



**Invite to
Huberman**

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**PFLAG
Fundraiser**

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**Jane
Lynch**

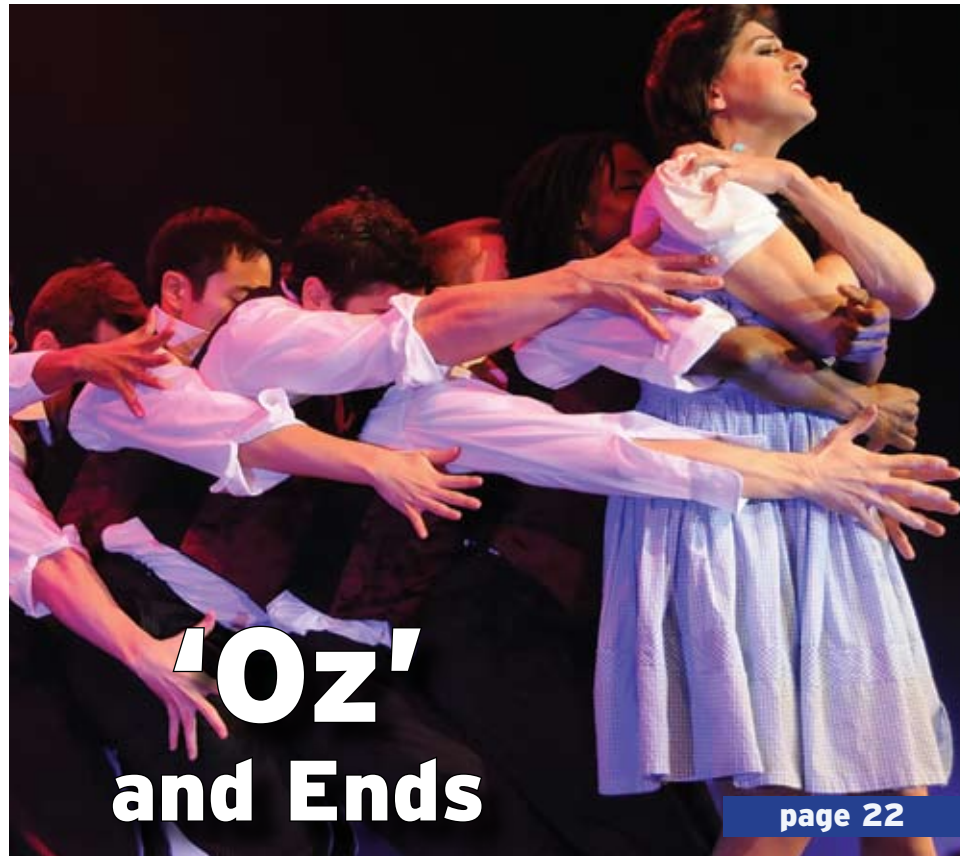
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nightspots
pick it up
take it home

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Calif. Court Weighs Prop 8



'Oz' and Ends

page 22

The third annual Test Positive Aware Network striptease event known as *Chicago Takes Off* took place March 7, at the Park West, 322 W. Armitage. The theme was "Once Upon a Time," and performers re-enacted *The Wizard of Oz*, *Snow White* and the *Seven Dwarves* and other stories. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald; see much more on page 22, and online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com and www.MysticImagesPhotography.com

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

In California, thousands of people gathered outside the state supreme court building in San Francisco on March 5, while inside, the court heard three hours of arguments on whether it should overturn Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment passed last November to ban same-sex marriage.

It's expected to be a tough call, especially for pro-gay marriage advocates.

The key legal dispute before the court is whether Prop 8 simply amended the state constitution or whether it significantly revised it. If the initiative amended the constitution, then it stands. But if the initiative revised the constitution, then it was improperly presented to voters and should, instead, have been approved by a two-thirds majority of the legislature.

Attorneys seeking to strike Prop 8 argued the latter.

"This is the first time an initiative has been used to take away a fundamental right from a suspect class," said Ray Marshall, an California NAACP attorney representing organizations that had filed briefs asking the court to strike down Prop 8.

But the seven justices—of which six are Republican appointees—seemed skeptical and had harsh questions for the attorneys seeking to strike down Prop 8.

Turn to page 8

LGBTs hurt in public-access TV cutbacks

BY YASMIN NAIR

When AT&T unveiled its U-Verse television programming service, the company waxed about the new technology that allows subscribers to access 320 channels. Recently, however, the company has come under fire for limiting access to public-access programming. The Illinois chapter of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers (NATOA) and CAN TV (Community Access Television) have joined a nationwide coalition to file a petition with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). On its Web site, NATOA says that customers of "AT&T ... can't

switch between commercial and PEG channels, set a DVR to record a PEG program, or depend on getting timely local emergency alerts. AT&T's system deprives PEG channels of basic capabilities such as closed captioning."

The limited access affects all members of the Chicago viewing area, but it has significant ramifications for the LGBT community. Critics contend that not being able to easily access PEG programming leaves the LGBT AT&T consumer without vital public-health information and creative programming.

Ordinarily, a subscriber can find CAN TV programming by going to one of the five channels:

19, 21, 27, 36 and 42. He or she can flip back and forth between any of those and commercial programming, and can tape shows.

But under AT&T's U-Verse system, a viewer must go to channel 99, where all public-access stations are. From there, the viewer must scroll through a list of different cities and find "Chicago," and then scroll through another menu that shows what is available in the city. Once you leave your PEG programming, getting back to it requires you renegotiating all the menus.

Public-access television is federally man-

Turn to page 6

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WINDY CITY TIMES

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Married Chicago couple John Pennycuff and Robert Castillo (left and right, respectively) joined actor/comedian Hal Sparks at an "Eve of Justice" vigil in San Francisco. Read more on page 8.

Photo from Robert Castillo

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The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (above) is one of the companies featured in this month's Dancin' Feats column. See page 11.

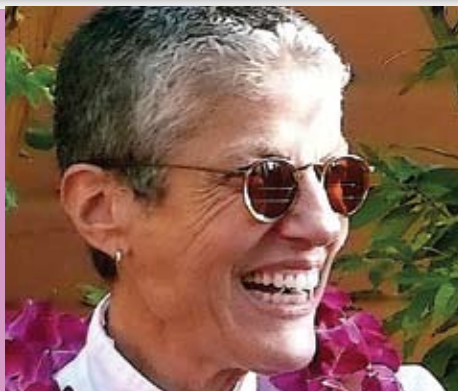
Photo by Steve Vaccariello

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www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

Features include:
 -an op-ed on Prop 8 by Judy Wieder (right)
 -National news
 -World roundup
 -The Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce's Chili Cook-off



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Photo by Ryan Kolodziej



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The goals of these House Parties are to raise visibility and finishing funds for the film. The film will debut Summer 2009.

Kick-Off party with Writer Claudia Allen and Editor Sharon Zurek

7-8 p.m.

Saturday, March 14

Part of the reception prior to the monthly Dyke Delicious series at Chicago Filmmakers, Pam Grier's Coffy film shown 8 p.m. (\$10 cover for Coffy). Trailer shown, prizes, food, fun.

5243 N. Clark St., 2nd floor, www.chicagofilmmakers.org

Host: Carla Cenker

Sunday, March 15

4-6 p.m., N. Magnolia in Chicago, RSVP: carla@carlacares.com

Host: Lee Dorothy

Sunday, March 15

In conjunction with the Amy Speace House Concert.

2 p.m., Joliet, IL 60435. RSVP: LDorothy@aol.com

Hosts: Kat Fitzgerald/Labrys Chicago

Thursday, March 19

Part of the "4 Women Only" tour. Featuring Christine Kent, Veronica May, Jess Godwin & Jess Yoakum. \$25 cover, with portion going to Hannah Free.

7 p.m., Velvet Rope, 728 Lake St., Oak Park

Hosts: Katie Jacobson, David Strzepek + Stewed Tomatoes

Friday, March 20

**7-10 p.m., N. Washtenaw (1/2blk north of Logan), Chicago
RSVP: kt2m8to@yahoo.com or david@totalpromote.com**

Hosts: Diane Dodin & Claire Davies

Saturday, March 21

6-9 p.m., Austin area, Chicago. RSVP to d_dodin@yahoo.com

Host: Karen Giocondi

Saturday, March 21

**2-5 p.m., Scot's Bar, 1829 W. Montrose, Chicago
RSVP to Karen@BLSRECORDS.com or call 773-583-4965**

Host: Susan Martin

Sunday, March 22

Noon-3 p.m., North Side, Chicago. RSVP: astrokitty86@yahoo.com

Hosts: Amy Walsh & Susana Darwin

Thursday, March 26

**5:30-8 p.m., On East Randolph Street, Downtown Chicago
RSVP: eight.east@gmail.com**

See www.HannahFree.com for additional parties to be added.

Events are free (unless noted above), and include food & beverages, but a fundraising pitch will be done. Based on Claudia Allen's award-winning stage play, Hannah Free is directed by Wendy Jo Carlton. Executive producers are Tracy Baim and Claudia Allen. See www.HannahFree.com. Sharon Gless will not be able to attend these House Parties, but other Chicago-area cast and crew are expected at Chicago house parties.

GLAD files historic lawsuit

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The people who brought marriage equality to Massachusetts and Connecticut—Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)—filed a lawsuit March 3 in federal court in Boston, seeking to challenge the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

The case, *Gill v. Office of Personnel Management*, is the first concerted, multi-plaintiff legal challenge to the federal law that prohibits federal recognition of same-sex relationships and allows states that do not provide equal rights to gay couples the ability to ignore such marriages granted in other states.

The lawsuit seeks a declaration that DOMA, enacted in 1996, is unconstitutional and impacts gay couples regarding federal income tax, Social Security, federal employment benefits and passport issuance.

Specifically, the lawsuit challenges only Section 3 of DOMA—the part that states that "marriage" can mean only marriage between a man and a woman. The language essentially denies gay partners and spouses 1,138 federal benefits enjoyed by married heterosexual spouses.

(Section 1 is simply the title of the law. Section 2 says that states do not have to recognize same-sex "relationships between persons of the same sex." Constitutional law expert Laurence Tribe has said that Section 2 is essentially redundant to an already existing provision of the constitution that allows states to ignore the laws of another state if they are against the home state's public policy.)

Carisa Cunningham, spokesperson for the group, said GLAD is not challenging Section 2 because it is "largely meaningless."

"It re-states existing practice where states are free to recognize or not recognize marriages," Cunningham said.

Mary Bonauto, the organization's civil rights project director, said the group's position is "very mainstream." The federal government, she said, routinely defers to the states when it comes to the regulation of marriage. But DOMA, she said, was the "first time ever" that the federal government sought to override an entire class of marriages at the state level.

"Congress really stepped out of line when it passed this law," said Bonauto.

The lawsuit says DOMA's Section 3 violates the constitution's Fifth Amendment guarantee of equal protection of the law by treating same-sex couples with marriage licenses differently than heterosexual couples with marriage licenses.

"All federal employees married to a spouse of the same sex are denied all spousal employment protections, which enable married people to take care of each other, such as the ability to add the spouse to a family health plan or name the spouses as a survivor on the employee's pension," noted GLAD in a statement. DOMA also denies spousal protections available under the Internal Revenue Code, such as the ability to cover a spouse on a health plan without paying income tax on that benefit.

GLAD says it believes any effort to repeal DOMA in Congress is "unlikely" to happen in the next four years, even though President Obama is on record as supporting repeal. It acknowledged, too, that the LGBT community "has many priorities that probably rank ahead of DOMA repeal, including the passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a hate crimes bill, the Uniting American Families Act, and repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'"

The lawsuit is filed on behalf of eight married couples and three surviving spouses, including Dean Hara, the spouse of the late U.S. Rep. Gerry Studds, D-Mass. The lead couple is Nancy Gill and Marcelle Letourneau.

A fact sheet issued by GLAD says that the case

could be of interest to the United States Supreme Court but would likely not reach that level until 2013.

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CCA and GLAAD merger: Update

BY PAUL MARINKOVICH

A statement released by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has revealed future plans for their Advertising Media Program—once known as the Commercial Closet Association (CCA).

"As part of the Advertising Media Program, we are planning an event that will recognize corporations and businesses that are inclusive of the LGBT community," said Richard Ferraro, GLAAD's director of public relations. "We will be announcing details of the event in coming months. We are planning to hold the event in the fall of 2009 and a reception for the launch of our Advertising Media Program this spring."

When the CCA announced its merger with GLAAD in November 2008, the advertising program ground to a temporary standstill as the association prepared for the transition. As a result of the integration, Mike Wilke, the executive founder of the CCA, left the organization due to internal conflict with the board of directors.

Since, Wilke has been carefully watching the efforts that the CCA and GLAAD have taken to reinvent the media program he originally began back in 2001.

"I am worried for the efforts over the last 12 years of my work, which includes the time prior to officially starting Commercial Closet," said Wilke. "The association was built out of five years of my work leading up to that—independently."

GLAAD has now officially added its name to the Web site and has replaced the CCA logo with its own. The URL address and much of the information provided on the site has not been changed.

As new details emerge on the Advertising Media Program, Windy City Times will continue to update.

HRC changes corporate index criteria

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation (HRC) has announced a new set of criteria to be used in its annual Corporate Equality Index, which rates major U.S. employers on their benefits, policies and practices toward LGBT employees.

The new criteria raise the requirements that businesses must satisfy to achieve a 100-percent rating on the index in four primary areas, including: health insurance access for transgender employees; equal benefits for same-sex partners and spouses; competency training and accountability on LGBT issues; and external engagement with the LGBT community.

The most significant change relates to access to health insurance for transgender employees. The new criteria will require that all employees have access to at least one insurance plan that contains no exclusions for transgender-specific care and recognizes internationally-accepted medical standards of care. In essence, the revised requirements implement higher standards for measuring a business' engagement with the broader LGBT community.

Read the national news and world roundup online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

Civil-unions bill advances out of committee

A measure that would establish civil unions in Illinois passed out of the state's House Youth and Family Committee March 5. Under House Bill 2234, same-sex couples, widows and widowers would receive the same fundamental legal rights to care for their loved ones and the same protections and freedoms that other citizens enjoy.

State Rep. Greg Harris, the chairperson of the committee and the sponsor of the measure, said in a statement that "this is legislation about fairness and establishing equal rights for everyone in our great state. At the heart of the debate over this bill is a fundamental question: Do the people that this bill applies to deserve the same rights as everyone else? The answer is 'absolutely.'"

HB2234 creates the Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act. The measure is now is awaiting further consideration before the entire House. For more information on the seniors/civil-unions issue, and to hear true stories of Illinois seniors working for the passage of civil-union legislation, visit www.civilunionsillinois.org.

Medical marijuana bill also advances

By a vote of 4-3, the Illinois House Human Services Committee passed a bill March 4 that would allow seriously ill patients with certain conditions who have their doctors' recommendations to use medical marijuana without fear of arrest. Rep. Lou Lang, D-Skokie, is sponsoring HB 2514, the House medical marijuana bill.

A companion bill, SB 1381, is sponsored by three-term former state's attorney Sen. Bill Haine, D-Alton, in the Illinois Senate and was expected to receive a hearing in the Senate Public Health Committee March 10.

