



i2i Gala

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Chicago's World's Fair of 1893



Nelly Furtado

page 15

nightspots
pick it up
take it home

Gay teen saves life, honored for heroism

BY ANDREW DAVIS

In most ways, Trevor Hall is like any other 17-year-old. The Zion, Ill., teen likes having fun with friends; and is looking forward to higher education and starting his own business.

However, Hall differs from most of his peers in at least two respects: He is openly gay, and he has been thrust into the national spotlight because he saved the life of another teen.

Saving a life

On Aug. 23, Hall was traveling with a large group of family and friends at Silver Lake in Kenosha, Wis. "We were just going for a picnic,"



Trevor Hall. Facebook photo reprinted with permission

Hall told Windy City Times. "We got there around 1 o'clock; at 5 o'clock I still hadn't gone in the water. It was nasty and I had just spent 45 minutes on my hair.

"However, something told me to go into the water. So I got in and, two minutes later, this all happened. I don't know if it was the good Lord above who told me to go in the water. I don't know what it was."

"My friend, Briana, and my cousin, Nicole [Bollinger], heard somebody say, 'Help.' I was up to my shoulders in water, and I stand 5'8". I was telling other people not to splash me because

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Stop & Cho

page 14

Margaret Cho is back on the scene with a new book, a tour—and an appearance as a contestant on next season's *Dancing with the Stars*. Windy City Times talks with the outspoken and multi-talented entertainer on page 14. Photo by Austin Young

Ken Mehlman comes out

BY REX WOCKNER

Ken Mehlman, George W. Bush's 2004 campaign chief and the former chairman of the Republican National Committee, came out of the closet Aug. 25 in an interview with *The Atlantic*.

He is the most powerful Republican in history to openly identify as gay. He previously had denied being gay in published reports.

"It's taken me 43 years to get comfortable with this part of my life," Mehlman said. "Everybody has their own path to travel, their own journey, and for me, over the past few months, I've told my family, friends, former colleagues, and current colleagues, and they've been wonderful and supportive. The process has been something that's made me a happier and better person. It's something I wish I had done years ago."

Mehlman's leadership positions in the GOP came during the party's most anti-gay period. He was George W. Bush's political director during Bush's first term as president, served as Bush-Cheney campaign manager in the homophobic 2004 campaign, and chaired the RNC from 2005 to 2007.

"His tenure as RNC chairman and his time at the center of the Bush political machine coincided with the Republican Party's attempts to exploit anti-gay prejudices and cement the allegiance of social conservatives," *The Atlantic* said.

Raw Story noted, "Some believe Bush's support for anti-gay marriage measures carried him

Turn to page 4

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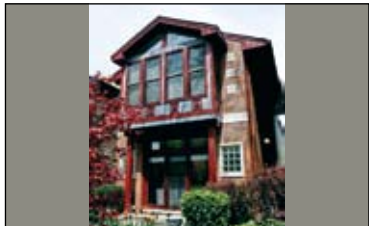
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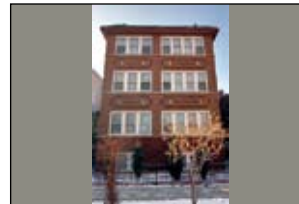
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SIMPLY THE FEST
See tons of photos from the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus' Love Fest and the ALMA picnic.
Photo by Anthony Galloway



Again, gender-bending took place at Flip Flop: The '80s, held at Sidetrack.
Photo by Jerry Nunn



DINING: Amuse Bouche truly goes French; two eateries open at North/Clybourn.
Photo at Urban Burger Bar by Andrew Davis

FINDERS KEEPERS
A gay Swedish movie and a vegan restaurant are among Five Worth Finding.

'LAST' CHANCE
Windy City Times reviews the film Mao's Last Dancer.

MORE NELLY, LAGO
Read the full interviews with singer Nelly Furtado and Million Dollar Quartet's David Lago online.

'SOCIAL' GRACES



View photos of musicians from the 3rd Annual Chicago Social.
Photo by Mel Ferrand

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

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U.S. News

BY REX WOCKNER

Calif. Senate repeals anti-gay statute

The California Senate on Aug. 23 unanimously passed a bill to repeal a 1950s-era law that instructs the California Department of Mental Health to conduct research into the "causes and cures of homosexuality."

The repeal previously passed the Assembly and heads to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger after an Assembly concurrence vote.

"It is outrageous that California law requires the state to expend scarce resources in a futile attempt to 'cure' homosexuality," said Equality California Executive Director Geoff Kors. "This offensive code must be stricken from the books immediately."

Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal, D-Long Beach and sponsor of the bill, said the Legislature's overwhelming opposition to the law "speaks volumes about how far we've come since 1950."

Calif. legislature ups the ante in marriage wars

The California Assembly passed the Civil Marriage Religious Freedom Act on Aug. 19 in a 46-25 vote. It previously passed the Senate 23-11 and is now en route to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Introduced by Sen. Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, and promoted by Equality California and the California Council of Churches, the bill redundantly protects clergy members from having to perform civil marriages that conflict with their religious beliefs.

It also redundantly protects religious institutions from losing tax-exempt status for refusing to perform any civil marriage, and deepens the distinction in state law between religious and civil marriage by defining the latter as a civil contract that requires a state-issued marriage license.

Both of the "protections" in the bill already exist throughout the U.S., including California.

"Opponents of marriage equality have falsely claimed that allowing same-sex couples to marry will force clergy to violate the tenets of their faiths," said EQCA Executive Director Geoff Kors. "This bill should alleviate any concerns that restoring marriage equality will require clergy to perform weddings inconsistent with their faith."

Scott Long leaves Human Rights Watch

Scott Long resigned Aug. 23 as director of Human Rights Watch's LGBT Rights Program.

In a note to friends, Long wrote: "In mid-July I suffered a pulmonary embolism of a fairly unpleasant sort. While running to catch a bus on a New York street, I saw a blinding effusion of white light, amid which several spangled and bell-bottomed figures vaguely resembling ABBA

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—Out Fla. candidate
Dan Manning (left)
gets death threats

—Report: 64,000
prisoners have been
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beckoned me to an eternal disco complete with spinning ball. Yanked back from their blandishments by a superior fashion sense, I spent a couple of weeks in intensive care. I had plenty of time lying in a bendable bed with an IV dripping, to compose, like Woody Allen, lists of the things that make life worth living: the last movement of Bruckner's Third Symphony; 'Sit Down, I Think I Love You' as covered by the Staccatos, with that harpsichord and those violins; the closing pages of 'Lolita'; W. H. Auden as sung by Cleo Laine. Somewhere in the middle of the lists, I realized that working for Human Rights Watch wasn't on them."

Long said he likely will pursue a fellowship at Harvard University, from which he received his Ph.D., and write a book "about what's moral and what's immoral about 'international solidarity,' and what's worked and what hasn't in campaigns for sexual rights."

"Scott's exemplary dedication and diligence has been an inspiration to us all," said Hadi Ghaemi, executive director of the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran and a member of HRW's LGBT Advisory Committee. "His articulate and relentless defense of LGBT rights everywhere is unparalleled, and his tremendous efforts on this front have been a guiding voice for justice and equality."

In addition to amassing a long list of accomplishments during his eight-year tenure at HRW, Long occasionally sparked controversy. In June, HRW issued an apology to British gay leader Peter Tatchell for what HRW Executive Director Kenneth Roth called Long's "inappropriate and disparaging comments" about Tatchell in recent years.

Calif. calls for LGBT census count

The California Assembly passed a resolution Aug. 23 urging Congress and President Barack Obama to require that the next census count LGBT Americans.

Introduced by Sen. Christine Kehoe, D-San Diego, the measure passed 49-25. It previously passed the Senate 22-9.

"All segments of our nation's diverse popula-

tion need to be counted by the U.S. Census," said Equality California Executive Director Geoff Kors. "By ensuring that the LGBT community is counted, our state and federal government will have the necessary information to address the needs of our community."

Kehoe said: "LGBT families and households are disproportionately underserved and more likely to live in poverty. We call on the U.S. Congress and the president to ensure that every person living in the U.S. is counted and has access to culturally competent health and human services."

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

LGBT groups propose hospital guidelines

Lambda Legal, the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association and the National Health Law Program have filed 26 pages of comments on proposed guidelines to eliminate discrimination in visitation against the families of LGBT patients pub-

lished in June by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), according to a Lambda Legal press release.

The department had invited comment from the public, as well as experts on healthcare and LGBT issues.

President Barack Obama—motivated by the case of Janice Langbehn, who was denied access to dying partner Lisa Pond—issued a memo in April directing HHS to develop new hospital-visitation guidelines.

Among the subjects that the three LGBT-rights organizations' guidelines cover are:

—who may visit when an incapacitated patient has not designated someone to make decisions;

—patient-visitor documentation not being discriminatorily applied to LGBT individuals;

—visitation rules having explicit non-discriminatory language to protect LGBT patients; and

—an appeals procedure for visitation denials, with patients being informed about it.

MEHLMAN from cover

to victory (in 2004), particularly in Ohio, which had a gay marriage measure on the ballot."

The Atlantic reported that Mehlman has been making amends behind the scenes on exactly that issue, revealing that he is significantly involved in the Proposition 8 federal lawsuit masterminded by the American Foundation for Equal Rights and superstar attorneys Ted Olson and David Boies.

AFER's Chad Griffin said Mehlman's contributions to the group have been "tremendous."

"When we achieve ... equality, he will be one of the people to thank for it," Griffin stated.

In September, Mehlman is chairing a major AFER fundraiser that already has raised \$1 million, Griffin told the Towleroad blog.

But as praiseworthy as such moves may be, some of Mehlman's homosexual brothers are demanding more.

Blogger Mike Rogers, who leaked the story of Mehlman's coming out just before The Atlantic released it, wrote: "Ken Mehlman is horribly homophobic and no matter how orchestrated his coming out is, our community should hold him accountable for his past. ... I want to hear from Ken that he is sorry for being the architect of the 2004 Bush reelection campaign. ... I want to hear from Ken that he is sorry for the pressing of two Federal Marriage Amendments as political tools. ... And those state marriage amendments. I want to hear him apologize for every one of those, too."

Blogger Joe. My. God. picked up Rogers' post and called Mehlman a "repulsive ... homophobic scumbag asshat."

Equality California Executive Director Geoff Kors commented: "I'm glad he finally came out and glad he's raising money and working to undo the tremendous damage he did to LGBT people. He needs to acknowledge the damage he caused and apologize for the lives he's ruined, raise millions of dollars to overturn every one of the state constitutional amendments (banning same-sex marriage that) he helped pass, and spend the rest of his life working to achieve equality and justice for the community he is part of that he used for selfish political purposes."

Kors said Mehlman also should urge George W. Bush to join his wife, Laura, in supporting legalization of same-sex marriage.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

Gay GOPs weigh in on Mehlman

Chris Barron of gay conservative group GO-Proud told CNN, "I applaud Ken for having the courage to take this important step. I think everyone should remember that each of us has our own personal journey as it relates to coming to terms with our own sexuality and



Ken Mehlman. From the Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. website

coming out," according to the organization's website.

Log Cabin Republicans, another gay GOP organization, issued a statement. Executive Director R. Clarke Cooper said, "Log Cabin Republicans is very supportive and appreciative of Ken's coming out. Being gay and being conservative are not mutually exclusive. As a fellow Bush alumnus, I also look forward to Ken helping me and our colleagues build a stronger and more inclusive Republican Party. Nothing presents a better argument for the equality of gay and lesbian citizens than the reality of our lives as responsible members of society."

"The process of coming out, and certainly coming out in the public eye, is never an easy one, but I am glad that Ken has decided to take this step and am glad that he is doing so on behalf of the fight for equality," said former Republican Congressman Jim Kolbe. "As somebody who took my own journey and came out later in life, I have a great deal of respect for him doing this on his own terms. Ken joins a chorus that includes Laura Bush, Dick Cheney, Ted Olson, and countless others advocating for the American value of inclusion. This is not a time for playing politics; it is a time for us all to join together—Republicans and Democrats—to repeal the failed 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy, to pass workplace non-discrimination, and to recognize all committed relationships. The responsibility for making this happen lies with the Democratic leadership in Congress and in the White House who set the legislative agenda."

Michael Carr, president of the Illinois chapter of Log Cabin Republicans, e-mailed Windy City Times, "I am excited and encouraged to have yet another noteworthy Republican aiding in the fight for gay and lesbian equality. As we know, one of the largest determining factors in supporting the GLBT community is knowing a member of our community. Mr. Mehlman, no doubt, has a large reach within the GOP and is an amazing position to change hearts and minds in favor of equality."

Mehlman is currently part of the global alternative asset manager Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.

—Andrew Davis



Scott Long. Photo by Rex Wockner



Mayor Richard Daley and Alderman Mary Ann Smith. Photo by Andrew Davis

Officials, residents at Osterman beach house dedication

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Public officials, civic leaders and local residents were among those attending the dedication of a beach house in memory of the late alderman Kathy Osterman. The event took place Aug. 27 at 5701 N. Lake Shore, on Osterman Beach (formerly Hollywood Beach).

Chicago Park District CEO and General Superintendent Tim Mitchell presided over the ceremony, which featured remarks from state Rep. Harry Osterman (Kathy's son), 48th Ward Alderman Mary Ann Smith, Mayor Richard Daley and lifeguard Sonia Lugo.

Smith lauded Daley for what she said are consistent improvements to the city's parks and added, "There are miracles all around us, including the dragonflies that are here today." She called Kathy Osterman "a visionary, who worked

so hard for our neighborhood."

Daley said that Osterman was a "family friend and a wonderful public servant. She came here with great commitment ... and she had a love of people." Speaking of her term as the director of the mayor's special events (a post Daley appointed Osterman to after she retired from her aldermanic seat in 1989), he added, "She was the best. She overpowered everyone with ideas." He also said that "she loved her family, friends and this wonderful beach."

State Rep. Osterman said, "I know that my mother is looking down with a big smile today as she sees all of her friends for many, many years. ... She was all about bringing people together." He also said, "She gave me some karma today when I tore my suit coat getting out of the car, [as if to say] I shouldn't be wearing a suit to the beach"—generating a lot of laughter from the crowd.

Osterman thanked Daley and Smith for making "a huge difference in our community." He then talked about the transformations of the neighborhood, schools and parks before making this remark: "This beach is a special place. ... It's a place where people come and feel welcome, whether it's our gay and lesbian friends and neighbors who call this beach their own; whether it's the neighbors who live along Sheri-

dan Road who call this their private backyard; whether it's families who lug all their stuff down to the beach and share precious memories and moments with their children; or whether it's new immigrants and refugees to our city who haven't seen the lake ... there is a togetherness that mirrors our community, that mirrors the city of Chicago. All of us are one, and we celebrate that diversity. That was something my mother embodied."

The beach house occupies 2,750 square feet; has men's, women's and family restrooms; a life-guard office; a concession space; bicycle racks; and two security cameras. The facility also sports environmental sustainability features, such as a rainwater harvesting system, natural ventilation and tubular skylights.

Kathy Osterman would have been 67 on July 22.

TPAN's 'Aware Affair' Sept. 11

Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) has announced details of the organization's annual fall fundraising event, the Aware Affair, to be held Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Ravenswood Billboard Factory, 4011 N. Ravenswood. The event will feature 1980s icons and industrial vibe in the modern loft space.

The venue's third-floor atrium will be a VIP Mile High Club and private cocktail lounge with an adjacent outdoor terrace for donors attending the reception at 6:30 p.m. At 7:30 p.m., the venue's main floor and classic car showroom will be transformed into a '80s Ultra Lounge, where guests will sample from a buffet of comfort classics; peruse an array of silent auction prizes and artwork; and watch performance art and entertainment.

For reservations and more information about TPAN's "Aware Affair: Totally '80s Ultra Lounge," visit www.tpan.com or call Rhett Lindsay at 773-989-9400, ext. 233.

PASSAGES

Jane McGowan

Jane Marie McGowan, formerly from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., passed away. She was 49.

McGowan was the cherished daughter of William (Bill) and the late Josephine McGowan; dear sister of Judy Carroll, Justin (Janet) Carroll, Jeannine (McGowan) (Rudy) Chavez, Janis (Jim Henderson) McGowan, and the late Jim McGowan; fond aunt of many nieces and nephews; and great-aunt of two.

