

JOAN RIVERS TALKS



PAGE 33

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DARRYL STEPHENS' WCT INTERVIEW

PAGE 35

Controversial food chain Chick-fil-A coming to town

BY YASMIN NAIR

The Chick-fil-A sandwich franchise is planning to open its doors in late April on the intersection of Wabash and Chicago, in the heart of Chicago's downtown. Founded by S. Truett Cathy in the 1960s, the chain is especially popular in the South but has enough of a reputation and devoted fans that the Chicago opening is bound to attract crowds.

However, recent news and controversies regarding its Christian background and allegations about its negative attitudes towards homosexuality may prove to be a stumbling block. Given

all the many stories that have been circulating, a closer examination of the facts reveals some truths that appear to have been ignored thus far and also throws light on the task ahead if the Chicago gay community does in fact plan either a boycott or a protest of the franchise.

Cathy's original venture was the Dwarf Grill restaurant in Hapeville, Ga., started in 1946. The first Chick-fil-A store was established in an Atlanta mall in 1967. Today, the chain runs—by most accounts, including its website—about 900 free-standing restaurants, 29 drive-through locations and 214 licensed locations in places like college campuses and hospitals.

Since the chain has yet to open in Chicago, this reporter was unable to procure a sample for research purposes, but this website description of their basic sandwich is sufficiently detailed: "A boneless breast of chicken seasoned to perfection, hand-breaded, pressure cooked in 100% refined peanut oil and served on a toasted, buttered bun with dill pickle chips." The sandwich is also available on a "Golden Wheat bun."

That combination of unctuous indulgence and practicality (the bread sops up the grease from the chicken thus making it easier to eat the

Turn to page 14



CHICAGO AUTO SHOW DETAILS

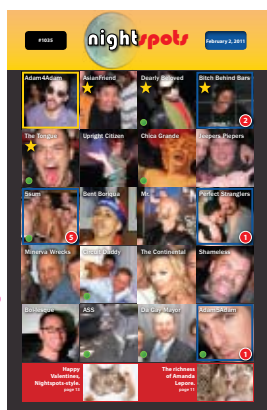
PAGE 32

2011 ELECTION GUIDE

As Election Day (Feb. 22) nears, candidates are pulling out all the stops to make their voices heard. Among the mayoral and aldermanic hopefuls in the mix are (from left): Rahm Emanuel, James Cappleman, Tom Tunney, Gery Chico, Carol Moseley Braun, Harry Osterman and Miguel del Valle. Our election coverage starts on page 10.



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NEWS

- The state of marriage; I2I at confab 4
- Kato's funeral brings chaos 5
- Ugandan leader in Chicago 6
- Queer Palestinians 7
- Jorjet Harper on Egypt 8
- Black history items 9
- Elections section 10
- Chick-fil-A 14
- Transgender report 15
- Obits: Wesley, Sloane, Klug, Mathis 16
- Gay in the Life: LaMorte 17
- Views: Johnson, Shelton 18

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

- Scottish Play Scott 19
- Theater reviews 24
- Janette Manrara burns the floor 26
- Knight: Eagle, classic DVDs 27
- Pop Making Sense 28
- Music: Linda Eder interview 29
- Book view: Mary Bowers 30
- Book review: Annabel 31
- Autos: Reffsin, Chicago show 32
- Joan Rivers 33
- Darryl Stephens; Molly Ivins book 35
- Billy Masters 37

OUTLINES

- Real estate; classifieds 34
- Calendar Q 36
- Sports: 'New' local league 38

Photos on cover (left, from top): Joan Rivers PR pic; Darryl Stephens head shot by Rebecca Sanabria; Image from the Chicago Auto show from the event's website

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COLE-HEARTED

WCT talked with actor Jasper Cole (left) about being out in Hollywood and his gay cult-classic film, Get Your Stuff.



National Gay and Lesbian Task Force ED Rea Carey recently spoke at the Creating Change confab. Read her speech in its entirety.



WCT recently talked with singer Melanie Fiona, who's up for a Grammy.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

LOVE BITES

Sugar & Spice looks at five restaurants where you can have a very romantic time this Valentine's Day.

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

Read about another 46th Ward aldermanic forum, this one organized by the League of Women Voters.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

This week's entertainment round-up includes bits on Perez Hilton, k.d. lang and Ewan McGregor.

SNOW PLACE LIKE HOME



See photos of Chicago's historic snowstorm online.

Photo by Michael Vaughan

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

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The state of marriage

BY DANA RUDOLPH
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Marriage equality in Maryland got a boost in the past week from two prominent politicians, but a winter storm delayed a marriage equality hearing in Rhode Island. Elsewhere, conditions were variable.

—**Maryland:** State Sen. Allan Kittleman, R-Howard County, announced Feb. 2 that he supports a pending marriage-equality bill. Kittleman had earlier said he would introduce a separate civil-union bill. He then resigned as minority leader Jan. 18, saying Republican colleagues did not want a “social moderate” as leader.

In a statement about his shift in support, Kittleman described himself as “a strong follower of Jesus Christ,” and added, “while my faith may teach that marriage is between a man and a woman, our government is not a theocracy. ... Therefore, while my spiritual life is extremely important to me, it cannot be the sole basis for my decisions as a state senator.”

Kittleman also noted that his father, the late state Senator Robert Kittleman, R-Howard County, helped fight racial discrimination in the 1950s and 1960s, which “instilled in me the belief that everyone, regardless of race, sex, national origin or sexual orientation, is entitled to equal rights.”

A public hearing on the Senate bill is scheduled for Feb. 8.

Maryland Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, a Democrat,

also made his first public statement in support of the marriage bill.

Brown, a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, released a statement in December applauding the repeal of the federal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” ban on openly gay servicemembers.

The marriage bill is expected to pass the legislature, and Democratic Gov. Martin O’Malley has said he will sign it. Brown told the Washington Blade, however, that he expects opponents will gather enough signatures for a voter referendum on the bill in 2012, but believes voters will uphold it.

A poll from Gonzales Research and Marketing released Jan. 25 showed 51 percent of Maryland residents support full marriage equality, 44 percent oppose it, and 5 percent did not respond.

—**Iowa:** The full Iowa House approved a bill Feb. 1 to put a measure on the ballot asking voters whether to amend the state constitution to ban legal recognition for same-sex relationships. The 62 to 37 vote was largely partisan, with only three Democrats joining the united Republican majority in favor of the bill.

The vote came after a packed public hearing that included the testimony of 19-year-old Zach Wahls, a University of Iowa student raised by two mothers. His speech has become an Internet sensation, receiving over a million viewings on YouTube.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal, D-Council Bluffs, had said he would block a vote on the bill in his chamber, where Democrats have a



From left: Iowa state Sen. Mike Gronstal; Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley.

ONLINE AT
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NATIONAL NEWS

—Trust, museum acquire pics by Robert Mapplethorpe (left)

—Rachel Maddow fooled by website

—Model pleads not guilty to castrating, killing journalist

26-24 edge.

—**California:** State Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye told the Los Angeles Times Feb. 2 that the state’s high court may decide “as soon as next week” whether it will take up a request from the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals asking if any state law or authority justifies giving Yes on 8 proponents of Proposition 8, the state’s ban on same-sex marriage, standing to appeal the case in federal court.

—**Colorado:** Openly gay state Sen. Pat Steadman, D-Denver, said on his Facebook page Feb. 3 that he would be introducing a civil union bill “early next week.” State Rep. Mark Ferrandino, D-Denver, who is also gay, will introduce the House version.

In 2006, Colorado voters approved a state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage and rejected a bill for domestic partnerships. Since 2009, however, unmarried couples have been able to obtain a designated beneficiary agreement that gives them limited rights over each other’s medical, financial, and end-of-life matters.

Colorado was the setting for *Romer v. Evans*, the landmark 1996 LGBT civil-rights case in which the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the state’s Amendment 2, which prohibited ordinances protecting people based on sexual orientation.

—**New Hampshire:** The House Judiciary Committee announced it will hold a public hearing Feb. 17 on two bills that seek to repeal the state’s one-year-old marriage equality law. One bill, introduced by State Rep. David Bates, R-Windham, would ban only marriage for same-sex

couples; the other, introduced by state Rep. Leo Pepino, R-Manchester, would also prohibit civil unions.

—**New York:** Barbara Bush, daughter of former President George W. Bush, taped a video expressing her support for marriage equality and calling on New Yorkers to join her. And a Quinnipiac University poll released January 27 found that New York State voters support marriage equality legislation by 56 to 37 percent, the highest margin ever for that poll. A Siena poll released January 18 showed similar numbers.

—**Rhode Island:** A House hearing on state Rep. Arthur Handy’s, D-Cranston, bill to enact marriage equality was postponed until February 9 because of a winter storm. State Sen. Rhoda Perry, D-Providence, has introduced a similar bill in the Senate.

But three other bills—also filed by Democrats—would put a measure on the ballot in 2012 asking voters if they would like to amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage. State Rep. Jon Brien, D-Woonsocket, and Sen. John Tassoni, Jr., D-Smithfield, on Feb. 3 filed identical bills to do so. Sen. Frank Ciccone, D-Providence, filed a slightly different one February 27, which would leave open the option of civil unions for same-sex couples.

Democrats hold large majorities in both chambers, and House Speaker Gordon Fox, D-Providence, who is openly gay, is a cosponsor of Handy’s bill. Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed, however, opposes marriage equality.

—**Utah:** State Rep. LaVar Christensen, R-Drapers, who introduced the 2004 bill (now law) that bans same-sex marriage under the state constitution, filed two bills Feb. 2 that could further limit rights for same-sex couples.

One would require that “publicly funded social programs, government services, laws, and regulations designed to support families be carefully scrutinized to ensure that they promote the family.” The bill defines “family” as “the legal union” of a man, a woman, and their children, “consistent with the Laws of Nature and Nature’s God.”

Christensen’s second bill—nearly identical to one that narrowly failed in 2006—states, “An arrangement, agreement or transaction that is unlawful or violates public policy is void and unenforceable.”

Brandie Balken, executive director of Equality Utah, told the Salt Lake Tribune that among other implications, the two laws taken together could invalidate contracts between members of same-sex couples, such as medical directives and wills.

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I2I helps to create change



I Li Hsiao and Liz Thomson, two members of I2I: API Pride of Chicago, attended the 23rd annual Creating Change conference, Feb 2-6, in Minneapolis, Minn. For the first time in history, there was a pre-conference Asian American Institute, organized by the National Queer API Alliance. Text by and photo courtesy of Thomson

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WORLD NEWS

Chaos at Kato's funeral

BY REX WOCKNER

Even in death, there was no peace for David Kato, the prominent Ugandan activist bashed to death with a hammer in his home Jan. 26 after a tabloid newspaper published his picture and the pictures of other gay people with the caption "Kill Them"—and just 23 days after he won a lawsuit against the newspaper over the article.

At Kato's funeral, the Anglican official conducting the service, Thomas Musoke, started bashing gays, saying that "admiring a fellow man" is "ungodly," that even animals can distinguish male from female, and that "gays ... should repent."

Kato's gay friends rushed the pulpit and seized the microphone.

Then people at the funeral who apparently agreed with the celebrant got into physical skirmishes with the gay people. After that, the residents who would have carried the casket to the cemetery refused to do so, and Kato's friends had to do it.

On Feb. 2, police told local media that a "thief" Kato had bailed out of prison, Nsubuga Enoch, confessed to killing Kato because Kato failed to give him a car, house and money that Kato purportedly dangled to coerce him into sodomy.

Numerous gay activists in Uganda and the U.S. said they do not believe the killing was about withheld gifts and are worried that the homophobic government intends to cover up the true motive for the crime to protect itself from foreign criticism and safeguard foreign aid.

Kato was the advocacy officer for the organization Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG) and had been a leading voice in the fight against the Anti-Homosexuality Bill, which has been before Uganda's Parliament since October 2009.



More than 100 people walked from Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza near the United Nations to Uganda House in New York City on Feb. 3 demanding a proper investigation into the murder of prominent Ugandan gay activist David Kato and that the Anti-Homosexuality Bill be withdrawn from Uganda's Parliament. Photo by Joe Jervis

The legislation would imprison for life anyone convicted of "the offense of homosexuality," punish "aggravated homosexuality" (repeat offenses, or having gay sex while being HIV-positive) with the death penalty, forbid "promotion of homosexuality" and incarcerate gay-rights defenders, and jail individuals in positions of authority for up to three years if they fail to report within 24 hours the existence of all LGBT people or sympathizers known to them.

Some U.S. and Ugandan activists and reporters

have blamed U.S. evangelical visitors to Uganda for inspiring the bill, which, they believe, led to the newspaper article, which, they suspect, led to the murder.

"A March 2009 conference in Kampala ... featured notorious American anti-gay campaigners, who promoted the idea of a sinister global homosexual conspiracy to corrupt Uganda," said Political Research Associates, a nonprofit that studies the U.S. political right. "Conference speakers advocated parliamentary action

to thwart this 'international gay agenda' (and) met with Ugandan lawmakers and government officials, some of whom drafted Parliament's infamous Anti-Homosexuality Bill."

Val Kalenda, board chair of Freedom and Roam Uganda, said the visitors "planted hatred in Uganda (and) must take responsibility for David's blood."

Scott Long, who headed Human Rights Watch's LGBT Rights Division for several years said, "The foreign Christian leaders who have supported the spread of murderous homophobia in Uganda ... should search their consciences today and beg forgiveness."

SMUG said that Kato had "been receiving death threats since his face was put on the front page of Rolling Stone magazine, which called for his death and the death of all homosexuals." (The publication is unrelated to the U.S. magazine.)

The newspaper article said, in part: "The mighty Rolling Stone is glad to reveal some of the most horrible secrets in gay community, which is bent on recruiting at least one million members by 2012. Dishearteningly, gays are after young kids, who are easily brainwashed towards bisexual orientation. ... The leaked pictures of Uganda's top homosexuals and lesbians have renewed calls for the strengthening of the war against the rampage that threatens the future of our generation by hanging gays. 'Unless government takes a bold step by hanging dozens of homosexuals, the vice will continue eating up the moral fibre and culture of our great nation,' ... said a radical church leader who preferred anonymity."

On Feb. 3 in New York City, more than 100 people walked from Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza near the United Nations to Uganda House demanding a proper investigation of Kato's murder and that the Anti-Homosexuality Bill be withdrawn from Parliament. A similarly sized action took place in San Francisco's Harvey Milk Plaza.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley



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Ugandan leader talks about LGBT oppression, David Kato

BY TULLY SATRE

The Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Art and Media hosted a presentation and conversation addressing LGBT activist efforts in Uganda as well as the current state of the country's LGBT rights. The presentation, held on Jan. 31 at Columbia College, fell just days after the brutal murder of David Kato, one of few openly gay activists in Uganda. Kato served as the litigation and advocacy officer for Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG), an underground effort to restore basic human rights for the LGBT community in Uganda, a country notorious for its inhumane treatment of LGBT people.

"We're not here tonight because David Kato was murdered," said Jane Saks, executive director of the ESB Institute, "We're here because he should be alive."

Frank Mugisha, who serves as the current executive director of SMUG, sat in the first row as Saks recounted meeting the 27-year-old Mugisha a year prior in Kampala, Uganda, "I have grown to admire him as a leader," she said of Mugisha, "as a young man making courageous decisions." Saks introduced Mugisha, who approached the podium with a big smile, seemingly careless and worry-free.

"If you're gay you can be expelled," Mugisha began, "your family can throw you out and the church can throw you out. And I love my faith." Mugisha grew up thinking he was alone and described trying everything to cure his homosexuality from laying out in the sun to hours of prayer. He soon realized that there was nothing he could do to change, so he came out.

"When I got family support I said, 'why can't I also reach out and get support [from other people]?' " leading Mugisha to come out publicly. He met David Kato during a Ugandan court case where Kato spotted a smiling Mugisha from across the room. He insisted Mugisha become involved in his efforts to promote fair treatment for the LGBT community in Uganda. "He became a father to me in the movement," Mugisha said of Kato. "He became a supporter of me in the movement."

Mugisha was already *en route* to Chicago when he learned of Kato's murder. Local authorities quickly dubbed the murder the result of a robbery, but Mugisha knew otherwise, "Many of us will get killed in the struggle," he said nonchalantly much to the surprise of many in the crowd, most under the age of thirty. "David was hammered twice on the head. Neighbors came to the rescue but he died en route to the hospital."

A statement issued by President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Jan. 27 offered sympathy for the murder of Kato and promised continued support for LGBT rights in



Frank Mugisha. Photo courtesy of Sara Slawnik

the United States on behalf of those abroad.

Mugisha maintained a calm demeanor as he described the horrors that befall LGBT citizens in Uganda, including a story of a girl who was repeatedly raped by relatives in order to "convert" her. The girl ended up pregnant, contracted HIV/AIDS and had to get an abortion.

Thirty-eight countries in Africa criminalize homosexuality and, in some places, it is punishable by death. South Africa, on the other hand, stands in stark contrast to most of the continent. In 1996, the South African constitution was the first in the world to specifically outlaw discrimination on the grounds of sexual preference. But this progressive stance has not changed the way many South Africans think about or treat gays and lesbians. Hate crimes are on the rise, particularly against black sexual minorities.

"We are not advocating for marriage," Mugisha said, "the only thing we are asking is to be accepted with everyone else." He explained that many people in Uganda view South Africa as a western country and homosexuality as a "western import" a fear that has been kindled recently by American evangelicals on mission in Uganda using fear tactics to enrage church communities.

In March 2009, three American evangelicals in collaboration with local churches, Christian organizations (spearheaded by the Family Life Network) held a seminar in Uganda called "Coming Out Straight."

The individuals (Scott Lively, Don Schmierer and Caleb Lee Brundidge) told Ugandans that gays can be healed, that there is a gay agenda from the western world and that they (people from the west) have paid homosexuals to come to Uganda and spread homosexuality.

Mugisha noted that many in Uganda started

organizing in response to these fear-infusing seminars. He recalled that several Ugandans were told that SMUG had a school that recruits gays and converts people to being gay.

The drivers of homophobia in Uganda are numerous. Mugisha explained that there is very little information about homosexuality in Uganda, and what is available is typically a grotesque misrepresentation.

Hostility towards LGBT people is only worsened by local media which often promotes a negative view of the gay community and tends to talk about gays only in the context of anal sex.

As many health practitioners have no understanding of LGBT or MSM health, many gays and lesbians fear coming out to their doctors, as they may be refused treatment. Currently the Uganda Ministry of Health does not recognize MSM. "Do you say who you are and possibly die?" asked Saks in reference to a the death of one gay man in Uganda who had AIDS, "Or conceal your identity and receive medical care?"

Mugisha has been asked repeatedly how he has sex. "Who says I am having sex?" Mugisha asks, "Why are you talking about sex?" The ignorance is fueled by Ugandan media.

In the October issue of Rolling Stone, a local newspaper in Uganda, the photographs and addresses of 100 LGBT people were published with a subtitle that accused gays and lesbians of recruiting children and asked for their execution. This story sparked the initial death threats that Kato received. Saks pointed out that there are approximately 11-15 openly gay people in Uganda willing to speak up, meaning the Rolling Stone article outed dozens of individuals putting their safety and security at high risk. SMUG successfully sued Rolling Stone shortly after the article was published.

The political climate towards the LGBT community continues to be unstable. Legislators and government officials have uttered statements which often fuel homophobia. In 1999 the president of Uganda called for the open shooting and killing of homosexuals. "That kind of talk from our leaders has sparked a lot of violence and homophobia in Uganda," said Mugisha.

In 2005 an amendment to the Ugandan constitution criminalized same-sex marriage. Further, Mugisha explained that the equal opportunities act of 2007 states that "the minority can enjoy their rights only if the majority accept them," a clear hindrance towards human rights.

Section 140 of the penal code of the Republic of Uganda criminalized "carnal knowledge against the order of nature" with maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Sec. 141 prohibits "attempts at carnal knowledge" with maximum seven years imprisonment.

Section 143 punishes acts of procurement of or attempts to procure acts of gross indecency between men in public or private with up to five years in prison. All these laws and more have been used to legally mistreat the LGBT community in Uganda.

A notorious 2009 law called the "anti-homosexuality bill" punishes the promotion of

homosexuality. Activists like Mugisha may be punished with life imprisonment. If Ugandans do not report those who have confided their homosexuality, they may be imprisoned as well. In fact, Mugisha pointed out, his presence at the evening's forum would be considered illegal in Uganda. If the offense is committed many times, it may lead to execution.

SMUG is known but is operated underground for the safety and security of its members. If the location of their offices and operations becomes known, they have to move. "We live our life where we have to watch our back," said Mugisha, "I have to live in areas that are not so populated." Saks noted that Mugisha may not return to his apartment in Uganda but due to continued support from people within the U.S., a new apartment has been found for him when he returns to Uganda. Despite the constant moving around, SMUG remains organized and can boast many successes. Aside from winning the case against Rolling Stone, SMUG continues to challenge the state and take cases to court under the leadership of Frank Mugisha.

"What is happening in Uganda can happen somewhere else," Mugisha said bringing to mind a famous 1963 quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Mugisha wrapped up the evening remembering the courageous and tireless efforts of David Kato: "He's the kind of person who would get beaten because he says he's gay. He was very open. He stood out for anyone. We looked at him like our father in the movement."

A broadcast of the presentation will be aired on CAN-TV Sunday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m. on Channel 21 and Thursday, Feb. 17, at 8 a.m. on Channel 19.

More on SMUG can be found online at <http://sexualminoritiesuganda.org>.

Dress for Success opens in Chicago

Dress for Success Worldwide, an international not-for-profit organization, has opened its Central regional office at 515 N. State, according to a press release.

Dress for Success promotes the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. Since starting operations in 1997, Dress for Success has expanded to more than 100 cities in the United States, Australia, Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, the United Kingdom and the West Indies.

"With the launch of Dress for Success Worldwide: Central, we will be able to serve more women in Chicago and positively influence not only them but their children as well," said Joi Gordon, CEO of Dress for Success Worldwide. See <http://www.dressforsuccess.org> for more info.

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Queer Palestinians hold forum at Hull House

BY YASMIN NAIR

The Jane Hull House Museum hosted a groundbreaking appearance by two Palestinian queer women and feminists (currently on a multi-city tour) Feb. 6.

Ghadir Shafei is a feminist activist and member of the Jerusalem-based organization Aswat ("voices" in Arabic) and Haneen Maikay is a queer activist and director of al-Qaws ("rainbow" in Arabic), a community based organization that works with LGBTQ Palestinians throughout Israel and the Palestinian occupied territories.

Photos were not permitted due to security reasons.

Addressing a standing room-only audience, Lynette Jackson, associate professor of history and gender and women's studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, spoke about the importance of the event in the current context of "the waves of popular uprisings" in Egypt, the "stubborn persistence of the Palestinian imagination," and the need to think about the persecution of queers worldwide.

After a brief spoken-word performance by Tristan Silverman, the women addressed questions posed by Jackson and Laila Farah, associate professor of women's and gender studies at DePaul University. They spoke of how their respective groups had come about because of the need to find spaces where they would be recognized in their multiple identities as Palestinian, queer and feminist. Shafei spoke of having moved to Tel Aviv in an attempt to find a queer community. She was warmly embraced by Israeli friends who nevertheless were uncomfort-

able with her political identity as a Palestinian woman. The two said that feminist circles were reluctant to fully embrace queers. Both groups came out of the need to establish "safe spaces" for feminist, queer lesbians to find solidarity.

Farah asked about what conditions on the ground were like for those who could not easily access activist meeting spaces. Maikay addressed the problems that arise for women who need and are often denied special passes to leave their areas, and the fact that mobility and education are key factors in attendance. She emphasized that this was one reason al-Qaws did a lot of grassroots outreach.

Jackson raised the issue of "pink-washing," a term used by some commentators on queer issues in the Middle East to describe what they describe as Israel's attempt to "rebrand" itself as a gay haven in the area. Maikay said that this "diverts attention from Israel's institutionalized policies of discrimination" and that soldiers at checkpoints "don't discriminate between gay and straight."

Both women spoke about the particular challenges facing Palestinian women and queers as they sought more gender freedom in a conservative society and their queer identities in a situation where such are relatively invisible. They emphasized that their groups were explicitly political, and that it was impossible not to be so in what Shafei described as "levels of oppression which can shift by the minute and which are an integral part of our struggle." Maikay stressed that while they engaged a nationalist discourse, "we are not a nationalist group, but a human rights group, even as we are aware that we are part of a nationalist struggle."

Maikay was also critical of the concept of "coming out," saying that "the ceremonial notion of coming out is a very Western concept and not suitable for our context." The comment raised questions in the discussion portion of the event. One respondent asked what the troubling of coming out meant when the women were not out enough to have their photos taken, and an-

other, a Lebanese gay man, asked if coming out did not help to counter the conservative idea that there were simply not many queers in the Middle East.

Maikay clarified her point by saying that she had never had to "come out" in a formal way and that her sexuality was known in some contexts and not in others. She explained that the kind of visibility expected of sexual subjects in the west does not have the same cultural relevance in the Middle East where sexuality cannot be separated from political discourse.

Asked about their goals for their movement and if that might include gay marriage, Maikay bluntly said she "did not care for gay marriage,"

and said they were working to "break sexual and gender hierarchies...and building a very pro-active grassroots movement." Asked what supporters in the United States could do, Shafei said that such discussions were themselves critical. Expanding on what she described as the relentless persecution of Palestinians by Israeli forces, she also encouraged people to visit because "seeing is believing." She pointed out that this current tour became possible after the lesbian writer Sarah Schulman visited the area, saw the discrimination faced by Palestinians, and helped organize the tour so that people in the United States might meet the activists and learn more.

Point application season about to end

Point Foundation (Point), the nation's largest scholarship-granting organization for LGBT students of merit, has opened its 2011 application season. Students who will be enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs for the 2010-11 school year are eligible to apply for the prestigious, multi-year scholarships. The application deadline for this year's scholarships is Feb. 11.

The average amount of annual support devoted to each scholar is between \$22,000-\$31,000, which includes mentoring, leadership and media training and direct financial support.

For information on how to apply for a Point Scholarship, please visit <http://www.point-foundation.org/apply.html>.

City will not arrest Feb. 13 protesters

The City of Chicago has indicated that it will not arrest participants at a Feb. 13 Gay Liberation Network (GLN) protest at Holy Name Cathedral, 735 N. State, according to a GLN press release.

The city issued a letter in response to concerns that the event would violate an ordinance that bars most picketing of religious services immediately before, during or after they are being conducted. The protest is slated to take place at 10:30 a.m.

The American Civil Liberties Union wrote a letter to Chicago Police Department (CPD) Superintendent Jody Weis, CPD General Counsel Debra Kirby, Corporation Counsel Mara Georges and 18th District Commander Kenneth Angarone, asking if they planned to enforce the ordinance. The city responded that it would not.

GLN stated that the protesters will show their opposition to "the anti-LGBT bigotry of the Catholic hierarchy;" and urge that "tax dollars no longer go to tax-exempt religious groups that refuse to commit to equal rights for LGBT people."

