ago that homosexuality was an unspeakable act, but Free's poignant history lesson measures how far the LGBT community has come and how universal these individual struggles are. Sharing the bill with Scott Free and His Closest Friends are Condenada, New City and Plaid on Plaid.

Out musician **Bob Mould** celebrates his rock roots with the deeply personal *District Line*. The icon, who fronted Husker Du and Sugar, gets his latest off to an intense start with *Stupid Now* and *Who Needs to Dream*. He does not look past his experimental days, as electronic elements surface on *Shelter Me*. Again and Again is a triumphant break up song that could be covered quite well by Veruca Salt. The ever-influential Mould can be heard in the music by The Foo Fighters and Angels & Airwaves. In support of his new album and recent live DVD, *Circle of Friends*, Mould will be performing a career-spanning set at the Metro, 3730 N. Clark, on Fri., March 7, with Halou as the opening band.



Scott Free.

The B-52s return from Planet Claire to welcome all to the quartet's *Funplex*. The outfit from Athens, Ga., has been missed since its 1992 album *Good Stuff*, although retrospectives, a collaboration with Junior Senior, a remix EP and sporadic live shows partially sated loyalists. A kitschy good time remains the group's motive, as Fred Schneider screams out "Faster, pussycat! Thrill! Thrill!" on the rocking title track. Remixes for the lead single will be done by Peaches, CSS and Scissor Sisters. Produced by Steve Osborne (New Order, KT Tunstall, Doves), *Funplex* hits shelves Tues., March 25, on Astralwerks.

The Supreme Beings of Leisure are reclaiming the downtempo scene after a five-year

hiatus since the pair's sophomore album. Don't fret: The Rykodisc release 11i will not send listeners into an eternal slumber. Solid with grooves and melody, 11i includes up-beat tracks like *Mirror* and *Oneness* to spice up the pace. Angelhead finds the group at its best, as Geri Soriano-Lightwood purrs over a seductive soundscape. Despite tempting her audience throughout the album, the chanteuse has listeners really wanting to believe her as she pleads, "I'll be good tomorrow" on *Good*. The Supreme Beings of Leisure's superb phonic journey closes with the epic *Lay Me Down*.

The Acorn flourishes on *Glory Hope Mountain*, which is out now on Paper Bag Records. This Ottawa band offers more than a folksy concept album. *Glory Hope Mountain* recounts lead singer Rolf Klausener's mother's challenging journey in the '70s as she emigrated from Honduras to Canada. Last month Acorn was honored as Spin's

artist of the day and will take to the stage on Sat., March 8, at Schuba's, 3159 N. Southport).

While fans find themselves "waiting, watching, wishing" for a new album from **Antigone Rising**, the all-female rock band is scheduled to take to the stage at Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee, Sat., March 15. Devotees will be treated as new music will be tested at this concert. Antigone Rising even jokes, calling the tour *InstAntigone*. Still want more? Live and acoustic songs are available via the group's official Web site. The quintet was one of the first artists to team with Starbucks in the wildly successful Hear Music series to reach a broader fan base.

Sally Shapiro's cool voice, complimented by electronic beats, may be responsible for adding frost to many a playlist. Justifiably, Shapiro finds herself coupled with fellow cutting edge Scandinavian singer-songwriters like Annie and Kate Havnevik. This Swedish songbird is now embarking on her first tour of the United States alongside Johan Agebjorn with a DJ gig at Sonothèque, 1444 W. Chicago, Sun., March 9. Her hip debut, *Disco Romance*, will have a companion in *Remix Romance*, which features mixes by Junior Boys, Juan McLean and Lindstrom.

When I go to the gym, I do not listen to my headphones or iPod; rather, I subject myself to what is coming out of the speakers. The other



Antigone Rising.

day I found myself singing along to a pop-tech-no song, not recognizing it at first. It turns out Dancing DJs unearthed Sophie B. Hawkins' *Right Beside You* from her 1994 opus, *Whaler*. Dancing DJs give the tune a Eurobeat makeover in the same fashion as DJ Sammy's popular butchering of Bryan Adams' *Heaven* and Annie Lennox's *Why*. *Right Beside You* may seem like an odd choice from Hawkins' catalog, but it is her highest-charting hit in the United Kingdom. Although this remake lacks any soul, passion and intensity in the same spirit as DJ Sammy's efforts, hopefully it will broaden interest in Hawkins and allow her to produce more worthwhile material.

