

# WINDY CITY TIMES

THE VOICE OF CHICAGO'S GAY, LESBIAN, BI AND TRANS COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

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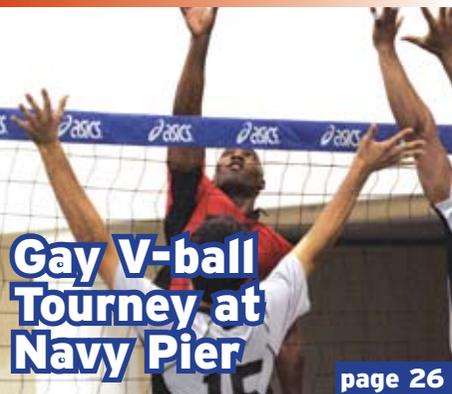
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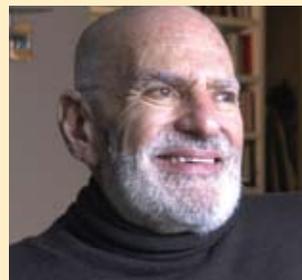
## Gay Film Examines Pols' Lives

BY LAWRENCE FERBER

Washington D.C. house contractors must be used to building closets large and deep, judging from the controversial new documentary **OUTRAGE**. Encompassing a scathing indictment of closeted gay politicians who vote against or demonize the LGBT community (such as U.S. Sen. Larry Craig, Republican National Committee Field Director Dan Gurley, Florida Gov. Charlie Crist); thoughtful investigation of the whys behind this closet culture and the mainstream media's complicity in it; profiles of the activists and outers (Michelangelo Signorile, Michael Rogers and Larry Kramer); and a look at the good that ultimately comes from being, or coming, out in politics (New Jersey's Jim McGreevey, Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank and Wisconsin Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin), **OUTRAGE** is directed by Academy Award-nominated, gay-friendly filmmaker Kirby Dick (This Film Is Not Yet Rated, Twist of Faith).

A day before **OUTRAGE** premiered to rave reviews at New York's Tribeca Film Festival (contrary to online reports, McGreevey did not storm out of the screening—he even stayed through its Q&A), I sat down with Dick at Magnolia Pictures' Manhattan office for a one-on-

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Among those featured in **OUTRAGE** are (top) former U.S. Senator Larry Craig, activist Larry Kramer (lower left) and activist/attorney Elizabeth Birch (lower right). Kirby Dick (lower middle) is the director of the film. Photos courtesy of Magnolia Pictures.

## Local gay activist arrested in Moscow

BY ANDREW DAVIS



Andy Thayer. Photo by Andrew Davis

In Moscow, Russia, gay-rights activists had planned to hold a pride parade this past weekend—but the police had other plans.

Officers arrested dozens of activists and detained them May 16, according to a CNN.com item. Among those arrested were Nikolai Alexeyev, a prominent Russian gay activist, and associate Nikolai Bayev, as well as British human-rights activist Peter Tatchell. (Alexeyev appeared in Chicago in October 2007 to speak at the annual Matthew Shepard rally.)

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## Suicides and bullying: A closer look

BY YASMIN NAIR

Two school students as young as 11 years old recently committed suicide within 10 days of each other after enduring anti-gay harassment. Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover of Springfield, Mass., killed himself April 6 and Jaheem Herrera of DeKalb County, Ga., hanged himself with a cloth belt April 16 after similar taunts. The incidents have created waves of shock and dismay and generated a public conversation about such instances of bullying.

The harassment of students based on their real or perceived sexual orientation is an ongoing concern for LGBTQ education activists. According to the 2007 National School Climate Survey conducted by GLSEN (Gay and Lesbian and Straight Education Network), "86.2% of LGBT students reported being verbally harassed, 44.1% reported being physically harassed and 22.1% reported being physically assaulted at school ... because of their sexual orientation."

Windy City Times spoke to students and activists about how to find so-

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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Kelli O'Donnell (above) talks about what's going on with R Family Vacations. See more on page 22.

Photo courtesy of Barbara Kinney

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Barbatuques (above) will be part of the dance extravaganza "Windy City Rhythms Goes Global." Chicago Human Rhythm Project Co-Founder Lane Alexander talks about the show (and his life) on page 13.

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- Features include:
- National and world news
  - Theater review
  - Pop Making Sense
  - A talk with the 'Fashion Show' judges (right)
  - Dish List: Blue 13
  - Dr. Hernandez



Photo courtesy of Bravo

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Rodger McFarlane.  
Photo by Bob Roehr

## Gay & AIDS leader Rodger McFarlane takes own life

BY BOB ROEHR

Rodger McFarlane was bigger than life, a tyro of an organizer in AIDS and the LGBT community who never lost his human touch, the quiet ability to soothe and comfort.

He took his own life on May 15 at the age of 54, ironically enough in the town of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. As he explained in a letter left behind, the increasingly disabling heart and back pain he experienced were more than he chose to endure.

McFarlane was a towering presence at 6'6", with jug ears made even more prominent by his bald head. He grew up on a farm near the small town of Theodore, Alabama where sports were king.

"In high school I was big enough to get past the gay thing," he told the New York Times in a 2002 interview. "Freshman football, I went out to hurt people. I found the biggest redneck and went for his knees sideways, stomped his face when he was down. I was a monster, a legend. And then I could go jump rope with the girls."

And that captured the essence of Rodger McFarlane; the ability to go for the jugular, the whimsy of the unexpected, and a good humor that was often self-deprecating, albeit laced with expletives. His life would be filled by all those traits.

He joined the Navy in 1974, serving on a nuclear attack submarine and trekked across the arctic snows on still secret missions. Civilian life would prove to be no less arduous.

McFarlane was at ground zero in Manhattan when an unknown plague began striking down gay men. He set up the first hotline, on his own phone. He was a volunteer and then the first paid executive director of the Gay Men's Health Crisis, that landmark AIDS services organization.

He managed the merger of Broadway Cares and Equity Fights AIDS, and pioneered new ways to raise desperately needed money. And he was a founding member of ACT UP, which made a lethargic government more responsive to the needs of its citizens.

He left his beloved Manhattan for Denver to serve as executive director of the Gill Foundation where he helped to revamp and refocus the mission of the organization backed by one of the

largest patrons of LGBT community groups.

McFarlane would write books, co-produce Larry Kramer's play *The Destiny of Me*, compete in the Eco-Challenges in Morocco and Fiji, and serve as a nurturing caregiver to too many family and friends as they face major, often terminal illness.

He crammed the vitality and experience of a handful of men into his singular life.

Noted author and activist Larry Kramer's first thought was of the personal. "He was my best friend for so many years that I do not know yet how life goes on without him," he wrote in an email.

Kramer would later add, "I think that Rodger McFarlane has probably done more for the gay world than any other single person has ever done. The gay world may not know it; I hope someday it will."

San Francisco AIDS activist Michael Petrelis said he knew McFarlane from "the early ACT UP/ NYC days, when he was such a rock of calm amid all the anger and heat and depression and madness."

"On a smaller level, less visible level, he was strong backer of PWAC [People With AIDS Coalition] and Michael Callen, especially when Michael started his 'get laid' social Saturday teas at their old office at St Johns in the Village. I think Rodger quietly helped PWAC get that space," Petrelis said.

For Gill Foundation benefactor Tim Gill, "I knew Rodger for almost thirty years. He was not just a friend, he was also a professional mentor to me and countless others. He used his amazing intellect and strategic vision to further the LGBT, HIV/AIDS, and other social justice movements. We will be eternally in his debt."

"Rodger dedicated his life to being a visible and vocal advocate for social justice. His work propelled our movement toward full equality in tremendous ways, his compassion and unique humor will be missed and never matched," said Neil G. Giuliano, President of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

## Controversial Frieden named to lead CDC

NEWS ANALYSIS BY BOB ROEHR

President Barack Obama named New York City health commissioner Thomas R. Frieden the next director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) May 15. The dynamic Frieden has generated controversy on many fronts, including HIV.

Frieden, 48, is returning to an agency where he worked for a dozen years as an expert in infectious diseases after earning a M.D. and M.P.H. from Columbia University.

Over the last seven years as NYC health commissioner, Frieden pushed for a ban on smoking in bars and restaurants. Since that went into effect, the number of smokers has declined by 350,000 and teen smoking has been cut in half.

Even more contentious was his push to ban trans fats from restaurants, which went into ef-

fect at the end of 2006. His aggressive stance during this current outbreak of "swine flu" has led to the closing of a handful of schools in the city.

Roy "Trip" Gulick, an HIV specialist and head of infectious diseases at the Weill Cornell Medical College in Manhattan praised Frieden's record as health commissioner in increasing care, "promoting needle exchange and condom use" as well as routine testing for HIV. "He is an outstanding choice for director of the CDC," Gulick said.

Left unsaid was the 2005 HIV "super strain" panic set off by researcher David Ho and Frieden, and fanned by the New York Times. It was based on a single patient with multidrug-resistant virus who appeared to have progressed rapidly to advanced HIV disease. That single patient was promoted as the harbinger of a new wave of deadlier HIV infections.

Other researchers doubted the uniqueness of the patient, the threat that he posed, and the likelihood that it represented a new, deadlier virus. They were to be proven right.

Many within the HIV community see Frieden as a mixed blessing. One individual readily acknowledged that Frieden "does have a passion for HIV" and he hoped that might push the Obama administration to move forward in funding syringe exchange programs.

He said Frieden takes a strong medical approach to HIV and does not fully appreciate what community based organizations and non-medical interventions can contribute to HIV prevention.

He called Frieden "a vindictive man" and repeatedly emphasized that he could not risk having his name or that of his organization associated with the man who will soon control disbursement of most HIV prevention funds in the country.

Others who are dependent upon CDC funding for their operations were similarly reluctant to speak substantively on the record about Frieden.

Housing Works, a major New York City AIDS services provider, had no such hesitation last January when Frieden's name for CDC began to circulate in the media, the group issued a blistering statement opposing the idea.

"Throughout his tenure as New York City Health Commissioner, Frieden has simultaneously employed an authoritarian my-way-or-the-highway approach and an unabashed secretiveness undignified of a public servant. He has excluded AIDS groups wherever possible from having input into life and death AIDS funding, testing, and care policymaking decisions," its president Charles King said in a written statement.

It criticized Frieden for attempting to divert funding away from community-based organizations and housing to large hospitals. "Frieden's efforts proved his indifference to the profound stigma attached to AIDS and his ignorance of the critical role supportive services play in the health of people living with the disease," the statement declared.

The position of CDC director does not require Senate confirmation and Frieden is expected to begin work in early June.

## Happy anniversary: States mark milestones

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

In the five years since gay couples started obtaining marriage licenses in the United States, 26 states have amended their constitutions to ban same-sex marriage, four state supreme courts have upheld such bans and more than 7,000 same-sex marriages have been nullified.

And yet, last week, on the fifth anniversary of the first legal same-sex marriages in the United States, there is little question that the political and legal winds are blowing in favor of gay marriages. Since Massachusetts became the first state to begin issuing marriage licenses to gay couples—on May 17, 2004—Connecticut, California and Iowa followed suit. California voters dealt gay couples a crushing setback last November by approving Proposition 8 to amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriages. But the legislatures of Vermont and New Hampshire have approved bills, and New York and New Jersey appear to be in a race for who's next. A gay litigation group has been emboldened to take on a challenge of the 13-year-old Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in federal court. And former New York Mayor Ed Koch this week predicted "same-sex marriage will be approved by a majority of the 50 states in the Union within the next five years."

Keep in mind: It took 10 years of hard work to get to 2004.

Mary Bonauto, a key litigator in the initial victory in Massachusetts, noted in a telephone conference call this week that the work really began in Vermont in 1994 with her group, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, and two stalwart lesbian attorneys—Beth Robinson and Susan Murray—in *Baker v. Vermont*. Two years later, gay attorney Evan Wolfson, then of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, helped the ACLU stage the Hawaii marriage trial, *Baehr v. Miike*. The Vermont case won an important victory in the state supreme court in 1999 only to have its resolution tossed to the legislature, which then invented the "civil union." The Hawaii case won at the lower court level only to be rendered moot by the state supreme court after the state legislature rushed to be the first—in 1998—to amend their constitution to ban gay marriage.

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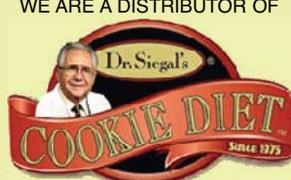
Also, read national and world news online. Topics this week include:

- A lesbian couple being denied a marriage license in Russia;
- Gays and the 2010 Winter Games;
- AIDS Walk New York; and
- Florida and its pro-LGBT ruling regarding same-sex adoption

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# The reluctant activists

BY MATTHEW H. SMITH

*With the recent ruling legalizing same-sex marriage in Iowa, one couple acts as positive role models while promoting gay advocacy to others*

## Same-sex marriage is legalized in Iowa April 3

Dr. Gary Swenson and his partner, Dean Genth, sit hand-in-hand at their home in Mason City, Iowa. They appear curiously modest. Swenson has a warm twinkle in his bright blue eyes, a smile permanently affixed on his lips. On his wrist is a watch with a rainbow on the faceplate. Genth seems a little bit more serious, always moving or fidgeting, knowing he has millions of things to do. Yet he never leaves Swenson's side. The past month has been an exciting one for them. Inside, they are beaming. And for good reason. Swenson and Genth have just finalized the plans. They're getting married. After six years and a commitment ceremony, they're finally tying the knot the "old-fashioned" way. The date is set for May 31. The Music Man Square is booked. And the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus is even scheduled for a special performance. In short—it's going to be fabulous.

"There we were, never dreaming we'd ever live in Iowa," Genth said. "And now we're living in one of the greatest states in the country for a gay couple."

None of this, of course, would be possible without the Iowa Supreme Court's unanimous ruling on April 3, becoming the third state to legalize same-sex marriage. Now gay couples all over the state are in a fuss over wedding plans—and all over the country, for that matter, since you don't have to be a resident of Iowa to



Dr. Gary Swenson (left) and Dean Genth. Photo courtesy of Matthew H. Smith

get married there, gay or straight. It seems Iowa has also paved the road for other states as well. Vermont has gone on to legalize same-sex marriage, too, a decision that will be effective in September. Swenson, 47, and Genth, 59, simply consider themselves part of the hubbub that surrounds these historical decisions.

"There is this joy in having society affirm that we are 'fully human' and allowed to have the same inalienable rights regarding marriage as every other Iowan," Genth said.

## The "reluctant activists"

The thing is, Swenson and Genth helped make this happen. The couple was at the heart of Iowa's same-sex marriage movement. They became the leaders of the steering committee for One Iowa, the state's largest LGBT advocacy program. They helped organize fundraisers, host house parties and assemble support networks throughout the Hawkeye State.

But none of it—the organizing, the rallies,

the marches—was ever part of a bigger plan. Mostly, Swenson and Genth simply wanted to "fit in" and live their lives like any other couple. They didn't want to be front-page material of the local newspapers or to be the gay poster boys for Iowa. But that's exactly what they became. "You can call me the reluctant activist," Swenson said. "Because I really was. But once you start, there's no going back."

In 2004, the First Presbyterian Church in Mason City, Iowa, urged Swenson and Genth to start a local PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) chapter for North Iowa. Both were somewhat hesitant. By this time, Swenson's career as a radiologist had fully blossomed and Genth had grown quite content being a "house husband," as he refers to it.

"We felt that it would be better established by a parent, as is the history of PFLAG," Swenson said. "But it became apparent that if we didn't do it, it wouldn't happen."

The decision for them to start a new chapter of PFLAG would be met with local media attention. Mason City's Globe Gazette newspaper was abruptly interested in the couple and soon Swenson and Genth's picture was on a three-quarter spread. Swenson said he was horrified. He feared what his partners at work would have to say about it. While they all knew he was gay, now the entire Mason City population was about to find out.

"We became what we say now are the North Iowa Poster Boys for same-sex relationships," Genth said.

Julie Platt and her husband have been involved with PFLAG-North Iowa since its inauguration, where Platt is Secretary-Treasurer. Platt said she sees Swenson and Genth's relationship as being positive and enlightening for others. "They're so open publicly," she said. "I think the community looks at them as positive, stable and vibrant."

The response to PFLAG was greater than either Swenson or Genth could have imagined. They were warned to only expect five or so members

at the first meeting, and then maybe 10 more people would join after the first year. But their opening meeting brought in a whopping 35 people—a large number by any expectations. The North Iowa organization is still running stronger than ever with 250 families on its mailing list.

## Role models

The biggest reason Swenson and Genth give for waiting so long to come out of the closet was the times they were raised in. Both from conservative religious backgrounds, "being gay" was not the typical supertime chatter. Both said that having lacked any positive gay role models during their youth, it only further enamored them with the impression that homosexuality was somehow wrong.

"We grew up in a time where it just wasn't heard of," Swenson said. "Our concept of gay men who lived out and openly were starving waiters in San Francisco who had AIDS."

Genth, who is 12 years Swenson's senior, graduated high school when it was still illegal for an interracial couple to marry. "For me growing up, there were no positive role models for same-sex relationships," Genth said. "Gay rights weren't even on the national scene."

Swenson and Genth have since made strides of their own to promote themselves as good role models, particularly for the new generation of LGBT. Alex Dlouhy, a PFLAG-North Iowa member, came out when he was 15. He's now 17 and has known Swenson and Genth for two years now. Dlouhy's father, who works with Swenson, introduced them. Dlouhy said he looks up to them not only as activists, but even as surrogate father figures.

"They are great role models for anyone who wants to become an activist," Dlouhy said. "They are extremely active and are always at equality meetings and contribute a lot to the community."

Read the entire profile of Dr. Gary Swenson and Dean Genth online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

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# GLN part of global protest

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Everything from Iran to gay leadership was mentioned during a Gay Liberation Network (GLN) rally that drew approximately 15 individuals to the corner just outside of Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, on a blustery Sunday afternoon.

The rally—which commemorated the International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO)—had been scheduled to take place near President Barack Obama’s Hyde Park home, but had to be moved. IDAHO protests also took place in San Francisco and New York City.

GLN’s Bob Schwartz became the primary spokesperson for the organization. (Andy Thayer—who usually leads the group’s rallies—was in Moscow, Russia, where he was arrested dur-



Bob Schwartz. Photo by Andrew Davis

ing a gay-rights rally. He was released shortly thereafter.) And Schwartz had no shortage of opinions.

While talking to the press, Schwartz commented that the focus of the rally shifted from the Polish consulate to reports of torture of gay Iraqis. “Their anuses have been glued shut, and then diarrhea has been induced,” he said.

Speaking about the physical move of the rally,

Schwartz said, “We think that [being moved] from [near] Obama’s residence is a denial of rights.” He said that a state law prohibits protests outside a public official’s private residence, but said that he’s “seen other groups by the security barrier. But when we wanted to go out there—and we had secured a permit—[we heard] late Friday afternoon that we couldn’t do it.”

About Iraq, Schwartz said, “Since [that country] is a U.S.-occupied territory—a puppet regime—they should be directed by Obama to stop the killing of gay men over there. Everyone knows that the U.S. has a lot of influence over what happens in Iraq.”

During the rally, Schwartz also mentioned Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, wondering why she did not mention anything about the reported abuse of gays when she visited Iraq.

