



**SUGARLAND'S
JENNIFER
NETTLES
TALKS
WITH WCT**

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WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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IN SPRINGFIELD**

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Study shows LGBT elders' care concerns

BY JOSEPH ERBENTRAUT

While long-term care facilities like assisted living centers or nursing homes are not likely a preferred housing option for aging Americans, a new national study released this month outlined many unique concerns facing LGBT elders considering such options.

The study—entitled “LGBT Older Adults in Long-Term Care Facilities: Stories from the Field”—was based on responses to a survey conducted online from October 2009 to June 2010 and featuring input from 769 respondents including LGBT elders; social services providers; and friends and family members of LGBT elders.

The report specifically indicated a common belief (89 percent of respondents) that facility

staff would likely discriminate against an openly LGBT elder living under their care. More than half (53 percent) predicted staff would abuse or neglect an out resident. Their fears also extended to other facility residents who are perceived as likely to both discriminate against (81 percent) or isolate (77 percent) an openly LGBT resident.

Many respondents further reported instances of mistreatment of LGBT elders, most commonly verbal or physical harassment from other residents (23 percent) or staff (14 percent) or refused admission or re-admission or an attempted or abrupt discharge from a facility (20 percent). Other respondents reported they were aware of instances where staff refused to accept medical power of attorney from a resident's spouse or partner (11 percent) or restricted visitors (11

percent).

LGBT elder advocates in Chicago said the report's findings were consistent with the fears of the Windy City's aging LGBT population.

Hope Barrett, Center on Halsted senior director of public programs, acknowledged that while some facilities in the city are working to be sensitive to the concerns of their LGBT residents, many elders remain leery that all facilities provide an atmosphere where they can be welcomed as their full selves. Particularly at risk of harassment, Barrett added, are HIV-positive and transgender elders.

“We've known about people having to go back in the closet because they're now in assisted liv-

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CRATE EXPECTATIONS



Robbie Cronrod and Allen Artcliff are deeply in love—and are hoping that they can get the wedding of their dreams in Crate & Barrel's online contest. Read their story on page 10. Photo by Joseph Alexander Photography

Making us count: Illinois' queer couples and the census

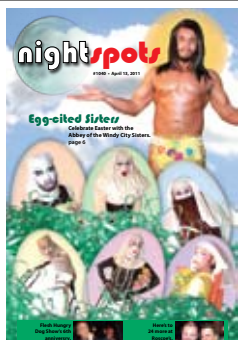
NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH ERBENTRAUT

In terms of providing reliable information specifically referencing LGBT Americans, the United States Census Bureau has just begun to make modest inroads allowing for demographical analysis of where LGBT people live and work at the state, county or even city level.

However, even it appears a question relating specifically to a respondents' sexual orientation or gender identity will not be added to either the decennial census or smaller, annual American Community Surveys (ACS) any time soon, forthcoming 2010 census data are expected to offer the most reliable measures of same-sex couples who report themselves as either married, in “unmarried partnerships” and, presumably, in civil unions. That data, including the first-ever census breakdown between individuals in same-sex relationships who report themselves as either spouses or unmarried partners, is due this summer.

Meanwhile, Windy City Times has taken the opportunity to analyze available ACS data to gain a preview of what the 2010 census data on self-reporting same-sex couples might show with regard to what parts of the state LGBT Illinoisans call home. The analysis will be reported over the course of a three-part series, including an analysis of Chicago neighborhoods and a report on why recognition of queer Americans in census data is both important and beneficial for the community.

