

**Mona Noriega,  
Alderman?**

page 17



**Trans Artist  
Killed in Haiti**



**Santino Rice**

page 27

**nightspots**  
pick it up  
take it home



## Houston's Parker scores big as lesbian mayor

EXCLUSIVE BY ROSS FORMAN

HOUSTON—Her third-floor office, here in downtown, is about a five-minute drive from Minute Maid Park, home stadium for the Houston Astros—and this city's new mayor, Annise Parker, definitely is a baseball fan. It's probably her favorite sport, although she admits she doesn't get to as many Astros' games as she'd like to.

Parker, an admitted sports fan, was a season-ticket holder for the entire run of the WNBA's Houston Comets, from 1997-2008. This sports town is known as Clutch City for its NBA Rockets, and the Houston Dynamo won back-to-back

Major League Soccer titles in 2006 and 2007.

So who better to analyze the LGBT scene in the four major men's sports—baseball, football, basketball and hockey—than Parker, who watched in late 2009 as Houston became the largest city in America to elect an openly gay mayor.

"It will happen, and that will be another huge milestone. [Sports] is a huge closet that we really haven't breached, yet," she said.

But when, in five years?

"No doubt, a major active player [will come out while still active]," Parker said.

And he'll come out on his own, not someone

outing him.

"I think someone being outed doesn't really count because this is about us being open and honest about our lives, not being forced to reluctantly come out. We need role models, and anyone who is forced out of the closet," is not a willing role model, she said.

And if not from one of the big four sports, certainly a male player from the huge, worldwide soccer scene.

"I think some major soccer stars will come

Turn to page 4



**Inside, find:**

- Charts showing bar ratings, endorsements and scores
- Interviews with lesbian judicial candidate Mary Trew and gubernatorial candidates Hynes, Quinn and Whitney
- Coverage of political events

**Online, find:**

- Interviews with candidates for county, state and federal office



page 15

Lesbian activist Jane Saks (left) and Cook County Board President candidate Toni Preckwinkle were among the attendees at "Justice for All," the annual Equality Illinois gala that features politicians (actual and aspiring) from around the state. See many photos of the event on page 15 and online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com). Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

# Make History!

# Jacob Meister

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Photo on cover (from top left): Image of Mona Noriega by Hal Baim; photo of Flo McGarrell courtesy of Ann McGarrell; PR photo of Santino Rice



Pat Griffin talks about the demise of the It Takes A Team! LGBT education campaign. See page 30.

Photo courtesy of Pat Griffin



WCT movie critic Richard Knight, Jr., discusses the impact of Marlon Brando's smoldering sensuality on page 24.

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**JOURNEY TO PUERTO RICO**  
 A delegation of people from Chicago and NYC met with Puerto Rican activists and the family of murdered teen Steven Mercado. Read Chicagoan Ed Negrón's personal account.  
 Photo courtesy of Ed Negrón

**WINDY CITY QUEERCAST**  
 QUEER and NOW  
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**JUST THE TAX, MA'AM**  
 Tom Franklin (left) discusses unique tax deductions for certain unmarried couples.  
 Photo from Tom Franklin

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**FINE AND BRANDI**  
 Singer Brandi Carlile (right) talks about how she's giving back to Seattle, Wash.  
 Photo by Jeremy Cowart

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# Into the second week of the Prop 8 trial

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

SAN FRANCISCO—Defenders of Proposition 8, the 2008 initiative that amended California's constitution to ban same-sex marriage, began their effort Jan. 25 to defend the measure in a U.S. federal district court.

The court, presided over by Chief Judge Vaughn Walker, has already heard nine days of testimony put on by the legal team challenging the constitutionality of the law—including 17 witnesses. This week, with only a few reporters still watching and the courtroom audience thinning out, the defense prepared to bring just two expert witnesses to the stand.

First up was Kenneth P. Miller, a professor of government at Claremont McKenna College, a private college outside Los Angeles. The defense offered Miller Jan. 25 as an expert in the political power of gays and lesbians—a designation that plaintiffs' attorney David Boies attacked even before Miller's testimony began.

Using a trial procedure known as *voir dire*, Boies formally challenged Miller's credentials, showing, among other things, that Miller has to his credit only one peer-reviewed journal article on the topic and was so unfamiliar with the gay movement that he did not know what the Mattachine Society was. The peer-reviewed article was in a French journal of U.S. studies. The Mattachine Society was one of the earliest gay political groups in the country.

Miller acknowledged that he was "not an expert on the full history of the gay and lesbian rights movement," but said he had "read about it." But when Boies pressed him on what books he had read, Miller could not confirm having read any notable histories.

Boies asked the judge to limit Miller's qualification for expert testimony, and Judge Walker did so—to the role of gay and lesbian Americans and California politics.

Under questioning by Yes on 8 attorney David Thompson, Miller told the court that, although gays were a tiny portion of the population, they

gained considerable political power through their affiliation with the Democratic Party and labor unions and that they benefit from the support of newspapers, corporations, and celebrities.

Miller's testimony seemed to suggest he had only cursory knowledge in any area regarding gay political power. When asked about gay political power nationally, he spoke about the "upward trajectory of power" for the movement in its efforts to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and "Don't Ask-Don't Tell" (DADT). And he testified that President Obama has given "significant support" to the community during his first year in office. He also talked about the Gay & Lesbian Victory fund having boasted that most openly gay candidates are elected.

Boies spent all afternoon Jan. 25 shooting down Miller's testimony concerning gay political power. The team challenging Prop 8 needs to establish that gays are politically powerless in order to have Walker give his toughest scrutiny to the stated purpose for the same-sex marriage ban.

Power, of course, is relative and Miller tried to avoid answering some of the more difficult questions from Boies. For instance, when Boies asked Walker which group has the more political power—women or gays—Miller said he wouldn't be able to answer that questions without doing more analysis. But Boies is decidedly relentless in his cross-examinations and asked Miller which group has the more political power—women or lesbians. Miller then acknowledged that, yes, lesbians probably have less political power than women.

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To find out more about the trial—including a fight centered around Yes on 8 campaign manager Frank Schubert—visit [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

## Robert Mosbacher dies

Robert A. Mosbacher, an oilman who was a fundraiser, confidant, political adviser and secretary of commerce for President George H.W. Bush during 1989-1992, died at a Houston, Texas, hospital Jan. 24, according to the New York Times. He was 82.

Mosbacher had a public falling-out with his oldest child, Diane (known to many as Dee), when the Republican Party's stepped up its anti-homosexual rhetoric in 1992, the Houston Chronicle reported. Dee, who is lesbian, publicly criticized her father, brother and Bush, saying that "it's neither expedient nor ethical what they are doing."

Houston Mayor Annise Parker, a lesbian who worked for Mosbacher Energy for 18 years, said she was proud to push for Mosbacher to be included in the city's Hall of Fame back when she was a city council member.

Besides Dee, Mosbacher is survived by son Rob Mosbacher as well as daughters Kathryn Mosbacher Wheeler and Lisa Mosbacher Mears; stepsons Donald Cameron Duncan III, Robert Gerry and Lloyd Gerry; six grandchildren and a step-grandchild; sister Barbara Susan Mosbacher; and numerous nephews and cousins. A private interment ceremony will be held at Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

## HOUSTON from cover

out in the very near future," she said. "I don't know enough about the culture of hockey; I [also] wouldn't be surprised to see some baseball players [come out while active]."

Such news truly would be ground-breaking and, she jokes, "it will take me off the front-page, which is great."

Parker added: "It would be huge because then [sports] would be another milestone that we can mark off."

Parker, 53, certainly knows about ground-breaking milestones. She is, after all, a budding legend, joining a small group of openly gay U.S. mayors that includes the leaders in Providence, R.I.; Portland, Ore.; and Cambridge, Mass.

The mayors of Paris and Berlin also are openly gay.

Less than three weeks after being inducted, Parker sat down for an exclusive, wide-ranging interview that spanned the LGBT scene. She was opinionated and charming, with a Texas accent mixed in.

"We're still transitioning; there's a lot of stuff going on," she said.

No doubt. Parker's election caused a worldwide media blitz after she was sworn in Jan. 2, with her partner (Kathy Hubbard) and three adopted children (two daughters, one son) nearby. She was the media topic in Japan, Australia, South America and India.

"It didn't occur to me that [being elected] would have that kind of global reach.

"I could see it being a big deal in the United States, and it clearly had an impact in this region. But it just never occurred to me that people [around the world] would have been interested," Parker said. "What an awesome responsibility."

"Sure, [my election] is a significant event, but it's just one more milestone, and we're on our way to a future where we stop counting these milestones because we should be integrated into a larger [picture] society," said Parker, who defeated former city attorney Gene Locke with 53.6 percent of the vote in a race that had a turnout of only 16.5 percent.

### Gay marriage

"We shouldn't judge the success of our movement on what happens with these marriage initiatives," she said. "I have been out for close to 40 years, and have seen tremendous number of changes and great progress for our community. The way that we have achieved most of that progress is by individuals stepping up and stepping out, living their lives openly and honestly. Some of what we've achieved, we've achieved through the direct political process—and that's why it's important that we have open gays and lesbians in political office. But it's more important to have individuals living

their own lives openly and honestly. The issue of marriage is so culturally fretted, so tied to [the] politics of the church, issues of faith, contract laws, and so many other things that I just think we need to re-focus on the successes we have had in domestic partner benefits, in job protection, in non-discrimination ordinances that, to me, it's more important to knock off [the ban on] gays in the military."

Parker was asked on the campaign trail if she was going to personally get involved with trying to change the gay marriage situation in Texas. However, Texas lost a ballot initiative on the matter, so it would require a vote of all the citizens of Texas—"and I'm just much more focused on what I can do in my own city," she said.

"I certainly support full marriage equality, but it's not the highest thing on my personal political agenda," Parker said. "I have other responsibilities that, as mayor, must attend to first."

### U.S. military: "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

"[Gays] should have full rights to serve," Parker said. "The infamous gay agenda [is]: we want to get married and we want to serve in the military; how mainstream is that.

"I frankly have not been able to pay much attention to it. I certainly felt that the President made a commitment to over-turning [Don't Ask, Don't Tell], and he needs to follow through on that commitment. But I don't know where it is [toward happening]."

So has President Barack Obama been slow repealing the military's ban on openly gay individuals being allowed to serve?

"I have great sympathy for him because I haven't [yet] been on the job for three weeks, and I'm swamped, getting whacked by a lot of folks who want to know why I haven't done, this, this and this," she said.

But it will happen, in time, she said. Especially since the U.S. has to catch up to the militaries of the rest of the world, she added. "It's something that's past time to happen," Parker said.

### Anti-gay trail

Parker endured limited anti-gay attacks during the mayoral race, which surprised her.

The ugliest attacks came from a group of Black pastors who spoke out against her for what they called her gay agenda, and two separate anti-gay advocates who sent out fliers in the mail calling attention to her support from gay groups and to her relationship with her partner. Her opponent denied having anything to do with the attacks.

"I fully expected to have some anti-gay attacks during the campaign," she said.

To find out more—including Parker's long-time association with the Victory Fund—visit [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

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**NATIONAL NEWS**



—Gavin Newsom (left) criticizes Obama

—Hawaii tackles civil unions, again

—Lambda Legal gets trans-rights attorney

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New Houston, Texas, mayor Annise Parker (in gold) celebrated on election night with partner—and Houston First Lady—Kathy Hubbard; daughters Marquitta and Daniella are to Parker's left. Photo by Dalton DeHart

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# Guide to the Gays

The Feb. 2, 2010, primary elections have taken on added significance for Cook County's LGBT community, as at least 15 openly gay and lesbian individuals are vying for various posts. Below are gay and lesbian candidates for office. (Most of the candidates are in the Democratic party; Bob Mueller is a member of the Green Party.)

## Deb Mell

**Race:** Illinois State Representative (40th District)

**Web site:** DebMell.org

**The skinny:** Deb Mell started her first term making history as the first open lesbian in the Illinois General Assembly—and then did something historic in being the only representative to vote against impeachment of then-Gov. Rod Blagojevich, her brother-in-law. (She told Windy City Times, "The day I made that vote, the Rod I knew and the Rod they were talking about didn't match up," adding that people told her afterwards that they were happy she voted that way.) A staunch advocate for marriage equality, Mell is locked in a contentious primary race with openly gay Joe Laiacona, marking the only race between two out candidates in the state.



## Joe Laiacona

**Race:** Illinois State Representative (40th District)

**Web site:** FriendsForJoeLaiacona.org

**The skinny:** A part-time instructor at Columbia College Chicago for almost 17 years, Laiacona told Windy City Times (in an interview that ran Oct. 21) that he is a better candidate than incumbent Rep. Deb Mell because "I have 62 years of experience in living, I'm better educated, I solidly represent the middle-class people in my district—and I'm better able to speak on their behalf." Laiacona might be known to some in the LGBT community as "Jack Rinella," his pseudonym when he wrote "Leather Views" for Gay Chicago Magazine. Laiacona recently dropped a petition challenge against Mell, citing a lack of funds.



## Jim Madigan

**Race:** Illinois State Senate (7th District)

**Web site:** JimMadigan.com

**The skinny:** This race is probably one of the most competitive in Illinois, as challenger Madigan is pitted against Democratic incumbent state Sen. Heather Steans, who recently introduced a marriage-equality measure. (The primary winner would then compete against Republican Adam Robinson, who is for same-sex marriage.) Madigan has spoken on a slew of issues ranging from women's equality to preventing video gambling in the district. A few weeks ago, the contest became even more contentious when Steans' husband, Leo Smith, confronted Madigan at a pro-Madigan rally in an Andersonville gay nightspot.



## Linda J. Pael

**Race:** Cook County Judge, Dolan vacancy

**Web site:** LindaJPael.com

**The skinny:** A 1991 summa cum laude graduate of Chicago-Kent Law School, Pael has been an attorney for the City of Chicago's Law Department since 1994. Among the organizations that have endorsed Pael are the Victory Fund, AFL-CIO and the Cook County Democratic Party. In a recent interview with Windy City Times, Pael commented, "It's important to the community to see that we are viable candidates and that we can win despite that fact that people know that we're gay." She was born in Jamaica to parents of mixed heritage (Chinese, Jamaican and Dutch).



## Sebastian Patti

**Race:** 1st Appellate, South vacancy

**Web site:** www.SebastianPatti.com

**The skinny:** Patti, who is running against four other Democrats, became the first openly gay member of the Illinois Appellate Court when he was inducted Aug. 3. Patti (who became Illinois' first openly gay appointed judge in 1996) is a director of the Alliance of Illinois Judges, which was formed by the Lesbian and Gay Judges of the Circuit Court of Cook County; the group hopes to be a resource for fellow judges and the legal community, and to be mentors for LGBT law students.



## John Dalton

**Race:** 16th Circuit Court, Kane, "A" vacancy

**Web site:** JohnDaltonForJudge.com

**The skinny:** Dalton—who would be the first openly gay judge elected outside of Cook County if he prevails—has been an arbitration chairman for more than a decade and an attorney for more than 22 years. Dalton plans to fund his campaign without accepting donations from attorneys—a rare position among Illinois judicial candidates. Also, Dalton is an active member of Elgin's First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.



## Bob Mueller

**Race:** Illinois State Representative (47th District)

**Web site:** VoteMueller.org

**The skinny:** Green Party candidate Mueller, 63, resides in Westmont and is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago. Back in 1997, Mueller and his lawyer, Fred Wellisch (now a DePaul University professor), argued that the Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional, leading to the filing of three U.S. Supreme Court petitions regarding LGBT families in 1999, 2001 and 2002; Ted Olson (now representing plaintiffs in the current Prop 8 case in California) was on the other side as solicitor general when the 2001 and 2002 petitions were signed.



## Greg Harris

**Race:** Illinois State Representative (13th District)

**Web site:** GregHarris.org

**The skinny:** Harris, who is openly HIV-positive as well as being openly gay, has represented his district (which includes Uptown, Ravenswood, Lincoln Square, North Center and Bowmanville) since being elected in 2006. Although his name has appeared most prominently in LGBT publications in connection with the issue of marriage equality (introducing a civil-marriage bill), he is intimately involved with a host of other issues, such as the state budget, foreclosure mediation, children of incarcerated parents and insurance reform. He is currently running unopposed.



## Ed Mullen

**Race:** Illinois State Representative (11th District)

**Web site:** VoteEdMullen.com

**The skinny:** This district—which includes parts of Lakeview, Lincoln Park and Ravenswood—is up for grabs because incumbent rep John Fritchey is running for a seat on the Cook County Board of Commissioners. On his Web site, Mullen describes himself as "an independent and progressive Democrat" who strongly believes "in political reform, economic development, and social justice." Fun fact: Mullen is a founding member of the D.C. Cowboys, a gay country/western dance group that has appeared on America's Got Talent.



## Joanne Fehn

**Race:** Cook County Judge, Kelley vacancy

**Web site:** JoanneFehn.com

**The skinny:** Although she entered the race relatively late (in August), Fehn has been making up for lost time with a slew of fundraisers and personal appearances, including hosting a Dec. 13 event at La Villa Restaurant, 3632 N. Pulaski, that benefited several organizations, including New Moms and Tabitha House. Fehn has practiced transactional law for 15 years, and counts lesbian state Rep. Deb Mell among her supporters.



## Todd Connor

**Race:** Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) commissioner

**Web site:** ToddConnor.org

**The skinny:** A military veteran, Connor was commissioned as a U.S. Navy officer, quickly becoming lieutenant and serving two tours of duty. As a candidate, his platform includes competitive bidding; investing in a green infrastructure; and bringing transparency and accountability to the MWRD with an inspector general. Considering his background (earning an MBA at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business), it should surprise no one that Connor, 31, wants to bring more of a business perspective to the commission.



## David Schroeder

**Race:** Illinois State Representative (5th District)

**Web site:** PeopleForSchroeder.com

**The skinny:** Schroeder is another challenger who faces a strong opponent; this time it is incumbent Ken Dunkin (who Schroeder calls "the ultimate Blagojevich enabler" on his Web site). Among the issues he supports are marriage equality, campaign-contribution limits and reproductive choice (adding that he advocates "measures that will lower the number of abortions," such as "medically accurate sex education").



## Jacob Meister

**Race:** U.S. Senate

**Web site:** MeisterForSenate.com

**The skinny:** Being in a contest for Roland Burris' U.S. Senate seat (and the one occupied by one-time U.S. Sen. Barack Obama), Meister finds himself in a battle with heavy-hitters such as current Illinois Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias, former City of Chicago Inspector General David Hoffman and Chicago Urban League President Cheryl Jackson. In an interview with Windy City Times that ran in the Sept. 16 issue, Meister said that he felt "almost compelled to jump into this race. There are a number of good people who could have run; unfortunately, they didn't."



## Mary Trew

**Race:** Cook, 9th Subcircuit, "A" vacancy

**Web site:** VoteTrew.com

**The skinny:** Trew, a graduate of Western Michigan University and Michigan State University College of Law, began her legal career as a criminal defense attorney in Detroit. In Illinois, she has devoted much of her life providing legal services to the poor in Cook County; she is the executive director of the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic. She ran for a judgeship more than a decade ago, and narrowly lost.



## Kent DeLay

**Race:** Illinois State Representative (99th District)

**Web site:** KentDeLay.com

**The skinny:** This son of a retired state engineer is a survivor of two car accidents that have left him partially disabled. In addition, the candidate—who is running to represent Springfield—is a father of two children.

DeLay was listed on the hand-out at the Sidetrack gay candidate's night as being among the state's openly gay candidates for office. He did not attend the event.

## WINDY CITY TIMES SUPPLEMENTARY ELECTION SPECIAL

This week, Windy City Times is running a supplementary election special. (Also, keep in mind that early voting runs through Jan. 28.)

Windy City Times does not endorse those in political races. Rather, we send out questionnaires to candidates and rate their responses based on the total number of questions for that race. We also list the endorsements of various gay and progressive groups, and area bar associations. Chart columns this week also include AIDS Foundation of Chicago questionnaire scores as well as endorsements from the Stonewall Democrats of Illinois and the Chicago chapter of the National Organization for Women.

As always, we have a number of interviews. In this issue, we will run a brand-new interview with lesbian judicial candidate Mary Trew as well as portions of talks with Dan Hynes, Pat Quinn and Rich Whitney, three of the Democratic candidates for governor—which happens to be one of the tightest races in Illinois.

Speaking of Trew, she is one of four additional out candidates featured in the WCT feature Guide to the Gays. The others are state rep candidates Bob Mueller and Kent DeLay (who is actually down in Springfield) as well as Kane County judicial candidate John Dalton.

In addition, read about a recent gathering of lesbian and gay candidates at Sidetrack (right) as well as photos from the candidate-studded Equality Illinois gala held Jan. 23.

See past editions for interviews and articles on myriad candidates at [www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com).

