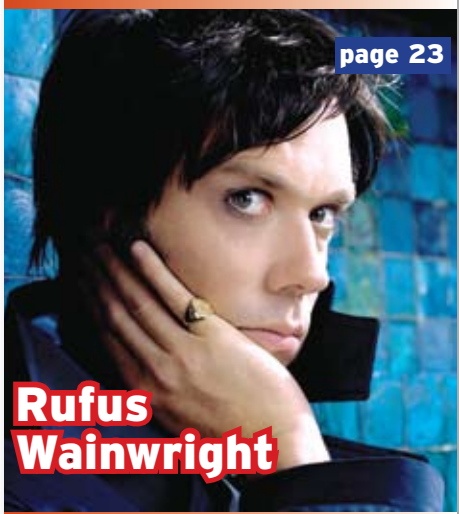




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Julia Roberts & Ryan Murphy



page 23

Rufus Wainwright



page 23

Stephanie Mills

Prop 8 overturned; appeals under way

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The waiting game around the Proposition 8 challenge in a federal court in San Francisco grows curiously and curiously.

U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker has issued his decision in the case. On Aug. 4, he said the voter-approved amendment to the state constitution that barred same-sex marriages in California is unconstitutional. He said it violates the federal constitution's guarantees of equal protection and due process. He also issued a temporary "stay"—or delay of the enforcement of his decision.

Now, people interested in the case are waiting again—this time, for Walker's decision on whether to approve a permanent "stay" until the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals can weigh in on the merits of the case.

That decision—on whether to extend the stay on when to make his ruling enforceable—could come any day now. Some thought it might come as early as Aug. 6, when briefs were due from attorneys challenging Prop 8. Those attorneys, from the Ted Olson-David Boies legal team and the city of San Francisco, did not support a stay.

But the bigger surprise Aug. 6 was that California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and state Attor-

ney General Jerry Brown also opposed the stay. Schwarzenegger had twice vetoed bills from the legislature that sought to allow marriage licenses for same-sex couples. As governor, he and the attorney general are, technically speaking, the defenders of the state constitution, including Prop 8. In court, they were identified as the defendants.

In the *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* lawsuit, however, the state declined to defend Prop 8. And in the governor's brief concerning the stay, his attorneys say there is no burden on the state to implement Walker's ruling now and that "imple-

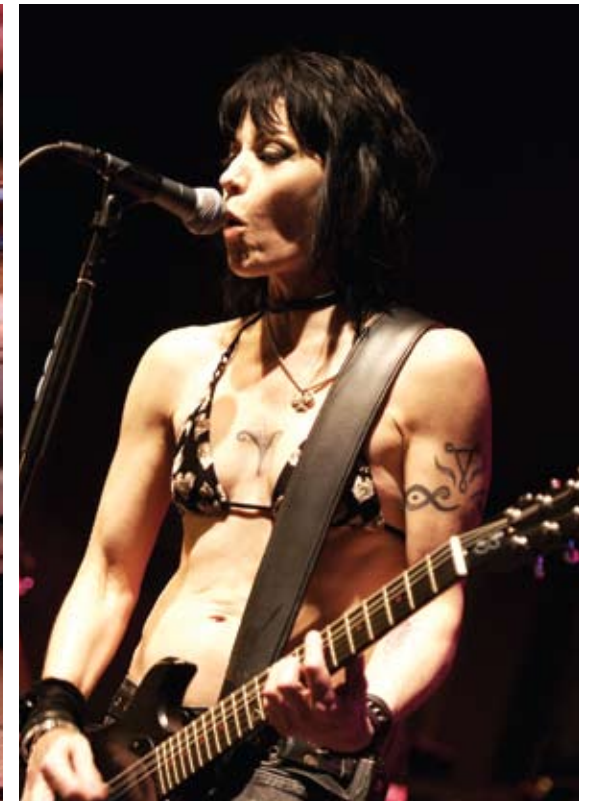
Turn to page 4

GAGA-PALOOZA

It was a music lover's fantasy this past weekend, as several big events took place around town. Artists from Erykah Badu to Green Day to (as you may have heard) Lady Gaga entertained at Lollapalooza, while Joan Jett and Jennifer Holliday sang in front of thousands at Northalsted Market Days. If those weren't enough, Melissa Etheridge performed at the Chicago Theatre. See photos on pages 10-11 and page 21, and many more online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.



LEFT: Lady Gaga (right) crowd surfing with Justin Tranter of Semi Precious Weapons at Lollapalooza. Photo by Bronques
RIGHT: Joan Jett at Northalsted Market Days. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald



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Photos on cover (left): Julia Roberts in Eat Pray Love courtesy of Columbia Pictures; Rufus Wainwright PR photo; Stephanie Mills PR picture

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SOUPED-UP

Amuse Bouche looks at corn soup while Sugar & Spice samples the food at Lillie's Q (left).
PR photo



SPORTS: Read a preview of Darts Over the Windy City and learn more about the local rugby team.
Photo from Erik Newton



Read reviews of the plays Vincent's Yellow (above) and Talk Radio.
Photo from Teresa Veramendi

'IMMORTAL' LOVE

Windy City Times reviews the book The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.

TO HAL AND BACK

Hal Sparks (Queer As Folk) visited the Center on Halsted last week—and WCT has photos.

MORE MILLS, MARKET

There's much more to our Stephanie Mills interview as well as many more photos from Lollapalooza and Market Days.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

MARCHING ON



Project Runway alumnus Chris March talks with Windy City Times before appearing at Macy's Glamorama Aug. 13.

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ALL DAYS ARE NIGHTS SONGS FOR LULU IN STORES NOW

Target CEO apologizes

BY MASON HARRISON

Target's top executive, following weeks of pressure from LGBT-rights groups and other activists across the country, has issued a formal apology for his company's contribution to a Minnesota political action committee that is backing the state's likely GOP candidate for governor, who has espoused various anti-gay positions.

Windy City Times reported that MN Forward, a business community-backed political action group, received \$100,000 in cash and \$50,000 in in-kind contributions from Target. MN Forward has run ads in the state supporting state Republican Rep. Tom Emmer. Emmer, who is likely to grab the GOP nomination for governor, is against marriage equality and leveling the playing field for LGBTs in areas of discrimination in housing, the workplace, immigration and healthcare.

In an Aug. 5 letter to employees, Target CEO Gregg Steinhafel wrote, "I have heard from many of you, and our team members, over the past week regarding Target's contribution to MN Forward, and I appreciate your engagement and candor, both of which clearly demonstrate your loyalty and passion for our company.

"In situations like this, it is often difficult to find the right words, but I would like to respond with the same honesty you have shown me.

"The intent of our political contribution to MN Forward was to support economic growth and job creation. While I firmly believe that a business climate conducive to growth is critical to our future, I realize our decision affected many of you in a way I did not anticipate, and for that I am genuinely sorry.

"We remain fully committed to fostering an environment that supports and respects the rights and beliefs of all individuals. The diversity of our team is an important aspect of our unique culture and our success as a company, and we did not mean to disappoint you, our team or our valued guests.

"Going forward, we will soon begin a strategic review and analysis of our decision-making process for financial contributions in the public policy arena. And later this fall, Target will take a leadership role in bringing together a group of companies and partner organizations for a dialogue focused on diversity and inclusion in the workplace, including GLBT issues.

"Thank you for sharing your input and for your continued commitment to making Target an even stronger company."

Steinhafel's apology comes as groups like the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce criticize



Gregg Steinhafel.



Target's donation as running contrary to the inclusive values the company touts. HRC produced a video the same week of Steinhafel's apology alerting its members to the controversy. In the video, ominous music plays as HRC lists Minnesota gubernatorial candidate Tom Emmer's record on LGBT issues and calls on Target and Best Buy, which also made a donation to Minnesota Forward, to "make it right."

Following the Target apology, HRC said Steinhafel's effort fell short. "We appreciate Mr. Steinhafel's statement to company employees this afternoon but it doesn't go quite far enough. Target's apology is welcomed but without tangible action behind it, the LGBT community and our allies will continue to question the company's commitment to equality. ...Target can still make it right by making equivalent contributions to equality-minded organizations and by making clear the procedure by which they will evaluate potential contributions in the future to include issues of LGBT-equality."

Target, however, has not indicated if the company will make an equal contribution to an LGBT-friendly organization. A spokesperson for the Minnesota-based retailer would not comment on that possibility, and Steinhafel's statement to employees leaves ambiguous how the company will evaluate its political contributions in the future.

Target's image as an LGBT-friendly corporation is juxtaposed against the company's history of political giving. Target has long been a booster of Republican and conservative causes and, as recently as 2007, Minnesota state records indicate that Steinhafel gave at least \$1,000 to Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, whom HRC has said "may be the single most strident opponent of equal rights in the entire U.S. Congress."

BEHIV receives foundation grants

Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV) has announced it is the beneficiary of two recent grants totaling \$22,500, supporting specific components of its programs.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) has made a donation to support BEHIV's prevention programs. This is Blue Cross' fifth donation to BEHIV. Additionally, BEHIV recently received a donation from Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS for the organization's substance-abuse support group. Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS is a long-term supporter of BEHIV, having provided financial assistance for nearly 10 years.

BEHIV Executive Director Eric Nelson said, "With the economic downturn, more people are in need of our services. The incident rates of HIV infection are increasing, especially among people who are the most vulnerable to infection. This funding will help more people access care and maintain their health."

PROP 8 from cover

menting the Court's order now, without further delay, serves the public interest." A briefer document from Brown essentially agrees.

If Walker denies the request for the extended stay, then same-sex couples can begin seeking marriage licenses again in California—at least until a higher court reverses Walker's ruling—something that may or may not happen.

Jon Davidson, legal director for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, told reporter Karen Ocamb (at LGBTPOV.com) that Schwarzenegger's and Brown's filings opposing a stay "have dramatically changed the likelihood" that Walker will grant the stay.

"This is an unusual situation," said Davidson, because the state, which Walker's ruling orders to stop enforcing Prop 8, has asked Walker to deny the stay.

More importantly, noted Davidson, the Olson-Boies team and San Francisco argue that Yes on 8 may have no right to appeal Walker's ruling.

When the California government declined to defend Prop 8, Yes on 8, the coalition that campaigned for the amendment, took over that role. Yes on 8 was identified in court as "defendant-intervenor" and "proponents."

Because the defendant, California's government, is apparently not going to appeal Walker's decision, said Davidson, "there will be a legal question of whether, when those who are ordered to do something don't appeal, someone not ordered to do anything has any right to appeal."

"To understand this," Davidson told Ocamb, "one has to appreciate a few things about federal courts."

"Federal courts can only hear cases where there is what's called a 'case or controversy,'" explained Davidson. So, to have an appeal heard, the party that requests the appeal must show that it has a "direct stake in the outcome" of the appeal decision. And, said Davidson, it must also show that it has been "injured" by the lower court ruling in a "concrete manner that is particularized to that party and different from citizens at large who may not like the judge's ruling."

In a case involving Arizona's constitutional amendment declaring English the 'official language' of the state, noted Davidson, the U.S. Supreme Court said it had "grave doubts" about whether proponents of that ballot initiative could appeal lower court decisions that found the initiative unconstitutional. The Arizona government did not appeal. In that case, *Arizonaans for Official English v. Arizona*, the Supreme Court, in 1997, decided the case on other grounds, "but its comments," said Davidson, "strongly indicate that the proponents may have no right to appeal if the other defendants do not."

"A definitive ruling on whether the proponents have a right to appeal if the defendants do not," said Davidson, "is not likely to be made in connection with" the ruling about the Prop 8 stay. But, he said, "Judge Walker or a higher court may comment on the issue" and "...if [Yes on 8 has] no right to appeal, they obviously can't show they likely would prevail on an appeal."

So, if the California government—the defendants—do not appeal Walker's ruling on the merits of the case within 30 days from the day the judge actually "enters" his judgment in the case (which has not yet happened), "then the plaintiffs and San Francisco could file a motion to dismiss the appeal that has already been filed by [Yes on 8] on the ground that the proponents have no right to appeal."

Therefore, three issues are now in waiting: whether Walker will issue a more extended stay, whether the government will file an appeal on the merits, and whether the 9th Circuit will take the appeal filed by Yes on 8.

If the 9th Circuit does take Yes on 8's appeal, it will first be heard by a three-judge panel and



Jon Davidson.

then, almost certainly, by the 9th Circuit sitting en banc. While in some circuits, sitting en banc means every judge of the circuit hears the case, in the 9th's unusually large circuit, said Davidson, it means "a panel of 11 randomly assigned" judges.

If the 9th Circuit refused to hear an appeal from Yes on 8, the group could appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. The group, said Davidson, "could ask the Supreme Court to decide whether they have a right to appeal."

"If the Supreme Court declines to hear that," said Davidson, "the case is over. If the Supreme Court agrees to consider the question, it could decide that [Yes on 8 has] no right to appeal and, again, the case would be over."

But if the Supreme Court said Yes on 8 does have a right to appeal, said Davidson, it would "likely" send the case back to the 9th Circuit for three judges to rule on the merits of the appeal, "resulting in a delay of the final determination of the validity of Prop 8 for some time."

Davidson said that, even if Walker does deny Yes on 8's request for a stay, he could extend his temporary stay for a brief period of time (a week or so) in order to give the proponents time to ask for a stay from the Ninth Circuit while there's a temporary stay in place.

"The Ninth Circuit would then apply the same test as Judge Walker did in deciding whether or not to issue a stay of Judge Walker's order pending the appeal," said Davidson. "If they deny a stay as well, the proponents could ask Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy (who reviews such matters arising out of the Ninth Circuit) to issue a stay pending the appeal. If he also denies a stay, the proponents could seek a stay from the full Supreme Court."

Meanwhile, at least a couple of dates are penciled in. The 9th Circuit has given Yes on 8 until Nov. 12 to file its appeal brief, and given the plaintiffs until Dec. 13 to file their response. Davidson said Yes on 8 would then have until Jan. 12, 2011, to file any brief in response to plaintiffs.

Any oral argument of the appeal, said Davidson, would "not likely" happen until late 2011.

"It is not unusual for it to take more than a year from the date of argument until the appeal is decided by the Ninth Circuit," said Davidson. "Once the case is decided, the losing party can seek review" en banc, and "that could add another year or more before the case is even in a position for a party to seek Supreme Court review."

"Thus, if the appeal is not dismissed, it is possible that a request to the Supreme Court to hear the case might not even have been made by the time of the November 2012 elections," said Davidson. "If an effort to repeal Prop 8 is made that year and succeeds, it could 'moot' the case (meaning that there would no longer be any 'live' dispute because Prop 8 would no longer be in effect) and the appeal could be dismissed for that reason.

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Kagan confirmed, sworn in

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment of Solicitor General Elena Kagan to the U.S. Supreme Court Aug. 5—but not without complaints from nearly every Republican opposing her nomination about her actions concerning “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

The vote was 63-37, with only five Republicans voting for Kagan and one Democrat voting against.

The Senate’s newest Republican member, Scott Brown of Massachusetts, voted against Kagan.

Partisan rancor continued to dominate the proceedings throughout the three days of debate and floor vote, including emotional rants about the merits of the federal law banning openly gay individuals from the military. Moments after the Senate voted for Kagan, the Senate launched into a debate over whether the upcoming defense authorization bill should include a measure seeking to repeal DADT.

Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., took to the floor numerous times over the two days of the debate on the Kagan nomination, repeating the same arguments over and over again. He said he believed Kagan defied federal laws regarding restrictions on the civil rights of gays and that, as solicitor general, she failed to defend DADT and DOMA.

But by the evening of Aug. 4, he had a new argument: Kagan would become justice and be able to vote on the Proposition 8 case. A federal judge ruled Aug. 4 that the California ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional.

Sessions said the Judge Vaughn Walker “just wiped out Proposition 8 that was passed by a majority of people in California...”

“This judge struck down Proposition 8 and, obviously, at some point this will get to the Supreme Court,” said Sessions. “The nominee [has] already demonstrated at Harvard that her views about Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell and similar social marriage, sexual relation matters involve such strong feelings on her part that she’s not been able to follow the law. I’m worried about that.”

Sessions went on at some length, criticizing Walker’s decision as being “replete” with “judicial activism.”

“When you empower a judge to do these kinds of things, you’ve given them control over you,” said Sessions. “You’ve given them the power to re-define marriage, when the people of the state don’t want to. And you have no recourse—they have a lifetime appointment.”

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., discussed his opposition to Kagan’s nomination, and staged a



Elena Kagan.

colloquy with Sessions in order to mock a statement by Kagan, during her confirmation, “I revere the military.”

McCain took particular pains to dramatize the recruitment controversy, painting a picture of a military officer, perhaps one just back from the war in Iraq, “wandering” the halls of Harvard alone and “hoping someone would stop” him and ask about opportunities to serve in the military. McCain said he would oppose Kagan’s nomination “precisely for this reason.” He and several other senators referred to Kagan’s treatment of military recruiters as amounting to a “separate but equal” accommodation.

Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., referred to Kagan’s efforts around military recruiters at Harvard Law School as a “scandal,” in which she “defied the law.”