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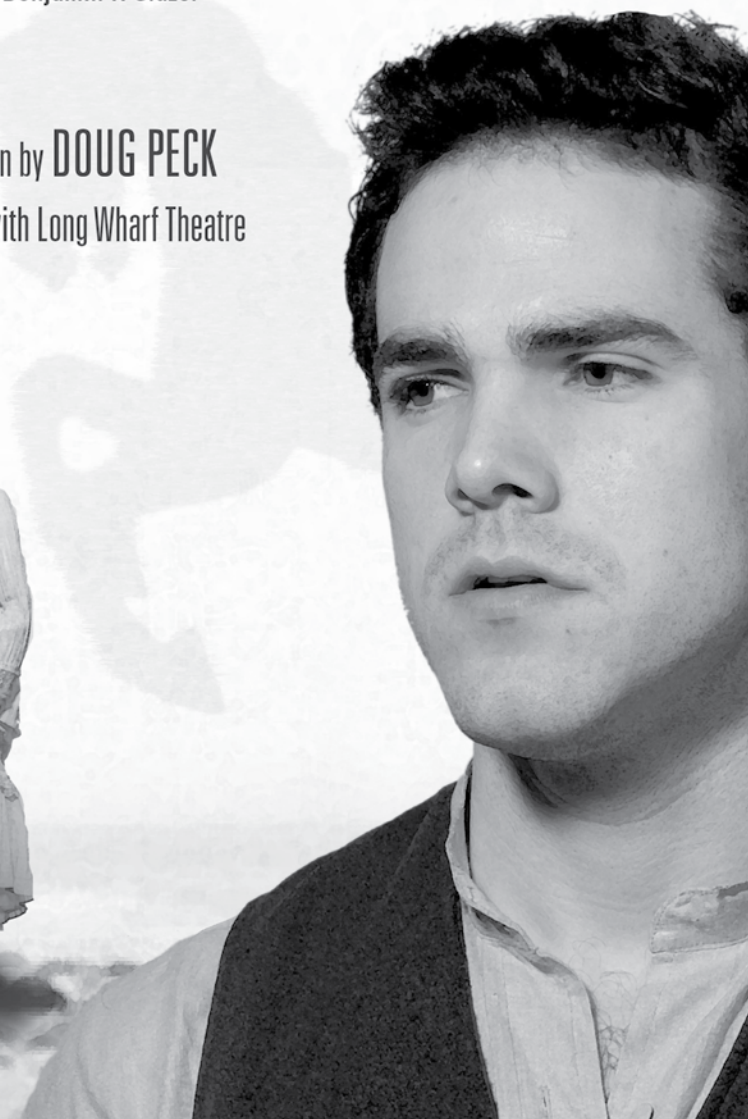
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WHAT TO DO?

Wednesday, March 5

CALOR HAH: Hombres Apoyando Homres. For gay/bi men with HIV/AIDS, in Spanish. 7-9 p.m., 3220 W. Armitage, 773-235-3161 ext. 223

Center on Halsted Jessica Halem presents "The Stand Up Vagina Show," featuring the Midwest's best female comedienes. 7-9 p.m., \$20 with a cash bar, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Morrison-Shearer Foundation "The Dances of Sybil Shearer On Film," a free screening of this documentary on American dance legend, shot by longtime artistic collaborator Helen Balfour Morrison. 6-7:30 p.m., Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, 610 S. Michigan Ave., free, www.morrisonsshearer.org

Thursday, March 6

American Veterans for Equal Rights Meeting. First Thursday of each month. 7 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., jamesdarby@aol.com for info

Columbia College Chicago Gender, Human Rights and Media panel discussion with the Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media. 6-8 p.m., Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash, 8th floor, free and open to public, www.colum.edu/institutewomengender

DePaul University Women's History Month Luncheon: Voicing Resistance: Women's Activism and Social Justice. 12-1:30 p.m., screening and panel discussion 6-8:30 p.m., Student Center, Room 120, 2250 N. Sheffield Ave., 773-325-7558

Hubris Productions Girls Will be Girls world premiere based on the original film by Richard Day. Through March 29 (Thursdays through Saturdays). 7:30 p.m., \$10-\$25, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., 773-661-0938 or www.hubrisproductions.com

Macy's on State Street International Civil Rights Walk of Fame Exhibition, an exhibit of 13 pairs of shoes from civil rights leaders. Through March 15, 7th floor archives

Spin Janet Jackson Discipline CD release party, \$5 Miller pitchers, no cover, 900 W. Belmont Ave., spin-nightclub.com

Women & Children First Bookstore Mary Hutchings Reed: Courting Kathleen Hannigan. 7:30 p.m., 5233 N. Clark St., 773-769-9299, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Friday, March 7

Center on Halsted Cycles: A Generational Snapshot of Lesbian Life in Chicago, works by four lesbian photographers. Exhibit shows through March 30. \$5, 6-8 p.m., 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Flesh Hungry Dog Show Show featuring Scott Free and His Closest Friends for release of "The Pink Album (A Pop Opera)." Also Plaid on Plaid, giveaways and more. 9 p.m., Jackhammer, 6404 N. Clark St., www.fleshhungrydog.com

Mary's Attic "Nunsense-Amen!" musical cabaret at 7:30 p.m., \$10 cover, 5400 N. Clark St., 773-784-6969

West Suburban Gay Association Dinner at Caliendo's in Winfield. 7:30 p.m., OS0550 Winfield Rd., see www.wsga.com for more info.

Saturday, March 8

Circuit All-Stars super show & dance party, featuring Foozie, Sebastian Cock, Miss Ketty and all your favorites, win Janet Jackson posters and CD during show, 3641 N. Halsted St., circuitclub.com

CMSA New player softball sign-up, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Spin, 900 W. Belmont Ave.

Hamburger Mary's Mary's Breeze softball team fundraiser featuring drag performances, karaoke and more. 6-9 p.m., 5400 N. Clark St.

Human Rights Campaign Chicago Family day. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free, Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave., RSVP at www.hrcactioncenter.org

LCCP Annual LCCP Click Ball. Dawn Hancock and Renae Ogletree to be honored. 8 p.m.-midnight with 7-8 p.m. premier sponsor reception, tickets

\$75-\$200, South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 South Shore Dr. See www.lccp.org for more info.