### Gay candidates at Sidetrack

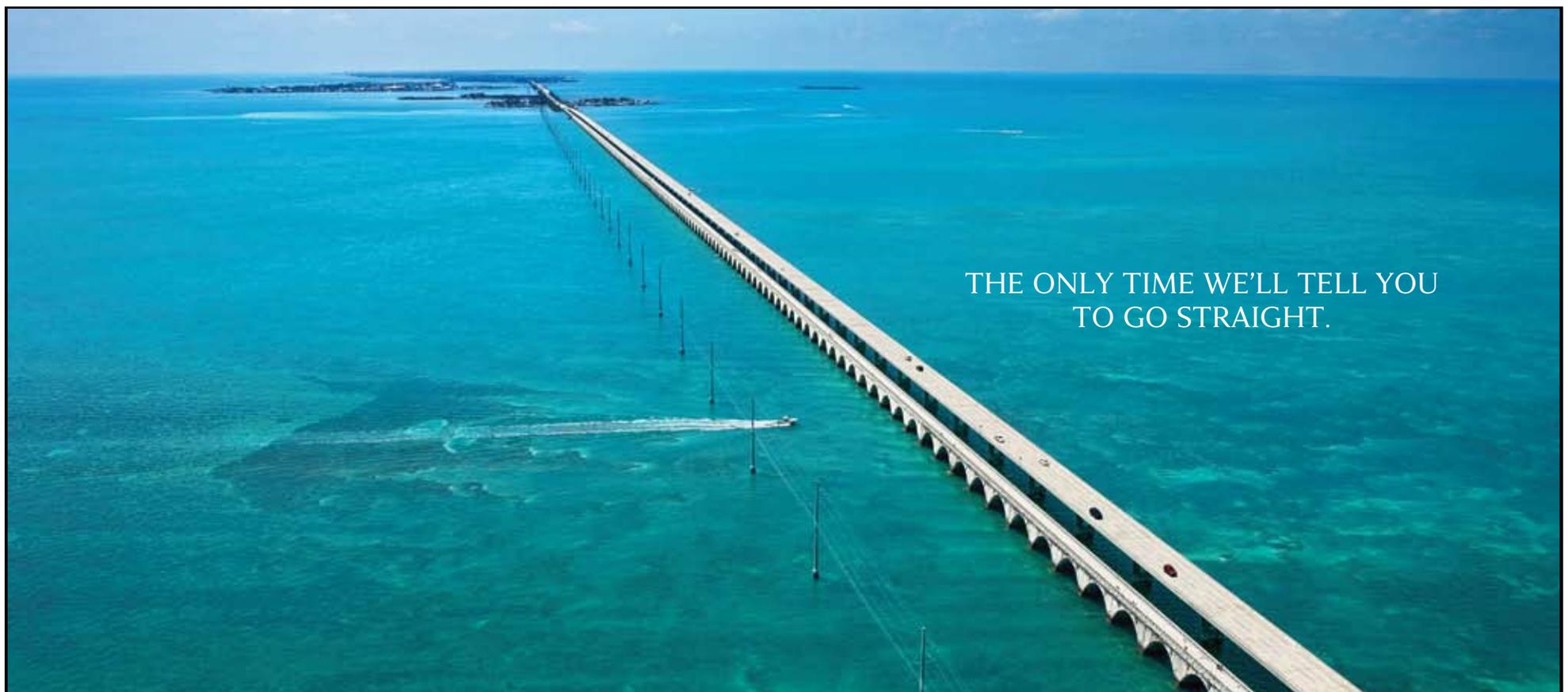


LGBT candidates running in the Feb. 2 primary gathered at the Boystown nightclub Sidetrack last week for a reception hosted by Equality Illinois, the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC) and Join the Impact. In addition to being a campaign stop—candidates made speeches and shook hands—the event had the feel of a celebration: the roster of out LGBT people running for office is larger than it's ever been in Illinois.

Most speakers—running variously for U.S. Congress, state legislature, and judicial nominations—urged reform of the political process and a greater voice for LGBT people. Many, like state Senate hopeful Jim Madigan, expressed frustration with the slow pace of progress on LGBT issues, saying that the community needs to “insist upon change now.”

Sebastian Patti, recently elevated to the Illinois Appellate Court and now seeking a full term, reflected on the meaning of the large field of LGBT contenders. “That has been nothing short of a seismic change of our political landscape,” Patti said.

At least one candidate, though, talked about change yet to happen. “I wish there were more women here,” said Deb Mell, who is seeking reelection to her 40th district state House seat. The image shows (back row, from left) Joanne Fehn, Linda Pael, Mary Trew, Deb Mell and Greg Harris as well as (front row, from left) Jim Madigan, David Schroeder, Sebastian Patti, Bob Mueller, Ed Mullen and Joe Laiacona. Photo by Hal Baim; others online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)



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Gov. Pat Quinn.

## GOVERNOR Pat Quinn

BY BILL HEALY

Gov. Pat Quinn, 61, took office amidst a storm of controversy last year when he replaced Rod Blagojevich. He talked with Windy City Times about everything from civil unions to gender-reassignment surgery.

**Windy City Times:** Earlier this year you restored the state's HIV/AIDS funding to almost 100 percent of previous levels. In September you created an advisory council targeting AIDS prevention messages to youth. Why, with the economy in the shape it's in, are you choosing to make this a priority?

Pat Quinn: It's very important to me, part of my mission, that we help those afflicted with HIV and AIDS. There are a number of things the state can do to help. I walked across the State of Illinois in 2001 with my doctor, Quentin Young. We walked from the Mississippi River to Chicago and I met people afflicted with HIV and AIDS along the way. That's one area of the budget that we'll always protect. That's a lot of great people and we want to help maintain their health.

**WCT:** Dan Hynes was in favor of civil unions for same-sex couples but recently has come out in support of gay marriage. Why are you in favor of civil unions over marriage?

PQ: That's been my position. I took that position when I ran for lieutenant governor. That's the bill that can pass today and that's the one we should focus on. I go out to get things passed. Right now the civil unions bill can pass. I think it will pass now, a year from now, maybe sooner. I do believe that it will come to my desk within the coming year. I think sometimes in politics we focus on what's achievable, what can be done.

**WCT:** If the tides change and you think that a same-sex marriage bill could pass, would you consider signing a marriage bill in the future?

PQ: If the General Assembly passes a bill I have a legal obligation to pass or not sign it. At this point in time the bill that has very close to the majority of support is the civil-union bill. That's a short period of time. And I'm poised to sign it. That's the one that's got the support of the majority of the House and the majority of the Senate to it. Gay people in the community know I was an early supporter of the Human Rights Act. I've stood up when I was state treasurer. I consider this part of my long-time mission.

One thing we need to do is to celebrate gay history in Chicago and in our country. Learning how they've made our state better. Everybody's in, nobody's left out. You know a year ago the governor [Rod Blagojevich] was arrested. I haven't had a moment's rest. My job is to bring Illinois together. We had a very divided state, a lot of anger and animosity and everywhere I go as governor I want to include people. That's why I went to Howard Brown. I want to be a uniter as governor.

**WCT:** For somebody who is in transition between genders there is no consistent way for that person to go and change their birth certificate to match their new gender orientation. The State Department has its own standards for issuing passports. The DMV has its own standards for driver's licenses. The Secretary of State's Office has its own standard. Some places require medical notes, others require reassignment surgery. What can the state do to reduce these burdens on transgender people?

PQ: Well I'd have to think about that. I just wrote a note to myself about that. It sounds like there's a lot of different layers of government. I will inquire exactly how our state operates and do my best to ensure that it's a seamless operation. I want to be a humble governor who is proud of our people. I think the governor needs to show tolerance and concern and that's where I'm coming from.

**WCT:** You've got a lot on your plate with the state budget the way it is and cleaning up after Rod Blagojevich. What can gays and lesbians reasonably expect from you if you're elected to a new term?

PQ: Number 1: We want to have lots of people from the gay and lesbian communities participate on state boards and commissions. We have three directors of major state departments who happen to be gay and I look forward to more. I think we need to make sure no one is discriminated against. We want to make sure everybody feels like they are a part of the Land of Lincoln, that they're treated fairly and that they're honored for their work. We celebrate heroic men and women in Illinois and there are plenty of courageous men and women in the gay community.

See [quinnforillinois.com](http://quinnforillinois.com).

To find out Pat Quinn's thoughts about "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," visit [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

## GOVERNOR Dan Hynes

BY BILL HEALY

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dan Hynes, 41, is currently serving his third term as state comptroller. Hynes talked with Windy City Times about marriage equality and one of the few things he applauds incumbent Gov. Pat Quinn for doing.

**Windy City Times:** I spoke with Pat Quinn, and he said that he supports civil unions for same-sex couples. He wouldn't directly address the issue of marriage but talking about the civil-unions bill sponsored by Greg Harris, he said, "That's the bill that can pass today and that's the one we should focus on." What do you think of this?

DH: I think that when you're talking about human rights and something that's as fundamental as recognizing two committed loving adults being able to have their relationship recognized by law for what it is, I don't think we should think in terms of what is achievable and likely to pass. You have to say what you believe. You either believe that two committed adults should be able to marry respective of their sexual orientation or you don't. I don't like the idea of people basing their position based on what's achievable in the legislature. It's a fundamental human rights issue. I am looking forward to being an emotional and powerful voice for marriage equality. I won't rest until we are able to achieve that.

**WCT:** On your Web site, it says that you believe "that if two committed adults want to express their love and their commitment to each other through marriage, they should be allowed to do so under civil law." Why do you think marriage is significant as opposed to civil unions? What led you to this belief?

DH: I think it's almost as fundamental as how we learned separate but equal wasn't truly equal. We're recognizing that the relationship between two committed adults, that their love for each other, deserves not just all the benefits of the



Dan Hynes.

law but especially the basic recognition under law. It's a form of discrimination to say we'll give you certain rights but we won't really recognize your marital rights under law. That can't be tolerated.

**WCT:** Also on your site it says that you extended healthcare benefits to domestic partners of your employees. Why was that important to you?

DH: I think that sometimes it is difficult to convince every legislator or every elected official that health benefits or other benefits should be afforded to gays and lesbians. When you can take administrative or executive action you can begin to afford those rights to those individuals. It's symbolically important that you're willing to take those steps and that government—if you're going to make these changes, an important place to start is in government. If there's anywhere we shouldn't discriminate it's in government. There was the benefit of including more people under these healthcare benefits and the symbolic impact of taking executive action.

**WCT:** Gov. Quinn has made funding the state's HIV/AIDS programs a priority this year. What do you make of his decision to fund these programs when there are so many other things vying for attention and money?

DH: You know there aren't a lot of areas where I would applaud him but here I would give him credit. I think it's important that we maintain our commitment to funding HIV and AIDS programs in terms of prevention, education, awareness, treatment and across the board. I think that going forward we have to have a plan to address the budget crisis that we're in so that we're not just holding steady but so that we're increasing funding for these areas. My budget plan is the most comprehensive plan for dealing with these issues and which could eventually increase funding for HIV and AIDS education.

See [www.danhynes.com](http://www.danhynes.com).

To find out how Dan Hynes reconciles his Catholic beliefs with LGBT rights, visit [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

## GOVERNOR Rich Whitney

BY BILL HEALY

Green Party candidate Rich Whitney, 54, is an attorney and partner in the Carbondale law firm of Speir and Whitney. He has long been politically active in support of the labor, environmental, civil rights, women's and anti-war movements.

**Windy City Times:** You lived in San Francisco in the late 1970s and early 1980s, when AIDS first struck. How did this affect your sensitivity to the LGBT community?

Rich Whitney: I lived in San Francisco from 1979 to 1981 but also in San Jose, which is about 45 miles away, for a while. I was of course tuned into the gay and lesbian community as a political progressive at that time and there were already issues affecting that community. Prior to the AIDS epidemic, there was that whole thing with Anita Bryant. It wasn't a major focus of my political work but it was certainly part of it.

When the beginnings of the epidemic started to hit there was a right wing backlash blaming the gay lifestyle so it was important to respond to that and to get people to look at the disease as a serious public health issue and not just as a gay issue.

**WCT:** As governor, what kind of actions would you take to ensure that HIV/AIDS education is properly addressed?

RW: There are so many areas where the education system needs to be improved. That's certainly one of them. AIDS education has to be a part of it. We need age-appropriate sex education and we need clean needle exchanges. That's been a little battleground that hasn't gotten a lot of attention but we need to be supportive of that program and allow it to happen as a public health measure. Improving public health education in schools could help with combating HIV, but also unwanted pregnancies. There's a lot that needs to be done to improve our investment in public health.

I support single-payer healthcare. That would go a long way toward addressing health problems in Illinois. I'm also an advocate for free or drastically reduced higher education and improving the caliber of Pre-K to 12th grade education. This fits into the idea of investing in people, which is a focus of the Green Party. So I would renew emphasis on public health.

**WCT:** What are your thoughts on the military's policy of "Don't Ask Don't Tell"?

I think there's a general consensus that it hasn't worked really well and that there are still problems with discrimination in the military. I think the time has come to just allow gays and lesbians to serve in the military openly. That is, if they want to serve in the military. The peace activist in me has mixed feelings about that. I think our military-industrial complex in this country is too large. We need to dial it down and focus on defense. For people who do want to serve it should be on an equal basis. Let's address the question of discrimination in the military as we do in other areas.

**WCT:** The budget and clean up government would seem to be priorities this year. Where on the radar do LGBT issues actually fall?

RW: The Green Party internationally is based on the four pillars of grassroots democracy, social justice, nonviolence and the environment. These issues are about equal treatment under the law. We need to get to a society in which every child born has an equal chance to thrive: That's the operating principle. That's how I defined social justice. From that premise your public policy has to reflect that, has to oppose discrimination in all its form. We have to oppose hatred. We have to make sure everyone has economic opportunity. From that premise the issues of concern to the LGBT community are always high priorities among my concerns.

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

Find out Rich Whitney's response to those who feel that voting for the Green Party is a waste of time at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).



Rich Whitney.





Mary Trew.

## COOK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT Mary Trew

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Mary Trew has established a lengthy career helping the poor, most recently by being executive director of the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic. Now, she is running in the 9th Judicial Sub-circuit, which includes the cities of Evanston, Niles, Skokie, Morton Grove, Lincolnwood, Golf, Wilmette and the north parts of the city of Chicago, such as Rogers Park. The longtime attorney, who is openly gay, talked with Windy City Times about her beginnings, the emotional toll of her job and her second campaign for a judgeship.

### Windy City Times: Could you tell me a little about your background?

Mary Trew: OK—if I can remember back that far. [Laughs] I was born in Detroit, and I grew up in the suburbs of Detroit. I went through college at Western Michigan and law school at MSU [Michigan State University]. I became interested in law because I was so interested in politics, and because I had this notion I was going to save the world and protect people who couldn't protect themselves.

That's the direction my career took. First, I represented people in Detroit who couldn't afford lawyers in criminal matters, so I did a lot of criminal defense work. Upon moving to Chicago in January of 1991, I started working with an agency called Pro Bono Advocates as a staff attorney. Eventually, I became the executive director of that agency in 1996 and we changed the name in 2005 to the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic. What we do is represent victims of domestic violence who can't afford lawyers; we don't represent them in the criminal courts but in the domestic-relations courts.

We have a clinic that's housed in the new DV courthouse on Harrison Street. So we do function with the court system in the intake triage area. We help victims get orders of protection in the civil courts as well as divorces for those

married to their abusers. We have a small staff—seven or eight people, with a lot of interns. I'm also an adjunct professor at John Marshall, so we have students work in our clinic every semester. They get their feet wet in litigation, and the clients benefit because there are more hands on deck.

I've actually wanted to be a judge even more than a lawyer.

### WCT: Why's that?

MT: My temperament is more suited to being a judge—seeing all sides of everything. I'm good at resolving disputes; you have to be when you're at an agency. And I just really enjoy the courtroom.

When I went to England a few years ago, I went to the Old Bailey [the Central Criminal Court building in London]. The courtrooms are so cool, and they still wear the wigs, you know? If I could've eaten popcorn there, I would've. [Both laugh.] Here I am on vacation, and I'm back in the courtroom.

My whole career is about public service, and I just want to continue down that path.

### WCT: Let me ask you about working at the clinic. How emotionally draining is it? Does it ever get any easier?

MT: It's very emotionally draining—particularly for the attorneys who work directly with [the clients]. I still practice some. We just did a custody case in December that was extremely draining. You're going to be affected by what you hear. It's not for the faint of heart; it takes a certain type of person to do that day in and day out—and the staff does a terrific job.

### WCT: Now, regarding elections and campaigning, I understand this isn't your first time at the rodeo, so to speak.

MT: [Laughs] No, I had the lasso out in 1998. I was the first openly lesbian candidate county-wide. And in those days—I'm talking like it was a million years ago—you only needed 500 signatures to get on the ballot; as a result, there were a lot of people who filed. There were nine people in my race. I was lucky enough to win the lottery and end up on the top of the ballot. I was not slated by the party; the [person] who was slated was Nicholas Ford, who is a judge now, of course. I came in second, behind Nick Ford. I was a good run, but exhausting.

It's been 12 years, but in the interim I applied to be an associate judge, but I did get on the short list in 2007. But I just keep plugging away.

### WCT: What do you feel separates you from the other candidates this time?

MT: What separates me from the other candidates is that I have very high bar ratings. I have the highest [in my group].

There are five men and myself. I'm actually at the end of the complete ballot. We like to say, "You're not through until you've voted for Trew." [Both laugh.]

### WCT: What is one mistake you've made in the past that you've benefited from?

MT: That's such an interesting question. I think it worked out well that I didn't make it the last time [I ran]. I think our agency really needed me

to be around a little longer—particularly when we were moving into this new courthouse. Having friends and political connections from the first time I ran made it easier to solidify our position in the new DV courthouse. That benefited me and the agency.

### WCT: What is your greatest achievement?

MT: Besides my wonderful relationship with my partner—and my two well-adjusted kitty cats? I think it's probably creating and implementing that cutting-edge legal clinic. I hope that'll serve as a template for legal services around the country.

See [www.VoteTrew.com](http://www.VoteTrew.com).

## Meister's attorney takes action against WTTW

BY ANDREW DAVIS

David A. Axelrod, the attorney for openly gay U.S. Senate candidate Jacob Meister, is asking the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to find public-television station WTTW Channel 11 in violation of FCC rules after it excluded him from a televised forum of Democratic opponents than ran Jan. 20 on the program Chicago Tonight.

In a press release issued Jan. 20 Axelrod said, "It is unfortunate that we must seek action, but we must because WTTW has continued to refuse to permit Mr. Meister to participate in the program, taking the position that he is not a viable candidate. We had hoped that there would have been a remedy at this juncture. Barring that, this action is the right course to take."

Axelrod added that WTTW's qualifications for candidate selection were not objective, saying "[t]he only fact, which appears to distinguish Mr. Meister from any of the other Democratic Party candidates, is that Mr. Meister is gay."

Meister said in the statement, "WTTW's decision to exclude me isn't based on any reasonable or accurate standard, whether in a court of law or the court of public opinion. My inclusion is about access. It is about fairness and the right of every Illinois voter to be given the opportunity to choose the candidate who he or she believes is best suited to hold the office of United States senator."

Jay Smith, the supervising producer of Chicago Tonight, e-mailed Windy City Times that "Chicago Tonight has a long history of inviting candidates to our studios prior to important elections. We invite candidates the same way we invite other guests, using our news judgment as to what races and candidates are of the greatest interest to our viewers. In addition, in some high-profile races like the Illinois governor's race or the race for the U.S. Senate, we often exclude candidates who have not reached 5% in any non-partisan, independent poll. We use that low bar in order to give more air time to those candidates whose campaigns appear to be viable."

"In addition to that statement, I'd also say that charges that Mr. Meister is being excluded



Jacob Meister.

from our forum because he is gay are ridiculous. WTTW and Chicago Tonight have a long history of coverage of and outreach to the LGBT community, and there are members of the community on our staff."

Upon being read Smith's statement, Meister initially laughed at the part regarding the poll, telling Windy City Times, "You realize the absurdity. There hasn't been a poll since [the] Dec. 2 [Chicago Tribune poll that WTTW relied on initially in barring Meister from the Jan. 20 debate, according to Meister's press release]. The argument is absurd."

Also in response to WTTW's statement, Meister said, "The effect of what they're doing is marginalizing a voice for the LGBT community, much like if a Black candidate were being excluded. That would never be tolerated. If you substituted some other minority for LGBT that would be tolerated, but it's OK to be dismissive of gays."

"Oh yeah, well we do coverage of you guys elsewhere. This is the United States Senate debate; I'm not talking about whether they do some nice little piece on gay marriage. I don't doubt they've done other things; that's not the issue."

Meister added that, by being denied inclusion, LGBT-related issues are being pushed to the side. "Matters like 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' are things I bring up; they should be discussed and not avoided. If somebody doesn't like the fact that I discuss 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' and I can't talk, that's just political censorship."

"This is something I think the LGBT community needs to grapple with—how far do we allow somebody to push another member of the community to marginalize them? One of the LGBT community's big problems is [not exercising] political power in our own best interest. ... This is a civil-rights issue."

Meister—who described the exclusion from the debate as "damaging" to his own campaign—indicated that he would probably go out to Woodstock, Ill., to speak at an event that evening.

The WTTW Web site features links to the Web sites of the candidates who participated in the debate—Alexi Giannoulas, David Hoffman and Cheryle Jackson—as well as the ones of Meister and Robert Marshall, who was also excluded from the event. The debate featured the candidates talking about everything from same-sex marriage to the Asian carp.

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# Election 2010

## STATEWIDE RACES

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race  
 IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois Independent Precinct Organization  
 PPAC = Personal PAC  
 EQIL = Equality Illinois PAC  
 SD = Stonewall Democrats of Illinois  
 AFC = AIDS Foundation of Chicago AIDS-related candidate questionnaire, number is the total answers in agreement with AFC out of total number of questions. The AFC survey was done with the Illinois Public Health Association and the Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators.