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, said Kagan “hasn’t disavowed judicial activism, which makes me think that its a guiding principle in her thinking.” She said it was clear that Kagan’s “personal views were instructing her professional decisions in order to promote a social agenda.”

Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., raised his voice in considerable emotion to suggest Kagan doesn’t embrace the concepts of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that her appointment would, essentially, destroy the nation.

“Her wisdom and her vision is very different from our founders, our constitution, and our natural rights,” said Coburn. “This will be a huge mistake for this country.”

Kagan’s appointment will make her only the fourth woman in history to serve on the nation’s highest court. She will also bring to three the

number of women serving on the nine-member bench—the largest number of women members in history.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., spoke in support of Kagan’s nomination, but mentioned nothing about the controversies surrounding DADT or DOMA.

Kagan, 50, was sworn in as the newest U.S. Supreme Court justice Aug. 7.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Kagan is now the 112th U.S. Supreme Court justice—and its fourth female judge ever. Now, three of the justices on the court (Kagan, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor) are women.

Chief Justice John Roberts administered the oath of office. Afterwards, he said to Kagan, “We look forward to serving with you in our common calling.”

The U.S. Senate approved Kagan 63-37. She will be formally installed Oct. 1; the justices start their next term Oct. 4.

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—Contributing: Andrew Davis

Two charged in suburban hate crime

Two southwest suburban men are charged with felony hate crime and robbery for allegedly attacking a woman and shouting anti-gay slurs at her in June, according to a press release from the Cook County State’s Attorney issued Aug. 3.

Mohammad Shaban, 35, of Hickory Hills and Oak Lawn resident Akram Alshoweat, 22, could each receive seven years in prison if convicted.

Prosecutors said that on June 28, the victim entered a Hickory Hills restaurant when the suspects shouted at her in Arabic. Translations revealed the shouted statements to be anti-gay slurs and other disparaging remarks.

When the victim left the restaurant, the defendants allegedly punched and kicked her. In addition, they reportedly took her keys, wallet and cell phone.

Initially, Hickory Hills Police charged Shaban and Alshoweat with misdemeanor battery. However, the state’s attorney’s office upgraded the charges after reviewing the incident.

Last week, Alshoweat appeared in court; his bond was set at \$200,000. Shaban turned himself in to authorities Aug. 3; his bond was \$150,000.

Both defendants are slated to appear Aug. 17 in Bridgeview for a preliminary hearing.

Indiana hospital responds to trans incident

Administrators at Muncie, Ind.’s, Ball Memorial Hospital have responded to a transgender woman’s complaint by saying that the facility plans to correct problems she experienced, according to a press release from Indiana Equality (IE).

On July 18, transgender woman Erin Vaught

went to Ball’s emergency room, accompanied by her wife and their son, seeking treatment for what she suspected was a lung infection. According to the Muncie Star Press, staff members repeatedly degraded Vaught. At one point, Vaught’s wife was allegedly asked by a nurse, “So is it a he or a she? Or a he-she?” In the end, after a two-hour wait without any medical treatment, Vaught was told “we don’t know how to go about treating someone with your condition,” referring to her gender history.

Hospital President/CEO Mike Hale said the hospital is working with Indiana Equality and the Indiana Transgender Rights Advocacy Alliance to review its policies, training and employee benefits. Hospital officials also plan to install a diversity council.

“My family and I are overwhelmed by the positive support we’ve received online and in person from individuals, blogs, and advocacy groups,” said Vaught in the press release. “I never expected that so many people cared so deeply about my wellbeing and about adequate health care for the transgender community. I am excited to be working with INTRAA [Indiana Transgender Rights Advocacy Alliance], IE, and Ball Memorial management to address what happened to me and to improve health care services for everyone in the Muncie area. My fondest wish is that this tragedy leads to better health care and deeper understanding.”

City pays family of Tasered man \$500K

Chicago’s city council has agreed to pay the family of the late Ronald Hasse \$500,000 after police fatally used a Taser on him.

Windy City Times reported in 2005 that the Cook County medical examiner’s office ruled a Chicago police sergeant’s Taser stun gun killed Hasse Feb. 10 of that year.

Hasse was shot with the Taser in an apartment on 26th floor of 336 W. Wellington after they arrived to help Fire Department personnel and Hasse supposedly tried to bite an officer. Deputy medical examiner Scott Denton said that Hasse received the electrical shock for 57 seconds, more than 10 times the usual amount.

Hasse had a significant amount of methamphetamine in his bloodstream, which Denton said was a contributing factor to his death. He said he could not conclude whether the shock alone would have been fatal if Hasse’s body had not already been under stress from the drug.

However, a couple who witnessed the situation involving Hasse told Windy City Times that the police distorted the facts. For example, Eric Miller (who, along with his partner Steve Giardino, saw what happened) said, “[Hasse] was never rushed to the hospital [as the police stated]. ... It was 45 minutes before paramedics even arrived. He died at the scene.”

The Chicago Tribune reported that Hasse was accused of burying Michael Denvit at Hasse’s parents’ home in 2001 after Denvit died at Hasse’s own home.

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Parents big part of Prop 8 support

BY CHUCK COLBERT

A key finding from a new report on Proposition 8 shows that parents were a decisive voter demographic in the passage of California's 2008 anti-gay ballot measure that rolled back marriage equality.

In the final stretch, after six weeks of exposure to television advertising that played up anti-gay prejudice—the fear of harm to children—approximately 687,000 voters changed their minds.

More than 500,000 of those who ended up voting for the ban were parents with children under the age of 18 living at home, according to David Fleischer, who authored the 511-page opus magnum titled "The Prop 8 Report: What Defeat in California Can Teach Us about Winning Future Ballot Measures on Same-Sex Marriage."

Because Proposition 8 passed by a slim 52-48 percent margin or 600,000 votes, "this shift alone more than handed victory to opponents," Fleischer explained in August 3 Los Angeles op-ed piece, published the day of the report's release.

So what happened?

"Yes on 8 campaign's TV ads strategically targeted parents of young children. The most memorable ad begins, 'Mom! Guess what I learned in school today,' says a little girl, who allegedly learned she could marry a princess when she grew up.

It's a scare tactic as old as Anita Bryant's 1977 Save Our Children crusade, a ballot campaign that successfully overturned Dade County Florida's anti-discrimination ordinance. Play up untruths: Children will be taught about gay marriage in public schools and learn about gay sex. There, they will also get recruited into the "lifestyle" and thereby be more likely to become gay or choose to be gay.

Gay marriage proponents' "No on 8" campaign, the report finds, enjoyed some success in pushing back fears about children. But a two-week delay in rebuttal TV ads was too little, too late—a costly mistake, according to the study.

The report notes the same reluctance to strike back last fall in Maine where same-sex marriage opponents ran essentially the same kind of negative "parent-targeted fear mongering" TV ads.

A spokesperson for a leading gay parenting and LGBT family advocacy organization said he was not surprised by the study's key finding. "This report reinforced much of what we knew but emphasized those who moved away from us in droves—straight moms with kids under the age of 18," said Kevin Nix, communications director of the Washington, DC-based Family Equality Council (www.familyequality.org), an LGBT advocacy organization.

"We need to better communicate with these moms outside of the rough and tumble of a campaign," he added. "We need to not only knock down the fear and fiction from the other side but also focus more on speaking the language of parents."

Family Equality Executive Director Jennifer Chrisler made that point even clearer. "We need to put the power and passion of LGBT parents to work for our cause of equality," she wrote in an op-ed posted on Pam's House Blend. "Here is the truth. Our equality—whether it's marriage rights, parenting rights, equal rights in any arena—will only be realized when those who do not know us make connections to us, to our lives and find some common bond. We don't have to make the connection with every person, but we have to forge it with at least 50 percent plus one of the population."

Chrisler added, "LGBT parents are a completely untapped secret weapon in this work. We can talk at play dates and in playgrounds, bedtime and bath time, school proms and back to



Family Equality Executive Director Jennifer Chrisler.

school."

A product of the Los Angeles-based LGBT Mentoring Project, The Prop 8 Report is independently financed, comprehensive study, which includes analysis of 10,000 pages of previously unreleased data. The full report is available at www.Project8Report.org.

The Prop 8 Report included some other key findings.

For example, another block of voters who shifted away from marriage equality in significant numbers were white Democrats and Independents—and voters in the greater Bay Area.

Writing in his op-ed, Fleischer underscored that hate was not a motivating factor among the 687,000 voters who, in changing their minds, voted for Prop 8. "After all, they supported same-sex marriage before the opposition peeled them away," he wrote. They were, however, "susceptible to an appeal based on anti-gay prejudice."

What about confusion over the wording of the ballot measure?

Data suggests that voter confusion in fact worked to the advantage of same-sex marriage backers. If all voters fully understood how to express their true views the ballot, Proposition 8 would have passed by an even wider margin—54 to 46 percent or one million votes.

As the report states, "There were wrong-way voters on both sides. In total, 876,987 voters who wanted to eliminate gay marriage cast no votes while 651,757 voters trying to keep gay marriage voted yes. Taking all wrong-way votes into account, No on 8 was the net beneficiary by approximately 400,000 votes."

Taken all together, what does the Prop 8 Report data and analysis hold out for the future of marriage equality at the polls?

"Generations of research on voting behavior find that the largest single effect of election campaigns is to reinforce existing attitudes and predispositions. Conversion is a relatively rare effect in an election campaign," wrote guest Bilerico blogger Kenneth Sherrill, professor emeritus of political science at Hunter College-City University of New York.

"One of the most important lessons to learn from the Proposition 8 campaign is that if supporters of equality wait until rights are on the ballot, they've waited too long. Instead, there must be constant mobilization, slowly educating and enlightening the electorate. The next campaign should be about reinforcing and mobilizing enlightened attitudes toward LGBT people and our rights."

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Locals respond to Prop 8 ruling

BY KATE SOSIN

"The ruling that Proposition 8 violates the US Constitutions equal protection and due process clauses is a victory for the LGBT community all around the country. The landmark decision came after same-sex couples shared their personal stories with the judge and the public. I'm convinced that continuing to tell our stories to friends, family, coworkers and through the media is an essential step to achieving our full equality."—Kevin Boyer, GLAAD Chicago Leadership council co-chair.

"The federal court's decision was the most thorough analysis of the facts behind anti-marriage campaigns. And the court determined that subjecting fundamental rights of a minority group to the whim of the majority violates the core principles of the U.S. Constitution. However, this is only one step on the road toward full equality for LGBT people and, unfortunately, it doesn't directly impact the legal status of same-sex couples in Illinois. Same-sex relationships are still not recognized in Illinois. And

while we take comfort in this decision, we must continue fighting until all Americans are protected equally under the law, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity."—Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois

"As my wife, Char, says, 'We want our gay son to have the same rights as our straight son—nothing more but certainly nothing less.' With Judge Walker's decision, the day when our gay son and our straight son both have the civil right to marry is closer than ever. Eventually, the Supreme Court will review the body of evidence presented in Judge Walker's court and, I believe, concur that marriage equality should be secured and protected."—John R. Cepek, national president of PFLAG (based in Illinois)

"[Join the Impact-Chicago] is thrilled with Judge Walker's decision to overturn Prop 8, restoring civil rights to queer people in California. This victory is incredibly significant for our organizations since we were born out of the initial Prop. 8 ballot measure. Though we are ignited with hope and a sense of justice, we know that there is still much work to be done, and we will not cease to fight until there is full federal equality for every queer citizen in the United States."—Lindsey Dietzler, member of Join the Impact-Chicago

Celebrating the Prop 8 ruling



News of the overturning of Proposition 8 in California spread quickly through Chicago Aug. 4. By 7 p.m., the day's thunderstorms had lifted and more than 100 people had gathered at Daley Plaza to celebrate.

"We haven't had a chance to see what democracy looks like in a long time," Matty Zaradich of Join the Impact-Chicago declared through a bullhorn. Aug. 4, he said, was different.

Speakers from Join the Impact-Chicago and LGBT Change, the two groups that organized the rally, stressed that the fight for same-sex marriage in California was far from over, but the mood in the crowd was unmistakably joyous as the rally turned to a march.

Rally attendees chanted, "No more Prop. 8; equal rights in every state!" as they left Daley Plaza for Grant Park. Police on bicycles patrolled the route, but exchanges between marchers and bystanders appeared friendly, if not ecstatic. Passing drivers honked their praises. Many people dining outside on Michigan Avenue applauded and cheered.

"This is a really wonderful decision, and it changes the landscape for us," said Bill Greaves, director of Chicago LGBT Advisory Council. Rebecca Perlow, 27, of Alsip also called the news wonderful. She was united with her girlfriend in a Chicago ceremony in May, and she hoped that the overturning of Proposition 8 is a first step towards marriage for all. "This is our home and it's where we wanted to get married," she said. "I'm so excited."

The march ended in Grant Park, where rally organizers urged the crowd to stay active in the fight for marriage equality. Photos by Kate Sosin

Gay Georgia teen overcomes many hurdles

BY ROSS FORMAN

Derrick Martin starts classes this fall at Georgia Southern University to pursue a law degree, and he's going on a full scholarship after graduating from high school with all honors.

But his final months at Bleckley County High School in Cochran, Ga., were part nightmare, part Hollywood script—and, amazingly, all real.

Let's jump back to the spring, when Martin decided he was going to his senior prom with his boyfriend at the time, Richard Goodman. Martin first told the school's principal and, well, that's when the drama started.

"At first, the school said, 'No,'" Martin said. "My principal told me that Bleckley County was not ready for 'this,' and that I would have to change my date. After some meetings with the superintendent and [the] school board, the principal was told that they could not forbid me from taking my boyfriend because there was no mention of this in the handbook."

So Martin and Goodman were prom-bound, all set for the April 17 extravaganza.

"Prom went without a hitch," Martin said. "When we arrived, we were cheered into the building, and no one bothered us all night. We slow danced to a couple songs, and by the end of the night, it was like we were no different from those dancing around us."

"When I [first] announced that I was going to take my boyfriend, I got a mixed response. All of my friends were fine with it. In fact, they were extremely proud of me for standing up for myself. However, there were a few particular social groups in my school that thought what I was doing was wrong, and that I was bringing shame to their town by announcing it, especially on the [local] news. I was threatened with things like being paint-balled when I got out of the car at prom, to someone telling me that he had a gun in his car with my name on it. It was a very stressful time in my life."

"[But,] from the moment we got out of the car, we were cheered at from everyone at the red-carpet walkthrough. Once inside, we just made sure we were with friends and that we never went anywhere alone, just to be sure no one tried anything stupid. No one bothered us, and we had a great time. We danced all night long, and when we left, I surprised him by blindfolding him and taking him to the beach in Savannah."

Martin and Goodman dated for about a year, but have since broken up.

"We came to an impasse, and felt it was our only choice," Martin said.

Martin was a member of several organizations in high school, including the Future Educators Association, Future Business Leaders Association, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, chorus and drama.

But the drama he endured at home earlier this year was anything but make-believe. It was all-

too-real—perhaps surreal.

"I came home the day that I did my first interview with the local paper, and [my parents] had already read it," Martin said. "I got home later than usual; I had decided to go eat with a few co-workers after work at a local tutoring facility for at-risk children. When I came in the door, my mother told me, 'You need to move out; get your things and go.'"

Martin, 19, was on his own—because of his parent's objection to his sexual orientation.

"The first few weeks were terrible," Martin said. "I just can not describe the feelings of both abandonment and rejection that were racing through my mind."

"I lived with a really good friend and her family. It was very tumultuous, as I was being contacted by media and countless individuals who wanted to help, but my parents wouldn't even talk to me. It was hard, but it really made me a stronger person."

Martin has, as of mid-July, only spoken with his parents once since he was kicked out—when they informed him that his dog had died.

"My lowest point was the night after my parents kicked me out," Martin said. "I felt so alone, and didn't sleep all that night. GLAAD and all those who contacted me helped me to dig out, by showing me that there were others out there [who] wanted to help."

Martin came out late in his sophomore year which, he admits, was dramatic and painful.

"I was kept away from my boyfriend by my parents, and it ended up killing our relationship," he said.

Martin is motivated and driven, a teen with a goal well beyond his ages. This summer, he launched Project LifeVest, and is its president.

"When I first was contacted by an organization that really wanted to help, it was GLAAD," Martin said. "They took almost all of the work from me, and allowed me to live the life of a normal teenager, while they handled the media. Then, when I came to California, I was invited to an event where I would be presented with a Courage Award alongside Constance McMillen [the Mississippi lesbian teen who had her own prom-related issues this past spring]. It was GLAAD who threw me the life vest that I needed, and it was Lifeworks LA that inspired me to create an organization that does not exist in Georgia where I live."

"Life now is very exciting. I am living with two great friends of mine who took me into their home when I came out to California. Lately, all of my time has been completely devoted to LifeVest, and I am extremely proud of the work that we will be doing."