Continuing about Obama, Schwartz told the media, “To our knowledge, this is the first time a local gay organization has held a demonstration that’s called Obama out on anything. The na-

tional gay leadership before the election made no demands on Obama; they just said, in effect, ‘Whew! He’s not George Bush or [Sen. John] McCain.’ They put no demands on Obama—and the Black leadership didn’t either, for that matter—and, now, we’re reaping the harvest. I like to quote Frederick Douglass, who said, ‘Power concedes nothing without a demand.’ Obama has made promises about things, like ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,’ and now he’s back-pedaling.”

Going back to gay leadership, Schwartz then named a couple groups: “The Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force backed a man who didn’t back equal civil rights for gay people. I can’t imagine any other group doing that.”

In addition, a public-awareness video for IDAHO can be seen at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2Rp8ep\\_ezE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2Rp8ep_ezE).

## Former WCT honoree now in USDA

Justin DeJong, a 2006 Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree, is currently a deputy press secretary under United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, according to a departmental press release.

A native of Iowa, DeJong has served in numerous communications roles in both the public and private sectors. Most recently, he served as Illinois director of communications for the Obama campaign and as director of communications at the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. Previously, DeJong served as a spokesperson for several state agencies in Illinois government, including the departments of commerce and economic opportunity and central management services, as well as the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget.

DeJong has also been involved with LGBT- and HIV/AIDS-rights groups such as Equality Illinois, the AIDS Run/Walk, Test Positive Aware Network and Chicago House.

### MOSCOW from cover

Andy Thayer, an activist with Chicago’s Gay Liberation Network (GLN), was in Moscow during the developments. He was also detained, according to an item from the Press Association.

According to a press release issued by GLN, Thayer spoke to the international press before his arrest, saying, “If democracy [and] the right to assemble [are] taken away from lesbian and gay people here in Russia, then other Russians have to fear for their own freedom. I’m with the Gay Liberation Network in Chicago, and I’m proud to be here, part of this demonstration.” Immediately after stating that sentence, Thayer was taken into police custody.

However, Thayer and the other advocates were released May 17. (He returned to Chicago the night of May 18.) According to a letter he sent to family and friends that same day, he stated, “Yesterday I was taken into Russian custody without injury for several hours but then released without charges. ... Some of my Russian friends have not been so lucky. As of this writing, we know of no serious physical injuries to them, but as some of you may have seen on news coverage of the action, at the very start of our non-violent protest we were violently attacked by the Russian OMOH cops (their equivalent of SWAT police).

“Nikolai Alekseev, Moscow Pride’s foremost leader who also faced a battery of charges, was just released 40 minutes ago and is en route to the flat where I’m staying at tonight.”

Organizers had made plans to rally at the city’s Novopushkinsky Park, CNN.com reported. The arrests occurred the day of the Eurovision Song Contest, which has a huge following among the LGBT community.

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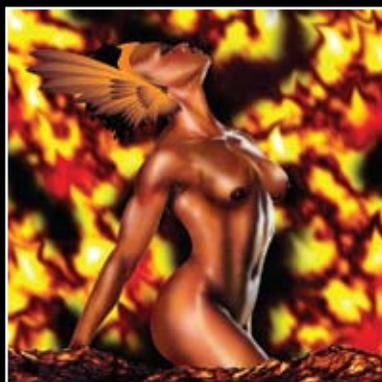
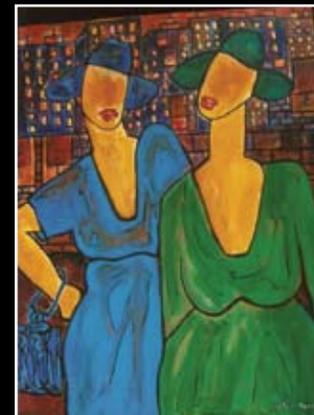
Prairie Avenue Gallery

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Above: Locker Room, by Steve Becker.

Left: Hatshepsut's Daughters, by Jorjet Harper.



From left: Strength, by Kat Fitzgerald. The Girl Who Cried Gold, by Erik R. Sosa. Phoenixx, by David Johnson. Clos'et'ed, by Carol James.

## Craigslist changes categories

NEWS ANALYSIS BY TRACY BAIM

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan is leading the way in pushing for changes in the online site Craigslist to better allow for monitoring of potentially illegal behavior. On May 13, her office announced that the company has agreed to shut down its erotic services section and instead create an adult services section that allows for better tracking and monitoring of who places the ads, and what they say.

There have been two recent high-profile murders traced to people who used Craigslist, one involving New York gay radio journalist George Weber by a 16-year-old he met through the site (John Katehis has confessed to the murder), and one involving Phillip Markoff, accused of killing Julissa Brisman, who advertised massage services.

In a November agreement reached with Madigan and 42 other attorneys general, Craigslist agreed to crackdown and monitor the section, but Madigan sent a letter in April saying the company was not following its agreement, including stronger screening.

The company said it will now manually review every ad posted in the new adult section and ban nude or graphic photos.

Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart sued Craigslist earlier this year saying it was facilitating prostitution. Law enforcement agencies across the country have been cracking down on the company, so this latest response is likely to fend off more lawsuits.

In the 1980s and 1990s, it was known that Chicago police used classified ads in Chicago gay newspapers to entrap men for solicitation, even those who were just trying to meet one another for casual sex or a relationship, not prostitution. In those cases, it was never even suggested that the newspapers themselves were part of the criminal transaction.

Civil libertarians and Craigslist, point out that crime will occur whether through an online or print ad, or a casual pickup at a bar. Such crimes include prostitution all the way to murder. Stopping the ease by which Craigslist allows such instances to occur will not stop the crimes

themselves. After all, Jeffrey Dahmer, Larry Eyler and John Wayne Gacy did not need personal ads to do their crimes. And neither did Ted Bundy, Richard Speck, or myriad other killers from the past. "Stranger danger" is still the same as it was in decades past.

Craigslist has changed its policies, but it's unclear if the precedent being set could also impact other companies, including print newspapers, who take ads from the public for a wide range of services. Even the most innocuous ads, for example for a nanny, have resulted in crimes by luring people to unsafe situations. Will newspapers, both print and now online, be targeted next?

## Rush gets perfect score in HRC index

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has released its Healthcare Equality Index (HEI) 2009—and Chicago's Rush University Medical Center was the only Midwest facility to achieve a perfect score.

According to the index, the survey "aims to educate healthcare policymakers and LGBT healthcare consumers to get rid of barriers and biases that keep us from taking care of ourselves and each other." It focused on five policy areas: "patient non-discrimination, visitation, decision-making, cultural competency training and employment policies and benefits."

Among other findings, the HEI revealed a huge disparity in care regarding gender identity and sexual orientation. Less than 7 percent of participating facilities protect patients from discrimination based on gender identity, while almost three-quarters of the respondents provide protections based on sexual orientation.

Brad Hinrichs, Rush's vice president of hospital operations and administrative vice president for transformation, said that he was "very pleased by [the score]. We knew it was going to happen because, a couple years ago when we first participated, we didn't have a 100-percent score. We did our due diligence to make up for what we were lacking. Other hospitals haven't been proactive in making sure that the nondiscrimination policies included language related



Brad Hinrichs.

to gender identity or expression. We already had sexual orientation mentioned as a protected class."

Hinrichs also spoke about the lack of respondents. (Only two hospitals from Illinois responded, with the other being Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. Illinois Masonic lacked one qualification: an equal-employment opportunity policy that included "gender identity or expression" or "gender identity.") "What I suspect is that, even though there weren't that many hospitals that [participated], there isn't a lot of blatant discrimination out there relative to this," he said. "I'd like to think that my fellow hospital execs also try to be respectful of people, in particular transgender [individuals]. But it does take some extra work to formalize it in your policies and do those educational things with your staff. I think it'll come with time."

He added that even though Rush scored perfectly in this index, that does not indicate that the work is over. "We know that we have the right policies and practices in place, but like any other place we need to do more to make sure our employees and people who come in contact with patients have the right kind of education and sensitivity training, especially regarding transgender individuals," said Hinrichs, who is openly gay himself.

Hinrichs said that the facility even includes an affinity group, LGBT@Rush.

The HEI—which rated 166 hospitals nationwide this year—is a collaboration of the HRC Foundation and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association. To view the index, visit [www.hrc.org/hei](http://www.hrc.org/hei).

## Leather world: IML is in town

More than 50 contestants from around the globe will compete for the title of International Mr. Leather (IML) 2009, Thursday-Monday, May 21-25.

IML is holding the contest in a new location: The Chicago Hilton, 720 S. Michigan. The hotel will also host the entire weekend. "Madame With An E" will be the headline entertainment at this year's contest, along with surprise guests.

In addition, IML will continue two of its newest traditions: the IML Flag and the Parade of Colors. The flag will be unveiled at opening ceremonies, then displayed at the Leather Archives Booth in the Leather Market throughout the weekend for all IML attendees to sign. The Parade of Colors will be held at the Pecs & Personality Show, to be held May 23 at 9 p.m.

Other highlights will include the IML Victory Celebration Party on Sunday, May 24, after the IML Contest until 4 a.m. at the House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn; and the Black and Blue Ball on Monday, May 25, 8 p.m.-4 a.m. at Excalibur, 632 N. Dearborn.

Last year's event drew more than 15,000 leatherfolk from around the globe. See [www.iml.com](http://www.iml.com) for more info.

## ONYX holding IML events

During International Mr. Leather (IML) 2009, taking place May 21-25, ONYX Leathermen of Color will hold several events.

The ONYX Fellowship Dinner will take place Friday, May 22, at 7 p.m. at Bar Louie, 47 W. Polk; the People of Color Leather Conference will take place Saturday, May 23, 3-5 p.m. in the Astoria Room of the Chicago Hilton, 720 S. Michigan; and the ONYX Leather Dance will happen Saturday, May 23, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., in the hotel's Grand Ballroom. Admission is \$10 for the dance.

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David Emery Jones.

## PASSAGES

### David E. Jones

David Emery Jones—who made a successful inroad into the restaurant business as a chef—passed away May 7. He was 45.

Jones was born in Springfield, Ill., and came to Chicago in 1983 to become an industrial engineer major at Northwestern University. To make ends meet, he began to wait tables at various restaurants in Evanston.

Jones quickly became a successful restaurateur and began working with the likes of top Chicago chefs like Rick Tramanto, Gale Gand, Michael Kornick, Eric Aubriot and Carol Wallock. His association with restaurants like Trio, Red Light, Vivo, Marché, Aubriot and MK made him a respected name in the restaurant industry in Chicago. His last project was Snack with Greg Ingles, and he was very successful caterer. He and his partner lived in the northwest side of Chicago for the last 10 years, hosting dinner parties for his close friends and family.

Jones is survived by his father Mel Jones; his four siblings—Kevin, Keith, Bob and Debbie; and his partner of 10 years, Rafael.

Services have already taken place. Donations can be made in Jones' name to Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N. Sheridan, Chicago, Ill., 60613.

## SUICIDES from cover

lutions to the problem of anti-LGBTQ harassment and, as it turns out, schools are pivotal to the issue. Schools are where students spend a majority of their time, and they are potent combinations of the politics of power of gender, sexuality, race and other factors that are a part of students' lives. Given this context, we asked: What causes students to engage in anti-LGBTQ bullying? What kinds of conditions would make it possible to see an end to such harassment? What kinds of changes need to happen on a local and federal level to make these conditions possible?

In many cases, anti-gay slurs have nothing to do with actual sexual orientation and/or identity but more with perceptions of the same. And they can be combined with racial and ethnic slurs. According to Jaheem Herrera's mother, who recently appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show with Walker-Hover's mother, he was not only teased for looking feminine but because of his accent and skin color. (The family is from the Virgin Islands.) Students who are actually LGBTQ-identified may feel vulnerable and unsafe even when they don't experience direct harassment, or because they see their classmates being harassed.

Such was the experience of Akiya Daniels. Daniels witnessed a butch lesbian friend being harassed for her gender identity by a police officer in charge of security at the South Shore High School in 2008. According to Daniels, who graduated that year, her friend was being "put out" for aggressive behavior but, in the process, was told by the officer who pushed her, "If you dress like a boy, I'm going to treat you like a boy." Daniels eventually called another friend and they got the fellow student out of the situation. However, said Daniels, from that point on, she felt that the police officer (part of the school's security system) appeared to have identified her as a lesbian as well, and became hostile to her. In the absence of a school support system for LGBTQ students, Daniels began



Erica Meiners.

to be more conscious about her safety.

Jose Delgado's experience at Senn High School was somewhat different, but in part because he and other students consciously set out to create a GSA (gay-straight alliance) in 2006, when Delgado was still a sophomore. Still, according to Delgado, he saw Pride stickers on lockers with the word "fag" scrawled on them and witnessed friends being "tossed against lockers." By junior year, Delgado said, he had learned to be comfortable enough that, when confronted with the word, he would simply respond, "Yes, and I'm proud of it." But he emphasized that his comfort came about in a school with affirming policies. For the most part, he said, his teachers were "very, very affirming" but while he never heard words like "fag" being used in the classroom, he did find that coaches, for instance, were homophobic. Windy City Times contacted Senn High School for a response, but has not yet received one. The school's GSA was not listed on its Web site at the time of this writing. Windy City Times also attempted to get in touch with South Shore High School but were met by an impenetrable phone system.

Both Daniels, who is African-American and Delgado, who is Latino, are students of color, as were Walker-Hoover and Hererra—which begs the question: Why should anti-gay bullying efforts be any different from addressing bullying on any other grounds? GLSEN Press Relations Manager Daryl Presgraves spoke to the issue. According to him, "there's a real need for enumerating categories like gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation." He said that the right-wing opposition to such legislation paints the anti-gay bullying issue as if it's connected to gay marriage but "when we tell students they can't call someone a fag, it has nothing to do with gay marriage. Schools have this fear that they tell someone you can't bully someone based on sexual orientation, they're going to be weighing in on this culture war. What we tell them is: the stand you're taking is that your students should be safe in school." He added, "If you say it's wrong to call someone fat, universally, people will say it's a problem. But mention the word 'fag' and there's wavering. That's the difference: all of a sudden you get a resistance. And so it's important to recognize that when you start talking about bullying, you have to include anti-LGBT bullying because it's the one area that schools have frequently failed to address. We should talk about all types of bullying. The problem is most schools don't want to talk about anti-gay bullying."

The reasons that students might use anti-gay slurs on other students have a lot to do with social conditioning and perceptions of weakness, according to Chicago-area activists. Sam Finkelstein, a member of the Leadership Council of Gender JUST (Justice United for Societal Transformation), a group that has organized an upcoming public forum with CPS (Chicago Public Schools) CEO Ron Huberman to discuss this issue among others, said that the "stories of suicides are the most tragic end" to this kind of bullying. [Disclosure: This reporter is a member of GJ.] He blamed "a culture of heterosexism and homophobia." According to Finkelstein, "the issue

is not only with the actual bullies themselves, but that events escalate when students and teachers are often passive bystanders." Erica Meiners, a social-justice activist and associate professor of education at Northeastern Illinois and the author of *Right to be Hostile: Schools, Prisons and the Making of Public Enemies*, said that anti-gay bullying was "directly reflective of national anxieties around sexual orientation and gender identity, perceived or actual. Schools mirror larger cultural and political anxieties." She also blamed a culture of misplaced "accountability" saying that, "it's ironic, because we're in a moment of hyper accountability for teachers, in terms of test scores, but see a lack of accountability in other areas."

The question of accountability raises the issue of who is ultimately to be held responsible for bullying—and how can schools change to provide a supportive atmosphere? Presgraves pointed out that while "schools are and have been made liable for incidents arising from anti-LGBT bullying, the conversation we want to have is not about lawsuits but about we can address this problem. How can we do more to make sure our students are safe?" Meiners said that it was essential that teachers also be unionized if we are to see better conditions for LGBTQ students: "It's essential that you're not worried about losing your job, about collective bargaining. If you're unionized, you're protected if you take a stand on controversial issues like LGBTQ youth competencies, or if you support national Coming Out Day, or talk about Eleanor Roosevelt as a lesbian in the classroom."

Finkelstein stressed that there could be no quick-fix solutions, and that measures like a Pride Campus were symbolically important but "there's no point in creating one school where we can wash our hands of it, and make it harder to solve the problem by not making it systemic. At Gender JUST, we are also asking for professional development of staff." Like Meiners, he stressed the importance of teaching about LGBT figures like Bayard Rustin so that "the curriculum fosters a sense of respect for gay people in history. It's also important that schools teach LGBTQ-affirming sex education."

All the people we spoke to emphasized the importance of establishing GSAs in every school and developing faculty and student awareness of the dangers of gay bullying. It also became clear that the voices of students who are willing to take a stand, like Daniels and Delgado, have to be taken into account. (Both are also active members of Gender JUST.) At the same time, there needs to be a federal recognition of LGBTQ-specific issues in relation to bullying. GLSEN is hopeful about the Safe Schools Improvement Act, a federal anti-bullying bill introduced May 5, will go a long way toward that. Presgraves said, "Students are intelligent and when you lay out what's acceptable or not, they respond. If a student responds to an assignment with 'That's so gay,' and the teacher ignores it, it sends a message to students. It's important to train our educators to identify a problem when they first see it in order to reduce its impact throughout the year."

Windy City Times made several attempts to contact CPS for comments, but calls were not returned.



Sam Finkelstein. Photo by Yasmin Nair

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# Marking Tracy Baim's 25th anniversary in Chicago LGBT media

25 for  
charity drive 25

*"I wanted to mark this 25th anniversary by showing my appreciation for the wide range of non-profits serving our community, many of them for decades. Right now, our community non-profits and businesses are hurting. It's time for us to create an economic stimulus package for our own community."*

*-- Tracy Baim, publisher and co-founder of Windy City Times, started in LGBT media in 1984 with GayLife newspaper*

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- Chicago House
- Equality Illinois
- Howard Brown Health Center
- Lambda Legal Defense
- Lesbian Community Care Project
- Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association
- PFLAG: Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
- Test Positive Aware Network
- Vital Bridges

We're asking for you to donate some multiplier of 25 (\$2.50, \$25, \$250 ...) to your favorite charity or charities for our community. A few charities are suggested, but feel free to add another qualified non-profit in the Chicago area.

*We could have done a pie toss, a roast, or any number of humiliating public displays of attention. But instead, we wanted to create an opportunity to support our community's LGBT and HIV groups in their time of need.*



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## CHICAGO GAY HISTORY

BY JOHN D'EMILIO



### 1937: Chicago goes to war

BY JOHN D'EMILIO

In 1937, Chicago went to war. Not against Nazi Germany, not against Japan for invading China, not even against organized crime, a powerful presence in the city. In 1937, Chicago went to war against syphilis.

I was alerted to this war—and “war” was the term used by journalists and public officials—when I had occasion recently to reread No Magic Bullet, Allan Brandt’s history of venereal, or sexually transmitted, diseases. It’s a fascinating account of how social and cultural attitudes about sex and class and race stood in the way of effectively combating STDs. Despite scientific knowledge of how to prevent transmission and despite improvements in treatment, the politics of venereal disease made it resistant to elimination.

Many of us who lived through the 1980s know something about the politics of sex and disease. Headlines like “gay cancer” and phrases like “innocent infection” and President Reagan’s five-year silence about AIDS taught us that the prevention, treatment, and cure of illness is not simply a matter of science. Instead, disease can call into play all the fears and prejudices of a society. It can lead majorities to scapegoat minorities and to attach the label of guilty to people infected by a virus.