Although this is not the first time a medical marijuana bill was introduced in the Illinois House, this is the first time a House committee passed such a bill. Supporters hope state lawmakers will note that 63 percent of Michigan voters approved a similar law last November and that a 2008 statewide poll shows 68 percent support among Illinois voters for such a statute.

TPAN director named co-chair of AIDS group

Test Positive Aware Network has announced that Jeff Berry, director of publications and editor of the bimonthly Positively Aware magazine, has just been elected co-chair of the Drug Development Committee for the AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition (ATAC). He will serve a two-year term alongside current co-chair David Evans, from POZ and AIDSmeds.com.

"I'm very much looking forward to working with co-chair David Evans, the board of ATAC, and my fellow DDC members to build upon the accomplishments and successes that they and their predecessors have achieved, as we continue to move the ATAC DDC forward over the coming months and years," Berry said in a statement.

UIC gender/sexuality group's town hall

The University of Illinois at Chicago's Gender & Sexuality Center (GSC) is hosting a town hall that will take place Thursday, March 12, 3-5 p.m., in room 140 of the Behavioral Sciences Building, 1007 W. Harrison.

The aim is for an open and transparent dialog about the future of the GSC since the departure of the director last November.

Please visit www.gsc.uic.edu, or contact Liz Thomson at lthomson@uic.edu or by phone at 312-413-8619.

PASSAGES

Joel Brandeis

Joel David Brandeis passed away Oct. 7, 2008 in Atlanta, Ga. He was 50.

Brandeis was born Philip Alan Carey Jan. 28, 1958 in Illinois. He developed an appreciation of the Jewish faith and converted in 1995. At that same time he also changed his name, taking the last name of the first Jewish United States Justice of the States Supreme Court, Louis Brandeis.

Brandeis obtained a bachelor's degree in psychology and theater from Eastern Illinois University and received a master's in social work from the University of Illinois. He moved to Chicago in 1983 and worked as a clinical social worker.

In 1987, Brandeis made a career change and went to work at Northern Trust Company in information technology (IT). In 1996 he moved to New York to join TIAA-CREF, managing several IT teams during his tenure there. He later moved to TIAA-CREF's Charlotte, N.C., facility. In December 2007, he moved to the Atlanta area to be an IT project manager at Macy's Systems and Technology.

Brandeis had a dry sense of humor and used that humor to put people at ease, especially in difficult situations. He found his social work experience very useful when managing people and working with others throughout his career. Many common characteristics have been mentioned by Joel's friends—a kind man; one of the funniest people they knew; quiet nature; quick, dry wit; always positive; someone who would throw in a one-liner to lighten the mood; a truly nice person; someone who is loved, missed and will be remembered fondly;

a true friend; the kind of man that one strives to be, calm, reserved, humble, responsible and loyal to all things that he held dear.

He is survived by his brother, Mark Carey, and sister-in-law, Christine Carey of Frankfort, Ill. An online guestbook is at www.edressler.com. In lieu of flowers, people may send donations to Congregation Or Chadash, 5959 N. Sheridan, Chicago, Ill., 60660.

PASSAGES

Hans-Ulrich Buchwald

German artist Hans-Ulrich Buchwald died last month of complications from a stroke in November. He was 83.

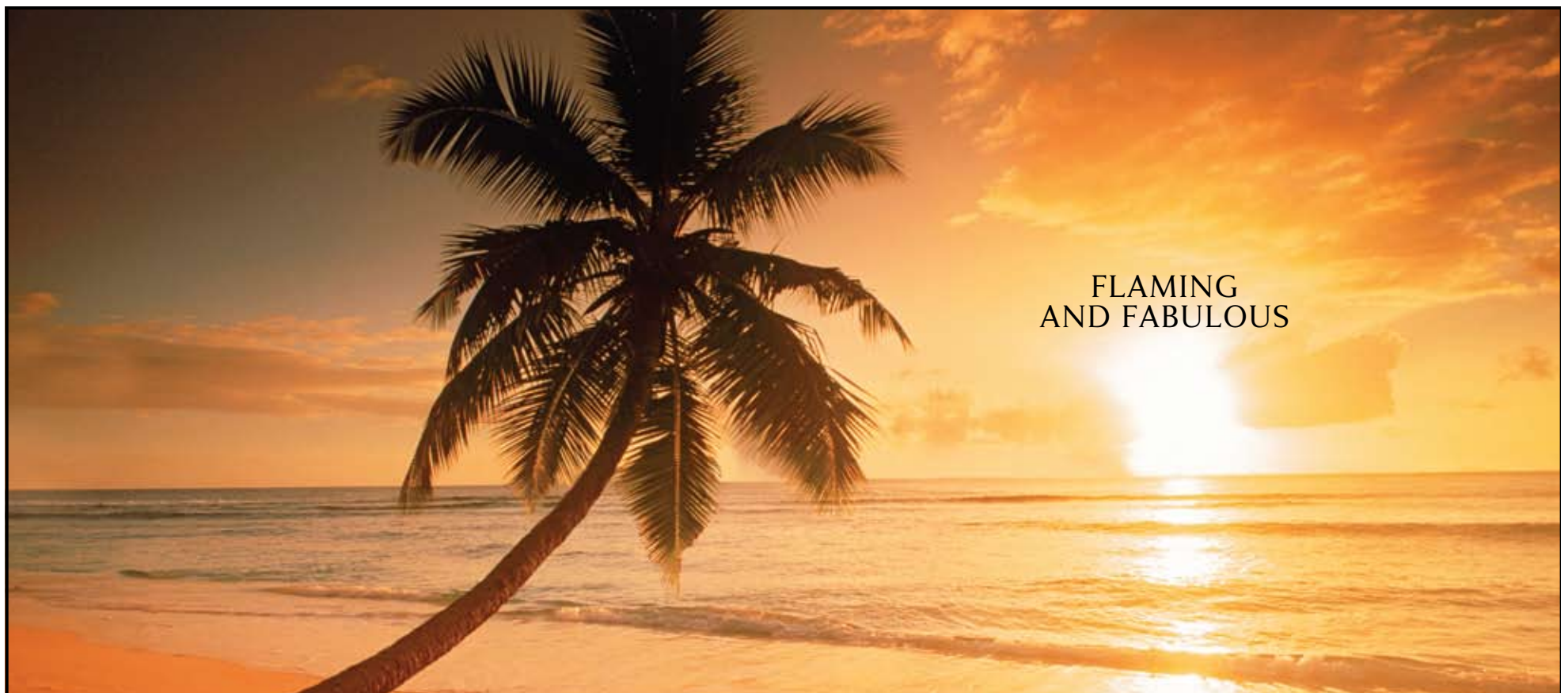
Born in 1925 in Breslau, Germany, Buchwald became involved in art at an early age, thanks to a family filled with artists who were influenced by such icons as Oscar Schlemmer.

Buchwald founded the *Scharniertheater*, worked on theatrical puppetry, watercolors, linoleum prints and woodcuts. His work spanned subject matter of humor, eroticism and man's affinity to nature.

Windy City Times interviewed Buchwald in 2005. In a profile (run in WCT's Sept. 14, 2005 issue), he discussed everything from being a prisoner of war in the 1940s to his belief in the fluidity of sexuality. (It was not until his death of his wife, Hella, in 1993 that Buchwald announced his attraction to men.)

Among those surviving him is his daughter, Mariana.

Buchwald's works have on been on display at The Leigh Gallery, 3306 N. Halsted, since 2005 and will continue to be shown there.



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Group invites Huberman to speak

BY YASMIN NAIR

Gender JUST (Justice United for Societal Transformation) is a Chicago grassroots organization. In recent months, the group has been working on what it describes as the problems of heterosexism and violence against LGBTQA students in Chicago's public schools. On March 4, Gender JUST hand-delivered a letter to Ron Huberman, the new Chicago Public Schools (CPS) chief, asking him to attend a public forum convened by the group.

The text of Gender JUST's letter, made available to Windy City Times, stated that the group shared Huberman's "commitment to inclusivity," and invited him "to attend a public meeting in May of 2009 where [he could] speak with the LGBTQ & GNC (Gender Non-Conforming) communities about [his] plans to address the obstacles to safe and affirming education." According to the letter, one way to do that is by "creating compulsory training for all CPS staff on LGBTQ & GNC issues, as a starting point for addressing issues such as violence and harassment."

The letter also detailed other issues, including what the group perceives as "the lack of LGBTQ & GNC-affirming curricula including sex-education, the racist distribution of gay-straight alliances disproportionately not in communities of color, the CPS anti-discrimination policy and its exclusion of gender identity." However, the group does not see these issues in isolation; the letter also stated, "we would like to hear from you on how you plan to address these concerns in the context of privatization and school closings." Gender JUST has, in the past, spoken out against what it and many education activists have criticized as the excessive privatization of CPS. In addition, community-education activists and parents have been critical of recent announcements of school closings.

Esmeralda Roman, a lesbian mother of a CPS student, spoke to Windy City Times about her reasons for wanting to deliver the letter (which was signed by her as the Gender JUST representative). She said that she was moved to action after watching her son being harassed by fellow students: "My son has been constantly bullied because I'm a lesbian. Kids are misinformed. They think he's gay because I'm a lesbian. They think it's contagious. He's been a social outcast, literally. It's very hard to see that as a parent, without any resources or support from CPS to

address those concerns." Roman said she appreciated the fact that Gender JUST did not restrict its advocacy to LGBTQ students but also supported students like her son, who are bullied for the perception that they might be gay.

Roman and four others of Gender JUST went to the 5th floor office of Ron Huberman, 125 S. Clark, and the letter was delivered without incident. The letter asks Huberman to respond within two weeks of receipt. The group has left the actual date for the May forum open in order to fully accommodate Huberman's schedule, according to one of its members, Sam Finkelstein.

What if Huberman does not respond? (Windy City Times made repeated attempts to get an interview or a response from Huberman's office, but has not met with any success.) Finkelstein said the group would continue with its attempts to get Huberman to a discussion, "It's his responsibility to meet with the community, all of our intersecting communities that are affected." Roman, like the others, seemed determined to carry through with the attempts to "bring the issue to the table. It is my time to start fighting." Angelica Johnson, a member of the group, was optimistic and said, "I'm really excited to see how Ron Huberman responds to our letter requesting that he come to a panel of high school students talking about their experiences of being harassed or assaulted because of being LGBT. I hope that he cares about our agenda."

GLN member fined

A Chicago administrative law officer fined Gay Liberation Network's Andy Thayer \$500, plus \$40 court costs, for his role in last November's anti-Proposition 8 march through Chicago's Loop.

"Out of the 5,000 marchers, I was the only one charged with a violation of the ordinance," Thayer said in the statement. "Even though the City produced no credible evidence in the trial that I incited the crowd to march, I was found guilty."

Darrow event March 13

An annual event commemorating Clarence Darrow will take place Friday, March 13, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

A wreath-tossing will take place at the Clarence Darrow Bridge in Jackson Park, right behind the Museum of Science and Industry, at 57th and Lake Shore. A symposium, "Labor Challenges 115 Years After Pullman Strike," will follow in the museum.

For more information, call 312-578-9114.

TV from cover

dated; every cable provider must provide access to that in its cheapest package. This is to ensure that those not watching network television can still access public information and programming that is both educational and entertaining, and free of market-driven mandates like popularity and ratings. So, public-access television programming can take risks by offering programs that provide health care advice without advertising from pharmaceutical companies. It can cover events otherwise ignored by the media. For instance, CAN TV has frequently covered events at the Gerber/Hart Library. The coverage is of professional quality but deliberately unfiltered. Imagine it as something resembling C-SPAN, but in different formats that include talk shows and television plays.

Mark Hodar, HIV/STD services manager at Howard Brown Health Center, is passionate about the need for CAN TV programming. For the last two years, he has been host of the 15-year-old program "AIDS Call-in Live." The show rotates between four different agencies, including the Chicago Department of Public Health. Every week, for half an hour, hosts take live calls about HIV/AIDS from the general public. Hodar sees a real need for the program in the context of AIDS funding. He said, "CAN TV reaches a number of communities in this one venue. I came [to Howard Brown] around the time of the protease inhibitors, which resulted in the cutting of prevention dollars since they kept people from dying. But you can't cut the prevention dollars." Hodar felt that CAN TV allows him to compensate for cuts, adding, "I sometimes feel that CAN TV is like a garden hose to a fire. It's the best we can do in a lot of ways."

Hodar pointed out that, given the lack of sex education and a renewed emphasis on abstinence-only programs, programs like his provided vital information to the straight community as well, particularly to youth: "I get questions from young women about how to talk to their boyfriends about condom use and from young men asking, 'How do I talk to my girlfriend about STDs? It reaches everybody, even though Howard Brown is LGBT-focused.'" The show receives roughly 10 live phone calls every time, but operators will also take questions about referrals and anonymous queries.

To illustrate the importance of the show, Hodar related an anecdote about a woman who called in saying, "I need to access healthcare because I have HIV." It transpired that the woman, who was African-American, had never really been diagnosed but had assumed she was positive because she had unprotected sex and then read about the high rates of infection among Black women. Hodar said, "So she came in to Howard Brown, her test came back negative, and she had lived like this for 10 years. She cried and cried and cried. We got her into counseling. Helping people realize their status: It's that fundamental. A lot of us just assume our status. And to have U-Verse cut into that is really detrimental to the LGBT [and wider] community."

Emmanuel Garcia, a member of the Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA), has hosted the organization's call-in program for the last three months, titled "ALMA Latina." (Garcia occasionally writes for Windy City Times.) Garcia felt that the LGBT community has very little opportunity to provide information in the media: "The reality is that images of LGBT folks on television are close to nothing. CAN TV has given ALMA an outlet to reach gay segments of the LGBT population that are oftentimes isolated if not underrepresented under this umbrella we call community. For any cable company to get in the way of transmitting or delivering that message is an unfair use of power and really defeats the mission of what public-access television is all about."



Simone Koehlinger.
Photo by
Kat Fitzgerald

"ALMA Latina" is part of a weekly LGBT consortium, begun in 2001, that is broadcast every Friday night, 6:30-7 p.m., and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) also hosts the show once a month. Marc Wigler is the host of that show, and was disturbed by the potential loss of viewers. PFLAG, according to him, is "non-partisan, not affiliated with any religious, economic, or political group; we maintain a symbiotic relationship with everybody." Wigler said that the group is especially able to reach out to a broad range of viewers. PFLAG is unusual in that it, unlike ALMA or Howard Brown, has achieved relatively high visibility in national media; its representatives have even appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show. Despite that, Wigler believes in the central importance of the group's exposure on CAN TV because, "We have more control, we are given free rein, with 25 minutes of uninterrupted commercial-free time." Like the others, he felt strongly that AT&T needed to be challenged: "For them to be a friend to the community, they need to provide accessibility to all customers so that the community message for building capacity is achievable."

Simone Koehlinger of the Chicago Department of Public Health was, like Wigler, particularly appreciative of the unfiltered and uncensored access to information that CDPH could provide CAN TV viewers.