The mission of Project LifeVest is simple, as stated on its website: "To be a helping hand, a



Derrick Martin. Photo by Adam Bouska

life vest, to as many LGBTQ teens and adults as possible. We will carry out this mission through the establishment of safe places in as many cities as possible; through opening a call center with a qualified and well-educated and experienced team of counselors who can give advice and guidance where needed; through finding qualified and screened families who can, if the need arises, host rejected teens while they finish schooling or find a new place."

Said Martin: "Today's LGBTQ youth have so many pressures to take on. We do have an easier time than the youth of 50 years ago, and times are still changing. I'm just glad to be able to work toward such an amazing goal, standing by others like myself: Constance, Caleb [Laieski], and a few others who are working behind the scenes."

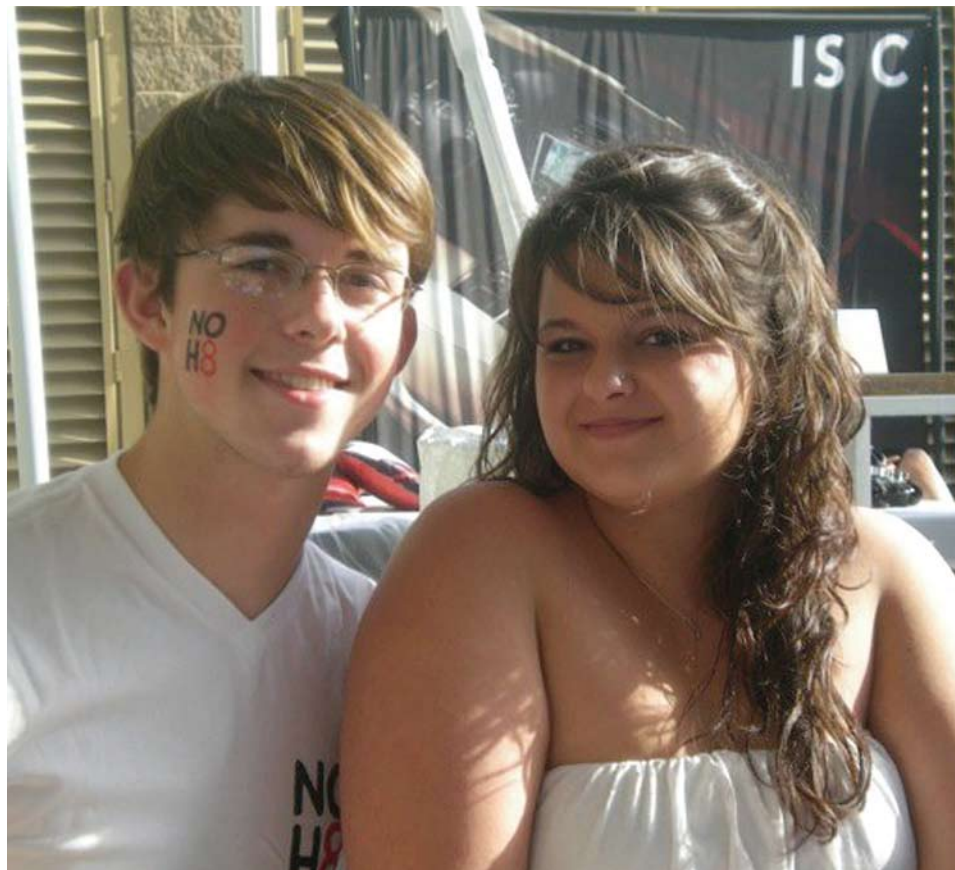
Laieski is a teenager in Arizona who has endured incredible taunts, even death threats, since revealing he was gay. Laieski has since founded Gays and Lesbians United Against Discrimination (GLAUD).

"Derrick Martin's experience in high school is somewhat different than [mine]," Laieski said. "My experience is more bully and harassment based, as his is more discrimination based."

"However, we both share the common experience of homophobia in schools, often cited as 'hatred in the hallways.'"

"I applaud Derrick for taking this bold stand in a part of the country, rural Georgia, which is not [traditionally] receptive to openly gay people or gay rights. He has brought national attention to bringing same-sex dates to school functions and further put school districts across the country on notice that openly gay teens do attend their schools and, as time goes on, they will no longer accept discrimination. School administrators must modernize their policies accordingly."

"Luckily, Derrick was able to take his boyfriend to the prom. However it cost him his family. Derrick founded his own organization, Project LifeVest. The goals of this organization may seem simple, but really [are] one of the top resources that there is a demand for within our community."



Derrick Martin and Constance McMillen. Photos courtesy of Martin

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Alderman Mary Ann Smith.

Aldermen Shiller, Smith to leave office

BY MASON HARRISON

Two longtime aldermanic allies of Chicago's LGBT community are stepping down from public life after more than 40 years of collective service, according to announcements made last week. Aldermen Helen Shiller and Mary Ann Smith represent the 46th and 48th wards respectively, each with significant numbers of LGBT residents. (They are joining 43rd Ward Alderman Vi Daley in leaving office.)

Shiller came to power during the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in 1987 when funding to combat the disease was "woefully lacking," according to Lori Cannon, a decades-long Shiller supporter. "Helen Shiller is one of the unsung heroes of not just the gay community but of the AIDS community," added Cannon. "She saw that people were dropping like flies. [The epidemic] washed over [Chicago] like a wave."

Shiller was instrumental in securing funding from city coffers to fight the disease and to provide services to those who had been diagnosed, including securing space for an AIDS hospice in her Uptown ward despite the resistance the project received from some area residents. "She made it her mission to help get funding [for HIV]," Cannon said. "She did whatever it took. Standing alongside us the whole time was Helen Shiller."

Smith's story of allegiance to Chicago's LGBT community is similar. Along with Shiller, Smith, early on, backed the city's human-rights and domestic-partner ordinances, which ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and provide some level of benefits to LGBT residents of the city, respectively. Smith, who took office in 1989, was among the first aldermen to hire openly gay staffers. Openly gay state Rep. Greg Harris, Smith's former chief of staff, told Windy City Times that "since the beginning [Smith] has led the way in advancing the cause of LGBT people in the city."

Shiller, who was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame as a friend of the community in 2000, "will be missed," said Michael O'Connor, a founder of the Rocks Coordinating Committee, which organizes a Black LGBT Pride and HIV-testing event on the lakefront each year. O'Connor praised Shiller's longstanding support for the group and its efforts. He called Shiller a rare "health policy reformer."

Shiller and Smith have sometimes been derided and praised as "lakefront liberals" from backers and opponents. But their policies together have helped to change a city once closed to the idea of providing equal rights to its LGBT residents.

"[Shiller] was a supporter of this community when no one else was, including Mayor Daley," Cannon said.

Shiller plans to spend her time in political retirement advocating for affordable and equitable housing, while Smith will continue to examine issues surrounding the city's water quality, according to news reports.

Quinn gets push from gay PAC

BY JOHN FENOGLIO

Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn got a push for election from the Equality Illinois Political Action Committee (EQIL-PAC), an organization that advocates equitable rights for LGBT people, Aug. 8 during this year's 29th annual Northalsted Market Days event, the largest street fair in the Midwest.

Quinn, whose public approval ratings have sagged in recent months, used the opportunity to ramp up support for election. He took the stage on Halsted and Brompton before thousands of festivalgoers, urging them to "Get out the Vote" as well as to drawing distinctions between himself and his Republican opponent, state Sen. Bill Brady. The governor was joined by a bevy of political supporters, including state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz; Mike McRaith, director of the Illinois Dept. of Insurance (one of three openly gay agency director appointees in Quinn's administration); Brent Adams, secretary of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation; and Rick Garcia, director of public policy for Equality Illinois.

EQIL-PAC's endorsement of Quinn and its message ("Stop Bill Brady") underscore the stark differences between the two gubernatorial candidates' positions on issues concerning the LGBT community.



Gov. Quinn at this year's Market Days event. Photo by Jerry Nunn

"For the gay community, there's simply no choice. Brady is decidedly against fair treatment and decency towards us. Governor Quinn, on the other hand, publically advocates equality. It's that simple," Garcia told Windy City Times.

Brady, the former state rep. and unsuccessful candidate for the GOP nomination for governor in 2006, is described as a "hard right" candidate by gay-rights advocates and many other Democrats. Not surprisingly, he is against civil unions and marriage equality for LGBT people. Yet, what is of greater concern to people like Garcia are Brady's proactive positions on ensuring the safety—or lack thereof—of LGBT people.

"It's not like we're dealing with a moderate candidate. Bill Brady doesn't even know where the middle is! There are plenty of Republicans, like Judy Barr Topinka, who stand up for equitable treatment of LGBT citizens. But Brady wants to legislate discrimination. He's against hate

crimes legislation that protects gay people from vicious discrimination. He even supports killing state-run programs aimed at saving the lives of people with HIV/AIDS and certain cancers," Garcia said.

On Feb. 10, 2010, Brady sponsored a bill that would undo provisions of the Illinois Human Rights Act—namely, to allow discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations against LGBT people. He has also proposed several amendments to the state Constitution to ban civil unions.

Because of these positions, Quinn remains the favored candidate for many LGBT individuals. In June, he signed landmark legislation aimed at preventing bullying and violence in schools, which included protections for gay youth. He also supports same-sex civil unions and equal protections for gay people.

Elections for governor will take place Nov. 2. For more information, visit www.elections.il.gov.

Protesters picket anti-gay academy in Arlington Heights

BY KATE SOSIN

In what Gay Liberation Network's (GLN's) Andy Thayer called Arlington Heights' largest LGBT demonstration ever, more than 120 protesters filled the sidewalk in front of the Christian Liberty Academy Aug. 5 to condemn a program that they say, teaches youth to hate gay people.

Americans for Truth About Homosexuality (AFTA), an organization that the Southern Poverty Law Center has officially labeled a hate group, launched its "Truth Academy" Aug. 5. According to the AFTA website, the program is intended to "teach pro-family advocates how to answer homosexual misinformation."

Some of those advocates are as young as 14 years old, Thayer said.

"We're not going to give an inch to this kind of hate," Thayer said. "We're not going to take the ignore it and it will go away approach, which has proven so disastrous in history."

Thayer has previously faced off against AFTA's founder, Peter LaBarbera. (LaBarbera once led the conservative group the Illinois Family Institute.) He likened LaBarbera's anti-gay campaign to that of Anita Bryant, the former beauty queen who famously took on Harvey Milk.

Protesters ranged from young people with makeshift drums to PFLAG grandparents, and hailed from Chicago and several suburbs. Some high school students attended with their parents. Protesters marched in circles in front of the academy under rainbow flags provided by GLN. Above them, an academy sign read: "Truth is not hate, except for those who hate the truth."

Speakers accused LaBarbera of brainwashing children to hate gay people.

LaBarbera and other AFTA representatives



Left: Pro-gay activists protest the "Truth Academy." Right: "Truth Academy" head Peter LaBarbera. Photos by Kate Sosin

came out to confront protesters, shaking hands with demonstrators, smiling and laughing.

"I think you can disagree without hating people," LaBarbera told Windy City Times. "We're teaching our values."

But Cindy Grossman, whose son is gay, called teaching kids that gay people are sinners "child abuse," and one protester likened LaBarbera to Hitler.

But both AFTA and the protesters publicly defended each other's right to disagree.

"This academy thinks it's teaching the truth, and I'm standing here in my lived truth," Barbara Marian, a PFLAG mom.

Despite taunts from protesters, AFTA representatives appeared calm, debating with activists for nearly an hour. Several AFTA supporters filmed the protest and took pictures of demonstrators, agitating the crowd. The Arlington Heights Police Department reported 10 officers on duty for the event, and AFTA also had its own in-house security team present. The protest ended without incident.

Gay man assaulted in Lakeview

BY SAMUEL WORLEY

Michael Carr, president of the Chicago chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans, was assaulted in Boystown in the early morning hours of July 29.

Carr, 30, told Windy City Times that he was walking west down Buckingham around 1 a.m. when he was "stopped" by a man on the street. Carr, who lives at Aldine and Lake Shore, said that he was coming home from Minibar.

"Before I knew it," he said, "I was laying in some bushes with a bloody chin."

Yelling for help, Carr attracted the attention of two men, who called 911. He said that the attacker did not take anything. Carr was taken to Illinois Masonic Hospital, where he received five stitches.

According to the Chicago Police Department, the attacker is "an unknown [B]lack male. A verbal exchange took place after which the victim was struck by the offender. The offender then fled the scene in an unknown direction. The victim was subsequently treated for minor injuries." The charge is listed as a simple assault.

Carr is in his second year as head of the local chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay GOP group. He told Windy City Times that currently the group is embarking on a campaign to educate area GOP leaders on issues like marriage equality.

"They just don't know the issues," he said. "It's not on their radar."

Carr said that he sees gay-inclusiveness as an effective way to revive the flagging popularity of the Republican Party. "The party's constituency is shrinking," he said. "We think that supporting civil unions or marriage equality is a step in the right direction."



Studio 659. Photo courtesy of Kathleen Ulm

BUSINESS STUDIO 659: New art space opens in Whiting, Ind.

BY ROSS FORMAN

When STUDIO 659 had its grand opening July 16, organizers were expecting about 100 people to walk through the doors.

However, more than 500 showed up.

They came to the new art gallery in Whiting, Ind., from all around northwest Indiana as well as Chicago—and were entertained with the classical music from violist Dr. Robert Vodnoy and opera singer Sharon Quattrain.

“Our goal is to provide arts to the community in a variety of forms,” said Kathleen Ulm, president of the new Whiting Arts Council (WAC). “We will have both adult and children classes taught by skilled professionals. The classes will be a bit of everything from painting, drawing and stained glass to singing, improvisation, poetry, photography and more. Our ideas are endless on what this building can provide the community and surrounding communities.”

“We also will have live performances in the space and are currently booking a Chicago Improv group, a book signing and a live band night for September. We are open to all ideas from poetry slams, monologue nights to small theater.”

STUDIO 659 takes its name from the old prefix to the phone numbers in Whiting, and is located on 119th Street. Ulm is the owner of The Junkyard, a T-shirt shop in Whiting, and has one of two mayoral-appointed seats on the WAC. Ulm is also formerly associated with Chix Mix productions in Chicago, as co-founder of the women’s party promotion company, and she is also former promotions director for Windy City Media Group.

STUDIO 659 was the brainchild of Whiting Mayor Joseph Stahura.

“The City of Whiting, along with Whiting’s Re-development Commission, bought the building after the previous tenants moved out,” Ulm said. “The city remodeled the inside and soon will do a façade update as well. The space was essentially donated to the Whiting Arts Council to put in a new Art Studio for the town. The mayor has been extremely instrumental in moving Whiting forward.”

Whiting, located along Lake Michigan, is about a 20-minute drive from downtown Chicago.

“Stahura is redoing our lakefront to the tune of \$45 million of RDA grant money and the city is in the middle of a creating a million dollar Historical Museum to open in 2012, also funded from outside sources, not from taxpayers,” Ulm said. “The downtown historic district, where the Studio is located, is filled with quaint mom-and-pop shops and restaurants. It’s really an ideal location if you want to buy a house and still just be a hop and a jump from [Chicago].”

“For a small town, Whiting has a thriving arts scene. We have an award-winning town theater, Marian Theatre Guild, one of the last standing and operating historical movie palaces, The Hoosier Theatre, which shows movies daily and a local art group, 119th St. Artists. We also have a non-profit group called Arts Alive!, and its main goal it is to continue to keep the arts thriving in Whiting through funding. They also do an annual Garden Tour and a winter Home Tour. Whiting also has a superb Lakefront Symphony that performs throughout the summer outside at the lakefront pavilion. Many of the individuals heading up those groups are the people on the Whiting Arts Council.”

Despite the Indiana address, STUDIO 659 is very active in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. STUDIO 659 solicited artists from Rogers Park, Blue Island, Lincoln Park and elsewhere for its first show.

“Since Whiting is such a great town, we wanted people in Chicago to know it’s only a short drive from the city and it’s full of life for artists,” Ulm said.

The LGBT community also is important to STUDIO 659, Ulm said. Very important.

“Some of our panel of council members and volunteers are from the LGBT community, including myself,” she said. “Some of the artists as well who showed at the grand opening are openly gay, including Jackie Weinberg of Supergurl Images. Jackie is a great graphic designer in the Chicago area, as well as in the LGBT community. She takes these fantastic photographs with her iPhone so we wanted to get her cutting edge work into the show—and people loved it. We hope to bring down much more talent from the LGBT community to not only show their art, but perhaps do classes as well as LGBT-themed nights.”

“We have been in talks with David Cerda from Hell in a Handbasket Productions who grew up [in nearby] Hammond, Ind., to return and perform something at the Studio and I have been wanting to set up a Poetry Slam night with a LGBT-slanted theme.”

Ulm added: “Whiting is growing in a progressive direction because we are so close to Chicago. You can find wonderfully large historical houses, or newly built housing, on tree-lined streets for unreal prices. And the LGBT community is growing daily with many business owners in town being openly gay. It’s a welcoming community where you walk down the street and people say ‘Hello’ as they are sitting on their porch. Sometimes it seems like a flash back in time. But then you see new condos coming up, surfers on the lake, gay couples holding hands and you realize it’s moving forward in such a positive way. I have to say that a large part of all the positive energy is really due to Mayor Joe Stahura. Come check out [Whiting,] and who knows the chances are, you may get to meet him in person.”