Women of the Western Suburbs Cabin Fever Ball, a dance for the LGBT community. 6 p.m.-12 a.m., \$32, Glendale Lakes Golf Club, 1550 President St., Glendale Heights, wowsevents@aol.com, 630-779-6809

Unity Church Memorial for Michaeline Chvatal. 2 p.m., 1925 W. Thome

Sunday, March 9

Achurch4me/MCC Worship service. 11 a.m., Center on Halsted's Hoover-Lep-ten Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Archdiocesan Gay and Lesbian Outreach Chicago Sunday Mass. 7 p.m., 700 W. Belmont, www.aglochicago.org, aglochicago@sbcglobal.net, 773-525-3872

Center on Halsted Teatro Luno presents "S-e-x-Oh!" a production on the relationship between gender, culture and more. And March 12. 3:30-5 p.m., \$20 (\$10 for students), 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Pillar of Love Fellowship Church Service. 1 p.m., Center on Halsted's John Baran Senior Center, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders State Ballet of Georgia: Don Quixote. 2 p.m., \$20, pre-registraton required, 773-472-6469 ext. 160 or sworthington@centeronhalsted.org

St. Clement's Gay and Lesbian Network Women's Prayer Group. 12:15 p.m., Fahy Center, 642 W. Deming Place, laurastack@hotmail.com

Test Positive Aware Network Jackets Required: The TPAN Tea. Traditional tea and champagne event featuring jackets designed by celebrities, fashion designers and artists. 3:30 p.m., \$100 per person, limited to 150 ticket purchasers, Palm Court of the Drake Hotel, tickets at www.tpantea.org

Urban Art Retreat Movie & Discussion, a lesbian-only event. 1-4 p.m., 1957 S. Spaulding Ave., sophiebella@sbcglobal.net, www.urbanartretreat.com, www.sistersplacechicago.org

Windy City Gay Idol Kickoff event of 6th annual talent search contest, sign up at 7 p.m. (\$10 fee to compete), event starts 8 p.m., \$5 cover, Star Gaze, 5419 N. Clark St., StarGazeChicago.com

Women & Children First Bookstore Anne Calcagno: Traveler's Tales: Italy. 4:30 p.m., 5233 N. Clark St., 773-769-9299, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Monday, March 10

CALOR UNIDAD: Social support group for young gay/bi men. 7-9 p.m., 3220 W. Armitage, 773-235-3161 ext. 0

Center on Halsted CenterPages: A Reading with Nicole Hollander, award-winning cartoonist. 6-8 p.m., \$10, 3656 N. Halsted, www.centeronhalsted.org

Tuesday, March 11

American Civil Liberties Union's Young Advocates Monthly bar night of drinks and discussion. Learn about Illinois' civil union legislation. 5-8 p.m., Elephant and Castle, 185 N. Wabash, RSVP to youngadvocates@aclu.il.org.

Early to Bed Workshop for women and trans people only: Fish Without Bicycles: Sex Tips for Queer Women. 7:30 p.m., \$15/\$10 students, 5232 N. Sheridan, register at 773-271-1219 or at www.early2bed.com.

Windy City Gay Idol Second event of 6th annual talent search contest, sign up at 9 p.m. (\$10 fee to compete), event starts 10 p.m., \$5 cover, Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St., 773-743-5772

Women & Children First Bookstore Paula Giddings: Ida: A Sword Among Lions. 7:30 p.m., 5233 N. Clark, 773-769-9299, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Wednesday, March 12

Center on Halsted Teatro Luno presents "S-e-x-Oh!" a production on the relationship between gender, culture and more. 6-7 p.m. pre-reception, 7-8:30 p.m. show, \$20 (\$10 for students), 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Fri., March 7



I LOVE MUSIC

Scott Free will be among those performing at the Flesh Hungry Dog Show at Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark.

Fri., March 7



SAY CHEESE...

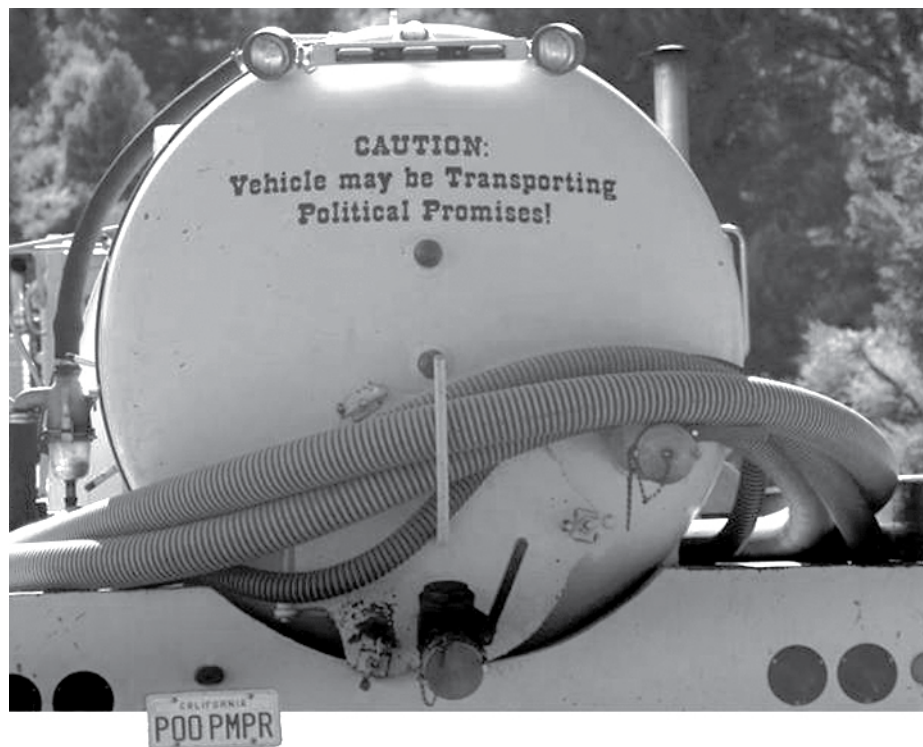
Kat Fitzgerald is one of the photographers whose works will be exhibited at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted.