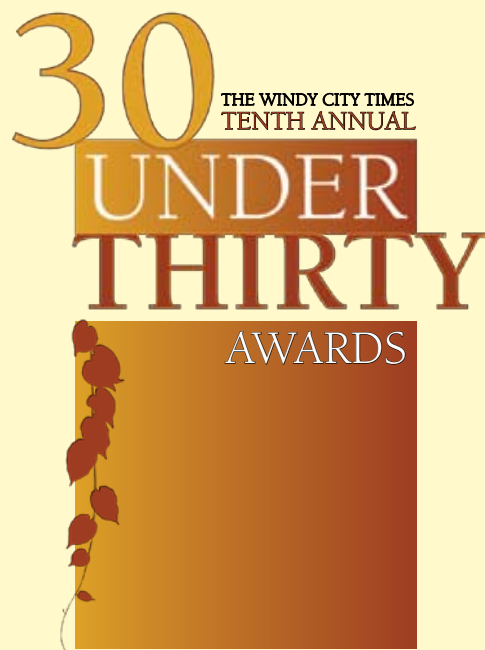
Koehlinger says that the effect of the public-health shows is immediate: "The phone is non-stop, all lines lit up the entire time. People call in with very good questions, and sometimes with some very basic questions. It's clear that there's a need in the community to have access to this information. They get someone who can answer their questions live."

Asked about the importance of the show in relation to CDPH's larger mission, Koehlinger said, "We put a lot of stock in public information and social marketing and of course to get messages out to vast numbers of people, you have to have access to good media. We love newspapers for that reason, we love online services but access to public TV is very important. We don't have a large budget and we don't want to be censored either, so I would say it's incredibly important."

According to Czerina Salud, communications director of CAN TV, the structure of the station also benefits the various LGBT agencies: "With access to CAN TV, they always have the opportunity to repurpose their content for web video streaming and they also encounter the phenomenon of people surfing the television. That's not the same audience you'd have access to if you posted on a web site. So the incidental traffic is increased greatly." CAN TV reaches a million subscribers in Chicago.

Windy City Times contacted AT&T for comments about the charge that the U-Verse system would make public access virtually inaccessible to customers, and inquired if the company had comments about the investigation. In response, spokesperson Rob Biederman e-mailed that "[o]ur more inclusive methodology is removing the geographic and technological barriers that sometimes separate communities and limit the distribution of important information, news and entertainment ... In response to the investigation: We are certainly following the letter and the spirit of the law. It's absolutely acceptable under state law to deliver our PEG product this way, and it was extensively discussed during the legislative process that it would be placed in this centralized location." The FCC is currently reviewing the petition.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS!!!



Deadline: Fri., April 24

Nominees should be under 30 years of age as of July 1, 2009 and should have made some substantial contributions to the LGBT community, whether in the fields of entertainment, politics, health and/or other areas.

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.

Please email nominations to Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com or fax to Andrew Davis' attention to 773-871-7609.

Following the policy instituted in 2005 that individuals can only win once, those who have won the award since that year are ineligible for this year's awards. Honorees will be notified in May and recognized in June in Windy City Times and at a ceremony at Center on Halsted on Tuesday, June 23.

The 2009 Awards are co-sponsored by:

WINDY CITY TIMES

AIDS Foundation
OF CHICAGO

CENTER ON HALSTED

Better Existence with HIV

Howard Brown

CHICAGO HOUSE

Quigley wins primary

In the Fifth Congressional District Democratic primary election that took place March 3, Cook County Commissioner Mike Quigley edged 11 others to win—and become poised to take Rahm Emanuel's vacated seat, according to the Chicago Tribune.

With 99 percent of precincts reporting, Quigley captured 22 percent of the vote. State Reps. John Fritchey and Sara Feigenholtz wound up second and third, respectively.

"After all we've been through in Illinois in the last six months, this is the first time voters had the chance to say: Enough is enough. We vote for change," Quigley said during his victory party, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

Voter turnout was low but Quigley had name recognition on his side, namely because of his constant battles with Cook County Board President Todd Stroger.

Quigley has spearheaded several pro-LGBT measures over the years, including a recent measure that changes a county ordinance to benefit same-sex couples that get married in another state. Among other accomplishments, he has also sponsored the gender-identity amendment to the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance.

Feigenholtz stated in a release to supporters that "[d]espite the outcome of this race, I am so proud of the campaign that we built together. ... I am humbled by the over 500 volunteers and 2,000 donors who made this incredible experience possible." She added that "[o]ur District must now move forward. I have known Commissioner Mike Quigley for over 20 years—he will be a great Congressman and a genuine agent for reform in Washington and I look forward to working with him on behalf of the people of this fine District."

Among the six Republicans, conservative Rosanna Pulido—who got one of Windy City Times' 16 inquiries correct in the newspaper's questionnaire—prevailed in a close race. Among the Green Party candidates, Matt Reichel edged Deb

Leticia Gordils; Reichel captured 34 percent of the vote while Gordils won 32 percent.

The Fifth Congressional District is heavily Democratic—which would seem to position Quigley for a relatively easy win during the April 7 general election.

Group holds anti-Prop 8 vigil

BY YASMIN NAIR

On Thursday, March 5, the California Supreme Court began hearing arguments about Proposition 8. Join the Impact Chicago organized a candlelight vigil on the evening of March 4 to draw attention to the issue. This was part of a nationwide series of such events designed to draw attention to what organizers feel is a critical testing point for the validity of the legislation. Similar vigils took place in cities like San Francisco; Santa Barbara, Calif.; and New York.

Approximately 50 people gathered at 800 N. Michigan for the Chicago vigil. Mathew Zaradich spoke to the gathering, emphasizing that "[p]eople are doing this across the country; it's an act of solidarity." He also encouraged them to keep up with Join the Impact's work and to learn more about the issues surrounding Prop 8. Following these brief remarks, people marched around the Water Tower park chanting slogans like, "Gay, straight, Black, white/ marriage is a human right" and "What do we want? Equal rights/ When do we want it? Now." They also sang songs such as "Lean on Me" and "Down by the Riverside."

At the time of this writing, gay-rights advocates were not hopeful that Prop 8 would be overturned. However, there is some hope that the court will decide that the marriages that occurred before Proposition 8 are still legal. For more on the California Supreme Court proceedings, see the Windy City Times Web site for updates.

Prop 8 donors

BY YASMIN NAIR

In the Chicago area, the number of donations to the No on 8 campaign (to defeat the Proposition) far outnumbered contributions to support. As it turns out, this reflects the national trend. According to Advocate.com, opponents of Proposition 8 raised about \$43.3 million while the measure's backers amassed \$39.9 million.

The San Francisco Chronicle Web site lists donations in the order of the date they were given, and the number of donations only reflects single contributions. A person may have given more than once. To find out how much an individual donated in total, type in his or

her name into the search engine and the site will list all donations next to his or her name.

All eight of the donors to the Yes on 8 campaign are listed here; Paul Kepes appears to have given \$9,900 twice on the same day.

It is clear that people gave what they could, when they could: Donations range from \$15 to \$100 to a few in the 100,000 range; several people in the No on 8 campaign gave more than once. Fred Eychaner is the owner of Newsweb, the company that prints Windy City Times, among other publications. The chart for the donors to Yes on 8 is the complete list of people who gave to the campaign. The chart for the donors to No on 8 is only a partial list (out of a total of 820 contributions). A full list of donors can be found at www.sfgate.com/webdb/prop8.

Yes on 8:

Donors from Chicago area

Paul Moeller Jr.	\$100
Mark Faase	\$100
Edward Veal	\$100
Dion Manly	\$115
Craig Odegaard	\$250
John Moore	\$400
Paul Kepes	\$9,900
Paul Kepes	\$9,900
Kermit King	\$25,000

No on 8:

Donors from Chicago area

Robert Castillo	\$100
John Pennycuff	\$100
Vernita Gray	\$150
Jonathan Lehman	\$1,000
Barry Love	\$1,726
Clark Pellett	\$8,000
David Herro	\$10,000
Fred Eychaner	\$925,000
- Partial list	

&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GAYSTOCKHOLM&GAYBUDAPEST&GAYSYDNEY&GAYVIENNA&GAYRIODEJANEIRO&GAYBERLIN&GAYMEXICOCITY&GAYHONGKONG&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GAYSTOCKHOLM&GAYBUDAPEST&GAYSYDNEY&GAYVIENNA&GAYRIODEJANEIRO&GAYBERLIN&GAYMEXICOCITY&GAYHONGKONG&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GAYSTOCKHOLM&GAYBUDAPEST&GAYSYDNEY&GAYVIENNA&GAYRIODEJANEIRO&GAYBERLIN&GAYMEXICOCITY&GAYHONGKONG&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GAYSTOCKHOLM&GAYBUDAPEST&GAYSYDNEY&GAYVIENNA&GAYRIODEJANEIRO&GAYBERLIN&GAYMEXICOCITY&GAYHONGKONG&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GAYSTOCKHOLM&GAYBUDAPEST&GAYSYDNEY&GAYVIENNA&GAYRIODEJANEIRO&GAYBERLIN&GAYMEXICOCITY&GAYHONGKONG&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GAYSTOCKHOLM&GAYBUDAPEST&GAYSYDNEY&GAYVIENNA&GAYRIODEJANEIRO&GAYBERLIN&GAYMEXICOCITY&GAYHONGKONG&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GAYSTOCKHOLM&GAYBUDAPEST&GAYSYDNEY&GAYVIENNA&GAYRIODEJANEIRO&GAYBERLIN&GAYMEXICOCITY&GAYHONGKONG&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GAYSTOCKHOLM&GAYBUDAPEST&GAYSYDNEY&GAYVIENNA&GAYRIODEJANEIRO&GAYBERLIN&GAYMEXICOCITY&GAYHONGKONG&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GAYSTOCKHOLM&GAYBUDAPEST&GAYSYDNEY&GAYVIENNA&GAYRIODEJANEIRO&GAYBERLIN&GAYMEXICOCITY&GAYHONGKONG&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GAYSTOCKHOLM&GAYBUDAPEST&GAYSYDNEY&GAYVIENNA&GAYRIODEJANEIRO&GAYBERLIN&GAYMEXICOCITY&GAYHONGKONG&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GAYSTOCKHOLM&GAYBUDAPEST&GAYSYDNEY&GAYVIENNA&GAYRIODEJANEIRO&GAYBERLIN&GAYMEXICOCITY&GAYHONGKONG&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GAYSTOCKHOLM&GAYBUDAPEST&GAYSYDNEY&GAYVIENNA&GAYRIODEJANEIRO&GAYBERLIN&GAYMEXICOCITY&GAYHONGKONG&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GAYSTOCKHOLM&GAYBUDAPEST&GAYSYDNEY&GAYVIENNA&GAYRIODEJANEIRO&GAYBERLIN&GAYMEXICOCITY&GAYHONGKONG&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GAYSTOCKHOLM&GAYBUDAPEST&GAYSYDNEY&GAYVIENNA&GAYRIODEJANEIRO&GAYBERLIN&GAYMEXICOCITY&GAYHONGKONG&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GAYSTOCKHOLM&GAYBUDAPEST&GAYSYDNEY&GAYVIENNA&GAYRIODEJANEIRO&GAYBERLIN&GAYMEXICOCITY&GAYHONGKONG&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GAYSTOCKHOLM&GAYBUDAPEST&GAYSYDNEY&GAYVIENNA&GAYRIODEJANEIRO&GAYBERLIN&GAYMEXICOCITY&GAYHONGKONG&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GAYSTOCKHOLM&GAYBUDAPEST&GAYSYDNEY&GAYVIENNA&GAYRIODEJANEIRO&GAYBERLIN&GAYMEXICOCITY&GAYHONGKONG&GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADRIDGAYBANGKOK&GAYCANCUN&GAYAMSTERDAM&GAYPRAGUE&GAYZURICH&GAYATHENS&GAYCAPETOWN&GAYACAPULCO&GAYCOPENHAGEN&GAYTELAVIV&GAYBARCELONA&GA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GAYPARIS&GAYLONDON&GAYTOKYO&GAYBUENOSAIRES&GAYROME&GAYMADR

Love and 8



On the night before the California Supreme Court heard arguments for and against the anti-same-sex-marriage initiative Proposition 8, gay-rights activists held "Eve of Justice" vigils around California. In San Francisco, advocates marched through the Castro neighborhood; and in Los Angeles, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa presided as several same-sex couples got "married" again; and in San Diego, Mayor Jerry Sanders announced that his daughter, Lisa, had become engaged to her partner, Meaghan Yaple.

John Pennycuff and Robert Castillo, a Chicago couple who married in California last year, returned to the state to participate in the vigil and to witness the court procedure. (See Castillo's op-ed on page 10.) Photos, including Stuart Milk—Harvey Milk's nephew (lower right)—and Robert Castillo, Cleve Jones and John Pennycuff (lower left), from Robert Castillo

PROP 8 from cover

Associate Justice Joyce Kennard suggested the rights of gays in this instance are "similar to a group of criminal defendants" in California's death penalty history. Although the California Supreme Court ruled in 1976 that the death penalty was unconstitutional, the voters, by initiative in 1977, instituted an even broader death-penalty law.

"It would appear to me that life—at least in my view—is a fundamental right and yet the people...restoring the death penalty was not considered a revision," said Kennard.

But Marshall countered. The death penalty, he said, was not reinstated for use against only one segment of criminal defendants, such as Blacks, but against all criminal defendants in death penalty cases. And San Francisco's Chief Deputy City Attorney Therese Stewart said weighing more heavily on the people's right to pass an initiative when fundamental rights are at stake is like "protecting the moat while allowing the castle to burn down."

An awkward moment for pro-gay attorneys came during the arguments of Christopher Krueger, who was representing the California Attorney General's office. Attorney General Jerry Brown supports equal marriage rights and has said he believes Prop 8 is unconstitutional; but Krueger was questioned heavily about Brown's disagreement that Prop 8 is a revision.

"On which side are you?" asked Justice Kennard, bluntly, before Krueger had a chance to even begin his argument. Krueger acknowledged that he considered himself on the side of those challenging Prop 8. And he tried to make the point that Prop 8 is an "unprecedented kind of amendment"—that it took away a fundamental right without a compelling need to do so.

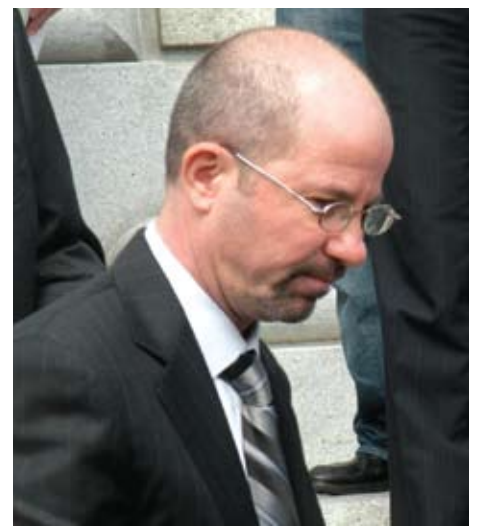
Kennard seemed to dismiss the argument as a "novel theory" and then the justices became mired in a discussion of what constitutes an "inalienable right"—something Krueger seemed to struggle with, too.

Kenneth Starr—best known as the independent counsel who investigated President Bill Clinton's statements concerning an alleged affair with intern Monica Lewinsky—represented those interested in preserving Prop 8. His point was simple: The voters have spoken.

"Rights are important," said Starr, "but they don't go to structure [of government]. ... Rights are ultimately defined by the people."

A second key issue in the case is what happens to the validity of the 18,000 or more marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples in California between June and November of last year, before Prop 8 was passed and went into effect.