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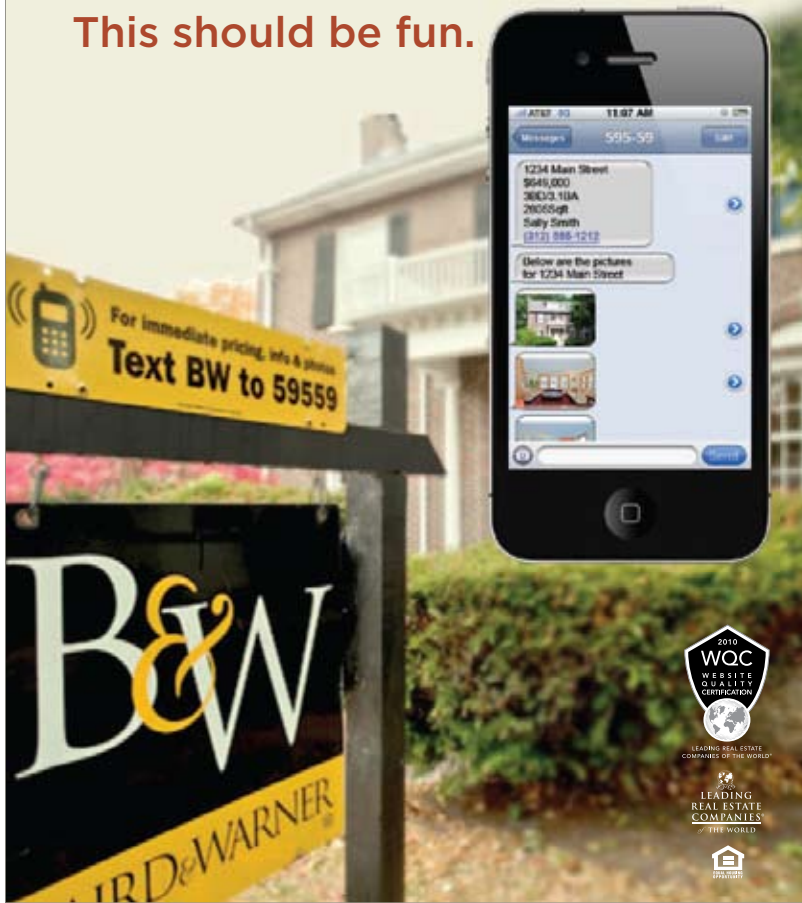
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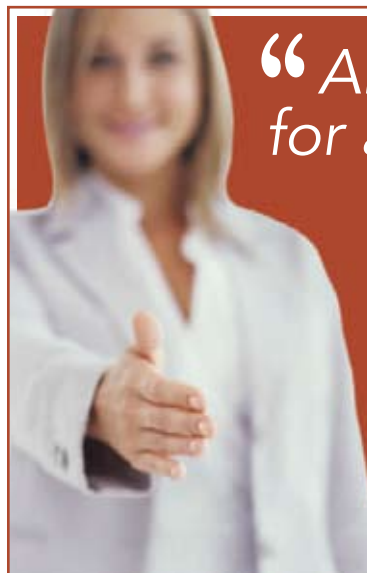
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this week in
WINDY CITY TIMES

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Jennifer Nettles PR photo; Kelly Eleveld pic from Eleveld; Cory Jobe image from Jobe; Susie Bright PR photo

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ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING
However, before he did, singer Elvis Crespo got the crowd going at Circuit. See photos from the show.

Photo by Jerry Nunn



For those who still are aching for some snow, WCT found some—in Park City, Utah.

Photo by Jerry Nunn



Other shows that took place this past weekend involved Stevie Nicks (above) and Tom Goss/Jeff Altermott.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

BANK ON IT

The Federal Bank was the place to be April 5, as attorney Jill Metz and Equality Illinois CEO Bernard Cherkasov discussed the civil-unions bill.

GOING BATTY

See photos from Equality Illinois' recent baseball kickoff event at Sluggers.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

This week's entertainment round-up includes items on Reichen Lehmkuhl, Christopher Meloni and Lady Gaga.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

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Experts on youth issues address LGBT journalists, bloggers

BY JEAN ALBRIGHT AND TRACY BAIM

LGBT journalists, editors and bloggers met in San Francisco March 12 for concentrated presentations on LGBT youth homelessness, suicide, family acceptance, immigration reform, and legal progress on same-sex marriage. This was the second LGBT blogger and journalist summit sponsored by the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr., Fund, and the program was held at their San Francisco headquarters.

More than two dozen LGBT editors, journalists and bloggers heard about and discussed the issues with experts from the around the country, including Carl Siciliano, executive director of the Ali Forney Center for homeless LGBT youth in New York City. He shared his experiences with homeless youth who identify as LGBT and his frustration with those who are not responding to the urgency of the issue, in both the government and the LGBT community.

Each year, tens of thousands of youth are cast out of their homes, without the most basic of resources, into a brutal street life. According to Siciliano, Ali Forney Center opened in 2002 with just six beds, and right away they were turning away hundreds of youth, most with horrific stories. Youth were not just being kicked out by their families; some were living in intolerable situations at home and had to flee. There were stories of beatings and of parents forcing youth into "ex-gay" treatments.

"The risk [of death by suicide or other causes] is eight and half percent higher for youth thrown out by families into an environment of risk," he said. "But I do not see it in our awareness, this incredible risk to a large group of gay people."

According to the National Center on Family Homelessness, New York currently has more than 45,000 homeless youth, making it the twelfth-worst state. Siciliano said only 57 beds in the city are designated for LGBT youth. No other center in the city makes specific provisions for LGBT youth, he said, adding that across the U.S., only about 200 beds are targeted for LGBT youth; but more than 200,000 youth need such facilities.

Siciliano spoke to the group just as New York's

government proposed widespread funding cuts to homeless youth shelters.

New York State has funded programs through the Runaway Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) since 1978. LGBT youth make up 40 percent of the homeless youth population, and would be disproportionately impacted by proposed cuts in New York cuts. Homeless LGBT youth are at significant risk of suicide, with 62 percent admitting having attempted suicide, and of HIV infection, with approximately 20 percent of NYC's homeless LGBT youth currently infected with HIV, according to the Ali Forney Center.

"Balancing a budget by throwing poor children out of shelters to fend for themselves in the streets is unspeakably wrong," said Siciliano. "It shows a reckless indifference to their safety and welfare."