She was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago, earned her R.N. degree and worked as a nurse in the emergency room at St. Joseph and Northwestern Memorial Hospitals. McGowan moved to Florida and worked in hospitals in Miami and Ft. Lauderdale. She was an avid sportswoman who played in organized women's rugby and softball leagues and also worked as a personal trainer and was a certified masseuse.

A memorial service was held Aug. 28 at Big Chicks, 5024 N. Sheridan.



Jane McGowan. Photo by Jent Sebahar



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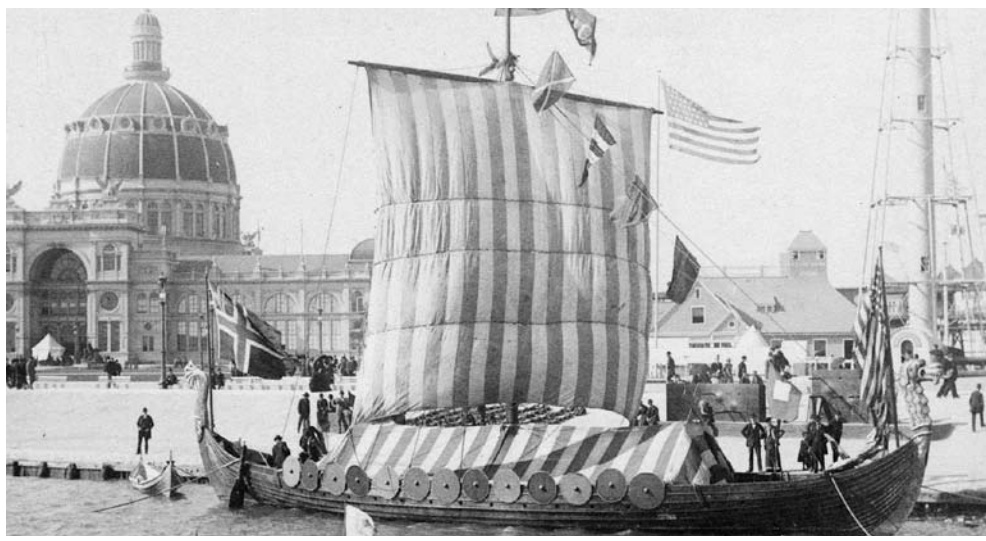
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Photos of the interior of the Palace of Mechanical Arts (left) and the Viking (right). Photos on this page courtesy of Turner Publishing

BOOK REVIEW

Historic Photos of the Chicago's World's Fair

Text and captions by
Russell Lewis
\$39.95; Turner; 216 pages
BY MARIE J. KUDA

The World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 was a landmark in Chicago's history, so much so that one star on our city flag commemorates the event.

Just a few decades after the Chicago Fire we were city of one and a half million residents but we hosted over 21 million visitors during the six months of the Fair—a figure nearly one-fourth of the population of the entire United States. While it was a great gathering of the fruits of industry, arts and agriculture, the images of the Fair that survive in popular memory are the statue of The Republic standing at the head of the Great Basin surrounded by the gleaming white buildings of the Court of Honor—and the 264-foot-high Ferris Wheel, the real money maker of the fair.

In his preface Russell Lewis, executive vice president and chief historian of the Chicago History Museum, tells us: "The World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 was the most photographed event in the nineteenth century." Charles Dudley Arnold was the official photographer, but Kodak's recently invented snapshot cameras were available for rental to fairgoers for \$2.00 a day, plus film and developing. The 200-plus photos in this book are selected from Arnold prints and those of non-professionals in the Museum's collections. Few, especially those documenting the early stages—filling the swamps, dredging, creating the lagoons, the sheer immensity of the construction projects dwarfing the workers—have been seen before. Lewis has endeavored to show the full sweep of the project—men, mules, steelworkers and plasterers building a magnificent something out of nothing. All aspects of the Fair are on view in five sections, each with an introduction, culminating in the post-closing fires and smoldering ruins.

The Midway Plaisance

Most visitors entered the Fair by boat or across the bridge through the grand entryway amidst the Peristyles representing the forty-eight States to see the much touted "White City" spread out before them. But many entered from the southwest directly unto The Midway, home to the gaudier, more profitable, seamier side of the 1893 Fair. Russell Lewis' book has several photographs of the Streets of Cairo section that, along with camel rides and Egyptian mummies, featured the hootchy-kootchy dancing girls that would create the myth of "Little Egypt" which would linger in Chicago lore until overshadowed by the ostrich-fan dance of Sally Rand at the 1933 Century of Progress Exhibition.

Journalist Marian Shaw who covered the Fair

for the Fargo, North Dakota Argus entered unto the Midway "pushing our way through noisy crowds of street vendors, hackmen and rumbling carts, deafened by the roar of elevated trains . . . yelling Arabs, howling muleteers, braying donkeys . . . it would be well for all visitors to this primitive encampment to follow the example of the Cossacks when they attacked the garlic-eating French battalion—stop their nostrils with clay." (Marian Shaw, *World's Fair Notes*, 1992).

Encampments of fur-clad Exquimaux (Eskimos to us), nearly naked Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, two Irish castles, German and Viennese beer gardens, a Chinese Village, a Turkish Village replete with an obelisk and mosque, a Moorish Palace, an erupting Hawaiian volcano, are but a few of the Midway attractions documented in Lewis' book.

The Midway was also home to the towering Ferris Wheel, the icon du jour, which had 36 cars, each holding 40 people seated or 60 standing. The book has ten photographs of the Wheel, from mid-construction to views of the Fair from its apex. Just last year while excavating for an ice rink the original steel foundation of the Wheel was unearthed.

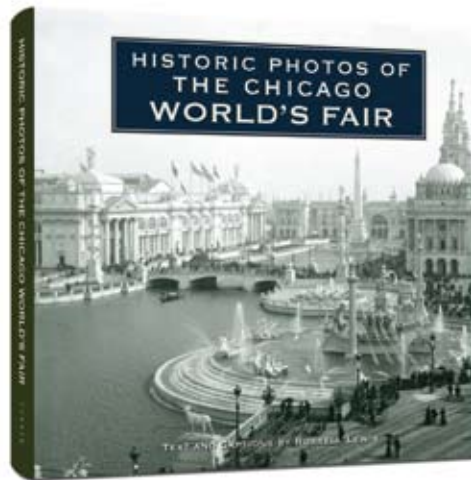
Jackson/Washington/Lincoln parks

Lewis' book also has photos of the replica of Japan's 14th-century Ho-o-den Palace constructed by Japanese craftsmen on the Wooded Island in the North lagoon in Jackson Park. This beautiful structure was left as a gift to Chicago and survived the Fair only to fall victim to arson during World War II, when Japan was our enemy.

The Museum of Science and Industry in Jackson Park, filled with the toys of technology is a survivor of the Fair. The huge Caryatids, draped female figures created by Enid Yandell, support the Graeco-classic style building that once was the Palace of Fine Arts. A massive staircase led to a landing in the South Pond where fairgoers were discharged directly from boats that meandered the lagoons.

In Washington Park the 30-foot gilded statue of The Republic is a replica of the 100-foot creation of Daniel Chester French that stood in the Great Basin of the Fair surrounded by those temporary classical structures that would be dubbed "The White City." At its western end, the Midway today culminates in Lorado Taft's Fountain of Time. Taft, but one of the sculptors of the Fair had his studios just to the east, hired women assistants; several who worked on sculpture at the Fair went on to national recognition.

For years the Lincoln Park Zoo also housed a remnant of that fabled 1893 Fair—a Viking ship open all around to view. Nothing but a roof and a small fence protected the carved dragon-head prow and tail from vandals and the elements. A



plaque explained that the boat, an exact replica of the 10th-century Gorstad, manned by 12 oarsmen and under its own sail, had crossed from Norway to North America in 28 days before making its way through the Erie Canal and Lake Michigan to the Fair. It arrived at the Basin the same day as the replicas of Columbus' caravels the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria (which had been towed across the Atlantic from Spain). Pictures of the vessels under sail and at anchorage are in the Lewis book. The history and details of the eventual fate of the Viking is told in June Skinner Sawyer's book *Chicago Sketches* (1995).

One photograph in the Lewis book refutes Sawyer and others who claim that the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show was "included" in the Fair. Clearly showing Bill's structure well to the southeast of the fairgrounds, Lewis' caption indicates that the show had been rejected for participation in the Fair and as an "independent attraction" with "two shows daily, rain or shine" diverted revenue from the Midway attractions.

From Fair to McCormick Place

Fairs throughout history have been places to showcase new products, commercial and cultural, for consumers. Two of the popular harbingers of 20th-century progress displayed were transportation and electricity. In his beautifully illustrated book, *America at the Fair* (Arcadia, 2008), Chaim M. Rosenberg concentrates totally on the commercial side of the venture. He has collected dozens of full-color pieces (advertising trade cards, catalog covers, postcards) from the Fair to bring life to his history of each of the major buildings and their wares. He notes that there were 65,000 exhibits of 250,000 objects from fifty foreign nations on display. Rosenberg writes that the Manufacturers and Liberal Arts Building contained 44 acres of exhibits and was "the largest structure in the world at the time." The massive steel-framed structures are given scale in the photographs in the Lewis book that show them under construction. McCormick Place exhibition halls can trace their origins back to the original lakefront Exposition.

Turn to page 7

SIDEBAR

Gaily, gaily: After the Fair

A gay aside is that the most prominent female sculptor in the world at the time of the 1893 Fair, lesbian Harriet Hosmer, was commissioned to execute a statute of Queen Isabella in the act of handing her jewels to Columbus to finance his voyage. The Isabella faction objected to a separate Women's Building, urging that women's accomplishments stand equally with those of men. The internecine battles on that front were detailed in Jeanne Madeline Weimann's excellent book, *The Fair Women* (Academy, 1981). She reports that after the Fair the statue "appears to have traveled to Golden Gate Park in San Francisco from which it disappeared."

Architect Louis Sullivan's Transportation Building was a radical departure from the neo-classical White City (which he claimed set architecture in America back a century). Not only did his have an elaborate golden arch as entryway, but the building itself was multicolored (think rainbow).

Some other gay connections to structures that survived the Fair include the little buildings at 57th and Stony Island Avenue that became an art colony of sorts for the denizens of the Chicago Renaissance. At one Margaret Anderson (HOF 2006) announced her creation of that clarion of Modernism *The Little Review*, at another (1547 E. 57th Street) dancer/poet Mark Turbyfill created a ballet studio and held classes for an aspiring Katherine Dunham who went on to become the doyenne of African-American dance.



The Ho-o-den Palace, as depicted in the book.

In July, 1929 Turbyfill had a chance meeting with Henry Blake Fuller (HOF 2000) author of early gay works (a play published in 18, and a novel in 1917) alongside the deteriorating Palace of Fine Arts building. He writes that he was "musing over the decaying copy of a Greek frieze still clinging to the weathered wall of the . . . fading old building" when he saw Henry B., they found a bench, reminisced for a time, discussed Fuller's forthcoming novels, and walked together to the Illinois Central station. Just two weeks later Fuller "died in his little room near Dorchester and 54th Street, alone."

Another group of buildings left over from the Fair were 18 watchmen's "cottages" along the Lakefront at 73rd Street (just North of the area that would become the South Shore Country Club in 1906). The corrugated metal cottages survived, and after moving to Chicago in the 1950s Velma Tate and her three sons lived in one—Tate wrote lesbian pulp novels under the name Valerie Taylor (HOF 1992). Activist and former Mattachine Midwest president Guy Warner's (HOF 2008) family also rented two conjoined cottages housing him and his eight siblings from 1942 until all the cottages (known as The Colony) were sold and torn down in 1960.

In the 1970s, after being ordained as the first openly gay Unitarian Universalist minister, University of Chicago, Meadville graduate Sandra Szelag held her reception on the Wooded Island. The only remnant of the Ho-o-den Palace was a single stone Japanese garden lantern.

As a photo document of the 1893 Fair from first shovel to last ash Mr. Lewis' book succeeds admirably.

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Little Village LGBT bar stirs controversy

BY SAMUEL WORLEY

Some community activists are calling for the closure of La Cueva, a Little Village bar that attracts a large gay and transgender clientele. La Cueva, which has been open since 1972, hosts drag shows Thursday through Sunday, and has been recognized for providing a welcoming space for Latino LGBT people.

Opponents, though, say that the bar is a site of illegal activity in a neighborhood that is home to many families. They say that La Cueva, a non-descript façade on a busy commercial stretch of West 26th Street, sells alcohol to minors, allows drug dealing on its premises and encourages prostitution in the neighborhood.

"It's causing a lot of havoc and dismay to the residents of the area," said Raul Montes, Jr., who organized a protest and press conference outside of La Cueva Aug. 17. On nights that the bar is open, he said, there are "transsexuals and transvestites on every corner," with "young kids picking them up."

He claimed that he recently was the subject of attempted solicitation by a group of people he thought to be transgender women. "It was disgusting," he said.

Montes said that his complaints, which he has taken to the local alderman and police commander, are not motivated by anti-gay bias. "If anybody were to ask me, I don't have a problem with gay people," Montes said. "It's the illegal activity. It could be any type of bar."

Montes estimated that about 25 people attended the protest he organized outside of La Cueva. One was Daisy Revera, who told Windy City Times of "homosexual guys selling themselves on the corner."

"There's a lot of prostituting going on because of that bar," said Revera, who lives close to the bar. "I'm so sick of seeing this."

Responding to a request from Windy City Times, a representative of the Chicago Police Department said that crime information is not available for specific addresses.

Ruben Lechuga, who manages La Cueva and owns the building it is housed in, denied the protesters' charges. "We don't have any problems inside," he said, and when illegal activity is ap-

parent out front, "we call the police."

Lechuga said that the bar had been in its Little Village location for 30 years with no problems from the neighborhood. "I go to the CAPS [Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy] meetings every month," he said, referring to Chicago's community policing initiative.

Project VIDA, an organization that provides services to people affected by HIV/AIDS, has offices in Little Village. Its executive director, Olivia Sanchez, told Windy City Times that she had been going to the bar since she was 21, drawn to the eclectic crowd that La Cueva attracts. She said that the space is diverse in terms of age, race, and gender expression.

"You get your traditional Mexican with the cowboy hat and belt and matching boots—and [you get] same-gender couples," she said. "While you're in there, it's like a whole new world from the outside."

The drag revue and diverse clientele have brought a fair amount of publicity to La Cueva. One of its performers, Ketty Teanga, was the subject of a 2006 profile in the Chicago Reader, and recently the literary journal Triquarterly published an essay on the bar by writer Achy Obejas.

Describing the crowd, Obejas wrote, "Tonight there are opposite-sex couples in their twenties, their loose limbs elaborately tattooed; married couples who dance in perfect step; an elderly grandma out with a frisky younger man who doesn't always seem to be all there; carefully coiffed Mexican men in couples, wearing jeans and pressed shirts, who struggle with who's leading; and a tribe of dancing girls. Next to them, two queens press against each other with laserlike eye contact."

Sanchez said that La Cueva's managers have been receptive to HIV/AIDS prevention outreach that Project VIDA has sought to do inside the bar. She said that Lechuga, the manager, is "very open to helping the community."

"There's not a whole lot of businesses that do that," Sanchez said. "The management—there's that sense of community responsibility."

As to the charges of illegal activity in the neighborhood, Sanchez said that she has seen people linger on the street after the bar closed, but she did not see activity she thought was "blatantly" illegal.

"To me, it's like any other bar. Sometimes people can get a little over-intoxicated," she said. "I don't see how it's any more dangerous than people leaving straight bars at two or three."

Center awards scholarships

Desiree Gales and Jeremy Nowell, two Center on Halsted youth program members, each received a \$500 scholarship Aug. 26. Awarded in honor of Martin Ruiz, Jr., the scholarships help LGBT youth achieve their educational and career goals through non-traditional means, like apprenticeships, self-study, vocational training or other avenues.

Gales will use her scholarship to buy art supplies and equipment for her button-making business. She plans to enroll in college to study engineering next year.