Marriage expo at plaza March 27

The Rainbow Wedding Network's third annual "Same Love, Same Rights" Wedding Expo will take place Sunday, March 27, at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 W. Mart Center, 1-4 p.m.

For more info, see <http://www.RainbowWeddingNetwork.com>.



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From suppression to expression: Egypt, WikiLeaks and the nascent power of free speech



Jorjet Harper.

NEWS ANALYSIS BY JORJET HARPER

I spent close to a month in Egypt in 1995. I went there to see the ancient monuments, and to my surprise I fell in love with the modern people. I enjoyed the time I spent with almost everyone I met there (granted, I was only able to speak with people who also spoke English). But it was the first country I'd ever visited that was clearly a dictatorship.

Posters of President Hosni Mubarak were hung prominently not only in every post office and government building but in every bank, every hotel, all over the place like Big Brother. Traffic cops wielded machine guns. People who were otherwise friendly and articulate grew nervous when the talk turned to their government, especially when soldiers and police were nearby.

We visitors could feel quite safe despite the ubiquitous uniformed presence because the police were there to 'keep order'. But the Egyptian people themselves have now been prey to the whims of Mubarak's enforcers for three decades. Stories of innocent citizens snatched up in the streets and tortured in Mubarak's "sweeps" for terrorists were entirely credible. Dissent was increasingly labeled as treasonous. Mubarak's elections were continually rigged. And it was clear his intention was to create a dynasty with his son following him into power.

Iron-fisted tactics against the Egyptian citizenry have also included the ongoing arrest and torture of gays. In the most widely publicized case, the Queen Boat incident, police raided a gay floating nightclub docked on the Nile in Cairo in 2001, and made sweeping, arbitrary arrests. Those detained were corralled into crowded cells in terrible conditions, beaten and tortured, imprisoned for months without trial, and more than 20 men were eventually sentenced to

prison with hard labor for up to five years for "debauchery."

The United States has glossed over human rights abuses in Egypt for decades because our political "partner" Mubarak maintained stability in a strategically important country in a volatile area of the world. Mubarak regrettably has to clamp down on everyone in order to keep the lid on Muslim fundamentalism, right? Average citizens just have to accept curtailment of their freedoms in order for the government to benevolently protect them, right?

You may remember the underlying doctrine that was used to rationalize the U.S. invasion of Iraq. I'm not talking about the "Weapons of Mass Destruction" charade, but the Bush think-tank political theory developed by Paul Wolfowitz that was eventually leaked to the press. It projected the fantasy scenario that when Saddam Hussein's regime was toppled, the people would be so grateful to the United States for their liberation that a wave of democracy would then spread to other autocratic regimes in the Middle East.

Here we are all these years later, still at war in Iraq and Afghanistan, pouring billions of dollars down that endless quagmire, having caused the deaths of many thousands of ordinary people and the displacement of many thousands more, and making ourselves even more hated all over the Arab world.

Yet in the last several weeks, WikiLeaks appears to have accomplished exactly what the Bushies failed to inspire with their rupturous, bloody, costly war: spontaneous efforts toward democratic freedoms in other autocratic governments in the Middle East.

Scholars and journalists have credited WikiLeaks' release of U.S. secret diplomatic cables detailing the abuses of the ruling family in Tunisia as the spark for the overthrow of Tunisia's corrupt government. Tom Malinowski, Washington director of Human Rights Watch, explained that those leaked cables "showed Tunisians that the rottenness of the regime was obvious not just to them but to the whole world," and "boosted the morale of his [Ben Ali's] opponents at a pivotal moment." Anger at government suppression and corruption quickly spread from tiny Tunisia to cosmopolitan Egypt, and, as of this writing, has forced government reform in the Kingdom of Jordan. And WikiLeaks set these events in motion, I might add, without costing the U.S. taxpayer a penny in military spending.

Of course there is the danger that the Egyptian populist revolution could end very badly, as it did in China, but regardless of what might happen down the road in the struggle for power in Tunisia and in Egypt, the people's justice—wanting relief from oppression, wanting a voice in their own government, wanting not to be screwed over economically and politically anymore—is their legitimate right to fight for and achieve.

"I'm siding with the people, not the regime," Egyptian state-run news agency Nile TV anchor Shahira Amin told the BBC. Amin quit her job last week to join the protesters because her agency was forced to report only pro-Mubarak news. "We were not allowed to report on what was happening in Tahrir Square" she said. "From day one, we had to follow the rules and they were very strict with us. We were told to say certain things and to keep certain information from getting out." Gagging the press and shutting down free communications are of course hallmarks of dictatorial regimes. The chain of events that started with WikiLeaks'

release of those diplomatic cables, as unlikely as it seems, demonstrates yet again that the pen (okay, now it's the text) is still, amazingly, mightier than the sword (or submachine gun or guided missile).

The United States might now consider basing its actual political dealings here and around the world on the "transparency" that Obama promised us when he took office, and replace our own autocratic posture of "we know what's good for them" with the bedrock belief that "the truth shall set you free." Gay people know a thing or two about the truth setting us free, too—we've been taking risks to tell the truth since before Stonewall—and our society has been transformed for the better as a result.

The young man who allegedly sent the diplomatic cables to WikiLeaks—and therefore arguably is the single individual responsible for

tripping off this massive chain of events in Tunisia-Egypt-Jordan—is 23-year-old gay U.S. Army soldier Bradley Manning, and tragically, he has not been set free by the truth. Instead, he's locked in solitary confinement in a cell in Quantico, in deteriorating health, with lights on 24 hours a day. Mubarak's thugs would surely approve of that. Daniel Ellsberg has called for Manning's release and considers him an American hero. When will he get a thank you, much less a medal, from our country? Not any time soon.

We can only hope that the awe-inspiring struggle for democratic freedoms that we have been witnessing in Egypt will succeed. However that plays out, the much-maligned WikiLeaks organization has been acting in the best journalistic tradition: report the truth and let the people decide what to make of it. Will our government policymakers—mired as they are in spin and smokescreens and a hideous war—ever actually trust in the free speech they claim to espouse, or will they keep persecuting truth-tellers and whistle-blowers, crying treason most foul?

Jorjet Harper is an author and artist, and was a founding staff writer for Windy City Times. She was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 1998.

WCT seeking 30 Under 30 nominations

CHICAGO — Windy City Times is seeking to recognize 30 more outstanding LGBT individuals (and allies) for its annual 30 Under 30 Awards.

Nominees should be 30 years or under as of June 30, 2011 and should have made some substantial contributions to the LGBT community, whether in the fields of entertainment, politics, health, activism, academics, sports, or other areas.

The deadline to nominate individuals is Friday, April 22.

The annual Windy City Times 30 Under 30 Awards are co-sponsored by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Chicago House, Howard Brown Health Center, Center on Halsted, the Chicago History Museum and the Respiratory Health Care of Metro Chicago.

Windy City Times Managing Editor Andrew Davis coordinates the awards program for the paper. Hundreds of people have been honored by the paper in the more than 10 years since the awards were established. Most honorees have gone on to great success in their careers and educations, including working for the Obama presidential campaign and administration, plus individual successes in music, legal, professional and academic careers and much more.

Individuals, organizations, co-workers, etc. can nominate a person by e-mailing Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com or faxed to Andrew Davis' attention to 773-871-7609. Self-nominations are welcome.

The nomination should be 100 words or fewer, and should state what achievements or contributions the nominee has made. Nominators should include their own names and contact information as well as the contact information and the age of the nominee.

Note: Following the policy instituted in 2005, individuals can only win once. Those have won the award since that year are ineligible for this year's awards.

Honorees will be notified in May and recognized at a free ceremony Wed., June 22, 5:30 p.m., at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted.

Windy City Media Group (WCMG) produces Windy City Times, Nightspots, OUT! Resource Guide, Identity online, WindyCityQueercast.com and QueerTVNetwork.com. WCMG is also the producer of these annual events: Windy City Gay Idol, Gays Got Talent, 30 Under 30

and the Windy City Times Theater Series. To download all of our products visit www.windycitymediagroup.com. Send questions to publisher@windycitymediagroup.com or call 773-871-7610.

'Cocktails and a Conversation on Aging' Feb. 10 at Tower Club

The Women's Bar Association of Illinois; Clark Hill PLC; and Wells Fargo will present "Cocktails and a Conversation on Aging" Thursday, Feb. 10, 5-7:30 p.m. at the Tower Club, 20 N. Wacker.

The event will include networking and a panel discussion. The panel—featuring out attorney



Ray Koenig, III.

Ray J. Koenig, III (of Clark Hill PLC), Allison Getz (of Wells Fargo) and Sherry S. Kostman (of Senior Bridge)—will cover the legal, financial and health aspects of aging. The Honorable Maureen Connors, of the First District Appellate Court, will moderate.

For more information, and to register for the event, visit <http://www.wbailinois.org/wbai/events/view/120> or e-mail wbai@wbailinois.org.

'Women of Concern' event Feb. 25

Concern Worldwide will hold its annual Women of Concern Brigid Awards luncheon on Fri., Feb. 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Renaissance Chicago Downtown Hotel, 1 W. Wacker.

The 2011 Women of Concern Brigid Awards luncheon honors three Chicagoland women (Justice Anne Burke, Patricia Blunt Koldyke and Terrie McDermott) for their achievements. A silent auction featuring national and local celebrities' new and gently used handbags and wallets will take place. The funds raised from this event will support Concern Worldwide's maternal and child health programs in Haiti, Rwanda and Malawi.

Call 312-431-8400 or visit <http://www.concernusa.org>.

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LZ Granderson. Photo courtesy of ESPN

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROFILE

LZ Granderson
BY LEYLA FARAH

Perhaps one of the most visible sports journalists in the nation, LZ Granderson is African-American, openly gay, Christian and one of ESPN's most popular columnists. The one-time Detroit gang member is now a sought-after commentator on pivotal topics such as race, gender and politics, in addition to sports.

Prior to joining ESPN first as a magazine editor and later as a writer, Granderson was a sports

columnist for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and was the reporter to whom professional basketball player Sheryl Swoopes came out of the closet in 2005. He later joined ESPN360's talk show Game Night.

Now a force to be reckoned with at ESPN.com's Page 2 and ESPN the Magazine, Granderson sparked controversy in his July 16, 2009 CNN column titled "Gay is Not the New Black." In the piece, Granderson wrote:

"In their minds, Obama is not moving fast enough on behalf of the GLBT community. The outcry is not completely without merit—the Justice Department's unnerving brief on the Defense of Marriage Act immediately comes to mind. I was upset by some of the statements, but not surprised. (After the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, President Ronald Reagan's initial handling of AIDS and, more recently, Katrina, there is little that surprises me when it comes to the government and the treatment of its people). Still, rarely has criticism regarding Obama and the GLBT community come from the kind of person you would find standing in line at a spot like The Prop House, and there's a reason for that. Despite the catchiness of the slogan, gay is not the new black. Black is still black. And if any group should know this, it's the gay community."



Meshell Ndegeocello.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROFILE

Meshell Ndegeocello
BY LEYLA FARAH

Credited in the media for having started the "neo-soul" movement, 42-year-old singer-songwriter Meshell Ndegeocello is a proud bisexual African American woman with ten Grammy Award nominations stowed in her satchel.

Born in Germany and raised in Washington, D.C., Ndegeocello started her music career by recording a self-made demo in her bedroom before taking off to New York City hoping to strike gold as a bassist. She was soon signed to Madonna's Maverick Records and eight studio albums would be released between the years of 1993 and 2009.

Tantalizing sounds, strikingly-authentic structures, and gnawingly raw lyrics lined the albums from the inside out and Ndegeocello's sound and passion caught immediate fire within the entertainment industry. The musician's ambiguous demeanor and representation of self further fueled media speculation into not only her music, but sexuality and social practices that were fairly taboo at the time of her arrival on the scene.


With her shaved head and sultry vocals Ndegeocello was the antithesis of R&B's more traditionally manicured divas, and her open bisexuality challenged virtually everyone. In an interview with the Los Angeles Times, she said:

"I'm the ultimate misfit ... I'm black. I'm a woman. I'm a bisexual."

The Granderson and Ndegeocello profiles are from the forthcoming book *Black, Gifted and Gay* by LGBT media pioneer Leyla Farah (with assistance from LGBT celebrity reporter Sarah Toce).

THE LEGACY PROJECT

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH





BAYARD RUSTIN
(1910 - 1987)
Gay U.S. Civil Rights Activist and Author
Martin Luther King's Speechwriter

In 1947 Rustin spent almost a month on a chain-gang in North Carolina as punishment for helping organize the first freedom ride in protest of segregation on buses. As director of A. Phillip Randolph's Committee Against Discrimination in the Armed Forces, Rustin was instrumental in obtaining President Harry S. Truman's 1948 order to integrate the U.S. military. Rustin served as Martin Luther King, Jr.'s chief political advisor, strategist and speechwriter, organizing all of King's major civil rights actions, most notably the watershed 1963 March on Washington, where Dr. King delivered his "I Have A Dream" speech. Through much of his career Rustin's private life was an issue of contention. In 1963, shortly before the March, conservative (and unabashed segregationist) Strom Thurmond of South Carolina took to the floor of the U.S. Senate and accused him of being a Communist, a "draft-dodger" and a homosexual. Despite widespread pressure from other civil rights activists to fire Rustin, Randolph and King remained steadfast in their support. Rustin was an early advocate of what came to be called "Rainbow Politics" which strategically linked the aims of the Gay and Lesbian Rights Movement with the struggle for racial and economic justice.

The Legacy Project recognizes the many roles Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people have played in the advancement of world history and culture. "THE LEGACY WALK" - the only outdoor International GLBT History Museum in the World - is coming to North Halsted Street in Chicago and will be dedicated on October 11, 2011. For information, to donate or to volunteer, go to www.legacyprojectchicago.org.
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Harry is a longtime friend and advocate for the **LGBTQ** community.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He fought to pass Civil Unions legislation. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He fought to amend Illinois' Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, lending, public accommodations, and other areas based on an individual's sexual orientation. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harry fought for expanded funding for programs for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsed by: Ald. Tom Tunney, State Rep. Deb Mell, State Rep. Greg Harris, Gay Chicago Magazine. He has supported many local organizations with state-funded grants including the AIDS Foundation, TPAN, LCCP, Open Hand, and BeHIV. As Alderman, Harry will continue to be a strong ally to the LGBTQ community.
	

Vote February 22 for Harry Osterman Democrat for Alderman, 48th Ward

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Welcome to the Windy City Times 2011 Election Guide

Another year, another election.

However, this year is quite different in Chicago as there is no one named Daley on the mayoral ballot for the first time in more than two decades—generating a free-for-all among the six candidates. In addition, the city council is getting a makeover of sorts as 11 aldermen are stepping down.

In this first of two election issues, Windy City Times is running interviews with two more openly gay candidates: 44th Ward Alderman Tom Tunney (who is unopposed) and 48th Ward challenger Jose Arteaga. More interviews with aldermanic and mayoral candidates will run next week, in print and/or online.

The Windy City Times election guide charts are also available and include the candidates' responses to 16 LGBT-related questions sent by the newspaper. We also list endorsements from other agencies, and more will be added as groups send in their endorsements. Windy City Times does not endorse candidates for election.

Approximately 90 percent of the candidates in all the mayoral and aldermanic races were sent surveys. (Windy City Times was not able to reach a few candidates.) We have also included our questionnaire.

For AIDS Foundation of Chicago question responses from mayoral candidates see http://www.aidschicago.org/advocacy/candidate_questionnaire.php. Also, a broad coalition of Chicago-area LGBT organizations—including Equality Illinois—has assessed LGBT issue positions of five of the six candidates in areas including transgender rights and marriage equality. The questionnaire is at <http://www.eqil.org/nextmayor.html>.

Equality Illinois PAC's and Planned Parenthood's endorsements will be in next week's issue.

Keep in mind that a coalition of LGBT organizations is sponsoring a mayoral forum Wed., Feb. 9, at 6 p.m. at the Adler School of Professional Psychology, 17 N. Dearborn. All the candidates—Gery Chico, Rahm Emanuel, Carol Moseley-Braun, Miguel del Valle, William Walls and Patricia Van Pelt-Watkins—have accepted the coalition's invitation to participate in the forum. Attendance is sold out but people still can submit questions via <http://afc.aidschicago.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1193> and watch live streaming at www.windycitymediagroup.com or www.radioarte.com.

ELECTIONS '11: 48TH WARD

Jose Arteaga

BY ROSS FORMAN

Jose E. Arteaga, nicknamed "Joe," is making his debut in politics this year, running for alderman in the 48th Ward.

The 36-year-old Arteaga has been a paramedic for 17 years and was in the U.S. Army. He is gay and has been partnered with Steve Boudreau, who works at a major Chicago law firm, for 16 years.

Windy City Times: Why are you getting into politics?

Jose E. Arteaga: I want to try something new. The old 48th Ward political ways are not working. Most people I speak to from my ward are unhappy.

WCT: What made you want to enter politics?

JA: A few weeks before Christmas, a young man was shot in front of [the bar] Big Chicks. I was told a million different versions of what happened that night. I asked as a concerned neighbor, community leader and taxpayer. No one knew anything. The alderman knew nothing; the police knew nothing; and the police liaisons knew nothing. No one ever called me back—people seemed annoyed and bothered that a member of the community was concerned about a shooting one block from my home, in front of a business that I am a patron of.

A week later, a female runner was attacked in Buttercup Park along the lake. The same answers were given to me. *No one knew anything.* This is where the idea started. A friend of mine said, "Why don't you run? You would be a great alderman?" I had all the qualifications and plenty of heart and passion. One week later, I was gathering signatures for my petition.

WCT: What do you bring to the political world?

JA: I bring a fresh new outlook. I bring a new eye to old problems. I bring youth and innovation. I also bring a lot of heart and passion and a new attitude—Let's try something new. I have an open mind, and most important, I work hard. I'm not just going to talk. I'm going to do. In the U.S. Army I learned to lead and I learned organizational skills. I learned to delegate and prioritize. Most important, I know that I can listen. I listen and learn. I don't know everything but I'm willing to learn and I will fight for the people of the 48th Ward. Anyone who believes they know everything no longer listens. I know one thing, the people of the 48th Ward are tired of not being listened to.

WCT: What are your strengths?

JA: I am self-motivated. I learn fast. I'm open-minded and fearless. My motto has to be, "I know life is hard and I don't mind."

WCT: What are your weaknesses?

JA: I am, at times, too passionate. I want to fight for all who can't speak up or fight for themselves. I want to "try something new." I want



Jose Arteaga.

everyone in my ward to have a voice.

WCT: So who is Jose Arteaga?

JA: I'm a South Side kid who beat all the odds. Statistics said that I, for many reasons, should not do well in life. I beat all the odds. I educated myself. I served my country. I served the City of Chicago. I have been in EMS for almost 20 years. I work for the community. I don't talk about it. This is a tough question for anyone. I don't think anyone can just say, "This is who I am." So, I'll leave it this way: To be continued. I'm still evolving as a person, as a human and as a man.

WCT: Why should someone vote for you?

JA: Once again, "I'm trying something new." I will not speak ill of my opponents. For decades in Chicago politics, people have been mudslinging and it gets them nowhere. I won't do that. This election is not about the candidates running for the offices. It should be about the voters and the citizens of the 48th Ward. It should be about the economy, education, crime, becoming green, taxes and city services. These are the issues I'm fighting for.

WCT: What's the biggest surprise you've found so far in the political world?

JA: It has been how some people don't know or care about politics. Many people don't know the process of getting on a ballot, or the process of running in a major city like Chicago. Some people don't know the dates of an election or what ward they live in. As I have said, "I'm trying something new," so whatever I learn, I pass on to those I speak to.

WCT: What do you want to do for the 48th and how do you plan to get things done?

JA: The major concern I have heard from the people of the 48th Ward has been about safety. I totally believe that if you clean up and make Argyle, Thorndale and Sheridan [Streets] safe, you could be made mayor. I have, and will continue, to call the police. I will encourage everyone to call [the] police weekly, daily [or] hourly if we have to. The police must be held accountable for their service. We need more police liaisons for our Ward and precincts.

I want high-rises to go green. More recycling and more information distributed to these buildings on energy efficiency and green solutions.

I will fight with the city to keep taxes down and keep the level of services up, [including] police, fire and street cleaning. I will hold these services accountable for their actions.

For the businesses of my ward, every Friday I will volunteer working in your businesses to get a first-hand look at what you need and what I can do for you. Yes, I'm serious. I will work for you for free to see your business, [see] how it runs and what makes the 48th Ward the great place it is.

I was given a challenge and I accept. I will donate \$10,000 of my salary each year to the 48th Ward if I'm elected Alderman of the 48th Ward. This money will be used for extra street cleanings, parking permit slips, a new street festival, schools, nursing homes beautification projects ... whatever the 48th Ward decides how \$40,000 (over my four-year term) is spent. This isn't a bribe—it's my desire to give back to my

community.

I am qualified. I am passionate and doing it "old school." I'm walking the streets in the cold, talking to anyone and everyone who will listen. I'm putting up posters, and once again, educating myself about what the people of the 48th Ward want and need. I'm listening. I'm young and open. I have served my whole adult life and I'm ready to serve for the rest of my life. Give me a shot!

WCT: What is your position on having a school exclusively for LGBT students?

JA: That's a tough one. I think that it would be a good idea. There's a lot of bullying going on, and if [such a school] made LGBT students would make them feel safer, I don't think it'd be a bad idea. Some people might say that it's segregation or separation and I'd say, "Well, kids don't feel safe going to a school they [feel] they don't fit into. It might be better going to school with someone who has the same outlook, the same fears."

WCT: Do you feel that an alderman who is being investigated for illegal activity should step down?

JA: Yes, I do—in any arena. If you're going for a position where you're going to speak for others; if you're in a position where you're leading; if you're not on the up-and-up and someone calls you on it, I think you owe it to others to step down and say, "Do your investigation. I can get back on the ballot." I don't think that, if you're investigated, you can get the things done that you need to get done.

Rod Blagojevich is probably the best candidate I can think of. He knew he was wrong, he knew he had done wrong and he had that ego—and that's not what the public needs. The public needs straight answers, and people need to take responsibility.

WCT: Do you feel that being the ward's only out candidate gives you any sort of advantage?

JA: I don't think so. Gays are powerful, smart and informed. I don't think they're in that mode of "Hey! Here's a gay candidate. Why don't we jump on this bandwagon?" I think they want to be recognized as being politically aware, so I don't think [my sexual orientation] is an issue.

WCT: What are the biggest issues/concerns you see for the 48th?

JA: My greatest concern for my Ward is that people won't come out and vote on Feb. 22. My other concern is they won't take a chance on a new kid [who is] "trying something new" and they will end up with nothing changing in the 48th Ward.

Marilyn Morales falls short, reflects

BY ROSS FORMAN

Marilyn Morales wanted to make history as Chicago's city clerk—she would have been the highest-ranking gay person in city government and the first Latina to hold the position.

But Morales, a lesbian activist and Chicago Park District operations manager, was not able to secure the required 12,500 signatures by the deadline to put her name on the ballot.

"I started late in the game," Morales said. "If I had gotten on the ballot and won, one of the things I would have done would have been to get election information out there so it is much more transparent, so individuals who really want to serve the public and are not affiliated with any political [party] will have the information [needed.] I did not have the information in a timely manner.

So what now?

She plans to rest, she said, laughing.

And she also is tracking the race for mayor of Chicago.

Read much more about Morales' effort and what she learned from it at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE ON FEBRUARY 22ND



Alderman Tom Tunney, 44th Ward
www.44thward.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

ELECTIONS '11:
44TH WARD

Tom Tunney

BY TULLY SATRE

In a discussion with 44th Ward Alderman Tom Tunney (who is now running unopposed), the out politician discussed voter apathy, small business and a school for LGBT students.

Windy City Times: In a 2008 interview with *Windy City Times*, you mentioned that only one in four people votes in the 44th ward. As Lakeview is packed with a younger crowd, many of whom are new to the city, how have you worked towards engaging the young residents in Lakeview to make a difference by casting their votes?

Tom Tunney: Our voter turnout has been up and I think that's because I am working on national democratic issues. We had a huge spike under Barack Obama. And we had a nice significant uptake with the election of Gov. Quinn. I think, in a lot of ways, the community was very wary about the Republican challenger Bill Brady. I think with the mayoral excitement our numbers are up. I'm very satisfied with the work we've doing in terms of voter registration, especially in terms of the LGBT community.

WCT: There are a few openly gay candidates on the ballot this February. What advice would you have for openly gay candidates in the upcoming election?

TT: I don't think there is as many as there should be.

I have given council to a lot of gay candidates and let them know what the job actually is! It's interesting to hear what an alderman can and cannot do.

WCT: How have other members of city council received you as an openly gay candidate?

TT: My response on city council has been very respectful. I think there are some issues certainly that my colleagues have about their church teachings. I have people come up to me and



Ald. Tom Tunney

say, "I can't do that because my opponent would really knock me on that."

It's really under the mayor's leadership that this tolerance for the LGBT community reverberates through the city council.

WCT: As an alderman, how may you assist in improving funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education in your community and throughout the city?

TT: I can tell you that on the city council I have been the leading advocate to increase an array of HIV services. Each year on budget time we work very closely with [local organizations] to make sure that resources are not only maintained but also increased. It is going to be especially important as we have a budget short fall to make sure there is somebody on the city council to protect those funds.

It has been an amazing opportunity to be on the council for when these decisions are finally resolved and convincing my colleagues that these issues affect the entire city of Chicago.

WCT: What steps have you taken to further HIV/AIDS treatment and education programs?

TT: We have been working on prevention with the Department of Health and how to best use prevention funds. We are trying not just to be reactive but also proactive. As you know, most

new transmissions are in the minority community. AIDS is deadly, not dead.

WCT: What are your thoughts on a school that would be designed specifically for LGBT students, like the Harvey Milk School in New York City?

TT: I was involved in the early negotiations. That idea is still active in our community but I think we need to re-charge. There was some dissention on which avenue we should go.

A Harvey Milk type of school had been proposed, somewhat after the School of Social Justice in the Humboldt Park Neighborhood. Our ultimate goal is to make sure LGBT students feel protected in all their schools; we need to make sure there is a climate change on sex education and bullying issues.

I think the Board of Education would be receptive to it, but who is going to do the legwork?

As an alderman I am fully supportive and I am participatory but the onus needs to come from the education community and the community at large. I don't know how the Harvey Milk School got off the ground but we need to go back and look at that.

WCT: As a leader in Chicago's LGBT community, what do you feel is the biggest problem facing our community today?

TT: We need to continue to work on is this whole concept of bullying with our youth and (I would venture to say) recognizing the importance of making sure that youths have role models—that [there is] an atmosphere of tolerance in everything they do. Coming out is still not an easy transition for society even in a tolerant city that Chicago has become.

The Center on Halsted has been a very good asset to the city to make sure that gay and lesbian youth are not only respected but are cultivated and becoming great members of society.