Photo by Tracy Baim



Change Is In the Air

Among those who attended the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's recent Creating Change Conference in Detroit were the LGBTQ API (Asian-Pacific Islander) Caucus (top). In addition, Liz Thomson and Karl Kimpo attended and represented Chicago i2i: Invisible to Invincible, API Pride of Chicago (above). Photos courtesy of Thompson



ELECTION HUMOR

Getting Poo-litical

Together, the cautionary message on the truck coupled with the license plate (lower left) apparently signify what the driver (or, at least, the driver's company) might think about this pivotal election year. Internet image submitted by Michael Leppen

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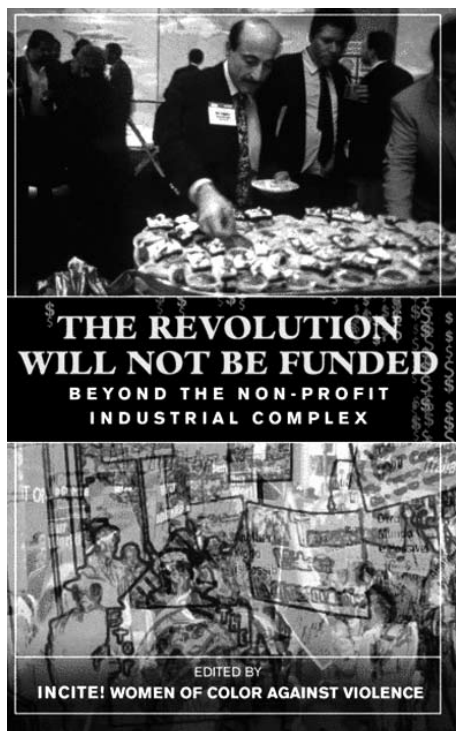
BOOK REVIEW

The Revolution Will Not Be Funded: Beyond the Non-Profit Industrial Complex
Edited by Incite! Women of Color Against Violence, 257 pages, \$18
REVIEW BY YASMIN NAIR

In 1961, Dwight D. Eisenhower warned against "... the acquisition of unwarranted influence ... by the military-industrial complex." Progressives have since used the term "industrial complex" to describe systems, like that of prisons, ostensibly designed for the public good but which, in reality, benefit the few who make profits from them, while increasing the very conditions they're supposed to eradicate. There are 1.5 million non-profits in the United States, creating what the editors of *The Revolution Will Not Be Funded* claim is a nonprofit industrial complex (NPIC). In Asia, Africa and Europe, nonprofits are known as NGOs (non-governmental organizations), a term that, semantically at least, grants them outsider status while the American term "non-profit" imbues them with an air of piety.

Nonprofits tackle a range of issues, from homelessness to immigration. But should they continue in perpetuity? Should non-profits instead pressure the State to eliminate the conditions that create disenfranchisement—and thus eventually put themselves out of business? Is the NPIC inherently leftist/progressive or not?

The response to these and other question is tackled in three sections. The first, "The Rise of the Non-Profit Industrial Complex," includes an essay by Ruth Wilson Gilmore who calls the NPIC a shadow state, an apparatus whose existence allows government to abdicate its responsibility for basic social services. Christine Ahn writes that "Americans are seduced by the idea that piecemeal voluntary efforts can somehow replace a systemic public approach to eliminating poverty ... based on the inherent falsehood that



scarcity—rather than inequality—is at the root of these persisting social and economic problems."

The second section, "Non-profits and Global Organizing," is ambitiously titled but only one essay, about NGOs and the Palestinian Liberation Movement, takes us out of the U.S. But NGOs don't replicate themselves on U.S.-based templates, and they vary from nation to nation. Despite this narrow definition of "global," there are critical insights and perspectives. Ana Durazo considers how domestic violence programs individualize violence within narratives about perpetrators and victims, when "...in fact, the state narrative on violence against women excludes just about every form of violence, including military violence." Members of the organization Sisters in Action for Power, which works with women and girls of color, write about having to divert energy from activism to management issues like fundraising.

A third section, wishfully titled "Rethinking

Non-Profits: Reimagining Resistance," features essays by people who work within the NPIC. The authors of "Fundraising Is Not a Dirty Word" present "community events," where participants donate or "pay a few bucks for raffle tickets," as affordable alternatives to corporate dinners. But most people in and around the non-profit world are ill-paid, and constant pleas for "donations" rub against the reality of rent and groceries. This kind of rationalization of the system is accompanied by facile assumptions about what constitutes a well-rounded organizer, as when Paula Rojas writes that her daughter and partner "have taught me more than I could have learned in ten years of radical organizing as a single "organizer" with no dependents." Surely, whatever else ails radical organizing: it's not a dearth of coupledness or maternal feeling.

While this anthology provides a much-needed critical perspective on the NPIC, it also suggests

that it cannot fix its problems through self-reflection. As Dylan Rodriguez points out in "The Political logic of the Non-Profit Industrial Complex," the NPIC has become for many "...literally, a *way of knowing* social change." Nonprofits were meant to provide alternative spaces for political organizing. But for generations who have known only the NPIC as a site of organizing, it's not a place to put their politics to practice: it is their politics. Those wondering about how to organize in what Gilmore calls "the shadow of the shadow state" can only ask themselves: "Should I stay or should I go?"