LGBT youth as a population

The mission of the Ali Forney Center is to provide homeless LGBT youth, up to age 24, with services and to help them escape the streets and become independent. It is named for Ali Forney/Luscious, a homeless queer teen who lived as both genders alternately, and worked on HIV prevention on the streets in the 1990s. He was murdered in the streets in 1997. Many youth die on the streets by both murder and suicide, and many murder cases were never solved, Siciliano said.

Before the 1960s, the New York government took little or no responsibility and gay youth were classified as "status offenders," Siciliano said. In the 1970s, a federal act created transitional housing programs, providing a more enlightened model for how homeless gay youth should be housed, ideally in facilities of 20 beds or less. But resources were never made available. In the mid 1990s, Times Square got cleaned up and "the kids were the dirt that got cleaned," Siciliano said. They had to go to other neighborhoods to survive, often using prostitution and drug dealing to do so.

Siciliano also spoke against homeless shelters that are run by anti-gay religious groups, including the Catholic Church. "It speaks to our impotence as a community that a percent of our



Ksen Pallegedara and Carl Siciliano of the Ali Forney Center in NYC. Photo by Tracy Baim

youth are being protected by organizations that tell them that gays are evil," Siciliano said. "It is as if the NAACP allowed an anti-Black message in homes where minority kids were housed." He said that more funding has been directed to faith-based organizations under the current administration than under former President George W. Bush. "We need reporting on gay youth groups accessing federal money," Siciliano said.

Siciliano also takes issue with the response of LGBT leadership on this issue. He said lack of marriage wasn't going to kill anyone, but that youth on the streets are at high risk. "It is a major disconnect that 10,000 gay people are being attacked, deprived of support, and it is not treated as a core issue by the gay community," he told the group. "If a crisis falls in the forest and nobody hears it, is it a crisis? Homophobia is destroying the core environments in which kids are supposed to be protected.

"As a movement, we are calling for coming out, coming out, and when kids come out and get kicked into the street [they have no help]. We need a new paradigm. Our implication is that, you come out and we'll be sure you're protected, your ability to have a family will be treated as equal. But that's not what is happening. When kids come out they are unable to survive in the kind of environment they come out into. We have to be demanding that our fair share goes to our kids. We need grants to develop a model for the foster care system."

One man's story

One young man, formally homeless and, after help from the Ali Forney Center, is now studying law, spoke to the bloggers and journalists.

Ksen Pallegedara's mother beat him and told him to go through an ex-gay program or she would kill him. When a young person goes to school and has clearly been beaten, it is a De-

partment of Education rule that child protective services be called. The counselor on his case told him that his mother beat him "out of love," Pallegedara said, and the counselor did not help him.

"I think that that's when I became an atheist," said Pallegedara. "I said, 'Fuck you, I'm going to live.' Because my mom had said if I came home without that ex-gay certificate, I would not survive."

He said that kids in these circumstances often do some "couch surfing," going from friend to friend as long as they can. When they finally turn to shelters, they have no expectation of help.

"No space in [New York's] Village is a kid-safe space," Pallegedara said. "Wherever you go you are chicken," he said, meaning exploited for sex by older men. It was at this point Pallegedara went to the Ali Forney Center, expecting a bed at most. "But what I got was Carl and other people who actually cared. You come in expecting to be hurt, but here the first question was 'What do you need?' Without their confidence in me, I'd not be in school now," he said. Kids distrust, expecting to find nothing but dirty old men. At the Ali Forney Center, Pallegedara said he finally felt safe.

On April 12, the Ali Forney Center marked what would have been the 36th birthday of its namesake, Ali Forney.

See www.aliforneycenter.org. The Chicago Coalition For Homeless, <http://www.chicagohomeless.org>, has no specific mention of LGBT youth issues. Please see <http://www.ucanchicago.org/host-home/> for details on Chicago's LGBTQ Host Home Program.

See upcoming editions of Windy City Times for additional reports from the Haas Foundation summit.



The LGBT bloggers and journalists, along with presenters at the event in San Francisco March 12. Tracy Baim and Jean Albright attended as representatives of Windy City Media Group. Photo by Matt Forman

Olson-Boies: Yes on 8 trying to 'usurp' power of elected officials

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Proponents of Proposition 8 are trying to subvert the California constitution for a second time, argues the legal team of Ted Olson and David Boies, in a brief filed last week with the California Supreme Court.

The brief is in preparation for oral arguments in September on the question of whether there is any authority in California law to give Yes on 8 officials standing to represent voters in a federal court case which elected state officials chose not to appeal.

The case is *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, in which a U.S. district court judge ruled last August that the 2008 initiative banning recognition of same-sex marriages in California violated the federal constitution. The California governor and attorney general were only passive defendants at the district court level and declined to appeal the district court decision. But Yes on 8 was allowed to defend Proposition 8 in the district court and now seek the right to appeal the decision to the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

A three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit has already heard oral arguments on the merits of the appeal, and it heard arguments concerning whether Yes on 8 has standing to bring the appeal. But before it issues an opinion, the panel has said it would like to hear from the California Supreme Court whether there is any authority in state law to provide Yes on 8 with standing. The panel's request is essentially following a procedure laid out for it by the U.S. Supreme Court in an earlier, unrelated, voter case.