For more information on STUDIO 659, contact Ulm at Studio659@aol.com.



The D.S. Tequila Company owner John Dalton (right) and business partner Stu Zirin. Photo by Ross Forman

BUSINESS Boystown bar/eatery entertains the masses

BY ROSS FORMAN

The new kid on the block has a lot of local connections.

The grand opening for the D.S. Tequila Company, 3352 N. Halsted, is scheduled for Aug. 14-15. D.S. is located across the street from Minibar and next to Roscoe’s in the heart of Boystown—with strong ties to both popular bars.

“We feel that Halsted Street was missing a neighborhood bar/restaurant. It has a good number of restaurants and a good number of bars, but not bar/restaurants,” said John Dalton, 33, the owner of D.S. Tequila Company, which promises high quality food, drinks and service. “We will have daily specials and the food is very reasonably priced. We also are a completely a la cart menu, so you can order what you want and not waste [any food].”

The D.S. Tequila Company—which will have its own brand of tequila made in the Guadalajara region of Mexico by the end of 2010—is a Tex-Mex restaurant with flavorful and tasty burgers, tacos and more. Of course there are fresh-fruit margaritas and plenty of people-watching seats in the outside seating area that can accommodate 80. Inside, the facility can had about 100.

Dalton’s business partner of five years, Stu Zirin, created the menu.

D.S. will have about 30 employees—gay, straight and bisexual, male and female. Dalton said there will be no crossover of employment between D.S. and Mini Bar.

D.S. certainly appears to be a, “fun, laid back, neighborhood bar and city food destination,” as Dalton predicted.

Dalton, who has lived in Chicago for 15 years, said D.S. likely will attract gay and straight customers, particularly sports bar fans. He previously was the operations manager/postman/bartender at Roscoe’s from 2001-2005.

“I’ve always wanted to be in this industry; that’s why I started working at Roscoe’s, but I was open to working anywhere as long as it was in this industry,” said Dalton, who graduated from Northwestern University.

“We will have a full list of our promotions after our grand opening, slated for the weekend after Market Days. We are still operating in a ‘soft opening mode.’ We are still training new servers, bartenders and working hard with the kitchen to make sure that when our menu is complete, and when our promotions are in full swing, the experience is perfect every time.”

Based on Dalton’s past, D.S. should be an instant hit in Boystown.



D.S. Tequila Company staff. Photos by Kirk Williamson

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Gaga-palooza

Lollapalooza brought in crowds of approximately 90,000 per day this past weekend. With eight stages to choose from fans were offered a variety of acts from Erykah Badu to Devo to Soundgarden. But it was Lady Gaga who upstaged many groups as she crowd surfed with Justin Tranter the lead singer from Semi Precious Weapons and Gaga wannabes dressed like her. In addition, there were many parties, including one with Perez Hilton at the Hard Rock Hotel as well as Berlin's Freak Ball that featured Gaga's tour DJ and friend, DJ Lady Starlight.

Look for upcoming music interviews as Windy City Times went backstage to talk to various acts. Visit www.lollapalooza.com for future information about the festival as it turns 20 next year. Photos by Jerry Nunn (except where indicated)



Photo by Dave Mead



Perez Hilton's Lollapalooza pre-party at the Hard Rock Hotel. Photos by Jerry Nunn



Berlin's Lollapalooza pre-party The Freak Ball. Photos by John Fenoglio and Kirk Williamson



Photo by Jack Edinger



Photo by Matt Ellis

**Thursday, Aug. 12
7:30 p.m.
Alexa Stevenson
Half-Baked: The Story
of My Nerves,
My Newborn, And
How We Both
Learned to Breathe**

**Thursday, Aug. 19
7:30 p.m.
Sharon Pomerantz
Rich Boy**



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Market Daze

Tens of thousands of people crowded the Halsted strip Aug. 7-8 to celebrate the annual Northalsted Market Days. This event is the largest two-day street fair in the Midwest. Among other things, the event featured three music stages with more than 40 acts performing, including Joan Jett, Jennifer Holliday, Blake Lewis, Kimi Hayes, Brit Beat, 7th Heaven, the Righteously Outrageous Twirling Corps and The Joans.

Northalsted Market Days is also known for its vast array of unique vendors, and proved it again this year with approximately 400 food and arts-and-crafts vendors. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com). More photos on page 21 and online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com





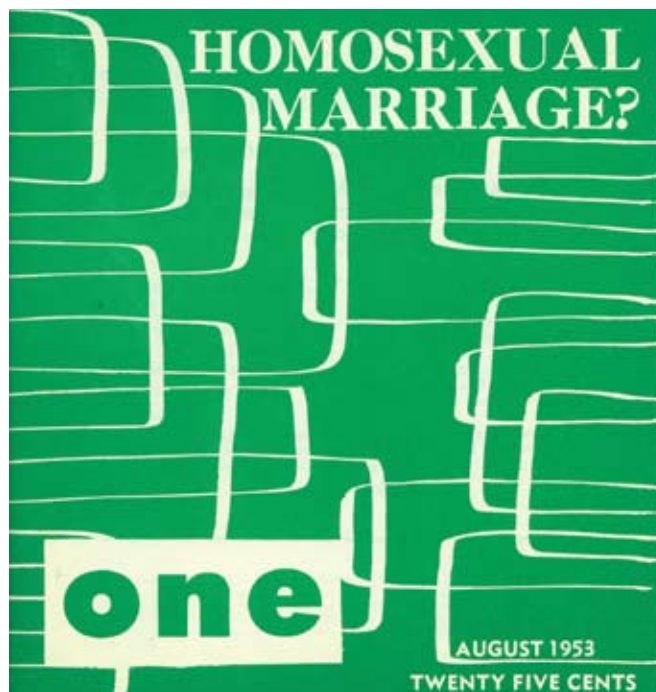
A history of marriage equality

While the LGBT community's struggle for marriage equality began long before California's Proposition 8, this week's ruling overturning the ban on same-sex marriage in California marks an historic turning point in this ongoing struggle. Although the decision will likely be appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, its historic nature cannot be overlooked.

ONE National & Gay Lesbian Archives (ONE Archives), North America's oldest LGBT organization, serves as the repository for decades of LGBT historic materials, including those that chronicle the struggle for marriage equality over the past 60 years. For instance, ONE magazine (which was among the first U.S. gay magazines), for which ONE Archives is named, introduced the topic of marriage in an early issue.

When ONE magazine introduced the topic of marriage in the 1950s in an opinion piece, the author opined, "[P]erhaps most important is the fact that the concept of homosexual marriage cannot come into being without the companion idea: homosexual adultery...[e]qual rights mean equal responsibility; equal freedoms mean equal limitations." For many of the readers of ONE and for the LGBT community in the 1950s more generally, marriage was a moral issue that reflected the strong impetus at the time for the LGBT community to assimilate itself to heterosexual marital standards.

In the June 1963 issue of ONE magazine, Randy Lloyd, a frequent contributor, railed against those singles. "There are many homophiles who, like me, find the homophile married life so much more preferable, ethically superior, enjoyable, exciting, less-responsibility-ridden (contrary to a lot of propaganda from the single set), and just plain more fun—well there's no beating around the bush—the truth is, many of us married homophiles regard our life as such, much superior and as a consequence, mainly stick to ourselves and look down our noses at the trouble-causing, time-wasting, money-scattering, frantically promiscuous, bar-cruising, tearoom peeping, street



crotch-watching, bathhouse-towel-twitching, and moviehouse-nervous-knee single set."

If the mid-century issues were about morality and assimilation, the liberation ideology of the 1970s began to convince many that the time was ripe for a new kind of open activism in favor of gay marriage that was less about morality and more about legal equality. By the early 1970s magazines like the Advocate began to examine various test cases brought against the government like the couple who tested a case with the Immigration and Naturalization Service and were simply told that, "You have failed to establish that a bona fide marital relationship can exist between two faggots."

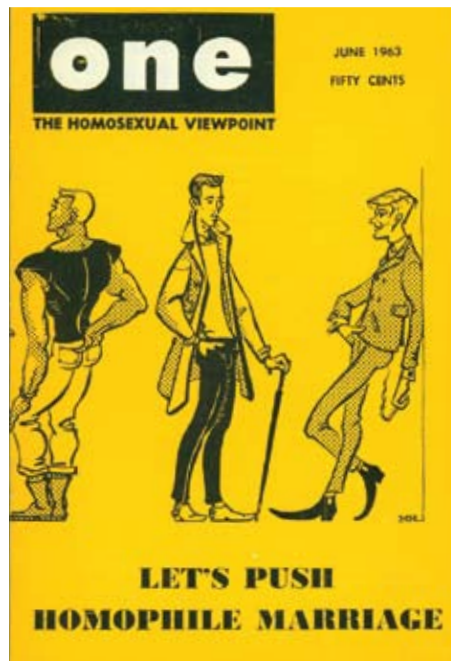
By the 1980s the community was facing a more serious threat than moral campaigns and legal struggles, that of the AIDS pandemic, which largely shoved the discussion of marriage aside in most publications. Although there was coverage inside the publications few spoke of it on their covers. Survival was the central issue.

The 1990s was a decade of mainstreaming in the LGBT community. No longer was the topic of same sex marriage exclusive to the covers of publications for the gay audience. Magazines like the Economist, The Nation and Newsweek all displayed covers about the marriage issue. Some in the LGBT community seemed to question the need for marriage at all, while others saw it as a pivotal and burning issue. And then, when Hawaii considered marriage, it made the

cover of the Advocate.

From early "Boston Marriages" popularized in historical literature to the cover of the August 1953 issue of ONE magazine, the topic of marriage was frequently debated in the LGBT community. In recent decades, that debate has widened to a nation-wide focus by political, social, educational and religious organizations as public opinion in favor of marriage equality grew. The recent court ruling invalidating California's Proposition 8 is a critical historic milestone along the path toward LGBT civil rights. By understanding this historic moment in the context of our community's history, we can be much better equipped to advance the cause of equality for all.

Incorporated in 1952, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives is the oldest ongoing LGBT organization in North America. See www.onearchives.org.



BRIAN MAHANY

Land of the enlightened? Not quite yet

On Aug. 4, a United States District Court judge ruled unconstitutional California's Proposition 8, a ballot initiative that banned same-sex marriages. Less than one year ago, President Barack Obama signed into law the Matthew Shepard legislation, making the commission of a crime against someone based on his or her sexual orientation a federal hate crime. Both events are milestones in the war on discrimination.

Passage of a law or an important court victory does end our battle for equality. Unfortunately, the battle against all types of discrimination is far from over. Over the last decade, we have watched discrimination become more subtle. However, it remains alive and well in all flavors

and colors.

Within the work place and housing industry, most landlords and employers know they can no longer blatantly refuse to hire someone based on the color of their skin. And in increasing numbers of jurisdictions, it is no longer proper to consider sexual orientation. Those laws, however, do little to change attitudes or assure equality.

Public attitudes are slow to change. In many cases it requires one or more generations to effect meaningful change. Unfortunately, the courts continue to see record numbers of discrimination cases. More cases instead of fewer.

As a society, we must be ever vigilant to discrimination around us. A company with a quiet policy of not hiring gays might be harder to spot but the conduct is still illegal. And virtually every jurisdiction in the United States now has "whistleblower" laws to protect concerned employees that oppose discrimination in the workplace.

Getting co-workers to stop using the term "fag" or the n-word (a derogatory term for African Americans) was relatively easy. Changing the attitudes of those workers and ending discrimination in workplaces, accommodations and housing is not.

Yes, it is time to celebrate our hard-fought

victories but let's never rest until we work and live in a world where we are free to openly celebrate our diversity. Be vigilant for hiring and promotion trends at works, secret code words and unequal pay. As one temp agency found out, writing "hockey player" on interview notes or "likes cupcakes" had nothing to do with a prospective workers hobbies or food preference. It was nothing more than a thinly disguised ploy to let managers know whether to hire or reject a candidate.

Brian Mahany is an attorney representing victims of illegal discrimination. He welcomes comments and can be reached at brian@mahanyertl.com.

Send letters and viewpoints to Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com. Items may be edited for length or clarity.

PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Tracy Baim

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky
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SENIOR WRITERS Bob Roehr, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, David Byrne, Tony Peregrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair, Emmanuel Garcia
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"Windy City Media Group generated enormous interest among their readers in this year's LGBT Consumer Index Survey. Out of approximately 100 print and online media partners who participated in the survey, Windy City was the best performing regional media in the U.S. Only survey partners with a nationwide footprint were able to generate a greater number of responses." —David Marshall, Research Director, Community Marketing, Inc.

Community Marketing, Inc.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Eduardo Patino

AILEY NEWS

The Alvin Ailey II dancers (above) will be part of this month's "Celebration of Life." Read more below.

THEATER

'Lost' weekend.
Page 18.

Photo by Michael Rothman



MUSIC

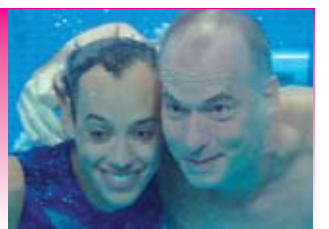
Hey, soul sister.
Page 23.



SPORTS

Games over.
Page 26.

Photo from Qubespport.net



Dancin' Feats

BY ALICIA WILSON

The end of summer approaches, but there is good news! The transition into fall means the return of dance companies seasons and tons of performances to attend. This month starts off the great dancing with the annual Chicago Dancing Festival, as well as a premiere from two young choreographers tackling the subject of gender. Check out both of these opportunities to engage with the language of movement in Chicago.

One of the best things about Chicago summers is the free festivals and events throughout the city. August brings some free dance to the summer fun with The Chicago Dancing Festival returning for a fourth year, offering a chance for everyone to enjoy quality dance performances. The span of the festival includes ticketed performances and lectures at the Harris Theater and The Museum of Contemporary Art, and a free closing-night performance in Millennium Park. Each event is filled with virtuosic dances by some of the nation's esteemed choreographers. And the audiences for this festival are loyal. The Modern Masters event at the Harris Theater sold out in a record two hours after tickets were released late July. However, the closing night performance at Millennium Park is still an option, as it is free and open to the public. Titled "Celebration of Dance," this showcase brings together a diverse range of dance styles for an outdoor dance experience at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion. The Joffrey Ballet, Alvin Ailey II, The Royal Ballet and Mark Morris Dance Group are among the companies to show work at this free event. Be advised to show up early and grab a spot, the crowds are expected to show up in full force.

The Chicago Dancing Festival presents "Celebration of Dance" at The Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, Michigan and Randolph, 7:30 p.m., Aug. 28; free. Visit www.chicagodancingfestival.com.



Under Construction Dance Project. Photo by Katie Graves

Emerging choreographers Phillip Elson and Samantha Spriggs have taken a long, hard look at the construction of gender and sex in our society. Their response? A collaborative self-produced project, titled "Under Construction: Socio-Analytical Perspectives on Gender Culture Through Dance." Or to put it in fewer words, Elson and Spriggs plan to deconstruct gender through movement. The show will take place at Links Hall, and features four world-premiere

pieces as well as a duet between the choreographers.

The works combine highly physical movement, subtle gesture, spoken text and social commentary. Debates and conversations between Spriggs and Elson concerning issues of gender, sexuality and culture informed the duet piece, entitled "The WOMP is Always Gayer on the Other Side." One of Elson's pieces, "Big Boys Don't Cry," is an all-male dance-theater piece that draws upon the experiences of three performers in their early 20s as they recount and challenge perceived notions of manhood and masculinity at what is currently a pivotal point in establishing their identities as men. "Active Passivity," an exploratory movement abstraction by Spriggs, uses a contemporary feminist outlook on the ways in which women's and men's bodies are affected and shaped by the gazes and expectations of others to create an uncomfortable world of people straining and contorting themselves for each others' approval.

Windy City Times talked with Spriggs about her views on gender, Under Construction Dance Project, and the fusion of dance and theater:

Windy City Times: Can you speak a bit to the infusion of spoken text and theater into your choreography?

Samantha Spriggs: Philip and I each have a dance that includes some element of spoken text. All of the text in the show is generated by the performers based on prompts we have given them. As this has been a highly collaborative process we've asked our dancers to thoroughly investigate their own perspectives on and relationships to their genders and sexualities. Sometimes a message cannot be spoken, and so we use our bodies to demonstrate an idea or feeling. Text and other theatrical elements are natural to human interaction, and as we are trying to depict our opinions and ask questions honestly, it seemed appropriate to include those elements into the work.

WCT: What three words describe your show?

SS: Inquisitive, diverse, risky.

WCT: The works being presented speak to and about gender. What are your views on gender, and why dance about it?

SS: There are so many gender constructs and restrictions that apply to our physical forms. They manifest themselves in people's posture, physicality, activity and influence the way our bodies communicate with one another. As a woman, I have actively worked towards being viewed and treated on equal terms with men in all arenas of my life, dance included. I'm not your traditional passive lady, I'm not small or waif-y like the perfect ballerina. I'm a strong, tall, opinionated woman and it has taken a lot of work for me to be able to accept all of those qualities. Now I know that they are of the utmost value to my being and my dancemaking.