Nowell is a sophomore studying journalism at Eastern Illinois University. He writes for the school newspaper and has hosted shows about LGBT teen issues on CAN TV, the Chicago non-

profit access network. He plans to spend his scholarship money on summer journalism classes at EIU, so he can get ahead and possibly graduate early. "I want to write, do radio and television," he said. "I want to reach as broad an audience as possible."

The scholarships honor the deceased Martin Ruiz, Jr., who was unable to afford to attend a traditional four-year college program and instead focused his efforts in different forms of education. A child of an immigrant family, Ruiz never finished high school, but through his own initiative he became a successful wine distributor. Robert Sash, Ruiz's former partner, administers the annual scholarship fund.



From left: Desiree Gales, Youth Program Director Alicia Vega, Ruiz Fund Executor Robert Sash and Jeremy Nowell. Photo courtesy of Sarah Sumadi

FAIR from page 6

Fires and destruction

After the Fair closed hastily following the murder of Chicago Mayor Carter Harrison, building after building was destroyed by unexplained fires. The final pages of Lewis' book have haunting images of the conflagrations and eerily recognizable structures amid the smoldering ruins. But the most tragic photograph in the book documents the mid-Fair blaze when the Cold Storage Building caught fire in July. Firefighters and employees are shown trapped atop the building's tower amid the rising smoke and flames. One person is shown mid-air leaping to his death—shockingly reminiscent of 9-11. Seventeen would lose their lives.

Did the "Devil" make them do it?

Chicago History Museum has been the major source for photographs of the Fair for dozens of books, particularly over the last forty years. In the Centennial year 1993 they mounted an exhibition and published an excellent catalog, *Grand Illusions: Chicago's World's Fair of 1893*. Why another book? Why now? One can only speculate, since the question is not addressed in the current volume. The CHM currently offers "Devil in the White City" tours, and as already mentioned, little survives of the fairgrounds, so perhaps this was considered as a companion or souvenir volume. Its format follows the construction, flourishing, and destruction of the Fair as delineated in Erik Larsen's 2003 book that counterpoints Fair builder Daniel Burnham with mass murderer H. H. Holmes. Then again, perhaps there is some movement I've missed toward the adaptation of Larson's novel to film since Paramount renewed their option a few years ago. Whatever the reason, the current volume is a more than welcome addition to the body of work documenting a seminal event in our Chicago history.

The only "faults" I can find in the Lewis present volume, are of interpretation and omis-

sion—I sorely missed an index, and, a few more words to round out the pictures. While in these photographs the thoroughfares and buildings are shown alive with people, I would question some of the captions. Three photographs—one of a mustachioed Dandy chomping a cigar and wearing a boater, and another with a Columbian Guard—appear to be ogling young women (one whose short skirt betrays her youth, glances back coyly) in the other, two women lock glances with a uniformed man; all are labeled with suggestions that fairgoers were "discomforted" by the variety of races encountered—while in these three photographs costumed humanity has already passed by.

Other captions are sufficient, but with plenty of white space unfilled; additional information would have been welcome. For example, in the section "A City Beautiful," a photograph of Alexander Phimister Proctor's statue "Cowboy" also stood along the Lagoon in front of the Transportation Building. This could easily have been cross-referenced to the photograph in the "Beauty and Grandeur Unrivaled" section that shows the Indian Scout (unidentified) to the right of the Mines and Mining Building. The page showing the Bison by Proctor and Edward Kemeys could have carried such information as Kemeys' also did the lions in front of the Administration Building (which became the Art Institute of Chicago after the Fair); or that the Bison now reside in Humboldt Park. Additional information, such as I supplied above, about the Ho-o-den building and the Viking ship could have been added to their brief captions.

Likewise, the caption of a photo showing a souvenir stand makes mention of the minting and sale of commemorative half-dollars (not shown) impressed with an image of Columbus. There was room to add that souvenir Isabella quarters were also minted and sold by the Board of Lady Managers.

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i2i's special gala



The great hall of the Japanese American Service Committee was transformed Aug. 28 into a lively scene as 150 members, friends and allies of the queer Asian/Pacific Islander (API) community gathered to network, celebrate their achievements and honor their own.

The event was a joint effort of Chicago's i2i—Invisible to Invincible—QAPI organization and the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Association (NQAPIA). The gathering feted i2i's fifth anniversary, served as the centerpiece social event of NQAPIA's conference in Chicago over the weekend, and helped to raise funds for future programs and social justice work. About 150 individuals attended, representing the many ethnicities and gender identities within the very diverse API community.

According to spokesperson Liz Thomson, about half of the attendees were local Chicago activists and allies and half hailed from cities and towns around the United States. The pioneers of the group were present as well as the upcoming generation of fabulously invincible QAPI movers and shakers.

The program, emceed by transgender slam poet Kit Yan, featured a performance by lesbian comic Sapna Kumar and a documentary retrospective on i2i. NQAPIA Community Catalyst awards were presented to the Lunar New Year for All Coalition, queer undocumented immigrant and founder of www.DREAMActivist.org Mohammad Abdollahi and Chicago's own Lola Lai Jong.

The buffet dinner featured basil chicken, tofu vegetables, tofu pad thai, egg rolls and crab rangoon. Photos and text by Micki Leventhal

TEEN from cover

of the water. But then I saw this [14-year-old] kid bobbing in the water, and I was just gone. My friends said that I swam so fast I looked like I was on top of the water.

"So I get to this kid and he's well into the water. I got to him and he was cold and hard as a rock; I thought he was dead—I have no doubt in my mind. I just put him over my head; it felt like he had weighed 200 pounds, he had swallowed so much water.

"I [too] was swallowing so much water but all I thought was, 'I don't care what happens to me. I'm gonna die but I don't care what happens to me as long as this kid is alright.'

"Unfortunately, this kid didn't know how to swim. I have no idea why he was even out there." Eventually, Hall was able to hand the teen over to Bollinger.

The lake is staffed with lifeguards—so where was the one on duty? According to Hall, "I noticed that the lifeguard had something in her hand and something shiny in her hand and headphones in her ears. If she didn't have those headphones in her ears, she would've heard him." Hall added that the troubled teen had three cousins with him, but they were apparently unable to swim.

[Editor's note: Windy City Times spoke with Jennie Tunkieicz of the Kenosha County executive's office. She said that Hall's account regarding the lifeguard "was incorrect. [The lifeguard] had an iPod but she was using it as a clock; she was not wearing earbuds." Tunkieicz also said that the lifeguard did not hear the teen because the incident "happened outside the safe swim zone" but that the lifeguard responded once she realized there was "a commotion."

Tunkieicz added that the office is "grateful to Mr. Hall that he was able to achieve a positive outcome.]

Continuing to recall the incident, Hall said, "[The teen] was just throwing up and Nicole was trying to give him the Heimlich, although Kenosha said she was wrong for doing that. But guess what? She's not a lifeguard, so how was she supposed to know?

At this point, Hall became emotional: "I kept thinking he was dead—and I was flipping out on this lifeguard. Nicole handed him off to a friend of ours, Veronica, who's a CNA [certified nursing assistant]. So she [then] handed him over to the lifeguard, who put him on his back.

"I was shaking, throwing up, going crazy. At this point, the paramedics got there, took him off to the ER and said to me, 'We want you

to go to the hospital.' I said, 'I'm OK.'" However, according to Hall, the paramedics said that they could not legally leave him without a medical analysis.

He said that that the hospital, the Aurora Medical Center, ran several tests on him, including "an EKG and chest X-rays." The boy Hall saved went to his room and hugged him, and the teen's mom profused thanked Hall as well: "She said, 'I don't know how I'll ever repay you. I just got married two days ago ... and I don't know what I would do right now if I had to identify my child.'"

The aftermath

However, a harsh reality hit Hall after saving the fellow teen's life. The Aurora Medical Center billed him \$2,000 for the tests.

After public pressure (including articles that ran in publications such as the Chicago Sun-Times), the hospital relented and waived the bills. According to the Sun-Times, Aurora Medical Center spokesman Michael Brophy said, "The family has been through enough. We've just made the decision not to send them a bill. Why make them go through another process?" Unfortunately for Hall, he still had to pay the ambulance fee, which he said is "close to \$800."

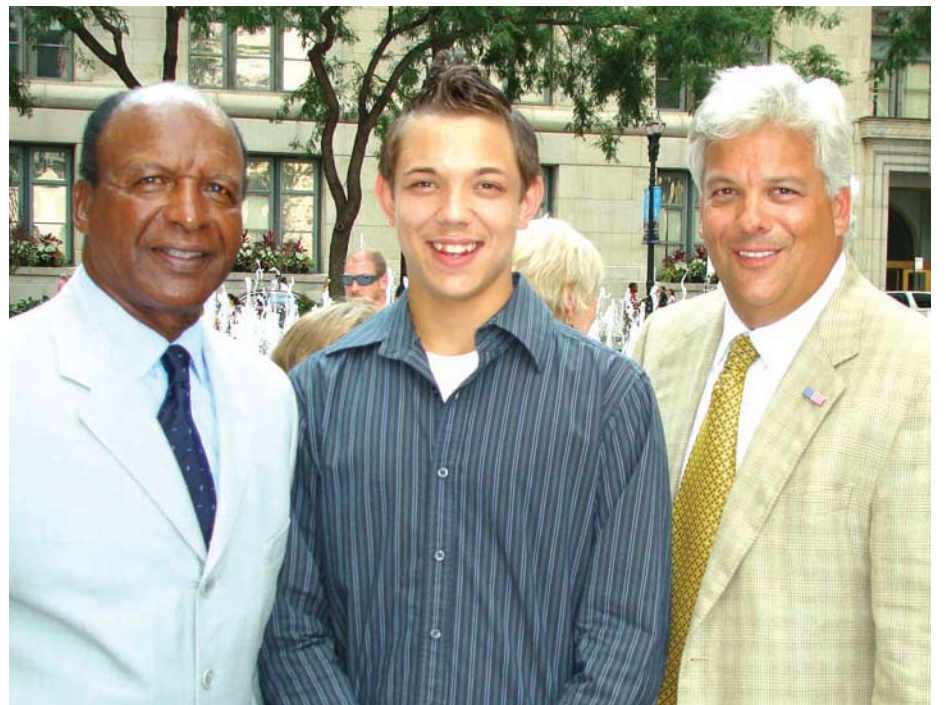
On Aug. 30, Hall was slated to receive a resolution in a ceremony at the Daley Center that included Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White and state Rep. Jack Franks, D-Woodstock; Hall was also to receive a check to cover the ambulance fees.

Regarding his future, Hall said that he plans to go to cosmetology school in the Quad Cities area, and then hopes to open a salon.

When asked if he felt like a hero or role model, Hall cited something Bollinger said: "I don't feel like it's heroic; I feel like it's human." He added, "I feel like anybody in their right mind [would not] let anybody die in front of him. Maybe I am to Aaron [the teen Hall saved] and his family."

Hall also had words for anyone who felt that, somehow, this was all for publicity: "I didn't call anybody. After I went to bed [for a couple hours], I had 35 missed calls from news reporters and newspapers. People were parked outside of my house. ... How they found out where I live or my phone number, I have no idea."

Looking back on what transpired Aug. 23, though, Hall told Windy City Times that he has been changed forever: "It was a life-changing experience. I'll never be the same person. My outlook on life is so different now because death is just a blink [away]. I never imagined any of this."



Trevor Hall (center) was honored Aug. 30 at the Daley Center with a Good Samaritan Award, a district proclamation and a check to cover the outstanding ambulance bill. Here, he poses with Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White (left) and state Rep. Jack Franks. Photo from Franks' office



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a GAY in the LIFE

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY KATE SOSIN



Dustin Yager
 Administrative assistant

Armed with a bag of animal crackers and clad in a cardigan and neon-striped socks, Dustin Yager begins his day.

It starts 12 stories up, in a bright classroom at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). "We're making Lego guys," Dustin explains. He is sitting around a large table with other grad students, using his laptop to design a Mohawk for his Lego guy. When he's done, the design will be spit out of a 3-D printer down the hall.



When class finishes, Dustin heads down the hall to his full-time job as an Administrative Assistant in the SAIC Architecture Department.



But by evening, he's riding his bike to his pottery studio.

Dustin kneads a large ball of porcelain, wets the spinning wheel and begins pulling cups from the clay. He'll sell these later or show them in galleries, every one of them unique.



"I really don't like things that match all the way," he says, as he places another finished cup aside. "I think that's really boring to have eight of the same thing. I'd rather have eight of the same idea."

To see Dustin's work, check out Ceramicsandtheory.com/home.html.

the stats

Age
27

Neighborhood
Logan Square

Hometown
Greybull, Wyo.

Occupations
Administrative assistant,
Master's student, potter

Relationship Status
Single

Hobbies
Ceramics, thrifting, decorating


**REX
WOCKNER**

What matters now in the Prop 8 federal case?

Various legal documents will be filed and then the federal Proposition 8 case will be argued in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals the week of Dec. 6.

And there's little chance California's statewide and local LGBT activists will talk about much else between now and then.

So what's the Prop 8 chitchat here on the Left Coast? There are several issues:

—The governor and attorney general and everyone else who was sued in the federal Prop 8 case have refused to defend Prop 8 in court. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jerry Brown say Prop 8 is unconstitutional, that gay and lesbian couples should be able to marry right now, and that there should not have been a stay issued pending appeal. Because of their refusals, Prop 8's only defenders are the defendant-intervenors from Protect Marriage, the folks who brought you Prop 8 in the first place. But in what has emerged as a central question in the case, the defendant-intervenors may not have legal "standing" to function as defendants at the appellate level. Nobody sued these folks in this case, and these folks have nothing to do with defending the state constitution, of which Prop 8 is a part. That's Brown and Schwarzenegger's job. The 9th Circuit has ordered these Prop 8 proponents to prove they even had standing to file an appeal. There is at least a 50/50 chance they'll be kicked out of the case.

—That brings us to Imperial County, a poor, dusty place of about 167,000 people located in the desert between San Diego County and the Arizona border. Imperial County, represented by a Christian legal group, wants to enter the case as a real defendant so the ruling that struck down Prop 8 really can be appealed to the 9th Circuit. The 9th Circuit will make that call as well. Many observers think it's a long shot, but, of course, courts are often unpredictable and the 9th Circuit might really want to find a way for Prop 8 proponents to have their appeal of

U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker's Aug. 4 ruling that Prop 8 violates the U.S. Constitution up, down and sideways.

—If the Protect Marriage folks are allowed to function as defendants, they may attempt to sidestep Walker's 80-some conclusions from the trial and start from scratch, arguing that gays are hard to define and nobody knows what makes you gay, that morality and religion provide a legally acceptable "rational basis" for governments to discriminate against gays in some ways, that marriage is obviously primarily about making babies the old-fashioned way, and what have you. It will be up to the 9th Circuit to decide how much weight Walker's comprehensive findings on All Things Gay carry in an appeal.

Legally speaking, those are evidentiary facts. There's something else that can be brought into a courtroom: legislative facts. For the sake of simplicity, a legislative fact is something of such general knowledge that it need not be proven, or cannot be proven even though everyone knows it's true. "Love is real" might be an example of a legislative fact. The Prop 8 proponents could head down this road in an attempt to restrict marriage to opposite-sex couples, arguing, among other things, that "marriage is between a man and a woman—period." Of course, in the Bible, marriage is sometimes between a man and several women. And starting in 2001 with the Netherlands, 12 countries have decided that marriage also is between a man and a man, and a woman and a woman. One of those countries is the U.S. Same-sex marriage is legal in Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington, D.C. "Marriage is for procreation" could be another attempted legislative fact, despite the fact that millions of married straight people never have procreated.

—The mainstream media have outed Judge Walker as gay, though they have presented no

evidence and Walker hasn't said anything about his sexual orientation one way or the other. If he's gay, does that increase the validity of his extensive findings on All Things Gay—i.e., he knows what he's talking about—or could it mean he was biased in the case from the get-go? Does it matter if he's gay? Should it matter? Would a straight judge be better-positioned to restrict marriage to straight people? We likely haven't heard the last of the Walker/gay meme.