In its brief, the Olson-Boies team argues that allowing Yes on 8 standing to represent voters after the state's election officials have decided against appeal would "subvert the express constitutional authority of the Governor and At-

torney General to direct the defense of state laws."

Allowing Yes on 8 to pursue the appeal of a decision that the state's elected legal officers have chosen not to appeal, said the brief, "would upend the settled separation of powers and eviscerate the constitutional authority of the Governor and Attorney General..."

"The Governor and Attorney General have decided that the arbitrary, discriminatory, and irrational restriction on the right to marry imposed by Proposition 8 should not be defended

on appeal," concludes the brief. "Under California law, that is the end of the matter. Neither proponents—nor any other private party—can usurp the constitutional prerogative of the Governor and Attorney General to decide that, in some circumstances, it is in the best interests of California, and all its citizens, for the State not to participate in the defense of a patently unconstitutional initiative. Proponents' remedy for their disagreement with their elected officials lies at the ballot box—not in this, or any other, Court."

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Corrections

The photos and text of the March 23 Gay in the Life profile (actor Jayson Bernard) should have been credited to Jerry Nunn.

In the April 6 Gay in the Life of Francis Shervinski, it was stated that Russel Yost was "actually not happy" with Shervinski being homecoming queen. That assertion was the opposite of how Yost truly felt. Also, Yost's surname was misspelled.

Windy City Times regrets the errors.

ONLINE AT
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NATIONAL NEWS



—U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (left) now heads DNC

—Woman attacks art featuring two naked women

—Delaware gets first out gay mayor



Ted Olson and David Boies. Photo by Alex J. Berliner

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Bishop Spong stirs crowd at Elmhurst College

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Speaking about liberal theology and an inclusive church to a packed house, author, biblical scholar and retired Episcopalian Bishop John Shelby Spong stirred the crowd on the topic "Homosexuality: The Battleground for a Dying Form of Christianity." The event was held as a part of the Still Speaking: Conversations on Faith Lecture Series April 6 at the Founders Lounge of the Frick Center at Elmhurst College.

Reverend H. Scott Matheney, the college's chaplain, reminded people of the colleges strong emphasis on faith rooted in their affiliation with the United Church of Christ. Then Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty Dr. Alzada Tipton told readers of the Bible that they



Bishop Spong at Elmhurst College. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

"are active agents in shaping the meaning of that pivotal text" to combat homophobia in their lives.

Spong started off with the role that religion plays in fostering prejudice, using his own life as an example of how one overcomes prejudice. He was raised in an evangelical Episcopal church in the Bible Belt of the south—just one block away from the Rev. Billy Graham. While at church he was told that "segregation was the will of God." The church also preached that women were inferior, using that as an argument to explain why

women were property and could not be church leaders, much less ordained ministers.

What changed his views on segregation, Spong said, was the civil-rights movement. His attitudes about women were reversed when he became the father to four daughters, all of whom are accomplished in a variety of professions. "It was a very feminine household. We had a male cat but they operated on him," Spong said to the crowd, who roared with laughter. The laughter continued throughout his speech as he poked fun at himself and church doctrine.

It was not just Spong's position on segregation and women that changed over the years. While in Sunday school they were taught that anti-Semitism was perfectly fine since, according to his church, Jews were evil.

"It amazes me how religion demonizes anybody that is not a part of its particular point of view," Spong said before going into how his church taught him that gay people are also evil. He accepted his religion's position on gays and lesbians early on including the theory that homosexuals can be cured and they are morally depraved. Spong emphasized that his church was responsible for his former homophobic beliefs just like it fostered his former racist, sexist and anti-Semitic views of the world.

Only when he was elected bishop for the Northern New Jersey Episcopalian diocese of Newark, which included Hoboken (also known as Greenwich Village West), at the age of 44 that he began to change his homophobic ways. This was the first time he had ever lived in a community where people lived as openly LGBT people.

One of his goals was to meet the priests who served in his diocese. During one of his meetings the priest announced to Spong that he was gay. While they talked Spong realized this priest was not mentally ill or morally depraved which belied his earlier stereotype about LGBT people. He met another priest who was in a relationship with a man. When Spong told the priest he couldn't do anything to protect him if it got out that he was living with another man while unmarried the priest asked Spong, "you can't or you won't?" The conversation with the priest stayed with him like "a pebble in his shoe" so after a while, in an effort to be an effective bishop in his New Jersey diocese, he sought a friend who was on the faculty of the Cornell School of Medicine to learn more about sexual orientation.

It took about six months of study to change his mind. Spong came to the conclusion that "sexual orientation is a given. We don't choose it; we awaken to our identity." The doctors at the

university told him that "homosexuality is present in the animal kingdom particularly among mammals so it's hard to argue that something is unnatural if it appears in nature," Spong said.