WCT: What would you like people to know about your work before they see it?

SS: We just ask that people come into the theater ready to observe, think actively and challenge their own beliefs. We hope to provoke discussions with our work and if one person in the audience begins to reexamine their own relationship to gender roles, we've succeeded.

WCT: How did the Under Construction Dance Project come about?

SS: The project began out of some conversations and debates that Philip and I had about gender roles in society and how that relates to Western concert dance. We then decided to investigate further and look at issues surrounding gender in many different arenas and how we would choose to choreograph those perspectives.

"Under Construction: Socio-Analytical Perspectives on Gender Culture Through Dance" will take place at Links Hall, 3435 N. Sheffield, 8 p.m., Friday-Sunday, Aug. 20-22; \$10, \$7 students/seniors. For tickets visit www.brownpapertickets.com/event/117836 or call 773-281-0824. For more information visit www.underconstructiondanceproject.com.

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Indication and Important Safety Information

VIRAMUNE is indicated for use in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection.

VIRAMUNE does not cure HIV or AIDS, and has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

VIRAMUNE can cause severe liver disease and skin reactions that can cause death. These reactions occur most often during the first 18 weeks of treatment, but can occur later. Ask your healthcare provider about how to recognize symptoms of skin and liver problems.

Stop taking VIRAMUNE if you have any of these reactions. Do not restart VIRAMUNE if you experience any of these reactions. Call your healthcare provider immediately if you have any of these reactions.

VIRAMUNE is only for people diagnosed with HIV. If you have not been diagnosed as HIV positive, then do not take VIRAMUNE.

Any patient can experience liver problems with VIRAMUNE, but women and patients who have higher CD4 counts when they begin VIRAMUNE treatment have a greater risk. **If you are a woman with CD4+ >250 cells/mm³, or a man with CD4+ >400 cells/mm³, you should not begin taking VIRAMUNE unless you and your doctor have decided that the benefit of doing so outweighs the risk. Women, including pregnant women, with CD4+ cell counts >250 cells/mm³ are at the greatest risk.**

Do not take VIRAMUNE if you have severe liver problems.

The dose of VIRAMUNE for adults is one 200-mg tablet daily for the first 14 days, followed by one 200-mg tablet twice daily. VIRAMUNE is always taken with other anti-HIV medications. The 14-day lead-in period is important because it can help reduce your chances of getting a potentially serious skin rash. If you have a skin rash during the first 14 days, immediately contact your doctor and do not increase your VIRAMUNE dose to twice a day. The total duration of the once daily lead-in dosing period should not exceed 28 days, at which point an alternative regimen may need to be started.

Other side effects that patients have experienced include nausea, fatigue, fever, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and myalgia. Changes in body fat may occur in patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Immune reconstitution syndrome has been reported in patients treated with combination ARV therapy.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Medication Guide for VIRAMUNE on the following pages.



Models used are for illustrative purposes only.

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MEDICATION GUIDE

VIRAMUNE® (VIH-rah-mune) (nevirapine) Tablets

VIRAMUNE® (VIH-rah-mune) (nevirapine) Oral Suspension

Read this Medication Guide before you start taking VIRAMUNE and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your doctor about your medical condition or treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about VIRAMUNE?

VIRAMUNE can cause serious side effects. These include severe liver and skin problems which can cause death. The risk of these problems is greatest during the first 18 weeks of treatment, but these problems can also happen at any time during treatment.

Severe liver problems: Anyone who takes VIRAMUNE may get severe liver problems. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to liver failure and the need for a liver transplant, or death. You may get a rash if you have liver problems. People with higher risk of these problems include women or anyone with higher CD4⁺ cell counts when they begin VIRAMUNE treatment. Women with CD4⁺ cell counts higher than 250 cells/mm³ at the start of treatment have the greatest risk for liver damage.

If you are a woman with CD4⁺ cell >250 cells/mm³ or a man with CD4⁺ cell >400 cells/mm³, you and your doctor will decide if VIRAMUNE is right for you.

People who have abnormal liver test results and people with hepatitis B or C have a greater chance of getting liver problems and further increases in liver test results during treatment.

If you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems, stop taking VIRAMUNE and call your doctor right away:

- fever
- “flu-like” symptoms or you do not feel well
- dark (tea-colored) urine
- tiredness
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- nausea (feeling sick to your stomach)
- pain or tenderness on your right side below your ribs
- loss of appetite
- yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes

Your doctor should see you and do blood tests often to check your liver function during the first 18 weeks of treatment with VIRAMUNE. You should continue to have your liver checked regularly during your treatment with VIRAMUNE. It is important for you to keep all of your doctor appointments.

Severe rash and skin reactions: Skin rash is the most common side effect of VIRAMUNE. Most rashes happen in the first 6 weeks of taking VIRAMUNE. **Rashes and skin reactions may be severe, life-threatening, and in some people, may lead to death. If you get a rash with any of the following symptoms, stop using VIRAMUNE and call your doctor right away:**

- “flu-like” symptoms or you do not feel well
- blisters
- fever
- mouth sores
- muscle or joint aches
- swelling of your face
- red or inflamed eyes, like “pink eye” (conjunctivitis)
- tiredness
- swollen glands (enlarged lymph nodes)
- liver problems (see symptoms of liver problems above)

If your doctor tells you to stop treatment with VIRAMUNE because you have had the serious liver or skin problems described above, you should never take VIRAMUNE again.

These are not all the side effects of VIRAMUNE. See the section “**What are the possible side effects of VIRAMUNE?**” for more information.

What is VIRAMUNE?

VIRAMUNE is a medicine used to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

VIRAMUNE is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a “non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor” (NNRTI). VIRAMUNE works by lowering the amount of HIV in your blood (“viral load”). You must take VIRAMUNE with other anti-HIV medicines. When you take VIRAMUNE with other anti-HIV medicines, VIRAMUNE can lower your viral load and increase the number of CD4⁺ cells (“T cells”). CD4⁺ cells are a type of immune helper cell in the blood. VIRAMUNE may not have these effects in every person.

VIRAMUNE does not cure HIV or AIDS, and it is not known if it will help you live longer with HIV. People taking VIRAMUNE may still get infections common in people with HIV (opportunistic infections). It is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

Who should not take VIRAMUNE?

Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver problems. Your doctor may tell you not to take VIRAMUNE if you have certain liver problems.

VIRAMUNE is only for people diagnosed with HIV. If you have not been diagnosed as HIV positive, then do not take VIRAMUNE.

What should I tell my doctor before taking VIRAMUNE?

Before you take VIRAMUNE, tell your doctor if you:

- have or have had hepatitis (inflammation of your liver) or problems with your liver. See “**What is the most important information I should know about VIRAMUNE?**” and “**Who should not take VIRAMUNE?**”
- receive dialysis
- have skin problems, such as a rash
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if VIRAMUNE will harm your unborn baby.
Pregnancy Registry: There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of the registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your doctor about how you can take part in this registry.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. VIRAMUNE can pass into your breast milk and may harm your baby. It is also recommended that HIV-positive women should not breast-feed their babies. Do not breast-feed during treatment with VIRAMUNE. Talk to your doctor about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements. VIRAMUNE may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how VIRAMUNE works. Especially tell your doctor if you take:

- St. John’s Wort. You should not take products containing St. John’s Wort during treatment with VIRAMUNE because it can lower the amount of VIRAMUNE in your body.
- efavirenz (Sustiva®, Atripla®). You should not take efavirenz during treatment with VIRAMUNE. You may have an increased chance of side effects if this is taken together with VIRAMUNE.
- atazanavir (Reyataz®). You should not take atazanavir during treatment with VIRAMUNE.
- itraconazole (Sporanox®). You should not take itraconazole during treatment with VIRAMUNE.
- ketoconazole (Nizoral®). You should not take ketoconazole during treatment with VIRAMUNE.
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®). You should not take rifampin during treatment with VIRAMUNE.
- Birth control pills. Birth control pills taken by mouth (oral contraceptives) and other hormone types of birth control may not work to prevent pregnancy if you use them during VIRAMUNE treatment. Talk with your doctor about other types of birth control that you can use to prevent pregnancy during treatment with VIRAMUNE.

Also tell your doctor if you are taking the following drugs:

- clarithromycin (Biaxin®)
- fluconazole (Diflucan®)
- methadone
- rifabutin (Mycobutin®)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show your doctor or pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take VIRAMUNE?

- Take VIRAMUNE exactly as your doctor tells you to take it.
- The dose of VIRAMUNE for children is based on their size and thus may not be the same as in adults.
- You may take VIRAMUNE with or without food.
- If you or your child takes VIRAMUNE suspension (liquid), shake it gently before use. Use an oral dosing syringe or dosing cup to measure the right dose. The oral dosing syringe and dosing cup are not provided with VIRAMUNE Suspension.
- After drinking the medicine, fill the dosing cup with water and drink it to make sure you get all the medicine. If the dose is less than 1 teaspoon (5 mL), use the syringe instead of the dosing cup.
- Do not change your dose unless your doctor tells you to.
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- Call your doctor right away if you get a skin rash during the first 14 days of VIRAMUNE treatment and do not increase your dose to 2 times a day.
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THEATER REVIEW

Fisting: A Period Piece

Playwright: the Fister ensemble
At: The Annoyance Theatre,
4830 N. Broadway
Phone: 773-561-4665; \$10
Runs through: Sept. 2

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

"Fisting" can refer to the centuries-old sport of boxing—as in "fisticuffs"—or it can be a euphemism for an exotic sexual practice akin to a prostate exam. This ambiguity is tailor-made for Annoyance Theater's aesthetic, and is exploited to its fullest for this lightning-round exercise in double-entendre.

A snippet of the Pogues' "Dirty Old Town" locates us in Ireland—specifically, the village of Dingle, whose chief industry is its world-famous confectionery. Cark Sarker, the factory's foremost fudgepacker, is appalled to learn that his only daughter, Jizabel, has fallen in love with Little Dicky Diddler, son of the late Big Dick Diddler, who died of injuries inflicted in a fisting duel—that's a boxing match, remember—with his childhood friend. Will the lovers find happiness or will the pugilistically challenged Little Dicky fall in defeat to Jizabel's angry Da?

According to the ensemble for this Annoyance Theatre production, "fisting"—there's that word again—is also an improvisation technique wherein the participants "try to make a dirty joke without making a dirty joke." Whether the vocabulary preceded the scenario, or vice versa, the results are a veritable glossary of juvenile giggles: Little Dick's mother, for example, is a baker renowned for her dill bread, made—you

guessed it—from "dill dough," as in "I want your dill dough in my mouth." Likewise, "Butt buddies" is the name adopted by boys who share cigarettes (called "fags" in the UK), speakers of Gaelic are "gaelickers" (pronounced "GAY-lickers"), and "nut sacks" are lucky charms worn by athletes. Playgoers desiring topical satire will also glimpse allusions to contemporary LGBT issues, corrupt politicians and questionable clergymen (whose reading of the gospels, while not quite blasphemous, is radical, to say the least).

Since the entertainment inherent in this brand of humor begins to wane following, say, seventh grade, the Fisters are wise to deliver their material at a poker-faced sprint that wraps up their surprisingly cohesive story in a swift 45 minutes. And if the accelerated pace sometimes stifles the laughs of the few audience members who may *not* have heard most of these gags before, it nevertheless bears testimony to the skills and virtuosity of the performers. If this is your cup of tea, then this is your room.

Online This Week:

- Talk Radio
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SPOTLIGHT



If you missed the acclaimed Victory Gardens Theater production of David Harrower's Olivier Award-winning drama **Blackbird**, then The Guild Theater is giving you another chance. See what happens in this controversial play about a woman who tries to rekindle a relationship with the man who sexually abused her as a child. **Blackbird** plays 8 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays until Aug. 25 at Stage Left Theatre, 3408 N. Sheffield. Tickets are \$15; call 312-613-8885 for more information. Photo courtesy of The Guild Theater

THEATER REVIEW

Love's Labour's Lost

By William Shakespeare

At: Oak Park Festival Theatre

at Austin Gardens

Phone: 708-445-4440 ; \$20-25

Runs through: Aug. 21

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

In Shakespeare, the word is king; that's especially the case in *Love's Labour's Lost*, one of the Bard's most verbose and consequently least-performed plays. So it's no surprise that it took all of Oak Park Festival Theatre's (OPFT) 35 years of existence to finally perform the play—out in the open air, as Shakespeare intended it.

I must confess that OPFT's production was my first "Shakespeare in the park" experience and I had yet to realize that more pesky than unknitting Shakespeare's pointed wordplay would be defending myself from mosquitoes; I think I suffered a bite for about every one or two puns written in the script.

If you think processing Shakespearean intellect is tough in a well-air-conditioned environment, try having bugs, barking dogs and chirping crickets accompanying dialogue that already travels poorly outdoors to begin with. Top that with the witticism of *Love's Labour's Lost* and you might expect incomprehensible disaster, but OPFT's production manages to triumph over it all, even if just by the tip of its tongue.

Shakespeare works best with a cast of superb actors from top to bottom, especially in the comedies, where the wise upper class are always the fools and the foolish lower class tend to be the wise. Although OPFT doesn't boast that depth, its cast has a handful of certified talents in key places—actors who can command both the stage and the language, even in an environment as volatile as the outdoors on a summer night 24 hours after a rain.

The standout is easily Joseph Wycoff, current Next Theatre Artistic Associate who plays Biron, the wittiest of the four young lords who swear a scholarly oath that includes three years of abstinence and chastity—just as the Princess of France is to arrive with the ladies of her court. Wycoff possesses the skill that the finest and most experienced Shakespearean actors have: the ability to communicate intent and emotion through the elaborate verbal smoke screen that is Shakespeare's word and meter. Along with a few of the other "Shakes-perienced" (if the Bard can make up words, so can I) members of in the cast, including Franette Liebow (Boyet), Lydia Berger (Rosaline) and Chicago mainstay Richard Henzel as the off-kilter and "learned" Holofernes, Wycoff truly owns the word and as such the audience gravitates toward his performance.

That's not to detract from the younger talents, but *Love's Labour's Lost* is a demanding play. Most of the cast handled the chiding or the more comical language well, but the dramatic, love-struck and expository dialogue was what separated the veterans from the amateurs, so to speak.

As such, the mischief of the second half (starting at Act IV, Scene III) suits the abilities of the ensemble better than the first. OPFT Artistic Director Jack Hickey, who also served as director of this production as well as many past Shakespeare comedies for the Festival Theatre pulls the comedy outward and keeps the mood light. He understands the value of physicality and gesture in such a talk-heavy and cryptic play, which allows for this version of *Love's Labour's Lost* to be light and fun enough for outdoor summer fare.

There were some issues with sound pick-up as some characters' lines were lost, not to mention the general noise that accompanies an outdoor performance, but despite that, the additional challenge of the material and the persistent mosquitoes, the spirit and wit of Shakespeare endures.

CRITICS' PICKS

The Emperor's New Clothes/Demons, Naked July Festival at National Pastime Theater, through Aug. 14. The double ticket of Kelly Haddad-Null's satirical comedy and the Living Canvas' dance-and-light show has extended two weeks to offer playgoers some comfortably un-dressy summer entertainment.

Fucking Men, Bailiwick Chicago at Stage 773, through Aug. 29. Director Tom Mullen extracts strong, nuanced performances from his all-male cast in this contemporary daisy-chain mating dance based upon Arthur Schnitzler's sexually frank 1897 hetero original. JA

The Philadelphia Story, Circle Theatre in Forest Park, through Sept. 5. The gender inequities may be cringeworthy, but this handsome production of Phillip Barry's classic screwball comedy exploring class differences in old Philadelphia. SCM

Sweet & Hot: The Songs of Harold Arlen, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre at No Exit Café, through Aug. 15. Late composer Harold Arlen may have never had the hit show he so longed for, but so many of his songs have become cabaret touchstones. Theo Ubique does Arlen right in this beautifully sung and wonderfully intimate revue. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

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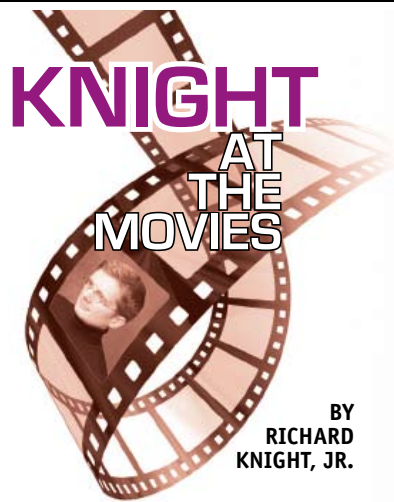
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BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

Scott Pilgrim vs. the World; film notes

I still haven't seen *Salt* but with that caveat in place I can honestly say that my favorite blockbuster this summer is the one that on first appearance doesn't even slightly resemble the others—and that includes everything from *Iron Man II* to *Inception*. But nevertheless, the latest Michael Cera nerd-loses-girl-gets-girl comedy (seemingly a genre all his own) **Scott Pilgrim vs. the World** is not only one of the funniest movies of the summer; its utilization of over-the-top special effects unintentionally puts it up there in the action-blockbuster category it so archly parodies.