Long before AIDS, syphilis was a disease that called forth fear, shame, and blame. Its symptoms, especially in women, easily escaped detection. Left untreated, it worked its destruction gradually, leading to heart disease, the degeneration of vital organs, and insanity. Syphilis and gonorrhea could be transmitted from mother to fetus, resulting sometimes in still births, sometimes in blindness. Not until the early 20th century was there effective treatment for syphilis, but the regimens were long and discomforting.

However, even after diagnosis and treatment became available and science knew how to prevent transmission, syphilis remained resistant to control. Imagine an age, like the early 20th century, when sexual expression belonged only in marriage, when men commonly patronized

prostitutes but a good woman was supposed to be a virgin until her wedding night, and when respectable society just didn’t talk about sex. How could syphilis ever be confronted honestly and openly? Even reformers who tried to do something wrote euphemistically about “social diseases” and “social hygiene.” Syphilis was a word not fit to print.

The result? A disease that, by the 20th century, was immune to effective attack and hence at epidemic levels. Surveys by the Public Health Service in the 1930s found over two million diagnoses of syphilis and gonorrhea each year, at a time when the population was 40% of what it is today. A large percentage of these were advanced cases. As many as 60,000 babies a year were born with syphilis.

All of this makes Chicago’s 1937 declaration of war on syphilis remarkable.

Some encouragement for it came from Washington. This was the era of President Franklin Roosevelt and his New Deal. Change was in the air. Government was doing things it had never done before. Reformers were challenging every kind of tradition and orthodoxy. Such a climate provided the opportunity for Thomas Parran, the new Surgeon General, to target syphilis. Late in 1936, he organized Washington’s first national conference on venereal disease. He wrote a book, *Shadow on the Land*, that detailed the toll in human suffering that syphilis extracted and put public attention on it.

Most cities across America didn’t jump on the war-against-syphilis bandwagon. But Chicago did, more so than any other community. Its leading newspaper, the *Tribune*, made the crusade a top priority. A paper known for its rigid conservatism took up the mission of challenging prudery.

The *Tribune*’s pages shattered “the conspiracy of silence” about venereal diseases. A term like “social hygiene,” it editorialized, was “a euphemism which means little.” In the first two months of 1937, the *Tribune* published over 50 pieces on venereal diseases. “Syphilis” appeared regularly in its headlines, including on the front page.

Mayor Edward Kelly launched the war with a major conference in January. He assembled a large blue-ribbon commission for a citywide assault on “these enemies of mankind.” Aware of Chicago’s reputation for corruption, the president of the city’s board of health told the press that “there is no politics in syphilis and gonorrhea. The city administration has nothing political to sell in undertaking this campaign.” Another public health official sounded a similar note. “There are no political, religious, racial, national, or other groups to be favored ... The enemy we are going to fight plays no favorites.”

The breadth of support that the campaign against syphilis generated was staggering. Episcopal and Presbyterian leaders signed on. Big manufacturers and trade associations promised cooperation; labor unions encouraged members to get tested. Women’s clubs and area colleges enlisted. The superintendent of Chicago’s schools promised a new curriculum that would include information about venereal diseases and the introduction of health counselors in high schools.

Washington provided funds to help Chicago open more clinics, hire workers to staff them, and acquire lab equipment and supplies. At the end of 1936, Chicago had just two public clinics that provided VD testing. One was at police headquarters and the other at the city jail, neither location particularly inviting. A year later, the city had 35 new locations. It also offered on-site testing at factories and high schools.

The city roused its residents. With free postage and return envelopes provided by the Post Office, it polled a million city households. “In strict confidence and at no expense to you, would you like to be given a blood test for syphilis?” the ballot asked. On August 13, 1,500 young folks marched through the Loop, carrying signs that read “Our Children Must Be Free from Syphilis” and “Friday the 13th Is Unlucky for Syphilis.” Marchers went door-to-door delivering ballots to residents of transient hotels and boarding houses in the downtown. That Saturday, as people flocked to the city’s beaches and waterfront parks, a plane flew overhead with a banner urging participation in the campaign. “Chicago, Fight Syphilis—Vote Today.” The Federal Theater Project put on a production “Spirochete,” named for the micro-organism that caused syphilis.

All this effort had an effect. As “ballots” were tabulated, households supported the campaign 15 to 1. Young women were especially eager for free tests. The new city clinics were swamped by people who wanted their blood drawn. By winter 1938, city labs were analyzing over three times as many blood samples as the year before. One telling measure of the campaign’s success: in World War II, according to historian Allan Brandt, Chicago’s draftees showed “the lowest syphilis rates of all major cities.”

But Chicago’s war on syphilis didn’t vanquish the enemy. With the retrospective wisdom that living through the AIDS pandemic provides, I could see some reasons why. For instance, take the *Tribune*’s rhetoric. “Syphilis is often contracted innocently,” the paper editorialized. Well, if so, which infected were the guilty ones, and why would they cooperate? Words like assassin, enemy, evil, and snake were employed to describe syphilis. Who wanted to be associated with labels like these? Whiffs of coercion surfaced. One judge required women and men who

came before him on morals charges to be tested. If he believed an infected defendant might not get treatment, he jailed them until they did.

There was also more than a little scapegoating going on. “Syphilis Centers in the Slums,” one headline announced. “Cases Centered in Low Rent Areas.” It was hard not to read these accounts, from a paper that championed big business, as a form of blaming the poor. After one report claimed that African Americans were eight times more likely to have syphilis, the Chicago Defender editorialized angrily: “In America, the white race makes the statistics.”

Reading this material in the last year, I couldn’t help but make analogies to the present. An economic crisis. Dynamic, innovative leadership in Washington. A city wanting to make big claims for itself. An HIV infection rate that is still much too high. Technical knowledge about how to prevent transmission and experience with community education models that work. Wouldn’t it be great to have federal funds flow to cities, putting people to work as educators against AIDS, with city officials and the press making this a crusade? I could do without the war rhetoric, but as for the rest? A world without AIDS? One can dream ... and organize.

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### ‘Out & Proud’ goes nat’l, wins awards

Out & Proud In Chicago is being picked up by 40 PBS stations in sites ranging from California to the U.S. Virgin Islands, according to a press release.

Also, the PBS World digital channel, carried by 42 stations, will be broadcasting “Out & Proud” Wed., June 3, at 7:30 p.m. CT. An additional 30 other PBS stations are still considering running it.

In addition, Out & Proud in Chicago recently won a Peter Lisagor Award for Exemplary Journalism by the Society of Professional Journalists for Best Public Affairs Programming. And “Out & Proud In Chicago” finished third in the international competition known as the Hugo Television Awards, which is sponsored by the Chicago International Film Festival; the awards took place April 22 at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington.

### Safe-sex ringtone to be unveiled May 23

Two South Side teenagers have developed a safe-sex ringtone called “Strapless” that is based on the Kanye West hit “Heartless.” The ringtone will be officially unveiled Saturday, May 23, at an HIV Vaccine Awareness Day event, “With Austin Comes a Cure,” at the Sankofa Cultural Arts and Business Center, 5820 W. Chicago, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., according to an AIDS Foundation of Chicago press release.

The tone was developed as part of a city-wide HIV/AIDS awareness campaign known as “With Me Comes a Cure” ([www.WithMeComesACure.org](http://www.WithMeComesACure.org)). “Strapless” is available at the Web site.

### Coalition cookout May 21; dinner postponed

The Coalition for Justice and Respect—a civil-rights and social-justice organization of African-American same-gender-loving Black gays and lesbians—will hold a cookout Thursday, May 21, at Club Escape, 1530 E. 75th, 6-10 p.m. International Mr. Leather attendees are especially welcome.

However, the organization’s first-ever community fundraiser—a dinner/dance slated for Saturday, May 23, at the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, 12 E. Erie—has been postponed. E-mail [cjr.chicago@gmail.com](mailto:cjr.chicago@gmail.com) or call 773-559-1751 for more info.

Wednesday, May 27

7:00 p.m.

Women, Words and Wit Double Header:

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A diverse group of supporters, mostly women, convened inside the Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park, to explore indoor gardens with lush ferns, desert cactuses and exotic flowers. The annual women's fundraiser for Howard Brown Health Center's Lesbian Community Care Project came to fruition May 16 as hundreds of attendees enjoyed the scenery. The change of venue and yearly time was months in the planning for this year's co-chairs: Tamara Allen, Kat Fitzgerald, Dalila Fridi and Melissa Mansfield. VIP ticket holders enjoyed a private reception in the Labyrinth while guests were given complete access to walk around and experience various rooms like the Palm House, Aroid House and Desert House, which led to the Dessert Lounge. In each landscape was a different musical act, from Jeannie Tanner's jazz quartet to Latin beats with Sandra Ivelisse Antongiorgi. Another visual highlight was a body-painted nymph (portrayed by Kelly Kiorges and painted by Dana Lloyd) who darted around. Throngs of guests then ended the night with the after-party at Oak Park's Velvet Rope. In addition, there was a VIP reception May 15. Text by Emmanuel Garcia and photos by Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com) and Mel Ferrand; visit the Windy City Media Group video channel at [www.QueerTVNetwork.com](http://www.QueerTVNetwork.com) for additional video coverage and [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) for many more images.

# QUOTE ON

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

**"SIMPLY EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY ISN'T GOING TO FIX OUR PROBLEM EITHER.** Republicans using Twitter and Facebook isn't going to miraculously make people think we're cool again. Breaking free from obsolete positions and providing real solutions that don't divide our nation further will." — *Sen. John McCain's daughter, Meghan, in an April 18 address to Log Cabin Republicans.*

**"1. MOST OF OUR NATION WANTS OUR NATION TO SUCCEED; 2.** Most people are ready to move on to the future, not live in the past; and 3. Most of the old school Republicans are scared shitless of that future." — *Sen. John McCain's daughter, Meghan, in an April 18 address to Log Cabin Republicans.*

**"IF THERE IS ONE THING THAT GIVES ME HOPE ABOUT THE FUTURE** of our party and the role you and the Log Cabin Republicans can play in it is this: there's never been a better time to speak out. People are listening. And, they're more open minded than ever before." — *Sen. John McCain's daughter, Meghan, in an April 18 address to Log Cabin Republicans.*

**"THIS GUY IS A QUEER!"** The word queer comes out of his mouth three or four times." — *An attendee's allegation of what former Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul said after a confrontation with Sacha Baron Cohen's character Bruno in Cohen's new film, as posted on Salon.com March 16.*

**"LIKE RACE, OUR SEXUALITY ISN'T A PREFERENCE.** It is immutable; it is unchangeable. And the constitution protects us against prejudices and discrimination based on immutable differences." — *NAACP Board Chair Julian Bond speaking at the Human Rights Campaign's March 16 dinner in Los Angeles. A video of Bond's speech is at [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org).*

**"WHEN A YOUNG MAN IS A DANCER,** gay or straight does not matter anymore in our society, luckily. The dance world was always much more open about being queer. In a way, it still is—but more open to straight guys." — *Ballet legend Mikhail Baryshnikov when asked if he had any advice for young men who want to dance, in the March issue of Details magazine.*

**"I REFER TO MYSELF AS GAY, BUT** I am married to a man. Of course, I've had relationships with women, but my politics are more queer than my lifestyle." — *Comedian Margaret Cho, in the March 29 issue of the New York Times Magazine.*

**"I THINK THERE'S FAR TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE** placed on people's sexuality anyway. I love sex, it's great, but it's not the measure of love or a relationship. And whether you like girls or boys, whether you like the light on or off: Who cares? I always find sexuality one of the least interesting things about a person." — *Actor Hugh Jackman in the April 24/May 1 issue of Entertainment Weekly.*



**I refer to myself as gay, but I am married to a man.**

—Margaret Cho



Photo by Austin Young



**"I THINK PEOPLE ARE BORN BISEXUAL AND THEN MAKE** subconscious choices based on the pressures of society. I have no question in my mind about being bisexual." — *Actress Megan Fox (Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen), in the June issue of Esquire.*

**"BUT I'M ALSO A HYPOCRITE: I WOULD NEVER DATE** a girl who was bisexual, because that means they also sleep with men, and men are so dirty that I'd never want to sleep with a girl who had slept with a man." — *Actress Megan Fox (Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen), in the June issue of Esquire. Fox herself was recently engaged to actor Brian Austin Green (Beverly Hills 90210).*

**"90 PEOPLE GET THE SWINE FLU** and everybody wants to wear a mask. A million people have AIDS and no one wants to wear a condom." — *A popular e-mail message recently forwarded by many people.*

**"WONDERFUL! THIS MOVIE MAKES THE CUT!"**  
—Michael Wilmington, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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**CARY  
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## Exporting homophobia

Despite the global recession, the U.S. is promoting and aggressively selling a costly product overseas: homophobia. Uganda, one of America's closest partners in Africa, is currently home to vicious and violent attacks on its citizens based solely on their sexual orientation and gender identity. The high cost in terms of individual privacy and freedom of expression is mounting daily. Regrettably, much of the inspiration and call for these attacks is coming directly from these shores.

In March 2009, three American extremists flew to Uganda's capital city of Kampala to be featured speakers at a three-day training seminar focused on the "homosexual machinery wreaking havoc on individuals, families and society." Attendees, including Ugandan teachers, pastors, and parents, were bombarded with provocative lectures, slide shows, and glossy materials that offered advice on how to fight the "gay agenda" and "cure" gay people from their sexual orientation.

The three Americans—Scott Lively, Don Schmierer, and Caleb Lee Brundidge—work for groups such as the Extreme Prophetic Ministry in Arizona, the International Healing Foundation in Maryland and Exodus International in Florida, all of which declare "homosexuality" to be sinful and advocate converting gay people to heterosexuality—an approach that is widely

repudiated and even condemned by professional organizations including the American Psychological Association and the American Medical Association.

Lively, whose book, *The Pink Swastika*, makes the discredited claim that gays helped run the Nazi party, was quoted at the seminar as stating, "You have a gay movement in Uganda that is operating at a high level ... this gay movement around the world has a handbook that they use and that is what the Ugandan gay movement is using now. You must be ready to stop this gay agenda."

Emboldened by the Americans' vilification of gay people, the seminar's Ugandan host organization, Family Life Network, immediately instigated a witch-hunt. The group mobilized "ex-gays" to appear on television and radio and announce the names, addresses and places of employment of supposed gays and lesbians in Uganda. The effects have been immediate and devastating. At least five people have been arrested and charged with "having carnal knowledge against the order of nature." Violent attacks of anyone suspected of being gay are occurring on the streets of Kampala with more frequency and intensity. Local tabloids, such as *The Red Pepper* have jumped into the fray by printing lists of men and women accused of being gay and lesbian.

Equally disturbing are calls for violence against gay men and lesbians from a coalition of the country's religious leaders representing the Church of Uganda, the Catholic Church, and the Muslim Supreme Council. A recent public outing of "who is gay in Uganda" took place at the church of veteran Ugandan homophobe Martin Ssempe, who is a close friend of the head of America's Saddleback Church, Rick Warren. In 2007, Ssempe organized a rally in which one of his guest speakers encouraged the murder of all gay and lesbian people by means of starvation.

Now in 2009, Ssempe himself has publicly announced the names and places of employment of gay men.

This homophobic campaign is intent on getting new legislation passed in Uganda that will expand already harsh penalties against consensual same-sex relationships (the Ugandan Penal Code already carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. How much more severe can a penalty be?) Petitioners are calling for an expansion of that law to make it illegal for people of diverse sexual orientations to meet, to share ideas, and to engage in self-help programs to prevent HIV. These types of laws will open the door to all manner of blackmail, police harassment, employment discrimination and violence by state and non-state actors as well as attacks on freedom of expression, association and privacy.

When asked what he would say to a gay person excluded by the church, Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu said he would apologize: "You are members of this family." Every member of the human family deserves to be treated dignity and respect. Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Ugandans should be able to live their lives in peace without the boot of the state on their necks or the fear of a homophobic lynch mob gathering outside their homes or workplaces. U.S. extremists are purposefully stoking the flames of homophobia in Uganda and inciting human rights abuses. In contrast, the U.S. government should stand up for justice and let Uganda know that any law that curtails basic human rights is wrong, that arresting people because of whom they are perceived to love is a crime, and that inducing violence and hatred is never a solution for resolving social conflict.

**Cary Alan Johnson is executive director of The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission.**



**CARLOS  
MOCK**

## Gay rights after Obama's first 100 days

We are not equal, we are still second-class citizens!

While same-sex marriage has received a strong dose of positive change, we've yet to hear from Mr. Obama. He is still on the record that marriage is between one man and one woman.

Here's where things stand nationally:

—**Same-sex marriage:** Maine, Vermont, Iowa, Connecticut and Massachusetts, California briefly allowed gay marriage last year, but a voter initiative in November repealed it.

—**Civil unions:** New Hampshire and New Jersey, same-sex couples can enter into civil unions that entail the same rights and responsibilities as marriage. New Hampshire's waiting for its governor to sign into law same-sex marriage, as the measure cleared both houses. New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine has pledged to sign a gay-marriage bill that has been introduced in its legislature. New York's governor, David Paterson, introduced legislation for same-sex marriage in the state's legislature. Illinois has a civil-union bill working its way in the legislature.

—**Domestic partnerships:** California, Oregon, Washington and the District of Columbia have domestic-partnership laws that extend many of the benefits of marriage to same-sex couples.

—**Constitutional bans:** Twenty-nine states have approved state constitutional amendments that ban gay marriage: Alabama, Alaska, Arizo-

na, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin and Hawaii.

—**Federal recognition:** Under the Federal Defense of Marriage Act, the United States government does not recognize same-sex unions, even those that are legal marriages in Massachusetts, Connecticut and several foreign countries.

—**Out-of-state recognition:** New York recognizes same-sex marriages performed elsewhere but hasn't allowed them in the state. The District of Columbia Council recognizes gay marriages performed in other states.

We must all fight our fights. These next four years need to be when the rights of LGBTs become as inalienable as anyone else's—when our life, liberty and pursuit of happiness are as indisputable as anyone else's.

Whether we have access to the cultural and economic advantages of marriage should not be up for debate. Whether we can be fired from our

jobs, lose our kids or be thrown out of our apartments should not be up for debate. Whether we can serve openly and proudly in the armed forces should not be up for debate.

The time has come for our president to enforce The Bill of Rights' Fourteenth Amendment: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." These should be applied to every citizen, regardless of his/her sexual or gender orientation.

**Carlos Mock, MD, has published three books and is the Floricanto Press editor for its LGBT series. He was inducted in the Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame in October 2007. His Web site is www.carlostmock.com.**

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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 Dave Ouano

## BUTT IN ALL FAIRNESS...

Benjamin Sprunger (above) redefined "bare essence" to help About Face Theatre. Read the interview on page 14.

## THEATER

'Blonde.' **Lame Blonde?**  
Page 14.

Photo by Joan Marcus



## EVENTS

Outrage-ous.  
Pages 17-18.

Photo courtesy of  
Magnolia Pictures



## BUSINESS

Family ties.  
Page 22.

Photo courtesy of  
Barbara Kinney



## Lane Alexander: He's got rhythm

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Gene Kelly sang "Gotta Dance" in the incomparable film musical *Singin' in the Rain*, but that title could apply to Chicago Human Rhythm Project co-founder Lane Alexander as well. Chicago Human Rhythm Project's (CHRP's) co-founder and director talked with Windy City Times about his own background and the show "Windy City Rhythms Goes Global," which will feature Brazilian band Barbatuques, choreographer Jason Samuels Smith and CHRP's performing ensemble, BAM! May 29-31 at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), 220 E. Chicago.