—The masterminds of the Prop 8 federal case, famed lawyers Ted Olson and David Boies, always have indicated they wanted to take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. Others have suggested that should the U.S. Supreme Court rule in a particular way in the case, same-sex marriage would become legal in all 50 states. What if no one is found to have standing to appeal the Prop 8 case to the 9th Circuit? The case would end there, Walker's ruling would take effect, Prop 8 would be stricken from the state constitution, and one more U.S. state would have gay marriage: California. Is that an acceptable ending to this super-high-profile case with superstar attorneys who had grander designs? Most California gay leaders say, "Yes, we'll take it." Some, however, would certainly see it as a limp ending to a provocative case that was opposed, then grudgingly embraced, by the national gay legal establishment—a case that raised gay hopes high that we could end this whole same-sex-marriage thing in one fell swoop. On the other hand, the case's stopping before it starts at the 9th Circuit would be a "safe" resolution of the matter. With each appeal, there's always the chance we could lose it all, California included.

The first court filing in the appeal is due Sept. 17.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley



Attorney Ted Olson and David Boies. Photo by Rex Wockner

What this moment means to me

BY ELENA

I'm a 50-year-old woman and I belong to a minority within two minorities: I'm a gay illegal immigrant.

I was born and grew up in a country where gay people are discriminated against in a very hidden way. Because of our European background, we think that we are very modern and open, so even when the discrimination is there, nobody would accept it. I think that's the worst way of discrimination.

I spent all my life alone. I always thought I was different or weird and it made me feel uncomfortable around other people but I didn't know what was going on with me. At the same time, because I was in the closet, I was able to know what society thought about gay people. When I found out that I was gay I knew I had to stay in the closet for the rest of my life. I thought I'll never be happy.

However, everything changed when I had the chance to come to the USA for my American

dream, which wasn't money; it was love. Finally, I was in the land of freedom, I was in a country where rights are respected and where everybody has the same rights. Yes, I know, I was very naive.

The day came when my visa expired and I had to decide between staying in the United States as an illegal immigrant with my partner or go back to my country to be alone and discriminated against for the rest of my life.

I spent the last seven years living with the most wonderful partner and we plan to spend the rest of our life together.

Today our life is very difficult, but we are happy. Because of the witch hunt against the illegal immigrants I couldn't work for almost three years and my partner has to support me, which is very depressing. My partner lost her job and, for a year, we both survived with her little unemployment. Now she found a job but things are still very hard for us; it doesn't matter that we both have college degrees.

Everything could be so much easier if I were straight because I could get married and my spouse would be my sponsor to become legal—but I'm gay. This situation is so ridiculous: if one of us had a sex change, we'd be able to get married and I'd be legal, but we are both women.

Because of all of that, this is what this moment means to me: I'm confident that our new president will allow us, gay people, to get married and/or illegal immigrants become legal. For the first time in my life I'll be equal.

Elena was born in South America, where she lived for 40 years. She was a successful radio and TV announcer for 25 years and a university professor for 10 years before coming to the United States in 2000. Since then she was working cleaning houses or running machines in factories—waiting to be legalized and use all her education, experience and knowledge in the United States.

Because of her situation, her identity is being hidden.

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Community Marketing, Inc.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

PR
photo

LIVING FOR THE 'WEEKEND'

Windy City Times talks with openly gay instrumentalist Rostam Batmanglij (right) of the rock band Vampire Weekend. See page 17.

MUSIC

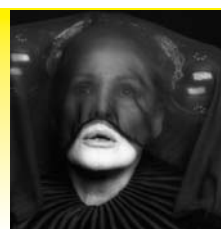
'Plan' of action.
Page 15.

PR photo



MOVIES

'Cycle' of life.
Page 16.



REAL ESTATE

Shallow talk.
Page 19.

Photo courtesy of David Shallow



THEATER

The Acorn: A Michigan getaway

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Acorn Theater is a turn-of-the-century former corset stay factory, and the conversion to its current performance space was the subject of multiple shows on HGTV.

The burlesque performers love that part of Acorn's history, naturally.

Co-owners David Fink and Kim Clark bought the building about 10 years ago, when there was no paved street in front and the building was in terrible shape. "Everyone thought we were crazy, which we were," Fink said, laughing.

But almost eight years later, the Acorn is now a great weekday or weekend getaway from Chicago. The Acorn is located in Three Oaks, Mich., about 70 miles from downtown Chicago and about 60 miles from Kalamazoo, Mich. Located in Berrien County, Three Oaks' most famous former resident was Carl Sandburg.

Fink and Clark, Chicago residents, bought the 101-year-old abandoned factory in 2001—and now also live in an apartment above the Acorn.

After two years of construction, the facility reopened in 2003 as the Acorn Theater, a 250-seat multidisciplinary space used for high-quality professional performances and live theater. The Acorn produces about 45 separate shows annually that run the gamut from Absurd postmodern clowning to new works by Tony Award-winning creators.

Music also holds a special place in the Acorn lineup: Former seasons have featured internationally known rock bands including Jefferson Starship, Poi Dog Pondering and The Cowboy Junkies; folk legends such as Peter Yarrow,



The front of the Acorn; Kim Clark (left) and David Fink. Photos courtesy of the Acorn

Richie Havens, Shawn Mullins and Corky Siegel; and others such as rock icon Lesley Gore, pianist Jim Brickman and opera star Nathan Gunn.

The Acorn Theater has shows most Friday and Saturday evenings.

"The Acorn is a hip and relaxed space where everyone is encouraged to be themselves—performers as well as patrons," Fink said. "We present a huge variety of live performances that are world-class. Many of our performers are LGBT and many of the shows would have special appeal to [the LGBT] community."

"Some of the 'out' performers [at the Acorn] have included Lesley Gore, Vicki Shaw and Matt



Alber, as well as a number of cabaret artists, rock musicians and classical performers. Many of our shows that are not specific to the LGBT community are still appealing to LGBT audience members, such as our Opera at the Acorn series and some original plays and musicals."

Fink worked in manufacturing along with the theater until a couple of years ago. Clark teaches ethics and advanced screenwriting at DePaul University and ran for U.S. Congress (from Michigan) a few years ago.

They have been partners, personally and professionally, for close to 20 years.

"We want everyone to be comfortable in our

space," Fink said. "One of the most interesting things about the Acorn is that it is a live performance space created in an old-time, small-town similar to a cross between Mayberry and Twin Peaks. The town now has respect for openly gay members, and it is common for transgender and cross-dressers to visit—and be accepted, respected, and even unnoticed."

Clark is a writer and producer of television and film. He previously served for several years as national head of the writing programs at Chicago's Second City in the Second City Training Centers. His students currently write for many television series, such as Saturday Night Live. Clark also has served as artistic director at the Chicago Center for Performing Arts.

Fink holds positions as board chairman of the internationally known Chicago Improv Festival and chairman of the board of the Poetry Center of Chicago, affiliated with the Art Institute of Chicago.

"The LGBT community from Chicago is important to us," Fink said. "Many of our patrons are second home-owners with weekend places in the area. We produce work from a clear point of view, without being overtly offensive to the straight community. The result is a wonderful common ground/playground for anyone who respects serious creativity."

Thursdays also are one of the most popular nights at Acorn, for its music video dance party with videos from the 1960s to today. "We occasionally begin with a live performance, most of them have a special gay appeal," Fink said. Performers have included Steven Brinberg singing as Barbra, Edie doing a drag-nightclub act and New York cabaret artist David Gurland.

"Many of our patrons have become regulars," Fink said. "In fact, many now add a budget line in their monthly personal expenses to buy tickets. One calls it his replacement for personal therapy and soul-building."

For more information, go to <http://www.acorntheater.com>.

THEATER REVIEW

The Last Daughter of Oedipus

Playwright: Jennifer L. Mickelson
At: Babes With Blades at Lincoln Square Theatre in the Berry United Methodist Church, 4754 N. Leavitt
Phone: 773-904-0391; \$20
Runs through: Sept. 25

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Surviving texts of the classical tragedies left the city of Thebes facing ruin, its royal family diminished by revelations of murder and incest—scandal hinting at divine retribution and ushering in a succession of untimely deaths threatening to destroy the tribal line altogether. With conquerors preparing to assume rule over the nation, its broken leader, Creon, doggedly upholds the status quo, while the distraught princess Ismene, renouncing her earlier capitulation, vows to expunge the curse visited upon the house of Cadmus.

A society such as ours, founded on the principle of individual actions based in free will, is inclined to applaud the presumption exhibited

by King Laius, his son Oedipus, and his grandchildren—Eteocles, Polynices and Antigone—in attempting to shape their own destinies, if only the right to choose their moment to die. Jennifer L. Mickelson continues their quest with her ambitious sequel, which owes as much to Shakespeare and Tolkein as to Sophocles, while still adhering to the parameters of classical myth—specifically, a postmortem court trial in the Underworld, where mortal error may be appealed and, perhaps, vacated.

But before Ismene can plead her progenitors' case to Persephone and a jury of Eumenides (in this interpretation, resembling Macbeth's Weird Sisters), she must first escape her guilt-crippled uncle, her beleaguered home and the ghosts who upbraid her for her fatal inaction. As in all heroic myths, she acquires companions for her journey, who assist her in her tasks, accomplished through Odyssean trickery and—this being a Babes With Blades production—armed physical combat. She experiences moments of despair, speculating on Roads Not Taken and the attractions thereof, but rallies in the final confrontation to win justice for her clan by means of, not force or entreaty, but her wits, employed in reasoning commensurate with Portia's famous Venetian coup.



Amy Harmon (left) and Kimberly Logan in *The Last Daughter of Oedipus*. Photo by Johnny Knight

The Last Daughter of Oedipus represents another step for the all-female Babes With Blades troupe towards serious depictions of women sound in both mind *and* body. The mixed-gender ensemble led by Kimberly Logan in the title role acquit themselves commendably, retaining control of their elevated speech and athletic cho-

reography under the direction of Tara Branham. And if Mickelson's episodic saga sometimes verges on epic length (though, in fact, only running a bare two and a half hours), there is no faulting her efforts to resolve dramatic questions left unanswered since 441 B.C.

THEATER REVIEW

Blues for an Alabama Sky

Playwright: Pearl Cleage
At: Greentree Productions at Stage 773 (fka Theatre Building Chicago), 1225 W. Belmont
Phone: 773-327-5252; \$25
Runs through: Sept. 19

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Our first thought when we see the interior of scenic designer Shaun Renfro's Victorian brownstone is to wonder if it has an available room for rent (the street view makes even the stoop a desirable option). But then we learn that this is 1930, and that we are not in Puccini's Montmartre, nor in Jonathan Larson's East Village, but in Harlem, where the glamour of its so-called "Renaissance" is waning under the corrosive effects of unemployment, evictions, organized crime, street violence and renewed prejudice.

Wherever pursued, however, *la vie de bohème* is a romantic one, thriving on the hope of good fortune lurking just around the corner. This is what spurred pretty Angel Allen and "notorious homosexual" Guy Jacobs to flee their native Georgia to the freethinking society of Manhattan during the roaring '20s (notably, the coterie surrounding gay poet Langston Hughes). But work opportunities for a chanteuse-with-benefits and a gladrags dressmaker are growing increasingly scarce, awakening dreams in the former of a financially stable husband, and in the latter, of a job offer from expatriate superstar Josephine Baker.

The ambitions of their closest companions are humbler—Delia Patterson is a crusader for Margaret Sanger's "family planning" movement, and Doctor Sam Thomas saves lives while enjoying his own to the fullest. But romanticism mandates tragedy, and so the destinies of these pilgrims are doomed to end in disappointment and/or sacrifice—circumstances precipitated by the entrance of Leland Cunningham, a newly arrived Alabama tradesman likewise seeking a fresh start, but unable to leave his down-country values behind.

Spread out over two hours, this material risks emerging as lugubrious as its operatic prototype, but under J. Israel Greene's direction, the cast for this Greentree production engages our emotions immediately, sustaining their focus and energy to keep our attention riveted to the last instant. Kelly Owens as the weary Angel and Jaren Kyei Merrell as the defiant Guy occupy the forestage, but Akilah Terry as the wholesome De-

lia and Lee Owens as Doctor Sam—the big man whose big heart will be his undoing—create like-wise vivid characters, as does Jason Andre Smith in the role of the unwitting catalyst to their destruction. Don't forget the aforementioned stage decor, Sarah Haley's costumes and Adam Smith's pinpoint-accurate incidental music, all contributing to an auspicious debut deserving a longer run than its present plans permit.



Blues for an Alabama Sky. Photo courtesy of Allison Yates

Deeply Rooted auditions Sept. 2

Deeply Rooted Dance Theater will hold auditions Thursday, Sept. 2, at 17 N. State, 19th floor, 6-8 p.m.

The auditions are for those interested in training in modern dance (Horton-, Graham- and Dunham-based techniques), ballet, African pyramic and contemporary movement.

The Community Ensemble (D4) is an eight-week intensive workshop offering a Horton-based modern dance class and repertory twice weekly (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-9 p.m.) for dancers who wish to deepen their technical skill and artistry.

Deeply Rooted Dance Theater 2 Apprenticeship (D3) is a rigorous training program for possible matriculation into Deeply Rooted Dance Theater 2 (D2), scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for fall, winter and spring terms.

Invitation into one of the ensembles will be made based on the artistic team's evaluation. For more information, see www.deeplyrooted-productions.org, e-mail info@deeplyrootedproductions.org or call 312-795-9777.

THEATER REVIEW

Daredevils' Hamlet

Playwright: Ryan Walters and the ensemble
At: Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland
Phone: 773-275-5255; \$10-\$15
Runs through: Sept. 25

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Daredevils' Hamlet hilariously shows the Neo-Futurists in tip-top form of blending meta-theatrical insights, personal introspection and amazing physical feats to pick apart a Shakespearean classic. Anyone who loves the Neo-Futurists' usual brand of delightful deconstruction will have a ball with this manly exploration of the difficulties (and oddities) of Shakespeare's play about the melancholy Dane.

But as a critic writing for a LGBTQ publication, I must also add an extra recommendation to alert certain gay Chicagoans to go see *Daredevils' Hamlet* (particularly those who frequent the bars Touché or Cellblock).

Although the original *Daredevils* show developed in 2005 as a way to explore why men do risky and stupid stunts, this *Hamlet* sequel also carries a very discernable homoerotic tone about it. Plus, lovers of certain fetishes will be in heaven.

First, there's a basic uniform of the *Daredevils*: an array of masculine work coveralls that frequently get peeled back to display a row of hairy chests (and sometimes more) belonging to cast members Brennan Buhl, Anthony Courser, John Pierson, Jay Torrence and Ryan Walters.

Then there are a couple of symbolic physical stunts to reflect the psychological state of char-

acters—namely, the suicidal Ophelia. There's a breath-control segment with the cast dunking their heads into water basins, while Pierson impressively gets fully submerged.

Then there's a stunt to show how Ophelia loses all sense of herself following her father's murder. Though his symbolic reasoning didn't fully make sense, Pierson has agreed to have a different part of his body shaved live on stage by his cohorts throughout the show's run. (Pierson's neck was shaved on opening night, so it's any wonder when they'll get around to his privates).

Another aspect of *Hamlet* that gets a thorough exploration is the idea that Hamlet's friend, Horatio, is likely gay. Torrence makes a couple of eloquent speeches, both personal and script-derived, that rhapsodize on the bonds of masculine brotherhood and how they can cross over and foster to a fuller love between men.

Director Halena Kays keeps the action fleet and funny, particularly with great contributions from Courser (who prefers a hero like Robin Hood) and the goofily cute Buhl (who offers up personally funny bits inspired by Hamlet's insecurities in acting on his instincts).

As the show's creator and *de facto* Hamlet, Ryan Walters amusingly (and physically) captures why any ambitious actor is cowed by taking on the monumental role of Hamlet (particularly as he delivers the famed "To be or not to be" speech on a rotating steel framed box).

Daredevils' Hamlet definitely fits the bill for fun, physical and introspective humor. And if you're a gay male with particular predilections, you'll be in for quite a treat.