Even Kennard, who seemed reluctant to strike



Shannon Minter leaves after arguing his case against Prop 8. Photo by Robert Castillo

down the initiative, seemed even more hesitant to declare those licenses invalid.

Starr argued that the purpose of the initiative was clearly intended to invalidate all same-sex marriages, including those licensed during the June to November time period before Prop 8 passed.

In fact, noted several justices, the 14 words of the initiative said just this: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." Language interpreting the purpose as intending to apply the initiative to same-sex marriages "regardless of when or where they are performed" appeared only in the middle of a campaign position paper on the measure.

"It was buried," said Kennard. "One cannot expect voters to be familiar with language that is buried somewhere in a rebuttal argument."

There was extraordinary interest in today's oral argument—so much so that, in several California cities, including Los Angeles, San Francisco and West Hollywood, large Jumbotron screens were erected outside and in large auditoriums to carry the broadcast of the courtroom live.

Gay-rights attorneys watching the arguments hold out hope for a positive—if split—decision. Jon Davidson of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund said justices often "wrestle with one another and use the lawyers as spoilers" in deliberating over a case. The three hours set aside for this argument, he noted, "[are] extraordinarily unusual."

"They're taking the case very, very seriously."

Evan Wolfson, head of the national Freedom to Marry group, said he was "very disappointed" to hear some of the justices suggest the only loss for gay couples was use of the word "marriage." That, he said, "really minimizes the harm that exclusion from marriage and the selective denial of fundamental rights inflicts on gay people."

And it was a disappointment driven home by Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, in his final remarks to the court. When Chief Justice Ronald George suggested the argument that gay couples were being denied rights was a bit disingenuous and may have been an argument chosen for strategic reasons, than legal ones, Minter was blunt.

"There is nothing strategic about the impact this decision will have on the lives of tens of thousands of same-sex couples and their children," said Minter. "Being relegated to a different legal status and singled out on the basis of a characteristic with no relationship to ability to participate marks [gay couples] as second-class citizens, and there is real harm done to their children. It will exacerbate exponentially the outsider status enshrined in our state constitution."

The California Supreme Court is also expected to issue its opinion within 90 days—or early June. Should it uphold Prop 8, it is also expected to render an opinion on the legal status of the 18,000 or so marriage licenses that were issued to same-sex couples between May and November of last year, before Prop 8 passed.

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Friday, March 20
7:30
Elizabeth Flock
Sleepwalking in Daylight

Saturday, March 21
7:30 p.m.
Sappho's Salon: A
Provocative Night of
Lesbian Diversions Presents
Pulp Fiction! Featuring
authors from Bold Strokes
Books, and DJ SpinNikki

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Russell Leander
ATR, LCPC
Counseling & Psychotherapy

Andersonville office
Weekend and evening hours
Insurance compatible

773-807-7734

Supporting Chicago's LGBT
mental health for twenty years.

World beat



Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights recently received a grant through the MacArthur Foundation's "Chicago International Connections Fund" to bring five global LGBT activists to Chicago for a month-long Human Rights and Organizational Leadership Fellowship. This project aims to build the capacity of global LGBT-rights activists through organized training workshops and hands-on experience with U.S.-based LGBT and HIV/AIDS service organizations.

In connection with this program, LGBT activists from Sri Lanka, Guatemala, Lebanon, Nigeria and Bangladesh will spend four weeks in Chicago. On March 8, these fellows—who include, from left, Georges Azzi (Lebanon), Rosanna Flamer-Caldera (Sri Lanka), Georges Kanuma (Burundi), Olumide Makanjuola (Nigeria) and Hasna Hena (Bangladesh)—met with community leaders at a private gathering March 8. The fellows will participate in a forum Tuesday, March 17, at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, 7-9 p.m.; e-mail tballentine@centeronhalsted.org or call 773-472-6469 X245.

Photo (from left: Makanjuola, Kanuma, Hena, Heartland Alliance's Sean Casey, Flamer-Caldera and Azzi) by Andrew Davis

Or Chadash's 'Magical Evening' March 14

Congregation Or Chadash will hold its annual benefit gala, "A Magical Evening," Saturday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the River View Room of the East Bank Club, 500 N. Kingsbury.

The congregation will mark its 33rd year and honor past president Susan Jacobson.

There will be a cash bar, dinner, dancing, magic and a silent auction, among other things. The attire is black tie-optional.

Tickets start at \$150. RSVP by March 1. See www.orchadash.org or contact Committee Chair Bill Wahler at 773-275-8064 or wwahler@aol.com.

Film company to receive Sable award

Kartemquin Films will be honored with the Ron Sable Award for Activism Friday, March 13 at the Chicago Cultural Center during the Crossroads Fund Annual Benefit.

Sable was a model donor and activist. He worked for gay and lesbian liberation, women's liberation, reproductive rights, just treatment of prisoners and national healthcare.

A private reception to meet award winners will be held 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. General admission begins at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$100 (\$30

for those with limited income). The award presentation will begin at 7:30 p.m. See www.CrossRoadsFund.org.

YPC holding workshops in March

Youth Pride Center (YPC) is holding youth-development workshops throughout March at 5480 S. Kenwood at 6-8 p.m.

Workshops include "Dating and Relationships 101" (March 12); "Youth Leadership 101" (March 19); and "Youth Organizing" (March 24).

The cost is free for YPC members. E-mail youthpridecenter@gmail.com.

Dignity/Chicago holding workshop on teaching

Dignity/Chicago is hosting a workshop on Catholic social teaching Saturday, March 14, 10-11:30 a.m., at Broadway United Methodist Church, 3344 N. Broadway.

Kevin Buckley, a member of the part-time faculty of DePaul University's School for New Learning will present. The workshop is free and open to the public. To register, call Dignity/Chicago at 312-458-9438 or e-mail DignityChicago@aol.com.

QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

"NOT ONLY IS IT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO LIVE, the most important thing to me is that I'm treated like a guy, like a regular person. They don't ask for autographs around here. I walk into a store or a restaurant and it's, 'Hey Barry!' They really take care of their little celebrities in this town." — *Barry Manilow to the Palm Springs gay magazine The BottomLine, Feb. 13.*

"I WAS THERE IN THE '70S WHEN SUDDENLY this very strange thing (AIDS) started happening to friends of mine. ... By 10 years into it I had lost half of my phone book. All these people that I had worked with and that I knew were gone, and at a relatively young age. I had never thought that I would be that close to death; it was shocking. ... So whenever anybody asks me to do something for this disease, I'm there." — *Barry Manilow to the Palm Springs gay magazine The BottomLine, Feb. 13.*

"I NEVER REALLY WANTED TO BE A POP SINGER. That job, singing on stage in makeup and everything—that's for other people; it wasn't for me. I was going to be a piano player, conductor, arranger, composer, but not standing in front of an audience. That was the last thing I ever thought I was going to be." — *Barry Manilow to the Palm Springs gay magazine The BottomLine, Feb. 13.*

"FRANKLY, I DON'T THINK ANN (COULTER) BELIEVES A SINGLE WORD SHE SAYS. She just loves the press. I used to do a really scary joke in my routine that I was having a bad day because I woke up from a dream where I was going down on Ann Coulter." — *Veteran lesbian comedian Kate Clinton to the gay newspaper Dallas Voice, Feb. 13.*

"MAYBE GAY PEOPLE SHOULDN'T TALK ABOUT BEING GAY ANYMORE. Maybe we should talk about heterosexist supremacy. Gay identity politics don't seem to be working. Instead, we should go after Christian fundamentalists. ... I'm just tired of our tactics. ... Let's make an amendment that divorce is a felony." — *Veteran lesbian comedian Kate Clinton to the gay newspaper Dallas Voice, Feb. 13.*

"ABRAHAM LINCOLN MAY HAVE BEEN THE FIRST AMERICAN to write about a same-sex couple getting married. His 1829 poem recounting the marriage of Nate and Billy was 'perhaps the most explicit literary reference to actual homosexual relations in 19th century America.' Lincoln's most important early biog-

rapher, William Herndon, initially included the poem in his *Life of Lincoln*, but as so often with gay subjects, it was subsequently omitted and largely ignored by later scholars." — *Freedom to Marry Executive Director Evan Wolfson writing at The Huffington Post, Feb. 11.*



Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImages Photography.com)

I don't think Ann (Coulter) believes a single word she says.

—Kate Clinton

"YOU HAVE TO HAVE A LOT OF FIRSTS IN LIFE, BUT THE FIRST 'GALIMONY?' It's one of my claims to fame. God had plans, I'll just go with them. The LGBT community is very important to me. If I've helped in a very small way, I'm very happy about that." — *Tennis legend Billie Jean King to Tennis.com, Feb. 16.*

"I WISH WE COULD GET A GUY AT THE TOP of his game just saying, 'I'm gay, let's move on, next.' But it's got to be while he's playing. While he's at the top of his game. But they're going to take a lot of heat, man. The first is always a breakthrough. There's always a shift when that happens. It's a little bit like an earthquake in a way. But it's not going to be as big an earthquake today as it would've been years ago. What the seismic equation is, I don't know." — *Tennis legend Billie Jean King to Tennis.com, Feb. 16.*

"I THINK THE REASON WHY WE SECULAR UNGODLY NEW YORKERS are soaking it (the Ted Haggard saga) in is we are tired of being judged by the holier-than-thou, finger-wagging preachers, (and) are feeling vindicated." — *Alexandra Pelosi (daughter of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi), who made a documentary about disgraced mega-church preacher Ted Haggard that is currently airing on HBO, to New York magazine, Jan. 29.*

"I'VE GOT A LONG LINE OF GIRLS who could testify that I am not gay." — *Country singer Kenny Chesney to Playboy, March issue.*

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

QUOTE ON

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

"BEING GAY AND HAVING A GAY FATHER definitely has its advantages. You don't feel like you're disappointing your parents, since they beat you to the punch." — *Competitor Mike White (son of activist Mel White) on TV's The Amazing Race, as quoted in the Feb. 27 issue of Entertainment Weekly.*

"CHICAGO IS THE ONLY theater town that I think is better than London." — *Movie director (and husband of Oscar winner Kate Winslet) Sam Mendes to Chicago Tribune reporter Mark*

Caro, as quoted in the newspaper's Feb. 24 issue.

"I REMEMBER WHAT CLOTHES HE WORE, which umbrella he had, how the weather was, how it smelled in that place, the temperature. It was winter but quite mild, and it rained—I have it all exactly in my head. Then our eyes met, and this looking in each other's eyes was the great beginning." — *Stefan Petzner, on the first time he met lover Jörg Haider, in the March 2009 issue of Details. Petzner and Haider were members of the far-right-wing group the Alliance for the Future of Austria.*

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**JIM
PICKETT**

LGBT health: An issue that could use a little attention

We are living in some thrilling times. The incredible grassroots energy around gay-marriage rights is nothing short of breathtaking. We—the LGBT community—are more organized than ever. (Thanks, Facebook!) And with a friend in the White House who cares about civil rights and science and education and the rule of law and actually *listens*, we are poised to make some serious progress, even as the global economy looks grimmer every day.

With all that said—I have a plea. Move LGBT health to the front of the line. Please.

Marriage rocks—but it won't fix the disparities our lovely rainbow faces. Many health professionals are not sensitive to LGBT health concerns and lack cultural competency and training in serving LGBT consumers. Because of homophobia, transphobia, stigma and discrimination, LGBT people often withhold critical personal information from healthcare providers which may lead to negative health outcomes.

Marriage rocks ... and marriage rolls—but it won't address the huge numbers of LGBT youth who face homophobic taunts and violence. According to a 2005 national survey released by GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network):

—Three-fourths of students heard remarks such as “faggot” or “dyke” used as an insult frequently or often at school;

—Over a third of students experienced physical harassment at school on the basis of sexual orientation; and

—Nearly one-fifth of students had been physically assaulted because of their sexual orientation.

The health impacts of this kind of systematic violence and harassment are obvious and lasting.

Marriage is a civil right for which many are fighting like hell. Huzzah for them and us. But marriage rights won't reduce our high rates of substance use/abuse—both licit and illicit. And they won't help a transman or transwoman access health insurance denied to them because of his or her sexual and gender identities.

Before anyone flips his or her wig, let me emphasize that I am in no way suggesting our movement replace marriage equality with LGBT health as a priority issue. Just let health *share the space* up to wedding day and beyond. It's not an “either/or.” It's a “both/and.” There's certainly room for us to focus on more than one important issue, right? And let's be clear: Health is an issue that impacts all us—the martyr' kind, and those content to never walk down the aisle who are happy and content with other ways to organize their loves, lusts, friends and relationships.

Health and healthcare access are fundamental human-rights issues. We must put the same activist fervor and creativity into support for comprehensive, culturally competent, quality, responsive healthcare that many of us devote to marriage rights. Let's share LGBT health issues on Facebook, tweet them on Twitter, blog them, march and rally and yell long and hard for healthcare that counts us, respects us and provides the care and prevention services we need and deserve.

This week is the 7th Annual National LGBT Health Awareness Week. With a theme of “Expect More,” the National Coalition for LGBT Health is calling on LGBT communities to educate ourselves about our unique health needs and point to available resources. Check out the Web site at www.lgbthealth.net/awarenessweek09/ to find ways you can make a difference today, tomorrow and the day after that.

This summer, Chicago will host the 2009 National LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex) Health Summit. Running Aug. 14-18, the summit will focus on “Health Through the Life Course” and is dedicated to preserving and improving the emotional, physical, spiritual, intellectual, psychological, environmental and social health and wellness of LGBTI people of all races, ages, and professional/non professional backgrounds; from urban and rural settings; representing every socioeconomic class.

The summit kicks off its first day with the Bi Health Summit, the purpose of which is to share knowledge about health issues affecting bisexuals and men and women who have multi-gendered sexuality, and to build health advocacy skills among bisexual people and our allies. (Visit the summit's Web site at www.2009lgbthealth.org for full information.)

Significantly, 2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. In the same way the riots kicked off four dynamic decades of gay activism around civil rights, summit organizers in Chicago hope for this gathering (*sans* broken bottles) to amp up awareness, advocacy, education and energy around the assets and challenges in our communities that impact our health outcomes.

“This anniversary is a significant milestone

in the LGBTI rights movement in the United States and a great time to focus on improving the health and well being of our diverse communities,” said Cat Jefcoat, summit co-chair and director of the Lesbian Community Care Project at Howard Brown Health Center.

This summit is the fourth of its kind. Philadelphia hosted the last National LGBTI Health Summit in 2007, and previous conferences have been held in Cambridge, Mass., and Denver. Local partners for the 2009 summit include AIDS Foundation of Chicago and Howard Brown Health Center, the organizational co-chairs. In addition, Center on Halsted, Test Positive Aware Network, Haymarket Center and the Chicago Department of Public Health's Office of LGBT Health are also involved in planning and outreach activities, among others.

According to Simone Koehlinger, the director of the Office of LGBT Health, “we are very excited to be a part of the summit planning. The LGBT community is not always used to focusing on and celebrating our health. In fact, we often battle messages that tell us that we don't matter or that we are inherently unhealthy. This event will serve as a strong antidote to those messages.”

“The summit is a great opportunity for LGBTIs and our allies to come together, examine ways we can increase the community's well-being, share our successes, and get re-energized about living to our fullest,” she continued.