**Windy City Times:** I've noticed that we've never talked with you...

Lane Alexander: It's probably because I'm glued to my desk. [Laughs] I never get out anymore. I sit and work all the time.

**WCT:** I am interested in your background and how you became interested in dancing.

LA: I started as a kid. My parents were musicians; they threw my sister and me into music and dance classes at very young ages, and it's been a part of my entire life. Despite the fact that I was going to the University of Texas at Austin as a pre-law major, I rebelled against that and pursued a career in the arts.

**WCT:** So what changed your mind?

LA: I was working at the LBJ Law Library binding books and doing all the things pre-law majors do—and I hated it. I was bored to tears. I didn't see that as my future, and what I would do every night after I got out of the law library was go dancing. [Laughs] It was really every night, and I'd really go dancing. It was obvious that [dancing] was where my passion was.

So I asked, "Why am I forcing myself to do something I'm not that excited about?" So I went to study dance—and I never looked back.

**WCT:** There's something to be said about



Lane Alexander.

**following your passion.**

LA: Absolutely.

**WCT:** And you co-founded Chicago Human Rhythm Project in 1990. Why did you do that? Was there a dearth of tap dancing in Chicago?

LA: Well, not really. I had danced in the early '80s with a repertory company based in Texas (Austin on Tap). Following that, I came to Chicago to dance in a modern-dance company with Kelly Michaels, the co-founder of the Human Rhythm Project. Then, I went to Canada to dance with a national tap-dance company for a couple of years. I had done concert tap, musical-theater tap and thought I knew how to tap.

Then, I went to this musical festival out in Portland, Ore., and I was introduced to a completely different culture of tap, with African-American hoofers, [such as] Buster Brown. Rhythm tap was a new world, and it was at that point I decided that I would never tap-dance, because there was too much to know. But, what I did realize was that there was no focus on tap art in Chicago. I was aware of other people who were tap-dancing here and there, but there was no gathering place for the tap-art community. So we started a festival here to bring great masters here—and to bring the tap dancers from different communities in Chicago together, because

there's the 75-year-old Sammy Dyer School on the South Side; Mayfair Academy, which was Tommy Sutton's school and which [recently] celebrated its 50th anniversary; and others. So there were all of the deeply rooted traditions that were not being recognized in a broader, more public way.

Plus, our mission has always been to honor all the different genres of tap, because there are some very distinct forms of tap dancing. They're not all the same, and they don't all come from the same place, but I like them all so I wanted to show them all. [The festival] was to support local artists, to build common ground for the tap-art community and to inject new information by bringing visiting masters to the community.

**WCT:** Tell me about "Windy City Rhythms Goes Global."

LA: Every year we do a program called "Windy City Rhythms"—it's our National Tap Dance Day concert. This year we added the tag "Goes Global" because of the addition of the company from Brazil, Barbatuques.

**WCT:** Barbatuques is described as a Brazilian body band. What exactly is a body band?

LA: They have taken "body-drumming"—an old tradition that began in the Civil War South and was known as "pating the juba" [which incorporated hand-clapping and foot-stomping]—and put their own spin on it. However, it's not just found in the United States; there's a German form of body-drumming [and] there's Indonesian body-drumming, which is very intricate.

Barbatuques, however, sings and have expanded the vocabulary incredibly. There are seven different tones they create with claps. When you listen to them or see them on our Web site [www.chicagotap.com], you see how they've combined singing, Afro-Brazilian chants, foot-stomping, body-drumming and this sort of urban contemporary feel—they bring it all together. It sounds like you're listening to instruments.

**WCT:** What can we expect from BAM!?

LA: We do have a performing education ensemble; they are going to be premiering [at

least] three new works at the end of May—one by Broadway choreographer Ted Levy, which is sort of reminiscent of Gregory Hines' style. Like Gregory, Ted is a song-and-dance man. Also, last year we had an artist-in-residence from Spain, Guillermo Alonso, and he was here four times last year; over the course of his visit he created a sand dance, which is tap-dancing in soft shoes on sand. It sounds like brushes on a snare drum.

It actually fits in with our mission of preserving the old and presenting the new, and a lot of these pieces accomplish both.

Another piece that's just off the charts is hardcore rhythm tap created by Martin "Tre" Dumas—it's just unbelievably complex, intense syncopation executed brilliantly by our young dancers. They attack this material—and you have to, because it'll eat you alive [if you don't].

**WCT:** What do you feel is the underlying theme or message of the show?

LA: Of course, our mission is preserving tradition and presenting new works by emerging artists. But there is the universality of rhythmic expression and [laughs] the seemingly infinite variety of expressing oneself. Everywhere I go, I see someone doing something new and interesting—and part of our mission is to bring some of that wonderful creative energy back to Chicago.

**"Windy City Rhythms Goes Global" will take place at 7:30 p.m. May 29-31 at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago. Tickets are \$28-\$35 each; call 312-397-4010 or visit www.mcachicago.org See www.ChicagoTap.org for more on the Chicago Human Rhythm Project.**

**Also, Barbatuques will hold workshops Thursday, May 28, at 6 p.m. at the Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln, and Sunday, May 31, at the MCA. Tickets are \$20 each for the May 28 event; call 773-728-6000 to register. Tickets are \$15-\$25 for the May 31 event; see www.chicagotap.org.**

**Read the entire interview with Lane Alexander at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.**



**Benjamin Sprunger.**

## Man grins and bares it for About Face

BY ANDREW DAVIS

When it came to helping About Face Theatre, Benjamin Sprunger decided to do a brave thing: In April (through May 1), he competed in a series of contests held in bars (including a jockstrap contest)—and raised thousands for the organization, which is fighting to stay alive. After all the competitions (and trauma), Sprunger talked with Windy City Times.

**Windy City Times: What you did was pretty innovative.**

Benjamin Sprunger: Well, it's funny because when I came up with that idea, I didn't think it was all that innovative. I finally sent out the e-mail that confirmed what I was going to do and locked me into it; I got all of these responses from people that said that was the greatest idea ever. I was taken aback because I didn't consider it to be that ingenious.

**WCT: It was also pretty brave of you, I have to say.**

Sprunger: That, and I knew that if I could engage a crowd to come out and support About Face I could get some money for that organization. It wasn't getting people out to see me, necessarily, with me showing my ass. [Laughs]

**WCT: So do you have a direct connection to About Face? Not that you need one to do something like this...**

Sprunger: I've done four shows for them since 2000, and I've worked with them on several occasions; they're really good friends of

mine. When it was announced that they had to do this "Face the Future" campaign because of budget shortfalls and donor downturn, we were asked by the artistic director and managing director to brainstorm and come up with ideas. Somebody did a Schoolhouse Rock benefit performance at Mary's Attic; someone else did a Ride for AIDS thing that benefits [Test Positive Aware Network and] About Face Theater. Amy Matheny, who you work with, is one of the organizers of Flip Flop, where men sing women's songs and women sing men's songs. And they just had their benefit gala, Wonka Ball. But with all these things circulating, I am proud that I netted quite a bit of money.

**WCT: You competed in five events...**

Sprunger: ...and I couldn't compete in the sixth and most legit event—[Windy City] Gay Idol—because I'm a member of the actors' union, which means I'm a "professional."

**WCT: Of the other five, which was the most horrifying?**

Sprunger: The lube wrestling at Hydrate was the *piece de resistance*. I didn't know what to expect in [most] of these contests. The wet-boxer contest at Roscoe's ended up being the most revealing; once you get wet boxers, there's nothing to hide, really. [Laughs]

**WCT: And you won \$1,200, correct?**

Sprunger: Yes. I won \$1,200 and a friend/anonymous donor matched that \$1,200. Then, there was a guy at Jackhammer who agreed that contest's prize, which was \$200. So the total was \$2,600. Some other people probably donated too, but they didn't tell me how much.

The money is great, and I'm glad that more people are aware that not only is About Face an award-winning theater with exciting new work in the LGBT community but they have this youth-theater program that is amazing and one-of-a-kind.

See [www.aboutfacetheatre.com](http://www.aboutfacetheatre.com) for more information and to donate.



**Legally Blonde the Musical.** Photo by Joan Marcus

## THEATER REVIEW Legally Blonde: The Musical

**Playwrights: Heather Hach, Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin**

**At: Ford Center/Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph**

**Tickets: 312-902-1400;**

**www.BroadwayInChicago.com; \$32-\$95**

**Runs through: June 7**

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

The good news about Legally Blonde the Musical—at least for fans of the hit film—is that it's faithful to the flick without being a slavish shot-by-shot reproduction *a la* Dirty Dancing. It also boasts a fine, energetic and deliciously attractive cast headlined by the knockout Becky Gulsvig as Elle Woods. There are only two major changes from the film. First, Elle's UCLA sorority sisters pop up throughout the musical as an in-her-mind Greek chorus. Broadway ensemble folk are paid the same whether they appear in one scene or 10 scenes, so the producers are getting their money's worth. Second, the important gay plot twist in the murder trial near the end is turned into a big production number.

The bad news is, why bother? Except for several of the character numbers, the score is bland Broadway rock, with one song undistinguishable from the next. David Rockwell's scenery is colorful and constantly in motion but is ordinary with a capital "O"—neither beautiful nor innovative. The choreography by Jerry Mitchell (who doubles as director) also provides constant motion and

athletic musical staging but very little dance per se and nothing to make one say "Wow!" Music, scenery and dance all serve the story well enough, and certainly move it along swiftly in Act I, but they don't captivate, dazzle or charm. If the score and choreography don't have a distinctive stamp to them, why bother spending big bucks to create a musical? Answer: shameless commerce. Legally Blonde the Musical is an easy extension of a popular title with built-in audience recognition.

Gulsvig gives a stand-out performance as Elle, but isn't given a stand-out song to sing. The distinctive numbers chiefly go to worthy supporting players, among them sexy "older" Ken Land as Professor Callahan singing the lawyer's credo, "Blood in the Water." As Emmett, Elle's mentor and eventual love interest, D.B. Bonds scores with "Chip on My Shoulder" and also with the shopping song (with Elle), "Take It Like a Man." Notably, both songs work to deepen the lead characters and their relationship, unlike most of the score. Principal female support comes from Natalie Joy Johnson as earthy hairdresser Paultette who lands the UPS stud (mighty-thighed Ven Daniel).

Sure, it's all good, clean fun. Even "Is he gay or European?" in the big trial scene is a funny idea before it descends to gay/lesbian stereotypes. Gay *can* be funny without resorting to clichés. You'll have to decide whether you find such portrayals offensive or acceptable within the show's sitcom context. And what does Nikos the pool boy have to do with the murder? Why's he there at all?

Legally Blonde the Musical isn't bad; it just isn't very special.

## SPOTLIGHT



Curious Theatre Branch returns to the Rogers Park neighborhood to present **The Caretaker**, a classic drama by the late Nobel Laureate Harold Pinter. See what happens when a homeless tramp comes between two sparring brothers in a rundown flat. Curious Theatre Branch's *The Caretaker* plays 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 7 p.m. Sundays through June 28 at The Side Project, 1439 W. Jarvis Ave., Chicago. Tickets are \$20. 773-508-0666 or [www.curioustheatrebranch.com](http://www.curioustheatrebranch.com). Photo courtesy of Curious Theatre Branch.

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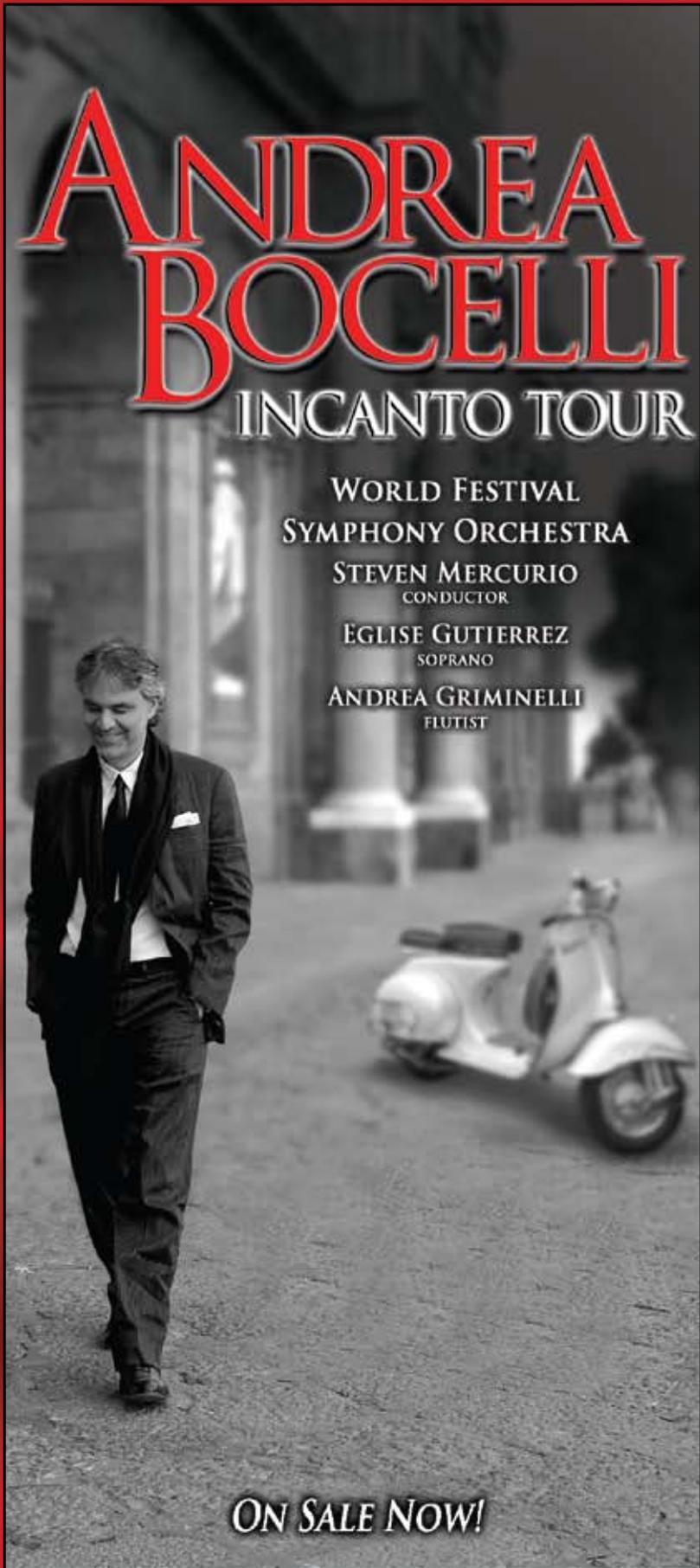
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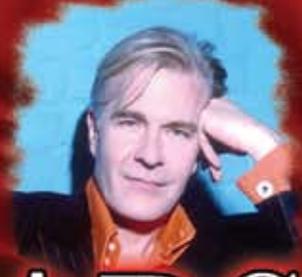


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## THEATER REVIEW

**Once on This Island**

Composer: Stephen Flaherty;

Librettist: Lynn Ahrens

At: Porchlight Music Theatre at

Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont

Phone: 773-327-5252; \$30-\$37

Runs through: June 28

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Here's a game you can play before Porchlight Music Theatre's new production of *Once on This Island*: Count the number of people entering the theater who do a double take when they first glance the show's set.

Most musical theater fanatics know that Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty's much-beloved 1990 musical is set on a Caribbean island. Yet, the set for Porchlight's *Once on This Island* looks like a corner store smack dab in the middle of New York City.

You may ask yourself, "Just how is Porchlight going to pull this off?" Especially since there appears to be a huge disparity between this Caribbean-flavored musical's Little Mermaid-inspired script and Ian Zywica's graffiti-tagged urban set.

Well, I'm happy to report that Porchlight has triumphed yet again with an unconventionally savvy staging of a musical you might have thought you already knew.

Director Mark E. Lococo pays off on his risk of having New Yorkers (no doubt many who are Caribbean immigrants) telling the story of Ti-Moune, a black peasant girl who falls in love with a young mulatto man from a wealthy family.

Taking in all the information is the Little Girl (Austin Moore), who imagines the people in her neighborhood embodying the tale's many characters of gods, peasants and upper crust islanders. For example, the sassy corner store owner (an amazing Bethany Thomas) comes to embody the earth goddess Asaka, while a Latino gang-banger (an equally impressive Luis Herrera) takes on the character of Papa Ge, the god of death.

Literalists might not like Lococo's *Once on This Island* approach, which takes a page from both *Sesame Street* and the recent Tony Award-winning hit *In the Heights*. But it ultimately works, since Lococo's modern staging serves as a reminder that we bear a responsibility to make sure that fairytales and native legends get passed down through the generations, no matter how far away you may have traveled from your country of origin.

Assuring that the show works so well is yet another enormously talented Porchlight cast that energetically swirls through Brenda Didier's calypso-inspired choreography and Gary C. Echelmeyer's colorful lighting design (once again, the orchestra was top notch under Eugene Dizon's direction).

Melanie Brezill's overly earnest TiMoune was heartbreaking, while the rest of the cast fleshed



**Once on This Island.** Photo courtesy of Porchlight Music Theatre

out their multiple roles with dramatic and vocal assuredness (only Sean Walton seemed to be having some pitch issues during Daniel's solo "Some Girls" on opening night).

So even if the Island of the show's title appears to be Manhattan, this Porchlight staging of *Once on This Island* proves itself by daringly upending expectations while delivering the emotional and storytelling goods. Don't miss it.

## THEATER REVIEW

**The Who's Tommy**

Playwright: music &amp; lyrics

by Peter Townshend,

book by Peter Townshend &amp; Des McAnuff

At: Circle Theatre, 7300 W. Madison,

Forest Park

Phone: 708-771-0700; \$24

Runs through: July 19

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

It was called the first "rock opera"—though, in fact, it was more of an oratorio—in 1969, this song cycle chronicling the tale of the blind, deaf and mute boy whose acute sensory withdrawal stems from a traumatic incident suffered during the years following World War II. After many trials, he overcomes his affliction (with the therapeutic assistance of high-stimulus pinball games) to achieve celebrity as an inspirational icon to his peers. All fame is fleeting, however—his followers eventually desert him, leaving him to consider what really matters in life.

Composer/author Peter Townshend was prepared for the dissent that greeted his 1991 revision of the story for the stage: Tommy's MIA father survives his homecoming, Uncle Ernie's pedophilia is linked to his alcoholism, most of the overt drug references are excised from the text (the Acid Queen is now simply "The Gypsy"), idolatry is thrust upon a reluctant Tommy, and his fortunes end, not in existential despair, but reaffirmation of filial community. The Who may not have sold out, but it wasn't afraid to grow up, and so Baby boom-generation playgo-

ers looking for a Peter Pan experience will have to seek it at *Forever Plaid*.

That said, the narrative's first incarnation was shaped for a studio album bereft of music for bridging entrances, exits, scene changes, and the like. Circle Theatre's tiny storefront stage, ironically, has the advantage over the big arenas in that less time is needed to move actors into position. Scenic furniture is mounted on wheels to allow for similarly easy shifting. And Kevin Bellie's lively ensemble dances—incorporating, at various times, the lindy, the twist and the pogo—locate us perfectly in a timeline spanning the two decades from 1940 to 1960.