After reminding the audience that LGBT people are in everyone's families and in all professions, Spong talked about the fear that still resonates with LGBT people about coming out of the closet. This fear, Spong said, exists due to homophobic people using the Bible to argue

against homosexuality. Spong said that the Bible really teaches that "the heart of the story is no one is separated from the love of God. ... If we denigrate a part of humanity then we destroy all humanity," which is not what God wants.

For more information on Spong, visit his website (<http://JohnShelbySpong.com>) or his Facebook page. To find out more about the Still Speaking series, visit <http://public.elmhurst.edu/projects/stillspeaking>.

Anti-gay foster-care/adoption bill in state Senate

BY YASMIN NAIR

An amendment to a proposed bill in the Illinois Senate states that "a child welfare agency that is religiously based or owned by, operated by, or affiliated with a bona fide religious organization may decline an adoption or foster family home application ... from a party to a civil union if acceptance of that application would constitute a violation of the organization's sincerely held religious beliefs."

SB 1123, the bill including this amendment No. 65, means that unmarried straight or gay couples in civil unions who do not share the religious values or faith of the organization could be denied the chance to adopt or be foster parents.

Interestingly, the bill was introduced by state Sen. David Koehler, who introduced the civil-unions bill in the Senate. Anthony Martinez of The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA) spoke to Windy City Times, saying that, "We know this is an attack on the civil-unions bill. We're seeing a re-presentation of that bill through an amendment to another bill, originally intended to expand the civil rights of the blind."

According to Martinez, "If an agency decides to not provide service, they can turn [the parents] away through the process of a

referral." Martinez was also clear about the origins of the amendment, saying that it was definitely an attempt to undermine the civil unions bill: "We know that the Catholic Caucus and the Catholic Diocese is involved in this bill and advocating for it and really trying to push it through. They are the most vocal opponents of the civil unions bill."

According to both longtime LGBT-rights activist Rick Garcia, who is also following the bill in Springfield, and Martinez, this amendment is a watered-down version of a previous version. Speaking with WCT, Garcia said, "What it really wanted to do was exempt any religious organization or any religious individual, anyone who holds deeply held religious beliefs, that's how they put it, would be exempt from the Illinois Human Rights Act. That piece didn't make it into this amendment. So we have this bill that would allow faith-based foster and adoption institutions that would discriminate. Any agency that takes state or city or federal funds has to obey the law. That is a slippery slope that we do not want to go down."

News of the bill came last week. Martinez said that TCRA had been working on "connecting the dots" since then. It is currently in assignments, and from there will move into the executive committee and could come up for a floor vote by the end of the week.

WCT left messages for Lambda Legal and the American Civil Liberties Union, but they were also not able to return calls in time. WCT will continue to follow this story. Meanwhile, Martinez says that TCRA is urging the community to take swift action.

ELDER from cover

ing facilities with staff that are not culturally competent and are discriminatory in how they serve them," Barrett said.

Paula Basta, director of the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services' Northeast (Levy) Regional Senior Center, described the report as "not surprising" but indicative of much work lying ahead for those working to ensure long-term care providers—including frontline staff, administrators and case managers—are LGBT-friendly. Further research and education, she said, will be key to progress.

"On some levels, this is a wake-up call and a charge to action," Basta said. "I want to believe that [care providers] don't want to be bigoted or biased and think they want to do a good job but that they don't have the tools yet to be able to go through with those sorts of efforts."

Barrett indicated she is hopeful that cultural competency will soon become the rule, rather than the exception. Under the Obama administration, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has lent an unprecedented level of attention to the health concerns of LGBT Americans and have actively included elders in those efforts. That support, she hoped, will trickle down to more research and training at the local level.

"It is the responsibility of the staff to make sure the environment in their facility is one where everyone is respected and not discriminated against," Barrett said.

The study, available in full at <http://www.lgbtlongtermcare.org>, was co-authored by the National Senior Citizens Law Center, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE), Lambda Legal, the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the National Center for Transgender Equality.

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UIC



Springfield gets first gay alderman—and he's Republican

BY LISA KLEIN

Republican Cory Jobe, 37, was elected alderman of Ward 6 in Springfield, Ill., April 5, becoming the city's first openly gay alderman.

Many Republicans, such as former chairman of the Republican National Committee Ken Mehlman and former congressman Mark Foley, have caused a media frenzy when they finally come out publicly. However, Jobe's win proves that a person can be gay and Republican and still get elected to office.

"Pro-choice, pro-gay Republicans can get elected in this state," Jobe said.

Jobe was the only candidate on the ballot, but ran against two write-in campaigns from Republican Cameron Counts and Democrat Kent DeLay, the latter who is also openly gay.

Jobe said he "grew up in a more conservative family" in southeastern Robinson, Ill., and credited his upbringing for many of his right-leaning views on fiscal issues and government involvement.

"I think the government should stay out of our lives," he said.

Jobe said that his views on social issues, however, lean more to the left. He is pro-choice and "obviously pro-gay," and doesn't think that conflicts with being a Republican.