After engaging in a series of workshops and activities involving bisexual visibility and well-being; sexual liberation, spirituality and marriage equality as a health strategy; self-care and meditation to culturally competent LGBTI mental health research, programming and administration; and the role of alcohol and other substances in our communities, participants will walk away from this summit with the tools to confidently navigate, educate and change the healthcare system.

Proposals for workshops and panel discussions for both the Bi Health Summit and the broader LGBTI Summit are being accepted at www.2009lgbthealth.org until March 31. The Web site is where individuals may also register, apply for scholarships, sign up to volunteer, and join in a number of planning activities already underway.

We look forward to broad participation at the summit. And in the meantime, we hope many will join us in giving LGBT health more than a little attention and make it a top priority for today, tomorrow and the day after that.

Jim Pickett is director of advocacy for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and is the 2009 National LGBTI Health Summit co-chair. See 2009lgbthealth.org for more info.

my life because I never thought I'd be able to do that in my lifetime—marry the man I love.

Later that same year, the California Supreme Court ruled that Newsom exceeded his authority and invalidated our and the other 4,000 same-sex marriages that were performed during the “Winter of Love.” Needless to say, we were devastated about been divorced against our will after only being married five months.

Now we find ourselves in a similar situation, but with a twist.

Last year, the California Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples could not be denied the right to marry and clerks all across the state began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Once again John and I made the nearly 2,000 mile journey and were married on June 27, 2008. We made it back in time to ride in Chicago's PRIDE Parade as a newlywed couple. We were thrilled to be married.

Then Prop 8 passed.

Last Nov. 5, same-sex couples were not able to legally marry in the state and the more than 18,000 same-sex marriages that were performed between June 16 and Nov. 4, including ours, were now in jeopardy which is why we made the trek this past week to be there when the fate of

our marriage was being discussed in California's highest court.

We were able to witness the hearings live in the auditorium after making our way through a very vocal crowd outside, both pro and con, that was there to see that both points of view were heard loud and clear. The hearings lasted for over three hours and watching the proceedings was fascinating, but it became clear to me that Prop 8 would probably not be invalidated and same-sex couples would no longer be able to marry for the time being.

But there was hope for us amid the proceedings. While the justices seem poised to uphold Prop 8, it was also pretty clear that they seem highly unlikely to invalidate the thousands of marriages performed prior to Prop 8's passage. And while I'm thrilled by that prospect, it is also troubling me. How do I hold on to something I've fought so long for while my brothers and sisters have had that right stripped away?

Robert Castillo is a longtime LGBT activist and began advocating for marriage equality for same-sex couples in 1991 when he and husband John Pennycuff went to the Cook County Marriage License bureau to request a marriage license.



**ROBERT
CASTILLO**

Prop 8: Thoughts from Calif.

Its Sunday and we're sitting in our hotel room preparing for our flight back home.

My husband John and I traveled to San Francisco to be there on March 5 when the California Supreme court heard arguments both for and against Proposition 8.

The irony for me is that March 5 is our first wedding anniversary; having traveled to San Francisco in 2004 and becoming one of the 4,000 same-sex couples married after Mayor Gavin Newsom directed the county to begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. That day was one of the most amazing days in

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“Windy City Media Group generated enormous interest among their readers in this year's LGBT Consumer Index Survey. Out of approximately 100 print and online media partners who participated in the survey, *Windy City* was the best performing regional media in the U.S. Only survey partners with a nationwide footprint were able to generate a greater number of responses.” —David Marshall, Research Director, Community Marketing, Inc.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by
Kat Fitzgerald
(MysticImages
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com)

PASS AND VEIL

Performers get a leg up at the third annual Chicago Takes Off striptease fundraiser. See much more on page 22.

THEATER

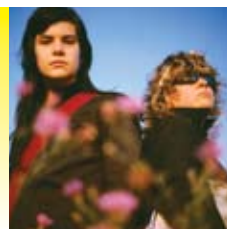
'Girl' power.
Page 12.

Photo by Michael Brosilow



MUSIC

Pack and forth.
Page 16.



DVDs

'Milk' man.
Page 17.

Photo by Phil Bray

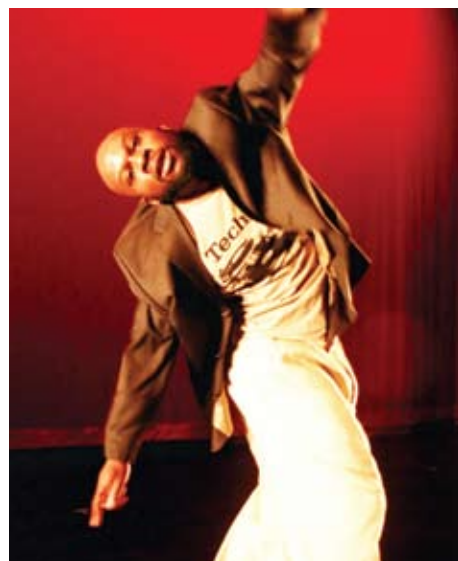


Dancin' Feats

BY ZACHARY WHITTENBURG

As often as it's attempted, the joining of dance and spoken text is a difficult symbiosis to achieve. Choreography and narrative typically fly along in parallel paths but at different altitudes, the audience left to figure out how they are meant to inform one another. In "the break/s: a mixtape for the stage" **Marc Bamuthi Joseph** pops, locks, glides, speaks, rhymes and sings an environment where borders between these realms of performance are no longer visible—he becomes a vessel through which his story pours forth in all channels. As he describes it: "By taking a myriad view of the self, I'm able to really access the emotional diversity that I think we all experience in our lives." Working behind 20 years of experience in dance—tap, ballet, jazz, modern, West African, Afro-blah blah blah—Joseph enlisted fellow Bay Area artist and longtime friend Stacey Printz in making sure his nonstop dancing through an evening-length solo would reinforce his story: Encountering hip-hop and himself through a journey around the world. He noted that, as dancers of a similar physicality and skill set, the transition between her creation of material and his embodiment of it was as natural an experience as a choreographer and dancer could hope to have.

"Then," he added, "we got together in the studio and my process was to present her with a whole lot of themes: I said we're going to these countries, and I'm working with these images. What I told her was that the piece has a sense of narcolepsy to me—a lot of the piece exists in a waking dream space and so by giving her concepts she was free to create what worked well within that conceptual framework. She composed and taught me about eight different sketches. I came to the point where my writing was developing and I was able to secure myself in the movement at a particular time. So the concepts came first, then came the movement, independently of that I was working on text,



Marc Bamuthi Joseph. Photo by Umi Vaughan

and when we came together it was clear that such-and-such a movement fit with such-and-such text. She developed this gesture phrase and I was like, 'Oh, that happens here when I'm talking about my grandmother,' or 'That happens here, when I'm in Paris talking about this South African woman,' and I think that I have an advantage in conveying the truth of the moment because my words are linear and literal. Even though it's in verse and there's metaphor imbedded within, I'm speaking the literal truth of the moment, and then I'm able to use my body as the figurative agent in the moment. And so there doesn't have to be a one-to-one relationship: I can use the choreographic sketches to revisit a theme, to make an allusion to a theme that we've experienced earlier on and use it as a counterpoint. I've studied enough choreography to where I understand choreographic devices, I get all these languages of theater, so that helps tremendously toward the end product." It certainly does.

Marc Bamuthi Joseph performs the break/s: a mixtape for the stage at the Museum of Con-

temporary Art, 220 E. Chicago, March 26-28 at 7:30 p.m.; tickets are \$25. For more information visit www.mcachicago.org, and listen to Dancin' Feats' conversation with Joseph in its entirety at www.trailerpilot.com.

If you've never seen **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** at the Auditorium—the New York company comes here at least every other year—this certainly isn't the visit to miss. All over the world the company is celebrating its 50th anniversary and as such is bringing dozens of classic and new works sure to bring the house down. Company dancer Hope Boykin collaborated this season with beloved *a capella* group Sweet Honey in the Rock, who will sing its original score for "Go in Grace" live on opening night. The evening also includes George Faison's "Suite Otis" and the company's signature work, "Revelations," although six unique programs through the weekend make it difficult to choose only one. A full rundown is available online at www.auditoriumtheatre.org.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater performs at the Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress, April 1-5; tickets are \$30-82.

And, as if that isn't enough, the calendar this month also includes:

—**REALITY**, David Roussève's acclaimed multicultural, multimedia dance theater company, is bringing its new work "Saudade" to the Dance Center at Columbia College, 1306 S. Michigan, March 12-14 at 8 p.m.; \$24.

—Former Thodos Dance Chicago member Brock Clawson's "Give & Take" for **Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago** premieres along with "Brand New Day," created by the Giordano dancers to Ira Antelis' choral piece (to be performed live by over 30 students from the Sacred Heart and other area schools). Jon Lehrer's "A Ritual Dynamic" and Christopher Huggins' "Pyrokinesis" are also on the bill. At the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph, March 13 & 14 at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$25; visit www.harristheaterchicago.org for more info.

—Laura Kariotis and Madeline J. Renwick's **NoMi LaMad Dance** presents VIP Only at the

Ruth Page Center for the Arts, 1016 N. Dearborn, March 13 & 14 at 7:30 p.m. \$25.

—Love **Link's Hall**? Of course you do. Show them how much by attending their annual benefit, THAW, March 19 at Sonotheque, 1444 W. Chicago. From 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., \$30 will get you drinks, bites and an enormous assortment of some of our city's finest and most inventive performing artists. Honestly, admission to this event should cost three times what it does—don't miss it. See www.linkshall.org.

—**Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's** Artistic Director Jim Vincent made big news with the recent announcement that he'll be leaving the company to assume leadership at Nederlands Dans Theater in the Hague this fall. March 27-28 at 8 p.m., the company performs at the McAnich Arts Center, 425 Fawell, Glen Ellyn, and April 1-5 at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance with a spring repertory program that includes world premieres by Vincent, Jorma Elo and HSDC member Alejandro Cerrudo. Visit www.hubbardstreetdance.com for more info.

—Get global at the Old Town School of Folk Music's **World Dance Night** on March 27. Featuring Africaribe, Highland Dance Academy of Chicago, Kathy Cowan & Concert Dance Inc., Chicago BrickHEADZ, Nicole Gifford Dance & JG3, PACHACAMAC Folklore Ballet, Melissa Mallinson & Chris Walz, and Big City Swing, satisfaction is all but guaranteed. The event starts at 8 p.m., 4544 N. Lincoln; \$14-18.

—The women call the shots for **Luna Negra Dance Theater's** next program: Artistic Director Eduardo Vilario launched the Latina Choreographers Project in 2006 and this month's show proudly features each of the dances it's commissioned so far alongside a world premiere by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, "Nube Blanco (White Cloud)." It's at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, March 28 at 8 p.m.; \$25-55. More information on this terrific evening and the Latina Choreographers Project is at www.lunanegra.org.



Mauritius. Photo by Michael Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW

Mauritius

Playwright: Theresa Rebeck

At: Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie, Skokie

Phone: 847-673-6300; \$25-\$55

Runs through: April 5

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

In the world of philately, a pair of stamps issued by a tiny British colony in 1847 is “the Holy Grail” of the album-and-tweezers set. A Blue Mauritius or a Red Mauritius commands millions at auction and, together, even more. When Jackie—a young woman who knows nothing about stamps—brings a pristine matched pair to a neighborhood philately shop, it initiates a chain of largely unpleasant but entertaining events. First, Jackie and her estranged half-sister, Mary, both claim ownership of the stamps and things get physical. Then, marginal stamp dealer Den-

nis brokers an off-the-books sale of the stamps to shadowy businessman Sterling, an obsessive philatelist with a vicious streak. Finally, the shop owner, Philip, has his own spoiler agenda in the plot-counterplot tale.

When award-winning playwright Theresa Rebeck is in top form, she’s sharp as a tack, which she is about half the time in *Mauritius*, most notably in the elegantly tense cat-and-mouse game in which Jackie and Sterling—both incendiary personalities—negotiate with each other. As played by Anne Adams and Lance Baker, the Act II scene easily is the highlight of the show, with the threat of explosive confrontation always thisclose.

But Rebeck misses as often as she hits despite a sound premise and intriguing subject matter (not so much the stamps themselves but the possessiveness and power play they inspire). There are several scenes I simply do not believe, although not for lack of solid acting by a veteran cast under director Rick Snyder. When Dennis, whom Jackie barely knows, shows

up at her house unannounced, Jackie and Mary and not only let him stay but proceed to argue in front of him. It just doesn’t ring true. Two scenes later—minus Dennis—Jackie and Mary have the same argument again. Throughout the play, there is a distinct lack of character development. Sterling, Mary and Philip are entertaining but strictly two-dimensional types while the relationship between Jackie and Dennis only hints at the deeper connection Rebeck wants us to sense. Frankly, *Mauritius* feels as though it needs another pass through Rebeck’s computer.

I believe *Mauritius* is intended to be a brutal and arch high comedy, but it’s not always played as such in this production. Director Snyder has chosen to develop the crackling tension of the work and its numerous power reversals rather than its full comic potential. It’s a valid choice, although I don’t entirely agree with it even as skillfully played by Gary Houston (masterly acerbic as Philip), Suzanne Lang (wonderfully thick as Mary) and Dan Kuhlman (sleazily ingratiating as Dennis) in addition to Adams and Baker. But with such a troupe—and with Tom Burch’s handsomely dark and spare, brick-backed scenic design—*Mauritius* has the right stuff to be an audience-pleaser despite my quibbles.

THEATER REVIEW

The Shape of a Girl

Playwright: Joan MacLeod

At: Pegasus Players, 1145 W. Wilson

Phone: 773-878-9761; \$17-\$25

Runs through: April 12

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

We generally picture a schoolyard bully as a boy, but there are bully girls, too. This play—based on 1990’s headline-making incidents in Vancouver, Canada—explores the psychology of girl-on-girl violence. However, author Joan MacLeod is too clever to portray the bully or her victim directly. Instead, this one-woman play goes after the girl who is friend to both and becomes the enabler of cruelty. By the end of the play, 15-year-old Braidie loathes what she has allowed to happen, but it’s too late. It’s fascinating, power-

ful, well-written material that demands an interpreter who is ingratiating, vulnerable, youthful and defensive. Under director Ilesa Duncan, Alice Wedoff creates just such a fully-dimensional character, a young woman who is infuriating and frightening.

Braidie’s not into smoke, drink, drugs or even sex. So what’s going on? Well, home is dysfunctional with a frequently absent father and a haranguing mother whom Braidie calls “the Voice of Mum.” Understanding the family dysfunction would help us understand Braidie, but that’s not the fish MacLeod fries. This one’s not about family but about friends.

Braidie has grown up with Adrienne and Sophie and has come to follow and idolize the wilder (smoke, drink, sex) Adrienne, the alpha female. Sophie, for her part, has become the emotional punching bag for the others. Lacking gumption and seemingly devoid of personality (as Braidie describes her), Sophie evidences a need to be punished by others as well as herself. Again, MacLeod isn’t interested in why, only in the fact of it. Both Adrienne and Braidie are cruel to Sophie, but as Adrienne’s violence turns physical, Braidie quite literally looks the other way. She is profound enough to wonder why it’s all necessary—why Adrienne needs to hurt, why Sophie needs to be hurt and why she herself allows the hurt to happen when she might stop it. When Adrienne’s violence finally goes too far, and a cloak of silence enshrouds the school, Braidie is left to ponder, “The friend I love is gone. All that’s left is the shape of a girl.”