E-mail Yasmin Nair at welshzen@yahoo.com; she also blogs at bilerico.com.

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Ellen Tearfully Talks of King

Talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres spoke for a few minutes on her Fri., Feb. 29, show about Lawrence King, the openly gay Oxnard, Calif., junior high school student who was gunned down Feb. 12 by a classmate, according to EOnline.com.

"I would like you to start paying attention to how often being gay is the punchline of a monologue or how often gay jokes are in a movie," DeGeneres said with tears in her eyes. "And that kind of message, laughing at someone because they're gay, is just the beginning. It starts with laughing at someone, and then it's verbal abuse, then it's physical abuse, and it's this kid Brandon killing a kid like Larry."

"Larry was not a second-class citizen," she continued. "I am not a second-class citizen. It's okay if you're gay."

Fourteen-year-old Brandon McInerney has been charged with killing King.

BOOKS

'What If Someone...' Reissued

Eric Marcus' classic 2001 instructional book, *What If Someone I Know Is Gay?* (Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse, \$8.99), has been reissued.

In the revised edition, Marcus offers teens answers to a variety of questions covering many topics, including how gay people have sex, why gay people attend pride parades and the meaning of "queer". There is also now a chapter specifically for parents as well as other updates, revisions and additions.

Among Marcus' other books are *Making Gay History*, *Why Suicide?* and the best-selling Greg Louganis autobiography *Breaking the Surface*.

For more information, see www.ericmarcus.com.



The Life of Reilly, Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

"Did you think it would all be game shows?" Charles Nelson Reilly asks audience members early on in **The Life of Reilly**, the movie of his one-man autobiographical show. Reilly, who died last year, was a lot more than the bitchy, obviously gay man holding court on TV's *The Match Game* or terrorizing Butch Patrick as Hoodoo the magician on *Lidsville*. In the 84-minute running time of the film, that quip is the only mention of game shows Reilly makes but his life, shaped by his dysfunctional upbringing (to say the least), is mesmerizing, nonetheless. It's a very moving and funny film—a wonderful portrait of a theatrical artist who just happened to be gay.

Reilly prowls the stage of a theater in Los Angeles (that co-directors Barry Poltermann and Frank Anderson) filled with his own furniture (trucked in that day from his house) relating his *Believe It Or Not* story. Born in the Bronx, Reilly was an only child cowed by a racist, harpy of a mother and a timid, artistically talented father who turned to alcohol after a huge career setback. At four, Reilly was taken to the local



Amy Adams in *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day*. Photo by Kerry Brown

movie palace and thought to himself, "This is the place for you" and as soon as he is able to escape what amounts to a Dickensian childhood, he heads for the bright lights of Broadway and, eventually, Hollywood.

But the heart of the film is how growing up with the overbearing mother shaped the cantankerous, forthright and always hilarious Reilly. In one vivid section, Reilly draws a portrait of the family, now living in Hartford, Conn., with his extended family—an aunt, uncle and grandparents—that is so vivid you can almost hear the bickering. A family so screwed up that not even tragic playwright Eugene O'Neill would touch them, he notes—adding humor, as always, to the heartbreak.

Poltermann and Anderson have their cameramen (using hand-held pieces) doing their best to keep up with Reilly as he races about the stage, moving from one amazing memory to the next. At one point, success brings the rising Broadway character actor face to face with the president of NBC, a network looking to pump up its televi-

sion shows with theater talent. This man takes one look at him and says, "They don't let queers on television." "It was a short meeting" Reilly quips but, years later, he reveals delightedly going through each issue of *TV Guide* and counting how many times he would be on television that week—so many that he would think, "Who do I have to fuck to get off TV!" Even the horrid mother is humanized as the piece nears its conclusion. Throughout, Reilly's rage and passion are tempered by the unending well of his hilarious insight—he's just plain funny which saves him (doesn't it save us all) time and again.

The *Life of Reilly* is a big rambling, fabulous, movie—a wonderful eulogy to a man who was much more than jokes on an afternoon game show. It plays exclusively at Facets Cinematheque, 1517 W. Fullerton, Fri.-Thurs., March 7-13. Poltermann will be present for Q&As after the Saturday evening and Sunday matinee screenings. www.facets.org

Uncork the champagne, you Noel Coward lovers and you passionate Cole Porter queens. **Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day** is here, and it's a movie that combines the effortless sophistication and lyrical cleverness of those two witty gay icons with the yearning and heart of Dorothy Parker and Paul Gallico's Mrs. 'Arris Goes to Paris or even *A Matter of Time*, Liza Minnelli's flop musical about a chambermaid who becomes a world-renowned movie star. Set in London in the '30s just before the start of World War II, the endlessly charming movie is located in that rarefied world in which a down-and-outer can rise within 24 hours to the top of society and transform everyone around her with her good common sense in the process.

Frances McDormand plays the know-it-all crank, Miss Pettigrew, who, at the outset, is desperate for a job as a ladies' maid after another failure. Enter the ditzy, daffy, delicious Delysia Lafosse (Amy Adams), a stage starlet determined to see her name in lights in London's theatre district. If Delysia has her way (with that name how can she not?), young, rich Phil Goldman (Tom Payne) will start her in his next revue, *Pile on the Pepper*. She's just slept with him to seal the deal when Miss Pettigrew arrives on the

scene. But Delysia's heart really belongs to the poor but talented and extremely cute Michael (Lee Pace), her accompanist—though she's also at the moment being kept by Nick (Mark Strong), the rich owner of the nightclub where the two work. It's actually Nick's art deco-stuffed apartment where the first act takes place. Within moments of arriving the wary Miss Pettigrew becomes indispensable to Delysia and before you can say "Moet Chandon," Delysia has given the dowdy Pettigrew a makeover, softened her heart, is relying on her to help her secure the lead in Phillip's show and has introduced her to a romantic prospect of her own (played by Ciarán Hinds). Phil, it seems, is going to announce his decision that very evening at a soiree to be hosted at Nick's apartment. Naturally, there will be many reverses as this charming little farce comes to its cream-puff conclusion.