Another reason I am doing this job is because gays and lesbians are part of the cultural fabric of this city and are a part of the success of this city. There is a lot of isolation inside the [LGBT] community. Many of us do not have nuclear

families. We're hopefully going to unveil a new senior LGBT affordable housing project on Addison and Halsted. The RFP has been out there and completed and we're hopefully going to announce who is going to be the development team. It talks about our needs for the community as they age in place.

WCT: A lot of your success in Chicago stemmed from small business. How have you continued to improve the entrepreneurial growth of small businesses in Chicago?

TT: We have actually found new funding for the gay and lesbian chamber of commerce. Our chambers in Lakeview are very supportive. The economic climate of our city is at an all time low, certainly within our lifetime. [Because of this] more people will want to work for themselves.

My job is really to make sure we work with our chambers on streamlining regulations downtown and providing startup financing of small business of all types and trying to reduce some of the financial taxes. I have been the leading advocate on eliminating the employer expense tax. Everyone on council knows that's the most regressive tax, on the converse side we don't have a city tax.

WCT: Is there anything else you would like to add?

TT: I want to emphasize that I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this ward for the next four years. I have a lot of projects I want to get done: more green space in our ward (there is a specific site on School Street I am working on), working on the gay and lesbian [senior housing project] on Addison/Halsted and redoing the shuttered hotel on Belmont and Sheffield. I have always managed the issues around Wrigley Field. There are new owners, but the commitments and neighborhood protections are still in place.

As far as being on the council at a time when the attitude is a little bit different is to make sure that the next mayor has the same respect for our community as our issues evolve.

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Rahm Emanuel

candidate for Mayor of Chicago

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres

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AND THE LGBT COMMITTEE FOR RAHM

Election 2011

The Windy City Times election guide charts include the candidates' responses to 16 LGBT-related questions sent by the newspaper. Windy City Times does not endorse candidates for election.

Approximately 90 percent of the candidates in all the mayoral and aldermanic races were sent surveys. (Windy City Times was not able to reach a few candidates.) We have also included our questionnaire. **NOTE:** Regarding the mayoral candidates' answers, neither Bill "Dock" Walls nor Patricia Watkins favors marriage equality. In addition, Walls is not pro-choice while Watkins has not employed any LGBT campaign staffers.

For AIDS Foundation of Chicago question responses from mayoral candidates see http://www.aidschicago.org/advocacy/candidate_questionnaire.php. Also, a broad coalition of Chicago-area LGBT organizations has assessed LGBT issue positions of candidates in areas including transgender rights and marriage equality; see <http://www.eqil.org/nextmayor.html>.

Equality Illinois PAC's and Planned Parenthood's endorsements will be in next week's issue. WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois Independent Precinct Organization

PPAC = Personal PAC

NOW = National Organization for Women Equality PAC

CNOW = Chicago chapter of National Organization for Women PAC

PLAN = Planned Parenthood

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	NOW	CNOW	PLAN
CHICAGO MAYOR						
Rahm Emanuel	16/16					Y
Miguel Del Valle	16/16	Y				Y
Carol Moseley Braun	16/16		Y	Y	Y	Y
Gery J. Chico	16/16					Y
Patricia Van Pelt Watkins	14/16					
William Walls, III	14/16					

CHICAGO CITY CLERK

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Patricia Horton			
Susana A. Mendoza	15/16	Y	

CHICAGO CITY TREASURER

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Stephanie D. Neely	11/16	Y	

CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL

ALDERMAN - 1st WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Proco "Joe" Moreno	15/16	Y	
Ronald J. Baltierra			
Deborah Lopez			

ALDERMAN - 2nd WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Genita C. Robinson			
Bob Fioretti	11/16	Y	
Federico Sciammarella	12/16		
James A. Bosco			
Melissa Callahan	11/16		
Enrique G. Perez			

ALDERMAN - 3rd WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Ebony Tillman			
Pat Dowell		Y	

ALDERMAN - 4th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
William D. "Will" Burns		Y	
Brian Scott	11/16		
Norman H. Bolden	13/16		
James E. Williams			
George Rumsey	15/16		
Adam L. Miguest			
Lori S. Yokoyama			

ALDERMAN - 5th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Anne Marie Miles			
Michele A. Tankersly			
Leslie A. Hairston		Y	
Glenn Ross			
Carol Hightower Chalmers			

ALDERMAN - 6th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Roderick T. Sawyer			
Freddrenna M. Lyle			
Brian E. Sleet			
Sekum Walker			
Cassandra Goodrum-Burton	16/16		
Richard A. Wooten			

ALDERMAN - 7th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Lionell R. Martin			
Gregory I. Mitchell			
Darcel A. Beavers			
Sidney H. Brooks			
Deborah Washington			
Sandi Jackson		Y	

ALDERMAN - 8th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Faheem Shabazz			
Michelle A. Harris			
Bertha F. Starks			
James L. Daniels			

ALDERMAN - 9th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Harold "Noonie" Ward			
Anthony A. Beale			
Eddie M. Reed			
Sandra J. Walters			

ALDERMAN - 10th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
John A. Pope			
Joseph A. Nasella			
Richard L. Martinez, Jr.			
Jose R. Leon			

ALDERMAN - 11th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
James A. Balcer			
John K. Kozlar			
Carl Segvich			

ALDERMAN - 12th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Jesus "Jesse" Iniguez			
George Cardenas			
Jose Guereca			
Alberto Bocanegra, Jr.			
Jose "Chavelo" Rodriguez			
Maria E. "Chula" Ortiz			

ALDERMAN - 13th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Marty Quinn			

ALDERMAN - 14th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Edward M. Burke			

ALDERMAN - 15th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Sammy Clifford Pack, Jr.			
Sandra L. Mallory			
Syron M. Smith			
Toni L. Foulkes			
Raymond A. Lopez			
Harold L. Bailey			
Felicia H. Simmons-Stovall			

ALDERMAN - 16th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
JoAnn Thompson			
Eric Hermosillo			
Eddie Johnson III			
Hal E. Baskin			
Javier Diaz			
Tameka Gavin			
Jeffrey L. Lewis			
Ronald Mitchell			
Jonathan T. Stamps			

ALDERMAN - 17th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Latasha R. Thomas			
Antoine Members			
David H. Moore			Y
Michael F. Daniels			
Virgil S. Means			
Twaundella Taylor			
Ronald Carter			
Paulette Coleman			

ALDERMAN - 18th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Lona Lane			
Joseph C. Ziegler, Jr.			
Michael A. Davis			Y
Manny Roman			
Chuks Onyezia			

ALDERMAN - 19th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Matthew J. O'Shea			
Anne Schaible			
Raymond (Ray) Coronado			
George E. Newell			
Phillip R. Sherlock			

ALDERMAN - 20th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
George E. Davis			
Andre Smith			
Willie B. Cochran			
Che "Rhymefest" Smith			Y
Sidney (Sid) Shelton			

ALDERMAN - 21st WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Sheldon L. Sherman			
Patricia A. Foster			
Sylvia Y. Jones			
Howard B. Brookins, Jr.			
Jerome Maddox			

ALDERMAN - 22nd WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Ricardo Muñoz			
Neftalie Gonzalez			

ALDERMAN - 23rd WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Charles V. "Chuck" Maida			Y
Michael R. Zalewski			
Anna Goral			

ALDERMAN - 24th WARD

	WCT	IVI	PPAC
Wallace E. "Mickey" Johnson			
Wilbert E. Cook III			
Chauncey L. Stroud			
Sondra R. (Sam) Spellman			
Melissa L. Williams			Y
Valerie F. Leonard			
Vetress Boyce			
Michael D. Chandler			
Julius Anderson			
Shavonda Fields			
Jimmy Lee Lard			
Regina D. Lewis			
Nicholas Jones			

	WCT	IVI	PPAC		WCT	IVI	PPAC
Jeffery D. Turner Martavius "Mark" Carter Larry G. Nelson Donielle C. Lawson Frank M. Bass Sharon Denise Dixon	15/16			John R. Videckis Edmund "Ed" J. Quartullo Mahmoud Bambouyani Bart Goldberg Sheryl M. Morabito			
ALDERMAN - 25th WARD Cuahutémoc Morfin Daniel "Danny" Solis Ambrosio "Ambi" Medrano, Jr.	14/16 14/16	Y		ALDERMAN - 39th WARD Margaret Laurino Mary K. Hunter			
ALDERMAN - 26th WARD Roberto Maldonado Devon Reid				ALDERMAN - 40th WARD Patrick J. O'Connor			
ALDERMAN - 27th WARD Tom Courtney Walter Burnett, Jr. Gevonna Fassett	10/16	Y		ALDERMAN - 41st WARD Thomas Patrick Murphey Daniel T. Lapinski James J. Schamne John Joseph Quinn Mary O'Connor Richard Gonzalez Maurita E. Gavin George Banna Barabra Ateca Jim Mullen Brock Merck			
ALDERMAN - 28th WARD Michael A. "Mike" Stinson William Siegmund Jason C. Ervin Carmelita P. Earls		Y		ALDERMAN - 42nd WARD Brendan Reilly			
ALDERMAN - 29th WARD C. B. Johnson Deborah L. Graham Thomas E. Simmons Mary Russell Gardner Jill R. Bush Oddis "O.J." Johnson Roman Morrow Beverly D. Rogers		Y		ALDERMAN - 43rd WARD Jim Hinkamp Tim Egan Rafael A. Vargas Bita Buenrostro Charles E. Eastwood Michael "Mike" Jankovich Michele Smith Carmen Olmetti Mitchell A. Newman	16/16 16/16 15/16 16/16	Y	
ALDERMAN - 30th WARD Stella Nicpon Ariel E. Reboyras Doug Cannon Chester R. Hornowski	12/16			ALDERMAN - 44th WARD Thomas M. Tunney			
ALDERMAN - 31st WARD Regner "Ray" Suarez				ALDERMAN - 45th WARD Don Blair John Garrido John Arena Anna Klocek Marina Yolanda Faz-Huppert Bruno Bellissimo Michael Fitzgerald Ward	15/16		
ALDERMAN - 32nd WARD David M. Pavlik Scott Waguespack Brian Gorman Bryan P. Lynch	15/16 15/16	Y		ALDERMAN - 46th WARD Befekadu T. Retta Mary Anne "Molly" Phelan Michael Carroll Don Nowotny James Cappleman Diane Shapiro Andy W. Lam Emily Stewart Marc Kaplan Caitlin McIntyre Scott Baskin	15/16 16/16 16/16 16/16 15/16 13/16 16/16	Y	
ALDERMAN - 33rd WARD Richard F. Mell				ALDERMAN - 47th WARD Matt Reichel Ameya Pawar Tom O'Donnell Tom Jacks	13/16 14/16		
ALDERMAN - 34th WARD Burl L. McQueen Henry Moses Carrie M. Austin Shirley J. White Michael E. Mayden		Y		ALDERMAN - 48th WARD Harry Osterman Patrick McDonough Steven Chereska Jose E. Arteaga Philip R. Bernstein	16/16	Y	
ALDERMAN - 35th WARD Miguel Sotomayor Rey Colón Nancy Schiavone		Y		ALDERMAN - 49th WARD Joe Moore Brian White	15/16 15/16	Y	
ALDERMAN - 36th WARD Nicholas Sposato John A. Rice Thomas J. Motzny Bruce Randazzo Jodi Biancalana Brian Murphy				ALDERMAN - 50th WARD Bernard L. Stone Michael Charles Moses Debra L. Silverstein Greg Brewer Ahmed Khan	14/16	Y	
ALDERMAN - 37th WARD Emma M. Mitts Maretta Brown-Miller Minerva V. Orozco Steven E. Pleasant Tommy O. Abina Shanika J. Finley	11/16						
ALDERMAN - 38th WARD Timothy M. Cullerton Tom Caravette Carmen Hernandez							

The following 16 questions appeared on the survey that Windy City Times sent out to candidates in the 2011 election. Surveys were sent out to all candidates for whom we had contact info; we estimate that surveys were sent to 90 percent of all candidates. The questions were the same for candidates in all races. **NOTE:** Regarding the mayoral candidates' answers, neither Bill "Dock" Walls nor Patricia Watkins favors marriage equality. In addition, Walls is not pro-choice while Watkins has not employed any LGBT campaign staffers. This is why they each scored 14/16.

- 1) Do you have or would you install a written policy in your office regarding sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination?
- 2) What is your position regarding funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and education?
- 3) Have you taken or would you take any steps to further HIV/AIDS treatment and education programs? If so, what are those measures?
- 4) What are feelings regarding abortion? (i.e., Are you pro-choice or pro-life?)
- 5) Have you started or would you start sensitivity

- training for your staff members regarding LGBT-related issues?
- 6) Do you favor same-sex marriage?
- 7) If you were in the state legislature, would you have voted in favor of the civil-unions bill that recently passed through the Illinois General Assembly?
- 8) Do you favor hate-crimes legislation that increases penalties for crimes committed based on the sexual orientation or gender identity of the person attacked?

- 9) Do you believe that LGBT individuals should become foster parents if they are qualified?
- 10) Do you believe that LGBT individuals have the right to adopt children if they are qualified?
- 11) Would you keep committees around such as the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues and departments such as the Office of LGBT Health?
- 12) What are your thoughts on a school that would be designed specifically for LGBT students,

- much like the Harvey Milk School in New York City?
- 13) Would you advocate for mandatory anti-bullying policies/training in Chicago public schools?
- 14) Are any members of your current staff—either campaign or general office personnel—openly LGBT?
- 15) Please list any and all experience you have on LGBT-related issues.
- 16) What do you feel is the biggest problem facing the LGBT community today?

CHAIN from cover

meal while driving) has meant that Chick-fil-A essentially sells a Southern staple, fried chicken, in a form designed for the contemporary customer. This simple combination of comfort foods has resulted in big profits. Annual sales in 2010 were over \$3.5 billion, according to the company's website.

But what sets Chick-fil-A apart from competitors like Kentucky Fried Chicken and Popeye's is its resolute and open adherence to Christian principles. Like banks, Chick-fil-A restaurants are never open on Sundays. The company is a privately owned family business. Cathy has stepped down as company president and his son, Dan Cathy, took his place; another son, Donald Cathy, is senior vice president. They were both given the reins on the condition that they continue operating the corporation according to its Christian principles. The father remains busy with the corporation as chairman and CEO. In 1983, he founded the WinShape Foundation largely to work with youth, especially those who needed foster homes. The website describes the mission thus: "to impact young people and families through experiences which enhance their Christian faith, character and relationships."

The WinShape Foundation also conducts marital boot camps for both married couples and pre-marital couples alike (living quarters for the latter are single-occupancy only). A 2007 Forbes magazine article on the business, titled, "The Cult of Chick-fil-A," discussed its hiring practices. Truett Cathy is quoted as openly admitting he prefers married employees, "believing they are more industrious and productive." Anyone who applies for an operator license is asked to "disclose marital status, number of dependents and involvement in 'community, civic, social, church and/or professional organizations.'"

None of this has ever been secret; most of the information can be found in interviews with the owners, on the company website, or the senior



Joseph Bishop-Boros. Photo courtesy of Bishop-Boros

Truett's website. But Chick-fil-A's attention to marriage has brought it a newfound and presumably unwanted notoriety in the midst of the culture wars around gays and marriage. Earlier this year, Jeremy Hopper, of the website Good As You (GAY; <http://www.goodasyou.org>) posted a flyer from an event titled, "The Art of Marriage: Getting to the Heart of God's Design," to be held Feb. 11. The copy stated that this was presented by the organization Family Life and sponsored by Pennsylvania Family Institute and Chick-fil-A.

A day later, Hooper posted again, pointing out there was now a new flyer with the Chick-fil-A sponsorship removed from it. He wrote that it was unclear how and why the decision to do so had come about. Following this, the blogosphere lit up with stories of Chick-fil-A's alleged allegiance to homophobic groups, with the story becoming one about the company's support and/or sponsorship of groups like Exodus International, notorious as the figurehead

of the "ex-gay movement." Indeed, GAY does reveal that at least one marriage summit, Marriage CoMission, took place at WinShape's Rome, Ga., retreat. The purpose and principles of Marriage CoMission, according to its website, are "to save future generations from the destructive consequences of failed marriages and broken homes and to work together to fan the embers of hope in men and women to fulfill their created desire for life-long, healthy marriages, and to equip married couples to lead strong families."

But, as with Chick-fil-A's Christian principles, none of this is a secret. Hitting the "history" tab on Marriage CoMission's website reveals WinShape's founding role in the formation of Marriage CoMission, stating that, "This group envisioned a neutral banner under which marriage champions from various circles of influence could work together as allies in a strategically focused collaborative effort." Hitting the "Partners" tab does nothing, but GAY reveals that the 2009 Marriage CoMission summit included guests like Maggie Gallagher, president of the National Organization for Marriage, which has been among the most right-wing groups opposing gay marriage.

GAY has posted part of the charter, with a list of "allies." The first joint names on this list are of Alan and Leslie Chambers, of Exodus International. However, there is nothing to indicate that Exodus International itself is an ally or a major sponsor. (It is not uncommon for people to name their workplaces for identifying purposes only; indicating workplace affiliation does not indicate that the workplace signs on to a document.) GAY's link to the rest of the charter no longer works.

So far, the proof of the corporation's Christian foundation is incontrovertible. It is also clear that Chick-fil-A's adherence to Christian principles comes from a fairly conservative and Bible-based interpretation of its religion. Less clear is if the corporation itself directly spreads the word that homosexuality is unacceptable, but it does clearly emphasize, through its WinShape foundation, that it considers marriage to be between a man and a woman.

As for the sponsorship of the Pennsylvania event: both groups listed, Pennsylvania Family Institute and Family Life, are well-known for their conservative principles around marriage and the family. But it is unclear whether the "sponsored by ... Chick-fil-A" wording that appeared on the first version of the flyer was simply a mistake or over-reaching by a zealous franchisee. In the wake of the initial controversy, Dan Cathy sent out a press release Jan. 29, which stated, "...we will not champion any political agendas on marriage and family. This decision has been made, and we understand the importance of it. At the same time, we will continue to offer resources to strengthen marriages and families. To do anything different would be inconsistent with our purpose and belief in Biblical principles." He also wrote, "Through the years, we have supported our Chick-fil-A staff and franchised Operators in their marriage journey, and since the formation of our family foundation, the WinShape Foundation, we have helped others as well."

Matters reached a head again when GAY published an e-mail correspondence from someone (their identifying information was blacked out) who wrote to a WinShape representative asking if the foundation's programs were open to gay couples. The eventual answer was, "We do not accept homosexual couples because of the statement in our contract." Yet, in an interview with the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, the paper said he explicitly stated that the WinShape Foundation "does not bar gay couples from its marriage retreats or training ..."

Brenda Morrow, a spokesperson for Chick-fil-A, in response to a request for information from us, said they would not discuss the current controversy.

Meanwhile, across the country, some college groups have been trying to ban Chick-fil-A. Things heated up further when the online petition site Change.org took up the story with

a series of posts suggesting that readers sign petitions to support two student efforts. One is ongoing at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). The other, which Change.org celebrates as a victory, has in fact been reversed (at the time of this printing, the site had not provided this update).

Rashad Davis is a theatre major at FGCU, and the primary person behind the student attempts to get Chick-fil-A off campus. Speaking to Windy City Times from Florida, Davis said that he had in fact been trying to get the effort going for about a year, but his efforts did not gain traction until late 2010 and early this year when the media also began to take more notice. According to him, he and other students—who have met with resistance—have worked to let people know that their problems are not just with what they see as Chick-fil-A's anti-gay policies but with the chain's use of environmentally unfriendly materials. Davis, a vegetarian, also says that the presence of Chick-fil-A in the university's food court restricts food choices for those who might need more than just chicken. The Change.org petition to oust Chick-fil-A from FGCU has, at the time of this writing, acquired 13,625; the goal is 15,000.

Indiana University South Bend's Ken Baierle also spoke to WCT, and clarified a point: Chick-fil-A was not "kicked off" the campus as some reports have claimed. In fact, Chick-fil-A does not maintain kiosks at IUSB's two dining areas but delivers sandwiches on a weekly basis. After a faculty group raised their issues with Chick-fil-A, the university suspended the delivery for two weeks while it reviewed the matter. Having conducted a review, the university has since ended the suspension.

In a press release, IUSB Chancellor Una Mae Reck said, "IU South Bend is committed to IU's policies on non-discrimination and diversity" and that "Upon review, it is clear that the local Chick-fil-A franchise providing sandwiches to the campus in no way violates the letter or spirit of those policies."

IUSB planned a public forum to discuss the matter this week.

New York University also made the news in this series of campus actions. It holds the unique distinction of being the only place in New York state with a Chick-fil-A. But here, the response was much less enthusiastic and, at least initially, queer students and their various groups have not agreed to a call for a boycott. WCT spoke to Joseph Bishop-Boros, a member of Queer Union, an umbrella group under which the other queer campus groups function, and explained that, "The majority of us have issues with single-issue boycotts, although boycotts can be a very powerful way to mobilize people to action. If other students wanted to boycott Chick-fil-A, we'd support them."

Bishop-Boros also made it clear that the group was not likely to come to its discussion only because of the anti-gay arguments, "... we try to think more in terms of intersectional forms of oppression. We don't like to identify as a gays-and-lesbians-for-marriage-equality group ... if you think of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Corporate Equality index, [those corporations] may be gay friendly but they could be doing horrible things to the environment, they could be abusing the workers. It's really hypocritical to say you're fighting for equality when in reality you're supporting corporations that are doing horrible things in the world."

Queer Union is set to have its first meeting of the semester this week, and the matter will likely be taken up then.

What does all this mean for Chicago? To date, there has been no concerted effort to either lead a boycott or a protest. Most people in the community have only heard the rumblings and are just beginning to familiarize themselves with the details, which is not surprising since the downtown store will be the first in the city. So far, activists here are weighing the options and considering the dimensions of the issue before

Turn to page 39



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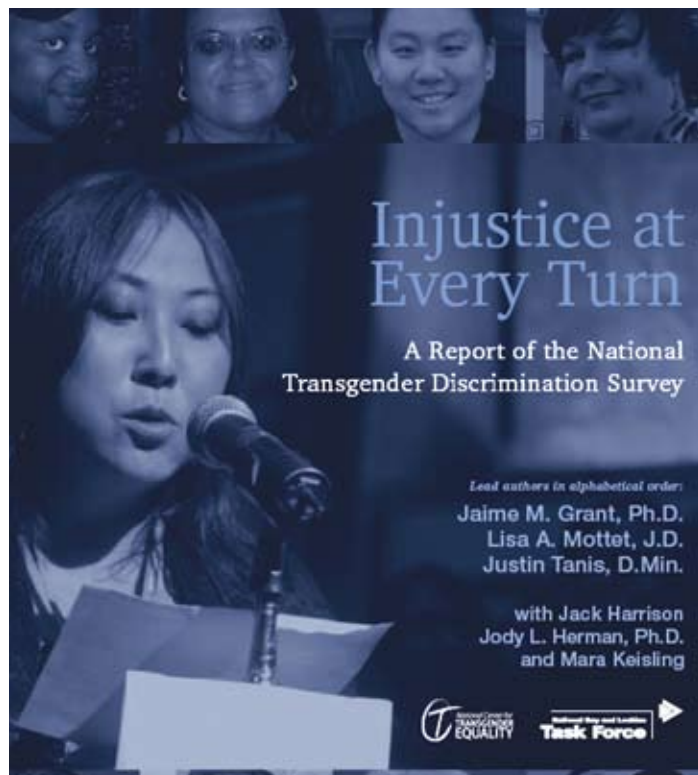
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Groups release transgender report



BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Last week the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) released a comprehensive report at the National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change gathering held in Minneapolis, Minn. It was the first large-scale national study that focused on discrimination among transgender and gender non-conforming people covering a wide range of issues including safety, education, healthcare, employment and housing.

To explain the details of the report both organizations held a conference call with members of the media and other interested parties. It was facilitated by Cathy Renna of Renna Communications.

Renna introduced Lisa Mottet, J.D.—one of the report's three authors and also NGLTF's transgender civil rights project director—who explained the methodology of the study. It lasted six months (from September 2008 to February 2009) and included 6,456 participants who submitted paper or online questionnaires from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Next up was another author of the study Jaime M. Grant, Ph.D., director of the Task Force Policy Institute, a leading LGBT think tank, and then the final author, Justin Tanis, D.Min.—a member of the clergy and community education and communications outreach manager at NCTE—wrapped up the general findings of the survey.

One stark finding that the revealed was 41 percent of respondents have attempted suicide compared to 1.6 percent of the general population. In the area of poverty those who were surveyed were four times as likely to live in extreme poverty with an income of less than \$10,000 and are twice as likely to be unemployed. While in the workplace, half of the respondents experienced harassment and one out of four were fired due to gender identity or expression. Housing discrimination was rampant with 19 percent refused a home or apartment and 11 percent getting evicted because of their transgender status. One in five has experienced homelessness at one time or another.

The authors also spoke of bullying in school and fear of law-enforcement officials. People of color experienced higher rates of harassment than their white counterparts, according to the study. Despite these findings, more than 78 percent of the respondents said they feel more comfortable at work including their level of per-

formance on the job after they have transitioned despite the harassment they still faced in the workplace.

Three transgender individuals then shared their stories of harassment and discrimination.

Ja'briel Walthour, a 34-year-old African-American transgender woman from Savannah, Ga., talked being ignored in U.S. society; she said that when she was not ignored she was teased and harassed—so much so that she attempted suicide and became a teenage runaway. Acknowledging that she was transgender while still in high school led to guilt and shame that she said she lived with for many years. Walthour also said that “as an African American it was socially unacceptable and even taboo to speak of such things.” Wanting to enter the armed forces, Walthour was denied that dream due to her transgender status and she also experienced trouble getting a new driver's license that showed her true identity.

Michelle Enfield—a Navajo transgender woman from Los Angeles, Calif., who works as a prevention training specialist at Red Circle Project, which focuses on Native American HIV Prevention—also talked about facing discrimination. Enfield also talked about her history of being bullied in school by both fellow students and teachers, which led to drug and alcohol abuse. There have also been periods of homelessness and harassment by law enforcement during Enfield's life as a transgendered individual, she said.

Shane Morgan, founder and chair of TransOhio and an Ohio resident for 13 years, related his struggles with accessing healthcare. He said his family has stood by him and he has not lost his job; however, when he disclosed his transgender status in a pharmacy waiting room he experienced friction from health officials there. Morgan said he was turned away from treatment by a nurse practitioner who was uncomfortable with treating him due to his trans anatomy. Morgan said the nurse practitioner also asked about his genitals and other body parts in a loud voice while saying that his symptoms could not be valid since he looked male. Morgan said that education is the key with all individuals being involved to create a change in how transgender people are perceived in society.

The final speaker was Jane Ireland, a Tulsa, Okla., resident and transgender mother of three who said she was “honored to be a part of the trans community” but like many other transgender people she said she spent time as a homeless person and has also had to resign from her job.