That’s a great deal of sobering material to pack into a 75-minute play, yet MacLeod’s dialogue never smacks of having been written by an adult. Her ear for, and sense of, adolescent personality are utterly brilliant and darkly captivating. The wonder is that it also manages to be entertaining, especially in the convincing interpretation cooked up by Duncan and Wedoff.

The richly detailed setting by Richard and Jacqueline Penrod provides a sandy waterfront patch beneath a hulking, rotting pier. It’s warm yet grotty and perhaps emblematic of the social rot the play reveals, but it nearly overwhelms. One wonders why Duncan felt the need for such nearly-life-sized massiveness.



The Shape of a Girl. Photo by Michael Brosilow

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CRITICS' PICS

Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, through May 10. You gotta love a show that rhymes “fratricide” with “take them all for a ride.” Beyond the catchy lyrics, director Marc Robin instills Andrew Lloyd Webber’s chestnut with fresh humor and hilariously ingenious original touches. If you aren’t smiling by the end, something’s amiss. CS

Mariette In Ecstasy, Lifeline Theatre, through April 5. Even if your notions of Catholic clergy are limited to *The Thorn Birds* and *Nunsense*, Lifeline’s look at girl-group psychology in a cloistered community raises issues relevant to sacred and secular societies alike. MSB

The Robber Bridegroom, Griffin Theatre, through March 29. Eudora Welty gave this classic European fairy tale a pre-Civil War South spin—conveyed in this spritely, pleasing, cartoon-like musical version—reminding us of the duality of male and female alike. JA

Xanadu, Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place; through March 29. It may be based upon the one of the worst movie musicals ever made, but this adaptation truly is high-camp heaven on roller skates. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge, Morgan and Sullivan



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Bartleby the Scrivener. Photo courtesy of Mary-Arrchie Theatre

THEATER REVIEW

Bartleby the Scrivener

Playwright: Adapted by R.L. Lane
from Herman Melville's short story
At: Mary-Arrchie Theatre
at Angel Island, 735 W. Sheridan
Phone: 773-871-0442; \$18-\$22
Runs through: April 11

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

You think Moby Dick is challenging? Herman Melville's novella *Bartleby the Scrivener* makes the symbol-stuffed tale of the whale seem as facile as a nursery rhyme. In *Bartleby*, Melville creates a character who seems as motive-free as a stone, a man whose extraordinary supreme passive-aggressiveness has no limit and, seemingly, no origin. "I prefer not to," is Bartleby's

mantra. His story is that of a man who opts out of everything life requires except for involuntary bodily functions such as breathing.

Mary-Arrchie's static staging of the story won't shed any light on the mystery. Adapted by R. L. Lane, the piece offers the audience nothing in the way of insight into the title character's cryptic mindset. Through a series of short scenes, we get the bare-bones outline of a story rather than a full, engaging narrative. We see what happens, but with no context or nuance, the events that transpire don't have any significance. As for the title character (a zombie-like Kevin V. Smith), he's so inscrutable he's a bore—a man who affects a perfectly bland poker face despite the fact that he isn't involved in any sort of high-stakes (or even low-stakes) game of chance, metaphorical or otherwise.

Hamstrung by an ineffective adaptation, there's not a lot director Richard Cotovsky can do to inject life into the proceedings. The cast

consists of Bartleby, his attorney boss and his fellow scriveners—men who copy documents at a Wall Street firm. As veteran copyist Turkey, Leonard Kraft breaks up the otherwise monotonous proceedings with droll and dire ruminations on parallels between the present-day and ancient Greece ("Remember Carthage," he intones at one point, with a marvelously gloomy solemnity). But with the exception of Kraft and—to a lesser degree—Daniel Behrendt as a young Wall Street turk, the actors wear their characters like ill-fitting costumes rather than second skins. When they emote, feelings seem put on from without rather than organically rising from within. And when Bartleby finally cracks—momentarily—the sudden sound and fury is as baffling and insignificant as his behavior as the quintessential no-man.

As Bartleby's boss Standard, Todd Lahrman is also a blank slate of a character. Why doesn't he fire Bartleby immediately after it becomes clear that the scrivener has no intention of doing the work he was hired for? Why does he waffle for days, paying Bartleby for staring at the walls? Muttering something about "humanity" in a final scene hardly suffices as an explanation—or even the raw beginnings of one.

Watching the production is akin to watching something you don't understand or care much about mutate in a Petri dish—weirdly interesting for about 30 seconds but, in the end, pointless.

THEATER REVIEW

New Anatomies

Playwright: Timberlake Wertenbaker
At: 20% Theatre Company at
the Apollo Studio, 2540 N. Lincoln
Phone: 773-935-6100; \$20
Runs through: March 28

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Attempts to package Isabelle Eberhardt as a proto-feminist martyr have usually met with failure. The journals of the Swiss wayfarer who roamed the Algerian desert under the alias of Si Mahmoud, a Tunisian student of Eastern theology, reveal no manifesto for improving the lot of women as a community. Indeed, Eberhardt's adventures appear to have been essayed solely in pursuit of self-discovery, with her place in a contradictory universe still eluding her upon her death in a flash flood at the untimely age of 27.

Timberlake Wertenbaker's play is neither straightforward biodrama nor gynecentric hagiography, its structure chiefly providing a context for her subject's activities during the years from 1897 to 1904: a near-itinerant family comprised of a politically-radical alcoholic Russian father, passive German mother, upwardly-mobile sister, and a beloved brother with whom Eberhardt shared an extensive, if haphazard, education, along with an intense quasi-incestuous cama-

raderie. A French colonialist government whose xenophobia barely conceals uncertainty over its future among increasingly hostile indigenous tribes—tensions exacerbated by the eccentric Eberhardt's notoriety. An assortment of cross-dressing female socialites in fashionable Paris—music-hall "trouser acts," remittance-funded aristocrats, lesbian literati and thrill-seeking dilettantes—whose "liberated" company Eberhardt finds no less strictly regimented.

Wertenbaker's portrait of Eberhardt confronts us with a scruffy ganymede who curses, spits, smokes kif and engages in promiscuous man-boy sex ("No Europeans up my arse!"), making a Legion officer's sexual advances offensive, but hardly unexpected. The 20% Theatre Company's focus is gender issues, however, its name deriving from statistics reflecting still-existing inequities in the field of American arts. Under Elizabeth Schwan-Rosenwald's direction, the five women who play all the characters, male and female, retain their own voices and mannerisms, drawing our attention to their text's intellectual dimensions. And if their efforts occasionally take on the twee ambience of a girls' club pageant, the ensemble nevertheless acquits itself with poise and industry (especially Jodi Wonio Kingsley as a vaudeville warbler of Kipling-esque period ditties, who turns quickly femme when faced with a parlorful of Sapphites).

The popularity of *New Anatomies* can be partly attributed to its opportunities for young actresses, but the enigma of Eberhardt herself is what continues to intrigue us. Whether she was a tourist on a counterculture spree, or a lonely pilgrim searching for sanctuary, she remains her own person, first and last, and her journey through this temporal world forever unfulfilled.



Angela Bassett.

Angela Bassett to accept award

Actress Angela Bassett (*What's Love Got to Do with It*, *Malcolm X*, *Notorious*, *Akeelah and the Bee*, and TV's *Alias* and *ER*) will be among those honored at The Theatre School (TTS) at DePaul University's 21st Annual Awards for Excellence in the Arts, Tuesday, April 28, at the Four Seasons Hotel, 120 E. Delaware, 6-9 p.m.

Bassett will accept the 2009 Award for Excellence in the Arts. Director/actor Dennis Dugan (*I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*, *Big Daddy*) will receive the 2009 Alumni Award for Excellence in the Arts.

The ticket price for the benefit is \$500 each, with tables for 10 starting at \$5,000. For tickets or more information, call PJH & Associates, Inc., at 312-553-2000.

'Gayrilla Warfare' at Mary's Attic

The Alliance, a local gay/straight sketch group, is announcing the debut of its full-length sketch revue, *Gayrilla Warfare*. The 50-minute show is slated to run every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. throughout April at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark.

Tickets are \$10 each. Visit thealliancecomedy.wordpress.com for more information.

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The Solid Gold Cadillac. Photo by Paul Metreyeon

THEATER REVIEW

The Solid Gold Cadillac

Playwright: George S. Kaufman and Howard Teichmann
At: Open Eye Productions at the Athenaeum, 2936 N. Southport
Phone: 773-935-6860; \$20
Runs through: April 5

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Scholarly playgoers under 30 may want to consult a glossary before seeing this museum piece from 1953. After all, we are talking an era of dictaphones, typewriters (manual, not electric), mimeograph machines and answering services, when advertisements for industrial materials—or just about anything, for that matter—featured scantily-clad bimbos, when a CEO salary of \$175K was an outrageous sum, and newscasters smoked cigarettes on-camera. What requires no re-orientation, however, is the notion of corporate conglomerates being run by self-serving crooks.

The squad of greedheads on the board of General Products (“If General Products doesn’t make it, there’s no money in it”) are enjoying the benefits extended them by the company founder’s absence after having been called to Washington. At their first stockholder’s meeting, however, a middle-aged matron owning a petty 10 shares begins to question their decisions. Their solution is to hire her, at a starting wage of—gasp!—\$400 a week, to oversee “stockholder relations”—a mythical post designed to keep

her occupied and out of the way. But gradually, this humble citizen’s enthusiasm, resourcefulness and down-home values land her not only a multi-millionaire boyfriend, but power beyond her most extravagant dreams.

This populist parable is presented by its authors as a modern-day fairy tale—a framing device fully justifying Open Eye Productions’ loony-tunes approach to its text. But if the popularity of television’s *Mad Men*, the latter set a decade *after* our play’s period, make for some anachronisms—the length of the women’s skirts, for one—Open Eye’s replication of a world at once distant and familiar is sufficiently accurate to locate us while avoiding the distractions of gratuitous nostalgia. (If your suspension of disbelief can handle a tycoon’s assertion that his experience in the federal government taught him to be *honest*, you’ll be fine.)

Maintaining the pace demanded of screwball comedy is no easy task; its challenge, in this case, is compounded by the reconfiguration of a three-act text to a cool one hour and 45 minutes (with intermission). Director Chris Maher has assembled a cast adept at keeping character and traction at high speeds—among them, Sara Sevigny (recently seen in the Hypocrites’ roller-coaster *Threepenny Opera*) playing the reluctant reformer, ably supported by Kevin Grubb as her enlightened capitalist swain, Neal Starbird as GP’s chief slimeball and a delightfully acerbic Dean Peerman as our waspish storybook-wielding narrator.

SPOTLIGHT



Teatro Luna’s revival of *MACHOS* was so successful last season for the 16th Street Theatre that Chicago’s all-Latina theater company was invited back. This time, Teatro Luna’s *S-e-x-Oh!* is on tap with a bold, ensemble-based look at sex, gender and sexuality from a multiple Latina viewpoints. *S-e-x-Oh!* plays 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 5 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 5 p.m. Sundays through March 29 at the 16th Street Theatre at Berwyn Cultural Center, 6420 16th, Berwyn. Tickets are \$16; call 708-795-6704 or visit www.16thstreettheater.org. Photo of the cast of Teatro Luna’s *S-e-x-Oh!* courtesy of Teatro Luna

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BY DAVID BYRNE AND TONY PEREGRIN

How did an Oscar nomination for best original song elude **Bruce Springsteen**? The piece *The Wrestler* from the film of the same name has the New Jersey songwriter at his best. His latest, *Working on a Dream*, displays the boss's knack at capturing the troubled American spirit. One of the album's shining moments is the harmonica-driven "Good Eye." Also included here as a bonus track is the Golden Globe-winning number "The Wrestler." *Working on a Dream* is out now on Columbia. Springsteen is currently on tour with the E Street Band with a stop at The United Center, 1901 W. Madison, on Tuesday, May 12.

British tabloid fixture **Lily Allen** follows up her debut, *Alright, Still*, with the much anticipated *It's Not Me, It's You*. On this top 10 album, the "Smile" singer continues to collaborate with Greg Kurstin (the bird and the bee). But this time around, Allen opts for him to be the sole producer. Never mind her light voice; beware of Allen's razor-sharp tongue as she combines wit with acute observations. There is no chance misinterpreting the cutesy "Fuck You" and the ode to her often-absent father, "He Wasn't There," which has jazz undertones. This sophomore effort is highlighted by the energetic opener "Everyone's at It" and the lead single "The Fear," both of which are welcome turns to electronic leanings. Allen is slated to take to the stage at The Riviera, 4750 N. Broadway, on Sunday, April 12, with Natalie Portman's *Shaved Head* opening.

Certain venues allow an intimacy with an artist, whereby storytelling comes easy. One such place is The Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln, and **Bob Mould** will be there on Sunday, March 29, with an acoustic set. Mould has such a rich history with music, approaching the 30-year anniversary that his former band Husker Du first took to the stage. The former Sugar frontman is touring to promote the rock-heavy *Life and Times*, due April 7. Here, his ninth solo album, Mould makes all self-proclaimed punk acts step back to hail his talent on *Argos*. The out artist is back to rock 'n roll basics, as heard on "MM 17," "Spiraling Down" and the exceptional "Bad Blood Better." Also, Mould is co-writing his autobiography with Michael Azerrad to be published by Little, Brown and Company next year.

British duo **The Ting Tings** caused quite a stir last summer with a buzz-worthy performance at

Lollapalooza. The easy-on-the-eyes pair consists of Katie White on vocals and guitar and Jules De Martino on drums and vocals. Returning to Chicago with a sold-out show at the Metro, 3730 N. Clark, on Sunday, April 5, the Ting Tings has taken to the airwaves with its quirky alternative pop ditties. Eighties favorites "My Sharona" meets "Mickey" on the infectious "That's Not My Name" and Chic's trademark riff inspires "Shut up and Let Me Go." Both are from The Ting Tings' debut, *We Started Nothing*.

Another one of the highlights from last year's Lollapalooza was seeing a sea of people enjoy **Bloc Party's** set. This British queer-fronted quartet is back stateside touring again with a date at The Aragon Ballroom, 1106 W. Lawrence, on Saturday, March 28. The group's third outing, *Intimacy*, shows the band is not just straight-up stadium rock by offering the experimental *Biko* and intimate *Signs*.

Last year Canadian blues-rock duo **The Pack A.D.** delivered an intensely riveting concert, even though vocalist and guitarist Becky Black was battling a cold. Drummer Maya Miller kept both beat and bassline magnificently, as Black played the six-string as if from the White Stripes and Johnny Lee Hooker school of blues and simultaneously wailing like a coherent Janis Joplin. The pair's sophomore venture, *Funeral Mixtape Vol. 1*, shows great strides since its predecessor thanks to the outstanding "Shiny Things" and the epic "Making Gestures." On top of SXSW commitments, the Pack A.D. has a new album in the works and will be headlining at The Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western, on Sunday, March 29.

Last month **Rob Nicholas** opened for Kirsten Price. This Chicagoan filled the packed hall with his warm, accessible sound, coming across as such grounded acts as Hootie and the Blowfish and Crosby, Still and Nash. During his set, Nicholas introduced promising new material from his forthcoming EP. Nicholas will be at The Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont, Thursday, March 19. For more information, please visit myspace.com/robnicholasmusic.