The challenge in replicating Townshend's score of non-stop pop is to invoke the excitement associated with the original instrumentalists while still keeping the lyrics intelligible to youngsters for whom every word is not etched in memory. The body microphones were sometimes spotty on opening night, but sound designer Peter J. Storms, musical director Carolyn Brady Riley and her six-piece band supply the requisite Dionysian rush, while a cast led by Tom McGunn, Alex Turner and Dylan Angel Manianglung-Lainez as, respectively, the infant, youth and adult Tommy generate enough sparkle to light up the corner of Circle and Madison even on a stormy night as dark as the troubled times from which our hero emerges triumphant.

## THEATER REVIEW

**Busman's Honeymoon**

Playwright: adapted by Frances Limoncelli

from the novel by Dorothy L. Sayers

At: Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood

Phone: 773-761-4477; \$30

Runs through: June 21

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

An aristocrat-turned-sleuth rescuing a mystery writer from a charge of murder is hardly "meeting cute," but in 1930 Dorothy L. Sayers introduced Lord Peter Wimsey to Harriet Vane and, thus, was born one of the most romantic duos in detective fiction (or detectives in romantic fiction, if you prefer). Lifeline Theatre reunited the couple in 2004 with its page-to-stage adaptation of *Strong Poison*, contracting the sweethearts' engagement in 2006 with *Gaudy Night* and their subsequent marriage with this final installment in the trilogy.

We open with the high-profile newlyweds having evaded the paparazzi by eloping to a picturesque cottage in the English countryside. No sooner do they arrive, however, than the house's previous tenant is found bludgeoned to death in the basement, leaving the flustered bride and groom to negotiate their post-nuptial accords while simultaneously tracking down a killer. But not for nothing did Sayers originally subtitle her narrative, "A Love Story with Detective Interruptions." By the time we are finished, the culprit has been exposed and the marital commitment reaffirmed.

And all in a swiftly-paced two and a half hours, too. Frances Limoncelli's tidy script proceeds smartly under Paul M. Holmquist's brisk, but never overhurried, direction. Peter Greenberg and Jennifer Tyler reprise their roles as the worldly lovers, flanked by Phil Timberlake as their unflappable (well, *almost* unflappable) butler. Millicent Hurley and James E. Grote as sturdy bucolic tradespersons. David Skvarla and Adam Breske as the local constabulary. And Rob Kauzlaric, Kate Harris, Paul Myers and Christopher M. Walsh as assorted suspects. (Playgoers whose previous acquaintance with Lifeline's stock company of actors leads them to anticipate the identity of the criminal are requested *not* to share their theories with fellow audience members.)

In the end, however, our reward is not just who dunit—although Sayers provides plenty of speculative motives and means before the puzzle is resolved—nor is it merely clever stagecraft (like the car headlights that signal the honeymooners' covert arrival at their rural refuge), but the author's ruminations on the forging of an ideal partnership between men and women desirous of such egalitarian relationships. As Lord Peter himself declares to Harriet and Bunter, "A man is rich in friends who has a good wife and a good servant, and I hope I may [never] give either of you cause to leave me"—a vow reflective of a literary genre invoking a universe substantially more orderly than our own.

## CRITICS' PICS

**Enemy of the People**, Red Tape Theatre at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, through May 30. Traditionalists may grumble, but Robert L. Oakes' Americanized modernization of Henrik Ibsen's classic drama gives it an extra close-to-home impact. James Palmer's clever staging also shakes up the audience's complacency of their civic duties. SCM

**The Lieutenant of Inishmore**, Northlight Theatre, through June 7. For those who like their Irish dramas with plenty of bodily fluids and black comedy, *Lieutenant* is a can't-miss endeavor. A killer ensemble that includes Matt DeCaro, John Judd and Jamie Abelson, makes this a can't-miss for everybody else as well. CS

**Pumpgirl**, A Red Orchid Theatre, through May 24. Move over, Conor McPherson! Abby Spallen's grimly humorous picture of life on the borderlands of Northern Ireland proves that a depressed economy makes for a depressed population anywhere in the world. MSB

**Red Noses**, Strawdog Theatre, through May 23. Who knew the Black Death was funny? Last chance to see this engaging extravaganza about a Medieval clown troupe; a comedy that will make you laugh and maybe think about joy, faith, politics, life and death. JA

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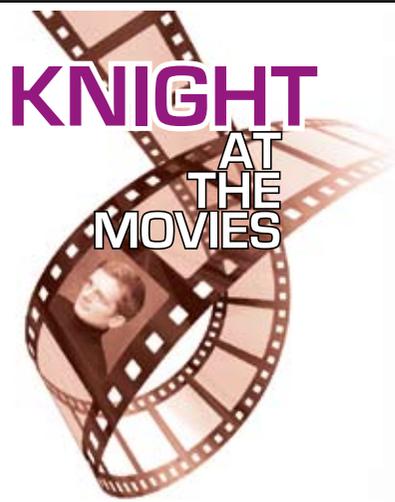
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## OUTRAGE; Film notes

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Kirby Dick, the documentary filmmaker who made the eye-opening 2006 *This Film Is Not Yet Rated*, returns with **OUTRAGE**. If I felt frustration and anger over the unfair way that LGBT-themed movies are treated by the MPAA ratings board (as highlighted in that film), imagine how, as a queer movie critic, I felt coming out of *Outrage*, in which Dick takes on the topic of closeted politicians lobbying for anti-gay legislation, blatantly flying in the face of their own kind. I'm boiling. Just as in *Milk*, I realized early on during the screening that it was going to be hard, if not impossible, for me to remain objective about the film given the subject matter, so read what I thought with a grain of salt. When it comes to *Outrage*, I'm not balanced.

That may have to do with Dick's approach. He's less showy and more methodical than Michael Moore; Dick slowly builds his case with solid research and the audaciousness of some of what he shows you—the stunning denial of the participants—is mind-boggling. In *Outrage* (which has the canny tagline, "Do Ask. Do Tell") he doesn't just expose politicians engaged in this insidious practice (and, yes, the majority are Republicans); he also takes on their operatives and friends in the media who have also remained closeted while supporting anti-gay agendas. The film also gives us a historical overview; it goes back to Roy Cohn going after commies and queers during the Red Scare, and then into the beginning of AIDS and the terrible silence and indifference during the devastating Reagan era that helped the pandemic take hold. It's a long, painful, gut-wrenching history of willful persecution, and the film persuasively makes the case that staying in the closet has been tremendously damaging on a personal level and to society at large.

What is it with these self-loathing people that make them not just go after their own kind, but outright vilify and try to hurt us? Dick offers some psychological guesswork from formerly closeted Log Cabin Republicans and other talking heads, along with a lot of psychobabble from ousted ex-governor Jim McGreevey as possible explanations, but it's still a head-scratcher for me. The powerful film starts with the audio of now-former U.S. Sen. Larry Craig being interviewed by police (after his arrest while trolling for gay sex in the Minneapolis airport bathroom stall) over the credits; next, we see bits of Craig's follow-up press conference in which he denied being gay. (The film keeps coming back to this press conference, interspersed with questionable incidents from Craig's past until this conference becomes ludicrous—a record of shame and guilt.) Next we learn that apparently our nation's capital is queer central as supporting witnesses confide and we read about "a brilliantly orchestrated conspiracy" to keep Washington's closet door shut tight while somber cello music plays on the soundtrack.

As Dick provides evidence against a cadre of closeted, purportedly anti-gay politicians and their disgraceful voting records, he also delves into the practice of "outing" itself and includes on-camera interviews with those in favor of it (such as Michelangelo Signorile, who climbed to fame because of his willingness to name names), against it (conservative columnist Andrew Sullivan) and those in between. Now, no matter your opinion on the practice it is Mike Rogers, the man who has become most feared by closeted politicians doing us the dirty (because of his Web site, [www.blogactive.com](http://www.blogactive.com), that tracks these guys), who neatly sums up the reason to out these venal politicians: "I'm reporting hypocrisy, not outing." U.S. Rep. Barney Frank echoes a moment later that these anti-gay gays deserve "[a] right to privacy—not a right to hypocrisy." The seemingly benign Rogers is the film's hero as he shows no fear in going after closeted politicians—past, present and future—and their minions who are working hard against Our People from within their closet walls.

Dick makes the case that while the gay media has been reporting on a batch of these suspect individuals—from Florida Gov. Charlie Crist to David Dreier, a California Republican congressman—the mainstream has ignored it. One reason for that seems to be a collective

media sensitivity to their subject's sexuality—a thorny issue the film identifies. How does the mainstream get past its hesitation and "privacy" issues about revealing queer sexuality? The first step, of course, is to remove the shame and stigma attached to it across the board once and for all—a process not for the impatient. The late gay activist Harvey Milk provides the instant solution via an archival clip that comes at the end of the film: "If every gay person in the closet would come out ... we'd win."

That was over 30 years ago but, sadly, remains not just timely but up-to-the-minute. Case in point: As *Outrage* is going into mainstream release Crist has announced his candidacy for senator, a first step toward the White House. Not one of the mainstream media outlets reporting this announcement has mentioned that Crist is a prominent subject in Kirby Dick's film.

### Film notes:

—Columbia College Chicago will present three non-credit evening courses this summer for dedicated film buffs. The classes will focus on the careers of queer Spanish filmmaker **Pedro Almodovar** ("The Outrageous Visions of Pedro Almodovar"—Fridays, June 5-July 31), the late Swedish master **Ingmar Bergman** ("Mind, Body & Spirit: The Films of Ingmar Bergman"—Tuesdays,

June 2-July 21) and a collective look at several indie filmmakers, including queer pioneers Kenneth Anger, Andy Warhol and John Waters ("American Independent Cinema Pioneers"—Thursdays, June 4-July 23). Each of the eight-week courses is designed for adult learners and will include film screenings, lectures and discussion. All three will be taught by Columbia College faculty member/film academic Reid Schultz. Tuition is \$375 per course; visit [www.colum.edu](http://www.colum.edu) or call 312-369-8558.

—The **Sex Positive** documentary film series which has been playing the second and fourth Tuesdays each month (and curated by Clarisse Thorn) continues Tuesday, May 26, at 7 p.m. with *The Aggressives*, a 2005 documentary focusing on lesbian women who look and act like men, eschew traditional restrictions on female behavior and term themselves "aggressives." The free screening takes place at Jane Addams-Hull House Museum, 800 S. Halsted. Call 312-413-5353 for more info.

Check out my archived reviews at [www.windycitytimes.com](http://www.windycitytimes.com) or [www.knightatthemovies.com](http://www.knightatthemovies.com). Readers can leave feedback at the latter Web site.

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## OUTRAGE from cover

one conversation.

**Windy City Times: What was the genesis of this project?**

Kirby Dick: I was in Washington D.C. during August 2006, promoting This Film is Not Yet Rated, and I thought, the only reason I knew about this story of the ratings board was because I'm in the film industry—there are probably a number of great stories for documentaries in D.C. that people only know inside the beltway. I started asking around and very quickly this story came forward that these politicians are gay yet voting anti-gay. The first thing was [a rumor] that Karl Rove was gay. There's no substantiation for that; it's just a rumor.

**WCT: Did many other closeted politicians come up during research that you didn't include because there wasn't enough evidence or testimony?**

KD: Yes, there were. Rumors about a lot of other people, some of them very powerful, but there wasn't substantiation.

**WCT: Can you share those names now?**

KD: I'd rather not. I'm sure you've probably heard them all.

**WCT: Were you surprised to learn about Crist?**

KD: I learned about that very early on in the process—well before I started shooting. As soon as you go online there are these rumors.

**WCT: What were your thoughts on "outing" before this?**

KD: For years I had been following [the outing of politicians]. Not real closely, but I had been following it and I guess I had been in favor of outing in situations where there was very clear hypocrisy.

**WCT: Did any of the people who out politicians, like Michael Rogers of blogactive.com, express a fear of meeting with an "accident," a la Karen Silkwood or Tom Wilkinson's character in Michael Clayton?**

KD: Mike Rogers did. [But] I think most of these politicians, to get where they have gotten, are very savvy and realize that anything like that is just going to backfire on them. It just isn't worth it to get into that territory because it just platforms their cause, really.

**WCT: Did anyone back out of testifying on film?**

KD: Yes, One or two people said "yes" and changed their mind. I'd rather not say whom. The challenge was getting the people we got. Some of these people took six to nine months to get.

**WCT: Did you approach Mary Cheney?**

KD: We did not. I don't think we felt we had good access to her until very late in the game, when it turned out just by a personal connection there was a possible access. But that was too late. We stopped doing interviews a few months before.

**WCT: Who do you feel is the biggest devil in the film? Larry Craig is plain vile, but Charlie Crist comes across like Damien from The Omen III. I'm actually scared I'll see crows on my way home for saying that.**

KD: [Laughs] Well, what's interesting about Crist is [that] here's a person who really wants to make everybody happy. That's the way I see him. I do not see him as a real visionary at all. I see him as a real compromiser. He just made this choice [to support Florida's Amendment 2 and ban on gays adopting], it's such a purely political choice, it's not something he believes at all. I feel that very strongly. On one level that's really unforgivable, to vilify a whole group of people just to get elected when you don't believe it. But he's not a Larry Craig or Terry Dolan.

**WCT: What else did Larry Kramer have to say? Did some vitriol about former NYC Mayor Koch—who is pretty much outed once and for all here—end up on the cutting room floor?**

KD: I'd followed Larry's activity for many years, so it was a real honor just to meet him and talk to him. Obviously he's still very angry about



Kirby Dick. Photo courtesy of Magnolia Pictures

Koch and rightfully so, I think. One of the things I was looking at was the activists versus the more mainstream gay rights organizations and the roles that they play. I was very interested in the interplay between the two because there's a tension. With Larry there's no question that his vitriol, if you will, certainly contributed to progress on AIDS research and whatever cause he's been involved with. Larry's not afraid to express it but he plays an extremely important role. He along with Peter Tatchell, whom we interviewed but couldn't put in the film. To be in the presence of these activists and how they think and work, they're just attuned to injustice.

**WCT: What else got cut?**

KD: We interviewed about twice as many people. One of the pleasures of making this film was how articulate everybody was. Regardless of where they were in the political spectrum, they had thought about these issues for decades. In many ways the themes were being laid out for me by what they said. They had really been through all the pain and struggle and thought it through.

**WCT: Is it possible for an openly gay politician to run and win high office without selling their soul and playing straight?**

KD: Like run for president? Right now, that's a good question. I think it's possible. I think things are changing. In some ways, people said Obama wouldn't win. A lot of people. Not only has he broken new ground for other minorities, I think with the right politician it is. They might have to run a few times but if they're very skilled it's possible. Yes.

**WCT: What do you hope ultimately comes out of OUTRAGE?**

KD: Three things. I think this is a seminal time in the struggle for gay rights, which I think is the most important human rights issue in this country today, and I hope this film helps to advance that. I hope it helps to shed light on hypocrisy and the closet. One of the reasons the closet has existed for so long is people haven't written about it other than the gay press and blogosphere, and I think if people start talking about it [young politicians] will realize maybe it's not the right choice when they're in their early 20s going into politics to say I should be closeted to have a political career. The right choice is to be open about it. And hopefully in 20 years there will be no reason to have a sequel.

**WCT: And are you looking forward to reactions from OUTRAGE's closeted subjects?**

KD: No, I don't think so. This isn't really meant in any way to be vindictive at all. I actually feel a great deal of empathy for closeted politicians. Less so when they vote antigay, but it is obviously ... they made a decision early on in their



PRESENT



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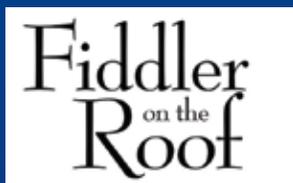
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# PRIDE MONTH CALENDAR

compiled by PRIDEChicago

www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org • PrideChgo@aol.com • 773-348-8243

**JUNE (various dates) - CENTER ON HALSTED** - During June Pride Month, the center at 3656 N. Halsted St. will be hosting many events. [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org).

**JUNE (various dates & times) - SHOW** - "Lilith, A Rock and Roll Music Spectacle" by Ludicrous Theatre at the BOHO theatre, 7016 N. Glenwood (just one block north of Morse red line stop). A stage production by Artistic Director Wayne Shaw about the ancient Judeo-Christian myth of Adam's first mate before Eve utilizes lights, sounds, music and dance and deals with the origins of homosexuality, lesbianism, homophobia and other issues. Opens June 12 and closes June 27. Thurs., Fri., Sat. at 8 p.m. & Sun. 2 p.m. Ages 18 & over only. Tickets: \$15 available at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com). Info: [www.ludicroustheatre.com](http://www.ludicroustheatre.com)

**JUNE (various dates) - BENEFIT** - "Paint the Town Red Tour" by the Latex Ladies & the Trojan Bois. A traveling drag show visiting various Indiana and Illinois cities in June to raise money for the AIDS Ministries of South Bend, Indiana, as well as AIDS organizations in the cities where the show will be presented. For dates, locations and times: [www.myspace.com/thelateladies](http://www.myspace.com/thelateladies), [pbattani@aidsministries.org](mailto:pbattani@aidsministries.org), 574-234-2870, ext. 1102.