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	EQIL	SD	AFC
<b>GOVERNOR</b>						
Daniel W. Hynes (D)	14/14				Y	20/23
Pat Quinn (D)	13/14	Y	Y			20/23
Ed Scanlan (D)						
William "Dock" Walls III (D)						
Adam Andrzejewski (R)						
Bill Brady (R)						
Kirk W. Dillard (R)						
Andy McKenna (R)						
Dan Proft (R)						
Jim Ryan (R)						
Robert J. Schillerstrom (R)			Y			
Rich Whitney (G)						21/23
Michael White (I)						
<b>LT. GOVERNOR</b>						
Mike Boland (D)	13/14	Y	Y			23/23
Thomas Michael Castillo (D)						19/23
Scott Lee Cohen (D)	13/14		Y			22/23
Rickey R. Hendon (D)						
Terry Link (D)			Y			16/23
Arthur L. Turner (D)			Y			22/23
Brad Cole (R)						
Dennis W. Cook (R)						
Matt Murphy (R)						
Jason Plumer (R)						
Don Tracy (R)						
Randy A. White, Sr. (R)						
Don W. Crawford (G)						
<b>ATTORNEY GENERAL</b>						
Lisa Madigan (D)				Y		18/23
Steve Kim (R)						
David F. Black (G)						
<b>SECRETARY OF STATE</b>						
Jesse White (D)			Y	Y		19/23
Robert Enriquez (R)						
Adrian Frost (G)						
<b>COMPTROLLER</b>						
S. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D)			Y			
Clinton A. Krislov (D)		Y	Y			
David E. Miller (D)	5/8		Y	Y		20/23
Jim Dodge (R)						
Judy Baar Topinka (R)						
William R. Kelly (R)						
R. Erika Shafer (G)						
<b>TREASURER</b>						
Mark Doyle (D)						
Robin Kelly (D)	8/8	Y	Y	Y	Y	22/23
Justin P. Oberman (D)	8/8		Y			
Dan Rutherford (R)				Y		
Scott K. Summers (G)	6/8					23/23

## COOK COUNTY RACES

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race  
 IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois Independent Precinct Organization  
 PPAC = Personal PAC  
 VF = Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund  
 SD = Stonewall Democrats of Illinois  
 CNOW = Chicago NOW PAC

### COOK COUNTY BOARD PRESIDENT

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
Dorothy A. Brown (D)	13/14					
Terrence O'Brien (D)						
Toni Preckwinkle (D)	13/14	Y	Y		Y	Y
Todd H. Stroger (D)						
John Garrido III (R)						
Roger Keats (R)						
Joseph A. Barton (G)						
Sean Burke (G)						
Thomas Tresser (G)						

### COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
Joseph Berrios (D)	7/8					
Raymond A. Figueroa (D)		Y				
Andrea Railia (D)						
Robert Shaw (D)						
Eugene Staples (D)						
Sharon Strobeck-Eckersall (R)	5/8					
Robert C. Grota (G)						

### COOK COUNTY CLERK

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
David Orr (D)			Y			
Angel Garcia (R)						

### COOK COUNTY SHERIFF

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
Sylvester Baker, Jr. (D)						
Thomas Dart (D)	13/14	Y	Y			
Frederick Collins (R)						
Marshall P. Lewis (G)						

### COOK COUNTY TREASURER

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
Maria Pappas (D)			Y			
Carol Morse (R)						

### COOK COUNTY BOARD - 1ST DISTRICT

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
Mary Collins (D)						
Earleen Collins (D)			Y			
Chris Harris (D)						
Adekunle "Ade" Onayemi (D)						
Derrick Smith (D)						
Ronald Lawless (D)						

### COOK COUNTY BOARD - 2ND DISTRICT

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
Frank M. Bass (D)						
Dennis Beninato (D)						
George Blakemore (D)						
Erold Elysee (D)						
Desiree Grode (D)	7/14				Y	
Robert Palmer (D)						
Robert B. Steele (D)			Y			
Michael Smith (G)						

### COOK COUNTY BOARD - 3RD DISTRICT

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
Jerry Butler (D)		Y	Y			
Ronald Oliver (D)						
Monica Torries-Linares (D)	14/14				Y	

### COOK COUNTY BOARD - 5TH DISTRICT

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
Sheila Chalmers-Currin (D)		Y				
Deborah Sims (D)			Y			
Miriam Shabo (R)						
James Thigpen (R)						

### COOK COUNTY BOARD - 6TH DISTRICT

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
John Fairman (D)		Y				
Joan Patricia Murphy (D)			Y			
Nick Valadez (D)						
Sandra K. Czyznikiewisc (R)						
Michael Hawkins (R)						
William Moran (R)						

### COOK COUNTY BOARD - 7TH DISTRICT

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
Jesus G. Garcia (D)	13/14					Y
Joseph Mario Moreno (D)						
Paloma Andrade (G)						

### COOK COUNTY BOARD - 8TH DISTRICT

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
Omar Lopez (D)						
Javier Noguerras (D)	13/14	Y	Y			
Edwin Reyes (D)						Y
Ariel Rosa (D)						

### COOK COUNTY BOARD - 9TH DISTRICT

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
Cary Capparelli (D)						
Peter N. Silvestri (R)					Y	
Brock Merck (G)						

### COOK COUNTY BOARD - 10TH DISTRICT

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
Bridget Gainer (D)	13/14	Y	Y			
Kevin W. Graham (D)						

### COOK COUNTY BOARD - 11TH DISTRICT

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
John P. Daley (D)					Y	
Carl Segvitch (R)						

### COOK COUNTY BOARD - 12TH DISTRICT

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
John A. Fritchey (D)	12/14	Y	Y			Y
Ted Matlak (D)						

### COOK COUNTY BOARD - 13TH DISTRICT

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
John Michael Keefe (D)	12/14					
Larry Suffredin (D)		Y	Y			Y
Linda Thompson Lafianza (R)						
George E. Milkowski (G)						

### COOK COUNTY BOARD - 14TH DISTRICT

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
Jennifer Bishop Jenkins (D)	13/14		Y			
Kurt Eichaker (R)						
Gregg Goslin (R)						
Patrick O'Donoghue (R)						

### COOK COUNTY BOARD - 15TH DISTRICT

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
Jim Steven Dasakis (D)						
Timothy O. Schneider (R)						

### COOK COUNTY BOARD - 16TH DISTRICT

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
Eddy Garcia (D)						
Bill Russ (D)					Y	
Jeffrey R. Tobolski (D)	10/14					
Tony Peraica (R)						
Brian A. Sloan (R)						
Alex Matos (G)						
Alejandro Reyes (G)						

### COOK COUNTY BOARD - 17TH DISTRICT

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD	CNOW
Victor A. Forsy (D)			Y	Y		
John J. Maher (D)						
Patrick Maher (D)						
Donna Sanders (D)						
Elizabeth Doody Gorman (R)						
Gerald F. Maher (R)						
Mark Thompson (R)					Y	
Richard Dalka (G)						
Matthew J. Ogean (G)						



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	WCT	IVI	PPAC	VF	SD
<b>WATER RECLAMATION COMMISSIONER</b>					
Theodore Aguilar (D)					
Michael Alvarez (D)					
Stella Black (D)	8/9		Y		
Todd Connor (D)	9/9	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wallace Davis III (D)					
Maureen Kelly (D)					
Jerry J. Marzullo (D)					
Barbara McGowan (D)		Y			
Kathleen Mary O'Reilly (D)					
Mary Ann Paolantonio Salemi (D)					
Mariyana Spyropolous (D)	6/9	Y	Y		
Kari K. Steele (D)	5/9				
Paul Chialdikas (R)					
Jimmy Lee Tillman II (R)					
John Ailey (G)					
Nadine Bopp (G)					
Diana Horton (G)					

**US CONGRESS RACES**

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race  
 IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois Independent Precinct Organization  
 HRC = Human Rights Campaign 110th Congress, ratings are a percentage of total 100% based on HRC tracking of how candidates voted in the 110th Congress  
 SD = Stonewall Democrats of Illinois  
 AFC = AIDS Foundation of Chicago AIDS-related candidate questionnaire, number is the total answers in agreement with AFC out of total number of questions. The AFC survey was done with the Illinois Public Health Association and the Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators.

	WCT	IVI	HRC	SD	AFC
<b>U.S. SENATE</b>					
Corey Dabney (D)					
Alexander Giannoulas (D)	18/18				23/23
David Hoffman (D)	18/18	Y			23/23
Cheryle Jackson (D)					
Robert Marshall (D)					22/23
Jacob J. Meister (D)	18/18			Y	23/23
John Arrington (R)					
Patrick J. Hughes (R)					
Mark Steven Kirk (R)			85		
Thomas Kuna (R)					
Donald Lowery (R)					
Andy Martin (R)					
Kathleen Thomas (R)					
Robert L. Zadek (R)					
LeAlan M. Jones (G)					

	WCT	IVI	HRC	SD	AFC
<b>1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>					
Harold L. Bailey (D)					
Jo Anne Guillemette (D)					
Bobby L. Rush (D)			90		
Fred Smith (D)					19/23
Jeff Adams (G)					
<b>2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>					
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (D)			100		
Isaac C. Hayes (R)					
Michael E. Mayden (G)					22/23
Anthony W. Williams (G)					
<b>3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>					
Daniel William Lipinski (D)			45		
Jorge Mujica (D)		Y			
Michael A. Bendas (R)					
Laurel Lambert Schmidt (G)					
<b>4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>					
Luis V. Gutierrez (D)			100		
Robert J. Burns (G)					
<b>5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>					
Mike Quigley (D)	18/18				23/23
Ashvin Lad (R)	14/18				
Rosanna Pulido (R)					
David Ratowitz (R)					
Terrence A. Gilhooly (G)					
Matthew Reichel (G)		Y			
Andrew Williams (G)	16/18				
<b>6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>					
Benjamin S. Lowe (D)					
Peter J. Roskam (R)			0		
<b>7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>					
Jim Ascot (D)	16/18				
Clarence Desmond Clemons (D)					
Robert Dallas (D)					
Danny K. Davis (D)			100		23/23
Sharon Denise Dixon (D)	17/18				
Marshall E. Hatch, Sr. (D)					
Joyce Washington (D)					
Darlana Williams-Burnett (D)					22/23
Mark M. Weiman (R)					
Kip Robbins (G)					22/23

	WCT	IVI	HRC	SD	AFC
<b>8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>					
Melissa Bean (D)			80		
Dirk W. Beveridge (R)					
John Dawson (R)					9/23
Christopher Geissler (R)					
Gregory S. Jacobs (R)					
Maria Rodriguez (R)					
Joe Walsh (R)					
Bill Scheurer (G)					
<b>9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>					
Janice D. Schakowsky (D)			100		23/23
Susanne Atanus (R)					5/23
Joel Barry Pollak (R)					4/23
Simon Ribiero (G)					22/23
Morris Shanfield (G)					
<b>10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>					
Julie Hamos (D)	18/18			Y	19/23
Elliot Richardson (D)					
Daniel J. Seals (D)	18/18	Y			23/23
Patricia K. Bird (R)					
William J. Cadigan (R)					
Elizabeth Coulson (R)					
Robert Dold (R)					
Arie Friedman (R)					19/23
Dick Green (R)					
Paul Hamann (R)					
Richard B. Mayers (G)					
<b>12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>					
Jerry F. Costello (D)			55		
Theresa Kormos (R)					
Teri Newman (R)					
Rodger W. Jennings (G)					23/23
<b>13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>					
Scott Harper (D)					
Judy Biggert (R)			55		
<b>14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b>					
Bill Foster (D)			NA		
Jeff Dankelfsen (R)					
Ethan A. Hastert (R)					
Randall M. Hultgren (R)					
James T. Purcell (R)					
Mark Vargas (R)					
Daniel J. Kairis (G)					

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**EQ IL**

	WCT	IVI	HRC	SD	AFC
<b>15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b> David Gill (D) Timothy V. Johnson (R)	17/18		0		23/23
<b>16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b> George W. Gaulrapp (D) Donald A. Manzullo (R) Terry G. Campbell (G)			0		23/23
<b>17TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b> Phil Hare (D) Bobby Schilling (R) Roger K. Davis (G)	14/18		100		22/23 23/23
<b>18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b> Deirdre Hirner (D) Carl Ray (D) Aaron Schock (R) Sheldon Schafer (G)		Y			22/23
<b>19TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</b> Tim Bagwell (D) Michael Firsching (R) John M. Shimkus (R)	4/18		0		23/23

**ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RACES**

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race  
 IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois Independent Precinct Organization  
 PPAC = Personal PAC  
 EQIL = Equality Illinois PAC  
 VF = Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund  
 SD = Stonewall Democrats of Illinois  
 AFC = AIDS Foundation of Chicago AIDS-related candidate questionnaire, number is the total answers in agreement with AFC out of total number of questions. The AFC survey was done with the Illinois Public Health Association and the Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators.

Chicago NOW PAC also stated that it is supporting Jim Madigan for Senate.

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	EQIL	VF	SD	AFC
<b>1ST SENATE DISTRICT</b> Adolfo Mondragon (D) Antonio Munoz (D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>4TH SENATE DISTRICT</b> Kimberly A. Lightford (D)			Y	Y			
<b>7TH SENATE DISTRICT</b> Jim Madigan (D) Heather Steans (D) Adam Robinson (R)	14/14 14/14 14/14	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	23/23 23/23
<b>10TH SENATE DISTRICT</b> Mary Sendra Anselmo (D) Wanda Majcher (D) John G. Mulroe (D) John Nocita (D) Thomas M. Ryan (D) Brian G. Doherty (R)			Y				18/23
<b>13TH SENATE DISTRICT</b> Kwame Raoul (D)			Y	Y			
<b>16TH SENATE DISTRICT</b> Jacqueline Collins (D)				Y			
<b>19TH SENATE DISTRICT</b> M. Maggie Crotty (D)			Y	Y			
<b>22ND SENATE DISTRICT</b> Michael Noland (D) Steven Rauschenberger (R)			Y	Y			
<b>25TH SENATE DISTRICT</b> Leslie N. Juby (D) Chris Lauzen (R) P. Sean Michaels (R)		Y					18/23
<b>28TH SENATE DISTRICT</b> Corryne Michelle Pierog (D) John J. Millner (R)		Y					18/23
<b>31ST SENATE DISTRICT</b> Michael Bond (D) Suzi Schmidt (R)		Y	Y				
<b>40TH SENATE DISTRICT</b> Tori W. Hutchinson (D) Adam Baumgartner (R) Judy Ogalla (R)		Y	Y				
<b>46TH SENATE DISTRICT</b> David Koehler (D)		Y	Y				21/23
<b>52ND SENATE DISTRICT</b> Michael W. Frerichs (D)		Y					

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	EQIL	VF	SD	AFC
<b>1ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Susana Mendoza (D)			Y	Y			
<b>2ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Edward J. Acevedo (D) Robert Martinez (D) Richard G. Schultz (D) Josip Trutin (D)			Y	Y		Y	
<b>3RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Luis Arroyo (D)			Y	Y			
<b>4TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Jose Massas (D) Cynthia Soto (D)			Y	Y			
<b>5TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Gwendolyn Drake (D) Kenneth Dunkin (D) David Schroeder (D)	14/14		Y	Y	Y	Y	19/23 22/23
<b>6TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Esther Golar (D)				Y			21/23
<b>7TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Karen A. Yarbrough (D)			Y	Y			
<b>8TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> La Shawn K. Ford (D)				Y			
<b>9TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> John Burros (D) Matthew Harrington (D) Bruce L. Jackson (D) Keith L. Jackson (D) Jerry L. Patton (D) Arthur Turner (D) Dorothy L. Walton (D)	13/14						22/23
<b>10TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Annazette R. Collins (D) Jonathan Goldman (D) Anthony Johnson (D) Keith D. Muhammad (D) Joseph W. Sneed (D) Mable Taylor (D) Eddie Winters (D)	13/14		Y	Y			21/23
<b>11TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Dan Farley (D) Ed Mullen (D) Ann M. Williams (D) Scott Tucker (R)	11/14 14/14 13/14	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	18/23 23/23 19/23
<b>12TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Sara Feigenholtz (D)	13/14		Y	Y			23/23
<b>13TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Gregory Harris (D)	14/14		Y	Y		Y	22/23
<b>14TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Harry Osterman (D)			Y	Y			
<b>15TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> John C. D'Amico (D)							
<b>16TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Lou Lang (D)	12/14		Y	Y			22/23
<b>17TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Daniel K. Biss (D) Hamilton Chang (R)	13/14		Y				
<b>18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Robyn Gabel (D) Patrick Keenan-Devlin (D) Eamon Kelly (D) Edmund B. Moran, Jr. (D) Jeffrey Paul Smith (D)	14/14 14/14 13/14	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	22/23 23/23
<b>21ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Terrence J. Collins (D) Michael J. Zalewski (D) Jeffrey P. Malinowski (R)			Y	Y			
<b>22ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Michael J. Madigan (D) Patrick John Ryan (R)				Y			
<b>23RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Daniel J. Burke (D) Rene Diaz (D) Rudy Lozano (D) Martin Meza-Zavala (D)	13/14		Y	Y			
<b>24TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Elizabeth Hernandez (D)			Y	Y			

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	EQIL	VF	SD	AFC
<b>25TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Barbara Flynn Currie (D)	11/14		Y	Y			18/23
<b>26TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> William D. Burns (D) Slyvester Hendricks (R)			Y	Y			
<b>27TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Vernita Boyd (D) Monique D. Davis (D)			Y	Y			
<b>28TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Robert Rita (D)			Y	Y			
<b>29TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Thaddeus Jones (D) Sheryl E. Tillman (D) Kenneth Williams (D)		Y	Y				21/23
<b>30TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> William Davis (D)			Y	Y			
<b>31ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Mary E. Flowers (D)				Y			
<b>32ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Bobby Joe Johnson (D) Syron M. Smith (D) Andre Thapedi (D) Yvette Williams (D)				Y			23/23
<b>33RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Marlow H. Colvin (D)				Y			
<b>34TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Constance A. Howard (D)	11/14		Y	Y			
<b>38TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Al Riley (D)			Y	Y			21/23
<b>39TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Maria Antonia Berrios (D) Jeremy Karpen (G)			Y	Y			23/23
<b>40TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Joe Laiacona (D) Deborah L. Mell (D)	13/14 14/14	Y	Y	Y			22/23 18/23
<b>42ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Kathryn F. Vlahos (D) Sandra M. Pihos (R)	9/14						11/23
<b>43RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Keith Farnham (D) Ruth Munson (R)				Y			
<b>44TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Fred Crespo (D) Billie D. Roth (R)				Y			
<b>47TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> James F. Speta (D) Patricia R. Bellock (R) Bob Mueller (G)				Y			21/23 16/23
<b>49TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Jennifer Barconi (D) Timothy L. Schmitz (R)				Y			
<b>50TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Linda Healy (D) Kay Hatcher (R) Bob McQuillan (R) Keith R. Wheeler (R)			Y	Y			
<b>52ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Mark H. Beaubien, Jr. (R)			Y	Y			19/23
<b>53RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Linda Birnbaum (D) Sidney H. Mathias (R)				Y			
<b>54TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Matt Flamm (D) Suzanne Bassi (R) Thomas R. Morrison (R)				Y			
<b>55TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Gregory C. Brownfield (D) Randy Ramey (R)				Y			
<b>56TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Michelle Mussman (D) Anita Forte-Scott (R) Ryan Higgins (R)				Y			
<b>57TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Elaine Nekritz (D) Richard G. Hamen (R)				Y	Y		

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	EQIL	VF	SD	AFC		WCT	IVI	PPAC	EQIL	VF	SD	AFC		WCT	IVI	PPAC	EQIL	VF	SD	AFC
<b>58TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Karen May (D) Lauren G. Turelli (R)			Y	Y																			
<b>59TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Elliott Hartstein (D) Carol Sente (D) Cynthia R. Hedba (R) Mohan Manian (R) Dan Sugrue (R)		Y					21/23			Y					20/23								
<b>60TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Angelo Kyle (D) Eddie Washington (D)			Y	Y																			
<b>61ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Scott Pollak (D) Joann D. Osmond (R)			Y																				
<b>62ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Rich Voltair (D) Sandy Cole (R) Paul Mitchell (R)			Y				21/23																
<b>63RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Jack D. Franks (D) John O'Neill (R)			Y	Y																			
<b>64TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Robert Kaempfe (D) Michael W. Tyron (R)			Y																				
<b>65TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Rosemary E. Mulligan (R)			Y	Y																			
<b>66TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Mark Walker (D) David Harris (R)			Y																				
<b>67TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Charles E. Jefferson (D) Robert E. Brokish, Jr. (R)			Y	Y																			
<b>69TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Ray Pendzinski (D) Michele Corirossi (R) Thaddeus Loffelmacher (R) Joe Sosnowski (R) Daniel Lindsey (G)							23/23																
<b>70TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Robert W. Pritchard (R)															8/14								
<b>71ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Dennis Ahern (D) Jerry Lack (D) Porter McNeil (D) Richard Morthland (R)										Y													
<b>74TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Elizabeth Double (D) Donald L. Moffitt (R)										Y													
<b>77TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Clint Blezian (D) Angelo Saviano (R)													Y										
<b>78TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Deborah L. Graham (D)													Y										
<b>80TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Anthony DeLuca (D)													Y										
<b>82ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Matthew Mostowick (D) Jim Durkin (R)															19/23								
<b>84TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Dennis Grosskopf (D) Tom Cross (R)																							
<b>85TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Emily McAsey (D) Maripat Oliver (R)																							
<b>86TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Jack McGuire (D)																							
<b>91ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Michael K. Smith (D) Michael D. Unes (R)																							
<b>92ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Jehan Gordon (D) Jim Montelongo (R)													Y	Y									
<b>93RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Jil Tracy (R)																							
<b>94TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Earl W. Godt II (D) Victoria L. Mohr (R) Richard P. Myers (R)																			Y				21/23
<b>98TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Charles Landers (D) Chris Sherer (D) Fred J. Snodgrass, Jr. (D) Wayne Arthur Rosenthal (R)																				Y			23/23
<b>99TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Kent Delay (D) Norman E. Davis (R)																				Y	Y		22/23
<b>103RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Naomi D. Jakobsson (D) Norman E. Davis (R)																				Y	Y		
<b>109TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Tim Cyr (D) Roger Eddy (R)																				Y	Y		19/23
<b>110TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Dennis Malak (D) Chapin Rose (R)																				Y			
<b>112TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Jay C. Hoffman (D) Dwight D. Kay (R)																						Y	
<b>114TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> Eddie Lee Jackson (D) Will McGaughy (D) Carl E. Officer (D)																						Y	Y



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# Equality Illinois gala: 'All' in the family

More than 1,000 strong, the gay glitterati came out at the Hilton Chicago Jan. 23 for the 2010 Equality Illinois (EI) gala, "Justice for All," held at the Hilton Chicago. Almost every local politician left of Limbaugh was there—certainly those whose names are on the ballot Feb. 2—to claim their queer cred and gather votes. From Pat Quinn and Dan Hynes, David Hoffman, Toni Preckwinkle and Dorothy Brown, to numerous judicial nominees and candidates for water reclamation district commissioner, the gay, the straight and the uncommitted did face time.