Canadian songbird **Sarah McLachlan** has an impressive catalog and will be canonized forever more as the founder of The Lilith Fair Tour. In 2008 the "Possession" singer issued her first hits retrospective and released a limited edition of *Fumbling Towards Ecstasy*. On Tuesday, March 25, The Ladies of the Canyon Presents will tip its hat to McLachlan with a tribute concert at Fitzgerald's, 6615 Roosevelt, Berwyn. In November, after a night of celebrating Pat Benatar's contributions to the industry, Ingrid Gaudins sang a stirring version of McLachlan's *Angel* as a precursor to the outfit's next honoree. The Ladies of the Canyon Presents showcase features talented Chicago-based female singer-songwriters, who convivially salute the great women of music. For more information, please visit myspace.com/lotcchicago.



Bob Mould.
Photo by Noah Kalina

KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

From Brokeback Mountain to Milk

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

I was in college when I read the news that gay activist Harvey Milk and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone had been shot in 1978, but in the years that followed his death I have to admit I didn't think much about him. The next time I did was after watching the moving and powerful 1984 documentary *The Times of Harvey Milk*. This was one night many years after the movie had won the Oscar for Best Documentary and came at the height of the AIDS crisis. It was also the height of the group ACT UP and, not long after seeing the documentary, I remember someone at one of the mega marches that happened here in the late '80s shouting, "Remember Harvey Milk!" and then saying wistfully, "It's too bad Harvey isn't here to lead the march." I turned to ask the man if he had known Harvey and what had ever happened to that movie about Harvey's life I kept hearing about? But he was already down the block, swept along with the other protesters.

Rumors of Milk's story coming to the screen appeared periodically over the years and I eagerly followed them. At one point Robin Williams was announced to play Harve—a stupendous choice—but nothing came of it. Next I heard that Tom Cruise wanted to play Dan White and that Oliver Stone was attached to direct. No, he wasn't. Yes, he was. No. Eventually, rumors about any Milk biopic fell off the radar screen.

In the meantime gay cinema in the mainstream suddenly caught fire in 2005. Not only did we get the first critically lauded and financially successful gay-themed movie, *Brokeback Mountain*, but it was joined that year by a slew of other movies with LGBT themes. I reviewed over 25 of these alone in 2005 and that year's Oscar nominations included not just *Brokeback* but *Capote* and *Transamerica*. Although *Brokeback* won in several categories, it lost the top prize to *Crash* and Heath Ledger lost to Philip Seymour Hoffman in *Capote* (and here's a bit of ironic reversal—Hoffman lost this year to Ledger, who was awarded posthumously for *The Dark Knight*).

It seemed for a brief period at the end of 2005 that mainstream acceptance was going to finally come for LGBT-themed pictures. But as gay icon Bruce Vilanch reminded me during an interview, "These things are special events. They only come along once in a great while." So, though I reviewed nearly as many LGBT-focused films in 2006, not one of them received the critical acclaim or mainstream acceptance of the movies the previous year. That's pretty much been the case since 2005, and I've come to think of the intervening years with their skimpy movies releases aimed at LGBT audiences as the "broken promise of *Brokeback Mountain*."

But I should have taken longtime Oscar award ceremony scribe Vilanch's words to heart and patiently waited. (After all, who else from the gay community has had a front row seat when it comes to the movies for quite as long?) When word seeped out that not only was Harvey Milk's



Michelle Williams and Heath Ledger in *Brokeback Mountain*.

story finally going to be made but would be directed by Gus Van Sant, star Sean Penn, have Cleve Jones as its technical adviser and feature a first-time script by an openly gay writer, it seemed too good to be true. For me, the result is a movie where reality has surpassed my dreams. *Milk* is all there, quietly told with a minimum of fuss, beautifully relayed in Van Sant's unvarnished, unfussy style. I hasten to add that the movie—which I termed an "unadorned masterpiece" in my original review (boy, is it ever)—is never just a dry history lesson. It's also sexy, funny, illuminating and, of course, powerful and emotionally overwhelming.

Hasn't it been great to see the man many have termed the "gay Martin Luther King" so lovingly and respectfully portrayed on the screen? Hasn't it been great to have our straight friends and family members embrace this gay hero at long last? And how about them Oscars? Dustin Lance Black's speech after winning for Original Screenplay was a vivid highlight and it was a joyful moment and victory for Our People, indeed, when Sean Penn won over Mickey Rourke in the upset of the evening (and Penn forever won my heart when he started his acceptance speech with an exuberant, "You Commie, homo-loving sons of guns!" and then went on to shame those who continue to hold the line against gay civil rights). Even though Milk lost in several categories these wins seemed to momentarily remedy the years of slights and denigrations.

But we're not there yet: Milk hasn't done all that well in theatres and—let's face it—movies are as much about business and financial success as anything else. So turning Milk into a financial hit, which we can do with the just-released DVD (from Universal Home Video), is going to be important and help insure that more LGBT-themed movies get made. The disc includes three very inspiring featurettes—"Remembering Harvey," "Hollywood Comes to San Francisco" and "Marching For Equality"—and a few deleted scenes. Although I'm disappointed a commentary track with Van Sant, Black, cast members or historical consultant Cleve Jones wasn't included, this is obviously one of those movies you gotta have in the collection—not only to offer support a film that's so clearly "one of our own" but to take out from time to time and watch, remember, enjoy and be moved all over again. Though we lost one of our brightest lights much too soon, at least we have both *The Times of Harvey Milk* (another must-have) and *Milk* to help fill the void. Both are films to pass on to future generations and provide wonderful, inspirational examples from gay history for all the world to see.

Check out my archived reviews at www.windycitytimes.com or www.knightatthemovies.com. Readers can leave feedback at the latter Web site.

MOVIE REVIEW

Watchmen

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Who do you suppose, out of the literally hundreds of behind the scenes technicians who worked on the computer-graphics spectacular *Watchmen*, got the enviable job of creating the penis for the character of the big blue superhero Dr. Manhattan? Well, not only created it but got to make it flop up and down in scene after scene as Dr. Manhattan is shown striding around? That's where my thoughts drifted as the endless bloated botch that is *Watchmen* played on and on and on again. Clocking in at just under three hours but feeling more like five, Dr. Manhattan's appendage was the most striking visual that I walked away with. (What red-blooded gay male would suggest otherwise?) Not that there aren't beautiful images and compelling moments here and there.

The inherent problem with director Zack Snyder's film adaptation of what we have been told repeatedly is the "most popular graphic novel of all time" is that the script by David Hayter and Alex Tse doesn't take into account the millions of moviegoers who have *not* read the "most popular graphic novel of all time" and haven't a clue as to how the myriad characters fit together or why we should give a rat's ass about any of them. A very long credit sequence attempts to fill in some of the backstory: A group of costumed, masked crimebusting vigilantes known as "the Minutemen" seems to have appeared on the scene sometime around 1940, becoming heroes in the process. But for reasons I could never fathom, the group was banned from continuing with the crimefighting and was forced to hang up the costumes.

Apparently, this played havoc with their psyches. Further, some of them had children who also dressed up in costumes and masks



Watchmen.

and fought crime. This second group called themselves "the Watchmen" but they, too, apparently were stopped in their tracks once the government had no further use of their special abilities. But what exactly were those special abilities? From what I could discern the only one with a qualifying "superhero" talent was the aforesaid Dr. Manhattan, who was not part of the original group but was the leader of the second group after being morphed into the big blue guy after a laboratory accident went wrong in 1958.

The mixture of 20th-century culture references and history-making events and characters is great fun at first, and the music on the soundtrack supports them (everything from Simon & Garfunkel to Nena singing "99 Luft Ballons") but eventually the historical fantasies wear out their welcome as they aren't particularly involving and have nothing to do with any of the main characters.

Read the entire review of *Watchmen* online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

MARCH 13 & 14, 8 PM

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This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

WHAT TO DO?

Wednesday, March 11

Class and Gender in the Israeli Military; A Talk and Discussion with Dr. Liora Sion, 4 - 5:30 p.m. 311 BSB, 1007 W. Harrison St.. Gender assumptions within the Israeli military. Co-sponsored with Levine Hillel Center at UIC; For more information, please contact Ruth Schachter at ruthschachter@juf.org.

Humorist/political commentator Bill Maher and ultraconservative political analyst Ann Coulter, will kick off "Speaker Series: The Minds That Move The World," \$32-\$157 or VIP ticket of \$160 includes a meet-and-greet. 7:30 p.m. The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State, www.ticketmaster.com/promo/47seyc.

Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, spring break party, fundraiser to support LGBTQ youth for the Day of Silence. \$20, 6 to 9 p.m. Sidetrack 3349 N. Halsted St. Tix at www.illinoisafeschools.org 312-368-9070 X 14.

Mary Pat Kelly author Galway Bay 7:30 p.m. Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N. Clark 773-769-9299 www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Train to run the 2009 AIDS Marathon in three informational 1 hour sessions, 6 p.m. Wild Pug 4810 N. Broadway www.worldsgreatestbar.com/pug/index.htm

Thursday, March 12

Elaine Showalter author A Jury of Her Peers: American Women Writers from Anne Bradstreet to Annie Proulx 7:30 p.m. Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N. Clark 773-769-9299 www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Gender & Sexuality Center Town Hall Meeting, 3:30 - 5 p.m., 140 BSB, 1007 W. Harrison St. Facilitated discussion to gather information, get feedback, and opinion. lthomson@uic.edu 312-413-8619 www.gsc.uic.edu.

Outdanced Presents Stardust @ Berlin. Heather Doble Stinky Pinky (Think Pink) 954 W Belmont Ave www.berlinchicago.com 773-348-4975

Literary night 7:30 p.m. Wild Pug 4810 N. Broadway www.worldsgreatestbar.com/pug/index.htm

Friday, March 13

Clarence Darrow Wreath Throwing Event remembers Chicago attorney Clarence Darrow on the date of his death and features labor discussion: Challenges 115 Years After Pullman Strike. 10 a.m. Rosenwald Auditorium, West Pavilion of the Museum of Science and Industry. Info: Herb Kraus 312-578-9114

Free to be Me Women's Conference & Expo: love, finance, relationships, career, health, family, etc., 1 p.m., Sheraton Hotel & Tower 301 East North Water St. Online registration close Feb. 15, www.freetobemeinc.com/Conference

Holly Near concert 7 p.m. \$30/\$60 Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1330 Ridge Ave. 847-864-1330

Missy Higgins out Australian singer Vic Theater, 3145 N Sheffield Ave. www.ticketsnow.com

Queering the Night, monthly LGBTIQI open mic. Ian Hatcher incorporate technology and invites all wireless laptops for an interactive performance. \$5/\$3. 7-9 p.m. Center for New Possibilities 1505 W. Morse. http://insightartsliberation.org/calendar

Ron Sable Award for Activism, Crossroads Fund, honors Kartemquin Films. Private reception with award winners 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. \$100 / \$30 Chicago Cultural Center. www.CrossRoadsFund.org.

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network Freedom to Serve rally & Lobby Day in Washington D.C. Show solidarity for all our service members. Noon. Grounds of the U.S. Capitol, Washington DC. Register at sldn.org

Windy City City Gay Naturists, afternoon at Paradise Spa, 2910 W. Montrose Ave. Meet up by 3 p.m. inside. \$2, good all day. After: Columbian Restaurant for supper and camaraderie. wcn60660@aol.com

Saturday, March 14

Affinity's Real Butches Cookoff, 5 p.m. Affinity Community Services, 5650 South Woodlawn Ave., Garden Level. www.affinity95.org

Deidre McCalla, well known in Chicago lesbian, folk and women's music circles, and Joe Jencks (think Pete Seeger,

Woody Guthrie, Phil Ochs) \$15/\$13 8 p.m. Contact Hinsdale Unitarian Church, 11 West Maple St., Hinsdale, artsy45@aol.com, www.acousticren.com 708-802-0236

Dignity/Chicago hosts workshop by Kevin Buckley, DePaul University's School for New Learning, on progressive perspectives of Catholic social teaching. Free. 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Broadway United Methodist Church, 3344 N. Broadway. 312-458-9438 DignityChicago@aol.com

Rainbow Family Dinner Velvet Rope 728 West Lake Street in Oak Park www.velvetropoakpark.com

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network 17th Annual National Dinner & Silent Auction \$250. 6:30 p.m. National Building Museum, 401 F Street NW, Washington DC sldn.org

Sunday, March 15

Hannah Free house parties begin for the Chicago-produced feature film starring Sharon Gless (Cagney and Lacey, Queer as Folk), coming out in September. info@HannahFree.com

Co-ed volleyball, \$5, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Billie Jean King Recreation Hall, Center on Halsted www.centeronhalsted.org

Monday, March 16

Al Franken at Sidetrack \$100/\$1000. 5:30-7:30 p.m. 3349 N Halsted St www.actblue.com/page/chicagococktail

Wednesday, March 18

Berlin hosts "The Cutters Party" immediately following Cut Copy's sold-out show at The Vic Theatre. 945 W. Belmont; www.berlinchicago.com

Thursday, March 19

Change Seminar. Brad Lamm, author of How To Change Someone You Love, on recovery, treatment options, intervention for loved ones addicted to alcohol, drugs and other behavioral crisis. 6:30 p.m. Center on Halsted www.change-someoneyoulove.com/

Hairspray 1960s Baltimore in this international award winning musical, \$38 to \$58, 7:30 p.m. Genesee Theatre Box Office, 203 N. Genesee St., Waukegan

847-263-6300; www.jamtheatricals.com

Labrys Chicago Presents 4 Women Only "The Trio" special concert with Veronica May, Jess Yoakum, Christine Kent, Jess Godwin \$25. Velvet Rope 728 Lake St, Oak Park www.LabrysChicago.com

Outdanced Presents Stardust @ Berlin. RoshamBro LIVE All the way Kay (Dirty Girls) 954 W Belmont Ave www.berlinchicago.com 773-348-4975

Friday, March 20

Elizabeth Flock author Sleepwalking in Daylight 7:30 p.m. Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N. Clark 773-769-9299 www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Jessica Halem: Solar-Powered. A night of luminous comedy with Jessica Halem, Marlene Moore, Cameron Esposito and Tamale, 8 p.m. \$20 reserved center seating, one drink. \$15 reg ticket, \$10 Student/Senior. Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted 773-472-6469

Pepe's Group LGBT Meetup in the southwest suburbs 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Pepe's Mexican Restaurant 634 S. Weber Road, Romeoville

Saturday, March 21

Center on Halsted Human First 2009 Gala, Honorees State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, State Rep. Greg Harris, Mr. Joseph Loundy, The Night Ministry. Black tie optional. \$300, 6:30 cocktails 7:30 p.m. wards and program, Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 E. Wacker Dr. www.centeronhalsted.org/HF09.HTML

Hopefest: A concert to benefit the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless., \$30 advance, \$40, 7 p.m. Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave., 312-435-4548 www.chicagohomeless.org

Sappho's Salon: A Provocative Night of Lesbian Diversions presents Pulp Fiction! Featuring authors from Bold Strokes Books, and DJ SpinNikki 7:30 p.m. Co-sponsored by Early 2 Bed and The Lesbian Community Care Project. \$7-\$10 includes food and wine Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N. Clark 773-769-9299 www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Saturday, March 21



FIRST TIME

Center on Halsted's Human First Gala will take place at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 E. Wacker.