**JUNE (various dates) - PLAY** - "Bombs Away" - part of Pride 2009 by Bailiwick Repertory at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St. For days, time and prices: [www.bailiwick.org](http://www.bailiwick.org) 773-883-1090

**JUNE (various dates) - DISCUSSION** - "Homosexuality and the Bible" by aChurch4Me? MCC at the Center on Halsted, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 3656 N. Halsted St. (Four-part discussion takes place on June 1, 8, 15 and 22.) 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free and open to all. Drop ins welcome; RSVP preferred. [www.achurch4me.org](http://www.achurch4me.org) info@achurch4me.org 773-661-0936

**JUNE (various dates) - WORSHIP CELEBRATION** - "Stonewalled ?!: 40 years of Pride and Prejudice" - by aChurch4Me? MCC at Center on Halsted, Hoover-Leppen Theater, 3656 N. Halsted St. 11 a.m. (on June 7, 14, 21) and 9 a.m. (on June 28 with an 8:15 a.m. breakfast with bagels and beverages). [www.achurch4me.org](http://www.achurch4me.org), info@achurch4me.org, 773-661-0936

**JUNE (various dates) - YOUTH PRIDE SERIES** - by the Youth Pride Center (YPC) at Pie Hole Pizza Joint (Halsted/Roscoe). Each week different YPC teams, groups, fraternities, choirs, etc. take part in an exciting production to showcase the well-known talent of YPC youth. 7 p.m. Free. (June 2, 9, 16, 23). [youthpridecenter@gmail.com](mailto:youthpridecenter@gmail.com), 773-690-6790 (Pride event info line)

**JUNE 1 - BENEFIT: GAY DAY** - at Six Flags Great America, Gurnee, Ill., by Gay Chicago Magazine, a fundraiser for Broadway Youth Center. Tickets: \$33 (\$55 includes bus ride to and from Great America). Park open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. [www.gaychicomagazine.com](http://www.gaychicomagazine.com), [kross@gaychicomag.com](mailto:kross@gaychicomag.com), 773-327-7271, ext. 109

**JUNE 3 - TELEVISION SHOW** - "Out & Proud in Chicago": re-airing of the 2008 WTTW documentary about the lives of LGBT Chicagoans. Show will air on PBS World Digital Channel in 42 different cities on June 3 at 7:30 p.m. (Central Time). In addition, 40 additional cities will air the show on their local PBS stations (consult your local PBS station for date and time). The show won a Peter Lisagor Award for Exemplary Journalism by the Society of Professional Journalists for Best Public Affairs Programming. It also finished third in the Hugo Television Awards, which is an international competition by the Chicago International Film Festival. [www.wttw.com](http://www.wttw.com), 773-583-5000

**JUNE 3 - WORSHIP SERIES** - "Beyond Open Arms: Liberal Christianity for Radical Action" - (1st of 5) Annual Pride Month worship service co-sponsored by Living Well Ministries/St. James Presbyterian Church/Chicago Council of Welcoming Churches at 6554 N. Rockwell. 7:30 p.m. Rev. Jackie Belle and Rev. Stu Smith preaching. [www.stjameschicago.org](http://www.stjameschicago.org), [jacki@livingwellministries.net](mailto:jacki@livingwellministries.net), 773-655-4357

**JUNE 4 - TOWN HALL MEETING** - "Erotic Identities, Gender Identities and LGBT Aging" by Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N. Sheridan. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Program begins at 7 p.m. The meeting is a discussion with community members and LGBT aging professionals concerning the impact of aging on our erotic and gender identities. This meeting is part of Howard Brown's "Aging As We Are: It's Our Time" program services and events. [www.howardbrown.org](http://www.howardbrown.org), [michaelcu@howardbrown.org](mailto:michaelcu@howardbrown.org), 773-388-8876 (Michael Curran)

**JUNE 5 - NETWORKING** - "First Friday" Pride Month networking event by Equality Illinois. Sidetrack Glass Bar, 3347 N. Halsted St. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. [www.equalityillinois.org](http://www.equalityillinois.org), [jmcdonald@equil.org](mailto:jmcdonald@equil.org), 773-477-7173

**JUNE 5 - BENEFIT - Plays** - "Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind": Annual fundraising event, this year for both the Neo-Futurists and About Face Theater. The show features 30 Queer Plays in 60 Straight minutes by the Neo-Futurists at the Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland Ave. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$20 (available online). This is a special two-day Queer-themed version of their show (repeated on June 6). [www.neofuturists.org](http://www.neofuturists.org), 773-275-5255

**JUNE 6 - POTLUCK & MOVIE** - by Community Alliance and Action Network (C.A.A.N.) in Joliet, IL, at their center, 68 N. Chicago St., Suite 401 in Joliet. For time, etc.: [www.caanmidwest.org](http://www.caanmidwest.org), 815-726-7906

**JUNE 6 - FUNDRAISER** - "Ride For AIDS Chicago (RFAC)." Sixth annual benefit produced by Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) to raise funds for HIV/AIDS services in the Chicago area. Beneficiaries include TPAN, About Face Theatre, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, BEHIV, Southside Help Center and Vital Bridges. Two-day, 190-mile biking event leaves Evanston on June 6 for south central Wisconsin, with return trip on June 7. Riders must raise minimum of \$1,000 to support HIV/AIDS prevention and care services in the Chicago area. Interested riders or crew members can register at: [www.rideforaids.org](http://www.rideforaids.org), [j.allen@tpan.com](mailto:j.allen@tpan.com), 773-989-9400, ext. 246 (Jeff Allen)

**JUNE 6 - CONVERSATIONS** - "Sexuality and Spirituality" by aChurch4Me? MCC at the Center on Halsted, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 3656 N. Halsted St. 10 a.m. to noon. Free and open to all. (Second day of discussion on June 20, same time and location). [www.achurch4me.org](http://www.achurch4me.org), info@achurch4me.org, 773-661-0936

**JUNE 6 - TOUR** - "Founder's Day Festival" tour of Alexian Brothers Bonaventure House, 825 W. Wellington. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tour: FREE. The band Bumpus will be performing in the afternoon. (\$10 suggested donation to see the band). 20th anniversary of Bonaventure House providing a home for homeless men and women with HIV/AIDS. [www.bonaventurehouse.org/foundersday2009](http://www.bonaventurehouse.org/foundersday2009), [events@abam.org](mailto:events@abam.org), 773-327-9921

**JUNE 6 - GARY, INDIANA PRIDE** - 2nd Gay Pride Parade, "Free To Be Me," and 4th Annual Pride Picnic coordinated by NW Indiana Rainbow Days organization. Parade: Noon from 25th Avenue & Adams Street (going west). Picnic: After Parade (in Marquette Park) in the Miller section of Gary, Ind. [www.nwirainbowdays.bravehost.com](http://www.nwirainbowdays.bravehost.com), 219-810-3775

**JUNE 6 - PICNIC** - by the Youth Pride Center at Lincoln Park Zoo. Noon. FREE. Includes team-building, scavenger hunt, new member orientation. [youthpridecenter@gmail.com](mailto:youthpridecenter@gmail.com), 773-690-6790 (Pride event info line only)

**JUNE 6 - GALA** - "Siempre Latina" - annual event by Amigas Latinas at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St. 7:30 p.m. to midnight. Tickets: \$65 available online (\$75 door) includes food, open bar, silent auction, raffles. Guest of Honor: Achy Obejas. Special performances by Teatro Luna, La Dulce Palabra Spoken Word Ensemble and Andres des los Santos. Tickets at: [www.amigaslatinas.org](http://www.amigaslatinas.org), 773-661-0940

**JUNE 6 - BENEFIT - Plays** - "Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind": Annual fundraising event, this year for both the Neo-Futurists & About Face Theater. The show features 30 Queer Plays in 60 Straight minutes by the Neo-Futurists at the Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland Ave. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$20 (available online). This is a special two-day Queer-themed version of their show. [www.neofuturists.org](http://www.neofuturists.org), 773-275-5255

**JUNE 7 - OPENING RECEPTION** - of a Pride Art Show by Chicago's Prairie Avenue Gallery, 1900 S. Prairie Ave. For a list of artists in the Pride show, as well as the days and hours of the art show in June & July: [www.facebook.com/pages/Chicago-IL/Prairie-Avenue-Gallery/76629936938?ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chicago-IL/Prairie-Avenue-Gallery/76629936938?ref=ts) or [www.tinyurl.com/pzbu2a](http://www.tinyurl.com/pzbu2a)

**JUNE 7 - BBQ** - by Sapphic Adventures (previously Chicago Lesbian Brunch Group), a professional lesbian social organization, at Kankakee River State Park, River Walk Shelter, 5314 Illinois Route 102, Bourbonnais, IL. BBQ at 3 p.m., but meet first at 11 a.m. to hike or bike or paddle or play softball (your choice) before the BBQ at 3 p.m. Bring your own food and drinks. [www.meetup.com/sapphicadventures](http://www.meetup.com/sapphicadventures)

**JUNE 8 - PHOTO SHOOT** - by the Youth Pride Center - for youth who have always wanted a professional photo shoot. Several packages available. [youthpridecenter@gmail.com](mailto:youthpridecenter@gmail.com), 773-690-6790 (Pride event info line only)

**JUNE 9 - LESBIAN BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** - "Patience and Sarah" (author: Isabel Miller) by Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W. Granville. 7:30 p.m. [www.gerberhart.org](http://www.gerberhart.org), info@gerberhart.org, 773-381-8030

**JUNE 10 - WORSHIP SERIES** - (2nd of 5) Annual Pride Month worship service co-sponsored by Broadway United Methodist Church & Chicago Council of Welcoming Churches at 3338 N. Broadway. 7:30 p.m. [www.brdwyumc.org](http://www.brdwyumc.org), [vernice@brdwyumc.org](mailto:vernice@brdwyumc.org)

**JUNE 10 - WORSHIP SERIES** - "God's Extravagant Welcome" - (3rd of 5) Annual Pride Month worship service co-sponsored by Congregational United Church of Christ & Chicago Council of Welcoming Churches at 1001 W. Kirchoff Rd., Arlington Heights, IL. 7:30 p.m. Rev. Rex Piercy preaching. [www.congucc.org](http://www.congucc.org), [pastorcucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorcucc@sbcglobal.net)

**JUNE 11 - WORKSHOP** - "What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?": identifying your true career directions, by Judi Lansky of Lansky Career Consultants. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. No charge, but advance registration required. For location & information: 312-444-1500

**JUNE 13 - ROAD TRIP** - to Milwaukee Pride Fest by the Youth Pride Center as guest of Project Q. YPC will represent Chicago on the youth stage. Overnight trip: \$35. One of the headliners: BRANDY. [youthpridecenter@gmail.com](mailto:youthpridecenter@gmail.com), 773-690-6790 (Pride event info line only)

**JUNE 13 - WINDY CITY GAY IDOL FINALS** - 7th Annual competition by Windy City Media Group at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted. 1 p.m. (door); 4 p.m. (start). [www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com), [cynthia@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:cynthia@windycitymediagroup.com), 773-871-7610, ext. 301

**JUNE 13 - BENEFIT** - "Flag Day Beer Bust & BBQ" annual Pride Month fundraiser for American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) at Bucks Saloon, 3439 N. Halsted St. 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. \$10 donation for food and beer. [www.averchicago.org](http://www.averchicago.org), [jamesdarby@aol.com](mailto:jamesdarby@aol.com), 773-752-0058

**JUNE 13 - CHORAL CONCERTS** - "Walking Hand In Hand" by the Windy City Gay Chorus (WCGC) w/special 30th anniversary reunion chorus conducted by Richard Garrin (founding music director of WCGC). Location: Hoover-Leppen Theatre at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St. 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Former WCGC members may participate in the reunion chorus. Ticket info: [www.windycitysings.org](http://www.windycitysings.org), info@windycitysings.org, 773-404-9242

**JUNE 14 - PRIDE DANCE** - by the Chi-Town Squares, 1650 W. Foster Ave. in Chicago. [www.iagsdc.org/chitownsquares](http://www.iagsdc.org/chitownsquares), [chi-townsquares@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chi-townsquares@sbcglobal.net), 773-296-1209

**JUNE 14 - DATING EVENT** - "Dating For Lesbian Nerds" by Nerds at Heart and Sapphic Adventures at Fat Cat, 4840 N. Broadway. Noon to 3 p.m. \$20 advance registration required. Admission includes one cocktail. Limited brunch menu available for purchase. Get your "geek" on with other Lesbian singles during this al fresco event (weather permitting; indoors otherwise). Show off skills at board games and trivia quizzes. Themed prizes too. [www.nerdsatheart.com](http://www.nerdsatheart.com), 312-265-6085

**JUNE 14 - VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION** - during Pride Month by Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W. Granville Ave. 2 p.m. [www.gerberhart.org](http://www.gerberhart.org), info@gerberhart.org, 773-381-8030

**JUNE 15 - FORUM** - "GenderJust" by the Youth Pride Center featuring Chicago Public Schools CEO Ron Huberman. [youthpridecenter@gmail.com](mailto:youthpridecenter@gmail.com)

**JUNE 16 - FILM/DISCUSSION** - "The Power of Forgiveness" by Living Well Ministries, 6554 N. Rockwell. 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Free. RSVP requested. [jacki@livingwellministries.net](mailto:jacki@livingwellministries.net), 773-655-4357

**JUNE 17 - BIRDHOUSE ART AUCTION & COCKTAIL PARTY** - "Home Tweet Home" by Chicago House at Galleria Marchetti, 825 E. Erie. For tickets: [www.chicagohouse.org](http://www.chicagohouse.org), 773-248-5200 x303

**JUNE 17 - WORSHIP SERIES** - (4th of 5) Annual Pride Month worship service co-sponsored by Lake View Presbyterian Church & Chicago Council of Welcoming Churches at 716 W. Addison St. 7:30 p.m. [www.lakeviewpresbyterian.org](http://www.lakeviewpresbyterian.org), [wilbsnodgrassiii@yahoo.com](mailto:wilbsnodgrassiii@yahoo.com)

**JUNE 19 - NETWORKING** - "Thank God It's Friday!" - the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation - GLAAD's national networking event series for young professionals. Location: Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St. For fee and more information: [www.glaad.org](http://www.glaad.org)

**JUNE 20 - CHORAL CONCERT** - "A Girl Meets Girls Musical" by the Artemis Singers at COS Episcopal (church w/ red door), 530 W. Fullerton Ave. [www.artemissingers.org](http://www.artemissingers.org), info@artemissingers.org, 773-764-4465

**JUNE 20 - WORKSHOP** - "Choose Life: Spiritual Energy

for Coming Out Decisions" by Living Well Ministries, 6554 N. Rockwell. 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. \$35 (Pre-registration by June 17 required). Includes one optional 1-1 coaching session. Led by Rev. Jackie Belle, a lesbian Baptist minister and spiritual life coach. [jacki@livingwellministries.net](mailto:jacki@livingwellministries.net), 773-655-4357

**JUNE 20 - RIB FEST** - by the Youth Pride Center at 5480 S. Kenwood. 1 p.m. \$1 includes a taste of all kinds of meats and sides including rib tips, chicken, hot links, potato salad, baked beans and more. This is an intergenerational outdoor event wherein youth can bring the person who serves as a father figure/mentor for them. Fest includes booths and other mentor activities. [youthpridecenter@gmail.com](mailto:youthpridecenter@gmail.com), 773-690-6790 (Pride event info line only)

**JUNE 20 - WORKSHOP** - "Living With Intention: Using Five Wishes to Plan What Comes Next" by Living Well Ministries, 6554 N. Rockwell. 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. \$10 (Pre-registration by June 18 required). End-of-life issues w/special emphasis on LGBT families. Co-sponsored by Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care. Presenter: Sandra J. Rowe MA. [jacki@livingwellministries.net](mailto:jacki@livingwellministries.net), 773-655-4357

**JUNE 20 - ANNIVERSARY BASH** - "Sappho's Salon 1st Anniversary Bash" by Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark. 7:30 p.m. \$7 to \$10 sliding fee includes food and wine. Featuring lesbian indie-music legend Gretchen Phillips (formerly of Two Nice Girls, Girls in the Nose, and the Gretchen Phillips Experience). [www.womenandchildrenfirst.com](http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com), [wcfbooks@aol.com](mailto:wcfbooks@aol.com), 773-769-9299

**JUNE 21 - MASS GATHERING** - "Colors Across the River for Equality (CARE)" or its alternative title, "Rainbows Across the River for Equality (RARE)" by QC PRIDE, Inc. (Quad Cities Pride). QC Pride has purchased 1,000 rainbow pride flags and are hoping for 1,000 people to display them across the Mississippi River between Davenport, Iowa and Rock Island, Illinois over the Centennial Bridge. Also being displayed will be a very large flag over middle of the bridge. Purpose: With Iowa's historic decision, they want to focus attention on repeal of DOMA and to spread equal rights to Illinois and all states. FREE (\$5 deposit for the flag returned, or keep it for the \$5). Time, etc.: [www.facebook.com/event.php?id=52815401781](http://www.facebook.com/event.php?id=52815401781)

**JUNE 21 - OPEN HOUSE** - features a free barbecue, dancing, music and raffle prizes by New Town Alano Club, 909 W. Belmont Ave. (2nd Floor). Noon to 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Visit and support the group that has been named the country's first 12-step Alano Club with a specific LGBT outreach. [www.newtownalanoclub.com](http://www.newtownalanoclub.com), [ntacc@earthlink.net](mailto:ntacc@earthlink.net), 773-529-0321

**JUNE 22 - RECEPTION** - "Pride & Joy" by the Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame at Circuit Night Club, 3641 N. Halsted St. 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets: \$10. [www.GLHaloFame.org](http://www.GLHaloFame.org), [hofevents09@yahoo.com](mailto:hofevents09@yahoo.com), 312-744-7911

**JUNE 22 - BOOK DISCUSSION** - "Stonewall" (author: Martin Duberman) by Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W. Granville Ave. 7 p.m. [www.gerberhart.org](http://www.gerberhart.org), info@gerberhart.org, 773-381-8030

**JUNE 22 - LIVE TALKSHOW** - "The View" - Youth Pride Center debuts its live talkshow with five LGBT panelists discussing hot topics and more. Special guests stop by and sit on the couch to discuss issues w/ a LGBT twist. 7 p.m. Free. Location: TBA. [youthpridecenter@gmail.com](mailto:youthpridecenter@gmail.com), 773-690-6790, (pride event info line only)

**JUNE 22 - SOLO PERFORMANCE SERIES** - "Solo Homo #7" by NewTown Writers w/ Performers: Cookie Crumbles, Mike Rogers, Josef Steiff, Michael Van Kerckhove, Byron Flitsch, Sara Kerastas, Deb Lewis, Timothy Rey, Lisa Scott and others. Location: Strawdog Theater Company's Hugen Hall cabaret space, 3829 N. Broadway. 7:30 p.m. (Repeat performances on June 23 and June 24, both at 7:30 p.m.). Tickets available at door or Strawdog's web site [www.newtownwriters.org](http://www.newtownwriters.org), [www.strawdogtheatre.com](http://www.strawdogtheatre.com)

**JUNE 23 - AWARDS CEREMONY** - "30 Under 30 Awards" by Windy City Media Group at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St. 5:30 p.m. The awards honor 30 outstanding young (under 30 years old) LGBT individuals, and their allies. Co-sponsored by AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Center on Halsted, Howard Brown Health Center and Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV). [www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com)

**JUNE 23 - FILM/DISCUSSION** - "For the Bible Tells Me So" by Living Well Ministries, 6554 N. Rockwell. 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Free. RSVP requested. [jacki@livingwellministries.net](mailto:jacki@livingwellministries.net), 773-655-4357

**JUNE 23 - GAY MEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION** - "Everyone's Dead But Us" (author: Mark Richard Zubro) by Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W. Granville. 7:30 p.m. [www.gerberhart.org](http://www.gerberhart.org), 773-381-8030

gerberhart.org, info@gerberhart.org, 773-381-8030

**JUNE 23 - PRIDE READING & OPEN MIC** - 13th annual LGBT event at Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark St. 7:30 p.m. Includes readings by writers and an open mic. Open mic readers must register in advance. www.womenandchildrenfirst.com, wcfbooks@aol.com, 773-769-9299

**JUNE 23 - SOLO PERFORMANCE SERIES** - "Solo Homo #7" by NewTown Writers w/ Performers: Cookie Crumbles, Mike Rogers, Josef Steiff, Michael Van Kerckhove, Byron Flitsch, Sara Kerastas, Deb Lewis, Timothy Rey, Lisa Scott and others. Location: Strawdog Theater Company's Hugen Hall cabaret space, 3829 N. Broadway. 7:30 p.m. (Repeat performances on June 23 and June 24, both at 7:30 p.m.). Tickets available at door or Strawdog's web site. www.newtownwriters.org, www.strawdogtheatre.com

**JUNE 24 - HAPPY HOUR** - by Sapphic Adventures (previously Chicago Lesbian Brunch Group), a professional lesbian social organization, at NoMI, 800 N. Michigan Ave., 7th Floor of Park Hyatt, Chicago, Ill. 6 p.m. Cash bar. www.meetup.com/sapphicadventures

**JUNE 24 - SOLO PERFORMANCE SERIES** - "Solo Homo #7" by NewTown Writers w/ Performers: Cookie Crumbles, Mike Rogers, Josef Steiff, Michael Van Kerckhove, Byron Flitsch, Sara Kerastas, Deb Lewis, Timothy Rey, Lisa Scott, and others. Location: Straw Dog Theater Company's Hugen Hall cabaret space, 3829 N. Broadway. 7:30 p.m. (Repeat performances on June 23 & June 24, both at 7:30 p.m.). Tickets available at door or Straw Dog's website. www.newtownwriters.org www.strawdogtheatre.com

**JUNE 24 - WORSHIP SERIES** - "Out of the Closet and into the Streets... The Suites... And the Sweets!!!" (5th of 5) Annual Pride Month worship service co-sponsored by St. Joseph and St. Aidan's Episcopal Church & Chicago Council of Welcoming Churches at 2453 Oak St., Blue Island, IL. 7:30 p.m. Rev. Rod Reinhart preaching. www.stsjoseph-aidan.org, revrod@comcast.net

**JUNE 25 - DAY TRIP** - to Taste of Chicago by Youth Pride Center. 3 p.m. youthpridecenter@gmail.com, 773-690-6790

**JUNE 25 - BOAT CRUISE** - "Ladies on the Lake" by Lambda Legal. Chicago's Fair Lady, Michigan Ave. and the river. 6 p.m to 9:30 p.m. \$50 tickets available online: www.lambdalegal.org/events, chicagoevents@lambdalegal.org, 312-663-4413

**JUNE 25 - WORKSHOP** - "Managing Your LGBT Identity at Work" by Judi Lansky of Lansky Career Consultants. 6:30

p.m. to 8:30 p.m. No charge, but advance registration required. For location and information: 312-444-1500

**JUNE 26 - CHORAL CONCERT** - "Over the Rainbow" by the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus at Lakeshore Theater, 3175 N. Broadway. (Repeat performance: June 27). Individual tickets at www.ticketmaster.com, Information: www.cgmc.org, gm@cgmc.org

**JUNE 26 - STREET FESTIVAL** - "Chicago Pride Fest" by Northalsted Area Merchants Assn. (NAMA) on Halsted St., from Waveland to Grace. 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. \$5 voluntary contribution goes to NAMA. (Two day festival continues on June 27 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.). www.chicagoevents.com, 773-868-3010

**JUNE 27 - WORKSHOP** - "Befriending the Bible: Reading Condemnation with Care" by Living Well Ministries, 6554 N. Rockwell. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. \$30. (Pre-registration by June 24 required). Led by Rev. Jacki Belle, a lesbian Baptist minister and spiritual life coach. Includes refreshments, materials and one optional follow-up coaching session. jacki@livingwellministries.net, 773-655-4357

**JUNE 27 - FILM/DISCUSSION** - "Inlads and Outlaws" by Living Well Ministries, 6554 N. Rockwell. 2 p.m. \$5 (suggested donation). True stories of couples, singles, gay and straight, celebrating what we all have in common: we love. jacki@livingwellministries.net, 773-655-4357

**JUNE 27 - OUTDOOR WEEKEND PRIDE PARTY** - "6th Annual Backlot Bash" in parking lot behind Cheetah Gym, 5238 N. Clark St. Live bands, drinks and dance. 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. (\$10 before 5 p.m.; \$15 after) Age 21+. (Two-day event continues on June 28). www.backlotbashchicago.com, backlotbash@yahoo.com

**JUNE 27 - PRIDE RUN & WALK** - 28th Annual "Proud To Run" - 5k & 10k run & two-mile fun walk presented in association with Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago at Montrose Harbor.