Director Bharat Nalluri perfectly realizes the rarefied atmosphere of this artificial, long-gone world in which all the characters all seem to have the stage just under their feet. Sets, costumes and music help make this delightful soufflé rise and stay afloat—all this in service to comedy of manner performances from McDormand, Adams and those easy-on-the-eye male actors. (Coward and Porter would certainly be mad about these boys.) And Shirley Henderson makes a great villain (with her teeny, almost spectral voice and razor-sharp comic timing reminiscent of Madeleine Kahn). *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day* seems so perfect for the stage that, after the movie runs its course, one can only hope the producers will take this obvious cue and adapt it for the boards. It's a delightful little comedy as is or easily expanded into a musical of *The Drowsy Chaperone* variety. If only Noel or Cole were alive to write the score! Alas!

Check out my archived reviews at www.windycitytimes.com or 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*.

Barry Poltermann: In the 'Life'

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

In 2004, after nearly 400 performances of his acclaimed one-man stage show, "Save It for the Stage: The Life of Reilly," Charles Nelson Reilly stopped touring, but nearly two years later he was convinced by indie director Barry Poltermann to remount it one last time so that Poltermann (along with co-director Frank Anderson) could record it for a movie. That movie, *The Life of Reilly*, captures the irascible, bitingly funny, heartfelt Reilly at the peak of his powers. It also instantly reveals that there was much more to the openly gay Reilly than just regular appearances on TV's *The Match Game* would presume. Touching, bittersweet, hilarious and eye-opening, the movie is an unforgettable portrait of a great theatrical artist and his straight-out-of-Tennessee-Williams family members. The movie will play an exclusive one-week engagement at Facets Multimedia, 1517 W. Fullerton, beginning Fri., March 7, and continuing through the Thurs., March 13. Poltermann will conduct a Q&A with audience members following both the 7 and 9 p.m. performances Sat., March 8, and again following matinees Sun., March 9.

Windy City Times spoke with Poltermann about the film and his close friendship with Reilly.

Windy City Times: How did you decide what to keep and what to toss from the stage performance, which ran over three and a half hours?

Barry Poltermann: Prior to shooting we decided which pieces we wanted to keep. Charles would talk for instance, about how he loved Mae West and would tell great stories about her but they weren't about his life so that narrowed it down and then we started honing in on his family and a few friends. The backstage making-of stories started to seem like DVD extras.

WCT: Everybody knows him from *Match Game* but there's literally only one tiny thing where he mentions game shows and that's it. Wasn't it hard to take that out?

BP: Well, actually that was an easy choice because he didn't do anything about "Match Game". [Laughs] Everything he said about television—everything—is in the film. It's like 25 seconds until the story about being on Johnny Carson.

WCT: Did he see the finished movie?

BP: He did and he loved it. I think he probably wished it was a bit longer. [Laughs] He saw an early rough cut. He came over to my house and watched it which was one of the most nerve wracking nights of my life. His epic narrative had been condensed down to 90 minutes. He said he loved it and the next day he called up with some notes and he had a lot of really good ideas which we used.

WCT: What did he die from, Barry?

BP: He was sick for about a year and a half off an on before he died. He had pneumonia and then he had a brain infection—it was several things. In a strange way, I think this was his last testament.

Read the entire interview at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.



Midnight Express.

DVD REVIEW

Midnight Express—30th Anniversary Edition

BY STEVE WARREN

If you wonder why *Midnight Express* isn't gayer than it is, why it isn't as gay as the true story it's based on, that's explained in the extra material on the 30th-anniversary edition DVD and in the accompanying 28-page booklet by director Alan Parker.

In a homoerotic montage, exactly halfway through the movie, Billy Hayes (Brad Davis), doing time in a Turkish prison for trying to smuggle two kilos of hashish out of the country, bathes and works out balletically with Erich (Norbert Weisser), a fellow prisoner. They kiss passionately in the shower, but when Erich wants to go further Billy shakes his head, gives him a farewell peck and walks away.

In real life, as Hayes recounted in the book

about his experience and told me in an interview at the time of the film's release, he didn't shake his head. They became lovers in prison.

The villain was not Oliver Stone, who won the Oscar and Golden Globe for this, his first major produced screenplay; nor were the actors, producers or director reticent (Parker includes considerable gratuitous male nudity, mostly butt shots). It was Columbia studio head Daniel Melnick who originally wanted the whole shower scene taken out but compromised when he saw it. Ironically, he produced *Making Love* four years later, so homophobia can be cured.

A powerful, well-acted drama with a shower scene that will make you need a cold shower, *Midnight Express* has stood the test of time.

Read the entire review at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

'DL Chronicles' Out on DVD

The *DL Chronicles: The Complete First Season*—a series that focuses on different African-American men and the "down low" phenomenon—is now out on DVD (\$24.95).