SPOTLIGHT



Redmoon Theatre is famous for its big outdoor theatrical spectacles. Now with **J.O.E. (Joyous Outdoor Event)**, Redmoon is creating a whole Labor Day weekend festival complete with bands from Metro and Smart Bar, an inflatable installation artpiece called *The Luminarium* from Great Britain, and a sequel to last year's Redmoon spectacle: *Last of my Species II: The Perilous Songs of Bibi Merhad*. The family friendly J.O.E. plays 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 3; 1-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 4-5; and 1-6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 6, at South Belmont Harbor, at Lake Shore and Belmont. Tickets are \$15-\$25 and \$10 for kids ages 4-10; call 312-850-8440 ext. 111 or visit www.joyousoutdoorevent.com for more information. Photo by Narelle Trotman





Terry Hamilton in *Frost/Nixon*. Photo by Lara Goetsch

THEATER REVIEW

Frost/Nixon

Playwright: Peter Morgan

At: TimeLine Theatre Company,
615 W. Wellington

Tickets: 773-281-8463;

www.timelinetheatre.com; \$28-\$38

Runs through: Oct. 10

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Even in disgrace in 1977, former President Richard Nixon was a powerful man with gatekeepers and advisers. Even at low ebb, TV celebrity David Frost hardly was out of work or possibilities. That Nixon, then 64, would agree to no-holds-barred TV interviews with Frost, then 39, was as unlikely as if Dick Cheney sat down with Simon Cowell. It can be argued that both men were masters of manipulation with hidden agendas—Nixon's to revive his public career (although not his political career) and Frost's to establish himself as a heavyweight journalist. That's the interpretation playwright Peter Morgan follows

CRITICS' PICKS

Hot Mikado, Drury Lane Oak Brook, through Oct. 3. Director/choreographer/co-adaptor David Bell serves up an extravaganza of musical comedy silliness and sizzling choreography complete with jazzy 1940s arrangements of Gilbert and Sullivan's classic 1885 operetta. SCM

Lookingglass Alice, Lookingglass Theatre Company, through Sept. 12. A circus-like version of Lewis Carroll which kids will like, but with adult psychological depths such as repeated images of burial and resurrection. Return visit of troupe's signature show. JA.

The People's Drum Circle Pandora, Quest Theatre Ensemble, through Sept. 19. This show is a wonderful and participatory way to introduce kids to Greek mythology and live theater. Even though the show is short on plot and too hyper-perky with its conclusions, there's no denying the show's overwhelming creativity with its parade of trippy and creative imagery. SCM

Shrek The Musical, Cadillac Palace Theatre, through Sept. 5. Dancing rat-feet and farting matches for the kids, patter songs and inside jokes for the grownups. And there's a touching golden-rule lesson for everybody. This show's got something for, literally, all ages. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge
and Morgan

in his stage and film success, *Frost/Nixon*, and it makes for excellent popular drama at TimeLine.

Morgan's play is no more a documentary than the Nixon-Frost interviews were spontaneous. The four one-hour interviews that aired were

edited down from 28 hours of talk taped over four weeks under careful contractual guidelines. Similarly, Morgan's play selectively chooses, arranges and condenses personalities, facts and timelines and makes up much of what Frost and Nixon (especially) didn't actually say when the cameras weren't rolling. We have, for example, a Nixon constantly making small jokes that no one gets. It almost makes the grand self-justifier likeable. Frost, on the other hand, comes across as blandly dogged with no emotional depth. Set up as a war only one of them can win, Nixon appears to throw the battle intentionally while Frost seems not to relish his victory (in fact, both reaped substantial monetary rewards from the partnership).

Terry Hamilton as Nixon does a remarkable job, given the fact that he doesn't really look like Nixon. He commands his tools well to create Nixon—voice, facial expression, posture and gesture—and it's an effective impersonation. But Nixon's voice and look and manner are too deeply scorched into the minds of those who lived through his presidency for Hamilton ever to escape the fact that he's doing an impression. Andrew Carter fares better as David Frost, largely because our mind/ear memories of Frost are far more limited (at least in the United States) and because Frost was a less colorful figure. The sup-

porting cast of eight makes good work of the fast-moving play, skillfully staged by master director Louis Contey, but the play belongs to Nixon and Frost. Keith Pitts' large, rounded set suggests Oval Office, a talk show set and theatricality all at once, a neat trick.

Will audiences under 40 care about this play? Who is tragically self-destructive Richard Nixon to them? Who is unheroic David Frost? Will they know (or care) that Watergate tested the limits of the Constitution? Will they understand the payback for Nixon's fall that his political heirs still are inflicting upon us?

Performing Arts auditions Sept. 11-12

The LGBT choral-arts organization Windy City Performing Arts will hold auditions for all voice parts for singers interested in joining Windy City Gay Chorus or Aria: Windy City Women's Ensemble, Saturday, Sept. 11, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; and Sunday, Sept. 12, 2-4 p.m. at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster.

To set up an audition, e-mail Bill Marland at join@windycitysings.org, or call 773-404-9242 for more information.

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Margaret Cho: Comic/actress is 'Cho Dependent'

BY TONY PEREGRIN

Margaret Cho is working some serious mojo these days with Cho Dependent, her new album and tour which take an unflinching and hilarious look at sex, drugs, and rock and roll, as only she can.

Phoning in from her home in Los Angeles, Cho chats about gay-porn stars, country-murder ballads and her queerness.

Cho sounds just a hint softer on the phone, a little more fragile, than she does on stage and screen, but she didn't hold back when discussing her inspiration for the new album and tour, proving that she is always and forever the one that we want.

Windy City Times: Your new album, Cho Dependent, has been described as a comedy/rock album. For all the queens out there scratching their heads going, what does that mean? Can you break it down?

Margaret Cho: It's like, um, it's like my kind of approach to the Divine Miss M; it's very Cher. It's kind of like Donna Summer, with some Patsy Cline thrown in—it's basically a lot of fag hags rolled into one! It's also great music too, and it's my approach to being a different kind of diva. I think it's exciting. It's music and funny music, and these are songs that I wrote with some of the greatest musicians out there, like Ben Lee, Ani DiFranco, Fiona Apple and Tegan and Sara.

WCT: How did you decide on the album title? Besides the fact that it is obviously bad-ass, did the title have a deeper meaning or significance to you other than the obvious pun?

MC: There are a lot of themes on the album, like addiction...to everything, addiction to drugs, specifically, crystal meth. The song, "Intervention," which I recorded with Tegan and Sara, is about that. I think it's really a plague and that it is something that is as damaging as AIDS, as deadly, and destructive, and for some reason it is still very prevalent in the gay community, and it has caused quite a lot of casualties. The title is about different kinds of addiction: "Calling in Stoned," is about calling in sick, but really you are calling in stoned! The album is about addiction to people and to sex, all different kinds of



Margaret Cho. Photo by Austin Young

addiction, actually, which is why I thought of the title "Cho Dependent."

WCT: I hear that there is a song on the new album about porn star Ricky Sinz, who lives here in Chicago (and has, like, a giant dong, or so I am told.) You posed with Ricky for Unzipped, making you the first (and last) woman ever to be photographed for the cover of the now defunct magazine.

MC: That was so much fun! Ricky is a shy, sweet, fabulous guy. "You Dick" is a song all about his dick! It kind of builds off of my rap single "My Puss." It's a great song, classic, and hugely produced. I co-wrote it with a straight guy, Carl Newman from The New Pornographers. I presented it to [Ricky] at the gay porn awards [The GayVN Awards] last year—I sang it to him.

WCT: Cho Dependent also features some darker moments, specifically the "I'm Sorry" track co-written by Andrew Bird. This "country murder ballad" is about the love you had for a man that was not reciprocated, right?

MC: It's a really bizarre story—I was in love with this guy that worked on All American Girl. Nothing happened, he didn't like me back. The whole thing was so not right, but I really loved him, and I had held on to that for all this time. But then, I turned 40 and I was still wondering what he was doing, and I Googled him. I never thought I'd find him, and if I did, I thought surely he would be super-successful and married, with a bunch of kids and living in a lighthouse or something.

Well, I found out that in 2007 he was convicted for murder. He bludgeoned his wife to death, and they apparently found her partially mummified body in the attic. I was so horrified, on so many levels. It couldn't have happened to me, but at the same time it could have been me. I felt bad for this woman, I felt horrible. I didn't know how to deal with it, and I was writing with Andrew Bird at the time, and so I wrote the song and he composed wonderful music for it. We did the demo for it in his studio on his farm in Illinois, as a matter of fact.

When something horrible happens, I often think about dealing with it with a dark kind of humor. My favorite singers often sing about domestic violence—singers like Billy Holiday and Tammy Wynette often sang about the domestic abuse that they endured. I wanted to do my version of that kind of song, too. It is a traditional murder country ballad. It's my contribution to that genre.

WCT: Earlier, you mentioned recording a track with Tegan and Sara. What was it like working with them?

MC: They are wonderful. I loved doing the song with them. We recorded in Vancouver, when I had just come home from a trip to Fez, Morocco and I was in Vancouver and I had some kind of intestinal parasite and head lice, and I was really sick and really itchy. And I was like 'hi, do you want to catch my lice?' and they were really good sports about it, they are a great band. I love their sound.

To me, "Intervention" is very funny, but quite poignant, too. As I said, it's about confronting drug abuse. I can't imagine anything worse, or as great, as an intervention, because you are surrounded by all these people that love you, and at the same time you are being confronted at a moment when you are at your most fragile.

WCT: People love to make assumptions, and I was wondering if you want to let readers know how you define your sexuality—if you bother to define it in the first place, that is. Do you consider yourself queer, straight, bisexual?

MC: I am definitely queer—to me, that is a very natural response. I wouldn't say I'm bisexual because I really value my connection with transgender people, and I don't where they wouldn't fit in the bisexual spectrum. There is more variety than that in the world, more than two genders. I am definitely queer.

WCT: I've heard that your act is still primarily comedy, with some music sprinkled in for good measure. Can you talk a little more about what fans can expect from your show?

MC: Oh, primarily the show will be comedy and I am dying to do it. I have been working nonstop on "Drop Dead Diva" for the last six months, and I am dying to get out there and do it. There will be a few songs in the show, but no matter what I do creatively, I am a stand-up comedian. It all comes back to that. That is who I am. I think I'm gonna talk a lot about race and family and what it is like to live in the South because it's such a big change for me, so they'll be some of that too.

WCT: The second season of Drop Dead Diva recently started airing. Have you found that working on TV is different/better/more bizarre than when you were filming All American Girl?

MC: It's a wonderful show. I really love it, and I am a fan of it as well. Drop Dead Diva is a different kind of show [compared to All American Girl], because it's not a sitcom. You are basically making a movie in a week's time, so it's a lot more involved. I'm not in every scene, so it's pretty simple for me, in that I don't have to carry it. I just come in and be funny—and that is what I really enjoy about it.

WCT: Speaking of TV, I did not know you had a role on the Ghost Whisperer! What a hoot. And in somewhat related news, I hear you have a Ouija-board collection.

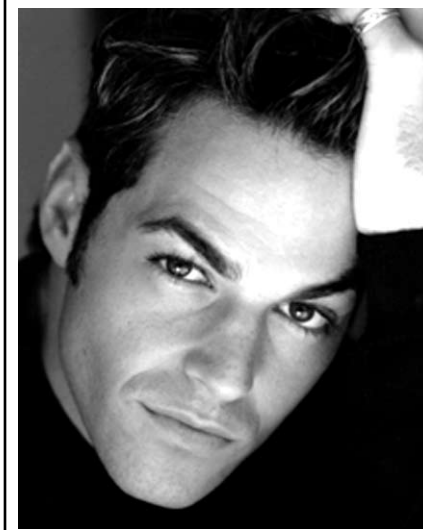
MC: I just took over one episode. I played a character whose fiancé has died and we were communicating with the dead which is really cool. I loved it and I got to be all dramatic and I was crying—it was great!

I do have a Ouija-board collection—but they are missing the planchettes! I take the planchettes and toss them out because my house is old and kind of spooky, and haunted, at least it seems like it is.

WCT: Margaret, let's close this out with one of those Vanity Fair, Proustian questions: What is your personal motto?

MC: My motto, I guess [pauses], I guess it would be something Steve Martin once said: "Just be so good that they can never tell you no." I try to do this as much as I can, because I never want to be denied the opportunity to do more.

Cho Dependent is now on sale. In addition, Margaret Cho will be performing at the Chicago Theater Oct. 16. Visit www.margaretcho.com for tour date information.



David Lago. Photo courtesy of Lago

David Lago: One in a 'Million'

BY ANDREW DAVIS

David Lago may be known to millions across the country from portraying the character Raul on the daytime serial The Young and the Restless but he's certainly made his impression on Chicago in another, iconic role—that of Elvis Presley in the smash-hit production Million Dollar Quartet. Lago recently talked with Windy City Times about being The King.

Windy City Times: First of all, congratulations on the role and your performance. However, I must ask: Is it advantageous or disadvantageous to be in something where your life depends on a possible date extension?

David Lago: I have found in the 16 years of my professional career that [that condition] is the same with any job. I was on a soap opera for five years and I was supposed to have one more year. So when I was off the show after five years instead of six, [I saw that] that can happen anywhere.

I think once you know whether the course is two months or 15 years, you have to enjoy it for the moment, be present and never know when your last performance is going to be. I guess that goes with my philosophy for life in general: Love what you do, do what you love and just enjoy it. Just be present and do your best at all times.

WCT: Elvis Presley—could there be a more daunting role?

DL: [Smiles] Well, it's crazy because I get a chance to portray who I think is the coolest person in the history of the world so, yes, it's a lot of pressure. And it's especially so, considering Elvis is one of the most "impersonated" people in history. I think people come in either ready to hate me or willing to love me and my interpretation of it.

I love acting and I love music. Second, I love Elvis Presley and everything he stood for—and I get to portray him on top of that. It's, like, the best job ever. When I think about that quote, I just think about what I'm going to do and I don't have to worry about what critics say or what the 430 people in the theater might think—and I hope they like it.

Million Dollar Quartet is playing at the Apollo Theater, 2540 N. Lincoln, and has been extended through Jan. 2, 2011. Visit www.milliondollarquartetlive.com/chicago-tickets.html, call Ticketmaster at 800-982-2787 or visit the theater's box office.

Find out much more about David Lago—including his thoughts on openly gay performer Levi Kreis winning a Tony for his role in Million Dollar Quartet—online at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com>.



Photo by Mike Ruiz



Nelly Furtado discusses her 'Plan'

BY JERRY NUNN

Nelly Furtado first sang "like a bird" into our hearts back in 2000 with Whoa, Nelly! and teamed up with Timbaland to bring hit after hit single with her album, Loose. Now Nelly is bringing her "Plan" to Ravinia.

Windy City Times: Hi, Nelly. What are you up to now?

Nelly Furtado: I am just having a little time off. This is my summer vacation.

WCT: I have always wanted to ask you how many languages you speak.

NF: English, Spanish and Portuguese as well, and that's about it. Some people think I speak Hindi but I actually only know a couple of songs of Hindi. I don't actually speak it.

WCT: Well, that is pretty impressive.

NF: I guess it is from growing up in a multicultural house. My parents are from Portugal so...

WCT: It's a very good influence for your music.

NF: Yeah, for sure. It has been a huge stamp on my sound. I have always been interested in fusion. I like different styles of music, such as pop songs. I have tried to fuse those things when possible.

WCT: The new album is going to be called Lifestyle.

NF: That is the one I am working on that is in English. The last one I put out was *Mi Plan*. It is all in Spanish.

WCT: I love that CD.

NF: Oh, thanks.

WCT: How was it making *Mi Plan*? You were able to pick who you wanted to work with, correct?

NF: I grew up listening to a lot of Latin pop music. I started recording in Spanish shortly after I put out my first English full length. I did a track with a Colombian artist named Juanes. It basically snowballed from there. I did features on Spanish tracks. I included two Spanish language tracks on my third album Loose. I wanted my Spanish album to be eclectic as usual. I wanted to feature some really great talent. In the Latin world there are just so many superstars and amazing voices. I was lucky enough to get a lot of great people on the album. I also threw in Josh Grobin for good measure.

WCT: That's creative.

NF: He was really excited to be part of a Spanish track. This was all a learning experience. I think that singers who sing in Spanish approach their vocal very powerfully and passionately. There can be a lot of ebb and flow. It was exciting to be in the room with those men and women.

WCT: I was not familiar with Alex until I heard your album. I do love Julieta Venegas, who you sang with on *Mi Plan*.

NF: You like her? She's my favorite Latin artist. She has a really unique sound.

WCT: She does. I just went to her concert not too long ago.

NF: You did? How was it?



Nelly Furtado.