Proceeds benefit Gerber/Hart Library and Pride Youth. Sign up at: www.registerPTR.com. Information: www.frfwchicago.org

**JUNE 27 - STREET FESTIVAL** - "Chicago Pride Fest" by Northalsted Area Merchants Assn. (NAMA) on Halsted St., from Waveland to Grace. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. \$5 voluntary contribution goes to NAMA. (second day of two-day festival). www.chicagoevents.com, 773-868-3010

**JUNE 27 - DYKE MARCH CHICAGO** - a rally is scheduled for 1 p.m. at 1800 S. Halsted St. in the Pilsen community. Step off, after the rally ends. www.myspace.com/dykemarchchicago, dykemarchchicago@gmail.com

**JUNE 27 - OUTDOOR TEA DANCE & BARBECUE** - "Sober & Proud v. 2.0" by Alexian Brothers Bonaventure House, 825 W. Wellington. 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Suggested donation: \$10 to defray costs. Food and beverages provided (alcohol and drug-free event for LGBT members and friends who are in recovery). Open to the public. www.bonaventurehouse.org/soberandproud, events@abam.org, 773-327-9921

**JUNE 27 - BASKETBALL** - "Chicago Sky vs. Washington Mystics" by WNBA Chicago Sky at UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine Ave. 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$10. www.chicagosky.net, sanderson@chicagosky.net, 312-994-5980

**JUNE 27 - CHORAL CONCERT** - "Over the Rainbow" by the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus at Lakeshore Theater, 3175 N. Broadway. Individual tickets at www.ticketmaster.com, Information: www.cgmc.org, gm@cgmc.org

**JUNE 28 - CHICAGO 40th ANNUAL PRIDE PARADE** - coordinated by PRIDEChicago. Line up: corner of Halsted St. (800 West) and Belmont Ave. (3200 North). Step off from the Halsted/Belmont corner at noon, proceeding north on Halsted (to Broadway); then south on Broadway (to Diversey); then east on Diversey (to Cannon Drive) in Lincoln Park. Information: www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org, PrideChgo@aol.com

com, 773-348-8243

**JUNE 28 - RED PARTY** - the official Youth Pride Center Pride Parade AFTER Party. FREE when you wear red!! (\$5 for others). Location: TBA, Ages 13 to 21 only. youthpridecenter@gmail.com, 773-690-6790 (Pride event info line only)

**JUNE 28 - OUTDOOR WEEKEND PRIDE PARTY** - "6th Annual Backlot Bash" in parking lot behind Cheetah Gym, 5238 N. Clark St. Live bands, drinks and dance. 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. \$10 before 5 p.m.; \$15 after. Age 21+. www.backlotbashchicago.com, backlotbash@yahoo.com

**JUNE 28 - PARTY** - "Pretty Boy Pride featuring Pepper Mashay" by Pretty Boy Enterprises Inc. event at 2539 N. Kedzie Ave. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Age: 18+ to party; 21+ to drink. www.prettyboypresents.com, jstern@prettyboyenterprisesinc.com, 773-507-0566

**JUNE 30 - BLACK LGBT PRIDE** - beginning this coming week there are dozens of events scheduled for the LGBT Black Pride celebration. www.windycityblackpride.org, www.chicagowindycityblackpride.com, www.chiblackpride.com

**JUNE 30 (through July 4) - CONFERENCE** - "RAD 2009: International Deaf LGBT Conference" by Windy City Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf at Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, 301 E. North Water St., Chicago. www.wcrad.org, info@wcrad.org, 773-904-0026

**JUNE 30 - PARTY** - "2nd Annual Block Party" by Youth Pride Center and Code Red at Halsted and Roscoe (near Pie Hole) 6 p.m. youthpridecenter@gmail.com, 773-690-6790

For travel to the parade and other pride events  
ride the CTA/PACE/METRA.  
www.transitchicago.com, 773-836-7000

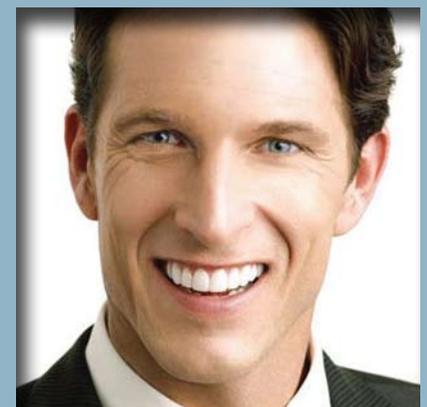
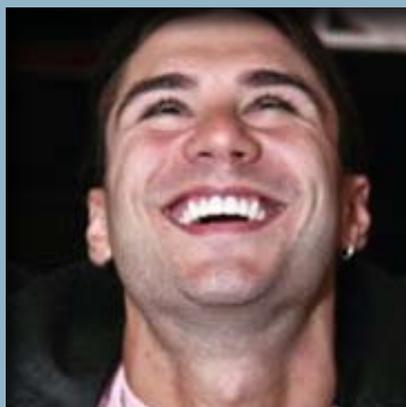


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# WHAT TO DO?

## Wednesday, May 20

**4 Women Only** hosted by Kat Fitzgerald and dedicated to new women artists. Uncommon Ground Devon 1401 W. Devon Ave 773-465-9801 [www.uncommonground.com](http://www.uncommonground.com)

**Generation You, Bridging the Gap**, a live podcast forum. Cross-generational dialogue, breaking the barrier in the Chicago queer community, panel. 6 p.m. Free, but RSVP required. Center on Halsted.

**Windy City Gay Idol** 8 p.m. sign up, 9 p.m. start @mosphere 5355 N. Clark; [www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com)

## Thursday, May 21

**2nd Annual Alternative Sexuality Conference** by the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Institute and the Community Academic Consortium for Research on Alternative Sexualities, register 8:30 a.m., programming 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. \$120/ student w/ ID \$90. Center on Halsted. 3656 N. Halsted St. Register at [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org) or Donna at 773.472.6469, ext.176. Info at [SOGI@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:SOGI@centeronhalsted.org) or Cathy Buksar at 773-472-6469, ext.488.

**All Things Kylie** celebration of pop icon's first ever North American tour. CDs, posters and ticket giveaway. Mini Bar, 3341 Halsted St.

**Fashion Café Series** boutiques and designers together for a once monthly evening of shopping and discussion. 8 p.m. Chicago Cultural Center. 77 E. Randolph St. [www.chicagofashionresource.com](http://www.chicagofashionresource.com)

**HX Gay & Lesbian Travel Expo** Mix and mingle with LGBT/Queer friendly businesses local and from around the world. Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. [culture@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:culture@centeronhalsted.org)

**International Mr. Leather Weekend, through Monday, May 25:** New host hotel and location for this year's contest: The Chicago Hilton, 720 S. Michigan Ave. [www.imrl.com](http://www.imrl.com)

**Organizing for America Lincoln Chapter** meeting focusing on the president's plans to improve health care and fight climate change. 7 to 8 p.m. RSVP-D-Kogan@ObamaFD.com. Holiday Club, 4000 N. Sheridan Rd.

## Out & Equal LGBT Diversity Leadership

**Training in the Workplace** \$25, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and LGBT Diversity Leadership Training - Train the Trainer. (Includes the above LGBT Diversity Leadership Training) \$115, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Chase Tower, 10 S. Dearborn St. 57th Flr. Register: [www.outandequal.org](http://www.outandequal.org)

## Friday, May 22

**Artist's reception** for Jason Messinger's "The Travel Blooms" new tile murals, watercolor and ink paintings. 7to10 p.m. Show through June 6. Eyeporium Gallery, behind 'Eyewant' shop, 1543 N. Milwaukee Ave 773-782-1744 [www.artslant.com/chi/events/show/53766-the-travel-blooms](http://www.artslant.com/chi/events/show/53766-the-travel-blooms)

**Decibelle Metro** presents Peaches, Drums of Death. 18 and over, \$20/\$25. 3730 North Clark St. Tix [www.metro-chicago.com](http://www.metro-chicago.com)

**Haram Iran**, written by Jay Paul Deratany about two Iranian teenage boys sentenced for "crimes against God". Benefits Center on Halsted's Anti-Violence Program. Through May 24. 7:30 p.m. [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or 800-838-3006 Center on Halsted. 3656 N. Halsted St. [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org) (Through May 24)

**La Cage aux Folles**, through July 11. \$22/\$27 Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont 773-327-5252 [www.bohotheatre.com](http://www.bohotheatre.com)

**Out & Equal Building Bridges Training** to help employers get the most from all employees, LGBT and non \$75. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Chase Tower, 10 S. Dearborn St., 56th Flr, Rm 1/2 S

## Saturday, May 23

**ONYX Leather Dance**, DJ André Hatchett 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. [blkion2@yahoo.com](mailto:blkion2@yahoo.com)

**People of Color Leather Conference**, 3 to 5 p.m. Astoria Room, Hilton 3rd Flr. [blkion2@yahoo.com](mailto:blkion2@yahoo.com) [www.imrl.com](http://www.imrl.com)

**Randolph Street Market Festival**, opening extravaganza: uber-chic West Loop shopping including The Oprah Store, one weekend each May through September. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 1350 W. Randolph St. 312-666-1200 [www.randolphstreetmarket.com](http://www.randolphstreetmarket.com)

## Sunday, May 24

**All Things Kylie** celebration of pop icon's first ever North American tour. CD's, posters and ticket giveaway. Berlin Nightclub, 954 W. Belmont Ave.

**Bike the Drive** Enjoy 15 miles of unrestricted bicycling on Lake Shore Drive and see the city closed to all vehicular traffic during the event. [www.bikethedrive.org](http://www.bikethedrive.org)

**International Mr. Leather Victory Celebration** Party after the IML Contest until 4 a.m., House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn, [www.imrl.com](http://www.imrl.com) or 773-907-9700

## Monday, May 25

**Black and Blue Ball**, International Mr. Leather final blowout celebration, 8 p.m.-4 a.m. Excalibur, 632 N. Dearborn St. [www.imrl.com](http://www.imrl.com) or 773-907-9700

## Tuesday, May 26

**Men's Book Group**, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Bool: Butterfly Boy: Memories of a Chicano Mariposa by Rigoberto González. Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 West Granville Ave. [www.gerberhart.org](http://www.gerberhart.org) 773-381-8030

**OUTmusic Queer Open Mic**, mostly Acoustic queer music last Tuesday of every month. 7:30 p.m. Urban Café, 1467 W Irving Park 773-327-9427 [www.urbancafechicago.com](http://www.urbancafechicago.com)

## Thursday, May 28

**Windy City Gay Idol Wild Card Night** 9 p.m. sign up/10 p.m. start Roscoe's 3356 N. Halsted [cynthia@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:cynthia@windycitymediagroup.com) [www.windycitymediagroup.com/Idol2009.html](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/Idol2009.html)

**milkweed**, intimate look in poetry/theatre at three African-American female survivors of gender-based violence. Presented by Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media Columbia College Chicago \$15 / \$ 7. Through May 29. Presented at Northwestern U., Annie Mae Swift Hall, 1920 Campus Dr., Performance Spaces Studio 7 p.m. Free. Reservations required: 847-491-3171

**NewTown Writers** Fortnightly Writing Workshop 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Gerber-Hart Library 1127 W. Granville Ave. <http://www.newtownwriters.org/>

## Friday, May 29

**5th Annual Queer Prom**, theme "Amor sin Fronteras" (Love without borders), youth \$10, allies \$25, National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St. [www.wrte.org/homofrecuencia](http://www.wrte.org/homofrecuencia) 312 455-9455 x 203

**HIV: Hey, It's Viral**, Beyondmedia screening. 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Free. Chicago Teacher's Center, 770 N. Halsted St, #420, 773-857-7300 or [beyond@beyondmedia.org](mailto:beyond@beyondmedia.org)

## Saturday, May 30

**Dignity/Chicago** seminar on work and working from a Christian perspective. 10 to 11:30 a.m. Broadway United Methodist Church, 3344 N. Broadway. Free Register at 312-458-9438 or [DignityChicago@aol.com](mailto:DignityChicago@aol.com) by Wednesday, May 27

**Party with a Purpose** An Insight Arts House music dance party 8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Loyola Univ-Chicago Lake Shore Campus. The Centennial forum's Rambler Room corner of Sheridan and Loyola Ave. [www.insightartsliberation.org/\\$5](http://www.insightartsliberation.org/$5).

**Windy City Gay Idol Semi-Finals** 2 p.m. sign up/4 p.m. start Sidetrack 3349 N. Halsted [cynthia@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:cynthia@windycitymediagroup.com) [www.windycitymediagroup.com/Idol2009.html](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/Idol2009.html)

**Youth Pride Center and Windy City Black Pride** present Chicago's Next Top Model, the youth face of Chicago Pride. Info at [youthpridecenter@gmail.com](mailto:youthpridecenter@gmail.com)

## Saturday, June 6

**Amigas Latinas Gala**, Siempre Latina "An Evening of Elegance" benefits. Amigas Latinas 7:30 p.m. to midnight. Center on Halsted. Info on tix and rsvp: [info@amigaslatinass.org](mailto:info@amigaslatinass.org)

**Ride For AIDS Chicago** two-day, 190 mile biking Evanston to south central Wisconsin, return trip on June 7. [www.rideforaids.org](http://www.rideforaids.org) 773-989-9400, ext. 246

## Tuesday, June 23

**Windy City Times 30 Under 30** awards 5:30 to 8 p.m. Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. 773-472-6469 [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

## Friday-Sunday, May 22-24



## IT AIN'T EASY BEING TEEN

Encore performances of the drama **Haram Iran** will run at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted.

## Friday, May 29



## SERIAL PROM

The 5th Annual Queer Prom will take place at the National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th.

Photo from last year's Queer Prom by Emmanuel Garcia

## BUSINESS

# Ice, ice, baby: R Family Vacations set for Alaska

BY ROSS FORMAN

Back by popular demand, the 2009 R Family Vacations cruise is returning to the scenic surroundings of Alaska.

Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) is continuing its successful partnership with R Family Vacations, the family-friendly vacation specialists catering to the LGBT community, aboard the 2,240-passenger Norwegian Star.

The cruise is set for July 11-18—round-trip from Seattle, Wash.—and marks the eighth cruise in six years for R Family Vacations.

"Alaska is a beautiful place to cruise [to] because, when you look out the window [of the boat], the scenery is just stunning. Plus, the excursions are adventurous and fun. It's a very active vacation," said Kelli O'Donnell, co-founder of R Family Vacations.

Cruises are priced from \$849 per person, based on double occupancy.

Guests can select Norwegian Star's deluxe range of staterooms, many with ocean views and balconies. The ship features 12 restaurants, nine bars and lounges, a casino, spa and fitness center. Among the many on-board activities are two pools, a basketball court, golf driving net and a jogging/walking track.

"NCL is all about offering guests freedom and



**Kelli O' Donnell.** Photo courtesy of Barbara Kinney

flexibility on our ships," said Andy Stuart, NCL's executive vice president of global sales and passenger services. "With R Family Vacations' charters, that freedom and flexibility [are] taken to the next level with their inclusive approach and top-quality entertainment."

The on-board entertainment truly is impressive, starting with stand-up comedian/actress Caroline Rhea. The cruise also features, among others:

—R Family's Belters Show, with Broadway cast members from *Wicked*, *Les Miserables*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Chicago* and *Xanadu*;

—Emmy-award winner Judy Gold's "Mommy Queerest;"

—Ross Mathews (*The Tonight Show*, *Celebrity Fit Club* and *The Insider*);

—"Original Circuit DJ" (and gay father) David Knapp;

—Sharon Gless, offering a screening of the new lesbian feature film *Hannah Free* (which was shot last November in Chicago) two weeks after its world premiere in San Francisco; and

—Sirius Radio co-hosts Derek & Romaine.

"We have a really great list of entertainers," O'Donnell said.

In addition, the Family Equality Council, led by Executive Director Jennifer Chrisler, is organizing educational workshops and discussions, including seminars on gay adoption, surrogacy, same-sex marriage and a teen panel.

R Family offers fun-filled themed deck parties, fitness lectures and classes and Rosie's Broadway Kids, which gives guests the opportunity to learn a Broadway routine and perform it in the ship's theater.

"I believe our cruise is an incredible emotional experience for the people onboard, thus it's something that they look forward to each year. It's not just a fly-by-night vacation," O'Donnell said. "People can expect to have a life-changing experience on board. We not only have the best entertainers who ever have been together at sea, but I think we have seven days of the best entertainment you can find anywhere. We have comedians, Broadway performers, singers, etc. It's basically a floating utopia. And we not only have families, but a true assortment of people. It's half men, half women. Some have kids, some don't. About 15-20 percent are straight, friends and family onboard.

"Coming off the ship [at the end of the week], there are a lot of tears. I think there are a lot of people who truly wish that [the boat's environment] was how the world truly was/is."