Most of the "A-list" pols did the reception and the grand procession across the stage and then took off to their next event. Lesser luminaries stuck around for the four-course dinner that included a cheese and fruit salad, tortellini and wild mushroom appetizer, short ribs and sable main course (with a nice vegetarian-plate option available for those so inclined) and an over-the-top dessert featuring a ganache tart and white chocolate shooter. Dancing to video disco followed the meal.

There was a video presentation honoring award recipients state Senator John Cullerton, Mary F. Morten and Laura Ricketts; in addition, AT&T received the Business Leadership Award. Speeches were generally brief, with the highlight being a moving tribute by MC Norma Reyes to her late partner. The couple fought a sudden, brief and devastating battle with cancer—and the medical and financial establishment—last year, and the presentation emphasized the imperative for establishing full marriage equality and civil rights for the LGBT community.

With an open bar; an over-the-top auction including such items as original Picasso lithographs and a Fashion Week in New York; and a strong fundraising speech by Art Johnston, EI is sure to have garnered lots of financial support for the battle ahead.

Text by Micki Leventhal; photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com). See more photos online at [www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com).



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## LOCAL NEWS

# Trans artist Flo McGarrell killed in Haiti quake

BY MICKI LEVENTHAL

Flo McGarrell, an internationally recognized multidisciplinary art activist and transgender person, died Jan. 12 in the collapse of the Peace of Mind Hotel in Jacmel, Haiti, an arts community about 20 miles south of Port-Au-Prince.

McGarrell was visiting with his friend, Chicago artist Susan Frame. Frame was in Haiti to build a woodworking studio at *Fanal Otantik Sant D'A Jakmel* (FOSAJ), an art center where McGarrell served as director.

When the earthquake struck Frame ran out of the building; McGarrell paused to retrieve his computer.

McGarrell earned his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) in 2004. "There are some students you recall clearly because they open up so many ideas around cultural meaning," said Lisa Wainwright, interim dean of faculty. "I distinctly remember [his] resolve, exquisite sense of craft, humanist impulse, and adventurous spirit. [He made] compelling work and was a great student who became an even greater member of our global arts community."

Flores McGarrell was born female Aug. 31, 1974 in Rome, Italy, to artists James and Ann McGarrell. The family moved to St. Louis, Mo., when McGarrell was eight, and then to Newbury, Vt., in 1993.

"I am extremely lucky to have an amazingly supportive family who puts up with all my crazy schemes," said McGarrell in a 2009 interview with art21. "This is where all my freedom really comes from. This is why I have the freedom to go work with people who are not so free at all..."

As a student at Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), McGarrell "was quite involved with social justice [and] ... pushed the boundaries ... in terms of gender issues, poverty issues," recalled fiber-arts professor Annet Couwenberg. "Flo wanted to build a better life for people. Inclusiveness and generosity were a given for him."

McGarrell's interest in the art and culture of Haiti took root at age 11 when his mother took him to see Maya Deren's film *Divine Horsemen*, a documentary on Haitian Vodou ceremonies, and



Flo McGarrell. Photo courtesy of Ann McGarrell.

The Sacred Arts of Haiti exhibition co-curated by anthropologist Marilyn Houlberg, who later became his mentor and friend at SAIC.

McGarrell's artistic legacy ranges from performance, film, digital and video to large-scale sculptural installations. In 2007 he did an arts residency at Roswell, N.M., developing experiments in sustainable living as sculpture. This work culminated in the form he described as "Agrisculpture" which has food production as its primary goal. His commitment to sustainable art met his interest in Haiti and set the course for his life's work.

"Flo's interest in the culture of Haiti had much to do with the interactive nature of the Vodou religion," said Marilyn Houlberg, who had been with him in Port-Au-Prince Jan. 10, talking about plans for an art exhibition for Mardi Gras. "But his thing was not anthropological research. He used his art to work on economic development. The arts of Haiti are what bring tourists down there. Flo was promoting and supporting the interests of the artists of Haiti, as well as making sure they had food and essentials. He was so generous; he became part of the culture." Houlberg, who was airlifted out of Haiti and arrived in Chicago Jan. 22, also spoke eloquently about the devastation and the sincerity of rescue and relief efforts. "But," she said, "there are too many photographers and not enough food."

"The first thing Flo did when he took over the directorship of FOSAJ [in 2008] was to plant a garden," said his mother, Ann McGarrell. "He'd gone there earlier as a visiting artist and took along a suitcase of Cliff bars and granola bars. All the artists and staff ate them and said, 'Mon-

sieur Flo, these are really good but what we need are art supplies because we can always eat sand.'

"When he went back he took seeds. Stuff just shot up and they were getting lovely vegetables to go with the beans and rice and the bits of seafood." Other FOSAJ art projects, made with found materials, include a sculptural rain-barrel shower, water-purification system, bicycle-powered washing machine and parabolic oven.

"Flo was truly and genuinely inter-categorical, outrageous, fun and irreverent," said friend Kathy Smith, a Ph.D. candidate in world arts and culture at UCLA. "He lived his life between boundaries in a very authentic way."

McGarrell's gender transitioning began about six years ago with hormone therapy. "He was very pleased by his dashing little beard," said his mother.

"As a young art student at MICA, Flo—still Flo—then—told me that she had just realized that all her work was about metamorphosis ... as in the classical myths of a girl who becomes a tree or stream or flower. So, for a mortal to change genders while remaining in the human species did not, after all, seem such an enormous leap. ... [Now] he has undergone metamorphosis, shed what was mortal, emerged as a solely spirit, like the ones that Haitians recognize as inhabiting every stone and tree."

McGarrell spent the holidays in Vermont with his family, returning to Haiti shortly after the New Year. "This is the worst thing, just horrible," said his mother, "But how fortunate we were to have had this remarkable creature for 35 years."

Images of McGarrell's work and curriculum vitae are at [homepage.mac.com/gowithflo](http://homepage.mac.com/gowithflo); and visit the ongoing online memorial to McGarrell at [wearegoingwithflo.blogspot.com](http://wearegoingwithflo.blogspot.com). The full art21 interview with McGarrell is at [blog.art21.org/2009/08/28/inside-the-artists-studio-flo-mcgarrell](http://blog.art21.org/2009/08/28/inside-the-artists-studio-flo-mcgarrell).

## Alvarez staffer, Fiorito attorney worked together

BY SAMUEL WORLEY

While the fate of the Cook County State's Attorney's investigation into Chicago police officer Richard Fiorito remains uncertain—that office recently denied rumors that it had decided not to pursue charges—records show a past close working relationship between the state's attorney's chief of staff, Daniel Kirk, and the lawyer representing Fiorito.

Fiorito is alleged to have falsified numerous DUI arrest reports, particularly targeting LGBT motorists. Separately, he is the subject of a federal civil-rights lawsuit filed by alleged victims of false DUI arrests.

Pending resolution of the investigation into his actions, Fiorito, who works out of the Chicago Police Department's 23rd District, has been placed on desk duty.

Daniel Kirk and Fiorito's attorney, Daniel Gallagher, worked together on a number of cases as special state's attorneys under the previous Cook County State's Attorney, Richard Devine. Notes from 2007 Cook County Board of Commissioners Finance Committee meetings list the law firm Querry and Harrow, including Kirk and Gallagher, seeking reimbursement for those attorneys' work on cases in which they participated.

Prior to joining the staff of current Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, Daniel Kirk worked for six years as a partner at Querry and Harrow—where Gallagher is a shareholder.

Sally Daly, a spokesperson for the state's attorney's office, confirmed that Kirk had worked for Gallagher at Querry and Harrow. But, Daly said, "Mr. Kirk is not involved in the investigation involving Mr. Fiorito."

Daly went on to characterize insinuations that the case might be tainted by the two men's prior working relationship as "absolutely ludicrous." She said that the attorney in the civil lawsuit, Jon Erickson, has "taken every opportunity to make inaccurate statements about this investigation."

"We refuse to stoop to that level," Daly said. She said that the investigation into allegations leveled against Fiorito is "continuing."

Erickson, the plaintiffs' attorney, declined to comment on the record for this story.

Andy Thayer—whose organization, Gay Liberation Network, has organized protests demanding that Fiorito be fired from the police force—said, "Anita Alvarez needs to come clean" about the relationship between her staff member and Fiorito's lawyer.

The fact that it "took [another newspaper] reporter to dig it out," said Thayer, raises questions about the integrity of the state's attorney's office. "I think that speaks volumes about the mendacity of the whole process."

Asked if he thinks that the state's attorney's office can responsibly prosecute the case, Equality Illinois Director of Public Policy Rick Garcia said, "Frankly, yes."

"I have complete trust in the state's attorney," said Garcia. "She has demonstrated impeccable ethics."

Garcia said that he planned to meet with representatives of the State's Attorney's Office later in the week to discuss the case, but that he was confident that it will move forward. "I think the State's Attorney will handle this case in an appropriate way."

Neither Gallagher nor representatives of the state's attorney's office could be reached for comment at press time.



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## Mona Noriega seeks aldermanic post

BY TRACY BAIM

Longtime Latina lesbian activist Mona Noriega is seeking appointment by Chicago Mayor Richard Daley to the 1st Ward aldermanic seat vacated by Manny Flores. The appointment could come as early as this week.

Flores has been nominated by Gov. Pat Quinn to be chief of the Illinois Commerce Commission. Flores reportedly has a replacement (his chief of staff, Raymond Valadez) in mind for Daley, but with the next city elections in 2011, the appointment would last a short time before the ward's residents vote again.

Noriega is a well-known and -liked community activist who has worked on LGBT and Latina issues since the late 1970s. She has been a volunteer, board member and staff member for a wide range of groups serving individuals across the region. She co-founded the Lambda Legal Midwest Office with attorney Pat Logue in 1993, and two years later co-founded the important Latina lesbian group Amigas Latinas.

"This is a moment I've dreamed about for a long time," said Latino gay activist Robert Castillo, who was lobbying for Noriega at Saturday's Equality Illinois gala. "We, as Latino/a LGBTs, have spent years supporting, endorsing, volunteering for and campaigning for straight Latino/a candidates. It was only a matter of time before we would seek our rightful place at the table. I, along with many others in the Latino/o community, believe that now is the right time to do so and we are thrilled to have such an extremely qualified candidate in Mona. The city council could have its first Latina lesbian alderman. How amazing that would be!"

"Last night, everyone I spoke to was very excited," Noriega said Sunday. "They're excited about larger representation. This is not a criticism of Manny Flores. It is about the larger picture, about people wanting to be heard. This represents an opportunity to have another gay person in office, respectful of gays, Latinos, women, of everyone." Ald. Tom Tunney (44th Ward) is still the city's only openly gay alderman.

For the past week, Noriega has been speaking with numerous gay and Latino activists and politicians about the possibility of her appointment to the post, as well as the potential of running for the position in 2011. She said if she does not get the appointment, her decision to run in 2011 for alderman would be informed by the person Daley selects to replace Flores, and if they can represent a diverse voice in the city council.

"I want this post because, first, I want good government, with everyone represented. Second, because I was prompted by people calling me to say 'please do this,'" Noriega said. "The alderman's job is not glamorous. It is about real issues, basic issues, like making sure the system works for everyone." She said this includes issues of safety, the environment and affordable housing.

"I have a history of bringing people together," Noriega said. "When different types of people come together, they create a better vision than



Mona Noriega.

any one person can do. That may sound idealistic, but it's how things happen."

Born and raised in Chicago, Noriega's father was Mexican and her mother Irish. She raised two children and is partnered with another longtime community activist, Evette Cardona. Both women are in Chicago's Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. They hosted a campaign event for Daley at their home during his last election.

Noriega's experience includes:

- Co-founder and, later, director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Midwest Regional Office;

- Co-founder, Amigas Latinas in 1995, a group still serving the needs of Latinas;

- Co-chair and later staff member for the original 2001 bid for the Gay Games coming to Chicago in 2006;

- Former assistant publisher of Windy City Media Group (publisher of Windy City Times);

- Publisher of lesbians of color chapbooks in the 1980s;

- Co-founder of Chicago's International Women's Day dances;

- Member of LLENA, a lesbian Latina organization in the 1980s;

- Former marketing staff for the Chicago Park District's Garfield Park Conservatory; and

- Involvement with Affinity Community Services, Lesbian Community Care Project, the Girl's Best Friend Foundation board, the National Society of Hispanic MBAs, and the Horizons Community Services' Community Leadership Council.

Noriega has a bachelor's degree from Northeastern Illinois University, an MBA from the University of Illinois at Chicago; in addition, she is a student in the Public Administration Ph.D. program at U of I.

Ald. Flores "has been a steadfast supporter of the LGBT community and I expect that his support will carry over into his new position," Castillo said. "I am proud that as a Latino elected official, he never wavered in his support of our community and I want to publicly thank him being such a strong ally. While I am sad to see him go, his departure brings an opportunity for the Latino/a LGBT community to seek to fill his vacancy with an openly gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender Latino. Imagine that—a place at the table!"

The 1st Ward is an odd J-shaped mix of neighborhoods, located on Chicago's Northwest Side. Its northernmost point is Belmont Avenue, bounded on the west by the Kennedy Expressway and on the east by Damen. The middle portion is from California to Western, and the base is Ohio, bounded partly by Leavitt, Hoyne and Greenview.

## QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

**"NOT ONLY AM I A SINGLE MOTHER WHO'S PREGNANT,** but I'm also a lesbian mother who is pregnant and having a baby for two gay men. That might be startling to some." — *Utah state Rep. Christine Johnson, D-Salt Lake City, to the Salt Lake Tribune Jan. 8 on being impregnated by a gay-male couple she is close friends with.*

**"WE DO NOT EXPECT TO WIN AT THE TRIAL LEVEL,** but with God's help, at least five members of the current (U.S.) Supreme Court will have the courage to defend our Constitution from this grave attack." — *National Organization for Marriage Executive Director Brian Brown in a Jan. 8 letter to supporters about the ongoing federal trial in San Francisco over Proposition 8. The case, featuring superstar attorneys Ted Olson and David Boies, could lead to legalization of same-sex marriage nationwide.*

**"THERE ARE TOO MANY (GAY PEOPLE) IN THE WORLD WHO DON'T WORRY ABOUT REFERENDUM BATTLES, THEY WORRY ABOUT THEIR LIVES.** They worry about being murdered on the streets or murdered officially in the prisons, with or without judicial sanction. There are too many people in the world who don't have the privileges that we have, and if by my election and the media coverage and the dialogue around that, we can change one person's life in one of those countries, it would make everything worth it." — *Houston's new lesbian mayor, Annise Parker, speaking to reporters in Houston on Jan. 3.*

**"WE FACE TWO MAJOR CHALLENGES IN 2010.** We must simultaneously combat right-wing groups working against us, while pushing for faster and more meaningful change from Congress and the White House. And it's not going to be easy. From the outrageous lies used to end marriage equality in Maine and California, to the turncoats in the New York Senate who rejected marriage equality, 2009 showed us that we can't expect change to come to us. To put our 2010 game plan into action immediately, we must grow our ranks by 2,010 new members this month. Join HRC right now, and be a part of this movement. If you join as a new member with a gift of \$35 or more, we'll send you this water bottle (pictured) as our way of saying thanks." — *The Human Rights Campaign, Dec. 21.*

**"AFTER AMANDA SIMPSON BECAME THE FIRST TRANSGENDER PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEE ...** talk show host David Letterman announced Simpson's appointment on his show and aired a photo of her. The show's an-

nouncer, Alan Kalter, then reacted to the news with disgust and mock horror, saying: 'What? Amanda used to be a dude? My God!' He hurried off stage to laughter from the audience, apparently to go collect himself after the shock of this discovery. ... By promoting unfair and cruel reactions to transgender people, the David Letterman Show is feeding an epidemic of discrimination and violence that currently faces transgender Americans." — *The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Jan. 6.*

**There are too many (gay people) in the world who ... worry about their lives.**

—Annise Parker, lesbian mayor of Houston



**"AS A STRAIGHT MAN I REALLY HAVE NOTHING TO GAIN BY STANDING UP FOR EQUAL RIGHTS** for Gays, Lesbians, Bisexual, and/or my Transgender friends. Except for the fact that I have many friends who are still subjected to hurtful comments by a society that hasn't yet embraced fully the nature of... nature. Supporting a limiting system of rules for specific people to follow is prejudice. It's the Antithesis of Christ Consciousness and (like smoking) it's Soooo last century. Allowing love to freely flourish will only enhance the life experience—For All." — *Top-10 pop singer Jason Mraz on his blog, Dec. 31.*

**"WE WILL NOT GAG OURSELVES WHEN IT COMES TO GAY PORN STARS,** Manhunt profiles, sex clubs, three-way relationships, poppers, or all the other dirty little secrets of gay culture that the khaki-clad HRC clones are afraid 'the straights' will find out about and use against us to continue depriving us of our civil rights. Until they can deal with those things, they will only be tolerating us, not accepting us, so it's better to just get it out in the open now." — *Gawker.com, Dec. 22, after the site was criticized for an item it published about a CNN iReport piece done by gay porn actor Collin O'Neal. See tinyurl.com/gawkprn1 and tinyurl.com/gawkprn2.*

**"NICE. NEW YORK NOW JOINING CALIFORNIA IN BANNING GAY MARRIAGE.** New York and California: the only two states in the country whose streets have disco rollerblading lanes. Not cool with gay marriage. Because New York and California aren't as progressive as Iowa!" — *The Daily Show's Jon Stewart, Dec. 3.*

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

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**REV.  
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## Pat Robertson's theodicy on Haiti

Religion-based bigotry has been the mainstay of Rev. Pat Robertson's bully pulpit. And he mounts this pulpit as an uber-God, possessed with an inherent omniscience in knowing not only the mundane and wicked thoughts and actions of man but also in knowing the cataclysmic actions of God's wrath on man.

While scientists explain Haiti's recent natural disaster as an earthquake due to a fault it sits on along the border between two large tectonic plates—the North American plate to the north, and the Caribbean plate to the south—that slowly slide horizontally past each other, Robertson explains the disaster as “Something [that] happened a long time ago in Haiti, and people might not want to talk about it.”

The something that happened a long time ago was an earthquake on the same fault in 1860. And this fault is the same type as the San Andreas Fault in California—a “strike-slip” fault.

During an interview on the Christian Broadcasting Network the day after the earthquake, televangelist Robertson said “Many years ago, the island's people ‘swore a pact to the devil. True story. And so the devil said, ‘OK, it's a deal.’ They kicked the French out. The Haitians revolted and got themselves free. Ever since, they have been cursed by one thing after the other.”

Haiti didn't have much before the quake, and

what little it had has now been taken away.

But for those who subscribe to Robertson's theodicy—imbued with violent apocalyptic images and cryptic messages of a God who must punish the “unfaithful”—this disaster is a deserved suffering Haiti is experiencing; and therefore, in order for Haiti to wash away its sins of the past, this disaster is an act of redemptive suffering.

Robertson's deification of violence and natural disasters as redemptive suffering has deleterious implications that are not-so-benignly played out today.

For example, Robertson blamed 9/11 terrorist attack on pagans, abortionists, feminists, and LGBTQ people.

When I gave a sermon about 9/11 a parishioner came up to me after church and told me she thought the Twin Towers needed to burn down as a symbolic act of God's wrath against NYC's LGBTQ community in Greenwich Village. She said the Towers crumbling symbolized the demise of the twin evil cities Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19.

And when Hurricane Katrina hit, not surprisingly, Robertson blamed it as God's disapproval to America's abortion policy, stating, “But have we found we are unable somehow to defend ourselves against some of the attacks that are coming against us, either by terrorists or now by natural disaster?”

But some blamed Katrina on LGBTQ people.

For example, Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast just two days before Labor Day weekend in 2005, when New Orleans's annual Queer “Southern Decadence” festival was to begin. While floods are a regular part of life in the lowlands of Louisiana and hurricanes are frequent occurrences all along the coastline, Michael Marcavage, director of Repent America, an evangelical organization calling for “a nation in

rebellion toward God” to reverse itself, had this to say: “We believe that God is in control of the weather. The day Bourbon Street and the French Quarter were flooded was the day that 125,000 homosexuals were going to be celebrating sin in the street. We're calling it an act of God.” For these conservative religious groups, the flood was a prayer finally answered and a sin finally addressed.

While suffering points to the need for redemption, suffering in and of itself is not redemptive, and it does not always correlate to one's sinfulness. But rather, a person's suffering or a people's suffering, like Haiti's, should serve as a lens to critically examine the connections between the abuses of power and its victimization of the helpless.

In other words, when suffering is understood as an ongoing cycle of abuse that goes on unexamined and unaccounted for, we can then begin to see its manifestation in systems of racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism and religion-based bigotry not only in our everyday lives but also in the world.

For example, Haiti's political and economic state has largely been due to both U.S. and European intervention. In 1791, Toussaint L'Ouverture led a slave rebellion defeating Napoleon's army winning Haiti's its independence in 1804. Fearful that the Haitian revolution might inspire enslaved Africans in other parts of the world to rebel, bringing an end to slavery worldwide, U.S. Congress banned trade with Haiti joining French and Spanish boycotts. These embargoes crippled Haiti's economy to this day.

Perhaps, if Robertson dismounted his bully pulpit for just a moment, he might find his own countenance in the demons and devils he's fighting.

## LETTERS



**Robert Castillo and Mona Noriega. Photo by John Pennycuff**

### A chance for history

The Latino LGBT community in Chicago has a tremendous opportunity created by the recent decision by 1st Ward Ald. Manny Flores' decision to accept an appointment by Gov. Quinn to head the Illinois Commerce Commission.

Manny has been a steadfast supporter of the LGBT community and I expect that his support will carry over into his new position. I am proud that as a Latino elected official, he never wavered in his support of our community and I want to publicly thank him being such a strong ally.