WCT: It was a smaller venue but packed. She was very pregnant this last time that I saw her.

NF: She is probably like six months now, right? She has a little baby bump—how cute.

WCT: Yes, and somehow [she was] dancing the whole time.

NF: Yeah, she just loves music.

WCT: I watched the video on the duet with Julieta called "*Bajo Otra Luz*." You dress like Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz. Is this an homage for your gay fans?

NF: [Bursts laughing] You got it! That's funny that you mention that. I have been getting back into Rufus Wainwright recently. I love him and I have been a fan since he came out. We were labelmates at Dreamworks. I was listening to my old Rufus albums and realizing he is such a treasure. He is going to be around forever. He is one of those classic voices. But yeah Judy, Dorothy, sure!!!

WCT: You basically get to work a runway with different looks.

NF: I wanted a video that would remind people of when they are little and not caring so much, dressing up and putting on fashion shows for fun. That was the spirit behind making "*Bajo Otra Luz*." Making the song was very fun with the girls—Julieta, Mala and me. It wasn't so much about the song but us having fun in the studio. Julieta wrote that song for me. I was taking on different roles and furthering the metaphor in the video.

WCT: I heard you even have a reggae song.

NF: I do have a reggae track. What I might actually do is put out an album between this one and Lifestyle. Honestly, I have so much material and so many songs that I have not released. I am so picky about what I put out. I want to catch the fans up with b-sides and things I never released.

WCT: I went to your concert at The Vic years ago for your Folklore album. You met me after the show and many artists don't meet fans after the show.

NF: Of course, I love my fans. They are very supportive and into the music. They are just great.

WCT: We will be there to support you at Ravinia.

NF: It is my first show in the United States in about four years, so we are excited!

Nelly will "Say it Right" at Ravinia in Highland Park Friday, Sept. 3, at 8 p.m. Visit www.ravinia.org for information and tickets.

Find out more about Nelly Furtado—including her thoughts on Rufus Wainwright and Bjork—online at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com>.

Read more music on page 17, with Vampire Weekend's Rostam Batmanglij.

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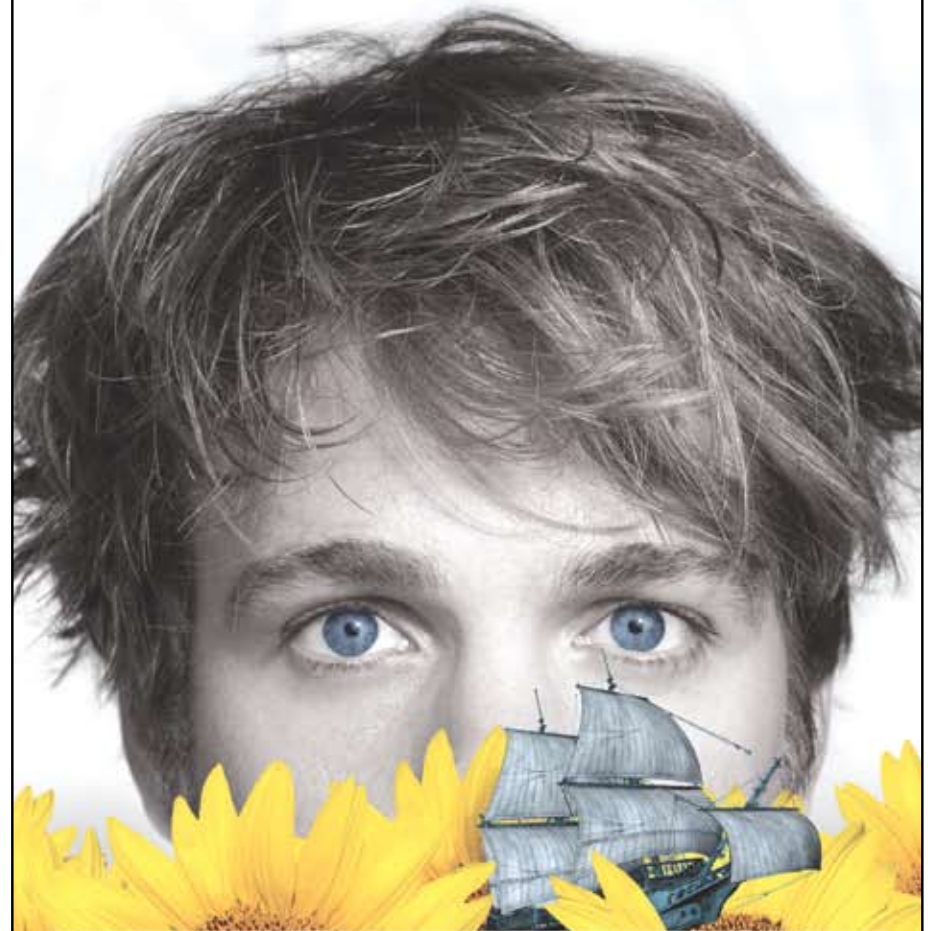
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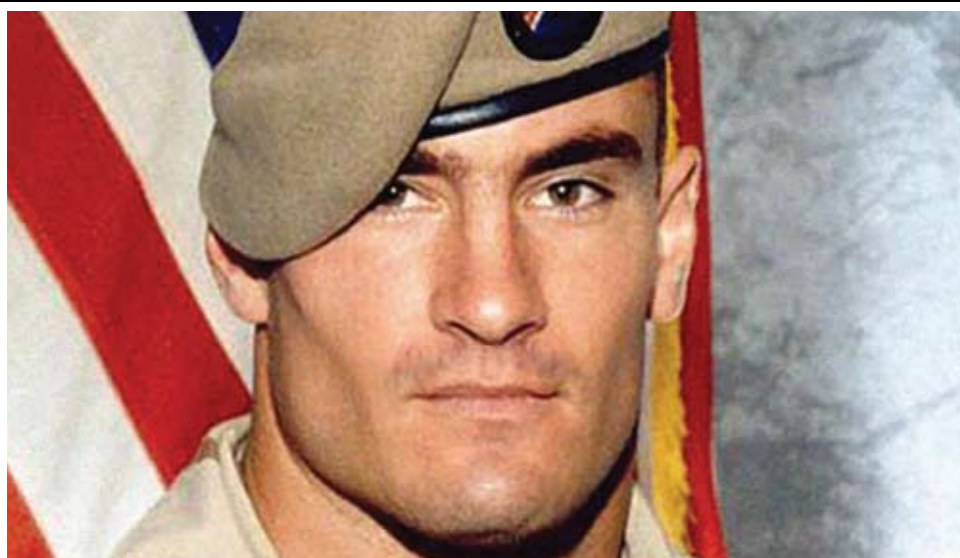
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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.



Pat Tillman, the subject of *The Tillman Story*. Photo courtesy of The Weinstein Co.

The Cremaster Cycle; The Tillman Story

Between Matthew Barney's epic, five-part art film *The Cremaster Cycle* and the epic cover-up that followed the death of football star-turned-soldier Pat Tillman revealed in the riveting documentary *The Tillman Story*, the display of testosterone in theaters this weekend will be more than a little palpable.

Artist; model; boyfriend of Bjork; and a sexual provocateur with a thing for oral and anal protuberances, biomechanical erotica, confined areas secreted inside gigantic architectural spaces, large breasted women in showgirl drag and sculptures made out of Vaseline-like material, Barney has been the darling of the art world since his arrival on the scene in the early '90s. His appeal to gay men is immediately apparent. In addition to those often sexually tinged artistic proclivities, he's handsome, hunky and often appears in his movies nude or nearly so, with some sort of self-stimulation added to the mix.

The five films that compose *The Cremaster Cycle*—created between 1994 and 2002 and clocking in at a whopping seven hours—and 2007's hour-long *De Lama Lamina* (a collaboration with Brazilian musician Art Lindsay) include pretty much all of the above. "Cremaster" is the word for the muscle that controls the descent of the testicles and the cycle, taken as a whole, could be interpreted as Barney's artistic exploration of masculinity—or not. Staggering in their metaphorical and visual complexity or numbingly rapidity (for pretty much the same reasons—depending, one suspects, on the mood of the viewer at any given moment), these films are undeniably the work of a unique artistic vision.

The heavy hand of David Lynch, Busby Berkley and the guy that made the late '70s midnight-cult fave *Liquid Sky* hangs heavy over the first part while Part 2 (aka "the Gary Gilmore episode") features author Norman Mailer, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, two Ford Mustangs parked at a gas station linked by a hive-like blob (more

Vaseline), bees and Barney himself engaging in some of that kinky arousal activity.

The real power of Barney's large-scale vision comes to fruition in the third part of the cycle—a mythic, three-hour, two-part film set in New York City (with stunning location shots from Ireland and Scotland that set up the Celtic mysticism that infuses the film). We follow The Entered Apprentice (Barney again, his skin-tinted pink and sporting a pink tartan kilt) as he attempts to scale the interior of the Chrysler Building (while a demolition derby goes on in the lobby) and the Guggenheim Museum encountering torture and other physical adversities in his attempt.

Part 4, the weakest of the cycle, gives us a motorbike race and Barney as a tap-dancing satyr with a trio of hunky male attendants. Part 5, however, finds Barney back on track, and this film will be nirvana for opera queens. Ursula Andress, gorgeously costumed, is an audience of one for a lavish opera that features Barney, dressed in a harlequin costume, who scales the proscenium arch of a lavish 19th-century opera house in Hungary.

Although your reaction to the individual parts and Barney's artistic excesses will vary (and be warned, there are some very gross moments sprinkled throughout), the contributions of his cinematographer—Peter Strietmann—and especially, his composer, Jonathan Bepler are huge assets. Bepler's score is available separately though—and this is something to note—the distributor of the films has made it clear that, a portion of Cycle 3 aside, none of these films will ever be made available in DVD editions.

The Music Box, 3733 N. Southport, in the year's most courageous film booking (talk about testosterone) is playing not only the entire *Cremaster Cycle* Sept. 3-9 but it's including the Chicago premiere of the aforementioned 2007's *De Lama Lamina* as well. This features Barney strapped beneath a huge truck engaging in perhaps his most infamous display of biomechanical self-stimulation. (The film opens with a close up of his flaccid penis becoming erect.) And yeah—

ya gotta see that to believe it. Tickets are \$10 for individual films, \$24 for the series. See www.musicbox.com for complete screening schedule.

Now we move onto another exercise in bravery—*The Tillman Story*, the searing, investigative documentary by Amir Bar-Lev. The movie finds the family of the slain war hero going head to head with the Bush regime and not backing down until the relatives got answers about the true nature of his untimely death in Afghanistan.

For reasons that have never been clearly explained, square-jawed, movie star-handsome Pat Tillman turned down a multimillion dollar pro football contract to defend his country after the attacks on 9/11. But whatever the reason, once Tillman made his decision, that was that—no questions asked. Tillman signed up along with one of his brothers and after the media blitz that focused on his decision he dropped out of the news until he was reported killed in action. Almost immediately, as Bar-Lev's film reveals, the Bush White House endeavored to use the death of this all-American jock to its own advantage.

The film lays out how the government, in collusion with the media, attempted to turn Tillman into a propaganda agent for its war on terrorism. The urge to reshape Tillman's life story; to make his actions and words fit the public's mythic perceptions was apparently too tempting. But the family was/is tough and unrelenting (especially Tillman's mother) and wanted answers about his death and when push came to shove, the truth of his death from friendly fire was much less heroic than espoused by government and media officials.

While fighting for answers, the list of indignities thrown at Tillman's surviving family members, catalogued by Bar-Lev in the film, is jaw-

dropping (with the military starting by drowning the family in 3,000 pages of documents) but, ultimately, unsurprising—keeping in mind the boundary lines the Bush administration crossed in its zeal.

Like Pat Tillman himself, apparently, Bar-Lev's movie stubbornly refuses to fit neatly into a box and come up with traditional, rousing solutions. *The Tillman Story* leaves you feeling frustrated, angered and deeply saddened—by the waste of the life; by the ease that the individual's life was used; by the shortcuts employed to present the guy in simple broad strokes; and most, by the dumb and/or lazy public's quick willingness to fall for the transparently phony-baloney story.

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



Jane Lynch.

Emmys a gay affair

In terms of participation and winners, the 62nd Annual Primetime Emmy Awards, which took place Aug. 29 on NBC, were one of the most gay-friendly in history.

Out lesbian actress Jane Lynch won for best supporting actress in a comedy for her role as coach Sue Sylvester on the TV series *GLEE*. She kissed her wife upon hearing her name and thanked her as well as her "lord and creator," openly gay series producer Ryan Murphy. Murphy himself won for directing a comedy (*GLEE*), while Paris Barclay, who is also out, was nominated in the same category. Murphy thanked "my great partner, Dick Miller" and added, "*GLEE* is about the importance of arts education, so I would like to dedicate this to all of my teachers, who taught me to sing and finger-paint."

Eric Stonestreet garnered an award for best supporting actor in a comedy for portraying one half of a gay couple on TV's *Modern Family*; openly gay actors Jesse Tyler Ferguson (the other half of the couple) and Neil Patrick Harris (*How I Met Your Mother*) were also nominated. (Harris, who also presented an award, did win an Emmy for his guest-starring role on *Glee*.)

In addition, Lynch and Chris Colfer (another *GLEE* actor who is openly gay) were part of the opening sequence featuring Emmy host/talk-show host Jimmy Fallon and other TV regulars singing and dancing to Bruce Springsteen's "Born to Run." Also, during his tribute to the series 24, *Law & Order* and *Lost* (which have all ended), Fallon dressed as Sir Elton John and sang his own take of "Candle in the Wind" for 24.

Also, Alexander Skarsgard, Anna Paquin and Stephen Moyer—the ubiquitous stars of the pansexual drama *True Blood*—were on hand to present an award. (Incidentally, the bisexual Paquin recently married Moyer.)

Even some of the gossip at the Emmys was gay-related. According to the New York Daily News blog, E! reported a rumor during the pre-Emmys segment that Portia de Rossi, Ellen Degeneres' wife, might replace Steve Carrell, who is departing from *The Office* after next season.

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The Cremaster Cycle.

NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Vampire Weekend's Batmanglij talks music, family

BY JERRY NUNN

Rostam Batmanglij is producer and instrumentalist for the rock band Vampire Weekend. He chatted Nunn on One about the tour and trip back to Chicago.

Windy City Times: Hi, Rostam. Thanks for taking my call. I heard you are waiting for the cable guy.

Rostam Batmanglij: [Laughs] I just moved in last week.

WCT: You guys formed the band Vampire Weekend in college, correct?

RB: Yes, the four of us all went to Columbia. We were friends before the band. We worked together in different ways and then the band happened at the end of college.

WCT: Were you all studying other things?

RB: I was studying music. The drummer majored in music and economics, our bass player [studied] math/Russian and Ezra majored in English.

WCT: Interesting. The band has been around for a few years now.

RB: Well, it has been more than four years now.

WCT: I saw you perform in Chicago this last time. I went both nights, actually.

RB: Oh, wow. Thank you.

WCT: It was sold out both nights. The band is currently being sued for use of the cover model. You could have painted one instead since you are an artist.

RB: [Laughs] As a kid I was really into art. I spent a lot of high school in the art room, draw-



Rostam Batmanglij. Photo by Amin Sepehri

ing and painting. I did it every chance that I got. I guess at some point I was more drawn to music. Music was something I had to work for a little more, where art came pretty easily. I don't know what that says about me.

WCT: Well, music is more a math thing so that side of the brain. Tell me about your group, Discovery.

RB: Discovery started the summer of 2005. Wes Miles from Ra Ra Riot called me and that was how it started. From there we became really committed. We had time when we were both back from touring so over the course of four years when we were both in town we would get together and work on songs. Pretty soon we had a manifesto of what we wanted for the record. A lot of vocal harmonies, hand claps, fuzzy synths and we also wanted to mess with pop music, fuck with it a little bit.

WCT: I can tell. You wrote a song on the album LP called "I Wanna Be Your Boyfriend."

RB: Because the song writing on that one was so fractured it was like putting it down and taking it back up again. That one had a hook and I had my friend Angel Deradoorian sing on it. I sang the verses of the song, which doesn't make too much sense.

WCT: You have all these other projects, like Converse.

RB: Well, Converse is a one-time thing.

WCT: And Boys Like Us?