The *DL Chronicles* tell the stories of four men of color who live sexually secret lives. Among them is Wes (Darren Schnase), who gets caught up in an affair with his wife's younger brother. Another is Robert (Terrell Tilford), a closeted talent agent who must confront his true feelings when a fling turns into something more.

Extras include a featurette, a gag reel, commentary and a photo gallery. The DVD is not rated, but there is graphic nudity and strong language.

See www.dlchronicles.com.

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nets. There is even a custom-made faux-patina copper top on bar area. Hardwood floors on main level were ones pulled from a 100 year old building in Chicago. New carpeting has also been installed during the last few months on second level. The great room includes a wood-burning fireplace surrounded by built-in book cases. The master bedroom area has oversized cedar-lined closets with fantastic views of the lake. The master bath is Travertine marble with a large jetted tub and the main bath is custom ceramic tile. The exterior of the home offers seclusion, custom made deck area and your own fire pit to enjoy on fall nights. Some of the other fine features of this home include hardwood French colonial doors on the interior, second floor laundry area, and slate foyer. **\$249,900. Tommy Sunn, Century 21 1st Team, Inc. 219-575-0881 www.tommysunn21.com** (3/12/08)

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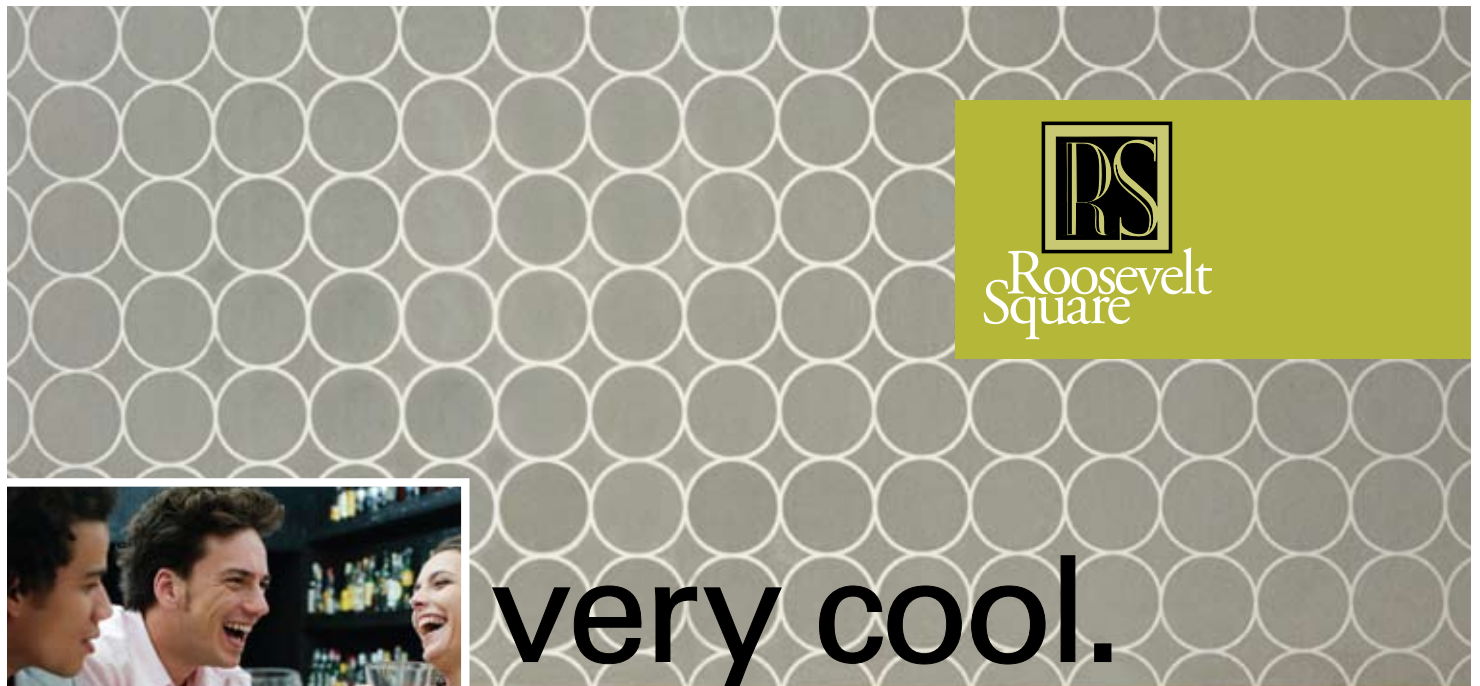
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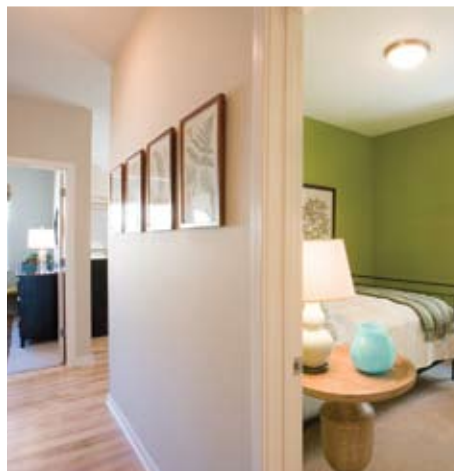
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Alex Shelley, one of the wrestlers involved with making over gay teen Chris Hendricks. Photo courtesy of TNA Wrestling

SPORTS

Gay Teen Is ‘Made’ Over

BY ROSS FORMAN

Gay teenager Chris Hendricks is being “made” into a professional wrestler, thanks to some fellow Detroit-area residents who just happen to be stars for Total Nonstop Action (TNA) Wrestling, the second-biggest wrestling company in the world.