Both Rea Carey, executive director of the Task Force and Mara Keisling, executive director of NCTE, said that these findings pose a challenge to everyone and this report is a call for fairness and equality by all Americans towards the transgender and gender non-conforming communities.

To read the entire report please visit: http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/ntds_full.pdf and to find out more about the Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality visit their websites at <http://www.thetaskforce.org/> and <http://transequality.org>, respectively.

LGBT coalition to host mayoral forum

CHICAGO—A broad coalition of Chicago-area LGBTQ organizations are hosting a Chicago Mayoral Candidates Forum on LGBT issues.

The forum will be held Wed., Feb. 9, at 6 p.m. at the Adler School of Professional Psychology, 17 N. Dearborn. The coalition is offering the candidates the opportunity to speak directly to the LGBTQ community and to educate voters as to their vision of the office of the mayor of Chicago with a focus on issues directly impacting LGBTQ people. Tracy Baim, publisher and executive editor at Windy City Media Group, will moderate the event.

All the major candidates—Gery Chico, Rahm Emanuel, Carol Moseley-Braun, Miguel del Valle, William Walls and Patricia Van Pelt-Watkins—have accepted the coalition's invitation to participate in the Forum.

The coalition is coordinated by leaders from the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Affinity Community Services, Amigas Latinas, the Association for Latino Men for Action, Equality Illinois and LGBT Change. The organizers' goal for this forum is to educate the community on the candidates' positions and commitments to LGBT inclusion in city policy. This forum is the culmination of a three-month long process which included community forums held across the city of Chicago that aimed to inform and educate the community and candidates on LGBTQ concerns via issue questionnaires. Completed questionnaires, as well as additional information on the process, are available at www.eqil.org/NextMayor.html.

This is the first time that such a broad coalition of LGBT organizations has come together to participate in the electoral process.

The coalition includes:

- Affinity Community Services
- Amigas Latinas
- Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA)
- AIDS Foundation of Chicago
- Bisexual Queer Alliance
- Boricua Pride
- Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus
- Chicago Transgender Coalition
- Center on Halsted
- Equality Illinois
- I2I: Asian Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago
- Illinois Safe Schools Alliance
- Illinois Gender Advocates
- Join the Impact Chicago
- Howard Brown Health Center
- Human Rights Campaign Chicago
- Lambda Legal
- LGBT Change
- LGBT Immigration Project of Heartland Alliance
- Lesbian & Gay Bar Association of Chicago
- Orgullo En Accion
- POW POW Inc.
- Public Pride Alliance
- The Civil Rights Agenda
- The Literary Exchange
- TransActions
- Video Action League
- Windy City Black LGBT Pride

Attendance is sold out but submit questions via <http://afc.aidschicago.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1193> and watch live streaming at www.windycitymediagroup.com or www.radioarte.com.

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PASSAGES

Chuck Wesley

Chuck Wesley, who played softball and volleyball in the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA), died Feb. 5 after a battle with leukemia. He was 52.

"Heaven is a brighter place today," said CMSA President Shawn Albritton after learning of Wesley's passing. Albritton added that he was in "shock" after hearing the news.

"I thought that Chuck was well on the road to recovery. I just saw him three weeks ago and he seemed to be in his usual great spirit."

Wesley played outfield and catcher on a D-Division softball team in 2010, Big Chicks Wicked, coached by Brian Harder.

"It's never easy losing a friend. I will always remember his positive attitude and outgoing personality," said CMSA softball commissioner Jack Neilsen. "His fight has taught me that you need to make the most of each day as tomorrow is never promised."

Neilsen had known Wesley for about two years.

"One of my favorite stories of Chuck is running

into him last year in Columbus, Ohio, at the Gay Softball World Series," Neilsen said. "Chuck was working the door at the annual Charity Talent Show, and I was one of the entertainers for the evening. The look of surprise on Chuck's face when he saw me in full makeup was completely priceless."

Albritton invited Wesley to ride on the CMSA float in the annual Chicago Gay Pride Parade, along with Joey Rivera from New York City and other fellow flag football referees who were visiting for the weekend.

"The five of us had a fantastic time all day, on the float and at the after-parties," Albritton said. "We took some great pictures on the rooftop of Chuck's condo building. It was a beautiful day and this is how I will always remember Chuck."

"He kept fighting and always was upbeat."

Wesley also played indoor and beach volleyball for CMSA. He was the human resources manager for Starwood Hotels.

Several of his local friends started the Chuck Wesley Chicago Memorial Page on Facebook.

"Chuck's passing was a shock to many of us,"

said Harder, 46, who lives in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood. "He had struggled with leukemia in the past year and we thought it had been taken care of with a bone marrow transplant last fall. When it returned recently and he was admitted to the hospital again, we thought it was just another fight he would win. So we were all surprised to find out he had passed."

"I've known Chuck for two years. He came to Chicago in 2009 and we found him a home on our softball team. He was a positive role model and inspirational spirit from the beginning. And when he couldn't play, he was there to cheer us on."

"I will always remember his selfless spirit and determination to beat the odds. He was deeply spiritual and always knew he was in God's hands under any and all circumstances."

—Ross Forman



Chuck Wesley. Photo courtesy of Brian Harder



David Klug.

PASSAGES

Hugh Mathis

Hugh Andrew Mathis of Chicago died unexpectedly Jan. 26 while travelling in California. He was 41.

A successful fundraising executive at Resurrection (Medical Center) Development Foundation, Mathis also invested his creative and financial skills as a board member of Gerber/Hart Library and Hell in a Handbag Productions theater company.

His Sondheim dinner parties on the lawn at Ravinia were known to be the envy of many North Shore hosts and hostesses. His annual Oscar parties, co-hosted with friend Tom Hedeon, involved daylong preparations and always featured the life-size Oscar statues and hand-made OSCAR marquee. Mathis was also an inveterate traveller, making annual holiday trips to visit friends in New York for theater, Los Angeles for museums, and Provincetown to walk in the August Gay Carnival Parade. He rarely missed an opportunity to try a new restaurant, explore the latest art exhibit, or share stories of the hidden treasures he discovered while visiting small towns and cities during his travels.

A graduate of Lake Forest College, Mathis grew up in Waukegan, Ill. He is survived by his parents, Richard and Helen Mathis; his brother, Ted; sister-in-law, Tricia; nephews Andrew and Nicholas; very close friend Bill, as well as uncles, aunts, and friends.

The wake was held Feb. 6 at Peterson Funeral Home, 408 N. Sheridan, Waukegan. The funeral was held Feb. 7 at St. Patrick's Church, 15000 W. Wadsworth, Wadsworth.



Hugh Mathis.

PASSAGES

David W. Klug

David W. Klug passed away unexpectedly Jan. 28 at his apartment in Chicago. He was 45.

Klug was born March 10, 1965, in West Bend, Wis., to LaVern and Shirley (nee Faber) Klug. He attended St. John's Lutheran School, West Bend East High School and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He was employed by ADP Account Services in Chicago. He did a lot of traveling for the company, and for his own pleasure, to many parts of the world.

Klug is survived by his mother, Shirley Klug of West Bend; three brothers, Leroy Klug of Juneau, Charlie (Sharon) Klug of West Bend, and Tom (Marian) Klug of West Bend; two sisters, Pam (Steve) Reinke of West Bend, and Lori (Brent) Wrobel of West Bend; numerous nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and a special group of friends in Chicago: Jill, Joel, Brian and Greg.

He was preceded in death by his father, LaVern Klug; maternal grandparents, Milton and Mildred Faber; paternal grandparents, Charles and Evelyn Klug; a nephew, Matthew Klug, and an infant niece at birth.

A private family service will be held.

If desired, memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association or St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in West Bend.

The Lord saw that David was very tired and needed help, So He put His comforting arms around David and said "Come with Me."

David will be greatly missed by all.

PASSAGES

Joyce Sloane

Joyce Sloane—who was behind The Second City and who found and nurtured celebrities such as John Belushi, Gilda Radner and Chris Farley—died Feb. 3 at the age of 80, according to the Chicago Tribune.

She was associated with Second City for all except one of its 50 years of existence, having occupied several positions, including executive producer and founder of the national touring company.

Sloane was also active with various communities; for example, she served on the board of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

Vicki Quade e-mailed Windy City Times, "Joyce Sloane could size up a theater performance in a heartbeat and tell you exactly what was good or wrong with it moments after a play had ended."

"I'd seen her at innumerable theaters in Chicago. She and I have a mutual friend, Gitta Jacobs, and I was Gitta's guest at many opening nights. When Joyce liked something, you knew it. She had an easy laugh. She could boil down a performance to a few choice words of praise. When something was just okay, like so many of us, she might nod off during a show and afterwards would give a little smile and a shrug."

"I was lucky enough to occasionally pick her brain about what worked for her. The conversations were never very long. There was always a gaggle of people wanting to say hello to her, shake her hand, tell her how good she looked. I valued her opinions. Here's what she told me when she came to see my show, Late Nite Catechism. I asked her what she thought. She nodded enthusiastically, and said, 'I stayed awake for the whole thing'—and then she laughed. It's a memory to treasure."

Quade later added, "I think it's fitting that Joyce Sloane went to bed to watch a comedy and that laughter was the last thing in her heart. She loved to laugh, and she loved anything related to Frank Sinatra. If you were with

Joyce and a Sinatra song came on the radio, she'd sing along—and then tell you Sinatra stories.

Jim Bennett and Judy Fabjance of the gay comedy ensemble GayCo wrote that Sloane "served as the chair emeritus of GayCo Productions, the sketch comedy group founded at Second City in 1996 where 'gay is the premise not the punchline.' Joyce was proud to see the gay community find their voice at Second City."

"In 2003, GayCo Productions, along with Second City, created their 4th revue, Poked, a musical comedy celebrating sodomy (the U.S. Supreme Court had struck down the nation's remaining sodomy laws two months earlier). At the end of the show, Joyce came back to congratulate the cast, declaring that she had not been that uncomfortable watching a show at the Second City since the Vietnam war. From Joyce, that was high praise indeed."

"Joyce knew 'funny' and she knew the power of comedy to expand the narrowest of viewpoints. But above all, Joyce knew how to make you feel special and loved. She always made time for a visit, would greet you with a huge smile and when she asked you how you were doing, she was not asking to be polite, she actually wanted to know and she required details. She will be missed."

Ralph Lampkin of the Lampkin Music Group e-mailed that "Joyce Sloane taught me how to handle the gifted performers I have produced with grace and respect. She taught me that the nicest compliment receives the best out of any relationship, personal or business; because of Joyce, and her daughter, Cheryl, my career profile was heightened to a level I couldn't have imagined."

"Doors were opened that I walked through with confidence. Being a historian of show-business stories, Joyce shared with me many memories that will probably never be heard or read now that she has moved on to the show business heaven. I'm sure that Gilda and John were there to open the pearly gates."

"I, along with Alexandra Billings and many others, will miss her. We were honored by her presence in our lives. I, and all others, will always remember."

Speaking of Billings, she wrote a tribute to Sloane. It can be viewed online at <http://abillings.livejournal.com/577667.html>.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Sloane's memory may be made to Chicago Academy for the Arts, 1010 W. Chicago, Chicago, Ill., 60642 or Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln, Chicago, Ill., 60614.

—Andrew Davis



Joyce Sloane. Photo courtesy of Robin Hammond

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UrbanDaddy.com's
Chris LaMorte

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN



Chris LaMorte had a meeting with Patty Rothman, the owner of More Cupcakes in downtown Chicago—and naturally sampled one of her sweet treats. Then he was off to Tru for a sit-down meeting with Anthony Martin, the high-end restaurant's executive chef.

LaMorte also had a cup of Starbucks coffee—a grande, served black—in the morning and another in the afternoon.

Welcome to a normal day in the gay life of this Lakeview resident who is the Chicago editor for UrbanDaddy.com.



UrbanDaddy is a free daily e-mail devoted to showcasing the city's nightlife, food, style and more. As its website boasts, UrbanDaddy's "goal is to be your friend. The kind of friend who knows everyone—the maitre' d at all the right restaurants, the bouncers at all the right clubs, the addresses of all the great parties. And the kind of guy who lives to share the wealth."

UrbanDaddy e-mails daily reports—and LaMorte is the Chicago writer.

UrbanDaddy now hits 13 markets, including Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Miami and San Francisco, among others.



"The prose has to really fit our voice, our style, and also offer the audience what it is looking for. We're very, very aware of what our audience wants and needs," said LaMorte, who has watched subscribers to the Chicago version grow from zero to more than 100,000 in less than three years.

"It's meant for young, sophisticated, mostly men"—and mainly the straight world.

"We don't write in this testosterone-fueled, frat boy, jockey way. We are delivering a sophisticated take—and gay men in particular appreciate that," LaMorte said.

So what about a gay version of UrbanDaddy?

Perhaps, he said.

"We have had people ask us if we would ever start a gay edition. What I try to do is write so that we're not exclusive of anyone, but our target audience is the straight male, 25 to 35," he said.

LaMorte graduated from Crete-Monee High School in 1988, and then received a B.A. in communication from DePaul in 1993. He earned his M.S. in journalism from the University of Illinois in 1993.

LaMorte also was the senior producer/dining editor at Metromix.

"This is where my writing career has led me," said LaMorte, who was the first online editor at Westward, the alternative newspaper in Denver—a job he held for about four years.

LaMorte and his partner, Rob Grossett, 45, a radiologist, have been together for 15 years.



the stats

Name
Chris LaMorte

Age
40

Regimen
Works out up to four times per week at Equinox Gym

Art and music
LaMorte found a passion for art through his partner, Rob Grossett. LaMorte also enjoys contemporary art and photography.

Pets
Two French bulldogs, Winston and Thurber

Quote
"This is not a nine-to-five job and I'm always looking for a story. I'm writing every day, and that's a challenge. This is the most challenging and also the most rewarding job I've ever had."

Wed., Feb. 9
7:00 p.m.
Julia Borcherts
Gina Frangello
Christine Sneed
Fiction Reading

Sunday, Feb. 13
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Community Marketing, Inc.

CARY ALAN
JOHNSON

Expecting better: LGBT youth around the world

In 2010 we saw some long-overdue attention given to the extreme challenges facing young LGBT people. Tragically, this attention was prompted by the alarming number of youth suicides and well-publicized cases of anti-gay violence that captured media attention in the United States and reverberated in many other countries. These cases unfortunately represent the tip of the iceberg—violence, isolation, depression, suicide and homelessness are serious problems for our young people, particular for youth of color and those mired in poverty.

The rights to housing, education, security, bodily integrity and to share in and create culture are all guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and yet LGBT youth everywhere face violations of these rights. Countless young people around the world have shared with IGLHRC stories about being mistreated by family members, school and health-care officials, police and other authorities.

While so many U.S. politicians and celebrities

are communicating to LGBT youth that it gets better, we must not forget the plight of LGBT young people outside of the U.S., who face challenges that are simultaneously all too familiar and vastly different.

In 2009 in Belize, Jose Garcia, a 19-year-old student secondary school was threatened with expulsion because Jose "acts like a girl" and "dresses effeminately." Transgender and gender-questioning youth in schools almost everywhere are subjected to discrimination, physical and verbal abuse and they are often forced to wear uniforms or clothes that do not match their gender identity.

In Lithuania, a new law criminalized the distribution of information about sexual orientation through any medium to which children have access, depriving young people of vital information about their health and lives. The law was modified after significant international outcry, but another proposed law would now make an offense the "promotion" of homosexuality—thus preventing pride marches—under the same rationale of protecting minors.

In Uganda, girls and young women who are rumored to be lesbian, or who visibly violate gender stereotypes are often expelled from schools or denied school fees by family. The proposed Anti-Homosexuality Bill currently being debated in Uganda would worsen this situation by making schools and families culpable under law for not reporting young LGBT people to the police.

And in Jamaica, as 2010 drew to a close, a university student was savagely beaten by his colleagues after being lured into an intimate conversation with a classmate who was posing as gay.

While organizations that serve LGBT youth in the U.S. are often underfunded and under attack by the religious right, at least they exist.

In the Global South, where LGBT movements are younger, dedicated youth programs are rare. In fact, LGBT centers are often hesitant to serve the needs of young people for fear of being accused of pedophilia and 'recruiting' youth into homosexuality. Young LGBT people are then unable to access the critical health, legal, and psychosocial services they need. Facing this discrimination—which is compounded by sodomy laws in 76 countries around the world and the failure of most countries to provide protections for transgender people— young LGBT people are among the most marginalized groups in the world.

Over the past few years IGLHRC has documented human rights violations against young people in Cameroon, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, South Africa, Nigeria and beyond. As an organization committed to building a diverse and empowered global LGBT movement, IGLHRC works closely with the most marginalized members of our community—young people, elders, transgender people, sex workers, and those affected by HIV.

Just last month, United Nation Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said, "Stigma and discrimination will end only when we agree to speak out. That requires all of us to do our part. To speak out—at home, at work, in our schools and communities. To stand in solidarity."

To stand in solidarity with LGBT youth, we must address the unique ways they are affected by homophobia and transphobia; we must acknowledge that they face discrimination and abuse just as LGBT adults; and more than anything, we must listen to them. Some young people can't afford to wait until it gets better. They need help now.

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

DESIREE
SHELTON

Why I fought back against discrimination

Desiree Shelton is an out lesbian and a senior at Champlin Park High School, in Minnesota's Anoka-Hennepin School District. She and her girlfriend, Sarah Lindstrom, were elected to the school's Snow Days royalty court for the winter formal dance. They sued their school district—with the help of lawyers from the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and Faegre & Benson LLP—after school officials said they couldn't walk together in the traditional couples' procession for the royalty court at the school-wide Snow Days Pep Fest assembly. The district settled the case and, on Jan. 31, the two girls walked in the procession hand in hand as their classmates cheered.

Note: In the photo above, Shelton is on the right. Her girlfriend, Sarah Lindstrom, is on the left.

Lately, everyone seems to have a strong opinion of this whole Snow Days controversy, and I feel like it's important for me to explain why we did what we did. This was more than a high school Pep Fest—it was about basic rights and the ongoing fight for equality that seems so hard to win, even in 2011.

In the beginning, after Sarah and I found out that we were both nominated as royalty, a couple of people suggested that we should walk together during the procession, matching tuxes and all. We thought this was a great idea, and

we talked to two straight male friends, who were also on the royalty court, who agreed to walk together so that no one was left out. Sarah and I were really looking forward to being able to share this occasion together and also thought this would be a great opportunity to send a positive message to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community and its allies (after all the bad media the school had been getting about the gay-related suicides) by showing other students that LGBT students can express ourselves, defy gender roles, and still be treated as equal to other students, and not feel ashamed or hide "in the closet" for fear of harassment. We felt that even something as small as having two lesbians walk in the procession together could have a big impact on other LGBT students.

But then, last Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011, the week before the procession, we were told by the administration that we were not going to be allowed to walk together. They had a number of ridiculous excuses, such as "the tradition was one boy and one girl" and "it could make some kids uncomfortable." I don't think they expected us to question why we couldn't walk together, but I didn't understand why it was such a big deal.

The next day, Sarah and I went in with a couple of supportive teachers to meet with the principal. The principal did thank us for coming to him with our concerns and giving him a few things to think about that could help him become a better principal for all his students, which I appreciated. He said that he would have to talk to the district superintendent and school board about it, though, so we scheduled another meeting for the next day.

Later, we heard that they were thinking about having everyone walk individually instead being paired up. So much for tradition! We were angry that they were changing the procession only because we wanted to walk together. What kind of message was that going to send to LGBT students and allies, and the rest of the student body—that we didn't deserve to be treated as equally as everyone else? That is blatant discrimination.

On Thursday, we met again with the principal after school. He and the school district had come up with what they thought was a solution that they thought would be comfortable for all the students: to cancel the procession and have the royalty already onstage at the beginning of the Pep Fest. But they were only coming up with these changes because they didn't want us to walk together. That was discrimination. It was also denying us the chance to send out a positive message to the LGBT students and allies, which was the main reason I wanted to participate in the Snow Days royalty court.

I couldn't just sit back and let that happen. I wanted to do my part for the LGBT rights movement, no matter how small. Also, they were getting rid of a part of the Pep Fest that I know a lot of the other people on the royalty court were looking forward to. I didn't want that taken away from them either, because they deserved to have their moment in the spotlight as well.

Later that afternoon, Sarah and I were put in touch with some amazing lawyers at the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). When we told them what was going on, they wanted to help us out. That night we met up with a fantastic lawyer from the law firm of Faegre and Benson, who was working with NCLR and SPLC, to talk about the situation and figure out if there was a possible case. Our lawyers worked at amazing speed all night on Thursday to get everything in order. We couldn't have asked for anyone better to help us.

The next morning, they sent a letter to the school and the district, asking that they change the procession back to the way it was traditionally, and allow Sarah and me to walk together. The district had until noon to respond, but they didn't, so the lawyers filed the papers for the lawsuit.

Later that night we were told that a court hearing had been scheduled for Monday morning, but first there would be a mediation session

Turn to page 39

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo from the Chicago Auto Show website

In this photo, then-Mayor Richard J. Daley sits with his family at the 1957 Chicago Auto Show. Read about this year's show on page 32.

MUSIC

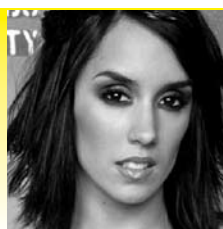
Happily Eder after.
Page 29.



DANCE

'Floor' score.
Page 26.

PR pic



MOVIES

'Eagle'-eyed.
Page 27.

Photo by Keith Bernstein



Scottish Play Scott

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Who would have thought that the city of Pittsburgh, Penn., could provide a connecting thread between the Metropolitan Opera premiere of Nixon in China to The Divine Sister, an uproarious off-Broadway comedy spoofing Hollywood films about nuns by out playwright and drag artist extraordinaire Charles Busch? Read on and find out how.

Nixon sings

Avant-garde director Peter Sellars, a native of Pittsburgh, first came up with the idea of depicting President Richard Nixon's 1972 visit to isolationist Red China as grand opera. Sellars approached American composer John Adams to write his first opera with poet Alice Goodman in 1985, and the rest is history.

When Nixon in China debuted at the Houston Grand Opera in 1987, critical opinion was all over the place. Since then, Nixon in China has increasingly gained a more prominent place in the worldwide operatic repertoire. Nixon in China's premiere at New York's Metropolitan Opera certainly gives it an officious stamp of artistic approval.

The Met's production is imported from the English National Opera, but it's essentially Sellars' much-traveled and once-televized 1987 production enlarged for a grander stage. There is an initially literalist approach to the production, but the work itself is really a meditative reflection on this diplomatic event that brought about major political and cultural shifts between a capitalist America and a communist China.

Sellars stages lots of details and hindsight (often not in the libretto) about China's cultural revolution and the fates of its leaders that didn't happen while Nixon was in China (so don't be

surprised when Chairman Mao gets felled on-stage in Act III).

Because of this, Nixon in China will infuriate opera goers who want a clear narrative through-line with properly dramatized characters like so many 19th-century operas based upon historical figures. Sellars and his collaborators assume that audiences will know the facts and personalities going in, which means that future productions of Nixon in China will probably need to be exhaustively annotated with historical footnotes to fill in for the receding common knowledge gaps of Nixon and his generation.

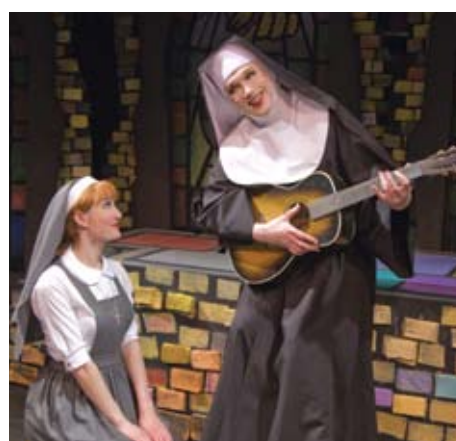
That said, the more you know 20th-century American and Chinese history, the more you'll get out of Nixon in China and the contemplative questions it poses.

Since Adams uses electronic amplification for his excitingly propulsive minimalist score, it's difficult to truly gauge how strong the vocalists are. Based upon the second performance of Nixon in China on Feb. 5, the majority of singers were very impressive.

The weak link is baritone James Maddalena in the presidential title role, which he also originated in 1987. I suspect that Maddalena was struggling though a cold or infection, since he was heard vocally straining and clearing his throat on the online audio simulcast of the opera's opening night (Maddalena also avoided a few high notes at the second performance). Still Maddalena had many of Nixon's hunched mannerisms down pat.

Though many critics nowadays proclaim Nixon in China to be a modern masterpiece, I've come away with more reservations now that I've seen a recreation of the work's original staging. Besides, it's really up to history to be the ultimate judge if Nixon in China continues to be staged centuries from now.

The Metropolitan Opera premiere of Nixon in China is screened worldwide to select movie theaters Saturday, Feb. 12, via a live high-definition simulcast (noon in the Chicago area). Visit <http://www.metopera.org> or <http://www.fathomevents.com> for participating theaters and ticket prices.



The Divine Sister. Photo by David Rodgers

Nun finer

A rundown Catholic parish called St. Veronica's in Pittsburgh is the setting for Charles Busch's The Divine Sister, a screaming funny off-Broadway spoof of Catholic films. Movie classics like The Song of Bernadette and The Bells of St. Mary's get scrambled up with more modern fare like Agnes of God, Doubt and even The Da Vinci Code for this Busch camp fest performed by character actors of the highest caliber.

Though Busch has established himself as a Broadway playwright (The Tale of the Allergist's Wife), he made his name with outrageous gay pop culture inspired off-Broadway spoofs of old Hollywood in the 1980s with such titles as Vampire Lesbians of Sodom and Psycho Beach Party. The Divine Sister is a wonderful return to Busch's roots, but this 2010 comedy shows much more maturity in its sharp writing structure and elbowing satires. The Divine Sister should no doubt have a healthy life regionally in the years to come.

But the main reason to see The Divine Sister now is to bask in the comic drag genius of Busch

himself as the play's Mother Superior with a questionable past as a wise-cracking newspaper reporter (imagine if Rosalind Russell's His Girl Friday character became the nun of The Trouble with Angels). To see Busch himself whipping up the audience into torrents of laughter just by a vocal tic or facial grimace shows what a master of comedy he is.

Longtime Busch collaborator and friend Julie Halston is also along for the ride as the butch wrestling coach/nun Sister Acacius, and the comic rapport and affection between the two is very palpable. Busch directing veteran Carl Anders also keeps things fleet and funny throughout.

Newcomers to Busch's work are also supreme delights in The Divine Sister. Three-time Tony Award nominee Alison Fraser repeatedly wrings laughs out of her over-exaggerated accents as the sinister visiting German Sister Walburga and the droopy Irish cleaning lady Mrs. Macduffie. Jennifer Van Dyck over-articulates and gesticulates in the grand manner as the atheist philanthropist Mrs. Levinson, while Jonathan Walker knows how to use his bulging blue eyes to best effect as the romantic interest Jeremy. Rounding out the cast is Amy Rutberg's exaggeratedly innocent yet dementedly visionary postulate Agnes.