RB: Boys Like Us will basically be anything that I just do myself. Vampire Weekend and Discovery is never just one person's creative output. It is a collaboration. Boys Like Us might be more than just music. I don't have it under my name so I can have a little detachment from it. Do you know what I mean?

WCT: I do. I write under different names sometimes. How was your family with you being gay?

RB: Coming out is a process. Someone once said, "We are always coming out." I think if you expect to be like ripping a Band-Aid off your skin then you are in for a surprise, because it doesn't work out that way—at least for me; maybe for other people it does. When coming out, it was important just to talk about things. Some things that are obvious to you or me might not be to people from a different generation, like our parents. In the case of my parents, they had very hybridized upbringing.

My dad went to boarding school in England, my mom grew up in Iran and they both went to college in America; afterwards they came back to Iran. Their values are the product of those upbringings. I just found it was important to communicate with them and talk about myself. Which is sometimes not an easy thing to do.

WCT: Well, sure. Was it hard coming out gay publicly?

RB: It was something that I knew I always wanted to do. I never thought to myself that

I would never come out. I think that anyone should be able to do whatever they want in terms of coming out in their careers. I think people should do what feels natural to them. It felt natural for me to come out in the point in my career that I did.

WCT: My take on it is that I like Vampire Weekend's music first and foremost. To find out that there was a gay member made it even better because I can relate to that being gay myself.

RB: I know what you mean, sure. I am always up for doing gay press. I think it is good to do it.

WCT: Great; that's why I am here. Is this upcoming show the same as the last one I saw?

RB: We played most of the songs from the second album but one song that we didn't is "I Think Ur a Contra." It is one of my favorites on the record, so I am looking forward to it. It doesn't really have a beat until the end. The beat is gentle and intricate. It is one the songs that I am most proud of on the record.

WCT: Well, I look forward to hearing it live this time out.

RB: We will see you then. The cable guy is here—gotta go!

Vampire Weekend will be at the Aragon Ballroom, 1106 W. Lawrence, Sunday Sept. 5. The show starts at 7 p.m. Visit www.ticketmaster.com or www.jamusa.com for details.

Kylie's 'Rare' DVD out Oct. 19

Australian singer/actress Kylie Minogue is taking part in the Rare and Unseen series with her own DVD coming out Oct. 19.

The DVD—which focuses on Minogue's life, ranging from the 1980s through the 2000s—includes: an Australian interview with Minogue, then 21; an appearance on the Ghost Train children's show; and her first-ever TV appearance, among other items.





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FOR SALE

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wooded acres Galien River frontage. \$729,000 Contact: Nora Duffy. 312-953-1783 nora.duffy@sothebysrealty.com <http://www.michigan.crawfordsir.com> (9/1/10-7)

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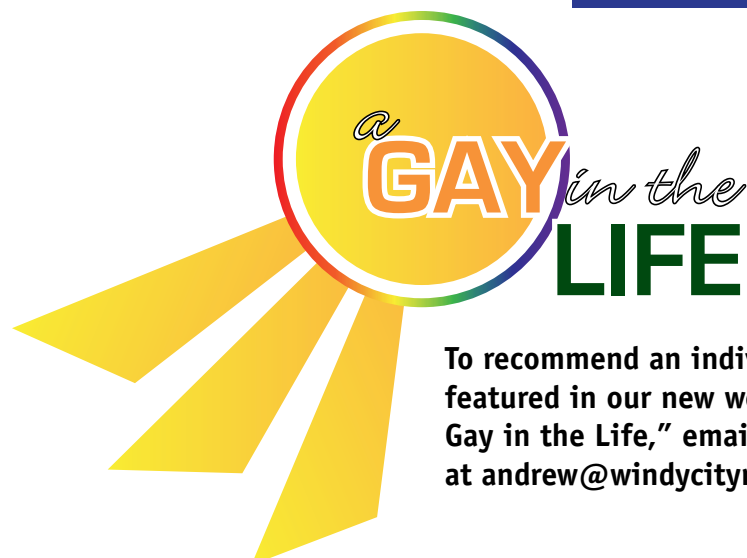
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To recommend an individual to be featured in our new weekly series "A Gay in the Life," email Andrew Davis at andrew@windycitymediagroup.com



Agent David Shallow talks the market and LGBTs

BY KRISTIN KOWALSKI

"The gay real estate market in the Chicagoland area is very diverse culturally, ethnically and geographically," said David Shallow on his realtor profile at gayrealtynet.com.

Navigating the real estate market can be a daunting task and with all the realtors out there, it can be tough to choose one.

Windy City Times: Why did you decide to get into realty in the Chicago area?

David Shallow: I'm originally from the South Side of Chicago and I graduated from college in '83. The job market then was very much like the job market now and I didn't have many opportunities with a business degree. So I thought, I'll get into real estate and do real estate until I find something else. I got hooked and I love it. I've been doing it for 28 years.

WCT: I noticed on your profile at GayRealty.net that you donate \$250 at the closing of transactions to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). When and why did you start doing that?

DS: If I'm going to take something from the gay community, I'm going to give something back to the gay community. I'm like a partner with HRC where I give a monthly donation anyway, on my own. I thought that was kind of a great hook to get business from people who feel the same way I do, but it really is about giving. I think everything is about giving back. Give what you get. What you give out is what you give out. I think it's the best of the "gay organizations."

WCT: Do you have any tips for LGBT buyers/sellers in the Chicago area?

DS: They're the same tips that I would have for everybody else, which is clean your house up, make it ready to show, price it aggressively and pick a serious, committed full-time realtor.

WCT: What about buyers?

DS: Pick one realtor—don't call a bunch. If you call a bunch of realtors, they're all going to have the same information. They're going to all be duplicating each other's efforts. You really need to pick somebody that's looking out for your best interests as a buyer and who can appreciate what is the buyer looking for schools, commute times, style of home. If you work with one realtor, they're going to get a really good idea what you're looking for if you stick with them.

WCT: Do you think there's anything that LGBT individuals specifically should consider when looking for a place in Chicago?

DS: Probably a neighborhood where they feel very comfortable. You buy a home differently than you buy a shirt or a pair of pants; a home is really who you are. A home is where you're going to live your life as a family, whether you have children or not. You're going to entertain your friends. It's got to really speak to your soul more than just a commodity that you're buying like a shirt. It's an expression of who you are and how you live out your life. You have to find a style that works for you, but you have to find a neighborhood that works for you—that could be your commute time, how you relate to your neighbors. Everybody's got a different hotspot, but it's really got to speak to your soul.

And that's kind of how I approach real estate. You're selling your home, that's your home—it's not just a commodity that you're selling. When you're buying a home, it's where you're going to live—it's not just a commodity that you're buying. It's really all about who you are. I think that's really important.



David Shallow. Photo courtesy of Shallow

I love working with the LGBT community because I think as a community we're underserved, although that is changing. I think just the perception of some straight people can kind of put a kink or a level of discomfort in the transaction. Even down to terminology—is it spouse, is it partner, is it boyfriend, is it girlfriend, is it friend? I've worked with LGBT clients who worked with unaware straight people prior to working with me and they don't want to be referred to as friends. You have a gay couple or a lesbian couple and the realtor is talking to one of the couple. They don't want their spouse or their partner or whatever their relationship is, referred to as their friend. I think that's probably the biggest thing of all that I have found. A gay couple is no different than a straight couple, other than we don't have the legal recognition in Illinois.

We are really underserved in the community. It's getting better, even down to getting mortgages. Even the practice of getting a mortgage is ultimately the same for gay couples as straight couples except they're not married, so years ago it was really hard for a gay or lesbian couple to get a mortgage together because they're not blood relatives, they're not married, they're not legally recognized as anything. That's changed a lot and there are more capabilities there.

WCT: What about the real estate market in general in the Chicago area?

DS: It's very strong right now because smart buyers are buying houses because the prices are down considerably. Yet the nice properties are still selling, the properties that are priced well are still selling. You can get some really good values. It's really difficult for sellers who bought at the peak because if they didn't put a lot of money down, they're losing money on their property or they can't sell it at all.

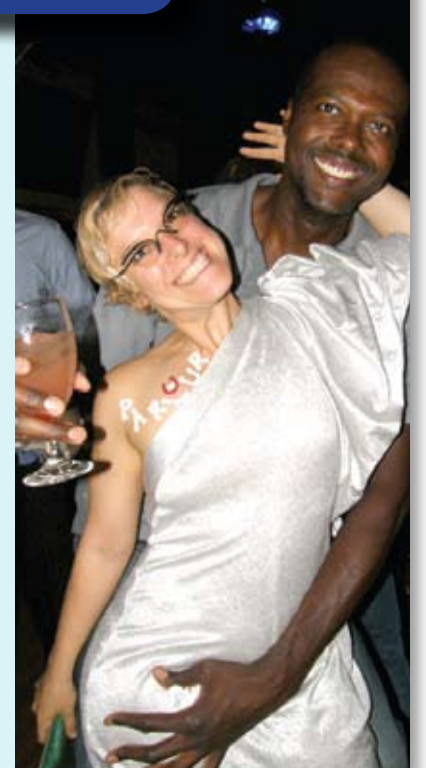
To work with David Shallow, a REMAX realtor in the Chicago and Naperville area, go to www.gayrealtynet.com/chicagoillinoisrealestate.htm or www.davidshallow.com. To reach Shallow by phone, call 630-615-2870 or 630-235-3797.

Equality IL Pie Toss



Where the elite meet the sweet: Community celebrities, local politicians and activists lent their faces to the annual pie toss event at Sidetrack on Aug. 28. Audience members bid for the opportunity to cream the contestants, with all funds raised going to benefit Equality Illinois. Photos by Anthony Meade

Parlour's doors swing open



Parlour On Clark, Edgewater's brand new bar at 6341 N. Clark, kicked off its grand opening weekend with a special preview party on Aug. 26. Photos by Kirk Williamson

calendar

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WINDY CITY TIMES



Wed., Sept. 1

Four Women Showcase 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, <http://windycityopenmic.com/>

Queer Social Club A no-attitude, casual evening for the Humboldt/Ukie Area LG-BTQ (and their friends) to come in, have drinks, meet new friends, mingle, etc. Just a fun night beyond the traditional outlets in Boystown and dance parties in Wicker Park - Doing our own thing across the Western Ave divide! 8pm, Archie's Iowa Rockwell Tavern 2600 W. Iowa, 60622, <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=10150094929770492&ref=ts>

CAKE Chicago - The BEST in LGBTQ live art. Cake Chicago blending queer artistry into the general public through live music and more. Featuring bands, singer/songwriters, comedians, video/film spoken word, drag artists, magicians and more! 9pm, 773-274-5463, The Red Line Tap 7000 North Glenwood Ave., <http://www.myspace.com/cakechicago>

Thursday, Sept. 2

Interfaith House AIDS Run & Walk Team Kick-off Party Join Interfaith House at a special Kick-Off Party for members/pledgers to Interfaith House's Team in the 2010 AIDS Run & Walk. Guests must register online, so their pledge is included toward the team goal. It's only \$25 and the first 100 guests will receive two free-drink tickets

IRREPLACEABLE Saturday, Sept. 4

Music Music Music will play the music of Beyonce (right) and Lady Gaga, among others, at Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted. (Note: The singers will not be present.)

Photo by Leslie Kee



at the door, and everyone gets a wristband good for discounted drinks until 10 pm. Light buffet provided. 5pm, Howl at the Moon, 26 W Hubbard, Chicago, <http://www.interfaithhouse.org/>

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

American Veterans for Equal Rights (GLBT veterans) monthly meeting AVER is a non-profit, chapter-based association of military veteran servicemembers dedicated to full and equal rights and equitable treatment for all present and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces. Membership is open to anyone who wishes to join. 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.averchicago.org/>

Nerd Fest, Nerds at Heart Kick off Labor Day weekend with other brainy hetero and LGBT single, \$10. Attendees get numbered

tags indicating their gender preference and those who don't already make a match during games and performances can connect by leaving mailbox messages for each other during the evening. 7pm, Holiday Club, 4000 N. Sheridan Rd., <http://www.nerdsatheart.com>

One Man Chicago finals at Harris Theatre in Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph. One man out of 20 will be chosen "One Man Chicago"—the man who represents the best of the city from the perspectives of community involvement, personality, intelligence and fitness. 7 p.m. See <http://www.OneManChicago.com>.

Friday, Sept. 3

Salute to GLBT Veterans City of Chicago annual tribute to GLBT veterans. A part of Unity Month. 1pm, Daley Plaza, Washington & Dearborn, Chicago, <http://www.averchicago.org/>

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

Gay Speed Dating for Labor Day Weekend Don't miss this Chicago summer Gay Speed Dating event at Minibar for men ages 22-42. Dates will be between 3-5 minutes each. The event will last approximately 2-3 hours depending on number of attendees. \$25 fee (5% of profits go towards <http://www.hrc.org>) covers admission. 28 person maximum capacity for this event. 8pm, Minibar Ultra Lounge and Cafe, 3341 N Halsted, <http://www.lalords.com>

The Flesh Hungry Dog Show The Flesh Hungry Dog Show presents Tom Goss, The Heat Birds, Brown Lazer with special guests from Girlie-Q Burlesque; 9pm, 773-743-5772), Jackhammer, 6406 N Clark; <http://www.fleshhungrydog.com>

Saturday, Sept. 4

Center on Halsted Family Playdates First Saturday of every month the Center Family welcomes families to come together for a fun & informal monthly gathering to simply play & have a great time in a welcoming environment. 10am, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Mr. Continental finals JF Enterprises, Inc. presents the 2010 Miss and Mr. Continental Pageants, September 3 - 6. Call 312-527-9338 for tickets. 7pm, Park West Chicago, 322 W Armitage, <http://www.thebaton-showlounge.com/continental1.htm>

Music Music Music Spotlite Theatrix pres-

ents this song & dance cabaret show to benefit ArtReach Educational Theatre. Come experience the music of Madonna, Lady Gaga, Beyonce, and your favorite pop and Broadway hits in a fun-filled atmosphere with raffles, shots, fun & prizes. Suggested donation is \$10, includes 2 drink tickets; 9pm, 773.604.1892, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.artreachspotlite.com/artreach/benefits.htm>

Sunday, Sept. 5

Hinsdale PFLAG Chapter meeting The Hinsdale PFLAG Chapter is committed to serving the needs of our GLBT loved ones and meets every first Sunday of the month. This month's speaker is former Marine Sergeant Marquel Smith on the topic of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. 2pm, 630-415-0622, Unitarian Church of Hinsdale 17 West Maple Hinsdale, IL, <http://www.pflagillinois.org>

Mass Appeal An older priest, comfortably settled in a prosperous parish, is challenged in many ways when he takes on a young idealistic seminarian with a bisexual past. Each is critical of the other's lifestyle, but they are both forced to re-evaluate their own approaches to people and pastoring. 3pm, (773) 426-1168, Euclid Ave, United Methodist Church, 405 S. Euclid Ave. (at Washington), Oak Park IL

Queer Dharma Chicago Queer Dharma meets every Sunday from 6:30-8:30pm at the Shambhala Meditation center for sitting meditation, discussion & socializing. Free meditation instruction. <http://www.queerdharmachicago@googlegroups.com>. 6:30pm, (773) 230-3886, Shambhala Meditation Center, 7331 N. Sheridan, chicago, shambhala.org/programs.php?cid=170

Velvet Rope Sunday Karaoke Come and join Dawn Marie Hamilton for a night of karaoke and general mayhem! 7pm, 708-358-8840, Velvet Rope, 728 West Lake Street, velvetropetuloulounge.com

Monday, Sept. 6

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

Miss Continental finals Miss Continental, the most prestigious and respected national pageant for professional female illusionists, is Labor Day Weekend, Sept 5 - 6. Call 312-527-9338 for tickets. 7pm, Park West Chicago, 322 W Armitage, <http://www.thebatonshowlounge.com/continental1.htm>

Tuesday, Sept. 7

Bisexual Social/Discussion Night An event for bisexuals, bi-curious, and bi-allies to form community, share ideas and connect with peers. Come out and help build the bi community! We meet for game nights, potlucks, networking, social activism, peer-led discussion groups & more. 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Secrets To Lasting Intimacy Want to learn the secrets to lasting intimacy, love and fulfillment? Are you ready to expand joy, pleasure and creativity in your life? At this workshop you will learn in a safe, respectful and joyous environment; 7pm, 773-525-5006, 2031 W. Warner Ave., Chicago, IL. 60618, secretstolastingintimacyforgaymen.com/

Wed., Sept. 8

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



OH, 'MAN'
Thurs., Sept. 2

Bryan Herb (above) will be among those competing in the "One Man Chicago" contest at the Harris Theatre for Music and Dance.