"I'm the kind of guy who wants to bring people together," Jobe said, pointing out that all kinds of people voted for him in the April 5 election, including Republicans, Democrats and Independents. He was also backed by the Republican party and "endorsed by every union."

Jobe described Ward 6 as a middle-income residential neighborhood, covering parts of the



Cory Jobe. Photo from Jobe

inner city, downtown and older historic homes. He said residents there are concerned about infrastructure, the city budget, closing commercial corridors and a rising crime rate.

Jobe, who is president of the MacArthur Boulevard Business Association, said voters already knew his name because of his volunteer work there. He still "wanted to know my voters," and went door to door talking with them.

"People are gonna know where they stand with me," he said.

Jobe worked as director of the economic development office for LGBT-friendly Republican Judy Baar Topinka when she served as Illinois state treasurer. She is now state comptroller and he works for her again as her deputy chief of staff.

"She is really my political mentor," Jobe said. He learned from her "ability to cross party lines and work with constituents to get things done."

Jobe said this ability to compromise is important in reaching all of his new constituents.

"I vote for a person instead of a party," he said. In Ward 6 in Springfield, the voters seem to feel the same way.

Loyola Univ. organization works with LGBT community

BY LINDSAY NOELL



Michael J. Garanzini.

The Catholic Church has not had a reputation for being the most accepting institution, but one LGBTQA-rights group has found an ally in a university run by Jesuit priests: Loyola University Chicago.

The Jesuit Catholic ideal, "*cura personalis*," calls for the care of the whole person. Many students are embodying this Jesuit ideal by considering sexual orientation a piece of the "whole person."

Advocate is Loyola's LGBTQA organization and, since 1990, students have been working to educate the campus and greater Chicago community on queer issues.

"Overall, it's a good environment," said Advocate President Mar Curran, 21. "Loyola is a very accepting community."

Current projects include gender-neutral bathrooms to make the campus more transgender-inclusive, and a queer resource center that would work dually as an office for the organization where sensitive subjects can be discussed privately.

"We try to create a safe space for Loyola students to come and feel like they can express who they are and be celebrated for their identity, whether they identify as queer or are allies," said Curran.

From safety coordinators to support groups, Advocate assists students with an array of issues, including those involved with mental health and coming out of the closet. In addition, it sponsors an annual Intercollegiate

Coming Out Ball for student members and supporters of the Chicagoland LGBTQA community.

"As an organization that strives to give support and offer education and social networking to students of differing sexual orientations, Advocate can be a useful and important contributor to student life here at Loyola," said Michael J. Garanzini, S.J., president of the university.

After controversy over a proposed drag show last fall, the organization has been working closely with the campus Jesuits to maintain an open dialogue over the relationship between queer and religious issues.

"Regarding controversial programming that Advocate may sponsor, the real question for me is how does that programming contribute to the mission of the organization," said Garanzini. "And, given Advocate's unique role, how does that mission help non-GLBTQ students appreciate the worth and dignity of its members or any person whose sexuality is not part of the majority?"

Advocate hosted a panel in February where community members discussed how gender expression and queer identity play into living and working on Loyola's campus.

The group is also a founding member of the Queer Intercollegiate Alliance, a group of Chicagoland schools' queer groups that works toward community outreach.

To support or learn more about Advocate, visit the Advocate at Loyola University Chicago Facebook page.

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Gay man files complaint against Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rainbow PUSH

BY ANDREW DAVIS

In a document filled with stunning allegations, Tommy R. Bennett has filed a complaint with the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations against the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., and the minister's Chicago-based organization, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, claiming, among other things, harassment and termination on the basis of Bennett's sexual orientation.

Rev. Jackson has a long record of support for LGBT rights, including during his runs for U.S. president and his speech at the LGBT March on Washington in 1987. This is believed to be the first time an allegation has come forward claiming he was involved in sexual orientation harassment and discrimination.

Charges

In the complaint, Bennett—who worked at the Rainbow Coalition from July 11, 2007 through Dec. 23, 2009, as the national director of community affairs—says that his sexual orientation was known throughout the workplace primarily because of his side job: being “Aruba Tommy” on the nationally syndicated radio talk program The Tom Joyner Morning Show.

Bennett claims that he experienced discrimination almost immediately after he started the job, saying that Caroline Wiggins, the membership and volunteer coordinator, complained to Jackson that she did not wish to work with Bennett because he is gay. After Wiggins was allowed to work under the field director, Rev. Gregory Seal Livingston, she allegedly said that she did not have to answer to Bennett. (Wiggins

is no longer with the coalition. Windy City Times attempted several times to speak with Livingston about the matter, but had no response.) In the complaint, Bennett says that “no investigation or action was taken in response” to his complaining about Wiggins.

However, the most explosive charges revolve around Jackson himself. First, Bennett claims that at an all-staff meeting in 2008, he requested an LGBT-themed table for the national convention—and was flatly denied. When Bennett questioned why there could not be a table, Jackson allegedly “cursed at Mr. Bennett in front of all of the staff, and Rev. Jackson was visibly upset during the rest of the meeting.”