Cera's Scott Pilgrim is a 22-year-old jobless geek who plays bass in an alt-rock band, and is dating a 17-year-old high school Asian girl named Knives Chau. He is also trying to distance himself from the derision of his older sister (Anna Kendrick) and his gay, droll roommate (Kieran Culkin). At a party he meets a girl he's literally been dreaming of—the raspberry-haired Ramona (Mary Elizabeth Winstead)—and is immediately smitten. Slowly, the two begin a relationship but, at that point, not only must Scott break up with Knives, but he must fight and defeat Ramona's seven deadly exes in order to win her love.

Director Edgar Wright, who co-adapted the series of comic books the picture's based on, keeps things moving and the material plays up Cera's benign yet knowing appeal. But Cera's schtick is starting to get a tad tedious and it doesn't help that Scott is kind of a jerk for a lot of the movie. (It's not until late in the picture that the character is seen to have heart and depth—Cera's secret weapon.) Once Scott starts battling the exes, (which include a former girlfriend of Ramona's who is "bi-furious" that her "bi-curi-

ous" stage didn't last permanently), the movie goes into hyperdrive and, delightfully, loses all sense of reality and any pretense of depth. The wacky, over-the-top mega-fight sequences push the movie into comedic bliss for awhile (helped along by cameos from gay heartthrobs Chris Evans, Brandon Routh and the dryly funny Jason Schwartzman, *et al.*, as the villainous exes).

It's a great comedy for the distracted YouTube generation—the movie tosses in one visual joke after another at a furious pace (including a canny homage to the '60s *Batman* action sitcom). If anything, there's too much of a good thing and Wright's biggest misstep is not living up to the maxim "Always leave them wanting more." Shaving even 10 minutes off this delightful little puppy would have made the difference between leaving Scott Pilgrim vs. the World exhilarated and jonesing for another dose, as opposed to being happy but sapped of energy from all the overstimulation.

Film notes:

—**All About Evil**—a spot-on homage to the tacky, cheesy tradition of midnight horror B-movies (okay, Z-movies), written and directed by San Francisco-based Midnight Movie maven/drag star Peaches Christ (Joshua Grannell)—promises to take Chicago by storm when it screens Saturday, Aug. 14, at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport. The film stars Natasha Lyonne (But I'm a Cheerleader, *Die Mommie Die*) as a mousy librarian-turned -demented owner of a vintage theater who is aided by her equally murderous (and lecherous) projectionist and other psychos in turning out a series of gory and hilariously twisted short films utilizing real victims. Naturally, as the body count rises, so do the lines around the block for the bloody fare—all leading to a particularly gruesome finale. The film—part John Waters, part William Castle—cheerfully cribs from dozens of sources (Cecil B. Demented, *Fade to Black*, etc.), and that's half the fun. Mink Stole plays one of the victims and Cassandra Petersen, a.k.a. Elvira "Mistress of the Dark," appears—in a refreshing change of pace—as the mother of a midnight movie-addicted teenager.

Promising a night to "dismember," P. Christ and crew (including Mink Stole and local fave David Cerda, artistic director and playwright for camp theatre troupe Handbag Productions and leader of the Joan Crawford rock-n-roll band, The Joans) will provide a rousing pre-show beginning at 11:30 p.m. with the midnight screening to follow. Audience members are encouraged to dress in their finest "gore couture." Advance tickets available; see www.musicboxtheatre.com.

—The Music Box, along with the Noir Film Foundation, is also hosting the return of their popular film noir series that programs double features of little seen gems in their original 35mm

prints (most not available on DVD). It's another stellar lineup for this year's series, titled **Noir City 2: Chicago**, which plays Aug. 13-19 and includes a trio of movies starring queer audience faves Joan Crawford, Tyrone Power and Marilyn Monroe among its 10 titles. Playwright Crawford is menaced by new husband Jack Palance (and his slutty girlfriend, Gloria Grahame) in 1952's *Sudden Fear*; Monroe plays a deranged babysitter in 1952's *Don't Bother To Knock*; and Power has the most bitter role of his career as a cheap canny grifter who scams his way to the top as a "mentalist" using every nasty trick in the book to do it in 1947's *Nightmare Alley*. Joan Blondell and Colleen Gray co-star. Film noir experts Foster Hirsch and Alan K. Rode will be on hand to introduce the films and lead post-screening discussions. Complete titles and show times are at www.musicboxtheatre.com.

—The Public Square hosts two screenings of **Cuba: An African Odyssey** on Sunday, Aug. 15, at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the DuSable Museum of African American History, 740 E. 56th Place. The documentary covers Cuba's involvement in Africa from the early 1960s to the early 1990s and includes interviews with Fidel Castro and Pik Botha. James Thindwa, civic engagement coordinator for the Chicago Alliance of Charter Teachers and Staff will lead the post-screening discussion. The event, part of the African Jubilee Film Festival, is free and open to the public. See www.prairie.org/publicsquare.

—The Julia Roberts-Javier Bardem-James Franco romantic drama **Eat Pray Love**—from out director Ryan Murphy, who co-adapted the screenplay from the best-selling novel (and Oprah book club pick)—was not screened in time for *Windy City Times*' deadline, although interviews with Roberts and Murphy are featured in this week's issue.

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

Special 'Orlando' DVD out Aug. 17

Sony Pictures Home Entertainment is releasing a special-edition DVD of writer/director Sally Potter's gender-bending 1993 movie *Orlando* Tuesday, Aug. 17, according to a press release.

The Oscar-nominated film stars Tilda Swinton (who won an Academy Award for the movie *Michael Clayton*) and Billy Zane. The movie—which features cameos from queer icon Quentin Crisp and out Scottish singer Jimmy Somerville—is a journey through time, covering four centuries, first as a man and then as a woman.

Special features include Potter's commentary of selected scenes, a press conference at the Venice Film Festival and "Orlando in Uzbekistan." The 93-minute film will retail for \$19.94.



Michael Cera and Mary Elizabeth Winstead co-star in *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*.

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From left: Eat Pray Love stars Javier Bardem, Julia Roberts and Richard Jenkins along with director Ryan Murphy. Photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures

Eat Gay Love

Ryan Murphy talks about his new Julia Roberts film, pushing the gay on *Glee*, and the *Wicked* movie
BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Glee's all Ryan Murphy must be feeling these days. Already on fire from his gay-worshipped TV megahit, the 44-year-old director's second feature, *Eat Pray Love*, adapted from the wildly popular memoir and out Aug. 13, is soul-searching summer movie bait relishing in delicious dishes (not just James Franco), picturesque landscapes and Julia Roberts. The actress plays the book's author, Elizabeth Gilbert, as she leaves her frazzled life behind for a globetrotting jaunt, some solitude and a good plate of pasta.

Go figure, then, that Murphy—who made his film debut in 2006 with *Running with Scissors* while cutting through TV (before he created *Glee*) with *Nip/Tuck*—is nibbling on some strawberries from somewhere just as exotic: the Bardessono hotel tucked away in the quaint Napa Valley, Calif. There, during our one-on-one chat, he dishes on his connection to *Eat Pray Love*, how other queer people might relate to the movie and his plans for gaying up season two of *Glee*, regardless of what the world thinks.

Chris Azzopardi: There's a running theme of self-discovery in all your projects, from *Running with Scissors* to *Glee* and now with *Eat Pray Love*. Why do you gravitate toward that subject?

Ryan Murphy: I always figure that out when I'm coming out with something. I don't know why. I think honestly because I'm from Indiana and I grew up with big dreams, and in my work I do reinvent myself all the time and I try to figure out my life with my work.

CA: With *Eat Pray Love*, the book covers a lot more history, spirituality and characters than the film. What did you feel was most important to take from the book and adapt for the movie?

RM: We did focus groups with women who loved the book—many, many women. In a book that's become a classic and a bible to so many women, you have an obligation to them, so I had a list of like 10 parts of the book that had to go in. And then Liz Gilbert [thought] the scene where Julia cries on the bathroom floor was the most important scene for her in the movie, because she felt that in her travels that's the scene that women came up to her the most to discuss.

CA: You've left your gay mark on this movie, too, by including references to Cher and Liza and a nice, gratuitous visual: a man's hot ass.

RM: Look, I love a good Liza joke. The Cher

thing is in the book. The ass shot: What can I say?

CA: How do you think gay people can relate to Elizabeth's self-searching journey?

Gay men typically [go on] a lot of searches—coming out of the closet and then getting a partner. I never really had those issues for myself because I always just was what I was and dealt with it when I was 15. I do think gay men by and large are probably more tuned into their emotional feelings, and the book really moved me because I went through a horrible, horrible breakup. The worst one I've ever had.

That idea for gay men of finding balance is very, very important—and hard, because there's no template for it. None of us have any role models, really. When you're a heterosexual, you have

your parents, you have society. When you're gay, you don't. And so you have to figure it out as you go along. That's what the book is about: Who do I want to become? And that's what she learns. I really related to that.

CA: Do you always have a personal connection to your projects?

I have to or I can't do them. I really had a personal connection with *Running with Scissors* that I later found out was my mother—the wrong reason to do a movie, by the way. I had a really deep connection with *Nip/Tuck*; I just loved the themes of it—the themes of self-loathing and physicality. And I really have a deep connection to *Glee*. I've sung my whole life, I acted, all that. That's the optimistic side of my personality. The best part of me is that show. And I really had a

connection to this book. I loved it before I even got the job offer.

CA: Have you been offered the film adaptation of *Wicked*, as it's been said?

RM: No, no, no. They're in no rush to make that movie.

CA: You're in the prospective directors' pool, though, right?

RM: So I'm told. I find it very flattering. I just read that, but I haven't been contacted yet. I love *Wicked* and I've done songs from the show on *Glee*. I love what it's about. It's about female empowerment, and my work is about empowerment. I'd be thrilled if I was offered it. I would not expect it.

CA: Speaking of *Glee*, it's been said that Kurt's boyfriend has been pushed back. Is he still getting one in season two?

RM: He is—probably toward the end. I can only speak from experience, but he's in that mode of wanting a boyfriend and when people do that, it never happens. Only when you let go does it come. He's so desperate for it that the more he pushes for it the more the universe will deprive him of that—and that's what happens when you're 16 years old. I want him to struggle with it and finally give up. When he gives up is when it's going to happen. That's always been the way it is for me.

CA: And the Brittany/Santana kiss that's been all the talk—will it involve tongue?

RM: Oh, yeah. Listen, I know on a show like *Modern Family* that seems to be a big debate, which I think is ridiculous. I don't even understand why that's even, in this day and age, a discussion. I remember we were writing about that 15 years ago when Roseanne was on the air. Have we not progressed? It's not a big deal anymore! Why do you need a Facebook campaign about two men kissing? That's hideous. I might just have them kiss in every episode just to show people that the earth didn't stop moving. Maybe because I'm gay it's my job to be the person who does that.

Julia Roberts: Somebody to 'Love'

"America's Sweetheart" on *Eat Pray Love*, Ryan Murphy and pigging out on pizza
BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Julia Roberts could never be a carb-conscious gay man. While filming *Eat Pray Love*, she ate starch like she was making a fashion statement. Take after take of pizza-shoveling and pasta-sucking left the lovable A-list actress almost 10 pounds heavier, and rightfully burned out on Italian food.

"The deliciousness of something wears a tiny bit after piece seven," said Roberts, 42, who plays the memoir's author, Elizabeth Gilbert. "I sort of relished just wolfing it down because I just felt like she was so excited to be there. She was so excited to be eating this pizza, and I would eat an entire slice in a take. I don't know why I thought that was a great idea!"

No worries, though: "I loved every pound," she said proudly from a press conference in Napa Valley, Calif., where she's deliciously charming as she unleashes her bellowing laugh and luminous smile like only Roberts can.

Food appropriately brought Roberts and director Ryan Murphy, the creator of *Glee*, together before they shot on location in Italy, India and Indonesia. The two met for lunch, but the legendary actress, who hasn't truly anchored a film since Erin Brockovich and *Runaway Bride* a decade ago, wasn't sure if being a mommy would allow her time for Murphy's project. She deliberated for weeks, and finally agreed to take on the film.

That's when their "love affair," as Roberts



Julia Roberts in *Eat Pray Love*. Photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures

coined it, began: "I put a lot of eggs in his basket and he never, for one second of five months of traveling, let me down, never wasn't there to hold my hand, coax me into another bowl of pasta or just give me that extra piece of encouragement that I needed."

Roberts was already familiar with Murphy's work, like *Nip/Tuck*, which she watched when her hands weren't guarding her eyes from the gory surgeries. But working with the director for *Eat Pray Love* really left a lasting impression on her (so much so that the two are teaming for another Sony Pictures feature, a romantic comedy)—especially when temps were scorching and they were, believe it or not, starving.

"He'd extract some propositional phrase [from the book], and it would make all the difference," Roberts recalls. "It would just bloom; the whole idea of what we were trying to accomplish over and over again would just take

flight at his helm. It's his second movie. How?! I don't even know how it happened, but then we leave as in love as we were the first day, and that said a lot ... because we went through a lot. We actually really are interested in each other—still."

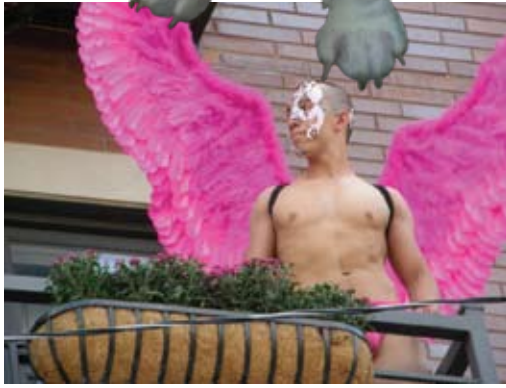
That loving feeling was mutual, as Murphy said: "One of the things that made me love Julia so much [was] she thought one of the reasons why the book was so successful [was] because it gave women permission to eat. Julia was so right when she said that, and we tried to bring that spirit to the movie."

Despite all the gluttonous chowing down she did in *Eat Pray Love*—the six bowls of pasta, the eight slices of pizza—Roberts is still giving herself that permission. Just how much?

"Tons," she said, without hesitation. "It can't slow me down."

Market Daze

More images from Northalsted Market Days.
Photos by Mel Ferrand and Kirk Williamson



Macy Gray.

Macy's Glamorama on State Aug. 13

The music/fashion extravaganza known as Macy's Passport Presents Glamorama will take place Friday, Aug. 13, at the Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State, at 8 p.m.

Popular musical artist Macy Gray, who first soared to fame with her debut album *On How Life Is* and her massive hit single "I Try," will headline the event. "Beauty in the World" is the first hit single from her newest album, *The Sellout*. The Chicago show marks the second of four stops of the Macy's Passport Presents Glamorama benefit, touring in Minneapolis, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Topping the list of designers this year are Jean Paul Gaultier, Just Cavalli, Marc Jacobs, Philosophy di Alberta Ferretti, Sonia Rykiel, SportMax and, for the first time ever, Issey Miyake. Tickets are \$50-\$1,000; see www.Ronald-HouseChicago.org or www.ticketmaster.com, call 800-982-2787 or visit the Chicago Theatre box office.

Rihanna in Chicago Aug. 25

Rihanna—who is enjoying the success of her most recent album, *Rated R*; a smash #1 single with "Rude Boy;" and an upcoming international tour—has confirmed dates for her 2010 North American tour, *Last Girl On Earth*. She will perform locally Wed., Aug. 25, at the United Center.

The multi-platinum and Grammy Award-winning superstar has become the only female art-

ist of the past decade to have six number-one singles on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in the United States, and she will be joined by rising star Ke\$ha ("Tik Tok").

For tickets, visit www.LiveNation.com.

Tegan & Sara in town Aug. 18

Lesbian twin singers Tegan & Sara, who just performed in Chicago, will be back Wed., Aug. 18, at Charter One Pavilion, where they will perform as part of the Honda Civic Tour with Paramore and various special guests.

Since the tour began in 2001, acts such as blink-182, Incubus, Black Eyed Peas and Fall Out Boy have played shows.

See www.LiveNation.com.



Tegan and Sara.

Melissa mesmerizes



Melissa Etheridge showed her "Fearless Love" by playing up against Lollapalooza over this past weekend at the Chicago Theatre. A primarily lesbian crowd rocked to each tune of this Janis Joplin-like artist as she played for almost three hours. During the song "Come to My Window," a fan actually held up a large fake window. Afterwards, Etheridge commented, "Who carries around a window complete with curtains? Only in Chicago, of course!" Text and photos by Jerry Nunn

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Rufus Wainwright.



Rufus Wainwright: 'Days' and 'Nights'

BY JERRY NUNN

The prolific singer songwriter Rufus Wainwright is tickling the ivories in Chicago this week to the tune of his sixth album, *All Days Are Nights: Songs for Lulu*. He spoke frankly and thoughtfully to *Windy City Times* about his recent endeavors.