Now it's no surprise that gossip columnists reported that Broadway producers approached Busch and his producers to move The Divine Sister to Broadway. Wisely, Busch and company have resisted the offer.

After all, if you're going to do a side-splitting comedy bit about a Hollywood agent nonchalantly describing the immense proportions of his privates to an increasingly gagging and grossed out nun (Julie Halston, priceless as ever), it really belongs in a worn-around-the-edges downtown institution like the SoHo Playhouse.

The Divine Sister continues on in an open run at the SoHo Playhouse in New York City. For more information, visit <http://www.divinesisteronstage.com>.

INDICATION: REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used in combination with other medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). REYATAZ has been studied in a 48-week trial in patients who have taken anti-HIV medicines and a 96-week trial in patients who have never taken anti-HIV medicines.

REYATAZ does not cure HIV or lower your chance of passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

Do not take REYATAZ if you are taking the following medicines due to potential for serious, life-threatening side effects or death: Versed® (midazolam) when taken by mouth, Halcion® (triazolam), ergot medicines (dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, Methergine®, and others), Propulsid® (cisapride), or Orap® (pimozide).

Do not take REYATAZ with the following medicines due to potential for serious side effects: Camptosar® (irinotecan), Crixivan® (indinavir), Mevacor® (lovastatin), Zocor® (simvastatin), Uroxatral® (alfuzosin), or Revatio® (sildenafil).

Do not take REYATAZ with the following medicines as they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood, which may lead to increased HIV viral load and resistance to REYATAZ or other anti-HIV medicines: rifampin (also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®), St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)-containing products, or Viramune® (nevirapine).

Serevent Diskus® (salmeterol) and Advair® (salmeterol with fluticasone) are **not recommended with REYATAZ.**

Do not take Vfend® (voriconazole) if you are taking REYATAZ and Norvir® (ritonavir).

The above lists of medicines are not complete. **Taking REYATAZ with some other medicines may require your therapy to be monitored more closely or may require a change in dose or dose schedule of REYATAZ or the other medicine.** Discuss with your healthcare provider all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take.

Tell your healthcare provider if you are **pregnant, breast-feeding**, planning to become pregnant or breast-feed, or if you have **end-stage kidney disease** managed with hemodialysis or **severe liver dysfunction.**

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects, symptoms, or conditions, including the following:

- **Mild rash** (redness and itching) without other symptoms sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment.

- **Severe rash** has occurred in a small number of patients taking REYATAZ. This type of rash is associated with other symptoms that could be serious and potentially cause death. **If you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms, stop using REYATAZ and call your healthcare provider right away:**

- | | |
|--|--|
| – Shortness of breath | – Conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like “pink-eye”) |
| – General ill-feeling or “flu-like” symptoms | – Blisters |
| – Fever | – Mouth sores |
| – Muscle or joint aches | – Swelling of your face |

- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).

- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur. You may feel dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.

- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.

- **If you have liver disease**, including hepatitis B or C, it may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.

- **Kidney stones** have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ. Signs or symptoms of kidney stones include pain in your side, blood in your urine, and pain when you urinate.

- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ.

- **Changes in body fat** have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

- **Gallbladder disorders** (including gallstones and gallbladder inflammation) have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

You should take REYATAZ once daily with food (a meal or snack). Swallow the capsules whole; do not open the capsules. You should take REYATAZ and your other anti-HIV medicines exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.

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

On REYATAZ,

Wednesday
Mary's
birthday
party

Thursday
5:30
Choir
practice

Buy new
shoes
for Latisha


REYATAZ®
(atazanavir sulfate) 200 mg/300 mg capsules

Fight HIV your way.

Please see Important Patient Information about REYATAZ on the adjacent pages.

how you spend your time is up to you.



Individual results may vary.

Once-daily REYATAZ can help fight your HIV.

REYATAZ, a protease inhibitor (PI), in HIV combination therapy:

- ◆ Can help lower your viral load and raise your T-cell (CD4+ cell) count
- ◆ Has a low chance of diarrhea (shown in clinical trials)
 - REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1%-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea in adults
- ◆ Is taken once a day with a snack or meal

REYATAZ is one of several treatment options your doctor may consider.

Do not take REYATAZ if you are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients.

Ask your healthcare team about REYATAZ www.REYATAZ.com

REYATAZ does not cure HIV and has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others.

Find out if you can save on REYATAZ.
Call 1-888-281-8981 or visit
ReyatazSavings.com for details.

Subject to terms and conditions. Restrictions apply.

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Rx ONLY

REYATAZ® (RAY-ah-taz)
(generic name = **atazanavir sulfate**)
Capsules

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ. Read the section "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?"

Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is REYATAZ?

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of (T) cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?

REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.**

REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take REYATAZ?

Do not take REYATAZ if you:

- **are taking certain medicines.** (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- **are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients.** The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?

Tell your healthcare provider:

- **If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- **If you are breast-feeding.** You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- **If you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **If you have end stage kidney disease** managed with hemodialysis.
- **If you have diabetes.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **If you have hemophilia.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **About all the medicines you take** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

How should I take REYATAZ?

- **Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
 - For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the dose is 300 mg once daily with 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food. For adults who are unable to tolerate ritonavir, 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily (without NORVIR®) taken with food is recommended.
 - For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg plus 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food.
- Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) or with VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- **Always take REYATAZ with food** (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. **Do not open the capsules.** Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- **If you are taking antacids or didanosine (VIDEX® or VIDEX® EC),** take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- **If you are taking medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), ZANTAC® (ranitidine), AcipHex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole),** talk to your healthcare provider.
- **Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider.** It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- **When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low,** get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- **If you miss a dose of REYATAZ,** take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.**
- **If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ,** call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

Can children take REYATAZ?

Dosing recommendations are available for children 6 years of age and older for REYATAZ Capsules. Dosing recommendations are not available for children from 3 months to less than 6 years of age. REYATAZ should not be used in babies under the age of 3 months.

What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?

The following list of side effects is **not** complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:

- **mild rash** (redness and itching) without other symptoms sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- **severe rash:** In a small number of patients, a rash can develop that is associated with other symptoms which could be serious and potentially cause death.

If you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms stop using REYATAZ and call your healthcare provider right away:

 - shortness of breath
 - general ill feeling or "flu-like" symptoms
 - fever
 - muscle or joint aches
 - conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like "pink eye")
 - blisters
 - mouth sores
 - swelling of your face
- **yellowing of the skin or eyes.** These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.

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- **a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change).** Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- **diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia)** sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- **if you have liver disease** including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- **kidney stones** have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ. If you develop signs or symptoms of kidney stones (pain in your side, blood in your urine, pain when you urinate) tell your healthcare provider promptly.
- **some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- **changes in body fat.** These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

Gallbladder disorders (which may include gallstones and gallbladder inflammation) have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ.

What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?

Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylethergonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRANAL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- ORAP® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPULSID® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).
- Triazolam, also known as HALCION® (used for insomnia).
- Midazolam, also known as VERSED® (used for sedation), when taken by mouth.

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:

- CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- CRIXIVAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIXIVAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).
- UROXATRAL® (alfuzosin, used to treat benign enlargement of the prostate).
- REVATIO® (sildenafil, used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood. This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:

- Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®, RIFATER®, or RIFAMATE®, used for tuberculosis).
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.
- VIRAMUNE® (nevirapine, used for HIV infection).

The following medicines are not recommended with REYATAZ:

- SEREVENT DISKUS® (salmeterol) and ADVAIR® (salmeterol with fluticasone), used to treat asthma, emphysema/chronic obstructive pulmonary disease also known as COPD.

Do not take the following medicine if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR® together:

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely (for some medicines a change in the dose or dose schedule may be needed):

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil), used to treat erectile dysfunction. REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- ADCIRCA® (tadalafil) or TRACLEER® (bosentan), used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension.
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin) or CRESTOR® (rosuvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.

REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin, an antibiotic used to treat tuberculosis).
- BUPRENEX®, SUBUTEX®, SUBOXONE®, (buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone, used to treat pain and addiction to narcotic painkillers).
- VASCOR® (bepidil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline).
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- The antidepressant trazodone (DESYREL® and others).
- Fluticasone propionate (FLONASE®, FLOVENT®), given by nose or inhaled to treat allergic symptoms or asthma. Your doctor may choose not to keep you on fluticasone, especially if you are also taking NORVIR®.
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THEATER REVIEW

Conviction

Playwright: Oren Neeman, based on a novel by Yonatan Ben Nachum
At: Maya Productions et al. at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont
Phone: 773-975-8150; \$27.50
Runs through: Feb. 20

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The Kol Nidre is the prayer recited at the start of Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement. This plea for absolution from oaths sworn, but not honored, may seem of small necessity in our tolerant society, but its import was very immediate for the 500,000 Spanish Jews who, in 1391 and after, were given the choice of converting to Christianity or suffering persecution at the hands of the newly appointed Inquisition.

Allegedly based on a true story, Conviction recounts the crisis of a Catholic priest executed for heresy in 1486, whose crimes against a state-sanctioned religion might have withered in obscurity but for an Israeli scholar in 1962 attempting to steal the 500-year-old dossier from the *Archivo Histórico Nacional* in Madrid. The inquiry into the motives behind this abortive theft reveals a tale of star-crossed lovers,

long-buried secrets, double lives and agonizing risk, as detailed in the confession of a priest named Andrés Gonzáles, who, one fatal day, succumbed to the lure of the bewitching *conversa* Ysabel and the childhood memories awakened by her family's illegal worship.

Fans of mystery-suspense literature will likely guess the outcome of this doomed adventure after the first 15 minutes: Yes, Andrés is himself a *converso*, he and Ysabel marry, have a son, are



Conviction. Photo courtesy of Allison Yates

betrayed and the fate of their child erased from memory. Cassock-ripping romance is not the goal of playwright Oren Neeman, however, nor of Yonatan Ben Nachum, from whose novel this play has been adapted. While Andrés struggles to reconcile the spiritual conflicts that torment his soul as fiercely as the threat of exposure and certain death, his exploration of warring faiths lead him to renounce, not Jesus, but those who commit inhumane deeds in His name.

Generating empathy for a 15th-century theological argument is a hefty task for a single actor, even assisted by a text both incisive and evocative in its imagery, but under the direction of Kevin Hart, Ami Dayan shifts effortlessly between his various roles—chiefly, the smug *archivo* official and the vulnerable Andrés—to paint a very human picture of this humble martyr's ex-cruciation and ecstasy. His portrayal is enhanced by Jon Sousa and Yossi Green's score of Spanish guitar incidental music, its complex harmonies suggesting inner turmoil as intense as the serenity invoked by the orderly script of Fr. Andrés journal projected on the spartan stage.

CRITICS' PICKS

As You Like It, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, through March 6. Director Gary Griffin takes a page from Georgette Heyer for Shakespeare's romantic comedy. What could be more romantic, after all, than cross-dressing lovers in regency garb gamboling in a countryside of immaculate forests and courtly shepherds? MSB

Carmilla, WildClaw Theatre at the Storefront, through Feb. 20. Forget Bram Stoker and his masculine posturing—the vampire legend as we know it began with its women, and WildClaw delves its romanticist roots with this erotic no-giggles prototype starring cult divas-in-training Michaela Petro and Brittany Burch. MSB

In Darfur, TimeLine Theatre, through March 20. This compelling drama about the recent genocide in Sudan masterfully shows the different agendas of people who are trying their utmost to help out in an impossible and deadly situation. SCM

Madagascar, Next Theatre, through Feb. 20. A spider's web of intricate and sinister character relationships that eventually dooms a family, told in three elegant intertwined monologues in J. T. Rogers' beautifully written play, beautifully acted at Next. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

Tues., Feb. 22, 7 p.m.

Tracy Baim: The Half Life of Sgt. Jen Hunter



As the military gay ban known as Don't Ask, Don't Tell nears its end, a new novel about life as a lesbian in the military is available. *The Half Life of Sgt. Jen Hunter*, by lesbian journalist Tracy Baim, takes place during the first Gulf War, in the early 1990s, prior to the compromise DADT law. The military banned all gays and lesbians from service, but tens of thousands bravely served their country.

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Patrick Andrews (left) and Francis Guinan in *Do The Hustle*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW

Do The Hustle

Playwright: Brett Neveu
At: Writer's Theatre, 523 Tudor, Glencoe
Phone: 847-242-6000; \$45-\$65
Runs through: March 20

BY JERRY NUNN

Tucked away in the quaint little suburb of Glencoe, Ill., *Do The Hustle* is a world premiere about a team of grifters ready to turn the town upside down. This hustle is not the Van McCoy song from the '70s but refers to hustling the unsuspecting bystander—this time by a father-and-son con artist duo. (Note: Notice the T is capitalized? The author says because he liked the way it looked but also could be emphasizing “the Hustle.”)

Sam (Patrick Andrews) and Eddie Sisson (Francis Guinan) play the dysfunctional relatives that never trust the outside world or each other. The actors are not strangers in real life having performed in the past with the production American Buffalo together at the Step-

penwolf Theatre. Patrick tends to fall back on that angst-ridden character in this show also although he shines when he relaxes to play off Writers' Theatre veteran Karen Janes Woditsch in later scenes. Karen and Joe Minoso stand out playing multiple characters getting hustled throughout the hour and a half show. One local sitting next to me said they hardly recognized Joe in the various cameo roles he played.

It was a wise choice by the director Michael Halberstam to keep things simple and gritty. The set, sound and lighting work nicely in the cozy space as the swindlers feel the rush of constantly cheating people out of their money. The cast members are strong while bringing a charm and realness to the script that is enjoyable to watch what will happen next.

Ever been hustled with the shell game? That is how these guys work with a duo that can fool even the smartest of victims. By the end of the show it is so much to watch the twists and turns that the plot brings. The drama is full of surprises as it comes to a head for the final scam. No one likes to feel robbed of money or time and, lucky for the audience, that doesn't happen with *Do The Hustle*.

THEATER REVIEW

The Boys Room

Playwright: Joel Drake Johnson
At: Victory Gardens Theater at the Biograph, 2433 N. Lincoln
Phone: 773-871-3000; \$20-\$50
Runs through: Feb. 20

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Once upon a time, there was a nurse named Susan who had two sons, Ronnie and Timmy. Their father died early, leaving her to raise her young boys alone. Eventually, both married and left home, as men in our society are expected to do. But now Ron and Tim need their mother again—more important, they need their childhood home, where they can forget that they're now grown, with grownup responsibilities.

Isn't that the bummer of being a parent? You can't be a kid with *real* kids in the house! You have to be a mentor, a role model, an exemplary font of strength and wisdom, for chrissakes! With her offspring enjoying comfortable lives—Ron is a dentist, Tim sells office supplies—Susan was looking forward to solitary pleasures (like flirting with her Latino neighbor), but even as she resists the re-imposition of caregiver duties, old habits reassert themselves. Ron and Tim likewise revel in adolescent behavior—until Ron's teenage daughter arrives, bearing messag-

es from his abandoned wife, presently undergoing *her* meltdown.

When the clan matriarch and the clan baby are the sole rational voices, what you have is either a cozy comedy or a domestic drama hearkening to an age when social problems were discussed on the stage rather than television. Joel Drake Johnson's exploration of middle-aged male unease appears undecided as regards ITS genre, however, making for a deceptively jocular first act (physical slapstick over who gets the bed by the window, for example). But as the source of this regression comes to light, its gravity becomes manifest and with it, our sympathies for adults chafing under the cultural burdens assigned them—a phenomenon that Susan eventually reveals to be as universal as it is eternal.

Lazy playgoers may also chafe under Johnson's mid-story mood switch, but director Sandy Shinner steers her seasoned actors through the difficult transitions to create personalities of unanticipated depth. Mary Ann Thebus takes her sweet-old-granny turn into dark corners of maternal ambivalence, while Allison Torem mines levels of emotional complexity belying her own and her character's youth. Steve Key endows Tim with a waifish amiability, but the evening's surprise is Joe Dempsey, whose trademark swagger gradually dissolves into a vulnerability to break your heart as Ron's self-examination reaches its catharsis to provide audiences a poignant teaching moment for our time.



Church.

THEATER REVIEW

Church/ Pullman, WA

Playwright: Young Jean Lee

At: Red Tape Theatre, 621 W. Belmont

Tickets: <http://www.redtapetheatre.org>;

\$5-\$25

Runs through: March 5

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

These one-act plays by Korean-American playwright Young Jean Lee have nothing to do with her Korean heritage. Her subject is born-again religion or, to be more accurate, religiosity. They aren't the same thing, the latter reflecting the worst type of accept-Jesus-or-be-damned, I-love-you-but-I-pity-you attitudes of Bible-thumping Christianity. You cannot have a meta-physical discussion with such folk because they don't accept that matters of faith cannot be proven, and that your faith—or lack of it—is equally correct. So, these plays made me extremely uncomfortable and I don't quite understand why Red Tape selected them for production, as capable as that production is.

They are performed in a church hall—a perfect setting for these works—which Red Tape divides into two environments. The audience moves from one section to the other between plays. The first play, Pullman, WA (although the program doesn't specify the order of performance) makes use of primitive institutional lunch tables and the hall's bare brick walls. For the second play, Church, Red Tape has constructed a smaller, cozier church hall within the real hall, with décor suited to a children's Sunday school.

In the first play, a poised woman tells us she will reveal the secrets of how to live, which involve social skills, suffering and understanding that “You ARE you.” But she's interrupted by another woman who speaks of “rainbow-colored balloons in a sky filled with jack rabbits” and insists “You are safe.” OK, I figured, they represent the Apollonian and Dionysian aspects of each individual. But then the third guy comes on, proclaiming “I am an angel of the Lord,” having splitting headaches and somehow triggering an epiphany in which hellish, monstrous Bosch-like figures are revealed. So, no, I don't understand it.

The second play was easier, more direct: a church service with four preachers who sermonize in a variety of ways (do you know The Parable of the Tuna and the Bird or the dangers of mummies?), ending with a rousing gospel choir. Trouble is, you're in a closed room with forced participation.

What playwright Lee does with both is to begin in a totally realistic and believable fashion. The performance style of the works remains realistic, but gradually the speakers wax more and more fantastical and absurd. Alas, it's done so dryly that true believers may take the entire trip without ever realizing when the joke begins ... and that's scary. The plays lack emotionally engaging stories or characters, so I found them of intellectual interest only, other than my overall reaction to the enforced Christianity. Still, they are well-presented by director James Palmer and his ensemble of artists, who merge acting, design, music, choreography and environment into an effective presentation.

SPOTLIGHT



Nobel Prize-winning Italian playwright Dario Fo is famed to stirring up controversy, whether it's making fun of Catholic hypocrisy or governmental failures. This is acutely seen in his satire **Accidental Death of an Anarchist**, where a wacky self-professed anarchist undergoes a severe (and silly) round of brutal police questioning. **Accidental Death of an Anarchist** plays in previews 8 p.m. Feb. 12 and 7 p.m. Feb. 13 with a 7 p.m. opening Feb. 14. The regular run goes through March 19 and is 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays with 3 p.m. matinees Sundays at Signal Ensemble Theatre, 1802 W. Berenice. Tickets are \$10 for previews; \$20 for the regular run; and \$15 for students and seniors. Call 773-347-1350 or visit <http://www.signalensemble.com>. Photo of (from left) Joseph Sterns and Anthony Tournis by Johnny Knight

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Next up: February 13 Bruised Orange Theater Company presents “I Saw You” at Sono Wood Fired, 1582 North Clybourn Avenue

Janette Manrara: Feeling the 'Burn'

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Despite the cold, the sizzling Latin and ballroom dance event "Burn the Floor"—a Latin and ballroom dance event—is heating the Bank of America Theatre. Windy City Times spoke via telephone with one of the dancers, Janette Manrara, on Feb. 2 (the second day of Chicago's record-breaking snowstorm) about this show as well as being on the shows Glee and So You Think You Can Dance.

Windy City Times: So ... what do you think of our weather?

Janette Manrara: It's beautiful! It is cold, and I have a sore throat right now. I had to walk back home in the blizzard—it was fun. We had to take the Red Line and then walk four or five blocks to the hotel. I had never seen snow before, so I'm definitely getting my snow's worth.

WCT: You all actually performed last night.

JM: Yes—the show must go on! [Laughs] There actually weren't that many people here last night but they were awesome. They were screaming and cheering us on. There was one gentleman who got a little wild with [dancer] Ryan [Di Lello], but it was all great.

WCT: What three words would you use to describe "Burn the Floor?"

JM: They would definitely be "passion," "intense" and "entertainment." I think it encompasses all three very much. You can see the passion and intensity in everything we do, and you'll definitely be entertained.

WCT: Like that man was last night.

JM: Oh, that man was definitely entertained! [Laughs]

WCT: How did you become interested in dance?

JM: Well, my journey is a very interesting one. I did musical theater as a kid. It was [mostly] singing and acting; I didn't focus that much on dance. But when I was about 19, the director closed down the studio and the gentleman who used to run the dance classes decided to open his own studio strictly for dancing.

I knew I wanted to continue exploring and wasn't sure where it was going to take me. I had been on television for a while; I was working on Univision, a Spanish TV station down in Miami. I did a lot of skits with the kids and things like that, so I was used to the camera. The [studio owner] said, "I see something in you that tells me that you could be an amazing dancer one day." I said, "All right. I love music, and I've always liked to dance. Why not perfect it?"

I was 19—and I had to prepare myself for auditions and things that people had been preparing themselves for since they were 3 so it was a huge battle. I had to work full-time and I was going to school, studying finance. It was tough. I danced in order to catch up for about eight years.

I auditioned for [the reality-competition show] So You Think You Can Dance, and got into the top 30 but I wasn't selected. That only added fuel to the fire; I saw how close I got. I had belief in myself. I went back for season five, and the rest is history.



Janette Manrara.

WCT: I have to say I thought you were going to win that season.

JM: Oh, thanks. It was weird because Jason [Glover] and I both got eliminated at the same time. We still have interviews to do afterwards, and people kept telling me, "You [being eliminated] was the shock of the season." It was funny because I felt badly for Jason. I was just taking everything one step at a time.

I had a really long conversation with [judge/executive producer] Nigel [Lythgoe] after the show. He was very frustrated [with the result]. He had very strong theories about what may have happened, but you know what? I am blessed and I am happy with what I did. I would do it all over again in a heartbeat [even though] you're being judged by three people and watched by 14-15 million [others]—and I made so many friends. It was hard but it was amazing; it was the best time of my life.

WCT: What's one thing you learned about either yourself or the business from that show?

JM: Well, I learned two things. I learned that opportunities come and go so fast. I remember when the tour ended; it flew by and the new season was coming. That moment in the spotlight goes away so quickly. You have to try and leave a mark so that you're not a one-hit wonder and people remember you.

The second thing is that I took [would be] the beautiful memories. I've made so many friends, from my season and from seasons past. I am extremely close with Courtney Galiano, Comfort and Travis Wall; besides them, I developed friendships with Kayla [Radomski] and Jason, who was my boyfriend for a while, Ade [Obayomi] and Brandon [Dumlao]. I think I grew as a person and as a performer.

It was such a crazy roller-coaster ride. One day, we'd be rehearsing our brains out: two duets, a solo and a group number for the day. We'd be exhausted and mentally drained but you'd come back home knowing you had friends who were going through the same thing.

Also, to be honest with you, the best, best part of it was the fans. I got so many letters from people who were touched or inspired. I would tear up and would feel so touched and blessed. I think that, as an artist, that's what you want to do—touch someone. And the tour would really show it to you, when you're dancing in front of 10,000 people in an arena, and when we did signings—I'm not kidding you, Andrew—the line would go on forever. [Laughs]

WCT: Often, dancers are the unsung heroes so it has to be nice to be recognized for who you are and what you do.

JM: Yes, definitely. Dancers work *hard*—and actors and singers do, too, but in a different way. But, physically, we put our bodies through so much. Having acted, danced and sung, dancing is the most physically demanding. We go through so much pain and sweat and injury and broken toenails and shoulder pain and soreness, and that's why I'm thankful for shows like So You Think You Can Dance, Dancing with the Stars

and, now, Live to Dance. They let America know what we go through.

WCT: What do you think of Live to Dance?

JM: It's a new show with a very different format. The other dance shows are all duets. I think Paula Abdul is trying to do something different, and I wish the show the best. I actually have two acts that will be performing in the finals tonight that are from my studio: Dance Town Chaos (and my best friend Richard is the lead dancer in the boys' group) and D'Angelo & Amanda, who dance ballroom and jazz. [Editor's note: The winning act was slated to be announced Feb. 9.] I have my fingers crossed.

WCT: I have to ask you about Glee, where you have danced. What is it like being on the set?

JM: Oh, wow. Well, I was on [the competing glee club] Vocal Adrenaline, so most of our performances were in the campus auditorium. We did get to meet all the cast. Glee was so much fun. The choreographer (Zach Woodlee, who is also a producer) and assistant choreographer were amazing. Rehearsal did not feel like work; it feels like eight hours of fun. It was such a good time working on that show.

The best time for me was going on the Glee Live tour; it was awesome traveling with them and hanging with them after the show. I was so frustrated that I couldn't do the second season; they asked me to come back but I had already signed the contract for Burn the Floor. Maybe it'll happen another time.

But Burn the Floor is going great. I love the show, and I love every single person in this cast as well.

WCT: And I thought it was interesting that Heather Morris [who plays Brittany on Glee] once tried out for So You Think You Can Dance—but got cut just before making the top 20.

JM: Oh, yeah! She is stepping up for the dancers! [Laughs] A lot of people think that only the top four become successful, but so many doors

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BY BRETT NEVEU
DIRECTED BY WILLIAM BROWN

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open for you after being on So You Think You Can Dance. I'm so grateful because they saw something in me and [19] other people, even though 15,000 other people auditioned.

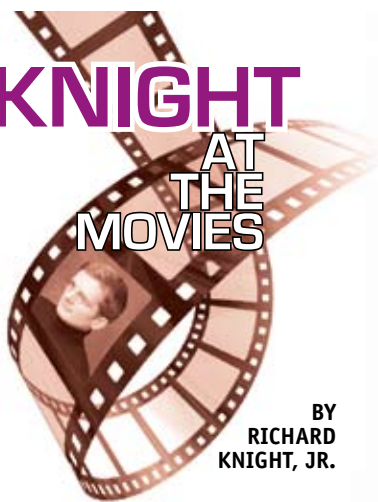
Heather Morris is the perfect example: Just look at her now. I give her a million and one props—and she's amazing to work with: She's fun and very talented. I'm very happy for her.

WCT: I call it "The Jennifer Hudson Effect." She didn't get too far as a finalist on American Idol, but look at her now.

JM: Yes—she's another one! You have no idea how many opportunities are presented because of these shows.