While I am sad to see him go his departure brings an opportunity for the Latino/a LGBT community to seek to fill his vacancy with an openly gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender Latino. Imagine that—a place at the table!

The time is right for such a move and there are a number of organizations and individuals who recognize how important having one of our brothers and sisters representing us on the City Council would be.

We are still waiting for our Tom Tunney, our Greg Harris, our Debra Shore, our Sebastian Patti, our Deb Mell. And now is the time to do something about it!

I am proud to be able to say that someone from the Latino LGBT community has stepped forward to seek appointment as alderman of the 1st Ward, and the city council could soon have it's first openly lesbian Latina alderman.

It is my hope that Mona Noriega's decision to seek this position will inspire others to consider running for public office. For years, me and many in the Latina/o LGBT community have worked to elect our straight Latino brothers and sisters. Now we have an opportunity to have a voice on the City Council and we should seize the opportunity.

Are you with me?

*Robert Castillo  
Chicago*

### Questioning loyalty

To the editor:

In the coming primary I'm wondering where our gay elected officials' loyalties lie.

In the 7th State Senate district there is an excellent gay candidate, Jim Madigan, running a very credible campaign. Yet, Greg Harris, a gay legislator, endorses the straight incumbent.

In the 11th State Legislative district there is another highly regarded gay candidate, Ed Mullen; yet Greg Harris and Alderman Tom Tunney both endorse one of his straight opponents.

The straight people these gay elected officials have endorsed are politically well-connected and intertwined with the Democratic Machine that runs Illinois.

Getting more gay, lesbian and transgender folks elected is clearly not Harris' or Tunney's

priority. When it comes down to it, Harris and Tunney back the people House Speaker Madigan and Mayor Daley tell them to. Now that they are comfortably inert in their incumbencies, the community that helped elect them is betrayed and forgotten.

*Barry Aldridge  
Chicago*

### Riding the Red Line

Concerning the unfortunate criminal victimization of the 33-year-old gay man on the Red Line “L” train, LGBT people are criminally victimized just like everyone else. In this case, the victim demonstrated several lapses in judgement that hastened the criminal offense. Media reports indicate both the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) and Chicago police responded appropriately and even placed three men under arrest for the incident.

While establishing motive is not a required element under the law, nothing indicates this offense was motivated by the victim's sexual orientation, although one glaring omission does stand out. Under Illinois law (720 ILCS 5/12-4), misdemeanor battery committed on either public property or involving a passenger on a public transportation system becomes aggravated battery, a class 3 felony.

The failure of the Chicago Police Department and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office to seek and/or approve felony charges for this and other similar offenses, as the General Assembly provides for, demonstrate the unequal and subjective application of criminal charges. This only promulgates future crime and allows riding the CTA to be a risky endeavor.

*Bob Zuley  
Chicago*

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## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



I Can't Think Straight (above), now out on DVD, is reviewed on page 24.

## THEATER

Dare to 'Dream.'  
Page 20.

Photo by Joan Marcus



## TV

Rice 'n slow.  
Page 27.



## SPORTS

End of an era.  
Page 30.

Photo courtesy of Pat Griffin



## Scottish Play Scott

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

### Help for Haiti

Make sure you have some extra cash to donate in your pocket if you're heading out to see a show.

In response to the devastating series of earthquakes in Haiti, The League of Chicago Theatres has organized support among more than 200 theaters around Chicago to raise funds for the people of Haiti.

"This will be an industry-wide initiative that will provide easy access to over a million people in Chicago and surrounding areas to help those in need," said Deb Clapp, executive director of the League of Chicago Theatres in a statement. "One hundred percent of all donations are being directed to the Red Cross."

So don't be caught unawares if you encounter a growing number of curtain speeches, e-mails and other requests for Haiti aid donations from Chicago's theater community. Do your part and help out.

### Whole lotta' Letts

In the next couple of weeks, fans of playwright and actor Tracy Letts are in for a feast.

Letts has already been wowing Chicago audiences by playing the role of the foul-mouthed small-time crook Teach in Steppenwolf Theatre Company's acclaimed production of David Mamet's *American Buffalo*. The Amy Morton-directed revival has been extended to Feb. 14.

Then over at Profiles Theatre, Letts' 1993 breakthrough and ultraviolent drama *Killer Joe* is receiving its first home-grown revival. This squalor and shock-filled play put Letts on the map and no doubt played a part in Steppenwolf asking him to become a member of its ensemble. Let's hope it gets plenty more extensions beyond its Feb. 28 closing date.



Tracy Letts in *American Buffalo*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

But the really big news is the triumphant return of Letts' Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning play *August: Osage County* to Chicago.

This epic-length and large ensemble-piece famously debuted in the summer of 2007 at Steppenwolf and later triumphed on Broadway, in London and even Melbourne, Australia. It's now on a national tour with a cast that fea-

tures Academy Award-winner Estelle Parsons in the role of the acidic and drug-addled matriarch Violet Weston.

Of course, those of us who caught *August: Osage County* originally in Chicago will likely be able to crow over those who missed it the first time. After all, the show played Steppenwolf's intimate 515-seat Downstairs Theatre with a cast comprised largely of Steppenwolf ensemble members (who performed it without amplification).

The *August: Osage County* national tour is playing the much-larger Cadillac Palace space of 2,344 seats Feb. 2-14. It's likely some kind of sound amplification will be employed (alas). But let's hope the cast has become as tightly knit as the original Steppenwolf ensemble.

For more information on the return of *August: Osage County*, visit [www.broadwayinchicago.com](http://www.broadwayinchicago.com)

### Athol Fugard festival

With three Chicago theaters schedule works by acclaimed South African playwright Athol Fugard in the same season, it only makes sense for them to team up together and create an incentive for playgoers to see all three productions.

That's exactly what has happened with Time-Line Theatre Company (which is producing *Master Harold...and the Boys* now through March 21), Remy Bumppo Theatre (which is producing *The Island* Jan. 27-March 7) and Court Theatre (which is producing *Sizwe Bansi is Dead* May 13-June 13).

The three companies are offering ticket packages and discounts to all three plays via the Web site [www.FugardChicago2010.org](http://www.FugardChicago2010.org). See why Fugard has become famous for confronting South Africa's ugly legacy of Apartheid in his supremely poetical works of drama.

### Spying on an opera season

The Lyric Opera of Chicago officially announced its 2010-11 season on Tuesday, Jan. 26 (after the Windy City Times deadline for this issue). But opera fanatics have already received plenty

of clues about what's on the roster.

Two years ago, the Lyric trumpeted the fact that it had two famous Chicago directors who would make their Lyric debuts in future seasons. One was Gary Griffin (who staged Lehar's *The Merry Widow* this season), while another was Chicago Shakespeare Theater founder and artistic director Barbara Gaines helming the 2010 opener of Verdi's *Macbeth*.

Opera singers also sometimes offer clues by detailing their upcoming schedules in their program bios or their own personal Web sites. For instance, the baritone Wilbur Pauley's bio for a 2009 Chicago Cultural Center performance of Handel's *Acis and Galatea* mentioned that he was cast in a future Lyric production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. So it's safe to guess that Benjamin Britten's 1960 operatic version of Shakespeare's romantic comedy is on the bill.

Then it's also wise to check up on what other opera companies are staging, since many co-produce productions to help save on costs. For instance, the San Francisco Opera's upcoming new staging of Massenet's *Werther* carries the small print that it's a co-production with the Lyric. Whether or not it will appear in the same season is a matter of conjecture.

Then company subscribers get plenty of glaring clues from the Lyric itself in its Lyric Opera News magazine. In the Follow the Stars feature from spring 2009, readers found out that American mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe would make her Lyric debut as the witch Ulrica in Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* (*A Masked Ball*), while South African tenor would return to the Lyric in the title role of Wagner's *Lohengrin*.

But by now, the guessing game is over. Visit [www.LyricOpera.org](http://www.LyricOpera.org) to find out what eight operas the company is producing next season, and the starry stars they cast to sing them.

Please pass along theater news and other related tidbits to [scottishplayscott@yahoo.com](mailto:scottishplayscott@yahoo.com) and [Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com).

## THEATER REVIEW

## Dreamgirls

**Playwright:** Book and lyrics by Tom Eyen, music by Henry Krieger, with additional material by Willie Reale  
**At:** Broadway In Chicago at the Cadillac Palace, 151 W. Randolph  
**Phone:** 800-775-2000; \$18-\$85  
**Runs through:** Jan. 31

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The principal theme is sisters doing it for themselves, of course, but Tom Eyen and Henry Krieger's behind-the-music chronicle can also be viewed as a docudrama of racial integration and the introduction of Rhythm & Blues—a genre once called “race” music—into mainstream American culture. Unlike the educational pageants at Black Ensemble, however, the timeline in Eyen's book is not that of individual names and dates, but instead, a fable invoking images at once nebulous and familiar.

Our story opens with a trio calling themselves the Dreamettes (think Shirelles, Crystals, Supremes) losing a talent contest at New York's famed Apollo Theatre, but securing a job singing back-up for headliner James “Thunder” Early (think James Brown). Making for progress, setbacks and hard decisions on their path to success are their ambitious manager, whose commercial savvy too often exceeds his ethics, and seductive mentors like the aforementioned Early, whose love for himself exceeds any he can give to any woman.

Fame, wealth, true love and a mouth-watering wardrobe comprise a formula capable of drawing audiences anywhere, anytime—and so Dreamgirls, from its premiere in 1981 (at the Apollo, naturally) to the 2006 film, has remained undiminished in its popularity. But the touring production currently playing for much too short a run at the Cad Palace is no threadbare retread, but a freshly-assembled dazzler replete with the latest in rising talent and high-tech machinery.

The former include leading ladies Moya Angela and Syesha Mercado, playing, respectively, the robust Effie (think Aretha Franklin) and the delicate Deena (think Diana Ross), whose fortunes are dictated as much by their physiques as their vocal ranges. As for the men, it's no slight to Chaz Lamar Shepherd's interpretation of the manipulative Curtis to say that Chester Gregory—remembered in these parts for his breakout 2000 portrayal of the charismatic Jackie Wilson—enjoyed the home-field advantage on opening night with an array of show-stopping octave-leaping fermatas and gymnastic swagger in the role of Jimmy Early.

The real star of the show, however, are the optical effects—walls of sparkling LEDs, pin-spots masking lightning costume changes and



**Dreamgirls.**  
**Photo by**  
**Joan**  
**Marcus**

aerial-view video monitors facilitating—would I lie to you?—Busby Berkeley-style kaleidoscopic graphics. Rub on your sequin-burn block and hurry to this cure for winter blahs.

## DOUBLE REVIEW

## Kink

**Playwright:** Mikala Bierma, Christina Boucher, Rachel Farmer; additional music by Bryan Dunn  
**At:** Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N. Broadway  
**Phone:** 773-561-4665; \$15  
**Through March 6**

## Glitter in the Gutter

**Playwright:** Kellen Alexander  
**At:** Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N. Broadway  
**Phone:** 773-561-4665; \$10  
**Through March 11**

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Now at the Annoyance Theatre, two new shows promise to be a barrel of laughs and pique certain subsets within the LGBTQ community. There's a world premiere of Glitter in the Gutter that bills itself as Chicago's first drag queen sitcom. And there's the new musical Kink that features characters like a suburban married couple where the mom's a wannabe dominatrix and the dad hides his love of wearing women's underwear.

Both shows are typical Annoyance Theatre fare. But not all Annoyance shows are created equal, and one shines brighter than the other.

The real impressive news is Kink, a consistently funny and truly refreshing show in large part because all of the sexual and irreverent humor come from a nearly all-female cast and creative team.

If you thought that men only had a monopoly on creating ribald sexual comedies in the vein of The 40-Year-Old Virgin, then you must see

writer/actors Mikala Bierma, Christina Boucher and Rachel Farmer's amazing quick-change work on Kink.

Under Rebecca Sohn's astute and incisive direction, Kink comments on so-called suburban sexual repression by taking on characters like speed-walking housewives (who like to one-up each other with their questionable talk-show facts), probable high school lesbian sport stars and even jiving teenage boys. And what's great is these women go beyond the “I can't believe they did that!” barrier with hilarious costumes, props and bawdy song lyrics.

For example, a fellatio workshop featured the catchy song lyric, “Make that dick a fountain, Climb that BJ mountain” all the while being cleverly choreographed with two blow-up male sex dolls (Finally! Parity for overused female sex dolls in comedy!).

While Kink could do with some trimming and a better-focused storyline, its current state practically guarantees to make you laugh throughout.

Laughs are to be had in Kellen Alexander's Glitter in the Gutter, but not nearly as big or with as much frequency. For a show that aims to be a “drag queen sitcom,” that's a liability.

The problem is Alexander isn't clearly spoofing half-hour sitcom conventions to tell his story, nor does the show really use its drag performers to comment on those hackneyed hallmarks. There also aren't enough nasty and cutting quips from the two drag queen characters at the center of the show since Pepper LaRoo (Seth Dodson) and Velveeta Fitzgerald (Wes Perry) are both cut from the same flakey dim cloth. Only when rival Beverly Poon (Sarah Fineout) appears do we get banter we expect of acidic drag queens.

Glitter in the Gutter also isn't nearly as fabulous with its production elements when compared to Mid-Tangent Productions' recent Snow White spoofs at Hydrate. Alas, this show is more gutter than glitter.

## THEATER REVIEW

## Mary's Wedding

**Playwright:** Stephen Massicotte  
**At:** Rivendell Theatre Ensemble  
**at the Raven Complex, 6157 N. Clark**  
**Phone:** 773-334-7728; \$22  
**Runs through:** Feb. 20

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

From the moment at the very beginning of the play when we are told that what we are about to see is a bride's dream on the eve of her nuptials, we think we know how it will end. But playgoers who focus on the search for clues to their preconceived resolution, instead of just permitting the author to lead them on the course he wants them to follow, will miss a lot of the finely-honed craft invested in this delicate lyric of roads untraveled.

We are also told, early on, that the year is 1920 and the “great war” over, and that we are in a small village in Alberta, where a local farm boy and a newly arrived English girl pay shy court to one another. Then comes the call to enlist, sparking young Charlie to join a cavalry unit in the mother country's fight against Germany. Did Mary's sweetheart return, or did he become one

## CRITICS' PICKS

**The (edward) Hopper Project**, WNEP Theater at Storefront Theater, through Feb. 21. Though it runs far too long, this show inspired by the works of American realist painter Edward Hopper has its enjoyable moments in dramatizing some of his iconic paintings on stage. SCM

**Hughie and Krapp's Last Tape**, Goodman Theatre, through Feb. 21. Expect challenging and intelligent theater in this Broadway-bound double bill featuring master actor Brian Dennehy in works by iconic Nobel Laureates Eugene O'Neill and Samuel Beckett. JA

**Killer Joe**, Profiles Theatre, through Feb. 28. It's said that every great fortune begins with a crime, but in Tracy Letts' first play, the goals of his hardscrabble clan are as petty as the murder they propose to achieve them—so why are we riveted by their progress for every instant of this grimly humorous in-your-lap revival? MSB

**Private Lives**, Chicago Shakespeare, through March 7. Gary Griffin directs Noel Coward's glittering comedy of manners among divorcees who hook up in wholly inappropriate circumstances. Since it's Coward, expect rapid-fire sparkling wit and deliciously fanged humor. And since it's Griffin, expect a story grounded in absolute emotional truth. CS

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge,  
 Morgan and Sullivan

of the 60,000 Canadians who perished in that terrible attrition? Is he the man who will, on the morrow, be the groom at Mary's wedding?

Playwright Stephen Massicotte doesn't make it easy for us to guess the answer. Since this is a dream, the narrative is presented mosaically, episodes flashing back and forth between continents over an unspecified period spanning the final years of the deadly conflict—Charlie's hardships might be suffered at a picnic vexed by bad weather, or in a trench under artillery fire. (He makes several entrances, heralded by his beloved's cry of, “You're back!” but we must wait for the dialogue to tell us from where, and when, he has returned.) Mary's role in this fantasy-chronicle is no less nebulous: after a scene, she may remind herself that the events therein didn't actually occur. At times, she even changes into Charlie's platoon sergeant—no easy task when dressed only in slippers and a nightie.

So is this hankie-wringing historical docudrama or teeth-aching romantic fiction? At a running time of 90 minutes (with an intermission), why should we be in a hurry to resolve that question? In the intimate Raven west stage under Mark Ulrich's direction for this Rivendell Theatre Ensemble production, Massicotte's eloquent ode to lovers put asunder, as portrayed by Cassandra Bissell and Shane Kenyon, are themselves enough to engage us until playgoers exercising patience are rewarded with a sweetly satisfying denouement.



**Mary's Wedding.**

## SPOTLIGHT



Music-filled adaptations of Herman Melville's classic novel **Moby Dick** are getting quite the attention this season. In addition to Dallas Opera's world premiere of composer Jake Heggie's opera adaptation, Chicago hosts a brand new version featuring puppet creations by Blair Thomas with music by singer/songwriter Michael Smith. This “In the Works” theater lab production of Moby Dick plays 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28, through Saturday, Jan. 30, on the stage of Millennium Park's Jay Pritzker Pavilion, 205 E. Randolph. Tickets are \$10; call 312-742-8497 or visit [www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org). Photo of Thomas with one of his creations in Moby Dick courtesy of the company



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Phèdra.

## THEATER REVIEW

## Phèdra

By Jean Racine, translated by Robert David MacDonald  
 At: New World Repertory Theatre—Theatre Building Chicago  
 Phone: 630-663-1489 ; \$20-\$25  
 Runs through: Feb. 14

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

The challenge of Phèdra or any production more than 300 years old is finding a renewed purpose to bring it back to the stage. The New World Repertory Theater aspires to enhance its production of French playwright Jean Racine's 1677 Greek tragedy through Laban Movement Analysis, an intensive study of body movement and its connection to thought and emotion. A story of irrepressible passion and shame at the hands of the gods, Phèdra seems an ideal choice to

explore movement-based expressions of the inner torment of its ill-fated characters, but the effectiveness of Laban's theory in this production varies. Much of its cast could use some more command of Racine's visceral poetry before exploring the ways it might manifest itself through movement.

After a local run in November, the Downers Grove-based theater company now tries Phèdra before a city audience at the Theatre Building Chicago. It's a young cast that will likely gel more with a young urban audience, but the flipside is the inexperience. Robert David MacDonald's translation is clear but riddled with difficult couplets and to self-impose the challenge of Laban Movement Analysis as well makes for a difficult task. It's one achievement to grasp the meter while projecting all that internal conflict and another to create movement that coincides with it seamlessly.

Consequently, director and certified Laban Movement instructor Alison Henderson's choices

of where to emphasize the movement are hit or miss. When used in exposition such as the choreographed prologue of the goddess Venus cursing Phèdra on her wedding day to fall madly in love with her stepson Hippolytus, it feels like mere pantomime. When Phèdra (Sarah Pinkham) uses all kinds of arm movements to signify how she feels covered with the filth of shame, it's an interesting supplement to the language.

Pinkham, however, doesn't quite command the attention expected of a titular character in a Greek tragedy. Her madness is more temperamental; she is not pitiable or sadly misunderstood. The direction doesn't help her either: When she rips the tapestry off a wooden post and reveals it to be a cross and in only the third act leans back on it as if crucifying herself, if Phèdra were ever to be seen as a martyr, that symbolism is furthermore ruined.

The production's best artistic choice is including Venus (Laura Merchut) as a character. She enters intermittently throughout Phèdra's scenes, controlling her movements, physically demonstrating the gods' antagonistic power over her will and the hopelessness of Phèdra's predicament. In all other aspects, that sense of powerlessness, the magnitude of the inner conflict, never fully reaches the audience.

Phèdra is a well-meaning production but a bit too ambitious. As hard as this cast likely trained to learn Laban's theory, applying it to a Racine play that is contingent upon its actors' ability to grasp the language and communicate great internal struggle to the audience is quite an undertaking.

## THEATER REVIEW

## The Year of Magical Thinking

Playwright: Joan Didion  
 At: Court Theatre, 5555 S. Ellis  
 Tickets: 773-753-4472;  
 www.courttheatre.org; \$38-\$56  
 Runs through: Feb. 14

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Esteemed writer Joan Didion's 2007 stage adaptation of her 2005 memoir won't be to everyone's taste. It's passionate, intelligent and keenly observed, and Mary Beth Fisher is an outstanding interpreter of Didion's words and persona. But this 100 minute solo work is a meditation rather than a play; a meditation on life, memory and survival rather than on the deaths that inspired it.

In December 2003, Didion's husband (writer John Gregory Dunne) dropped dead in front of her in their home. Refusing to grieve, Didion focused on saving the life of their adult daughter (and only child) who was fighting a catastrophic illness. She recovered, and Didion wrote—in 88 days—a memoir based on her soul-rattling experiences as wife and mother. When Didion's daughter suffered another near-fatal illness less than a year later, Didion again oversaw her recovery, combining resolve with the best care money could buy. Finally, in August 2005, Didion's daughter suffered a third catastrophe and died. In adapting her memoir for the stage, Didion incorporated fresh material about her daughter.

The title, The Year of Magical Thinking, suggests enchantments and fairytale darkness turned to light, but it's none of that. Rather, Didion "magically" reasoned that if she kept her daughter alive then her husband would return. Part of her process was an obsessive avoidance of physical places and emotional spaces where she and her husband/daughter had shared happiness. If you don't see the present reality of these places, then the happier past remains the only reality.

Eventually, Didion understood her magical thinking was misguided and accepted that "life changes in an instant," as she repeats several times. Still—and here's the point—although the destination she wished to reach was impossible,



Mary Beth Fisher in The Year of Magical Thinking.

the journey was worthwhile. But it's not a fun journey for her or the audience. The work's tone is warm but solemn, and Didion doesn't pretend to have profound answers. It's not a work of faith, either, in any religious sense.

In enlarging the work to include more material about her daughter, Didion also questions the truth or falsehood of such assurances as "I won't leave you," "You're going to get well," "I won't let anything happen to you." How many times can you will another person to live, if you ever can at all? Again, Didion has no answers but raises the questions as a caution to her audience. "If I'm sane, what happened to me can happen to you."