Things allegedly took a more disturbing turn after Bennett also took over the duties of Jackson's travel assistant where Bennett says he was required to perform “humiliating” tasks. According to the complaint, in May 2008 Bennett was not allowed to accompany Jackson to Tanzania because Jackson was allegedly unhappy with the ways Bennett packed his items.

Bennett also claims that he had to escort women to Jackson's room and “clean up his room after sexual intercourse with women. Mr. Bennett believes he was forced to do these tasks due to his sexual orientation,” adding that he had to escort women to such places as the Sheraton Hotel in New York and the Wynn Hotel and Resort in Las Vegas. Bennett claims that he let Jackson know that he “was uncomfortable cleaning up his hotel rooms, escorting women to his hotel room, being summoned to his hotel room after hours or packing his clothes.”

Things reached an apex later in 2008, when



Tommy R. Bennett. Photo from Bennett

Bennett says he “was summoned to Rev. Jackson's hotel room” at the Hilton Chicago O'Hare Airport Hotel. Bennett claims that he was eventually instructed to apply cream to Jackson, who “had a rash between his legs.” Bennett says that he refused, resulting in Jackson allegedly calling Bennett a “little motherfucker.”

Bennett then states that another time at the same hotel, Jackson summoned him at 1 a.m. to take notes. The complaint states, “When Mr. Bennett arrived, Rev. Jackson was dressed only in his briefs and a v-neck t-shirt.” Bennett alleges Jackson was sexually excited. Asked by Windy City Times how he came to this conclusion, Bennett said, “I could tell by his look. His whole demeanor had changed. His breathing pattern had changed.”

The complaint continues: “Before Mr. Bennett left, Rev. Jackson stated that white folks took the word ‘gay’ and gave the word its own definition. Rev. Jackson further stated that he was a real poor child in North Carolina and his name was first Jesse Burns, and then Jesse Robinson and then he became Jesse Jackson.”

“Rev. Jackson stated that he played football and there was a gay high school teacher who took Rev. Jackson under his wings and told him that he needed education to go along with football. Rev. Jackson said, ‘[F]rom that gay teacher, I got a good grade, I got to use his car, I got ten dollars and I got my dick sucked.’ Rev. Jackson said, ‘[T]hat's not gay, that is surviving.’” Bennett alleges this meant Rev. Jackson wanted sex, but that Bennett then left the room.

Bennett also makes a claim involving an intern. In 2009, said intern reportedly wanted to accompany Bennett one night to Club Escape, a gay nightclub. A month later, the intern allegedly said that Bennett took him to a gay bar and propositioned him, and that he, Bennett and two of Bennett's friends smoked marijuana, instigating an investigation. Bennett says that he ended up on paid leave and that the drug test came back negative. He also says he never received the findings of the investigation.

The complaint concludes with Bennett saying that he received a letter Dec. 23, 2009, saying that he was being terminated “due to lack of funding.” However, Bennett claims that several people were hired after his termination.

In a demand letter accompanying the complaint, Bennett said he wanted, among other things, \$98,300 for back pay, front pay and loss of benefits; \$350,000 for emotional distress and punitive damages; and an amendment of Rainbow PUSH's non-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Windy City Times left a message with Nigel F. Telman, a partner at the Chicago branch of the law firm Proskauer Rose and the Rainbow PUSH attorney listed on the complaint's notice of filing. However, Proskauer Rose's communications director contacted the newspaper shortly after to say that Telman had no comment on the matter. When asked if Telman even received the complaint, WCT again was told, “No comment.”

Bennett talks

In a recent interview with WCT, Bennett said that he is fully prepared for the possible response from Jackson and/or the Rainbow Coalition, adding, “That's one of the points I want to make. How many times has this happened to us? It's like being raped and having it unreported. People are so afraid of these giants in our community. People won't report it and won't file lawsuits. So many people are afraid of [Jackson]. I can't walk in fear like that. So many people are being discriminated against—being laid off with this false pretense of downsizing.”

When asked why he stayed as long as he did, Bennett responded, “Number one, I enjoyed what I did and I thought things would get better. He was really not a bad person to work for; it was the staff he had around him.”

However, of course, Bennett did acknowledge that things disintegrated once he became Jackson's travel assistant: “[Jackson] used me as a scapegoat because he was dating two women. ... However, because I knew what was going on, he told his family and friends that I wrote a letter [outing one of the girlfriends], which was not true. By doing that, it looked like I was the bad person. At that point, [one of the alleged mistresses] told [Jackson] to get rid of me.”

Bennett said the lowest point for him involved the situation with Clinkscale's intern. “Clinkscale was the national director of sports. It was the intern's last day. They said I was out smoking weed with the boy. They did a drug test and the test came back [negative]. They have witnesses who I brought in who said [the intern] was in a group with us. He was just one of those young 24-year-old guys who went to a gay club, enjoyed himself and got scared.”