Hendricks, 15, of Highland, Mich., is a student at Milford High School, and a self-described “choir queer,” according to MTV, the producers of the Emmy Award-winning series. Hendricks, according to MTV, is sick of being stereotyped as weak just because he’s gay. Hendricks wants to be made into a larger-than-life pro wrestler so he can prove to everyone that he’s tough enough to take a punch.

Enter Alex Shelley and Chris Sabin, TNA’s Motor City Machineguns tag team.

They are Hendricks’ main trainers for the “MADE” episode that first airs Sat., March 8, at 11 a.m.

Hendricks’ six-week training for his pro-wrestling debut started in late 2007.

“In the beginning, he didn’t have a clue [about pro wrestling], but, by the end [of his training], he actually turned into a pretty good pro wrestler,” said Sabin, 26, of Howell, Mich. “If Chris wants to pursue pro wrestling down the line, I actually think he’ll make a good pro.

“He’s very talented and picked up the sport rather quickly; he understood what we were trying to teach him.”

Sabin added that Hendricks’ tenacity was his biggest strength.

“He’s very athletic,” said Sabin, who has been a pro for eight years. “We were hoping he didn’t just freeze up in the ring during his first match, and he didn’t. He did pretty good. He does some amazing, spectacular-looking moves in the ring, things that will surprise a lot of people.”

The majority of Hendricks’ training was done in Belleville, Mich., though he did spend two days in January at TNA Wrestling shows in Orlando, Fla., where he was instructed by other TNA Wrestling stars as well, such as Samoa Joe.

“Chris is a really good kid,” said Shelley, 24, of Plymouth, Mich. “He has his head on straight and has a great attitude. As far as training him, and him as a person, I don’t have enough good things to say about him.

“He’s a natural athlete and, if he decided to pursue wrestling down the line, he may have a shot at doing something in the wrestling business.”

Sabin and Shelley each said Hendricks’ sexuality was a non-issue.

“To be completely honest with you, I totally forgot that he was gay 99 percent of the time. If he brought it up, that was the only time I even thought about it,” Shelley said. “I had no worries [before filming started] about him being gay.”

Sabin added, “I couldn’t even tell he was gay; he just seemed like a normal 14-year-old kid. And honestly, neither of us even cared that he was/is gay.”



Wigging Out

The Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association’s (CMSA’s) open volleyball league held its annual drag cotillion Sun., March 2, at Broadway Armory, 5917 N. Broadway. In addition to playing, the traditional debutante parade also took place—with tiaras awarded to the top three participants. Proceeds benefited CMSA’s efforts to host the 2009 North American Gay Volleyball Association championships. Photos by Chuck Kramer

Seles Officially Retires

Tennis legend and nine-time Grand Slam champion Monica Seles has officially retired from the sport, according to Sportsline.com.

“I have for some time considered a return to professional play, but I have now decided not to pursue that,” Seles, 34, said in a statement. “I will continue to play exhibitions, participate in charity events, promote the sport, but will no longer plan my schedule around the tour.”

Noted for her two-handed strokes and loud grunts, Seles won 53 singles titles and first rose to No. 1 in March 1991. In 1993, at a tournament in Hamburg, Germany, she was attacked by a man who climbed out of the stands. She returned to the game just over two years later

and reached the 1995 U.S. Open final. Her last Grand Slam title came at the 1996 Australian Open.

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.

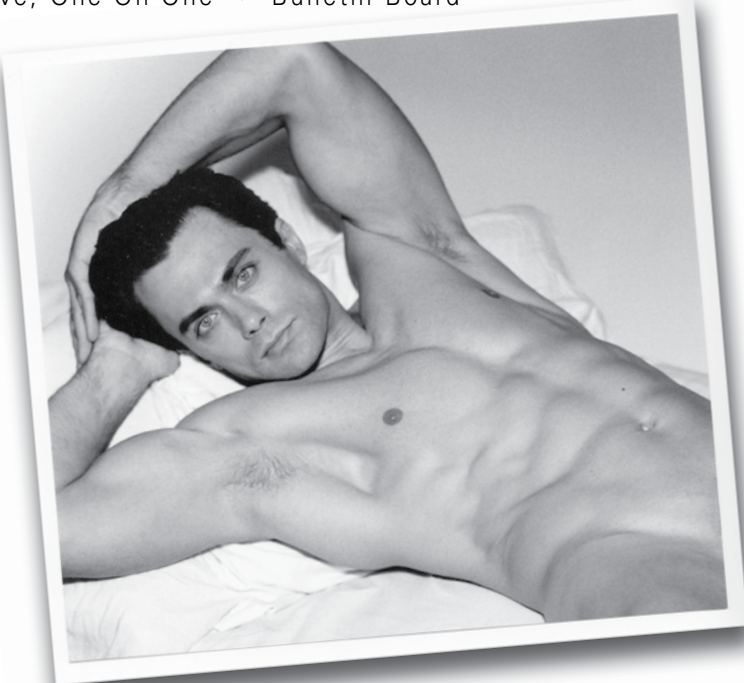
More than 2,000 are expected to attend this year to partake in the après-ski and specially organized nighttime events. Top-name DJs, such as Brett Henrichsen and Roland Belmares, will be brought in to spin at all the events.

A party pass is \$140 and a VIP pass is \$180. See www.mammothgayski.com.

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Funky Five	33	30				Wicked	29	34
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Jury's	31	32	Bobby Love's	53	10	Looney Tunes	22	41
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