As Didion, Mary Beth Fisher perfectly balances gravitas against human accessibility, and intellectual vigor against a refusal to patronize. Charles Newell has directed with quiet authority, isolating Fisher on a small and sparsely elegant raised platform in a sea of darkness (John Culbert's scenery, Jennifer Tipton's lighting).

## Northlight to feature Fields, Mahoney

Northlight Theatre has announced the casting for the rest of its 35th-anniversary season, and Broadway veterans Felicia P. Fields and John Mahoney are featured.

Fields, a Tony nominee, will be Low Down Dirty Blues, written by Randal Myler and Dan Wheatman. Previews will run May 27-June 4, with regular performances taking place June 6-July 3. Mahoney, a Tony winner who was also on the TV show Frasier as the title character's father, is part of the cast of A Life, written by Hugh Leonard. Previews are March 18-26, and regular performances will run March 28-April 25.

Clifford Odets' Awake and Sing! will kick off the remainder of the season, previewing Jan. 21-30; the regular run is Feb. 2-28.

Visit www.northlight.org or visit the box office, located at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie, Skokie.

## RhinoFest running through Feb. 14

The 21st Annual Rhinoceros Theater Festival (RhinoFest) is running through Feb. 14 at Prop Thtr, 3502-04 N. Elston.

Curious Theatre Branch has curated a one-month marathon of performances for this year, with new original works by various theatre artists. Among the productions is Imposters, directed by Kelvin Hayes; Mark Chrisler, ELIZA and PARRY wrote the play, which is based on gay British codebreaker Alan Turing.

Admission is \$15 or pay what you can, \$12 in advance at www.rhinoFest.com.

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## BOOK REVIEW

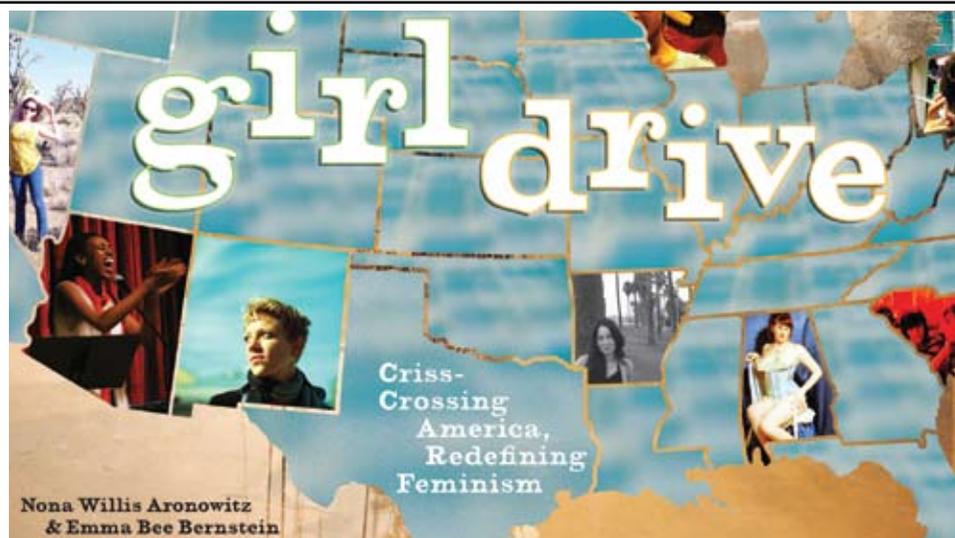
## Girldrive: Criss-Crossing America, Redefining Feminism

Written by Nona  
Willis Aronowitz  
and Emma Bee Bernstein  
\$19.95; Seal Press; 221 pages  
REVIEW BY YASMIN NAIR

Some years ago, I was waiting for a colleague as she finished her last student conference of the day. She was teaching a class on gender and a student had come to discuss paper topics. "I'd like to look at some sexist histories," the young woman said, with great assurance. I could not help but turn sharply in my squeaky wooden chair, just in time to see the bemused expression on my colleague's face as she asked, "Um, do you mean feminist histories?" "Oh, yeah, right, I guess I meant feminist," came the cheerful answer.

That inability to distinguish between feminism and sexism is unsurprising in a world where Republicans denounce anyone critical of Sarah Palin's vacuousness as sexist and where Hillary Clinton's career, forged under the aegis of a successful husband, is seen as a feminist triumph. In all this topsy-turviness, is it any surprise that some can barely distinguish feminism from its opposite?

In the fall of 2007, Nona Willis Aronowitz and Emma Bee Bernstein, both in their mid-20s, got into a car and spent a good portion of the season and spring 2008 crisscrossing the country and talking to women about the meaning of feminism. They spoke to 127 women involved in fields like sex work, abortion-provider services and Native American rights activism.



Girldrive took Willis Aronowitz and Bernstein to places as different as Jackson Hole, Miss., and Chicago. The book reveals at least one kind of American feminism, one that is contradictory and richly complex. Willis Aronowitz and Bernstein, diehard progressives, don't shy away from women like Beth in Fargo, N.D., who tells them that she believes in equality in the workplace but also that "[t]here are definitely roles for a husband and a wife, and feminism would be erasing that." On the other end of the spectrum is Rebecca, who runs Pantymistress, a porn-production company for men with fetishes.

Girldrive boasts of its diversity because the two went to a number of cities and the photographs of their subjects, taken by Bernstein, indicate a rich mix of heritages, from Chicana to Creole to Anglo. But the differences in hues of skin and ethnic lineages cannot hide the fact that underlying the surface diversity is much of the same-old, same-old.

If you live in a hipster bubble in a liberal hotspot like Austin, Texas, or Chicago, you will recognize these women. Their feminist credentials are first earned in a liberal arts college or university; they take their degrees to an enter-

prising non-profit devoted to some form of social justice; and they support queer, sex- and fat-positive politics.

The women are no less interesting for these reasons. And while some of us might, indeed, strongly identify as and with them, I suspect that they are entirely new to most Americans who cannot fathom a discussion about feminism beyond the standard "Should women work after having children?" question.

Yet, it becomes clear that the two women rarely ventured outside their socioeconomic backgrounds. Entries are often prefaced with phrases like, "Cille ...a friend of my best friend," indicating that they rarely reached out of their network of friends or like-minded blogosphere of supporters (the book originally began as a blog, and was featured on sites like Feministing). Bernstein, who committed suicide in December 2008, graduated from the University of Chicago and was the daughter of the artist Susan Bee and the writer Charles Bernstein. Willis Aronowitz, who wrote much of the book, graduated from Wesleyan and is the daughter of the Second Wave feminist Ellen Willis, who died in 2006, and the cultural critic Stanley Aronow-

itz. Driving through North Carolina, they spend the night at the house of Fred, an old family friend of Willis Aronowitz. Fred just happens to be Frederic Jameson, one of the most influential theorists of postmodernity.

Despite Willis Aronowitz's attempt to make them seem like two wide-eyed innocents who stumble into interviews like one with Erica Jong, it is clear that the duo benefited greatly from their social connections and enormous cultural capital. That is not in itself a bad thing—every writer makes do with the resources at hand—but they could have used all that as a base from which to expand their pool of interviewees and to let happenstance dictate more of their agendas. At one point, they run into a single female bartender with a child and on welfare, unsure if she can finish a degree in anthropology (the value of which she now doubts) and angry about being treated like "a vagina behind the bar." The authors do not even get her name, but more stories like hers could have complicated their journey in a good way.

In another rare trenchant moment, the poet Lyn Hejinian conveys her distrust of relying on social-networking sites and blogs to stimulate feminism because they can "lead to false senses of community and obsession with faking a caricatured self-image," but the authors simply dismiss her critique, putting it down to an unwillingness to "communicate that way." Yet, surely, face-to-face organizing and community-building is doubly important for women who do not have access to the urban areas that the pair choose to focus on.

Girldrive gives a sense of a certain kind of feminism in America today, one that mirrors the privileged experiences of the writers rather than challenging their or their intended audience's assumptions. But if feminism is to survive to the point where women understand its value and the distinction between it and sexism, we have to be willing to record far more uncomfortable realities than our own.



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# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

## The Brando effect

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

It doesn't take much of a stretch of the imagination to point out that gays objectified men on the screen decades before Marlon Brando's riveting screen performance as the brutish über-hunk Stanley Kowalski in Elia Kazan's 1951 masterpiece *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Tyrone Power, Robert Taylor, Cary Grant, Gary Cooper, Joel McCrea, Montgomery Clift and Clark Gable's removal of his undershirt in 1934's *It Happened One Night* all preceded Brando's real arrival at the movies in *Streetcar*. (He had been seen by audiences as the bitter paraplegic in 1950's *The Man before this*.)

But the combination of Brando's frank portrayal of the heated Stanley, his blasé attitude about applying sexual labels in real life; his insistence in interviews about discussing acting as an art and not just as a means to a paycheck; his derision about stardom and the limits it enforced on those who accepted its constraints; and, more than anything, his overripe beauty and physicality all said to canny moviegoers, straight and gay, "Go ahead—let your imagination run wild." Here at last was an actor who knew he turned on both women and men and didn't give a damn—and whose objectification, in fact, may have turned him on, too.

Almost 59 years after *Streetcar*'s initial re-

lease Brando's sexual potency hasn't dimmed a whit. Kazan, who had directed the groundbreaking 1947 Broadway production of the Tennessee Williams play, had already conquered Hollywood and had to be coaxed into returning to *Streetcar* and directing it for the screen. Part of the reason he made the film was a chance to balance the movie version more judiciously between Blanche and Stanley—a decision that actually turns up the heat. Kazan first gives us a look at Stanley through the starstruck eyes of Blanche's sister, Stella (Kim Hunter). Finding her younger sister and husband in a bowling alley, Blanche (Vivien Leigh)—the delicate, wilted Southern belle—recoils when Stella points out roughneck Stanley, who is briefly glimpsed in the midst of a scuffle with a group of men.

Back at Stella and Stanley's cramped apartment, Kazan's camera lingers on Brando, who does a subconscious striptease for Blanche in his first meeting with her. Stella has retreated to the bathroom to escape Blanche's unexpected recriminations and when Stanley strides into the apartment, she's shy and reserved. Stanley quickly removes first his silk bowling jacket and then his sweat stained T-shirt. Nonchalantly, he takes his time about putting on a fresh T-shirt as Blanche is open-mouthed, almost salivating (standing in for the audience, unaccustomed to having their baser instincts so precisely laid open). Interesting trivia: Brando's chest was shaved and his skintight T-shirts were custom-made to cling to the contours of his muscular torso.

This outright objectification is part of the genius of Williams' *Streetcar*: Despite Stanley's crude tirades and his tendency toward emotional and physical violence his sexual hold on Stella and, eventually, Blanche trumps everything. (Both women at various moments act as stand-ins for the audience, equally enthralled.) In today's enlightened, sexed-up age we quickly intuit Stella (and the audience) as being "dickmatized" by Stanley. But in 1951, Williams' lyrical writing provided the subtext for what was then an unexplored "fact of life" (and I've always loved that it took a gay playwright to bring this unacknowledged human behavior to the mainstream). Brando's performance, as the film attests, made this possible—as it still does. No other male star of the era could have given the role the unforgettable, unignorable magnetic

power it retains.

*A Streetcar Named Desire* ushered in a decade of both sexually tinged melodramas and the era of movie stars as sexual glamazons—the physically imposing Rock Hudson, Tab Hunter and the rest of their ilk for the men, and Marilyn Monroe and her thousand imitators for the women. (It's also ironic to note the prominence of these in-your-face sexual movie stars during the 1950s—the decade of conservative repression.) Brando enjoyed many other "firsts" when it came to his appearance in movies but opening the floodgates for outright sexual objectification (Monroe did it for women) for film audiences of all stripes may be his true legacy—certainly it's his most potent. And objectification is surely one of the most primal allures of the medium—conscious or not. Brando's sexual influence and his rebellious attitude on U.S. society (not to mention gay culture, with the experimental films of Kenneth Anger as just one prime example of the Brando Effect) is almost incalculable—and it all started with the removal of that sweaty T-shirt. With regard to movies, as director Martin Scorsese has noted, "There's before Brando and after Brando."

Film audiences who haven't experienced *Streetcar* on the big screen and the Brando effect will have the chance to see the movie Jan. 30 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 1 at 6 p.m. at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State. The film—which is a glorious, mesmerizing experience from beginning to end, thanks to the performances of Brando, Leigh, Hunter, Karl Malden *et al.*, as well as Williams' lyrical dialogue and Alex North's hot jazz score—is being shown as part of the Siskel's monthlong tribute to Kazan. Titled "Elia Kazan's American Century," the series has included the majority of the late director's masterworks. The highly erotic 1956 movie *Baby Doll*—Kazan's second collaboration with Williams that introduced audiences to actress Carroll Baker and another daring sexually tinged taboo—is on the bill for Jan. 28 at 6 p.m. Visit [www.siskelfilm-center.org](http://www.siskelfilm-center.org).

More classic cinema: Beginning Jan. 29 the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport, is present-

### DVD REVIEW

## I Can't Think Straight

BY STEVE WARREN

There must be a special breed of vicious person who dreams up obstacles for lovers in romantic movies. Two people meet and we know they're made for each other, whether they do or not; but one thing and another keep them apart until the final reel—or beyond, if it's that kind of story.

*I Can't Think Straight* reunites lesbian filmmaker Shamim Sarif (*The World Unseen*) with her muses, Lisa Ray and Sheetal Sheth, who may become the Tracy and Hepburn (Hepburn and Hepburn?) of lesbian cinema.

Tala (Raye) is celebrating her fourth engagement. So far she's been always a fiancée, never a bride. She might make it this time if her old friend Ali (Rez Kempton) didn't introduce her to the woman he's dating, Leyla (Sheth).

The women get into a heavy discussion of religion and politics at their first meeting. "Don't they have small talk in the Middle East?" London-raised Leyla asks. "This IS small talk in the Middle East," Tala replies.

They click and even spend a blissful night together, but while Leyla's ready to declare them a couple, Tala's more concerned about her traditional Jordanian parents, not to mention her husband-to-be. Leyla's not out to her traditional Indian family either (although her sister suspects, from seeing her collection of books and CDs), but she's ready to be.

As one obstacle is overcome another pops up, obviously just Sarif's way of delaying the inevitable and allowing more scenic shots of Amman,

ing a double feature of Sir Carol Reed's 1947 British suspense thrillers *Odd Man Out* starring James Mason and 1949's *The Third Man* starring Joseph Cotton and Orson Welles (and the movie features perhaps one of film's most memorable music scores). The former will feature a new 35mm print. See [www.musicboxtheatre.com](http://www.musicboxtheatre.com).

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.

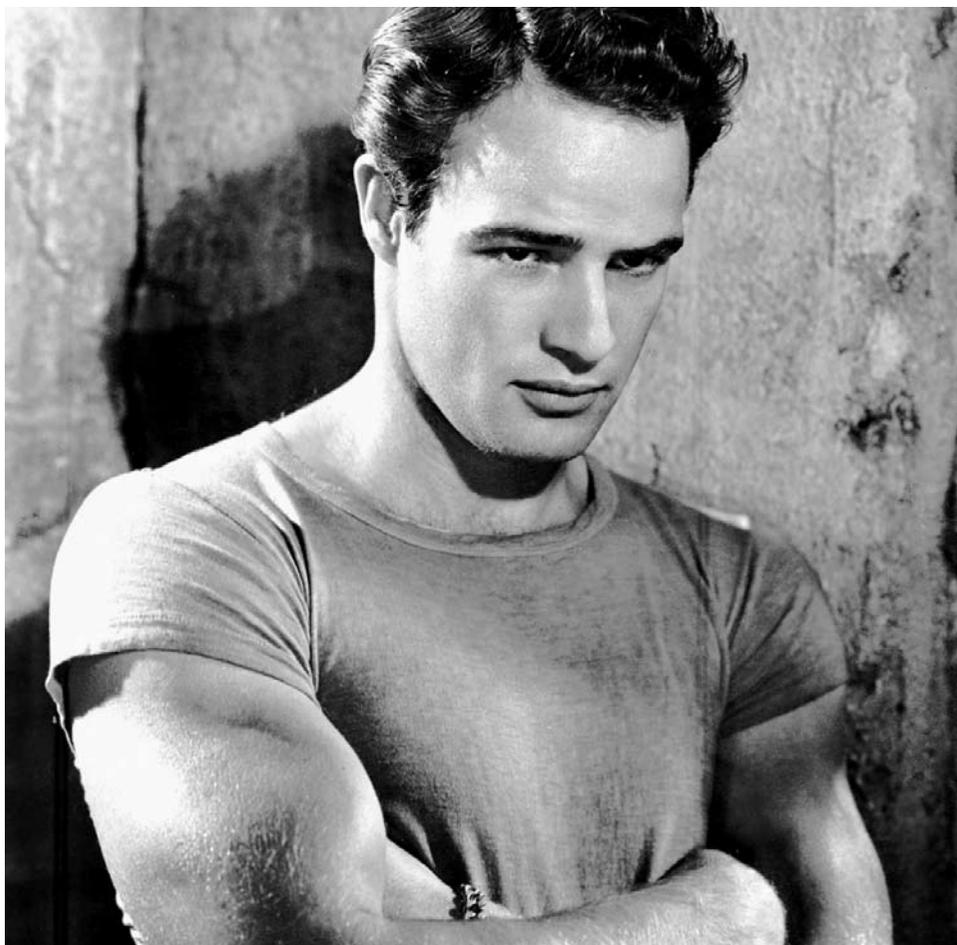
## GLAAD Awards nominees announced

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has announced the nominees for its 21st Annual GLAAD Media Awards, according to a press release.

Among the various nominees are the movies *A Single Man* and *Precious*; based on the novel *Push* by Sapphire; TV shows *One Life to Live* and *Glee*; singers Adam Lambert and Lady Gaga; and Spanish-language shows *Sábado Gigante* and *Primer Impacto*. The GLAAD Media Awards ceremonies will be held in New York March 13 at the Marriott Marquis (where Cynthia Nixon will receive the Vito Russo Award); in Los Angeles April 17 at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza; and in San Francisco June 5 at The Westin St. Francis.

"Words and images matter," said GLAAD President Jarrett Barrios. "With these awards, we seek to recognize news coverage and entertainment programming that go beyond stock stereotypes with LGBT storylines that more fully reflect the challenges gay and transgender people face and the aspirations we hold for ourselves and our families. The GLAAD Media Awards honor media professionals who are doing an exceptional job at bringing our stories into the living rooms of America—and set a 'fairness benchmark' for the news and entertainment industries."

See [www.glaad.org/mediaawards/21/nominees](http://www.glaad.org/mediaawards/21/nominees) for all the nominees.



Marlon Brando.



*I Can't Think Straight*.

London and Oxford while cramming more songs onto the soundtrack.

It would be silly if it weren't played so seriously. About the only comic relief is an over-used running gag about the housekeeper (Nina Wadia) spitting in the food of Tala's snobbish, bigoted mother (Antonia Frering).

There are two minor gay male characters. Tala's fiancé has a brother, Sami (Ishwar Maharaj), who "used to like musicals" and is "not interested in women"; and Tala's Uncle Ramzi (George Tardios) is as openly closeted as he can be.

*I Can't Think Straight* isn't great drama, but lesbians looking for eye candy shouldn't be disappointed.

Steve Warren is in the movie *Scarce* ([www.myspace.com/scarcemovie](http://www.myspace.com/scarcemovie)), available from Netflix, Blockbuster, Movie Gallery, Amazon, Best Buy, Target, Walmart, TLA Video and other fine outlets.





BY DAVID BYRNE WITH TONY PEREGRIN

Just a month into it, do not fall behind on New Year's resolutions. Leave it to music to help. Recent upbeat albums like **Bill Bennett's Big Muscle Remixed**, **Now That's What I Call Club Hits** and **Now That's What I Call Dance Classics** make an ideal soundtrack to getting physical.

Let me warn you right now: if you play DJ Bill Bennett's Big Muscle Remixed during a cardio workout, you will run out of breath. The big voiced divas here will steal your precious air. On this continuous mix, HI-NRG singer Abigail remakes Alphaville's signature "Forever Young." Thea Austin, who contributed to SNAP's "Rhythm Is a Dancer," belts it out on "Big Muscle." Chicago's very own Suzanne Palmer takes this revamped version of "Fame" to a new level. Pepper MaShay's "Manhunt" is 6 minutes of driving inspiration. Big Muscle Remixed is out now on Centaur.

That's What I Call Club Hits features radio favorites, but has a bit too many Auto-Tuned vocals. Tiesto transforms "Spaceman" by The Killers with electro beats, but keeps Brandon Flowers' nervous voice intact. The ubiquitous Lady Gaga's "Love Game" is sped up thanks to Dave Aude's remix. What would a dance mix be without Michael Jackson? The set concludes with The Polow remix of Jackson 5's "Dancing Machine."

The companion set Now That's What I Call Classics contains the key ingredients to a fun wedding reception or lively workout. Womanly sex appeal comes courtesy of Salt n Pepa's "Push It" and Jody Watley's "Real Love." The Gap Band's "You Really Dropped the Bomb on Me" and Cameo's "Word Up" bring the funk. Again, the late Jackson keeps the party going with "Shake You Body (Down to the Ground)." Even campy anthems are present with The Weather Girls' "It's Raining Men" and Right Said Fred's "I'm Too Sexy." This compilation reminds me to when club music had a stronger presence in the charts and pop radio.

Shannon's '80s dance hits prove to be a goldmine for samples. American Idol winner **Jordin Sparks'** "S.O.S." borrows from "Let the Music Play," whereas **Frenchie Davis' collaboration with TR**, "Give Me Tonight," lifts its chorus from Shannon's original of the same name.