Windy City Times: So, let's talk about the new album. It was made for Robert Wilson with the Berliner Ensemble?

Rufus Wainwright: I mean the sonnets were, yes. Not the whole album.

WCT: OK, so you go to do your own thing and do the sonnets too?

RW: Yes, this album was a cross-section of many aspects of my life. Whether it is the project I do with Robert Wilson or my opera or my own personal dealings. So, it is sort of a snap shot of Rufus of very very intense yet fruitful times.

WCT: Yes, so you have written an opera. Would you ever want to write a musical?

RW: I had many offers and it would certainly be a good idea financially because there is such a machine behind a hit musical that pays off significantly for everyone involved. So, I'm eyeing that prospect for sure.

WCT: I like your song "The Dream." Can you talk a little bit more about that?

RW: Well, "The Dream" is an interesting song. I initially wrote it with this theatrical vision in mind and part of this element dedicated to Lulu. I thought of this character that Louise Brooks plays in this silent film from the '20s and I had this vision of her being in the film dead and in a man's arms and the gentleman singing about her. That's sort of how I wrote the song. Now, the more I sing it the more it permeates into my consciousness. I'm struck on how it's just a plain song about my mother and I. It's very much about us.

WCT: And very emotional, I am sure.

RW: Yes.

WCT: You got to finally write a your song for your sister Martha?

RW: Yes, she's fantastic.

WCT: Is she going to be on the tour with you?

RW: Yes, she's coming on tour. She's opening for me in Chicago. She's amazing. She's doing her own work, such as working on her own songs and raising her first son. So, she's become Wonder Woman.

WCT: What's this live show going to be like? Is it acoustic?

RW: It's just the piano and me. The first section of the show is the new album and it's performed as a song cycle. It's very dark, very depressing. There are amazing visuals by Douglas Gordon and I'm also wearing a beautiful outfit by Zaldy who designs costumes for Lady Gaga. It's very dramatic and dark and I ask for no applause. It's done as full cycle and then second half I come out and it's bright and cheery. I sing all of the old songs and have a fun party. Night and day, you know? Like my life...

WCT: So, you're going to have all the banter? I love it when you talk to the crowds.

RW: Yeah, but that'll happen in the second half. No banter in the first half.

WCT: There's something about you that reminds me of the classical piano player Franz Liszt.

RW: Well, yeah, that's a great compliment. He's sort of an Elvis of his day.

WCT: He just comes sweeping in with his capes and I can just see you doing that with a big long cape. How's everything going with your boyfriend?

RW: Everything's great. We bought this house on the ocean in Long Island and we are just planted a bed of roses. So, we are up with the birds watering things and making tea and I have coffee. We just enjoy the good life for a few seconds and then I'm ripped onto tour bus.

WCT: So, he doesn't go with you out on the tours?

RW: No, he has job. He has to work.

WCT: Well I'm happy for you with him. And I heard you kind of changed your opinion on gay marriage and all of that because of your relationship.

RW: Yeah, I'm in a position now where gay marriage can be very useful in terms of granting my boyfriend American citizenship. So, we are at this crossroads where it can be practical but I'm still not rushing to the altar by any means. I do feel some sort of trepidation, you know, homosexuals becoming too straightfied. I think there are some things we should try to hang on to. There's some things that we have inherited because we've been under wraps for so long and it's I believe in that as well. I do think there's some middle ground that we can get to and create our own some invention of what marriage is but a part of it as to be legal, too.

WCT: Your soundtracks are where I first

discovered you. Do you have more coming out?

RW: Nothing at the moment. I just been so occupied with this opera and I'm also, in November premiering five of the six Shakespeare sonnets with the San Francisco Symphony. I'll be singing that with them. I'm orchestrating all the time. So, I would love to go back and do some film work, that'll be great.

WCT: You're playing with Kylie at this concert, I heard.

RW: Yeah, at the end of the summer.

WCT: That's crazy.

RW: Which will be exciting.

WCT: Her new album is incredible. It's fun.

RW: Yeah, I know it really is.

WCT: Do you want to work with someone you haven't?

RW: I always wanted to work with Bjork. I'm not always crazy about everything she does but I love the chances she takes and she seems like someone who can stir it up.

WCT: She's one of my favorites. We need to get her back out in the music scene. I just wanted to tell you your music has always meant a lot to me. Being gay myself and maybe not always fitting in with the commercial world

has made me feel that in common with your art.

RW: Oh, thank you.

WCT: How has that been? You have always had to battle being a pop star.

RW: I definitely have always paid a price for that admission. The price of admission—there you go. So I didn't get all of the greatest support and I didn't get the greatest placements. I'm slightly under the radar and I do think part of that is because I'm gay but on the other hand I think my fans have appreciated my honesty and truthfulness and consistency. Their support is that much more solid and till the end. So, it was a good trade-off. What I gave up for immediate success and gained in long terms staying power.

WCT: Your crowds have definitely gotten bigger in Chicago.

RW: Yes, they are bigger by leaps and bounds.

Be a part of the crowd when Rufus Wainwright comes to Bank of American Theatre, 18 W. Monroe, at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 13. Visit www.ticketmaster.com or www.rufuswainwright.com for details. And remember: No applause during the first half of the show!

Stephanie Mills: R&B legend talks about new CD, gay families

BY ANDREW DAVIS

If anyone could rest of her laurels, it would be singer Stephanie Mills, who has entertained fans for years with hits such as "Never Knew Love Like This Before," "Home" and "The Comfort of a Man," among many others (and let's not forget her role in the Broadway version of *The Wiz*). However, she's back with a new CD, *Breathless*, and will part of an Aug. 14 show at the Rosemont Theater with Jeffrey Osborne and Kenny G. The down-to-earth star called *Windy City Times* from North Carolina and talked about *Breathless*, the Apollo and same-sex parents.

Windy City Times: I know you won *Amateur Night at the Apollo*. Is that place—and audience—as scary as people make them out to be?

Stephanie Mills: It can be. [Laughs] I won there six times, and then I got a professional booking there with the Isley Brothers.

This is all I've ever done; I've made my living through singing and performing.

WCT: You've had so many hits over the years—and I know that each song is like a child. Do you have a favorite child?

SM: Oh, my goodness. I don't have a favorite child but there are certain songs I love singing, like "Never Knew Love" and "Home." I just put like "Starlight" and "Give It Half a Chance" back in my show. But I also enjoy singing "Power of Love" and "I Feel Good All Over"—I don't have a favorite; they all say different things and they all make me feel different.

WCT: I was listening to "Home" yesterday, and I felt all of these emotions. It's one of those songs that hits you.

SM: Yes. I re-recorded it, and it was really emotional for me because people in the show [*The Wiz*] had passed away, like producer Ken Harper and Charlie Smalls, who had written all of the beautiful songs in the show. I wanted people to never forget that song and realize how special it is.

WCT: Let's talk about this new CD, *Breathless*.

SM: Yes! In fact, I am in Charlotte—my home—and we've been mixing all week so the CD should be ready by September. "Breathless" is a song about a man who took my breath



Stephanie Mills.

away. I've written nine of the songs on the CD.

WCT: You mentioned Michael so I have to ask: Where were you when you heard about him passing away?

SM: Oh, my God. I was home in my kitchen. The news came on and I heard, "Michael Jackson has suffered cardiac arrest." I was like, "Oh, this is another publicity stunt. It's genius." Then when I realized what actually happened, I could not believe it. Still—to this day—I don't think it's really hit me that he's gone. I mean, I've lost Teddy Pendergrass, Gerald Levert. I've lost so many people I had been working with.

WCT: *Windy City Times* is a paper for the gay community, and I'm sure you know you have a...

SM: Huge following—yes I do, and I'm so thankful for that.

What I want to say is that I really do admire the gay community for many things—but especially for adopting children. They really do take care of their children. I haven't heard of anything [untoward] happening.

Stephanie Mills will perform at "Caring for Kids" with Kenny G and Jeffrey Osborne Saturday, Aug. 14, at 7 p.m. at the Rosemont Theatre. All proceeds will benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children®. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by visiting www.ticketmaster.com or calling 800-745-3000.

To find out much more about Stephanie Mills—including her thoughts on the music business and *American Idol*—see www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

calendar

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WINDY CITY TIMES



Wed., Aug. 11

Four Women Showcase This is a great musical series focusing on female singer/songwriters in, around and touring thru Chicago. Each Wednesday, "Four" female performers will showcase their talents in a show. For one month, the same four performers will be featured, but will rotate and change their sets. 6pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark, windycityopenmic.com/

BISEXUAL Panel Discussion BISEXUAL Panel Discussion is a casual, peer-lead conversation group. This is an event for bisexuals, bi-curious and bi-allies to form community, share ideas, and connect with peers. Come check us out and help build the bisexual community! 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted; www.centeron-halsted.org

Thursday, Aug. 12

Boystown Tour Come join me in a trip through one of Chicago's most distinctive neighborhoods. Boystown was the first officially recognized gay village in the country and believe me, it has a lot to show for it. 5pm, 773.593.4873, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted St, chicagoelevated.com

2010 Reprise of Dance in the Dark In an effort to bring the community together through music and dance Howard Street Special Service Area #19, Rogers Park Business Alliance (RPBA), and the Chicago Park District (CPD) will provide summer dance lessons in the Rogers Park neighborhood. Singles and couples, young and old are invited to participate. 6pm, Willye B. White Park, 1610 W. Howard Street, www.rogers-park.com

Hairspray! The Musical Up and Coming The-

THINK MINK Saturday, Aug. 14

Mink Stole (right) will be at the premiere of the film *All About Evil* at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport.



atre presents *Hairspray*. Tickets: \$16.00 in advance, \$19.00 each at the door for Adults, \$16.00 for children, students and seniors. 7:30pm, Cutting Hall Theater, 150 E Wood, Palatine, www.uactheatre.com/

Alexa Stevenson author Half-Baked: The Story of My Nerves, My Newborn Flotsam blogger and NPR commentator Alexa Stevenson has been a self-proclaimed worrywart for most of her life: avoiding amusement park rides, skateboards, and other activities that would just be "borrowing trouble." But the series of worst-case scenarios that comprise her journey to motherhood—including the birth of her daughter Simone, more than three months early—force her into a Zen-like acceptance of uncertainty and absurdity; a journey she recounts in this uniquely sharp, funny, vulnerable and ultimately, hopeful memoir. 7:30pm, Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark; www.womenand-childrenfirst.com

Newtown Writers Theater writing workshop; 7:30pm, Gerber/Hart Library, 1127

W. Granville, www.newtownwriters.org
Frat House Thursdays at Scarlet Join ChicagoPride.com and Scarlet as we host all frat guys and their fans. 10pm, Scarlet, 3320 N Halsted; www.scarletbarchicago.com

Friday, Aug. 13

"San Francisco in the 1970s" Final day for a photographic exhibition featuring the photos of Jerry Pritikin, a Chicago publicist, gay-rights activist and Chicago Cubs fan known as the "Bleacher Preacher" Features photos of gay life in San Francisco's Castro neighborhood, which was an epicenter for the gay-rights movement prior to the AIDS epidemic of the '80s. 1:30pm, Gage Gallery, 18 S. Michigan, Chicago, www.youtube.com/watch?v=phlspk9p1c

Wild West Weekend and Rodeo School MIGRA, ILGRA and the Grand Rapids Renegades help make this weekend with western dance parties, lessons, and BBQs. 6pm, Campit Outdoor Resort 6635 118th Ave Fenville, MI, www.ilgra.com

Darts Over The Windy City LGBT darts tournament benefits Chicago House. Also at Spin, 800 W. Belmont. \$3,500 prize fund for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, \$5 per game win to be paid to all places below 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Four player teams, 301/501 Freeze Rule Format. Team registrations \$100 before Aug. 6, \$125 at event. info@dartsoverthewindycity.com; 7pm, 312-450-2642, Charlie's, 3726 N Broadway, www.dartsoverthewindycity.com

Queer Noise: LGBTQ Open Mic Night Join us for a fabulously queer evening of spoken performances by poets, authors, singers, musicians, etc. This is a safe space for LGBTQ folks and their allies to express themselves and showcase their talent or politics. 7-10:30pm; 7pm, New Wave Cafe, 2557 N. Milwaukee

Patti Lupone in Annie Get Your Gun at Ravinia Wild West legend Annie Oakley would have celebrated her 150th birthday and Ravinia opens its three-day run of Irving Berlin's hit-filled Broadway classic *Annie Get Your Gun* with Patti Lupone, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Paul Gemignani, musical director, and Lonny Price, director. \$90-\$50/Lawn \$20/Park opens at 5pm; 7:30pm, 847.266.5100, Ravinia, 200 Ravinia Park Rd, Highland Park, www.ravinia.org

Macy Gray headline Macy's Passport Presents Glamorama 2010 Grammy award-winning singer Macy Gray, "On How Life Is" and "I Try," will help kick off 12th annual fashion extravaganza; 8pm, 630.623.2309, Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State, www.ronaldhousechicago.org

Saturday, Aug. 14

Lambda Legal Chicago Leadership Council's Into the Woods Sweeping grounds, abundant gourmet feast, dancing under the stars at this annual celebration of summer and civil rights. Tickets for the main event begin at \$125. VIP tickets begin at \$250 and the reception begins at 6 pm Michigan time (5 pm Chicago time). Advance tickets only, buy online. 7pm, 312-663-4413, Burscott Park Three Oaks, MI, www.lambdalegal.org/intothewoods

Big Chicks KKBB Softball Fundraiser Party Silent auction, raffles, drink specials and no cover. Proceeds to league registration, tournament fees, equipment and team jerseys. Over the 4th of July weekend, Big Chicks Kiss! Kiss! Bang! Bang! won first place in the Chi Town Softball Classic in the C2 intermediate division. The team plays in CMSA, Chicago's LGBT sports league, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. 5pm, Big Chicks, 5024 N Sheridan Road

Caring for Kids: Kenny G, Stephanie Mills, Jeffrey Osborne Every penny raised benefits Shriners Hospitals for Children®. 7pm, 800-745-3000, Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N River

AIDS Run and Walk Chicago Kick-Off Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV) will host an AIDS Run and Walk Chicago Kick-Off event to register members for its team and to solicit donations to support team members and BEHIV's life-saving programs. There is no charge to attend the party. Door prizes will be awarded to guests and information on Team BEHIV activities will be presented to attendees. All proceeds will benefit BEHIV. This year's AIDS Run and Walk Chicago, organized by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago is Saturday, Oct. 2. 8pm, 773.293.4740, Peck residence, 5455 N. Sheridan Rd #3112, www.behiv.org

All About Evil movie premiere The Music Box Theatre will become a haven of macabre delights with a live special appearance by Mink Stole, Peaches Christ and ghoulish surprises galore during the exclusive Chicago premiere of the Peaches Christ 4D Event Experience. \$13 tickets are on-sale now. 11:30pm, Music Box Theatre, 3733 N Southport, peacheschrist.com

Piano Man Mark Farris at Club 3160 Chicago celebrates the return of popular piano man, Mark Farris. 9pm, 3160, 3160 N. Clark, www.chicago3160.com/

Sunday, Aug. 15

Asians and Friends anniversary party Potluck. Dues and board nominations. 12pm, Private home, see site., afchicago.org/blog/

Cruise benefits 1VU non profit project Do Tell: Chicago Cruise during the Air and Water show, \$35 benefits 1VU non profit project Do Tell: Chicago, honoring LGBT veterans and active service members. Must be 21+. 12pm, 773.610.2042, Navy Pier, Chicago, 1vu.org/events.html

A Boy and His Vagina As the Mayan Calendar draws to a close, two PhDs; gay vaginista Mike Hunt, and Pulitzer Prize winning author Mona Restin embark on an adventure of epic proportion to save the world from the very evil Kirk Cameron's quest to take over the planet via his creepy Lord Is Come Network. 7pm, 773.306.6595, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark

Madonnarama: Special Birthday Edition with DJ Riley York. 10pm, Berlin, 954 W Belmont Ave, www.berlinchicago.com

Monday, Aug. 16

Essay Fiesta Free monthly reading series to benefit Howard Brown Health Center will showcase a spectacular line-up of local comedians, performers, writers; a rep from Howard Brown will speak about the organization and a raffle with amazing prizes. 100 percent of the raffle money goes to benefit the health clinic. 7pm, Book Cellar, 4736 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, essayfiesta.com



DART TIME

Fri.-Sun., Aug. 13-15

Darts Over the Windy City will take place along the North Halsted strip.