"Burn the Floor" is at the Bank of America Theatre, 18 W. Monroe, through Sunday, Feb. 13. Tickets are \$16-\$80, and are available at all Broadway In Chicago box offices, the Broadway In Chicago Ticket Kiosk at Water Tower Place, 845 N. Michigan, the Broadway In Chicago Ticket Line at 800-775-2000, all Ticketmaster retail locations and online at <http://www.BroadwayInChicago.com>.

KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

The Eagle; classic DVD round-up

There's nothing like a hot little homoerotic sword-and-sandal epic to get the blood racing—especially in light of the record setting winter weather we've experienced this year. And **The Eagle** is a nicely paced variation on this film genre beloved by generations of gay men.

Based on the 1954 novel by Rosemary Sutcliff, whose series of adventure books have thrilled generations of British boys (and, I suspect, some girls, too) and adapted for the screen by Jeremy Brock, this film version of *The Eagle* has been kicking around for over a decade. It comes to the screen helmed by documentarian/feature

Britain 20 years before, along with 5,000 men and Rome's beloved golden eagle standard—the symbol of Roman might. But instead, the now-disgruntled Marcus goes to stay with his uncle Aquila (a droll Donald Sutherland), who whiles away his time conferring with other Roman bigshots and enjoying the brutal combat in the local miniature arena. He brings along the bored nephew one day and the course of Marcus' life is immediately changed when Esca (Jamie Bell), a young male slave, is brought into the arena and refuses to fight for his life. Something about this young man's defiant attitude (or more likely, his hot little body—the slave is stripped to little more than a codpiece) speaks to Esca's base sensibilities and stirs him to convince his fellow Romans to give the “thumbs up”—thus saving Esca's life.

Marcus is a tad taken aback when his bemused uncle gifts him with Esca—assuming that Marcus wants him for illicit purposes. (This is strongly suggested rather than spoken, I hasten to add.) Esca himself is the sworn enemy of Rome but something about his new master's attitude (or more likely, his equally hot body) quells the servant's blood lust. When a local surgeon discovers that he can fix Marcus' bad leg, Esca is there to help him recover. Soon the two have hatched a plan to head north and find out what happened to Marcus' dad and, almost more importantly, the golden eagle.

Traveling north to the forbidden area, past the Hadrian Gates, these two discover that they must learn to trust each other if the fierce north tribesman (who have the habit of painting their half-naked bodies) are to be defeated. Naturally, many combat sequences are on the menu for both Marcus and Esca although, sadly—this being homoerotic and not homo physical—nothing more than an intense friendship is part of the

flop upon release but has moments of charm here and there and gives Liza a song or two (worth checking out).

—**Basil Dearden's London Underground:** This four-film set from Criterion is a well-deserved homage to the little known works of British director Dearden, whose late '50s-early '60s films often tackled social problems. The movies include *Victim*, the bona fide 1961 gay cinema classic in which Dirk Bogarde's life is turned upside down when he is blackmailed because he is gay. Dearden's sympathetic, even-handed approach to this “sensational” topic is also found in *Sapphire* (1959), a story of a racially motivated murder (the only film in the set in color), *The League of Gentlemen* (1960), a “slice of life” comedy starring Jack Hawkins and the fascinating, musically thrilling *All Night Long* (1962), Dearden's inspired updating of Shakespeare's *Othello*—set in the world of jazz with stars Paul Harris, Marti Stevens, Patrick McGoohan and rare appearances by jazz legends Charles Mingus, Dave Brubeck, Tubby Hayes and many others.

—**TCM Greatest Classic Film Collection—Legends-Jean Harlow:** This four-film set is a worthy introduction to the platinum blonde bombshell whose comedic and dramatic gifts were nicely displayed—along with her shapely torso—in a series of smartly packaged movies before her untimely death at 26 in 1937. The set includes four of her best: *Dinner at Eight* (1933), *China Seas* (1935), *Wife vs. Secretary* (1936) and *Libeled Lady* (1936).

—**All About Eve** (1950) and **An Affair to Remember** (1957) have been released in new Blu-ray editions and are worth the upgrade as both show significant improvement in picture and sound quality (and each has a few new extras and photo booklets as well).

Check out my archived reviews at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com> or <http://www.knightatthemovies.com>. Readers can leave feedback at the latter website.



Channing Tatum (foreground) in *The Eagle*. Photo by Matt Nettheim

director Kevin Macdonald (*State of Play*, *The Last King of Scotland*), who gives it the assured pacing of a Saturday morning serial adventure and sensibly doesn't worry much about mismatched accents or logistics.

The story follows the exploits of one Marcus Aquila (played by hunk *du jour* Channing Tatum), a young Roman commander sent to the no man's land that was Roman-ruled Britain in 140 A.D. On arrival at the outpost, the taciturn stickler for rules and discipline immediately orders his second-in-command, Lutorius (played by out actor Denis O'Hare), to whip the men in shape—none too soon, as it turns out. Soon the command post is under attack by a band of marauding Druids—something the quick-thinking Marcus has foreseen. Although the day is saved, Marcus sustains a leg injury that permanently puts him out of commission and he is discharged with honors.

Marcus has joined the army with one intention: To find out what happened to his father who disappeared in the northern hinterlands of

ensuing action. (Perhaps a sequel will rectify that situation.)

Nicely shaped with plenty of nicely shaped male eye candy, *The Eagle* will certainly please filmgoers looking to get their fix of onscreen male testosterone satisfied.

A passel of recent home viewing film releases that fall into the classics category are worth noting, including:

—**Lucky Lady** (1975): Three years after her *tour de force*, Oscar-winning performance in 1972's *Cabaret* Liza Minnelli finally returned to cinemas in director Stanley Donen's attempt to recreate the screwball comedy. Minnelli teams with Gene Hackman and Burt Reynolds as a trio of inept, lascivious bootleggers (the three end up sharing a bed) during the roaring '20s who, through a series of timely coincidences, “accidentally” become successful. Gorgeously shot and dressed, although badly overacted by all three principals, the movie was an expensive



Burlesque.

GLAAD announces award nominees

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has announced the nominees for its 22nd Annual GLAAD Media Awards.

Among those getting nods are the films *Howl*, *Easy A*, *Burlesque*, *I Love You Phillip Morris* and *The Kids Are All Right*; TV shows *Anderson Cooper 360*, *Modern Family*, *Glee*, *True Blood*, *Nurse Jackie*, *Greek* and *30 Rock*; and musicians *Scissor Sisters*, *Chely Wright* and *Big Freedia*.

The Oprah Winfrey Show also was nominated for Ricky Martin's first televised interview after he came out. During that show, Chicagoan and GLAAD member Ricardo Torres and his mother explained how Martin's announcement engineered an open discussion of Ricardo's sexuality.

However, showing that it's more than about movies, TV and music, there are nods for outstanding digital-journalism article (including pieces by Kerry Eleveld, LZ Granderson and Jim Buzinski) as well as outstanding blog (with Joe.My.God and The Bilerico Project among the nominees) and outstanding comic book (such as *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Fogtown*).

The GLAAD Media Awards ceremonies will be held in New York on March 19 at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square; in San Francisco on May 14 at San Francisco Marriott Marquis; and in Los Angeles. See <http://www.glaad.org>.

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When Grammy nominee **Robyn's** *Body Talk* did not make my top album of 2010, I got flamed. The set has fantastic upbeat jams like "Dancing on My Own" and "In My Eyes," as well as more experimental goodies like "Fembot" and "We Dance to the Beat." Some of her material can be indistinguishable, but not the same degree as tunes from '90s acts like Real McCoy, Whigfield or Captain Hollywood Project. I regularly mix up the Swede's "Handle Me" and "Hang with Me" as well as "Love Kills" with "Indestructible."

Fresh from winning four Swedish Grammy awards, Robyn is returning to Chicago with a sold-out concert at The Riviera, 4746 N. Racine, on Friday, Feb. 11.

British rising star **Natalia Kills** will be opening for Robyn again. Last year, Kills wowed the crowd with a set that is more goth and racier than those from American counterparts Lady Gaga and Ke\$ha. The finale was the catchy "Mirrors." Kills herself directed the video clip to the

electro-pop "Mirrors." Her anticipated full-length debut, *Perfectionist*, is due out March.

Also on board for Robyn's tour is **Diamond Rings**. The Toronto-based act recalls Human League with John O's deep voice on "Wait & See," yet achieves indie credibility on "You & Me" and "Something Else." The stand out is the slowed down, synthesizer-heavy "It's Not My Party." It doesn't hurt that Diamond Rings' frontman is not afraid to sport war paint. The debut, *Special Affections*, is out now.

"Galileo" finds **Indigo Girls** questioning past lives. It is a case of reincarnation as **The Ladies of the Canyon** will be performing the Girls' material once again Thursday, Feb. 10, at Fitzgerald's, 6615 Roosevelt, Berwyn.

I asked Kim Frost, the creative director and one of the vocalists for Ladies of the Canyon, why the Indigo Girls tribute is being redone. Frost said, "It was one of my favorite shows we did and also my first as producer. The night we did it, there was a snow storm and hardly anyone came so I've always wanted to try again, plus I've had people come up to me and ask 'when are you guys going to do Indigo Girls?'"

Ladies of the Canyon has Chicago-area-based female singer-songwriters taking turns with lead and back-up vocals or cheering from the backstage during the shows. Frost insisted that there are no diva attitudes or cattiness. "None at all, there's no room or tolerance for it. It's one of

the main reasons why the vocals are so good, everyone truly is there to make serving the music the number one priority, along with supporting each other."

For more information on Ladies of the Canyon, please visit <http://www.lotclive.com> or find the group on Facebook.

Need more of Indigo Girls? Amy Ray, whose contributions for Indigo Girls tend to be darker than Emily Saliers', has released a concert album, *Amy Ray MVP Live*. There is no Indigo Girls music to be found here. MVP consists of edgier rock material pulled from Ray's solo bows *Stag*, *Prom* and *Didn't It Feel Kinder*. My favorite here is the outsider's anthem "Birds of a Feather." Ray plans on releasing another solo effort later this year.

New Kids on the Block member Jonathan Knight proves that he has "The Right Stuff" as he has publicly announced that he is gay. On the group's blog, the handsome singer with the chiseled nose and high cheekbones admitted he never has hidden his sexual orientation.

Knight had a "Radio Romance" with pop star Tiffany during a tour over 20 years ago. Tiffany stated on *Watch What Happens: Live* that she was involved with Knight and that he "became gay later." Since, then the two traded amicable tweets that there was no mal intent behind Tiffany's comments and that she did not out him.

The boy bands **'N Sync** and **Westlife** also have openly gay members with Lance Bass and Mark Feehily, respectively. The **New Kids on the Block** and **Backstreet Boys** are touring together with a stop at The United Center, 1901 W. Madison, on Friday, June 17, and Saturday, June 18.

Glee creator Ryan Murphy and **Kings of Leon** drummer Nathan Followill recently had an ugly exchange. The openly gay Murphy is quoted saying "Fuck you, Kings of Leon" in an interview with the *Hollywood Reporter*, because the band of brothers has not granted permission to the Emmy-winning series to use its music. Followill tweeted, "Dear Ryan Murphy, let it go. See a therapist, get a manicure, buy a new bra. Zip your lip and focus on educating 7yr olds how to say fuck."

In a piece where Murphy does not take the bait on *PerezHilton.com*, Followill's retort is regarded as homophobic. The drummer has issued an apology via Twitter: "I'm sorry 4 anyone that misconstrued my comments as homophobic or misogynistic. I'm so not that kind of person. I really do apologize." Okay, then how should these tactless comments be taken?

Kings of Leon should have reconsidered the chance to have its music featured on *Glee*. Just look at Florence and the Machine. The British act's "Dog Days Are Over" is covered in the season opener of *Glee*, helping the overlooked track from 2009's album, *Lungs*, to ignite on radio. Kings of Leon is best known for the hits "Sex on Fire" and "Use Somebody" from 2008's *Only by the Night*. Last year's follow-up, *Come Around Sundown*, was amiss and could have used the leverage from a hit prime-time show like *Glee*.

George Michael's 'Faith' out with deluxe edition

George Michael's CD *Faith*—originally released in 1987—is out with a special deluxe edition.

The album reached several high marks, including 87 weeks on the Billboard 200 albums chart (including 12 weeks at #1 in 1988), a rare RIAA diamond certification (signifying 10 million units sold) and a Grammy for album of the year. Among the hit singles were the title track, "Father Figure," "I Want Your Sex," "One More Try" and "Monkey."

The numbered, limited-edition box set can be ordered now at <http://www.GeorgeMichael.com>. It includes a CD of the remastered 10-song album; a 60-page book with interview, rare photos and more; a vinyl replica LP; a DVD with a BBC interview and seven promo videos; and a memorabilia envelope with five art prints, poster, tickets and *Faith* tour pass.

There are also two other packages. *Faith: Special Edition* will feature the two CDs and the DVD, as described above. A standard remastered double-CD edition will also be released. Both of these editions are available at all retail outlets.



Lady Gaga show Feb. 28

Singing superstar Lady Gaga—who has an upcoming CD, *Born This Way*—will perform at the United Center, 1901 W. Madison, on Feb. 28 as part of The Monster Ball Tour.

Scissor Sisters will be the special guests. Tickets are \$49.50-\$175, and are on sale. See <http://www.LiveNation.com>.



Robyn.

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MUSIC

Linda Eder: Talking with the sultry Broadway legend

BY JERRY NUNN

Linda Eder first caught attention with a Broadway debut in the musical *Jekyll & Hyde*. Recording more than 10 albums with themes ranging from Christmas to country music, this chanteuse keeps it coming with a new album and tour.

Linda Eder: Hi, Jerry. Sorry I didn't hear your call. I was shoveling my steps with all this snow.

Windy City Times: That's okay. What part of the country are you calling from?

LE: I live in New York.

WCT: There is a lot of snow right now, I heard.

LE: Oh, yeah.

WCT: You will be visiting Skokie soon. You have been in Chicago before?

LE: Yes, I have been performing there for a long time, years ago, in a lot of different places. It is so close to Minnesota, which feels like an extension of that whole area for me.

WCT: You have a new album coming out the first of March.

LE: Yes; it's called *Now*. It basically is a re-



Linda Eder.

uniting of Frank Wildhorn and myself. We always knew we would make another record together one day. The timing seemed right and it is all the beautiful melodies that he is known for. I have sung many of them over the years. There are a lot of great songs. Sometimes they are songs

from shows that were in the works or didn't happen for some reason. They may be from shows that they didn't fit into as well. There are also brand new things for the record. It brings back a lot of the collaborators that we have worked with over the years. It is a pretty cool album.

WCT: Why is it called *Now*?

LE: Because there was a period of years where I went out and did my own thing. Now I am back to this again. It represents my today. It is a record like we used to make and how cool we are now. Our sensibilities have grown and we have matured. We wanted to see what we would do with that kind of stuff today.

WCT: It is on Sony Masterworks?

LE: Yes, it is.

WCT: It is a great music label and good at promoting an artist's work.

LE: I have been with different labels over the years and I really like them.

WCT: Who are your influences as far as music? I heard you are a Judy Garland fan.

LE: She is the reason that I sing but I have always liked a lot of different types. That is why the show is called *All of Me* because I do all kinds of music, even pop. Now the show spans the whole genre from Broadway to country pop. For me it's a blast because I like so many different styles.

WCT: Are you singing anything from *Jekyll and Hyde* at the show in Skokie?

LE: I usually do the song "Someone Like You" which is my signature song from that show. I pretty much have that in every show that I do.

WCT: Is there a Broadway show that you would like to do but haven't?

LE: I get asked that a lot but I don't really know. I think the play hasn't been written yet.

WCT: I like that answer! Would you ever want to be on *Glee*?

LE: Sure, I would do it. I got on the bandwagon kind of late. I didn't watch it at the beginning like everyone else. I did check it out and I think it's great. The performers are good and whomever is doing the musical arranging is just genius.

WCT: I think it can bring younger people to Broadway.

LE: I think so too and not just Broadway but the melody and great arrangement is really what it is about.

WCT: You were on *Star Search* a long time ago. What do you think about *American Idol*?

LE: The show that I was on was the kinder gentler version. It was bad enough to be judged. All they could do with me was give me one to four stars. They couldn't talk to me and abuse

me verbally.

[*American Idol*] is smashing together a reality show and a talent show. It does start a lot of careers. I think it is a little too harsh and I know that the psyches of some young people are being damaged as a result of our amusement and entertainment. I don't like that part of it but I do enjoy the singing. I don't watch the early rounds. It is stupid manipulation and I don't believe a word of it. Once I get to the finals then I enjoy the musicians and good arrangements. Before that, I don't watch it at all.

WCT: Any special message for your gay following over the years?

LE: Just keep it coming! People ask me what I attribute my large gay following to and I have no idea. I always say, "If I didn't have a gay following then I would be doing something wrong!"

WCT: Well, get back to shoveling.

LE: [Laughs] I will! Great talking to you.

The new album *Now* can be purchased at <http://www.lindaeder.com> right now. Linda brings her vocals live to the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie, Skokie, on Saturday, Feb. 12. For tickets to the show visit <http://www.northshorecenter.org>.

Do you suffer from pain due to HIV-related neuropathy?

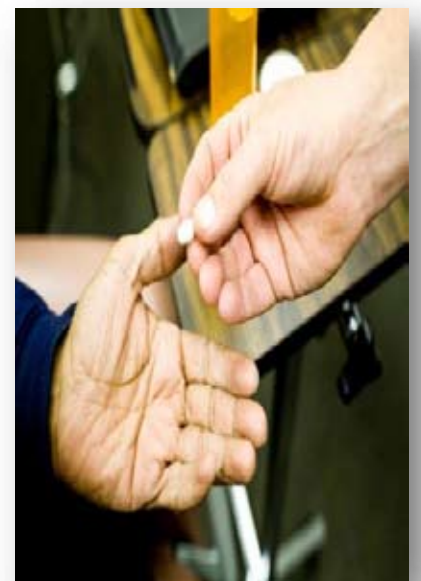
The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC) is conducting a study for participants who have pain associated with HIV-related neuropathy. The study will evaluate the safety and efficacy of a trial medication to treat this pain.

If you are interested in participating, please call (312) 238-7611.

Participants must meet the following criteria:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be diagnosed with HIV-related neuropathy

This study will last about 127 days. Participants may receive placebo or study drug that has not been approved by the FDA for this condition. Subjects may receive compensation for participation.



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And Baby Makes More

VIEW BY MARY BOWERS

A few weeks ago, I got an e-mail from a lesbian couple in New Hampshire who'd been having trouble with their best gay friend/sperm donor. They'd read my essay in the anthology *And Baby Makes More: Known Donors, Queer Parents, and Our Unexpected Families*, about having two children with our best gay friend/sperm donor, and thought maybe I could help. Their friend was straying from their original donor agreement by asking for an overnight with their son. They were particularly annoyed by the request since they'd spent six months with their donor negotiating the terms of their agreement, which did not include overnights. What should they do?

My first thought was: "What's his phone number? He can take my kids." I mean, seriously ladies—give up the kids. Why deprive yourselves of the greatest benefit of the known donor arrangement: free babysitting? Have a romantic evening. Light candles, have sex, watch movies, play dominoes, nuzzle. The world will not end because you are enjoying yourself without your children. There are other humans uniquely qualified to love and care for them.

I told the couple that, when it came to arrangements with our kids' donor, my partner and I stuck by two principles: 1) Trust. Everything is going to be fine. We are all safe. 2) What is best for our kids? We cannot control the path our donor's or our children's hearts take. The nature of our kids' relationship with their donor—whom they both call dad—is theirs to create. It's not our business to dictate how that relationship plays out, nor could we if we wanted to.

The couple responded: "What you wrote in your email vs. what you shared in your essay shows a lot of growth."

At first, I was indignant at the implication that I've ever been anything other than fully actual-



Mary Bowers.

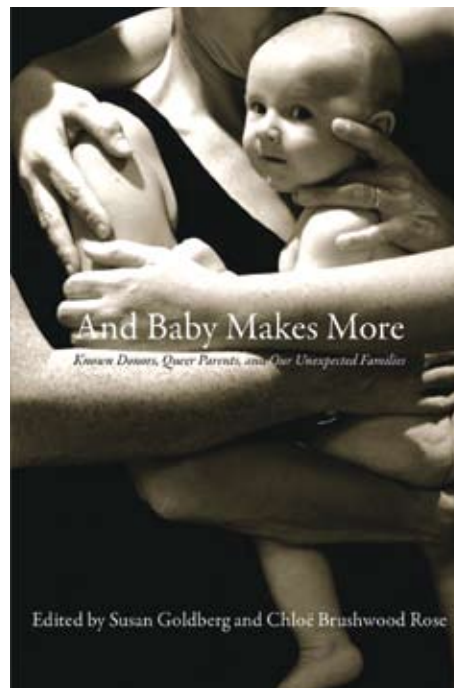
ized picture of spiritual perfection I am today. But I had to concede they had a point. When our daughter was born, I was scared. I did worry, as I wrote in my essay, that I'd get voted off the island of parenthood in favor of our donor. I did worry that, once we told her who her daddy was, he would usurp my place in the family.

Seven years later, worn down by the addition of another child and the daily grind that is real life with children, I've mellowed slightly. Our kids are two and seven, they call their donor daddy, they call their donor's partner daddy, and on occasion, they tell us it would be better if they had just one mom and one dad. And everything's fine.

Having kids with a known donor is not for the faint of heart. It requires multiple leaps of faith. The closest thing you get to security is some nimbleness at adjusting to the continual shifting of the ground beneath your feet. It's

a ridiculous idea, lesbians using a known donor to make themselves a baby. Sharing parenting—no matter what your carefully crafted language in the legally non-binding donor agreement you all signed asserts to the contrary—is just not the lesbian way. It's not anybody's way. It is at its essence unnatural to mix your friend's sperm with your egg to make a baby that belongs solely to you and your partner. It's ridiculous to think that your child's donor can paint her bedroom and make her homemade marshmallows and assemble her IKEA bed—that he can babysit or take her for the occasional weekend—but that he must never, ever think of himself as dad, parent, or relative in any nuance or implication of the word.

It doesn't work that way. Your donor will fall in love with your kids. His kids. This is a fact. Get used to it now. If your donor does not fall in love with your kids, congratulations: you just had children with a psychopath. Go ahead, sign that donor agreement where he agrees never to admit dad-like thoughts, whether he has them or not. Don't think that words can prevent an occurrence of the heart, stop the natural flow of love, or litigate away any discomfort, ambiguity, pain, alienation, self-doubt, threat, or vague, bewildering feelings you might have about making a baby with your best friend. Never mind that it's right there on paper as legal as it could be if any law recognized it. High-larious! Have your agreement notarized if you really want the gods to fall over laughing. Notarize it, and have your lawyer retain a copy. Maybe your lawyer, like ours, will tell you your agreement doesn't



carry the legal weight of the paper it's printed on.

You probably didn't know your two-year-old daughter would stand before you with the persistence of a waterfall and ask, over and over, "Who's my daddy?" Her hair will be braided into two adorable braids, courtesy of—who else?—her donor, because he can braid better than both of you. She'll sit there, so cute in those braids, asking who her daddy is. Digesting in her belly, nourishing the blood cells that feed the brain that thinks up these astonishing questions, is the pork loin her donor made for all of you for dinner. Now that's a funny scene.

You thought you were going to tell your kids they didn't have a daddy; rather, they had a special-donor-friend-uncle-unicorn-biological-tooth-fairy-neighbor or something. You thought this conversation would happen when they were oh, ten, and you'd calmly explain the concept of donor insemination. Too bad she's two and insisting the postman is her daddy and if he's not her daddy well then who is. And all the while she's asking she's sitting in the lap of her donor, who is tall and cute and really good at braiding little girls' hair and also just helped you fix your toilet.

Send the kids on the overnight and dust off the lube, ladies. If you thought he was good

enough to be your donor, he's probably just fine to take care of them for a night. And if not, send him my way.

Mary Bowers is a Chicago-based writer and graphic designer. Hear *Mary* and other contributors read from *And Baby Makes More: Known Donors, Queer Parents, and Our Unexpected Families*, a quirky, funny, and occasionally heartbreaking collection of personal essays on the relative risks and unexpected rewards of queer, do-it-yourself, baby-making on Thursday, Feb. 17, at Women and Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark. The event starts at 7:30 p.m. and includes a Q&A session and book giveaways.

PBS airing OUT in America

Emmy award-winning director Andrew Goldberg and PBS, in association with Oregon Public Broadcasting, have announced a new national PBS special, *OUT in America*, according to a media release.

The one-hour film will make its national premiere on PBS in June, in conjunction with National Gay & Lesbian Pride Month. The special will feature anecdotes from and interviews with such people such as Bravo TV executive Andy Cohen; *Tales of the City* author Armistead Maupin; Dr. Patricia Hawkins (a psychologist renowned for her early work with HIV patients); and PJ Serrano, Puerto Rico's first openly gay and HIV-positive political candidate.

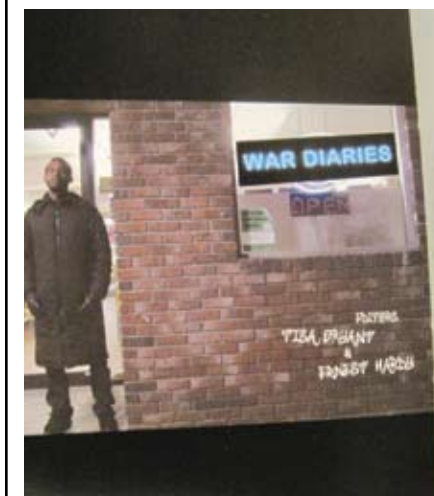
"The first of its kind, *OUT in America* is a more realistic portrait of LGBT life than almost anything seen on TV before," said Goldberg. "So often, media coverage of LGBT life in America is polarizing or exploitative of controversy and homophobia, or alternately LGBT individuals are presented as caricatures of a stereotype. *OUT in America* however focuses on empowerment, diversity and relationships."

BOOKS 'War Diaries' looks at HIV-affected African Americans

War Diaries—a collection of poetry, critical essays and more edited by Tisa Bryant and Ernest Hardy—highlights the impact of HIV and AIDS, and features perspectives from LGBT members of the African Diaspora.

War Diaries is the fourth publication in AIDS Project Los Angeles' (APLA) series for Black gay and bisexual men, and the first formal publishing collaboration between APLA and the Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF). *War Diaries* reflects the MSMGF's commitment to the MSM communities most impacted by HIV worldwide.

Copies can be downloaded at <http://www.apla.org> or <http://www.msmgf.org>. Print copies can be ordered at 510-271-1956 or jbeck@msmgf.org.



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THE WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP
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OUT DURING THE BLIZZARD!**

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VICTOR AGUIRRE**

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BOOK REVIEW

Annabel

by Kathleen Winter; Black Cat
\$14.95 paperback; 480 pages
REVIEW BY TERRI SCHLICHMEYER

You always jump in with both feet.