But it is out rapper **Cazwell's** "Tonight" that proves to have the hottest hook thanks to Shannon. In the accompanying video, the MC chases his flame throughout New York City. Like in his previous clips, Amanda Lepore makes a cameo here. "Tonight" is on Cazwell's latest album, Watch My Mouth.

Ever wondered what **Neneh Cherry's** 1989 Raw Like Sushi would sound like if it came out today? Then check out Chicago's **Kid Sister's** much-anticipated full-length debut, Ultraviolet. "Get Fresh" possesses Cherry's up-front attitude. "Big N Bad" picks up once the chorus is delivered over Yaz's "Don't Go." Kid Sister has a beautiful potential pop crossover with "Daydreaming" and Kanye West cameos on "Pro Nails." The slick "Let Me Bang" samples Tangerine Dream's "Love on a Real Train," as heard in the film Risky Busi-

ness. Ultraviolet is a much needed dose of energetic hip hop from a woman's point of view.

**Corinne Bailey Rae**, the sweet girl next door behind "Put Your Records On," blossoms with her follow-up, *The Sea*. Here, post-psychedelic pop meets folk numbers like "Are You Here," "Closer" and "Love's on Its Way." They seem as if they were plucked from Minnie Riperton's 1970 bow, *Come to My Garden*. Tracks like "The Blackest Lily" and "Diving for Hearts" have a full band supporting the British singer-songwriter,

giving the material a full body. Bailey Rae succeeds by taking artistic chances on her sophomore outing, making *The Sea* the first pleasant surprise of 2010.

When I was in Las Vegas, a group of Australian performers was making quite a buzz. It was not the male dance revue *The Thunder from Down Under*, but rather **Human Nature**. Unlike most of its peers, this vocal quartet has survived the near extinction of boy bands at the turn of the century. Some might remember that these fellows sang the Australian national anthem at the opening ceremonies of the 2004 Olympics in Sydney.

On the Motown tribute *Reach Out*, the foursome does not stray from the original arrangements. The guys seem to have the most fun on The Jacksons' "ABC." The heartfelt rendition of "Ooo Baby Baby" is as seductive as ever. In between commitments at The Imperial Palace in Sin City, *Human Nature* will be at The Venue, 777 Casino Center Drive, Hammond, Ind., on Friday, Jan. 29.

Sadly, **Lady Gaga** had to cancel a show in Lafayette, Ind., but promised to return. Based on what she said during her three-night sold-out run at Rosemont Theatre and on a recent taping of the Oprah Winfrey Show, the artist also known as Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta sincerely loves her fans. During her Michael Jackson- and *Blonde Ambition* Tour-inspired concert, the "Bad Romance" singer assured her little monsters that they were safe with her. This is so important, especially with so many LGBTQ youth in the audience.

Lady Gaga is more worthy of Madonna's pop-princess baton than Britney Spears. But let's first hear Lady Gaga's forthcoming album, rumored to be out later this year, before her inevitable coronation. Regardless, I remain thankful that Lady Gaga's tour with Kanye West did not come to fruition.

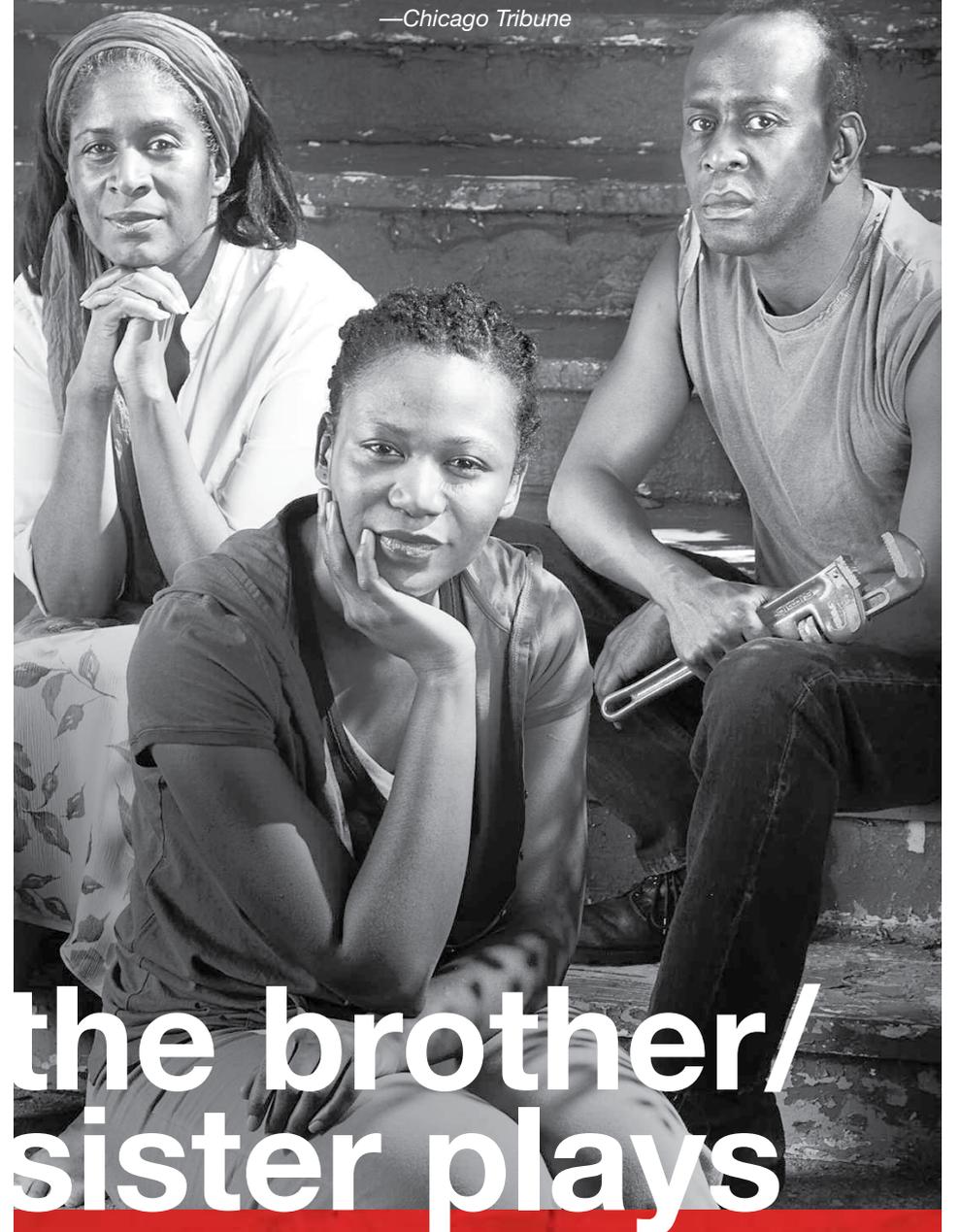


Corinne Bailey Rae.

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Rosy. Photo courtesy of Anti-Cruelty Society

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## Gaywheels.com's most researched vehicles

Gaywheels.com has released its list of the top 10 most researched new vehicles from the last three months of 2009. They are:

1. Audi R8
2. Volkswagen Golf
3. Mitsubishi Outlander
4. Mazda Mazda3
5. Volkswagen Jetta
6. Nissan Quest
7. Mercedes-Benz E-Class
8. Mercedes-Benz C-Class
9. Saab 9-3
10. Volkswagen Eos

"A common theme amongst the vehicles represented is that they are all niche, stylish representatives of their respective segments," said Gaywheels.com founder Joe LaMuraglia. "The list also shows that LGBT consumers are drawn to a myriad of body styles and price points."

The Audi R8 held its position on the top spot of the list for the second quarter in a row. The Mitsubishi Outlander and the Mazda Mazda3 knocked two vehicles from VW out of the 3rd and 4th spot respectively. VW's Golf stayed in the second spot. The VW Jetta and Eos are down in the ranking but hardly out.

The list is based on Web site statistics gathered from Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 2009 from Gaywheels.com's new car data partner, vLane.com. Gaywheels.com publishes the most-researched list quarterly.

## Chicago Auto Show Feb. 12-21

The 2010 Chicago Auto Show will take place Feb. 12-21 at McCormick Place, 2301 S. Martin Luther King.

The Chicago Auto Show is officially sanctioned by the International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (OICA). The organization's membership comprises 41 national trade associations around the world, including all major automobile manufacturing countries.

Tickets are \$11 for adults; \$7 for seniors and for children 7-12; and free for children up to 6. On Tuesday, Feb. 16, women will be allowed in for \$7. Also those adults who bring three cans of food Feb. 16-19 will receive coupons for \$7 admission tickets.

See [www.chicagoautoshow.com](http://www.chicagoautoshow.com).

## Gaywheels.com Profile

—**Name:** Michael Thomas Myers, a.k.a. Bud-dah (misspelled on purpose)

—**Birthplace:** Spartanburg, S.C.

—**Age:** 36

—**Year, make and model of your first car/truck:** 1965 Ford Mustang

—**Occupation:** Sales Manager/blogger

—**Employer:** Queers for Gears

—**What did you think you wanted to be when you grew up?** One of the Dukes of Hazard

—**How long have you worked in the auto industry?** Six years



Saab 9-3.

—**What do you drive now?** 2005 Audi A6

—**Are you out at work?** Yes

—**Was being gay ever an issue at any of your jobs?** No

—**If you had one piece of advice to give to a gay person wanting to work in the auto industry, what would it be?** Be yourself—staying in the closet requires too much mental focus to "keep your story straight." If people talk about you behind your back ignore them. Answer your critics by doing your job well.

—**OK, here is the fun part; if you had \$25,000 and had to buy a new car, what would it be?** VW Jetta TDI

—**Same question but bigger budget—\$50,000:** Audi A6 Avant

—**If money were no object:** An Audi RS6 Avant

—**What is your favorite car of all time and why?** The VW Bus. This was the first vehicle that ever hooked me. The simplicity of the design was amazing—using almost every inch of that loaf to create a people-hauler like no other. Everywhere I drove in my bus the other drivers would smile and wave and the bus never failed to inspire an interesting conversation with a stranger

at a gas pump.

—**If your car/truck could talk, what would it say about you?** "I see how much money you waste on fast food and other crap—\$0000 why haven't you gotten me some new wheels and an intake?"

—**Finally, why do you want to be featured on Gaywheels.com?** I have been a reader of Gaywheels.com for several years and am so impressed with what the Joe's have built. I love their on-air segments on the Derek and Romaine show (Sirius/Out-Q). I have not had the chance to meet either of the Joe's—but Joe LaMuraglia has been a great help to me as I launched Queers4Gears.com. Thanks, Joe!

See [www.gaywheels.com](http://www.gaywheels.com).



Michael Thomas Myers.

## TV

## Runway's Santino now on RuPaul's Drag Race

BY JERRY NUNN

Santino Rice had his big break as a finalist on the second season of Project Runway. Proving that great things come in twos, he is once again connected to the runway, this time judging on season two of RuPaul's Drag Race.

**Windy City Times:** Hi, Santino! I love how RuPaul's says your name with a big O!

Santino Rice: That's funny. He always makes me laugh when we are around each other.

**WCT:** How did you get involved in the show in RuPaul's Drag Race in the first place?

SR: Five years ago I did Project Runway. My personality and my work polarized people to either love or hate me. Ru was one of those people that reached out to me early on and said, "Hey kid, you are doing the right thing and I love your work." When he was starting another show he gave me a ring, we hung out and became fast friends from there. Anything you do with Ru is a blast, whether you are on a hike or roller-skating!

**WCT:** So you judged the whole first season, which gained a big following.

SR: It was really a no-brainer. I don't know why it took so long to have a show like that on the air. It is really my favorite reality show now. I think all the contestants are hugely creative and complex people. It is great that they are representing for who they are.

**WCT:** I interviewed Jade last season and now Mystique Summers, originally from Chicago, for this season.

SR: I love Mystique Summers Madison.



Santino Rice.

**WCT:** What do you look for in a contestant when you are judging?

SR: What is amazing is that there are so many variables that you have to look at. Anything that a queen can bring to the stage for their performance is something to critique. It's not only style, grace and poise; it is personality, overall charisma and talent.

I am always looking for someone who can take nothing and turn it into something amazing. For as little time as I am on each episode, sometimes there is two full days of note taking, critiquing and judging all the contestants. It takes a while to decide who is the winner and who are the two in the bottom who have to "lip-sync for their lives."

**WCT:** So this is fun but serious.

SR: I take it totally serious. I hate it when people get it wrong on shows. I hate it when people don't recognize when someone really talented is on stage in front of them. I always want to champion the person that is speaking from their heart.

**WCT:** It's obvious that the competition means so much to these contestants.

SR: Even in gay society, drag queens are marginalized to an extent. To be able to get this kind of recognition in the gay community and straight community, internationally now that the show is in Europe, has to feel good.

**WCT:** I agreed with your comments in the first season but the competitors felt like you were being hard on them.

SR: I am a huge fan of every single contestant. I am a huge fan of drag queens in general. I think if the world was full of more drag queens that it would be a more beautiful place. I try to get that through to everyone before I really start splitting hairs. Even Shannel—I was a huge fan of and it just happened as the show goes on, the whole process just wears you down. There was a point where her true attitude came out. She just thought if she focused all that negative energy onto me that it would be fine for her. In actuality I probably liked her the most of everybody. I wish the best for her and every contestant. I want to see everyone succeed.

**WCT:** This past season there was such a big following in the Chicago gay community.

SR: Comparative to bigger networks and reality shows, RuPaul's Drag Race is small show with a huge buzz and a core audience who is loyal and keeps tuning in to every single episode. That's better. You want that quality over quantity all the time. Even the vocabulary sometimes when we are on the judging panel and some of the things that come out, I look at Ru and say, "I think that is first time that phrase has been said on television before." You are really going to be blown away by the second season, Jerry.

**WCT:** There is a celebrity judge on every episode, such as Kathy Griffin and Debbie Reynolds.

SR: Oh, my God—Dita Von Teese was amazing. You could have an outtake reel with six hours of

Cloris Leachman! I love Reno 911! Niecy Nash, was a really excellent judge. Also, Henry Rollins and Terri Nunn from Berlin.

**WCT:** Do you still have time to design clothing with all this reality television?

SR: Oh, yeah. It is still my day job. I always want to design. Two thousand nine was a tough year for everybody. I had to do 10 times the amount of work in order to make the same amount that I had been making in previous years. I see things getting much better. I am very thankful to have two different channels to create and make an income.

**WCT:** You were the most entertaining designer on the special Project Run All Stars. Have you always been dramatic and funny?

SR: I love life and I love to make other people laugh. I like to make fun and do imitations of people. I also make fun of myself. I enjoy laughing a lot. I think it probably gets me through most of the time. Ultimately I want to create beauty in the world. I am not the kind of the person that looks around and says, "ugh, look at those shoes." I put on blinders so I don't see ugliness in the world.

**WCT:** You are bisexual, correct?

SR: Well that is a whole other interview right there. You can just call me gay but I like men and I am attracted to beautiful women. I didn't like the negativity that was attached to being gay growing up so that is why I have problems with the label.

**WCT:** Well, try to find time to visit us in Chicago.

SR: I have many friends in Chicago and in Downers Grove. I want to give a shout out to Hunters Danceclub!

"Shake the dice and steal the Rice!" as RuPaul says. Start your engines as season two of RuPaul's Drag Race debuts Feb. 1 on the Logo network. Drive over to [www.logoonline.com](http://www.logoonline.com) for details and last season's episodes.

# calendar

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WINDY CITY TIMES



## Wed., Jan. 27

**Impact 2010 - A Concert for Equality** Join the Impact Chicago, one of Chicago's largest LGBTQ grassroots activist groups, and local, independent singer/songwriter, Stephen Leonard, are coming together to kick off the new year with Impact 2010 - A Concert for Equality. 7pm, 219.588.4493, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St, <http://tinyurl.com/impact2010>

**Hawaiian/Hula and Tahitian Dance Class** Join us every Wednesday night at 8:20pm and learn the basics of pacific island dancing. Learn how to dance Hula including Hula Auana (modern Hula) and Hula Kahiko (ancient Hula), Tahitian dances such as the Otea and Aparima, and dances from other pacific islands like Guam and many more. 4057 N. Damen Ave. 8:15pm, <http://www.islapacific.com>

**Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo** Entertaining view of classical ballet in parody form and en travesti. Men dance all the parts, enhancing rather than mocking the spirit of dance as an art form. 7:30pm, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E Randolph Dr

**Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce** is holding a networking event, "Mix 'n Mingle," at Lush Wine & Spirits, 2232 W. Roscoe, 6-9 p.m. Admission is \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members. See [www.glchamber.org/calendar.aspx](http://www.glchamber.org/calendar.aspx).

## Thursday, Jan. 28

**Out at CHM: Queer Spaces** Sharon Haar, associate professor, architecture, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Doug Ischar, artist and associate professor, photog-

## FAIRNESS FORUM Thursday, Jan. 28

E. Patrick Johnson (right) will be one of the panelists at the forum "What is justice for the Black gay man?" at the University Center, 525 S. State.

Photo by Yasmin Nair



raphy, University of Illinois at Chicago, explore how city space is rethought and remade by and for queer communities. Cocktails at 5:30 pm; program at 6:30 pm; \$12, \$10 members and students. 5:30pm, Chicago History Museum, 1601 N Clark, [http://https://services.chicagohistory.org/auto\\_choose\\_ga.asp?area=129](http://https://services.chicagohistory.org/auto_choose_ga.asp?area=129)

**Justice for All Forum: What is justice for the Black Gay man?** Panel includes Keith Boykin, editor, author, TV host and former White House aide to the president; plus E. Patrick Johnson of Northwestern University and Antonio D. Jimenez of UIC School of Public Health. Hosted by Dr. Keith Magee and Jim Pickett. Presented by Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus, Project CRYSP, Lifelube, and the Communities of Color Collaborative. Free and open to the public. Please arrive early. 6pm, <http://lifelube.blogspot.com/2010/01/what-is-justice-for-black-gay-man.html>

**LBTQ women's safer sex seminar.** In-depth and entertaining LBTQ women's safer sex seminar for women who love women!

Learn to protect yourself and please your partner responsibly. 6:30pm, Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N Sheridan Rd, <http://www.howardbrown.org>

**Cyon Flare with DJ Phil DaBeatz at Hydrate** Nightspots presents Thursdays at Hydrate hosted by Cyon Flare with ChicagoPride.com's own, DJ Phil DaBeatz and hot strippers. Win cash and other prizes from 10:30pm to 1:30am; 10pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, [www.hydratechicago.com](http://www.hydratechicago.com)

## Friday, Jan. 29

**Our Backroom** featuring art from our private inventory and providing special discount pricing for only 2 hours. Browse our back room and choose from pieces not on display for public viewing. Proceeds to benefit Chicago House and The AIDS Foundation of Chicago. 6pm, 773.755.8346, [http://1.bp.blogspot.com/\\_iwtjywmnvw/s00gzxtwbki/aaaaaaaaho/mxv-5hcsos/s1600-h/back+room.jpg](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_iwtjywmnvw/s00gzxtwbki/aaaaaaaaho/mxv-5hcsos/s1600-h/back+room.jpg)

**Arsenic and Old Lace** Arsenic and Old Lace is the classic comedy about two sweet mercy-killing elderly spinsters written by Joseph Kesselring. 8pm, 773-284-8497, Morse Theatre, 1328 Morse Ave, <http://beverlytheatreguild.org/>

**Rosanne Cash** Rosanne Cash, Johnny Cash's daughter, has held her own since she ventured into the country music scene in the late '70s. The Grammy Award-winning Rosanne Cash has earned acclaim for both country and crossover songs. 8pm, Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N Lincoln Ave, <http://www.oldtownschool.org>

## Saturday, Jan. 30

**Windy City Rollers** opening Chicago's nationally ranked women's roller derby league, will unleash its brazen derby skaters to a sea of roaring fans at its sixth season opener. Doors: 5 pm., Bout: 6 pm. Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$21 at the door. 5pm, <http://www.windycityrollers.com>

**DJ Jacob Meehan at Wang's** DJ Jacob Meehan spinning anything from Italo Disco to Chicago House every Saturday at Wang's; 9pm, Wang's, 3317 N Broadway St, (Between Aldine & Buckingham)

**DJ Phil DaBeatz at Hydrate** The nation's popular DJ sensation, ChicagoPride.com's own DJ Phil DaBeatz will be spinning at Hydrate; 10pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

**Vital Bridges bowling event** "Strike Out Hunger," Vital Bridges' 13th annual bowling event, is happening at River Rand Bowl, 191 S. River, Des Plaines; 6:30-7 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person, or \$150 for six people. See [www.vitalbridges.org](http://www.vitalbridges.org) or call Genevieve at 773-271-5117.