Photo courtesy of Erik Newton

The Judy Garland Duets Starring Laura Freeman and Rob Dorn, prized Chicago cabaret artists pay tribute to Hollywood legend Judy Garland and her famous duets with stars such as Bing Crosby, Gene Kelly, and Mickey Rooney among many others. Featuring memorable duets such as "For Me and My Gal" and "I've Got Rhythm," the show's a classic look back at Garland's career and her place in old Hollywood. Tix \$20; students, seniors and CCP members \$15. Buy online. 7:30pm, 847-251-7424, Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central, Wilmette, www.wilmettetheatre.com

Tuesday, Aug. 17

Homolatte Show: Ripley Caine Ripley Caine, singer/songwriter, artist, founder/producer of CAKE Chicago (Best Gay Variety Show, 2009), Trish Bendix and special guest Julie Schurr. Caine's "Not Like Other Girls," is available for download at iTunes and Amazon; 7:30pm, Big Chicks, 5024 N Sheridan Road, www.ripleycaine.com

Wed., Aug. 18

Vital Nights is where the socially aware network, build diverse connections and provide support to Vital Bridges' clients, nearly 2000 local, low-income men, women and children afflicted by HIV & AIDS. All proceeds go to Vital Bridges. Complimentary cocktails plus food donated by Hub 51, Bice & More Cupcakes. Music by DJ Megan Taylor. Tickets are \$25 online in advance and \$30 at the door. 6pm, Hard Rock Hotel Chicago, 230 N Michigan Ave, www.vitalbridges.org

The Taste of Andersonville Dinner Crawl Features selections from twenty-two restaurants in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood. Choose between the Salt Route and the Pepper Route. Or do both with The Whole Enchilada! Event benefits the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce. Tickets are \$25/advance, \$30 at the door. Space is limited. Reservations are required. 7pm, 773-728-2995, Begins at Swedish American Museum, 5211 N. Clark, www.andersonville.org

Thursday, Aug. 19

Wizard World's Chicago Comic Con Largest and longest running stop of the nine-city circuit—the biggest pop-culture touring expo in the United States. Through Aug. 22. 4pm, 1-866-882-5860, Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, IL, www.wizardworld.com/chicago.html

ALMA scholarship awards reception and fundraiser Two individuals will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Tickets, \$25, include appetizers, a drink special, entertainment and a goody bag. Matt Rivera, 2010 Windy City Gay Idol, is performing. Passes to Circuit Night Club for later that evening for dancing to latin music and celebrating the rest of the night. Space is limited. 7pm, Rehab Night lounge, 3641 N. Halsted, www.almachicago.org



ALL WET

Friday, Aug. 13

Fashion, models and celebrities will be everywhere at Macy's Passport Presents Glamorama at the Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State.

Photo from 2009 by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

BILLY MASTERS

"Darling, I'm afraid to tell you that you're full of garbage. That is an acting job!"—Whoopi Goldberg corrects Jake Pavelka when he said that "The Bachelor" was a reality show and not an acting job. He may be right—did you see him trying to act straight by hitting on Elizabeth Hasselback? Girl, please.

In fair Verona, where we lay our scene (among other things), Billy is reminded that love happens when you least expect it. It could be a pair of Italian teenagers or it could be a Munster—as in "Eddie Munster." Former child star Butch Patrick just got engaged to a fan he met at a Dracula convention in May. Kids, I couldn't make this stuff up if I tried! According to Butchy, way back in his "Munsters" heyday, he used to correspond with a fan named Donna McCall. As often happens, they eventually lost touch (I'm still waiting for Christopher Atkins to write back). A couple years ago, Donna found Butch online and they planned to meet for the first time earlier this year at DraculaCon II in Pennsylvania (as opposed to DraculaCon I). This led to a whirlwind romance and they are now living together and plan to marry. And you thought Letters to Juliet was romantic!

I know I shouldn't laugh, but my favorite headline of the week is "Aretha Falls in Bath-tub, Cancels Two Shows." Look, I realize at some point this *schadenfreude* will catch up to me, but I defy you to picture this event without even the teensiest smirk. Auntie Re's publicist said that she plans to reschedule the missed concerts, and quotes the Queen of Soul as saying, "I am very much looking forward to being in Brooklyn and having a foot-long hot dog at Coney Island." The woman fell in a bathtub, cracked a rib (and possibly the porcelain tub itself), and her biggest concern is getting a hot dog! Did she also ask the ambulance to stop at a drive-thru on the way to the ER?

Look for a bunch of familiar faces to pop up on Glee with alarming regularity. First is Carol Burnett, who appears this fall as Jane Lynch's Nazi-hunting mom. Susan Boyle will be in the Christmas show (which coincides nicely with the release of her holiday CD on the same label as the Glee soundtrack). As previously reported, John Stamos will pop by, and there's a good possibility that we'll see Javier Bardem. Jonathan Groff has signed on for two spring episodes—around the same time Kristin Chenoweth returns.

Another person who landed a role on Glee is Cheyenne Jackson, who will recur as rival glee club Vocal Adrenaline's coach—a position previously held by Idina Menzel. Personally, I can't wait to see Cheyenne in green face! This doesn't mean that the Wicked star is gone from the show. Menzel will return later in the season.

I've saved the most titillating Glee casting news for last: sexy (and aptly named) Chord Overstreet will join the show starting with the season premiere Sept. 21. At this point, his role is described as a jock who is initially Finn's protégé—which I believe is French for "Your place or mine?" (thank you, Sue Ann Nivens). In short order, he becomes his rival. Could this character also be the long-awaited boyfriend for Kurt? Stay tuned.

I know my fans enjoy "True Blood"—particularly with the addition of hunky Joe Manganiello as the werewolf Alcide. Joey certainly enjoys the attention of the fans, but there's a time and a place. He recently said, "All of the guys that come up to me tell me that I'm on their wives' favorite show. They chase me into the bathroom to tell me that." Shades of Larry Craig, eh? Yeah, uh-huh, their "wives." All this attention prompted the producers to promote him to a series regular next season. The stud also appears in the August issue of Muscle & Body—which I



Cheyenne Jackson (above) will join the list of 1,672 guest stars on TV's Glee.

believe is one of the workout magazines for men with "wives" who wanna look at photos of hot men in various forms of undress working out together. All very hetero, I'm sure. The photos are not to be believed, and they'll pop up on BillyMasters.com.

What would you pay to be thisclose to Manganiello or any of the other hunks on True Blood? If you've got a few thousand dollars sitting around, you could bid on a walk-on role at CharityBuzz.com, which will benefit the Children's Hospital Los Angeles auction. I hasten to add that this is not the first time the show has helped raise money for a good cause. In the fall, a similar package was auctioned off to benefit the LA Gay & Lesbian Center. The winning bid back then was \$15K. The current auction ends on August 18th and, as of this writing, it's up to \$11K. Sure, that sounds like a lot, but the winner gets to bring a friend to the set. It's like a two-for-one special. Admittedly, you could probably hire a hooker who looks just as good for a fraction of the cost, but I'm thinking for the right price, someone on the "TB" cast will make it worth your while.

The near-perfect Ryan Kwanten (whose posterior recently made an appearance on "Blood", in addition to our website) gets loads of requests from fans ... loads being the operative word. One particularly fanatical female requested his sperm! According to the awesome Aussie, he got a package in the mail containing a little vial. At first, he thought someone was asking for his blood ('cause of the whole vampire thing). But the woman in question was hoping for a "specimen" from Ryan so she could impregnate herself. You bitches are awfully ballsy. If that's all it took, he'd be getting test tubes by the bushel! Alas, he declined.

When Glee has more guest stars than regulars, it's time to end yet another column. Well, the European portion of my summer is coming to an end. By the time you read this, I'll be flying back to the good ole US of A. But I can't stay in one place for too long. Immediately on the horizon is a jaunt to Provincetown. To keep track of all my comings and goings, head over to www.BillyMasters.com where I also keep you abreast of the latest dish. If you've got a question, write to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Ryan sends me back that vial (coining the term "air male"). Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Gay Games thrill many, wind up

BY ROSS FORMAN

Jessica Andrasko battled for the bronze medal at Gay Games VIII in Cologne, Germany, but her volleyball team's fight was spiked, so she returned home to Chicago without a medal. But loaded with fond memories.

"The Games were absolutely amazing," Andrasko said. "The teams we played against were the best competition we have ever seen and they were also very friendly and fun to even hang out with outside of the games. We went to parties together and even hung out for hours after the matches were done just to talk and drink and have a great time with teams from other countries."

And after the matches, Andrasko and her teammates exchanged jerseys, T-shirts and warm-ups with players from other teams.

Sport officials also asked Andrasko's team to referee the gold-medal match between the French (Contrepeid So What) and Germany (Elb-pearls), ultimately won by the host country. Her team dropped its battle for bronze to another French team (Contrepeid So French).

"Cologne is a beautiful city that is very gay-friendly, even without [hosting] the Gay Games," Andrasko said. "Speaking with a Colonian, as they call themselves, this city is very supportive of the gay community. It would definitely be a place that, if I had the opportunity to visit again, I would."

Andrasko was one of about 125 Chicagoans competing in the quadrennial sports and cultural event that attracted about 9,500 participants from 65 countries. The Games ran from July 31-Aug. 7.

However, Andrasko not only competed but took part in at least one local custom: putting a lock on the so-called "Lock Bridge" that crosses the Rhine. "You lock a lock representing your love with your partner, spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend and lock it on the bridge, and [then] throw the key into the Rhine to lock in your love for one another," Andrasko said. "A beautiful and moving scene and just very cool. These locks have been on the bridge for many years and represent love from around the world."

Robbie Martin of Chicago also played volleyball in Cologne, for the London Volley in the men's/mixed AA Division. And his team featured players from Brazil, Italy, Mexico, Japan, New Zealand and, of course, the United States.

"It was a unique experience going into it since I hadn't played with any of them previously, but they welcomed me on and we ended up coming together really well. We went on to win the gold medal in front of a packed house, which was an amazing experience and the obvious highlight of the Games," Martin said. "The overall camaraderie built among all the teams throughout the week was special for me. The fact that we're in an inherently competitive environment, but are genuinely supportive of each other's victories and sympathetic to each other's losses despite language and cultural barriers is a perfect example of the spirits of the Games."

Martin sung the praise of Cologne, noting that the locals were "extremely welcoming and accommodating."

"I met several locals who were not even affiliated with the Games who I plan to stay in touch with beyond this week—from a political activist who grew up in Cologne and currently lives in Berlin to a lounge singer from the bar in my hotel," Martin said. "The hospitality of the locals made it easy to feel at home."

"The Gay Games is a rare opportunity to interact with like-minded people from around the world in a supportive and open environment. It is a special time when bonds and memories are forged that would otherwise be impossible. Although it is sad that the experience only happens every four years, I know the friendships made there will last indefinitely, so I wouldn't trade it for anything."

Steve Orellana, from central Florida, had mixed emotions in Cologne. He won his age division in the triathlon, but knew his coach, Hector Torres, endured a serious injury in the event, as first reported last week in *Windy City Times*.

Torres suffered a fractured skull, among other injuries, during a crash in the bicycle portion of the race. He was hospitalized for most of the Games.

"The opening ceremony's organization wasn't as good as Chicago's" in 2006, Torres said. "However, the closing ceremony was spectacular. The people were very receptive and warm, welcoming to all of the athletes."

"For the only sport I participated in [due to the injury], the triathlon, there weren't any race officials on the bike course, which led many people to cheat, draft and cause accidents like I suffered. Not that I am happy with that. But the events were great and colorful."



A softball player takes a swing at the 2010 Gay Games. Photo by Jean-Marc Lequeux

Torres, who ran the marathon at the Games in Chicago in 2006 and was slated for multiple events in Cologne, reported Aug. 7 that he had lost about 15 pounds from the injury.

"Let's all keep Hector in our prayers and hope he can recover quickly and stronger than before," Orellana said. "He was kicking my butt in the triathlon and I know he would have taken gold."

Orellana also won a silver medal in the 10K (6.2-mile) race, finishing in 36 minutes, 22 seconds. "It was a challenge running the day after my triathlon," Orellana said. He also was a silver medalist in the 5K (3.1-mile) race, finishing in 17:05. "I really wanted to go under 17 minutes, but I am happy with the results," he said.

Orellana did not medal in the half-marathon (13.1 miles), finishing 21st overall and sixth in his age group, timing in at one hour, 22 minutes.

"It has been a roller-coaster of a week," Orellana said.

Jack Mackenroth, the New York-based swimming sensation who garnered worldwide fame while appearing on *Project Runway* a few years ago, was competing in his sixth Games.

"The experience of the Gay Games did not disappoint," Mackenroth said. "The swimming competition was six days and started [daily] at 8 a.m. The venue was amazing. It was the first time I had ever seen a steel bottom pool which used sunlight and reflection to heat the water. It was stunning. I think there were about 750 [to] 1,000 swimmers competing and the competition [was] tough and the swimmers [meant] business."

Mackenroth won one gold, five silver and one bronze medal.

"I was more than pleased with [my medals], although the best day was my last day, which is a pretty good sign that I didn't rest enough beforehand or jet lag had taken its toll," he said. "In any case, I didn't do any personal best times, but I had some great races. I guess it was the year of the silver medal for me. That's OK. Silver goes better with my skin tone anyway."

Mackenroth competed in the 4x50-meter medley relay along with former U.S. Olympian Bruce Hayes, Josh Judge and Rob Hermanet.

"I met some really amazing athletes from all around the world," Mackenroth said. "Cologne is a very charming city and the people were warm and hospitable. From what I experienced, Cologne did a great job of hosting the Gay Games."

In the area of basketball, the San Francisco Rockdogs continued to dominate the Games, defeating the Long Beach Rebels 68-56 for the gold medal in the men's A-division. The Rockdogs also were golden at the Games in 2006.

In the bronze medal game, the DC Sentinels defeated the Sydney Specters 58-44. American Vice Consul Matthew Paschke, Consul Chris Grossman and gay former NFL player Dave Kopay awarded the three U.S. teams their medals, Outsports.com reported.

The Colorado Climax captured ice hockey gold in the recreational division, beating the Toronto Wolfpack for the title. The Boston Lobsters finished third. The Hogtown Boys won gold in the open division, while Team USA won gold in the women's division.

The Chicago Smelts swim team returned from Cologne with a bronze medal as the team features Luis Balaguer, Michael Thiry, Scottie Phin-

ney and others.

Chris Morgan, the three-time world "open" powerlifting champion and Gay Games ambassador, announced his retirement from three-lift powerlifting—after winning yet another Games gold medal.

Morgan has won three world gold medals, five British championship titles and six Gay Games gold medals, plus several other national and international titles. He will compete in the deadlift at the European "Single Event" Championships in Malta in October.

Federation of Gay Games (FGG) co-president Kurt Dahl said, "Chris Morgan has been an outstanding ambassador for the Gay Games. We are fortunate to have on our list of distinguished athletes, artists, and other dignitaries a man with such a remarkable career in mainstream and LGBT competitive sport, and are proud that his career began in the Gay Games. The Gay Games are the largest sporting event in the world open to all, from novices to elite athletes. With Chris, we have living proof that one can go from novice to elite status right here at the Gay Games. We look forward to continuing to work with Chris as an ambassador and in support of future Gay Games powerlifting events."

Games officials reported that 29 world records were set in the swimming competitions in Cologne. World records can only be established at master competitions. The records have to be reported to the swimming association within two weeks, and those results will be analyzed and the official record lists produced.

Kevin Boyer of Chicago was in Cologne for personal and professional reasons—he is part of the Games' PR crew, but also played for the Indianapolis Sluggers softball team.

Boyer's team won the silver medal, while the Philadelphia Fusion claimed gold.

"Disappointed we didn't get gold, but we had a blast," Boyer said.

Andy Burke of Chicago just missed a volleyball medal as his team finished 4th out of 14. "While we didn't win a medal. I can easily say this is the most fun/best group of guys I've played volleyball with," Burke said.

Kien Tran won a silver medal in the pole vault, which had to please the San Francisco resident at least a bit since, about three weeks before the Games started, he suffered a foot injury. He admitted he was just happy to march into the opening ceremony without needing crutches.

"The foot is still not well and my heart is aching for not being able to run. Well, there will be Gay Games Cleveland in 2014," Tran said.

Ah, yes, the 2014 Games in Cleveland. Well, they definitely will be held in Cleveland—but there will be a different organizing committee than the Cleveland Synergy Foundation, which spearheaded the winning bid last December in a three-city bid process that included challenges from Boston and Washington, D.C.

"Due to ... difficulties, we initiated a termination of the contract [with the Cleveland Synergy Foundation] on July 6," said FGG's Kelly Stevens, who would not comment more about the issues with the Cleveland Synergy Foundation.

"We wanted to try to be quiet about [the termination] until after Cologne, but it got out."

However, regarding the 2010 Games, Dahl called the event "great," adding he was "[v]ery happy with how Games Cologne staged this event. The closing ceremony was fun, celebratory and a great way to end the week."

HRC's upward SWING



A gorgeous, sunny day was the setting for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) 2010 women's annual golf SWING event Aug. 6 at Sunset Valley Golf Course in Highland Park, Ill. More than 90 golfers took to the course to play 18 holes and to celebrate equality. A silent auction was held; items included famed Chicago sports memorabilia, a signed copy of *Battle of the Sexes* by Billie Jean King, wine tasting parties and Ravinia tickets. All proceeds were donated to HRC at this annual charity event, now in its ninth year. Text and photo by Danica Milich

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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. Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

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