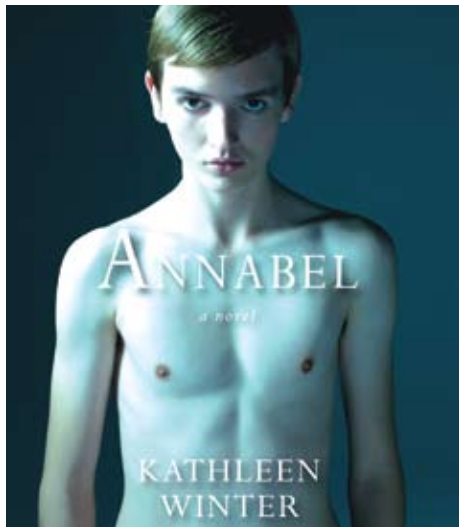
There's nothing hesitant about you; when you're in, you're in. You go whole-hog, pedal to the medal, all or nothing. People can count on you because you're not the least bit wishy-washy. With you, there's no half-way.

That's not the case for Wayne Blake, child of Treadway and Jacinta. In the new novel, *Annabel* by Kathleen Winter, Wayne can only go halfway because he's only half a boy.

On the morning that Wayne Blake entered the world, the midwife, Thomasina Baikie, did what came natural: She checked to see if the baby was male or female, and was shocked.

The child appeared to be both. After tending to the mother, Jacinta, Thomasina broke the news to the new father.

Treadway Blake, like his father and his father's father, was a trapper in his native Labrador. Spending six months outdoors was something he could live with; a child like Wayne was not. When Thomasina



told Treadway that his son was also his daughter, Treadway declared that Wayne was a boy. Jacinta, broken-hearted and already loving the girl inside her son, reluctantly agreed with her husband.

Wayne was never told.

Thomasina, grieving for her own lost family, escaped Labrador.

Jacinta took her child to see doctors.

Treadway finally had his son.

But Wayne wasn't the son his father wanted. Growing up, Wayne preferred the company of girls, especially that of Wallace Michelin. The friendship he had with Wally was happy and easy because she never noticed that Wayne wasn't like other boys, even though other children saw it. But then Wayne's body did something medically unusual and though Treadway held fast on his ideal of a son, it was time for Wayne to learn a truth that explained so much, yet so little.

Confused and ashamed, Wayne knew he could never speak of his secret to anyone in Labrador. He couldn't talk to his parents about it, and he could never tell Wally, who had drifted from him years ago.

Then Wayne, himself, began to drift. Wandering, he left his home in Labrador and moved to St. John, where he found a job and a friend who, sadly, couldn't be trusted.

Saddest of all, Wayne realized that he could never be the son his father wanted.

Have you ever asked "Where are we going?" and the answer was "You'll see when we get there."? That's what it's like reading *Annabel*: You're along for a trip, the ending of which you really can't anticipate.

Nuanced, heartbreaking, near-poetic, but with a certain droll, twinkle-in-her-eye sense of humor, author Kathleen Winter tells the story of secrets, desires, dreams, and a family that's splintered before it gets started. I liked Winter's characters, even though I wanted to shake the peripheral ones a time or two; and though this story bogs down now and again, I was captivated by it.

If you're looking for a different sort of book this winter, give this debut novel a try. For readers who love the unusual, *Annabel* ain't half bad.

Want more? Try *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides, or *Normal: Transsexual CEOs, Crossdressing Cops, and Hermaphrodites with Attitude* by Amy Bloom.



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Ken Reffsin. Photo by Andrew Davis

PROFILE Joe Perillo's Ken Reffsin

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Ken Reffsin has been a sales manager at Joe Perillo BMW for more than a decade. He recently sat down with Windy City Times to talk about everything from his dream car to being out on the job to the Chicago Auto Show.

Windy City Times: What does being an Internet sales manager encompass?

Ken Reffsin: That means that if you go to Perillo's website, I generally will get that lead. If you go to Edmunds.com or KellyBlueBook.com—if you're going anywhere on the Internet to search for a new car and you submit a request for information, it's going to come to my mailbox. I used to not take sales off the floor; it would just come through the Internet. But now I take them off the floor, through phone calls—any way I can take it.

WCT: What do you like about working here?

KR: I love the clientele. I love the product. I love the location. I love the people I work with. It's all fun.

WCT: Is there a down side?

KR: The down side would be that it doesn't leave a lot of time for other things—but I wouldn't want to spend time doing anything else. Yesterday was my day off, and I was here, which took me away from running some important errands. There's always something going on.

WCT: What's your background? How did you come to be at Joe Perillo?

KR: I went to the University of Arizona, where I majored in psychology and fine arts—actually, a lot of things that are connected with selling cars.

I really came here out of a midlife crisis. I'd been in the apparel business for 12 years (in the late '90s); retailers were shrinking and going of business, and business methods were changing. So I had a showroom in the Apparel Center, closed that. Then, I worked for a couple of Internet companies trying to put women's clothing manufacturers online. Unfortunately, we didn't make any money, and that Internet bubble burst.

I didn't work for some time—I went through headhunters, psychotherapists, career counselors, you name it. I even bought Tony Robbins CDs. At dinner one night with my friends, I mentioned that I had bought these CDs, and a good friend asked, "How much were they?" I

said, "\$210." He said, "You ought to have electroshock therapy. You're returning those discs." I had no money so I had no business spending \$210 on these CDs, so I returned them.

I've always had a passion for cars; I knew everything about them. I lived around the corner from here, so I got the balls together, walked in here and walked right up to Joe Perillo—but, at the time, I didn't know it was him. I asked if Joe Perillo was here and he said, "I'm Joe." I asked if he had anyone doing Internet sales. We sat and talked for five minutes, and he said, "You're hired." Then I said, "Oh, I don't know that I want this." He said, "If you show up on Monday, I'll know that you took the job—and, just for the record, I don't care if you come to work in a candy-striper uniform." That was him letting me know that he knew I was gay and that he didn't care.

It's a very gay-friendly showroom and I'm very out here. We have a gay clientele. It doesn't matter [who you are]; if you want to buy a car, I will sell you a car.

WCT: In this economy, how are you doing?

KR: Excellent. There was a time—in 2008, when the economy was tanking—when we sold more used cars than new cars. Luckily, my boss had foresight and bought every used car he could. BMW has auctions all over the country so he bought as many [as possible]. We have the largest selection of used cars anywhere so when the economy tanked we never really skipped a beat.

As the economy has rebounded, and manufacturers need to sell new cars, we have great support deals. BMW is very proactive when it comes to selling cars. Everyone wants a deal, and now is a great time to get one. So if you have cash and credit, now's a great time. I'll sell anything—Andrew, I'll put a "For sale" sign on you right now. [Laughs]

I primarily focus on new cars. There is a strong used-car business, but someone else primarily handles those leads. That's a whole other business because used cars are so individual that no two are alike.

WCT: I can't imagine that it's a pleasant thing having to tell someone that he or she doesn't qualify.

KR: No, it's not a pleasant thing but they typically know what they're trying to do and that they may not qualify. The interesting thing is if someone doesn't qualify, then why are you trying to buy a BMW? You should be trying to buy a lesser brand. There's nothing wrong with that, but if you have damaged credit you don't need a BMW right now. It's better that you buy a lesser-brand car, pay for it for two or three years and

establish your credit; then come back and you'll have a better chance of getting a higher-end car.

WCT: I think it goes back to something I heard Suze Orman say once: People buy things to impress people they don't even know.

KR: That's very true. But it also fuels their own desire: Who wouldn't want a BMW? It's the ultimate driving machine.

WCT: That leads me to my next question: What is your dream car?

KR: My dream car would probably be a 1971 Mercedes-Benz 280SE 3.5 convertible. But it's funny—I used to like cars a lot more before I was in this business. It's like an interior designer whose own house may look like a shambles

or a dentist who may have rotten teeth but who makes everyone else's teeth look beautiful. Now, in the car business, I'm more about fulfilling other people's desires than my own.

WCT: You've been to the Chicago Auto Show. What's been really memorable?

KR: I love that you can see every make and model. It's lots of fun to go see the sights—the cars and the people alike.

WCT: Is there anything you wish to add?

KR: It's a great time to buy a car, and BMW makes a great product. The Perillos have actually now bought the Gold Coast Bentley dealership, and have Rolls-Royce, Bentley, Lamborghini and Bugatti.

See <http://www.PerilloBMW.com>.

Chicago Auto Show preview

The public exhibition of the Chicago Auto Show—North America's largest event of its kind—will run Feb. 11-20 at McCormick Place, at 23rd and Lake Shore. It will be the 103rd edition of the show.

The 2011 show spans 1.2 million sq. ft. of the complex. There will be multiple world and North American introductions and a complete range of domestic and imported passenger cars and trucks; sports-utility vehicles, experimental and concept cars. In all, approximately 1,000 different vehicles will be on display, plus hundreds of interactive, aftermarket, accessories and auto-related exhibits, competition vehicles, antique and collector cars.

On Feb. 10, the show's black-tie event, First Look for Charity, will benefit 18 Chicago-area charities, and is expected to raise approximately \$2 million. Now in its 20th year, the black-tie affair will include hors d'oeuvres, champagne, wine, soft drinks and desserts. In 2011, First Look for Charity will also offer up the chance to win one of two new vehicles—a 2011 Hyundai Sonata and at 2011 Honda CR-Z.

Show hours are 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Feb. 11-19, and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. on the final day, Feb. 20. Regular admission for adults aged 13 and older is \$11; for seniors aged 62 and older and for children ages 7-12, regular admission is \$7. See <http://www.ChicagoAutoShow.com>.



The very first Chicago Auto Show, in 1901. Photo from the show's website.



Last year's show. Photo from the show's website

NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION

Joan Rivers: One tough 'Mother'

BY JERRY NUNN

Joan Rivers really is a "Piece of Work." From her start as a comedian in the early days when the biz was tough on women to kicking open the closet door about taboo plastic surgeries, this lady never seems to feel successful enough.

Moving in with her daughter across the country for a new reality television show entitled Joan & Melissa: Mother Knows Best? brings antics, laughs and unbelievable moments to the comic. Having spoken with the classic funny lady the same time last year I had to ask once again "Can we talk?" Nunn on One!

Windy City Times: Hi, Joan. I just watched your new show, Mother Knows Best?

Joan Rivers: You saw the first episode?

WCT: I got to see two of them.

JR: Oh, that's good.

WCT: I thought the second was even better than the first.

JR: I am so glad you said that. You are going to see that it turn into something so amazing. It's funny because we got our legs and really saw it going places.

WCT: The first episode gets you set up there and moved to California from New York. Then you are just on a roll when you get there.

JR: There is a big fight with Melissa and all kinds of stuff that will be happening.

WCT: Do you consider yourself an extrovert and her an introvert?

JR: I think she is much more private. People get to see a side of her that they have never seen. I have been so long in the business that I don't even notice the cameras behind me, which is very good and why the documentary worked so well.

WCT: That movie was a whole other side to you.

JR: It was great and on DVD now. It is funny because my life is really out there.

WCT: It is and wonderful for fans to see you in a different light.

JR: The thing I love about it is on television

as it goes on they will really see the mother daughter dynamic, which is love/hate. Every mother and daughter has that. I love love love you! I hate hate hate you!

WCT: You love your grandson so much and cute to see on this show.

JR: He is so darling. He loves doing the show and the crew gave him a shirt that say "crew" on it. He sits and eats lunch with them. He got totally involved in it.

WCT: I laughed so much at the show I was crying.

JR: It gets even better. It was a great experience. But at one point we were fighting so bad that I couldn't take it. The lifestyle is so different in LA from New York. When you open the refrigerator it is like being in a foreign country! Everything is brown and soy.

WCT: I think this show will be good for the network.

JR: I hope so. They have been wonderful to us but we are still in the honeymoon phase.

WCT: Did you learn a lot from it?

JR: I just learned that there is nothing better than reality. I can see why reality is working. I am so bored with seeing fake situations. It is good to see realness. People are obviously responding to that.

WCT: So this was not set up?

JR: We planned nothing. The network was very worried but we kept saying trust us. Our household is like everyone's household and always has something going on. The nanny is a perfect example. Geez, you couldn't plan that!

WCT: She is unbelievable.

JR: I came out and said she has got to be in it. With Conrad, Melissa's friend, he just found out he is Jewish. We are going to give him a *bar mitzvah* next. He found out his grandmother cheated.

WCT: Reality is better than a script!

JR: Isn't that curious? She confessed. It was a family deathbed confession. He is taking Hebrew classes now. The cast got along great.

WCT: I saw your fellow "Fashion

Police" woman Giuliana Rancic at an event the other day.

JR: She is a Chicago girl now, don't you think? She is based there now because of him.

WCT: Yes, and that E show is still going strong.

JR: Oh gawd, yes. I go out every single week. Melissa produces the show so my daughter is my boss. I have been on the phone all morning to see if I go back to New York then to L.A. Are we scared there will be another snowstorm? Yes, it was such a rough winter this winter.

WCT: Everyone is talking about it. We talked Oscars last time we talked.

JR: I remember that.

WCT: Have you seen any of the movies yet?

JR: I have seen most of them.

WCT: They send them to you, correct?

JR: No, they sort of send them to me. It's kind of funny. I never get one thing for the Emmys. Melissa gets those. For the Oscars I scrounge around and get them.

WCT: What did you think of Black Swan?

JR: I loved it! It's not a ballet movie. It's a horror movie. I thought it was great and she was amazing in it.

WCT: I want Natalie Portman to win. Did you like The Kids Are All Right?

JR: I loved it, too. I thought Annette Bening knocks you out. Everyone forgets Annette is on a par with Meryl Streep. She doesn't get her due.

WCT: She might get it this time.

JR: I hope she does.

WCT: I didn't look at the Best Actor category. Who cares about the men?

JR: Yeah, I know. Well, you know what? With all the outstanding performances this is year is all about women. Do you want to see Lazy Bone? Dry Bone? Boned Bone? I haven't seen that yet.

WCT: [Laughs] Winter's Bone? I heard it is good.

JR: I heard it is very good.

WCT: And what about Nicole Kidman?

JR: I think she is terrific, that Nicole. She has not been used well. Most of these women have not been used well.

WCT: True; that's a good point.

JR: I still remember Nicole from that ghost movie The Others. She was so good in that.

WCT: I haven't seen Rabbit Hole but I hear good things.

JR: Me, too.

WCT: My friends in Nashville said you are heading there soon.

JR: I go wherever they want me. I am a performing whore.

WCT: We love you! You are so good at live stand-up. Do you feel after making the documentary A Piece of Work that you have peace and can relax now?

JR: Oh, please; it is such an uphill fight all the time. I have the Joan & Melissa show, that I love, and now I want that to work. The Fashion Police I also love and I want that to work. It is always worky worky worky, try to make it better.

WCT: Do you feel competitive with Kathy Griffin for the gay dollar?

JR: I feel competitive with everybody. I feel competitive with your neighbor if she does three jokes! Kathy is my really good friend.

WCT: She always says good things about you to me.

JR: I just adore her. But do I feel competitive? Yes, of course. Do I love her? Yes. I think she deserves every bit of success that gets.

WCT: Well, you are such a classy lady. I just love chatting with you.

JR: It is good chatting with you, as always.

Make it a Rivers week as Joan & Melissa shout it out on WEtv every Tuesday and see the red carpet treatment Fridays with the Fashion Police on E!

Visit <http://www.joanrivers.com>, <http://www.wetv.com> or <http://www.eonline.com> for details and listings.

Burroughs special Feb. 22 on PBS

Featuring never-before-seen archival footage of the legendary beat author William Burroughs, as well as exclusive interviews with colleagues and confidants including John Waters, Patti Smith, Iggy Pop, Gus Van Sant, and Laurie Anderson, William S. Burroughs: A Man Within looks at the man whose works at once savaged conservative ideals, spawned countercultural movements, and reconfigured 20th-century culture.

Narrated by Peter Weller, with a soundtrack by Patti Smith and Sonic Youth, Yony Leyser's William S. Burroughs: A Man Within will premiere on the PBS series Independent Lens, hosted by America Ferrera, on Tuesday, Feb. 22. (Check local listings.)

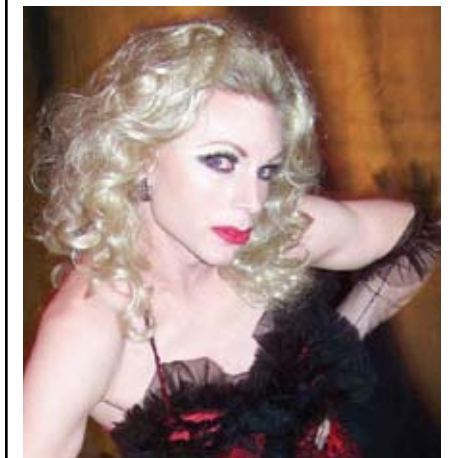
Center's Oscar party Feb. 27

On Sunday, Feb. 27, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, will host its annual "On The Red Carpet" Oscar Party.

Guests will enjoy sponsored cocktails and buffet while the Academy Awards are broadcast live on the big screen in the Hoover-Leppen Theatre. For those who prefer to mingle, video monitors will be stationed throughout the third floor—even on the roof garden, which will be encased in a heated tent exclusively for the night's event. Guests may bid on vacations, spa packages and more in our silent auction throughout the evening.

For the first time ever, the center is conducting an Oscar prediction competition. For \$10, guests can submit a ballot with their predictions before the telecast begins, and results will be tabulated throughout the night. The person with the most correct predictions will be announced at the conclusion of the ceremony, and will split the winnings with the center.

Doors open for the red carpet pre-show at 6 p.m., and the telecast begins at 7 p.m. Director-level tickets (\$75) include admission to the party, and producer tickets (\$125) include reserved telecast seating in the theater with table service. See <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>.



An attendee at the Center's 2009 Oscar gala. Photo by Steve Starr

'Love...' Feb. 14 in Wilmette

The drag show "Love Is a Many Gendered Thing" will take place Monday, Feb. 14 (Valentine's Day) at 7:30 p.m. at The Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central, Wilmette.

According to its Facebook page, "all of the performers are veterans of female illusion." Comedian Cameron Esposito will host the event.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. Visit <http://wilmettetheatre.com> or call 847-251-7424.



Joan and Melissa Rivers. Photo courtesy of weTV

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Darryl Stephens bares his 'Soul'

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Actor Darryl Stephens will be part of the local scene Sunday, Feb. 13, when he will be part of "Art & Soul: The Eargasmic Experience" at Circuit. Stephens—featured in the TV series Noah's Arc and films such as Boy Culture—discussed the impact of the Logo show, closeted actors and marriage equality.

Windy City Times: What led you to be part of "Art & Soul: The Eargasmic Experience?"

Darryl Stephens: The people who run "Art & Soul" asked me, presumably because they're aware of my general interest in HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. I haven't seen my Chicago friends in five years; It should be fun.

WCT: I've seen you in the films Circuit and Boy Culture. Of course, you're best known for the Logo series Noah's Arc. At the time, did you realize how groundbreaking the series was—and that you would impact as many people as you have?

DS: It's impossible to know how a show is going to be received. The public can be a fickle beast. We expected, at the very least, that the show would be popular with Black gay men. Ironically, most of the negative responses that I heard early on came from Black men who thought we were somehow demeaning them by depicting gay men as anything other than hyper-masculine and "unlockable." I think as the show went on, they were able to see the characters beyond their hairstyles and their clothes. The biggest surprise to me was the show's female fan base. Noah's Arc fans are the best.

WCT: [Noah's Arc creator/director] Patrik-Ian Polk seems like an outspoken individual with a specific vision. What has it been like working with him?

DS: Patrik's choice to make the show's hero the sweet, fashion-forward romantic was pretty bold.

The general consensus in Hollywood was and still is that gay men should be depicted as normal guys who just happen to be gay. This show wasn't pulling any punches. You weren't watching this show and wondering if the characters might or might not be. The idea that a so-called sissy could be the hero was extremely brave. I feel like that unapologetic approach to sharing "who we are" is a through-line in all of Patrik's work. It's always interesting to see what he comes up with.

WCT: Did you feel that you had responsibilities to the gay and African-American communities when filming Noah's Arc that helped shaped your acting/role?

DS: While I was working on the show, I didn't feel any obligation beyond the character and the story and Patrik's vision. I didn't take the role with the intention of becoming a role model; none of us did. The characters are all flawed and human, even in the context of our little chocolate gay fantasy world. If we had been worried about "responsibilities to our communities," we wouldn't have been able to work. We're actors telling stories—that's all.

WCT: I hear from people who hope there will be more Noah's Arc. Have we seen the last of Noah?

DS: I don't know if we've seen the last of Noah. There has been a lot of talk. As soon as there is real news, I'm sure you'll hear about it.

WCT: Several actors, including Richard Chamberlain and Rupert Everett, have said that gay actors should stay in the closet for the sake of their careers. What are your thoughts on the subject?

DS: I don't think anybody should stay in the closet. It's a miserable place to be. I have been out of the closet in my personal life since my



Darryl Stephens. Photo by Rebecca Sanabria

first year of college. The decision to come out publicly was far more difficult for me because it required that I make peace with the possibility that I may not work in my chosen field. That being said, I knew I would have a more rewarding life as an actor if I did not have to constantly lie or dodge the question. Having to balance all of that in the midst of trying to be good at my job always seemed unnecessarily difficult. If I lose a gig because I came out of the closet, I probably didn't want to work with those people, anyway.

WCT: What do you think of "mainstream" shows that feature prominent gay characters, such as Glee and Modern Family? Do you feel like Noah's Arc has paved the way for any other programs?

DS: I think every single gay TV character is bringing us closer to a world where sexual orientation won't be an issue. What's great about the shows you mentioned is that they are aimed at the mainstream and they are humanizing the gay community in ways most of America hasn't seen.

Noah was great for the folks who happened to be watching Logo. But for people who need their medicine hidden in something sweet, the storyline of an out gay kid being bullied in his high school and having his macho dad come to his defense is revolutionary.

WCT: Out of curiosity, would you consider a reality show that examined your life?

DS: I personally don't see any point to reality shows beyond hawking wares. If I had something to sell that a reality show could help publicize, then maybe. But the idea of being on television just to be on television doesn't appeal to me at all. I'm working on an album and a book now, but sitting and watching me write at a coffee shop doesn't seem like good TV to me.

WCT: Is there any actor's career you would like to emulate? What's next for you, career-wise?

DS: I know that my career trajectory is already so different from any other actor's, just because of all the gay work I've done. As a Black actor, there's no one I can look to and say, "Yes, I'd like the rest of my career to look like his." My friend Wilson Cruz is the only successful actor I can think of, but I know right now, he's just as hungry for a *real* gig as I am. It's hard out here for a pimp.

But I love Will Smith. I enjoy his work and I really dig his approach to life. He doesn't believe in having a Plan B. Success is the only option.

I feel like I could really benefit from embracing that perspective.

WCT: I've read that you're quite politically active. Do you feel that marriage equality will be achieved nationally in your lifetime?

DS: The fact that marriage equality continues to be an issue confounds me. How am I paying the same taxes and observing the same laws as my heterosexual brother without reaping the same benefits of our American citizenship? As an American, I am promised freedom of religion. If I don't happen to prescribe to *that* version of *that* religion, then the opposing argument doesn't have a leg to stand on.

It's embarrassing that the debate has gone on this long. But honestly, I am more concerned about the impact of marriage equality on future generations. As a kid, marriage was never even

an option in my mind. I'm open to the idea now, but most people my age have already suffered the damage of not believing they're worthy of that level of commitment. But imagine how the possibility of a stable monogamous relationship, recognized by our families and society, will change the ways young gay people see themselves and approach their relationships. It's going to be beautiful—and, yes, I plan on being here long enough to see it.

No Wire Hanger Productions has teamed with Test Positive Aware Network to host "Art & Soul: The Eargasmic Experience" Sunday, Feb. 13, at Circuit Nightclub, 3641 N. Halsted. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.; speed dating begins at 6 p.m.; and the show starts at 7 p.m. Admission for this event is \$10.

BOOK REVIEW

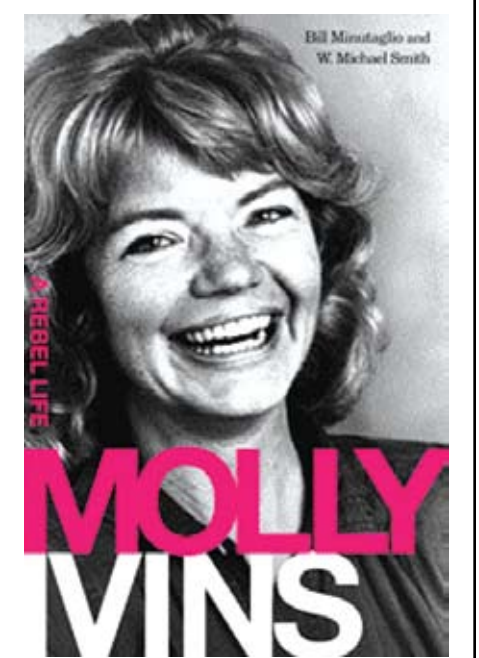
Molly Ivins:
A Rebel Life
by Bill Minutaglio and
W. Michael Smith
PublicAffairs;
\$15.95 paperback; 336 pages
REVIEW BY TRACY BAIM

It's a tough act to write about one of the best journalists in American history. Molly Ivins was once syndicated in some 400 newspapers, and died at the top of her game on Jan. 31, 2007, of cancer. Bill Minutaglio and W. Michael Smith do solid research in their book, *Molly Ivins: A Rebel Life*, but it falls short of being a definitive biography of her life.

While there is great detail about Ivins' early life growing up in Houston and becoming a journalist on her own terms, this book suffers from too much minutia. They provide information culled from Ivins' own pack-rat collection of materials, and numerous quotes from family and friends, but they do not include a lot of Ivins' own words. And some of the details they do include are just not interesting and have no real context. In places it seems like a list of speeches she gave, but nothing about the actual speeches, the response, impact or analysis.

A lot of the book is also repetitive: Just how many times do we need to hear how unusual her looks were, how tall she was, how much she drank and smoked, etc.? The fact that the authors are both male likely influenced their approach to this topic, for it falls far short of the strong feminist analysis that Ivins' life warrants. Sure, we learn about all the men she loved and hated, the influence they had on her life and how she was likely a frustrated heterosexual, not a closeted lesbian. But all of the small details do not really seem to add up to the whole woman: journalist, columnist, humorist and more.

The authors do include some of Ivins' more famous quotes and stories, such as her say-



ing Pat Buchanan's 1992 Republican Convention speech about the culture war "probably sounded better in the original German." We hear about her activism that crossed over traditional journalism lines, about her ability to cozy up to even the most conservative politicians, and her longtime friendships.

I wanted to like this book, because I love the work of Ivins. She was unparalleled in her political commentary over the course of several decades. She redefined what it is to be a journalist. She became well known in the 1990s and 2000s, especially as a Texas native writing about George W. "Shrub" Bush in his pre-presidential and then presidential years. But the book is like an iceberg, providing just the tip of Ivins. If you want to really know her better, read her own books. And hopefully we will get more interpretations of her life from a wide range of biographers in the future.