## Sunday, Jan. 31

**Ride for AIDS Chicago kick-off party** Looking forward to a nearly 200 mile bike ride coming this July 10 & 11 to make a difference in the fight against HIV. Register at [www.events.org/rideforaids](http://www.events.org/rideforaids). 4pm, 773-989-9400 x 246, <http://www.rideforaids.org>

**Male Call with Miss Foozie** Roscoe's and ChicagoPride.com present Male Call with Miss Foozie. Here's your chance to meet the unexpected and end the weekend right. 5pm, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted St, <http://www.missfoozie.com>

**Roman Catholic Mass** Dignity-Chicago celebrates a Roman Catholic Mass every Sunday, 5PM, at Broadway United Methodist Church 3338 N Broadway St, Chicago, IL 60657; 5pm, <http://dignitychicago.org/current.htm>

**Dollar Night at Atmosphere** 6pm, @mosphere, 5355 N. Clark St., <http://www.atmospherebar.com>

**Sexy Sexy Sundays** The Sky's the limit as Party People Entertainment presents Chicago's newest and biggest Sunday alternative night with shirtless bartenders, models and go-go dancers. House and Hip Hop all night by DJ Superman. Free all night. 9pm, Sky Bar, 2242 N Lincoln Ave, <http://www.upscalechicago.biz>

**Cheap A.s Tuesdays at Berlin!** Join hostesses with the mostess, Jay Jay at Berlin for Cheap A.s Tuesdays. There are \$1 drinks kids! 10pm, Berlin, 954 W Belmont Ave, <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

## Monday, Feb. 1

**Women's Coming Out Group** Questioning your sexuality and need a confidential place to talk about this? Think you might be lesbian, bisexual or gay? A confidential place to talk with a group of women in a supportive environment, this eight-week support group looks at issues of sexuality and attraction, coming to terms with who you are, isolation and community. Free. Registration required. [lbtgroups@howardbrown.org](mailto:lbtgroups@howardbrown.org) for time, information or to register. 6pm, Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N Sheridan Rd, <http://www.lccp.org/whatwedo.php?sec=16&id=46>

**\$1 Drink Night with DJ Laura B at Hydrate** Monday at HYDRATE is \$1 DRINK NIGHT! All well cocktails are only One Dollar all night long! 8pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

## Tuesday, Feb. 2

**Burn some calories before you eat!** Come try Chicago's best kept secret in fitness: Exhale Spa! Experience Exhale's premier gay instructor, John Nelson and watch your body change! 945 N State Street; 3:30pm, (312) 753-6500, <http://www.exhalespa.com>

**Decade Tuesdays with DJ Heather Doble at Scarlet** DJ Heather Doble brings you a new decade each week. Always a good time and some great specials! 9pm, Scarlet, 3320 N Halsted, [www.scarletbarchicago.com](http://www.scarletbarchicago.com)

**Drag Race hosted by Frida Lay** Frida Lay hosts Chicago's only amateur drag contest every Tuesday at 11pm in Roscoe's front bar. Drag Race has been a hit since its premier in 2000. 11pm, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted St, <http://www.roscoes.com>

## Wed., Feb. 3

**Hydrate's Annual Staff Turnabout Show benefiting TPAN** Hydrate's Annual Staff Turnabout Show to benefit TPAN's "Chicago Takes Off Barlesque" Competition. \$10 donation includes hosted bar from 8 to 9:30pm; 8pm, (773) 989-9400, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

**Hawaiian/Hula and Tahitian Dance Class** Join us every Wednesday night at 8:20pm and learn the basics of pacific island dancing. Learn how to dance Hula including Hula Auana (modern Hula) and Hula Ka-



## MISS UNDERSTANDING Sunday, Jan. 31

Miss Foozie hosts Male Call at Roscoe's, 3356 N. Halsted.

Photo by Tracy Baim

hiko (ancient Hula), Tahitian dances such as the Otea and Aparima, and dances from other pacific islands like Guam and many more. 4057 N. Damen Ave. 8:15pm, <http://www.islapacific.com>

## Thursday, Feb. 4

**Frat House Thursday at Scarlet** Join ChicagoPride.com and Scarlet as we host all frat guys and their fans! 8pm, Scarlet, 3320 N Halsted, <http://www.scarletbarchicago.com>

## Friday, Feb. 5

**Equality Illinois First Friday Networking Event** Equality Illinois and ChicagoPride.com present this monthly "Make A Difference" event. For a \$10 donation to the Equality Illinois PAC, you receive two-drink tickets and a ticket for a door prize drawing. 6pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St, <http://www.eqil.org>

## Saturday, Feb. 6

**Nine to Twelve No Tap Bowling** Bowling - First Saturday of Every Month; 9pm

## Tuesday, Feb. 9

**Historian/University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) professor John D'Emilio** will present a lecture—"Rethinking Queer History. Or, Richard Nixon, Gay Liberationist?—Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 701 S. Morgan at 3 p.m. D'Emilio, a professor of gender and women's studies and history at UIC, is responsible for numerous publications, including *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority in the United States, 1940-1970* (nominated for a Pulitzer Prize). or more information, contact Linda Vavra at 312-996-6354.

## Tuesday, Feb. 13

**Fat Saturday Ball: Allure!** "Revolution Never Looked So Glamorous!" is an annual fundraiser for EdgeAlliance (AIDSCare). The theme for this year's gala is promising to reprise the glory days of 1930's and '40s cinema. 7pm, Westin Chicago River North, 320 North Dearborn Street, [http://www.edgealliance.org/pages/fat\\_saturday\\_ball/52.php](http://www.edgealliance.org/pages/fat_saturday_ball/52.php)

## Saturday, March 6

**Chicago Takes Off** Chicago Takes Off "TV Land: Outside the BOX!" is a Broadway-style musical revue that elevates the "strip-tease" to an art form. There are two show times: 7:30PM and 10:00PM! For tickets/information call, Rhett Lindsey at 773-989-9400 x233; 7:30pm, (773) 989-9400 x233, Park West Chicago, 322 W Armitage Ave, <http://www.tpan.com>



## KEEP ON TROCKIN'

### Wed., Jan. 27

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo will perform at the Harris Theater of Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph.

Photo from 2008 by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

# BILLY MASTERS

"Ladies and gentlemen, the director and star of 'The Beaver', Golden Globe winner Jodie Foster."—The actress' upcoming flick got quite a plug at the Golden Globes. And, you know, she's been researching "The Beaver" for decades.

We're just starting up award season and it could be a bad omen that Hollywood is engulfed in torrential rain. The Golden Globes were a soggy affair, with the most prevalent accessory being an umbrella (ella, ella, hey, hey). However, that didn't dampen my spirits—especially since I was sporting my new silver tuxedo and looking quite dapper, if I do say so myself. That opinion was echoed all evening by celebs and civilians alike who stopped to comment on my dashing appearance—most notably, the pretty dashing Gilles Marini, who said if I added some sequins to my lapels, I could be on Dancing with the Stars! It may have been the Golden Globes, but silver was most definitely the color of the evening—and I'm not just saying that as a trend setter and fashion plate.

Speaking of fashion, what should have been a professional dream turned into a fashion nightmare as Chloë Sevigny ended up with a torn train on live TV, courtesy of a friend of mine. Sexy Joe Everett Michaels was one of the male escorts situated at the foot of the stairs to help female winners to the podium. The problem was, he stepped on her voluminous train as she took a step closer to the microphone. Suddenly, a tear could be heard throughout the ballroom and Sevigny (whose first name showed up on television as "Chloï"), exclaimed, "I can't believe he just ripped my dress!" Happily, she had a back-up frock with her—a fabulous (and much more flattering) black number—which she changed into prior to the HBO party.

After the awards, people scattered to a variety of soirées throughout the hotel. Some had better luck than others. AnnaLynne McCord looked ridiculous walking through the lobby in a Grecian goddess/Barbarella-inspired gown, while Lindsay Lohan nixed bringing an umbrella and sported a sequined hoodie/dress! But at least they were recognizable. Poor Kristen Bell kept recounting her resume just to get past the gatekeepers. Security was tight and if you didn't have an invite or if the door person didn't recognize you, there was no admission. The Glee kids had some difficulties getting into the HBO party, but did OK with Warner Brothers/In Style. It worked out perfectly since Neil Patrick Harris was already sequestered in a booth with producer Ryan Murphy plotting a guest spot on Glee for May sweeps. 'Cause, that's what happens at the parties—deals.

Shortly after chatting with Ryan Murphy, Neil and boyfriend David Burtka were already on the move to the HBO party. Along the way, they passed a seemingly inebriated Chris Kattan, who appeared to be kept upright with the assistance of a woman on either side. I would have given Kattan a roadside sobriety test, but my attention was diverted by a statuesque Black woman in an enormous hat trying to talk her way into the party. That was no woman—that was Grace Jones! And she succeeded in gaining entrance—'cause who's gonna fuck with Grace Jones? She held court only tables away from George Lucas (who was talking about his Star Wars in 3-D project), Drew Barrymore (who enjoyed her Grey Gardens win on the arm of "friend" Justin Long) and Ricky Gervais (who was laughing with Extras co-star Ashley Jensen).

At one point in the evening, I found myself inches away from Matthew Bomer. As you know, he's been featured prominently in this column over the past few months—what with speculation about his sexuality, his ex leaking pics of them making out and said ex posing in underwear. All that coverage surely led to the line of questioning in the current issue of Details,

where Matt is asked point blank about the gay rumors. He simply said, "I don't care about that at all. I'm completely happy and fulfilled in my personal life." When pressed, he refused to comment, saying, "I have a network and a show riding on my shoulders." You know what I say? BRAVO! He's not denying it, nor is he dragging female friends along for photo ops (take that, Kristen). He's simply doing his job and keeping his private life private. That's all I ask. Back to our tête-à-tête—I didn't grill him or put him on the spot. I congratulated him on White Collar being picked up for a second season, wished him well and we took a photo together. After all, he is dreamy. And incredibly sweet and sincere. So,



Scott Brown is the nudest, er, newest U.S. senator.

back off bitches ... I'm giving him a pass (I also made a pass, but that's another story).

While I was celebrating in Hollywood, I can't deny that part of me was concerned about the special election for Ted Kennedy's senatorial seat in Massachusetts. While I like Martha Coakley, I wasn't surprised at Scott Brown's win. In Beantown, he's popular, accessible and known for posing nude in the June 1982 issue of Cosmopolitan. He may look good now, but he was even hotter back then—which some speculate helped tempt the gay vote. (We're a fickle people.) Allegedly, it was his younger sister who submitted a shirtless pic of the then 22-year-old BC law student to "Cosmo". However, he didn't have to be cajoled to drop his jeans: "I'm not ashamed of my body. I sure work hard enough to keep it in shape. When you go to the beach, you automatically seek out the best bodies, female and male. Why should it be different in a magazine?" Why indeed. We'll be happy to run his nude on BillyMasters.com. In fact, just for kicks, we'll run one of Ted Kennedy, too.

When I'm finding any reason to admire a Republican, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Phew, we ran awfully long this week. But I must tell you that pics from the Golden Globes and all my other adventures will turn up on www.BillyMasters.com. And if you have a question for me, drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Gilles teaches me the Argentine Tango! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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# It Takes A Team! project ending

BY ROSS FORMAN

Pat Griffin's years of hard work and dedication to the advancement of the LGBT sporting community, via It Takes A Team!, are coming to an end this month, a direct fallout of the global economic crisis.

"Yes, I am very sad," she said. "I love working on LGBT issues in sport and felt like It Takes A Team! had developed some great relationships with sport organizations and other LGBT advocacy organizations. We were having an impact, but there is still a lot of work to do. I am now thinking about how to continue the work in a different way. I am definitely not finished with it."

"The decision to eliminate my position was directly related to the larger hard economic times. The Women's Sports Foundation, like many non-profits, has been affected and has made several serious cutbacks over the last year."

The New York-based Women's Sports Foundation (WSF) attempts to create an athletic climate that is respectful and safe for all people and eliminating barriers to all girls being active and healthy. It Takes A Team! Education Campaign for LGBT issues in sport is an education project focused on eliminating homophobia as a barrier to all participating in sport. The primary goal is to develop and disseminate practical educational information and resources to athletic administrators, coaches, parents and athletes at the high school and college level.

The WSF will keep the resources available on the web at [www.ItTakesATeam.org](http://www.ItTakesATeam.org).

"We have the best collection of information and resources available for coaches, athletes, parents and athletic administrators for how to make sports safe and respectful for LGBT people," Griffin said. "I suppose there is a possibility that, with a change for the better in the economic climate, the foundation could revive It Takes A Team, but there is no plan for that at this time."

WSF's It Takes A Team! project has its roots in 1998, when Martina Navratilova worked with the Foundation to raise money to start a project focused on eliminating homophobia in sport, for men's and women's sports. "She participated in two fund-raising dinners and this money was dedicated to the creation of what was first called 'the project to eliminate homophobia in sport' in 2000, Griffin said.

In 2002, Griffin worked as a consultant with the Foundation to develop the first It Takes A Team! 'education kit.' She was, at the time, a professor in social justice education at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

"I retired from UMass in 2004 and took over as director of the project in 2005," she said. "We renamed the project, It Takes A Team, and I've work as director since then. We made a decision to focus our efforts on high school and college athletics and that's what we've done for five years.

"The reason it started is that homophobia in athletics is a persistent and pernicious problem in both men's and women's athletics. Few coaches or athletes have publicly identified themselves out of fear that they will be dismissed from teams, lose their jobs, face harassment or discrimination, or lose the support of their colleagues and teammates. [But] educating coaches, athletes, parents and administrators about homophobia in sport and providing them with information, policy recommendations and strategies to make athletics a respectful place for all is an essential piece of changing the climate for LGBT people in athletics."

Griffin is convinced the project was a success, especially based on the limited resources they had to work with. "We were a very small operation. I was a part-time director, and I had a part-time assistant at the Foundation also," she said. "I spoke to 10 national gatherings of athletic administrators, coaches, and educators every year about LGBT issues in sport and It Takes A Team! resources every year for five years. Our educational DVD and curriculum materials were adopted by the NCAA for use in their CHAMPS Life Skills courses for student-athletes across the U.S. We had cultivated 18 endorsing organizations across the U.S. and Canada who linked to our website and shared our goals. Our monthly e-newsletter subscriber list was over 3,000. We co-sponsored a national think-tank with the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) on equal opportunities for transgender student-athletes. We co-wrote a report for another national think-tank on negative recruiting based on perceived sexual orientation. I received about three or four e-mail inquiries a month from parents, coaches and athletes looking for advice and information about LGBT issues in sport.

"My goal was always to make It Takes A Team! the 'go to' place for anyone looking for information and resources on LGBT issues in sport. I think we were well on our way to achieving that goal."

Griffin estimated that It Takes A Team! impacted thousands, particularly due to the website, newsletter subscriber count, participants in workshops and her various talks. Not to mention the athletes who participate in the CHAMPS Life Skills courses or other sport courses where instructors use It Takes A Team! curriculum materials. She said they distributed thousands of DVDs, posters, and ITAT safe zone stickers to schools.

"I am most proud of the resources we have made available on our website," Griffin said. "I developed them based on the kinds of questions and concerns I get from people in athletics. They are up-to-date, comprehensive and address the nitty gritty questions that coaches, parents and athletes have about addressing LGBT issues in sport. These resources are available at no cost for anyone who needs them. I'm very happy about that."

Griffin, in 2007, was named one of the top 100 sport educators in the U.S. by the Institute for International Sport. She coached high school basketball, field hockey and softball in Montgomery County, Md., and coaches swimming and diving at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

What's ahead for Griffin?

"I don't know yet," she said. "As I said, I am not finished with this work. I still have a lot of passion for, and commitment to, working on LGBT issues in sport. I'd love to be able to find another venue to continue the work we started with It Takes A Team. My biggest obstacle is that I am an educator, not a fund-raiser or entrepreneur. I need a sugar momma or poppa to step up and say, 'Pat, here's \$100,000 a year for the next five years. Do your thing!'"

In the meantime, Griffin said she will continue consulting with individual school athletic programs, as she has done for years before It Takes A Team. Particularly, coaches.

Plus, she has a blog: Pat Griffin's LGBT Sports Blog.

Griffin said working with Helen Carroll, the director of the NCLR Sports Project, was a highlight of ITAT.

"Helen and I jokingly refer to ourselves as the Frick and Frack of homophobia in sport," Griffin said.



Pat Griffin. Photo courtesy of Griffin

fin said. "It Takes A Team! and the NCLR Sports Project has worked together on a number of successful projects over the years. It Takes A Team! focuses on education and NCLR focuses on legal issues and advocacy. The national think-tank we co-sponsored [last] October on transgender athletes was a huge success and my last It Takes A Team! task will be to complete the report from that think-tank which will include much needed policy recommendations to schools for including transgender athletes on sports teams."

Griffin is happy with the progress for the LGBT community in sports, but knows the job isn't over. Not even close.

"There are way more LGBT high school and college athletes who are publicly out or at least out to their teammates and coaches and having a positive experience," than in the past, she said. "That is progress."

"We also [now] have many more resources available. The NCLR Sports project, of course. Our Group is a national network of high school and college LGBT student-athletes. Outsports.com is a Web site devoted to discussion of gay and lesbian issues in sport. The NCAA provides training for member schools on what they call 'sexual orientation issues.' Organizations like GLSEN and PFLAG also help disseminate It Takes A Team! materials. The issues are on the table now. Five or 10 years ago, no one wanted to talk about homophobia in sport and hardly any coaches or athletes were out.

"Another sign of progress I see is that parents with LGBT children are much more active in supporting their children who are athletes and run in to discrimination in sport. That is a change over the last 5 or so years. I don't like it that I still get e-mails about coaches or teammates who are harassing or discriminating against a gay athlete, but it is good news that their parents are supporting them in challenging it."

Coaches and [athletic] administrators need the most additional help, she said.

"I always tell athletic [departments] I work with that their athletes are way ahead of them on this issue," Griffin said. "We still have too many situations where coaches are blatantly discriminating against gay or lesbian athletes on their teams, where administrators look the other way or support discrimination. Negative recruiting is still a huge issue in women's sports. Few schools are prepared with sound policy for the inclusion of transgender athletes. Sport governing organizations, like coaches' associations, need to provide their membership with

rules, guidelines and education about effective and fair policies related to LGBT issues in sport. We've got the issues on the table, but we still have a lot of work to do before being LGBT is secondary to your athletic talent, your personal character and your academic achievements when it comes to acceptance and inclusion."

So where will the LGBT sporting world be in, say, 2020? That's a tricky question, she admitted. In a perfect world, Griffin and advocates like her will be out of business.

For a good reason.

"I'd love to say that, in 10 years, there will be no need for programs like It Takes A Team," Griffin said. "Maybe that will be so."

"I do believe that our progress is accelerating. We've accomplished so much over the last 15 years. Before 1995, this was the elephant in the locker room issue. No one wanted to talk about it, but it was a huge obstacle everyone knew was there. We had brave pioneers like Billie Jean King, Martina Navratilova, Dave Kopay, and, I am going put myself in that company too, at the risk of seeming a little arrogant. I've been talking about homophobia in sport since the early 1980s. I felt pretty lonely for a long time. Now, there are several organizations, activists, educators and researchers who focus on these issues. If we continue along this trajectory, by 2020, maybe homophobia in sport will be a non-issue. I hope so."

The centerpiece for the ITAT educational kit was the video, made on limited resources, but effective nonetheless.

"We did some research in Life Skills courses with student-athletes assessing their attitudes about LGBT teammates and coaches before and after viewing and discussing the video," Griffin said. "We saw statistically significant positive changes in their comfort with and willingness to speak up about LGBT issues in sport. These results reinforced the value of education for me. I think a lot of athletes say homophobic things because they think that is what is expected of them. What our results said to me is that having the opportunity to talk in an educational setting about LGBT issues in sport helped student-athletes believe it was OK to say they are fine with LGBT teammates and coaches and that the most important issues are about the team and how everyone contributes to team success, not someone's sexual orientation or gender identity."

Griffin is a professor emerita in the Social Justice Education Program at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. She is the author of *Strong Women, Deep Closets: Lesbian and Homophobia in Sports*, published by Human Kinetics in 1998. Plus, she is the co-editor of *Teaching For Diversity and Social Justice: A Sourcebook for Teachers and Trainers*, (second edition) Routledge, 2007.

"When I first began working with coaches on these issues in the 1980s, the sessions were very uncomfortable. No one wanted to talk. No one wanted to be there. The coaches of men's teams didn't see how this applied to them. The lesbian coaches were afraid of being outed. The straight women were defensive about everyone thinking they were lesbians," Griffin said. "My work was convincing them this was an issue they should think about."

"Now when I work with coaches, the atmosphere is entirely different. Both the men's and women's coaches are interested for the most part. They have specific questions. They know they have gay and lesbian athletes on the teams and lesbian and gay colleagues in the department. They want to know what to do. They want to avoid team crises. We have animated discussions. It is really fun to work with coaches now. Of course, not all coaches are cooperative or interested. No all coaches believe that having LGBT athletes on a team is OK. However, I believe there are fewer and fewer of them. I think they are surprised sometimes in workshops when they hear their colleagues speaking more positively about LGBT athletes and coaches and wanting to be inclusive and fair. It's good for them."

## 2010 WCAA Men's Basketball

Competitive	W	L	Intermediate	W	L	Recreational	W	L
Jackhammer	3	0	Crew	3	0	Spin	2	0
Sidetrack	2	1	T's	2	0	Big Chicks	2	0
3160	1	1	Sidetrack	1	1	T's	2	1
Roscoe's	1	2	Apocalypse	1	1	Taste of Heaven	1	1
Hamburger Mary's	1	2	Sofo	1	2	The Green Team	0	2
Solfire Realty	0	2	Gotcha Covered Blinds	1	2	Triad Entertainment	0	3
			Hamburger Mary's	0	3	—Teams listed by sponsor		



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A widely published author and speaker, Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas.

He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations.

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# Let history be our guide . . .

“The longer we sit back and wait for somebody else to do our bidding for us the longer it is going to take to get our rights.” — **Chuck Wolfe, Jan. 12, 2010**

“Having a person who is openly gay...gives a person a platform.”  
— **Rep. Greg Harris, chicagogayhistory.org**

“To have us [LGBT] as credentialed, competent, articulate people running for office is so important”  
— **Comr. Deb Shore, chicagogayhistory.org**

“A core issue is breaking that glass ceiling and being the first openly gay candidate.”  
— **Alderman Tom Tunney, chicagogayhistory.org**

“I think the more public officials we have out there that are openly gay...creates a more favorable attitude.”  
— **Rep. Deb Mell, chicagogayhistory.org**

“We need many and diverse gay voices in our state capitol.”  
— **Rick Garcia, Windy City News Archives**

“It's not enough anymore just to have friends represent us. No matter how good that friend may be. ...if a gay person makes it, the doors are open to everyone.”  
— **Harvey Milk -1978**

We can't agree more. We know, like every openly LGBT candidate that came before, that equality legislation is more successful when one of our own is in the chamber. More importantly, we know that we must elect someone from our community who will stand up and demand the equality we deserve. We know that real progress comes not from waiting, but from acting. We need someone who will not be satisfied with waiting for what the establishment thinks we should be given. **We need Jim Madigan.**

— Karen K. Dixon & Nan Schaffer

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