David Schaefer at the 2008 Human First gala by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

Friday, March 20



SUNNY DISPOSITION

Be prepared to laugh during **Jessica Halem: Solar-Powered** at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted.

See our online calendar: www.windycitymediagroup.com/calendar



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9' ceilings, original wood floors, fireplace, formal dining room, butler's pantry and updated kitchen. **\$445,000. Koehnig & Strey. 847-964-1554 or www.917forest2.com.** (03/18/09-4)

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2 bedroom apt with hardwood floors, brand new kitchen with new appliances with stone tile floor. Hugh yard with brick patio. Available now! \$1200/month utilities includes Parking available \$50/month. **(847) 835-1038 hollowayroof@comcast.net.** (03/04/09-1)

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ARTISTS

CALL FOR ARTISTS: Skokie Art Guild's 48th Annual Art Fair July 11 & 12, 2009. Fine art held on the Village Green Oakton St., downtown Skokie, IL. Prizes and awards. **For applications or information, contact: skokieart@aol.com or 847-677-8163.** (4/22/09-8)

BOOKS

NEW GAY NOVEL: COMPLICATED: Best friends since grade school, Barry and Jonathan: one has recently lost his partner and the other finds a possible new love. Jealousy and secrets get in the way of love as they fight to maintain their friendship and not ruin the happiness of the other - it's so complicated! **BUY @ AMAZON.COM OR TARGET.COM.** (3/11/09-4)

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County. File no. D09116713 on the FEB 20 2009 under the assumed name of Writing Revisited Press with the business located at 3332 W. Foster Ave. Suite 308 Chicago IL 60625. The true name and residence address of the owner is: 3332 W. Foster Ave. Suite 308 Chicago IL 60625. (3/18/09-3)

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BILLY MASTERS

"Why do people want to be on MyFace?"—Barbara Walters asks the question which has been on all of our minds. Joy's quick retort? "Do they really want to be on your face, Barbara?"

Who watched The Bachelor? Hands, I want to see hands. I am almost embarrassed to say that I got completely caught up in what was most certainly the most dramatic "After The Final Rose" ceremony EVAH! I was watching the East Coast feed when I saw the train wreck unfold before my very eyes. You'd think it was impossible for someone to go from being one of the most beloved men in America to one of the most hated in a matter of seconds, but Jason did it. A poll on TVGuide.com overwhelmingly declared him a bastard. Even Bret Michaels (no paragon of virtue himself) advised, "He better hide his car because it's about to get keyed!" I think Ellen DeGeneres summed the whole thing up nicely—"God, you straight people are ... I don't know.



Why do YOU want to be on Babs' face?



Seriously?

You can keep your word 'marriage' ... whatever that is. What is wrong with you people?"

An upcoming episode of Desperate Housewives will include a same-sex kiss between Teri Hatcher and Eva Longoria. Teri has gone on record as calling it "fun". "I did not kiss her. She kissed me." Longoria has this to say about Hatcher: "She was not supposed to kiss back, so she was

kind of just there and I had to do all the work." I had a boyfriend like that once.

We hear Jesse Metcalfe will soon be back on the show. Don't get too excited—he only filmed one short scene. Photos of Metcalfe headed to the set with a mighty slim script were captured by the paparazzi and are on our site.

Let's move onto something really important—like Dancing with the Stars. We've all heard about Jewel and Nancy O'Dell's injuries. Another contestant, sexy Gilles Marini, was rushed to the doctor after an injury which he described as "like a knife next to your thing"—and I think we all know what "thing" he's referring to (the one you can see on BillyMasters.com). Turns out he pulled his groin. I pulled a groin once, but that's another story. Have no fear—Marini ain't quitting. In fact, he's planning on wearing the skimpiest costume ever. "It's tight. I'm going to have to tape my thing close to my thigh so it won't show." There's that thing again!

Is Jodie Foster gonna be on a reality show? Kinda. She was recently caught by the Beverly Hills Police doing 54 miles per hour in a 35 zone. She didn't particularly mind being pulled over. But she allegedly freaked out when she came face-to-face with television cameras filming a new reality show "Speeders"! Jodie refused to sign the waiver, which means the footage can't be used. Damn.

My buddy Sherri Shepherd is an awfully busy gal. In addition to her daily gig on The View, she pops up occasionally on 30 Rock as Tracy Morgan's wife. She also makes films during her down time (including the acclaimed Precious, which just won the audience award at Sundance). Now she's developed a sitcom for Lifetime based on life since her divorce and will be shooting the pilot any day now. Congrats, honey.

We keep hearing that Logo has no money, which explains why we get very little original programming, and what there is looks like it was shot with someone's camcorder. And, yet, it's Logo to the rescue. Sarah Silverman refused to sign her new contract unless Comedy Central upped the budget for her show. Things seemed to be at a standstill until Logo jumped in and offered to pick up the difference in exchange for the right to run the show after Comedy Central. The price tag? \$250K per episode—which is more than they spent on the entire season of Drag Race.

This week's "Ask Billy" question is from Karl in Boston: "Thanks for writing about Dustin Lance Black. I cried during his Oscar acceptance speech. Does he have a boyfriend? He's so cute and looks like he has a nice body!"

To the best of my knowledge, Lance (he goes by his middle name) is single—proving that

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Jane Lynch.

NUNN ON ONE

Jane Lynch: 'Party' girl

BY JERRY NUNN

Being known for the wide variety of characters she has played throughout the years, lesbian actress Jane Lynch continues to stand out in the crowd. With memorable one-liners, the TV show *Party Down* promises to be the next project to bring her to the forefront. *Windy City Times* reserved a spot at her table.

Windy City Times: So, tell our *Windy City* readers about your new show on Starz called *Party Down*.

Jane Lynch: *Party Down* is about six caterers. There are six actors. It's an ensemble. We go to a different party every week. Basically, we are all wishing we were somewhere else. When you are a young person, waiting tables is a way station. It's the thing that you do to make money in order to do what you really want to do. In my case, Constance's case, she's been at it since her 20s. Although she's an aspiring actress, I think she probably really just likes catering.

WCT: That's hilarious, already!

JL: She loves everyone there. She loves the job. She loves going to a different party every week. For her, it is not so much waiting for that big break; it's been 20 years now.

WCT: In what ways are you like or different than Constance?

JL: Well, I certainly would not be able to play her if it were not in me somewhere. She's patient and she moves slowly. She operates from a very soft cotton place. She doesn't have much ambition. She's very "in the moment" and doesn't pay attention to details so much. She's kind of oblivious in many ways—not the brightest light.

It's kind of a relief to put on the bowtie every day. It's kind of nice to slow down and not care too much about everything.

WCT: Did you become involved with the show because of Paul Rudd producing?

JL: Well, that was the start, of course. I know Rob Thomas and Dan Etheridge but my connection was Paul. He told me about it when we were doing *40 Year Old Virgin*. He said that he would let me know when it happens and that took a year before we actually shot it. We shot the pilot maybe two years ago. The pilot, you will see, is re-shot. It's brand spanking new.

WCT: Are there perks to doing a TV show as opposed to making a movie?

JL: With this show we worked every day. We had two cameras going all the time. Sitcoms are notoriously easy on your schedule. This one was pretty full. We were pretty darn busy.

WCT: Now that *The L Word* is over, you have more time on your hands. What did you like or dislike about that show looking back on it?

JL: I didn't dislike anything. It was a real treat to go off to Vancouver every couple of months and do a scene with Cybill Shepherd. I really enjoyed it. I liked the people there from the producers to the cast. It was a real fun group of people. I was just at a party last night with all of them. It was really great to be a part of that group.

WCT: You did a Margaret Cho movie called *Bam Bam and Celeste*. Have you ever wanted to do standup like her?

JL: No, not my thing.

WCT: Your timing is great. I could just see you doing that.

JL: Well, thanks but not my cup of tea. Margaret is so great at it. She is one of a kind. She's absolutely revolutionary.

WCT: You also have several movie projects coming out in the future, such as *Julie & Julia*.

JL: It's coming out in August. It's with Meryl Streep and written and directed by Nora Ephron. Streep plays Julia Child. Her husband is played by Stanley Tucci, and I play her sister. The movie has two time periods in it. We are in 1949 and Amy Adams is the other lead that runs concurrently. It's wonderful. It's about food and passion.

WCT: What was it like working with Meryl Streep?

JL: She goes above and beyond. She transcends it. It was a dream come true working with her.

WCT: I heard you are a big Olivia Newton-John fan. My friend just saw her in concert last night in Florida.

JL: I was a huge fan of hers. I didn't know she was doing concerts. I met her once at a movie premiere.

WCT: So you are from Dolton, Ill., correct?

JL: Exactly.

WCT: When's your next appearance in Chicago? You just did the Human Rights event last year.

JL: Well, I come back to see my family all the time. I am kind of busy now doing a show on Fox called *Glee* through June so [I'll] hopefully get a week back home.

WCT: Well, it sounds like you are a busy woman.

JL: I am. *Party Down* kept me really busy, but it was a joy and probably the most fun I have had doing a project where we got really close. It was a joy to go to work every day.

Get ready to "party down" with Jane Lynch at the premiere show on Friday, March 20, on the Starz network. See www.starz.com.

Vickie and sweet



Vickie Shaw was the headliner March 8 as Parents and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) Chicago held its "Stand Up for Equality" fundraiser at the Chicago Improv at Schaumburg's Woodfield Mall. Other highlights included comics Mike Neubecker and Fran Bailey as well as hostess Miss Fozzie. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

Entertainment news

Legendary rapper LL Cool J was recently approached by a TMZ.com photographer who asked him, "What if you go to a bar and get hit on by a gay guy? Does that change your nickname [Ladies Love Cool James]?" According to Towleroad.com, the hip-hop artist simply responded, "Nah. I guess it just expands your options, huh?"

Entertainer Rosie O'Donnell wants more Americans to become foster parents, according to IMDB.com. O'Donnell and her partner, Kelli, are licensed foster parents in Florida, and have worked extensively to bring an end to laws prohibiting same-sex family adoption. O'Donnell recently starred in a Lifetime movie, *America*, which focuses on a biracial boy who's placed in foster homes.

Oscar-winning actress Jodie Foster was caught on camera by the truTV reality show *Speeders*, according to SheWired.com. Foster allegedly drove 54 mph in her Prius inside a 35-mph zone. The privacy-loving Foster declined to sign a waiver and be featured on the reality program, and reportedly argued with the police once the camera went off.

BILLY from page 20

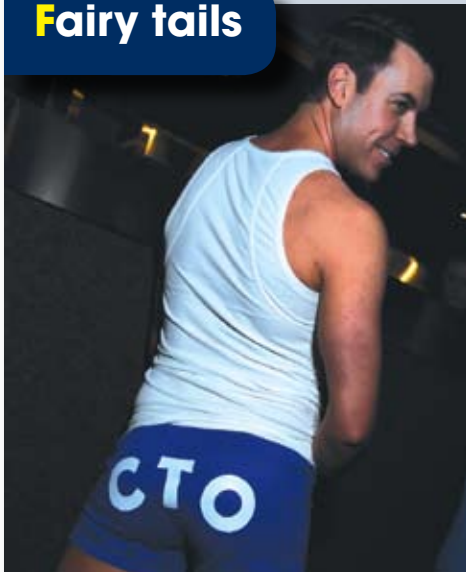
cute, talented and successful doesn't necessarily lead to a robust romantic life (ain't that the truth). I can confirm that underneath that tux, he has quite a rockin' bod—as the kids would say. Apparently, a photo of a topless Lance that auteur Gus Van Sant took during the filming of "Milk" is wending its way through the Web. It landed right in our waiting lap and can be found on BillyMasters.com. Definitely worth a look (or two).

Could it be that a certain bearded lady is sporting a bit of stubble? So say sources close to the buoyant babe who tell me that she's moved on from her messy marital machinations by stepping out with a well-known gay blade who's dated his share of Sapphic senioritas. When the pretty palomino began showing off her legal eagle stud to friends, they warned

the dazed ditz that she's repeating her past mistakes. She simply laughed and says, "Don't you think I'd know if he was gay?" Umm...NO!

When I'm using the words slim and Jesse Metcalfe in the same sentence, it's time to end yet another column. Here's another one of those little fun facts I like to throw out there—didya know that Sherri Shepherd's first time doing stand up was at a gay club here in West Hollywood? Back when the Lovely Carol hosted *The Gong Show* at Rage, Sherri won 21 times!! For more inside dish, check out www.BillyMasters.com on a regular basis—you never know when I'll shake things up. If you've got a question, send it to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before Jodie turns up on a very special episode of *Cops*! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

Fairy tails



The third annual Test Positive Aware Network striptease event known as Chicago Takes Off took place March 7, at the Park West, 322 W. Armitage. The theme was "Once Upon a Time." Actor/entertainer Miss Coco Peru, in her first appearance in Chicago, hosted the event. It may have been cool outside but the temperature definitely rose inside, as skin was proven to be most definitely in. In addition, participants from various LGBT-friendly bars signed up to take it off online at www.chicagotakesoff.org/bar-lesque.html. As participants raised more money online, they'll took off more clothing. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com) and Steve Starr; see more at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

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SPORTS/RECREATION

Billie Jean King Cup played in NYC

Four of the top professional women tennis players in the world—Serena Williams, Venus Williams, Jelena Jankovic and Ana Ivanovic—competed in a one-night tournament March 2 in New York City's Madison Square Garden to win the Billie Jean King Cup, the New York Times reported.

In a ceremony before the final match—in which Serena defeated her sister 6-4, 6-3—former President Bill Clinton; figure skaters Sarah Hughes and Nancy Kerrigan; and race-car driver Janet Guthrie paid tribute to LGBT icon King, CBS Sportsline reported. "Billie Jean King is one of my role models," Serena Williams said earlier in the day. "Not only is she a role model for tennis, but she transcended that and she went to be a role model for just women's sports in general."

Windy City Rollers' third bout March 21

The Windy City Rollers will hold the third bout of its fifth season on Saturday, March 21, at 6 p.m. at UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine.

The 2007 Ivy King Cup champions, Double Crossers, will take on The Fury while the Manic Attackers will tackle the 2008 champs, Hell's Belles.

Tickets are \$20-\$40; see www.windy-city-rollers.com.

Zombie bowling March 14

WildClaw Theatre Company will hold Zombie Bowling on Saturday, March 14, at 9 p.m., at the Timber Lanes, 1851 W. Irving Park.

Highlights will include a horror-movie trivia contest, raffles, "zombie-oke" and, of course, bowling.

Admission is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Tickets are limited; see www.wildclawtheatre.com.

Milwaukee to host gay softball events

During the week of Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 2009, Milwaukee and the Saturday Softball League will host the 33rd Gay Softball World Series (GSWS), also known as Series 2009.

In a related development, the city will present NAGAAAFest 2009 Aug. 29-Sept. 7. In addition to the softball tournament, NAGAAAFest will be a series of events, celebrations and parties for the entire community.

See www.nagaaasoftball.org and www.nagaaafest.com.

Mammoth Gay Ski Week in March

Elevation 2009, the seventh annual Mammoth Gay Ski Week, will be held in Mammoth Lakes, Calif., March 18-22.

More than 2,000 people are expected to attend this event, the third-largest of its kind in the world. Among the scheduled highlights are several parties, including The Party @ 10,000 Feet and Cliffhanger, the main gala.

See www.mammothgayski.com.

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