This book is a good start, and I do recommend it for fans of Ivins' work, but it is not enough to follow in the footsteps of this Texas legend.



Molly Ivins (right) with Women & Children First Bookstore co-owner Linda Bubon at a book signing at the store in October 2003. Photo by Tracy Baim

calendar

Brought to you by the combined efforts of

WINDY CITY TIMES



Wed., Feb. 9

Wade Rouse: Gay author at Chicago Public Library Wade Rouse returns to the Chicago Public Library to discuss and sign his latest book, *It's All Relative: Two Families, Three Dogs, 34 Holidays, and 50 Boxes of Wine: A Memoir*. In this book, Rouse celebrates his colorful family, their unusual celebrations and all of the ways we love, humiliate, frustrate, honor and forgive one another. 6 p.m., Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State, <http://www.chipublib.org>

LGBTQ Mayoral Candidate Forum A first-of-its-kind LGBT-focused Mayoral forum organized by almost 30 Chicago LGBTQ organizations. Admission already sold out but submit questions via <http://af.aidsschicago.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1193> and watch live streaming at www.windycitytimes.com or www.radioarte.com; 6 p.m., Adler School for Professional Psychology, <http://www.lg-btchange.org>

Lesbian Love Fest, Dating for Nerds Annual singles Valentine's bash. Includes a cocktail. 7 p.m., Downtown Bar, 440 N State

MANaise Bear Party Spread your love around at the MANaise Bear Party, hosted by Jason Cox and Richie. 10 p.m., Berlin, 954 W Belmont Ave, <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

Thursday, Feb. 10

Judy Shepard and Riki Wilchins speak "Addressing Hatred & Strengthening the LGBT Community through Personal Action & Professional Support" presentation and panel, presented by Judy Shepard, The

WADE IN AMERICA Wed., Feb. 9

Wade Rouse will talk about his latest book, *It's All Relative*, at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State.



Matthew Shepard Foundation and Riki Wilchins, TrueChild. 12:30 p.m., Loyola University Chicago, 25 E. Pearson, Phillip H. Corboy School Of Law, 15th floor

The Vagina Monologues Features the voices of women from around the world, their stories funny, witty, impassioned, candid, creating an eclectic mix of narratives all centered around the experiences of being a woman, features original Chicago Metropolitan cast, through the first weekend in May. 8 p.m., 630-896-6666., Paramount Theatre's Copley Theatre, <http://www.paramountaurora.com>

Cocktails and A Conversation on Aging The Women's Bar Association of Illinois, Clark Hill PLC, and Wells Fargo present networking and a panel discussion featuring: Ray J. Koenig, III (of Clark Hill PLC), Allison Getz (of Wells Fargo), and Sherry S. Kostman (of Senior Bridge), will cover the legal, financial, and health aspects of aging. The Honorable Maureen Connors, of the First District Appellate Court, will moderate. Info and register online. www.wbai@

[wbailinois.org](http://www.wbailinois.org); 5 p.m., The Tower Club of Chicago, 20 N. Wacker, 39th Fl., Chicago, <http://www.wbailinois.org/wbai/events/view/120>

Local Documentary "New Spirits" The film, which confronts the unique dilemmas facing a struggling LGBTQ-affirming church in the shadows of the Windy City, is the result of a three-year project focusing on; 8 p.m., Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee, <http://www.newspirits.net>

Sofa Entertainment Presents: The LOVE Show We'll be celebrating Valentine's Day early with an Entertainment Showcase featuring Mark Ortega and Friends. 8:30 p.m., 773-784-7636, Sofa, 4923 N. Clark, <http://www.sofobar.com>

Friday, Feb. 11

LGBT reception for Rahm Emanuel The LGBT Committee for Rahm is hosting a cocktail party reception for Mayoral Candidate Rahm Emanuel; 4:30 p.m., 312 894 3464, The Ivy Room at Tree Studios 12 E. Ohio, <https://secure.chicagofor-rahm.com/events/chicago0211.html>

Gay Liberation Network on Chgo Access Network TV Gay Liberation Network live call-in show on CAN TV, 6:30-6:55 PM on Cable Channel 21 in Chicago. 6:30 p.m., Channel 21 on Chicago Cable TV, <http://www.gayliberation.net>

More For Gay Men Movie Night: A Home at the End of the World Center on Halsted and the Gay Studies Program of the Wright Leadership Institute in partnership with More For Gay Men present an evening of great viewing, camaraderie and a different way to talk about the movies! \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door includes movie, facilitated discussion and light refreshments! 6:30 p.m., 312-645-8300, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, <http://www.moreforgaymen.com>

Tickled Pink fundraiser for Y-ME Tickled Pink brings together the city's hip, young or young at heart for a celebration worthy of any V.I.P., all to ensure no one faces breast cancer alone. At the event, guests will walk the pink carpet, sip on delicious cocktails and dine on hors d'oeuvres and late night munchies by many of Chicago's favorite restaurants. Tickets are \$75 in advance. Space is limited. 7 p.m., 312-294-8557, The Underground Chicago, 56 W. Illinois, <http://www.tickledpinkchicago.com>

International Dance Vocalist Marcie Joy Live One of the world's most renowned trance and electronic vocalists, Marcie Joy will be in Chicago performing LIVE at the Victor Hotel. 9 p.m., Victor Hotel, 311 N. Sangamon, <http://www.webmarcie.com>
Robyn after-show party Cosmix Fridays

presents a Robyn after-party with all Robyn videos. Free admission before midnight with concert ticket. DJ Greg Haus spins electronica/indie-alternative dance until 4. 11 p.m., Berlin, 954 W. Belmont, <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

Shower Party at Spin Join Mercedes for Spin's sexy shower party from 10pm-2am! Register by 11:30 to enter our Shower Contest at Midnight! First Prize is \$150 and Second Prize is \$50. 10 p.m., Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont, <http://www.spin-nightclub.com>

Saturday, Feb. 12

SAGE Homosexuality and Spirituality Workshop Join Pastor Kevin Downer of aChurch4me Metropolitan Community Church for an exploration of spirituality and homosexuality from the perspectives of Old and New Testaments, ancient societies, and non-Judeo-Christian faith traditions; previous scripture knowledge not necessary. 10 a.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, <http://www.centeron-halsted.org>

Naked @ the Museum Scavenger Hunt Join ladies of Sapphic Adventures for The Naked at the Museum Scavenger Hunt. The hunt brings you to the Art Institute of Chicago where you will scrutinize paintings, sculptures, feckless lovers, Greek muscle men, peeping toms, and the half-naked Truth. No nudity is required for this tour. The ticket costs \$36 which includes the museum entrance. 1:45 p.m., Art Institute, 111 S. Michigan, <http://www.sapphicadventures.org>

Equality Illinois 20th Annual Justice for All Benefit Gala Continuing its more than decade-long tradition as the largest LGBT black-tie gala in the Midwest, Equality Illinois hosts its 2011 Justice for All Benefit Gala. 6 p.m., Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan, <http://www.eqil.org/gala2/gala2.html>

Amanda Lepore and Cazwell LIVE See tranny sensation Amanda Lepore with her friend, hot gay-ass rapper Cazwell LIVE! Cazwell spins until 5am General Admission tickets are only \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. There will also be a VERY LIMITED quantity of VIP meet and greet tickets for only \$25. 8 p.m., Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

Ongina & Jade LIVE RuPaul's Drag Race stars Ongina and Jade perform live. Two performances at midnight and 1am Create your own Ongina-style headpiece for the Ongina look-alike contest with a \$100 first prize. 11 p.m., Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont, <http://www.spin-nightclub.com>

Sunday, Feb. 13

Windy City Rollers matinee bout Chicago's nationally ranked women's roller derby league, play their second bout of the home season, doors open at 2 p.m., doubleheader starts at 3 p.m. \$20 advance, \$22 at door. All four home teams picked up new skaters in the January draft and bring full, fresh squads into the second outing of this season. The Hell's Belles are still hoping to score a win with their young team, now featuring new hopefuls Miss ILL Annoy and Phoebe Fi Fo Fum. 2 p.m., UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine, <http://www.windycityrollers.com>

The Gritty World Premiere of Bordello Chicago Dramatists will Present The World Premiere Of Bordello, A Susan Smith Blackburn Prize Nominee, By Resident Playwright Aline Lathrop. 3 p.m., (312) 633-0630, Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago, <http://www.chicagodramatists.org>

Monday, Feb. 14

The Day We Said Yes Join YES Vodka and Sidetrack for the kickoff of The Day We Said Yes. Tell Sidetrack about your romance for your chance to win a valuable romance package. Write your story (200 words or less) and include a picture or two



RAHM SHOT Friday, Feb. 11

Chicago mayoral candidate Rahm Emanuel will have an LGBT reception at The Ivy room at Tree Studios, 12 E. Ohio.

Photo from Caroline Weisser

if you care to share and send them all to WeSaidYes@sidetrackchicago.com. Stories will be added to the website throughout the year. 5 p.m., Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted, <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

Jason Sechrest hosting Zodiac Singles Mixer The adult entertainment industry's first-ever straight and gay porn blogger, talk show host, nightclub emcee and the mastermind behind JasonCurious.com hosts the Zodiac Singles Mixer at the All Need Love Festival. \$175. 8 p.m., Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore, <http://www.allneedlove.com>

Tuesday, Feb. 15

Chicago Mayoral Candidates Forum: Violence against women and LGBTQ people Non-partisan forum moderated by WBEZ's Alison Cuddy, co-hosted by Chicago Foundation for Women, Center on Halsted, Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network and Rape Victim Advocates will allow mayoral candidates to answer questions about violence against women, girls and LGBTQ people, domestic violence, sexual assault and more. Doors 5:30 p.m., reception for candidates and public 7:30-8 p.m.; Chicago-Kent College of Law 565 W. Adams, <http://www.cfw.org>

Drag Race with Frida Lay Chicago's only amateur drag contest has been a hit at Roscoe's since it's premier in 2000. \$300 is Cash Prizes - Come show us what you've got girls! 11 p.m., (773)281-3355, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N. Halsted, <http://www.roscoes.com>

Thursday, Feb. 17

And Baby Makes More: Known Donors, Queer Parents, and Our Unexpected Families What happens when would-be dyke moms or gay dads ask a friend to donate sperm or act as a surrogate? When a "single dyke" is vehemently not a "single mom" and a "sperm donor" not a "donor dad?" This quirky, funny, and occasionally heartbreaking collection of essays offers an intimate and unprecedented look at the relative risks and unexpected rewards of queer do-it-yourself baby making and the ways in which families are remade in the process. 7:30 p.m., Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark, <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Tuesday, Feb. 22

The Half Life of Sgt. Jen Hunter mini-staged reading Reading from Tracy Baim's new novel, first seen as a play by the same name) by Bev Spangler and Kelli Strickland, actors read the experiences of a lesbian military sergeant who serves during the Gulf War in the early 1990s, before Don't Ask, Don't Tell. 7 p.m., Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark, <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>



'ALL' TOGETHER

Saturday, Feb. 12

Equality Illinois' "Justice For All" gala will take place at the Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan.

Photo from 2010 by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

BILLY MASTERS

"My goal is to get people to watch this show that I love working on and whatever sensationalist photo or press I need to do to get people to tune in, that's what I'll do."—Matthew Bomer explains why he doesn't mind showing as much skin as possible on *White Collar*. Since he asked, we'll post more skin shots on our website. You're welcome, Matt.

I've loved Henry Cavill since his sizzling nude scene in the first season of *The Tudors*. I also loved him in *Tristan + Isolde* (which I realize no one but me saw). I always felt he was someone who was better than the parts he got. In fact, *Empire* magazine (which no one in this country reads) called him "the most unlucky man in Hollywood." That's because he always comes this close to landing a number of plum parts. He was second choice to Christian Bale for *Batman Begins*. He almost got to re-invigorate the James Bond franchise, but the powers that be went with the older Daniel Craig. He was a favorite for a role in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* that, instead, went to Robert Pattinson. And he was McG's choice to play Clark Kent in *Superman Returns*. When McG pulled out and was replaced by Bryan Singer, Cavill was ousted and Brandon Routh was in.

But in the words of *Big Daddy Masters*, "All things come to he who waits." I always thought *Big Daddy* had just a little too much saxe with his crab rangoons, but in Henry's case, it's appropriate. He's just been tapped to play the Man of Steel in the next *Superman* flick, which means that Brandon Routh is the George Lazenby of that franchise. Given how hot Cavill looks out of his clothes, I think it's a perfect fit. Needless to say, we'll post a plethora of photos (especially of his delectable derriere) on *BillyMasters.com*.

No sooner do I bump into Derek Hough (see last week's column) than we hear he's dropped out of the upcoming season of *Dancing with the Stars*. I swear, I had nothing to do with it. You may have heard that Derek has a guest-starring role opposite Larry King in an upcoming episode of *Better With You*. Trust me when I tell you he's not giving up his day job for that! Instead, Hough's taking time off to film the flick *Cobu 3D* opposite Korean pop star Boa—ooh, I smell a hit! *DWTS* executive producer Conrad Green said, "We wish Derek the best as he takes time off from 'Dancing with the Stars' to pursue his film career." I'd like to point out that Derek's sister, Julianne, took time off from *DWTS* to make *Burlesque*—and they all spoke English on that set!

Those of you who felt Barbra Streisand had nowhere to go but up after those "Focker" movies (yes, Lynn, I'm talking to you), get ready for this. Streisand has just signed on to star opposite Seth Rogen in *My Mother's Curse*. Oh, I'm smelling something now—but is it a hit? Or is it an old egg-salad sandwich in my luggage? The film is about an inventor (Rogen) who brings his mom (Streisand) on a road trip as he tries to sell his product and she tries to reunite with a long-lost love. So it's like *Letters to Juliet* meets *Shark Tank*. I was right—egg salad.

If that project doesn't interest you, what about this one: Jane Fonda would like to make a sequel to *Barbarella*. Jane told the *LA Times*, "I have a dream to do a sequel to *Barbarella*. Not a remake, a sequel. Look, I get shtupped by a blind angel, OK? Let's just take it from there...I think it could be funny." Let's stop and picture the 73-year-old Fonda in the silver jumpsuit and go-go boots. Now picture Carrie Fisher in the metal bikini. Got those two pictures in your head? Now, do you really think the angel started out blind or did he go blind voluntarily? Thank God John Phillip Law died two years ago—this could have killed him.

One of my columns prompted Todd in Dallas to send in this "Ask Billy" question: "You recently ran a hot pic of Don Johnson and Sal Mineo in prison. Was that from some movie? Or maybe a reality show?"

Yes, it's from the popular 1969 reality show, "You's My Beyotch!" Come on, people—really? Actually, it's a promotional photo from the play *The Fortune and Men's Eyes*, which played at the Coronet Theatre here in West Hollywood. (Well,



Henry Cavill is super, man.

technically, there was no West Hollywood until 1984.) When I went to research the play, I found this information on Wikipedia (and who am I to question any site that says I was born in 1969): "This play gathered positive reviews in Los Angeles, but was panned during its New York run, and its expanded prison rape scene was criticized as excessive and gratuitous." Call me crazy, but they seem to use the words excessive and gratuitous as if they were a bad thing—especially about a male prison scene. I say we need more of that.

Most weeks, I'd have nothing *apropos* of a male prison rape scene but not this week—*General Hospital* is tackling that very subject. (Perhaps "tackling" is a tasteless word to use in this case.) Just days ago, the character played by Chad Duell revealed that during his unfortunate incarceration, he was raped by another inmate. He relives the memory in a flashback scene that a producer described as "nothing gratuitous or titillating." I'm seeing a pattern here. And they wonder why all the soaps are being cancelled.

When actors are practically begging me to show you their private parts, it's definitely time to end yet another column. I'd be remiss if I didn't remind you that my birthday is right around the corner—Feb. 13, to be precise. Who knows where I'll be or what I'll be doing, since I'm gallivanting about the continent. But I'm sure some details will be revealed on www.BillyMasters.com—the site that's multilingual. But whether I'm alone in a luxurious hotel room or in the arms of a handsome stranger who can't speak a lick of English (but is nonetheless adept in the licking department), I'm still only a mouse click away. You can e-mail your warm wishes—and any questions you may have—to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before *General Hospital* borrows yet another plot from my personal DVD collection! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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'New' league joins local LGBT sports scene

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Athletic Alliance of Chicago (AAC) is the latest player on the local LGBT sports scene.

Well, actually, it's just the re-named Windy City Athletic Association (WCAA).

"The decision to end operations at WCAA and create a new entity was reached jointly by all current members of the WCAA board in early November," said Kevin Hansen, of Chicago. "The decision was a logical reaction to the decision of several Board members to step back from their current positions to devote more time to other areas of their life."

WCAA has been run recently by president Jacen Maleck and vice president Patrick Mooney, and both assisted as needed during the transition in an advisory capacity.

Hansen, 40, who lives in Lincoln Square and has worked in public health administration for the past eight years, is the AAC commissioner and also the AAC director of indoor volleyball. Other AAC board members are Dale Reigner, Patrick Lannon, Patrick Nunes, Joe Patla, Patrick Long and Anton Mulvaney.

"The name AAC was a joint effort of many of our current directors and members," Hansen said. "Anyone who spent more than an hour around me in early November probably had a hand in the decision in some form. To carve it down to one name we probably came up with over a hundred possibilities."

The official AAC announcement was made in December.

"Our biggest priority currently is to devote our energies to strengthening the sports that we do have, and making them more enjoyable for our members," Hansen said. "We are working directly with the sports to see how we can best support them as an organization, and how we can opti-

mize the interaction and synergy between the individual sports, both from a social as well as a financial standpoint."

AAC has about 625 members, and about 80 percent of them are male. AAC currently offers women's basketball, darts, indoor volleyball and floor hockey.

"There may be more opportunities in the future to launch something new," Hansen said. "If it is something that would benefit our members, we will of course take a look at it. But we are not looking to grow just to get bigger. We are looking to get better in all that we offer."

"We are also home to a few national tournaments, and we are eager to see if we can help to promote those to higher levels. Anytime a player comes to Chicago from another city for one of them, we want them to appreciate how vibrant our community is, and also to return year after year to take part in all that the tournament and Chicago itself has to offer."

AAC launched its floor-hockey season in January in conjunction with the Chicago Gay Hockey Association (CGHA). This is the second season for local floor hockey, and the first for the CGHA aligned with AAC.

"The first week [of floor hockey] was really exciting," Hansen said. "It was great to see how some of our members walked in skeptical about the game and walked out already talking about the games for next week. We have the ability to add even more players, so hopefully the positive buzz keeps going."

And what about the larger, more popular Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA)?

"This was actually one of the questions that I am most happy to have been asked," Hansen said. "I have been a member of both organizations for just over 10 years at this point [while] participating in athletics in Chicago, and plan



Kevin Hansen. Photo courtesy of Hansen

to continue. Joining the leagues was one of the best decisions that I have made, and it continues to be a great part of my life.

"In terms of size, CMSA is definitely leading the charge. But, in my opinion, both CMSA and AAC are working toward the same goal, which is to offer sporting and social opportunities to members of the LGBTQ community and those who support our community.

"The number of different sports offered, and the amount of members who are involved in one, or in many cases both of the organizations, points to the fact that the community is willing to give new activities a try. So I do not look at it like we are fighting for a finite numbers of members. I think that as more quality offerings are made available, the pool of athletes that will participate will continue to increase as well."

For more information about the AAC, visit <http://www.athleticallianceofchicago.com>.

More Kevin Hansen:

—Status: Dating Joel for more than four years

—Sports he plays: Volleyball, floor hockey and darts

—Favorite sport: Volleyball to play, basketball to watch

—Favorite pro team: Chicago Bulls

—Favorite pro athlete: Former Chicago White Sox outfielder Harold Baines. "He was quiet, led by example, played through pain, and never made a headline for the wrong reason."

—Gay Games: His first Gay Games was in Chicago in 2006, "and I have plans to compete in Cleveland in 2014."

Rollers playing home bout Feb. 13

The Windy City Rollers, Chicago's nationally ranked women's roller derby league, will play its second bout of the home season Sunday, Feb. 13, at UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine.

WCR's own classically trained opera singer-turned-Haymarket Rioter, Barbara Brawlters will sing the national anthem, and former skater-turned-incredible circus performer Shayna Swanson of The Aloft Loft will perform at halftime.

Doors open at 2 p.m. for this special matinee bout, and the first bout of this month's doubleheader starts at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$22 at the door. Tickets for the 2011 WCR home season are available online at <http://www.windycityrollers.com>, Ticketmaster, the UIC box office or from any WCR skater or official.

'Hancock' Feb. 27

"Hustle Up the Hancock," sponsored by the Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago, will take place Sunday, Feb. 27.

The full climb is sold out. However, CBS2 Half Climb (52 floors) and Lung Health Champion spots are still available. The total entry fee, due at the time of registration, is \$110 for the half-climb and \$110-\$130 for the lung health spot. (The Lung Health Champion slot has a mandatory additional fundraising amount of \$920.)

See <http://www.hustleupthehancock.org>.



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Proud to Run says YES



Proud to Run will mark its 30th year with a fundraiser sponsored by YES Vodka at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted on Wed., March 2, at 7 p.m.

Attendees will get the chance to sponsor their favorite bartenders; see the latest Nike running apparel; and mingle with YES Vodka boys and drag queens.

YES recently donated \$3,000 to Proud to Run. Photo of the donation from Tim Henney

CHAIN from page 14

fully committing to the matter.

Andy Thayer of Gay Liberation Network said that the group was busy with several other planned actions and events, and if it were to consider an action it would first need to review the facts carefully: "People don't always understand that a boycott requires time and commitment to be effective, and it's difficult to measure your progress," he said, pointing to the 1970s boycott of orange juice around Anita Bryant as an example of a successful campaign that took many years to come to fruition. The fact that the initial problem began with a franchisee and not the entire corporation per se could also have a bearing. He emphasized that such factors could play a role in shaping any campaigns, if at all, and that there was a further problem if the associations with anti-gay groups were to the second or third degree. However, Thayer also said that an action was not out of the question after the group had met and discussed the matter more thoroughly.

Erica Meiners, an out faculty member at Northwestern Illinois University and a long-time social justice activist, was circumspect while broadly supportive of any action in principle, but was concerned, like Bishop-Boros, about a single-issue boycott: "It's great that we are looking at how organizations are using their excess profits, but I'd also want to know: what are their labor practices? How are they with labor unions? Animal welfare? Where did they stand on healthcare reform as a corporation? It's great if this issue can become a wedge issue that we use to continue to use to push on other matters, but I'm not interested in the anti-marriage question." As Meiners sees it, the larger question is: do we consider corporate greed as well or focus on matters of identity?



R. Clarke Cooper.

While HRC has come out critically against Chick-fil-A, the organization Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) is less willing to support a boycott or protest, which is not surprising given the group's adherence to the principles of the free market. Speaking to WCT, R. Clarke Cooper of the national office said that people needed to make informed decisions and that Chick-fil-A needed to be educated on the idea that it could be pro-equality and pro-family. He pointed out that the Cathy family, unlike the Manchesters of the Hyatt Manchester, did not have a demonstrated record of hostility to gays. He also said that the LCR had a lot of other legislation to focus on.

Illinois Log Cabin Republicans' president emeritus Michael Carr perspective varied slightly from Cooper's: "As gay consumers we should be looking at all companies with a critical eye and making sure we're purchasing from organizations that support our community [but] we can't hold all locations responsible for the actions of one unit. This is a good opportunity to send a message to the ownership of Chick-fil-A that they need to be more cognizant of their support of organizations and how that can effect their public relations." He said that LCR had no immediate plans to discuss the matter with the incoming franchise.

It remains to be seen whether the gay community in Chicago will rally around this issue or not, and to what extent. Given its location,

the franchise is likely to be frequented by busy and hungry lunchtime office goers as well as eager tourists. There has been so far no evidence that gay and lesbian employees of Chick-fil-A, if any, are actively discriminated against at work. However, given that the corporation favors married people and that most of its locations are in states that do not recognize gay marriage, gay and lesbian potential employees would appear to be automatically out of the running. Chicago's human-rights ordinance includes sexual orientation and gender identity, and that could also be a key factor here.

WCT also contacted GLAAD and Join the Impact Chicago, but these groups did not respond in time for our deadline. Windy City Times will continue to follow this story.

WHY from page 18

on Saturday. It would be one last chance to see if there was some way to find common ground and create a solution that worked for everyone.

To our surprise, at the mediation, the school district worked with us—with the help of the judge—to come up with the solution that any member of the royalty court would be allowed to bring any significant person in their life to walk with them during the procession. Not only could Sarah and I could walk together, but our friend Chelsea could walk with her girlfriend, and any other member of the court could bring a boyfriend/girlfriend/best friend/parent, etc., to share the experience with them. How could anyone be upset with that? On top of that, the school district also agreed to include gay-straight alliance clubs and other groups in event planning to make sure that all school events were inclusive to all students and that

no one was left out. The outcome of the mediation session was absolutely phenomenal and was everything we asked for, and more.

One thing I would really like people to realize is that this was never about getting attention. This was only about Sarah and I wanting to share a special event together, and about showing other LGBT kids that they don't have to be afraid to be who they are because they are not alone. We were denied a privilege that straight couples have always received, which is not only against the law but also was sending a very hurtful message to LGBT students that we are not equal to our heterosexual peers. Sarah and I are human beings who deserve the same respect, rights, and opportunities as everyone else, and when push came to shove, we were ready to shove right back. We stood up for something we believe in, and out of that came an amazing change for the school district that I hope will continue to change a lot of things for LGBT students in the future.

CONNEXIONS MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS

Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



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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JUNE

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
				1	2	3
						4 @IND 6pm
5	6	7	8	9	10 CON 730pm	11 @WAS 6pm
12	13	14	15	16	17 NY 730pm	18
19 @CON 12pm	20	21 @ATL 11am	22	23 CON 7pm	24	25 PHO 7pm
26	27	28 SA 7pm	29	30		

JULY

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
						1 @PHO 9pm
						2
3	4	5 WAS 7pm	6	7	8	9 ATL 7pm
10 @NY 3pm	11	12	13 TUL 1130am	14	15	16 @ATL 630pm
17	18	19 SEA* 6pm	20	21 @IND 6pm	22	23
24	25	26 CON 7pm	27	28 @TUL 7pm	29	30 LA 7pm
						31

AUGUST

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
						1
						2
					4 @NY 11am	5
7 IND 5pm	8	9 @CON 630pm	10	11	12 MIN 730pm	13
14 @SA 2pm	15	16	17	18	19	20 @WAS 6pm
21	22	23 ATL 7pm	24	25	26 WAS 730pm	27
28 NY 5pm	29	30 @NY 6pm	31			

SEPTEMBER

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
						1
						2
						3
4 IND 5pm	5	6	7	8 @MIN 7pm	9	10 @LA 930pm
11 @SEA 8pm	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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