In 2006, R Family was profiled in HBO's documentary titled, "All Aboard! Rosie's Family Cruise," which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and claimed two Emmy nominations and a GLAAD award.

There will be no such video cameras on board this summer, O'Donnell said.

"For me, the highlight is the boarding process; I greet everyone as they come onboard," O'Donnell said. "I think the highlight actually is that first day, at sail-away. We have someone singing a song relative to where we're leaving from or where we're going to. That's the first time when everyone really comes together as a unit. That sort of represents that we're going to create our own little world for a week; that's a magical time for everyone."

O'Donnell said R Family Vacations has a "huge" return rate of about 30 percent.

Yet the economic crush certainly has hit the cruise industry.

"Everyone's feeling [the economic hardships]; there's no way around it. We have to do cutbacks based on the fact that less people are going on cruises. But we still have a good crowd coming and we're excited," she said.

O'Donnell said the amount of singles on-board is one of the biggest growth areas.

"We offer events for kids, grandparents, singles, everyone," she said. "I think the singles onboard are just looking for a less pressured experience than if they go on all-men or all-women cruise."

To reserve a stateroom, call 212-703-2486 or visit [www.rfamilyvacations.com](http://www.rfamilyvacations.com).

# REAL ESTATE

## FOR SALE

### OUT OF TOWN

**DO YOU DREAM OF BEING AN INNKEEPER?:** 4 Unit Elegant B&B in Gay friendly Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Turnkey view at [www.iknoweureka.com](http://www.iknoweureka.com)

Brokered by Charles Edwards Coldwell Banker K-C REALTY (07/15/09-13)

**B&B FOR SALE:** Western IL. W/8 acres \$469,000, 4 acres \$389,000. Terms. On Golf Course. 5 guest suites & owners unit. Est. 1989. **815-734-7297. www.kablehouse.com.** (06/10/09-4)

### BUSINESS

**RESTAURANT/TAVERN/GRILL:** 2100 sq. ft. tavern/grill in downtown Geneva, IL. Projected 2009 sales \$575K. 35' bar with 18 stools, plus seating for 64. Contract sale possible with down payment and good credit. **\$185,000 plus inventory. 630-880-8496 LBLANCE@aol.com.** (05/20/09-2)

### HOUSES

**HISTORIC HOMES FOR SALE:** Historic homes in Elgin starting under \$100,000. Enjoy great restaurants, rec center, cultural events, symphony, Fox River, bike trails, Metra access. **Contact Tom at Vintage Home Realty at 847-622-8665 or www.TomsVintageHomes.com.** (05/06/09-4)

**LOW TAXES SECOND HOME:** Completely remodeled historic Waverly Crest nestled in the woods of Porter, hosts 8 working fireplaces, 5-6 bedrooms, 5 full baths for information. **Contact Carlos Lemus at 574-370-3316 or visit my web-site www.carloslemus.com.** (04/29/09-1)

**PRIVACY ACRES LOW TAXES:** Extraordinary value for this exquisitely, maintained home sits on 4.59 acres superbly energy efficient geothermal, 3 bedrooms 3.5 bathrooms. Great for entertaining while enjoying beautifully landscaped grounds. **Please contact Carlos Lemus at 574-370-3316 or visit www.carloslemus.com.** (04/29/09-1)

### TOWNHOMES

**WEST LOOP ROWHOUSE \$674,900:** Rarely Available West Loop Rowhouse in Gated Community - 3 of the 4 bedrooms are one level, 3.1bath. Very open & wide floor plan. Kitchen, which overlooks family room, has 42" cabinets, granite ctops, stainless steel appliances + balcony for grilling. Large rooftop deck & front porch overlooks quiet park like setting. Private entrance, 2 car over-sized attached garage. Lots of space & storage - very organized. **Call/email Laurie 708-203-3614 lshapiro@prupremier.com Prudential Premier Realty** (03/18/09-3)

### CONDO

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# BILLY MASTERS

"I could break Sean Hannity just by giving him a middle seat in coach!"—Wanda Sykes proposes her own method of torture. On behalf of Hannity, "No! Not a middle seat in coach. I'll talk, I'll talk!"

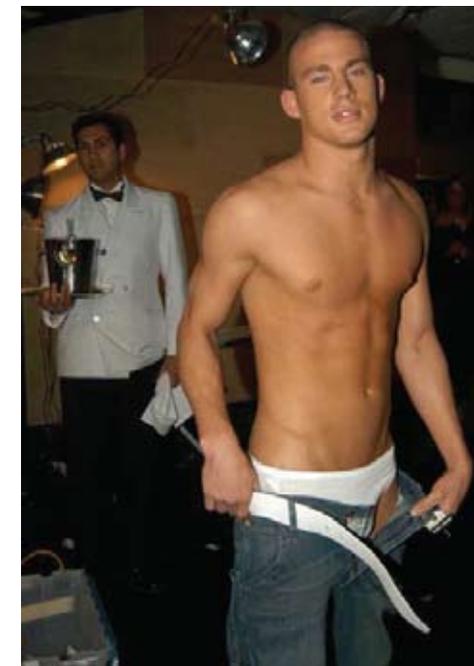
Last week, the season finale of *Celebrity Apprentice* delivered NBC a ratings bonanza not seen since ... well, since the series finale of *Bonanza!* Joan Rivers' triumph over Annie Duke in the super-sized three-hour special took place in NYC's Museum of Natural History. It opened by describing both contestants, while showing a fossilized dinosaur and a shark. There's that NBC humor! Some people have criticized the outcome, alleging that Donald Trump rigged the show. For the last time, there were five criteria for the win. One was clean-cut—the amount of money raised. The other four were decided, as in previous weeks, by the client (in this case, Kodak). Joan won three of those. Annie won one. So Rivers won. Thank goodness one of the challenges wasn't Joan trying to open that champagne bottle—three hours wouldn't have been enough time!



American Idol's Adam Lambert (left) warming his pipes before a show.

for all it was worth. "She doesn't know me. How does she know if I'm not good? She's never seen an event that I've ever done. I think she did it because it made for better television."

The bottom line is that Joan's charity, God's Love We Deliver, got the \$250,000 grand prize, along with the money won in the challenges. In full, Joanie brought in a grand total of \$526,546.39. But wait, there's more—on June 25, Rivers will be doing a one-night-only show at the Gramercy Theatre in NYC that will benefit the charity. And, yes, that is right smack dab in the middle of Gay Pride Week. Joan's Love She Delivers!



Ah, the hot Channing Tatum of old. Those were the days...

Then there's the abrupt departure of party planner David Tuterra. For those of you who don't know, each team was assigned a planner from Tuterra's company. Davey got Joan, and one of his associates got Annie. As we saw on the show, Joan kept prodding David for some of his trademark brilliant ideas, and he just stood there not saying anything. She suggested bringing in one of her many gay friends to help brainstorm, and this seemed to prompt Tuterra to pull out of the show entirely—meaning Annie also got left high and dry.

Since the show ended, David has shed some light on what transpired. According to him, the party planners were not allowed to give any suggestions—only to execute what was asked of them. This, however, doesn't explain his ideas of a red-draped ceiling and lounge chairs. He concedes that Joan probably was not told what limitations were put upon him by the producers, and that perhaps this was done to make for a more dramatic show: "I think I was manipulated by the producers. Not set up, but manipulated." Nonetheless, he feels that Auntie Joan milked it

One of the down sides of having a weekly column is that I'm writing this before the *American Idol* finale. With my luck, I'll send congrats to Adam Lambert and hottie Kris Allen will win. Instead, I'll focus on the tension between "Idol" alum Clay Aiken and the show. People have asked why former contestants who came in fifth and sixth have been asked back this season, but Clay's been conspicuously absent. Well, he's actually been around. Last week, Clay showed up at the taping, expecting to be welcomed with open arms (or something to that effect). He was kept away from the contestants, despite telling our spy that he wanted to talk with Adam about pulling away from 19 Management and allegedly talked Kelly Clarkson into following suit, this may be why they don't want him bending Adam's ear—or anything else, for that matter.

With all the hoopla surrounding the White House Correspondent's dinner, no one noticed that Wanda Sykes just became a mother. Wanda's wife Ann gave birth to twins Olivia and Lucas April 27. Things are also looking good for her, professionally. The prospects of CBS renewing *The New Adventures of Old Christine* are positive. But if they aren't interested, ABC has already said the show could find a home there.

He's not a gal, but I have nothing but love in my heart for Ryan Kwanten. Sure, we've all seen him on *True Blood* and all those naughty pics on *BillyMasters.com*. Now we add some brand-new sizzling hot shirtless pics that someone leaked to me. Probably the hottest thing I've seen all year.

On the flip side, former hottie Channing Tatum has chunked up considerably. And yet, that doesn't stop him from jogging shirtless through

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## Adam Lambert: The first gay Idol?

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Flamboyant? Undoubtedly. Gay? Who knows?

Adam Lambert has caused a stir on TV's American Idol like no other contestant ever has, thanks to his affinity for glam looks and glam rock. In fact, he is often nicknamed "Glambert."

Going into the May 19 final, Lambert, who has a powerful singing voice, was heavily favored over the surprising Kris Allen—meaning that he could be the first openly gay or bisexual American Idol.

Photos have surfaced of Lambert kissing another man. According to Reuters, when the singer was asked about them, he responded: "I have nothing to hide. I am who I am."

However, who that person is has been open to speculation.

In the May 28 issue of Rolling Stone magazine, Rob Sheffield stated, "We don't know for sure if Glambert is gay ... but if not, it's the gay-

est embodiment of flaming youth by a straight guy since [David] Bowie sold the world. Glambert plays off the new gay stereotype that has been reality TV's gift to our culture: the hyper-functional gay dude who has his shit together in contrast to all the neurotic, insecure straight guys around him."

Regardless of his orientation, many people have come to one conclusion about Lambert: He has injected some flair into American Idol.

**Speaking of music, be sure to read Pop Making Sense online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).**

## Kylie on 1st North American tour

Kylie Minogue will finally tour North America when her six-city tour kicks off in Oakland, Calif., Sept. 30, according to a press release.

Minogue will be in Chicago Oct. 7. at the Congress Theater, 2135 N. Milwaukee.

Visit [www.billsilvaentertainment.com/kylie](http://www.billsilvaentertainment.com/kylie).

**Windy City Gay Idol - Sofo**

Sofo was so packed as we met our new finalists Michael (top, left), Amy (top, right) and Jason (below, right) in the Windy City Gay Idol competition on Thursday, May 14. Catch the wild card round Thursday, May 28 at Roscoe's, 3356 N. Halsted St. Photos by Kirk Williamson

## BILLY from page 24

the streets of WeHo—where having a double-digit body fat percentile is against the law. Thank goodness our spies sent us the revealing photos, which of course we'll post on BillyMasters.com.

Could it be that a former sitcom siren is desperately seeking a baby? After a number of failed relationships, she's decided not to wait for Mr. Right and, instead, is turning to the turkey baster. To fill it, she's trying to enlist the aid of one of her many gay friends (some of whom she's been romantically linked with). The most recent break up led her to forget

about having chemistry and focus on muddling through solo.

When a blind item is all Greek to me, it's definitely time to end yet another column. By the time you read this, we'll have a new American Idol, it'll be Memorial Day Weekend and I'll be back in Florida (clearly I'm a glutton for punishment). Oh, and there'll be all sorts of things to check out on [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com). If you've got a question, concern, or query, drop a note to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before I buy Channing Tatum a sports bra! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

**We like to watch.**

Sidetrack is gearing up for some of our favorite events with parties all weekend to welcome everyone in town for:

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INTERNATIONAL MR. LEATHER
- BP15**  
BEAR PRIDE 15TH ANNIVERSARY
- NAGVA**  
NORTH AMERICAN GAY VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

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Volleyball players at the 2006 Gay Games. Photo by Ryan Kolodziej

SPORTS/RECREATION

## Nat'l gay v-ball tourney in Chicago

BY ROSS FORMAN

More than 1,100 LGBT volleyball players from around the world, including former top-level U.S. college players, will be in Chicago for the North American Gay Volleyball Association (NAGVA) Championships XXVII, set for May 21-24 at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand. This is the fourth time Chicago has hosted the annual event—but the first time since 1991.

About 135 teams are expected, with about eight players per team, for play in four divisions.

"The tournament is a lot of fun, a pure social event with competitiveness mixed in. It's kind of like a circuit party, just without the club and music, and volleyballs galore instead," said Chicago's Chad Carroll, who serves as the event's co-chairman.

Players will range in age from 18 to 60, and about 10 teams are expected at the top division (AA). There will be 13 teams from Chicago participating.

"The NAGVA Championship is a wrap-up to the 27th season *a la* the annual Gay Softball World Series," Carroll said. "The level of play at the top division is very, very good."

Participants will be coming from Atlanta, Boston, Cleveland and Dallas, not to mention Vancouver, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

"The tournament is held the same weekend every year, so finally our players will get to participate in both [Memorial Day weekend traditions]: NAGVA and IML," Carroll said, laughing. "The tournament is just a good time. It's a cool genre of the gay community."

The championships are free to attend.

About 95 percent of the participants are male, Carroll said, and he speculated that at least 95 percent of the participants are gay.

Hermosa (Calif.) Beach is among the top AA-Division teams.

The top Chicago-based teams are Ataca (A Division), Hamburger Mary's (B) and Untouchable (BB), which won the gold medal at the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago.

NAGVA is one of the nation's largest LGBT-sports organizations with more than 5,000 members. A group of eight cities, Chicago being one of those eight, helped form NAGVA in 1980. NAGVA hosted its first championship tournament in 1982. The host organization responsible for

winning the bid for NAGVA Championships XXVII is the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA), the largest non-profit LGBT sports organization in the Midwest, boasting over 2,600 members.

## AIDS Walk/Run registration starts

Online registration for AIDS Run & Walk Chicago 2009 is now open at [www.aidsrunwalk.org](http://www.aidsrunwalk.org).

To participate alongside thousands of supporters Saturday, Oct. 3, in Grant Park, visit [www.aidsrunwalk.org](http://www.aidsrunwalk.org) and click "Register Now." E-mail [runwalk@aidschicago.org](mailto:runwalk@aidschicago.org) if there are any questions.

AIDS Run & Walk Chicago 2008 raised more than \$500,000. To further support these local organizations, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) will give 100 percent of all money raised by CommunityDirect teams back to the participating HIV/AIDS service organizations.

## Bike the Drive May 24

Bike the Drive—which will open a car-free Lake Shore Drive to more than 20,000 cyclists—will take place the morning of Sunday, May 24.

The drive will be open 5:30-10:30 a.m. Participants must start at Columbus and Jackson.

The event benefits the nonprofit Active Transportation Alliance's work to improve biking, walking and transit in Chicagoland. A post-ride festival includes breakfast, live music from Funkadesi and giveaways. Registration is \$37-\$42 for adults and \$12 for those 17 and under with at least one adult registration; see [www.BikeTheDrive.org](http://www.BikeTheDrive.org).

## Four Red Stars on U.S. team

Four members of the Chicago Red Stars have been named to the U.S. Women's National Team roster for a pair of soccer games against Japan, according to a team press release. The U.S. roster includes Red Stars midfielders Carli Lloyd, Megan Rapinoe and Lindsay Tarpley as well as defender Marian Dalmay.

The U.S. women will face Japan May 20 in Frisco, Texas, and May 23 in Sandy, Utah. The players will miss the Red Stars' May 23 game against St. Louis.

## Rollers home game May 30

The Windy City Rollers women's flat-track roller-derby league will hold the sixth bout of the home season on Saturday, May 30, at 6 p.m. at the UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine.

In this next bout, the Manic Attackers will take on Hell's Belles while the Double Crossers engage the Fury. Tickets are \$20 each in advance (\$21 at the door); visit [www.windycityrollers.com](http://www.windycityrollers.com) or [www.TicketMaster.com](http://www.TicketMaster.com), or stop by the UIC box office.

## Sky's 'Battle of the Sexes' June 2

Members of the women's pro basketball team the Chicago Sky will take on a group of male celebrities in a basketball game scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, at the UIC Pavilion at 7 p.m.

Among the men who will be playing are actors

Larenz Tate, Donald Faison (TV's *Scrubs*), Frankie Muniz (TV's *Malcolm in the Middle*) and Michael Clarke Duncan as well as singer Brian McKnight and rapper Nelly.

Tickets are \$15-\$225 each; see [www.wnba.com/sky](http://www.wnba.com/sky). For more information about the game, call 866-SKY-WNBA.

## Ride for AIDS registration open

Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) has announced open registration for its sixth annual Ride for AIDS Chicago (RFAC), slated for Saturday-Sunday, June 6-7.

The two-day, 190-mile biking fundraiser will lead riders on a round-trip journey from Evanston's Northwestern University to south-central Wisconsin. Riders must raise at least \$1,000 each to support HIV/AIDS prevention and care services in the Chicago area. Registration for RFAC is \$85, which includes gear transport, route support, meals and overnight accommodations. Windy City Media Group is among the event's sponsors.

Visit [www.rideforaids.org](http://www.rideforaids.org).

## Center running kids' sports program

Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted—in collaboration with We Got Game—is offering a comprehensive youth sports program for children ages 2-9 through June 12. Class registration is now being accepted.

For a complete listing of classes, to download the registration form or to register online, visit [www.wegotgamechicago.com](http://www.wegotgamechicago.com). For more information, contact Coach Brian Ploof at 773-562-6003 or [CoachBrian@WeGotGame.com](mailto:CoachBrian@WeGotGame.com); also, contact Tom Ballentine, the center's director of community and cultural programs, at [tballentine@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:tballentine@centeronhalsted.org) or 773-472-6469, ext. 245.

## Qigong sessions at Center

Instructor Eva Wong will teach the ancient practice of physical fitness known as Qigong Saturday-Sunday, June 6-7, at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted.

Qigong (pronounced *chee-gong*) has been used for at least a thousand years in China to balance and retain youthfulness in the body. Many practitioners have found that its gentle, rhythmic movements reduce stress, build stamina, increase vitality, and enhance the immune system.

The Shambhala Meditation Center of Chicago will host a Level 1 Qigong program June 6, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. A Level 2 Qigong program will follow June 7 at the same times. Registration is \$100 per session, but one must take Level 1 in order to take Level 2. See [www.chicagoshambhala.org](http://www.chicagoshambhala.org) or [www.aidschicago.org/events/qigong.php](http://www.aidschicago.org/events/qigong.php).

## WSGA's bike ride in Willow Springs

The West Suburban Gay Association will have a bike ride along the Illinois/Michigan Canal in Willow Springs Saturday, May 30, at 11 a.m. The excursion will start at the forest preserve parking lot located off Archer, below Willow Springs Road, and may include a stop at a roadside café.

For more info, see [www.wsga.com](http://www.wsga.com).

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Sidetrack Blues	4	2	Cesar's Killers	5	1	Buck's Nuts	1	5
Hunter's	4	2	Wild Pug	5	1	Crew Litening	1	5
Jackhammer Force	3	3	H. Mary's Chargers	4	2	Buche Boys	1	5
Cattle Call Beef	2	4	Jackhammer Pamas	4	2	Steamworks	0	6
Halsted's	2	4	Shirts Illustrated	4	2			
Basil Hayden Buzz	0	6	The Spot 2	4	2			
Cesar's on the Rocks	0	6	J'hammer Bulldogs	4	2			
			Sidetrack Slushies	2	4			

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