Photo from B. Herb

Classics Book Group This month's book is The Tenant of Wildfell Hall by Anne Bronte, portrays a woman's eloquent struggle for independence at a time when the law and society defined a married woman as her husband's property. 7:15pm, 773-769-9299, Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark St., <http://www.womenandchildren-first.com>

Thursday, Sept. 9

Celebration of Progress hosted by John Dalton Kane County Resident Judge Candidate John Dalton hosts a fundraising event honoring the 1st Anniversary of Legalization of Gay Marriage in Vermont and the 10-year Anniversary of the First U.S. Civil Union. Tickets are \$50. 5:30pm, (312) 541-1600, Minibar Ultra Lounge and Cafe, 3341 N Halsted

Newtown Writers General workshop 7:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.newtownwriters.org>

Mark and Homer Like This Mark Hanner and Homer Marris met and fell in like on the gay chat site Bear411.com. It was humor at first "woof." Mark, a 7-year veteran of Schadenfreude, and Homer, a 6-year veteran of the Second City (Las Vegas and National Touring Company), decided to eke out a comedy revue to see what happens when two musically inclined red-bearded homos try to entertain each other in front of an audience. 8pm, 773-561-4665, Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N Broadway, <http://www.theannoyance.com>

Saturday, Sept. 11

Aware Affair: Totally '80s Ultra Lounge Co-chairs Todd Armbruster, Robert T. Cichocki, Toby Eveland, and Scott Silverman cordially invite you to attend Test Positive Aware Network's signature fall event, the Aware Affair: Totally '80s Ultra Lounge. 9:30pm, Ravenswood Billboard Factory 4011 N. Ravenswood Ave., <http://www.tpan.com>

Lakeview East Festival of the Arts Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce presents more than 150-juried artists featuring world-class original paintings, sculpture, photography, furniture, jewelry, a Pop-Up Gallery of emerging artists, the Christy Webber Landscape Garden Oasis, live sculptures, and interactive children's areas. 10am, 773-348-8608, Broadway Ave., from Belmont Ave to Roscoe St, <http://www.lakevieweast.com>

Monday, Sept. 13

The Human Rights Campaign Presents Crossing the Finish Line U.S. Representatives Mike Quigley, Jan Schakowsky and other officials for an evening of stimulating conversation about how to get real results for the LGBT community. RSVP ChicagoHRCtablecaptains@gmail.com; 5:30 p.m., Jenner & Block, 353 N. Clark, #4500, Chicago, <http://www.hrc.org>



HERO EFFECT

Saturday, Sept. 11

Test Positive Aware Network's "Aware Affair: Totally '80s Lounge" will take place at the Ravenswood Billboard Factory, 4011 N. Ravenswood.

Photo from 2008 by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

BILLY MASTERS



John Barrowman (above) recently unloaded some baggage.

"I knew exactly what I was doing. You can't accidentally take a whole bottle of pills."—Fantasia Barrino admits she attempted suicide over the public revelation of her affair with a married man. I'm no expert, but if you're really serious, aspirin is probably not the way to go. Maybe she couldn't read the bottle.

I recently zipped to Hartford, Conn., to catch the world premiere of *High*, a new play by Matthew Lombardo. This is the same playwright who wrote *Tea at Five* and *Looped*. But rather than being a love letter to some dearly departed diva, this is a real, honest-to-goodness play. And it stars a diva who is far from departed—Kathleen Turner. And she's playing a nun! I know what you're thinking—but she's a nun who came late to the nunnery after a lifetime of hard living and alcohol. Assign her with a teenage male hustler who is addicted to drugs and doesn't really wanna get clean (and may or may not have been complicit in the death of a 14-year-old boy) and you have a pretty damn unhappy nun. Just for kicks, toss in a supervising priest of questionable motives and prepare yourself for a riveting ride. While the show has closed in Hartford, it is off to Cincinnati and St. Louis—and, I suspect, even larger stages. Check it out.

Across the sea, George Michael admitted his own drug addiction—at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court. Georgie pled guilty to driving under the influence and being in possession of marijuana at the time of his car crash on July 4. In addition to losing his license for six months, the judge also said, "I make it clear the options in respect of sentence remain open, including the power to imprison." Don't threaten him with a good time, your honor!

Elsewhere in the British Isles, John Barrowman had everyone in a tizzy. He advertised a garage sale at his home in Wales with flyers that said, "Everything Must Go—Spread the Word." With news that *Torchwood* was not completely dead and would begin shooting new episodes in the United States under a new moniker ("*Torchwood: The New World*"), most people assumed the Glasgow-born but U.S.-raised actor was leaving the United Kingdom permanently. "I'm just a regular citizen holding a normal garage sale to clear out a load of old junk and raise money for charity," he said. Perhaps, but most citizens don't include antique furniture and a Peugeot! Barrowman was on hand all day while buyers and fans crowded the grounds. He would sign anything for an additional fee, and announced that a percentage of the proceeds would be donated to a local children's hospice.

On the home front, our *Dancing with the Stars* will begin in a fortnight ... err, in a couple of weeks. By the time you read this, the line-up will be public. People like David Hasselhoff, Michael Bolton, Margaret Cho and Florence Henderson could be participants, along with premarital abstinence advocate Bristol Palin. And it also

appears that *Jersey Shore* mania will be infiltrating network television with "*The Situation*" competing for the mirror ball trophy. (He's never met a mirror he didn't like.) I believe someone who committed vehicular homicide is also a contender, but why go there? Let's stick with *The Sitch*—allegedly his income in 2010 will top \$5 million, which I believe may be one of the first signs of the Apocalypse. (Look it up, I'm sure it's in the Bible.) Part of that income will come from his upcoming DVD "*The Situation Workout—Get Ripped in 5 10-Minute Sets*." He's also writing a book—a novelty for someone who I'm not sure ever read a book! And he'll be pocketing \$400K to be the spokesman for *Devotion* vodka—a beverage that swears it increases lean body mass because it contains a clear protein liquid. I'd happily endorse a milky protein liquid, but no one is knocking on my door!

Speaking of milky beverages, Lil Romeo just lent his name to a shake at Millions of Milkshakes. He debuted the drink at the West Hollywood location shirtless—'cause that's what hot guys in WeHo do. I'm told the shake contains French vanilla ice cream, cookie dough and sprinkles. Looking at his abs, I'm finding it hard to believe he's ever had this drink—unless he also throws in some of that lean muscle-enhancing vodka (or some other liquid protein). I'll post some photos at BillyMasters.com.

Could it be that one of the more venerable relationships in Hollywood and points south has hit the skids? True enough—the partnership has been dissolved and while the public may focus on the star leaving the boardroom, the golden boy has been moved out of the bedroom. Or bedrooms in this case (the pitfalls of being so international). I'm told the lord of the rings was very direct about the split. No big song and dance. No other party involved (except that ever-present wife). The liaison had simply run its course. It could have been ugly, but the youngster has been through this before. He's a foxy fella and, like most Sicilians, he'll land on his feet (or his back).

When I can present a blind item with such panache, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Labor Day's around the corner, and that means two things—I will be riveted to the Jerry Lewis Telethon and I'll soon be leaving Boston. I dunno why but within a few hours of seeing Jann Carl's mole, I get the urge to lay on a beach without sunblock! I guess I'll spend some time in Fort Lauderdale before returning to the glitz and glamour of Hollywood. And if it's glitz and glamour you're looking for, look no further than www.BillyMasters.com. If I can provide any service to you, feel free to drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before vodka is marketed as a health drink! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

Holiday Weekends
Are Sidetrack Weekends

Labor Day
Monday
Sept. 6

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WINDY CITY TIMES

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Ted Cappas. Photo courtesy of Cappas

Ted Cappas: Leading '11 World Series board

BY ROSS FORMAN

Ted Cappas seems like the perfect, logical fit for the president of the five-person executive board for the 2011 Gay Softball World Series, to be held in Chicago.

After all, Cappas was the Coady Roundball Classic (CRC) tournament director for seven years before stepping down from that post earlier this year, and he was the co-chairman of sports for the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago.

The board also includes Jack Neilsen (chairman and founder), Joe Cappelletti (director of finance), Brian Redar (director of operations) and Aaron Brost (director of marketing/special events).

"As President, my role is to lead the Executive Board in the planning and execution of the event," said Cappas, 38, who lives in the Andersonville neighborhood. "I play a strong role in setting the agenda and direction of our organization. I think one of the reasons I was asked to be part of this organization is my ability to keep everyone on task and to focus on what is important to have a successful event. We have a very strong executive board. Every member has held a leadership position in either running [the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association's] softball league or our annual July 4th ChiTown Classic. Though we have different titles and responsibilities, we all work collaboratively in the planning and execution. Everyone brings a set of skills needed for a successful event. Having Jack, Aaron, Brian and Joe on the board was very important to me accepting this position."

Cappas is a self-employed collateral examiner for commercial lending institutions.

"I will draw on my experience with both events [the Gay Games and the Coady]," Cappas said. "Joe Cappelletti and I were co-chairs of sports for the Gay Games. We continually refer back to the Games to note what worked and what didn't work. I think that experience alone is invaluable, as it is always easier to do something like this for the second time.

"With the CRC, I know what it takes to run a successful tournament. Sometimes people get caught up or overwhelmed by the bigger picture and don't worry about the details. I think one of the reasons the CRC has been so successful has been our focus on the details. Each year we try to put ourselves in the shoes of a player and walk through the entire weekend and figure out what will make this tournament the most efficient, well run and exciting tournament they have ever played in."

Cappas has been a successful player in the annual World Series, too. In his first, in 2000, his B-Division team finished in third-place. Cappas also played in 2001 (San Francisco), 2002 (Portland), 2003 (Washington, D.C.), 2004 (Dallas), 2005 (San Diego), and 2006 (Fort Lauderdale).

"Having participated in seven World Series, I know what an amazing event it is," Cappas said. "The World Series brings together the best gay softball players and teams from across North America to compete at the highest level. Beside the competition, tournaments like this have a strong impact on our community, our players and our city. Similar to the Gay Games or other gay sporting events, they break down stereotypes for both people in and out of our community. In addition, they provide home for gay male athletes to compete in a sport at the highest level and be proud to be part of the LGBT community."

The 2011 Series is expected to draw more than 3,000 players and 600 games for a week's worth of games.

The 2010 Series will be held in August in Columbus, Ohio.

The North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA), which runs the Gay Softball World Series, is a predominantly male event. A separate all-women's World Series also is held annually; however, CMSA did not bid to host that event in 2011.

Cappas said he likely will not be playing in the 2011 event. "If anything, I may try to get on a team's roster, but would only be available for spot duty or pinch hitting. In all likelihood, I will be too busy making sure things run smoothly."

Cappas said the board's goal is to "plan and execute a well-run, fun and exciting World Series."



A competitor at the 2009 World Series. Photo by Ross Forman

ries. Obviously we have no control on how people play and who wins the tournament, but we do have some say in everything else.

"Our organization will busy planning, fundraising and training volunteers for the event. We obviously have fundraising goals that we need to meet to make this a successful tournament. With over 4,000 people coming to Chicago for the week, it is a great opportunity for potential sponsors. We also will be hosting fundraising events over the next 12 months to bring awareness to the World Series, raise funds and cultivate a large team of volunteers."

More than 175 teams are expected, including some from Canada.

We expect over 4,000 people from over 175 teams coming to Chicago to compete in over 600 games during the week," Cappas said. "Besides the softball, we will be hosting evening social events throughout the week including the Opening and closing ceremonies, and the World Series Talent Show. We plan on showcasing our wonderful City and neighborhoods throughout the week."

Cappas said his fondest World Series memory came in Toronto in 2000.

"It was my first World Series and I went up to Toronto with no expectations," he said. "Our team had not played that well during the regular season, but we hit our stride in Toronto and made a great run towards the title. We had some key injuries late in the week which hurt us during our final two games. Obviously winning makes the experience better, but we had a great group of guys/friends that made that week every special."

The next major fund-raiser for the 2011 Gay Softball World Series is Saturday, Sept. 11: The Virgin Drag Review, when many CMSA players will offer their first performances ever in drag. The event will be held at Hydrate Nightclub, 3548 N. Halsted, starting at 8 p.m. The admission is \$10 and pizza will be served. Proceeds go to support the 2011 Series.

Clinton backs Gay Games

BY ROSS FORMAN

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton officially supported the recently-completed Gay Games, held in Cologne, Germany—and she even sent a video-taped message, endorsing the eighth sports and cultural extravaganza.

Clinton's message was to be aired at the Closing Ceremony on Saturday, August 7; however, the facility did not have a video screen projection.

"The Closing Ceremony was a very successful event that people did not want to leave. It was really well executed and attended. It was short on speeches, big on celebration," said Kelly Stevens, spokesman for the Federation of Gay Games (FGG).

The governor of Ohio, Ted Strickland, asked Clinton's office for a video, Stevens said, and her message to Cologne attendees included this message: "please come to the U.S. in 2014," when Gay Game IX is held in Cleveland.

"We were very incredibly pleased to see support from such a high level of government of the USA," Stevens said. "Secretary of State Clinton holds the equal position to German Foreign Minister [Guido] Westerwelle, [who is gay and spoke at the Opening Ceremony], so her message post-Gay Games VIII was a good choice.

"We played the video at the very well attended annual meeting of the assembly of the FGG. It played after the inspiring roll call of diverse global representatives of the FGG. Co-President Emy Ritt announced a short video and the assembly went quiet and cheered when it was completed. Some were teary-eyed to see this high level support of the Gay Games."

So, does this bode well for Clinton to attend the Cleveland Games?

"I am not sure," Stevens said. "Many people think we should also ask Michelle Obama [to at-



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Photo by Rex Wockner

tend]. It would be fantastic to get a high-level U.S. Government person to speak at the Opening Ceremony at Gay Games IX in Cleveland in 2014.

"This type of support is important to highlight the importance of our mission of changing the world through LGBT sport and culture via the Gay Games. She understands the human rights issues we address through Gay Games."

Clinton's video-tape message has not received media attention yet, nor been seen by many, yet.

"We will convert the big file and YouTube it, and place it on our home page," Stevens said. "It is inspiring. We are working on technically converting the file and loading it.

"Hillary Clinton again shows her support of LGBT people and shows she is a true friend to our community."

Stevens added: "I must thank our 2010 host city, Cologne, Germany, the city government, the Games-Cologne Team, and all the volunteers. They produced an event that raises the bar for all future cities hosting the Gay Games. They provided an emotionally full, technically well executed Gay Games. Veilen Dank! (Much Thanks.)"

"I personally want to thank the press, especially the German press, print, radio and national television. The press told the stories of real people [who] worked hard to get to the Gay Games, and those people enjoying friendly, tough competition. The press was also 'Part of It' at Gay Games VIII. Journalists from all over the globe were on site all week."

Pins for a Cure Sept. 18

Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV) will host its second annual bowling fundraiser, Pins for a Cure, Saturday, Sept. 18, 1-3 p.m., at Waveland Bowl.

Pins for a Cure is organized by BEHIV's staff to provide a lower-dollar fundraising option for supporters who can't afford tickets to BEHIV's larger events, such as the Club BEHIV & Cabaret.

Registration for individual bowlers is \$30 and a team of five is \$135; additionally, bowlers can raise pledges to support them during the event. Bowlers can register at <http://www.behiv.org> or Facebook page.

CMSA sports new women's soccer league

The Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) has started a new women's outdoor soccer league, and the season will take place Sept. 11-Oct. 30.

Games will be played in Chicago's Warren Park.

The player fee of \$30 must be paid by Sept. 2. Those who are interested should e-mail Sam.Soccer.Girls@gmail.com or call 708-436-0031. Also, see http://www.chicagomsa.org/cmsa_new/Leagues/Soccer/WomensSoccerLeague.aspx.

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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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