When asked if he would accept his job back if offered, Bennett initially answered “You know? I probably would,” before amending: “But not under those conditions. I would refuse, as a gay man, to work under ... I would starve before I work under homophobic conditions.”

“I never applied for travel assistant. I was the national community affairs director. Things didn't blow up until I had to go his house at 4 a.m. and pack his clothes, buy his underwear, buy his deodorant, get his Viagra and Cialis, and clean his room. That's when things got nuts.”

Bennett also mentioned Livingston, saying, “When the commission asked Rev. Livingston, ‘How was the atmosphere for Tommy at Rainbow PUSH?’, he [said], ‘Very hypocritical.’”

If he had Jackson alone for five minutes and could ask him one question that he had to answer, Bennett said it would be “Why do you let homophobic people work around you at a civil-rights organization?”

Bennett said that his attorney is getting his employee files, adding that he never had an employee evaluation the whole time he was there.

Project to build LGBT military monument

1VU (One View)—a group founded “on the belief that one person can make a difference, but by forming alliances we can share One View: A United World”—is behind “Do Tell: Chicago,” a project to build a historic monument honoring LGBT veterans and active service members.

According to a press release, the proposed sculpture, “Radiance” stands nine feet tall and “soars upward to suggest the sense of flight and freedom.” Plans are in place to unveil the monument this year at its permanent home in Space Park, 815 W. Roscoe.

1VU is offering the opportunity to purchase dog tags (\$35/set) to support the cause. Engraving and donation to a sealed vault will cost \$15 more.

See <http://www.1VU.org> or <http://www.facebook.com/OneViewUniting>.

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CENSUS from cover

Expectedly, Cook County led the way with the highest number of households headed by same-sex couples in Illinois, reported as “unmarried-partner households,” representing nearly half of the state’s total—25,710—according to the most recent three-year ACS data file. The next five highest counties—DuPage, Lake, Will, Kane and McHenry, respectively—also represent the state’s northeastern-most corner and are reportedly home to another 18.5 percent of the state’s total of self-reported same-sex couples.

However, all told, that still leaves roughly one-third of Illinois’ same-sex couples scattered throughout the rest of the state. Perhaps surprisingly, the remaining counties ranking within the top 20 are in the northwest, central and southern parts of the state.

When self-reporting same-sex couples in “unmarried partnerships” are reported as a percentage of the county’s entire population, Cook County only ranks 11th—0.65 percent of



Gary Gates. Photo courtesy of Cathy Renna

the population—but remains well ahead of the state’s average of 0.54 percent. Nevertheless, all of the state’s top five counties, in terms of the percentage of each county’s entire population, are in the southern part of the state: Jackson, Jefferson, Shelby, Williamson and Perry, respectively.

Jackson County, home to the famously LGBT-friendly and politically active town of Carbondale and its Southern Illinois University, led the way with an estimated 1.35 percent of its population of 24,328 individuals in our analysis. Sangamon County, home to the state’s capital, notably held the distinction of being one of only two counties, along with Cook, to rank among the 10 highest counties in terms of total self-reporting same-sex couples and highest percentage of the entire population.

Comparing households fronted by two men with two women, a larger representation of women-led households included downstate counties (Sangamon and south). Half of the top 10 counties reporting households led by women who are spouses or are in unmarried partnerships are from the southern half of the state, compared to only one—St. Clair County—among households led by two men. Such findings suggest that a larger percentage, overall, of lesbian households in the state can be found outside of the state’s more urban northeastern hubs.

While this analysis offers a suggestion of where LGBT Illinoisans live, this analysis comes with many caveats. First, this measure only includes queer folk who considered themselves, at the time of the 2007-2009 ACS, to be in a spousal relationship or unmarried partnership—both groups are coded as unmarried partners by the Census Bureau. This measure means single lesbian women and gay men, as well as large segments of the bisexual and transgender communities, are likely not represented.

Also, owing to the ACS sample size and the relative obscurity of same-sex couples when compared to the general population, the margin of error for this data is quite high. In Cook County, for example, the reported total of male unmar-

ried partner households is +/- 773 (roughly 10 percent). For female unmarried partner households the margin of error is +/-468 (9 percent). The margins are often higher for smaller counties.

For this reason, few specific numbers have been presented in this analysis, although the information is publicly available for perusal at the Census Bureau’s American Factfinder website.

Gary Gates, a Williams Distinguished Scholar at the Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy at the UCLA law school, is a pioneering researcher of census data applied to LGBT demographics. Gates has also been instrumental in pushing the Census Bureau to actively encourage queer Americans to honestly report their relationships—even if they are not currently recognized at the federal level.

Gates described the ACS data, particularly pre-2008, as an “imprecise measure” of same-sex couples at the county level, as well as the state level for smaller populations.

Before changes were made to survey design as well as the way the Census Bureau coded same-sex couples in 2008, Gates said there was believed to be some heterosexual couples who mistakingly were categorized as same-sex couples.

Although Gates said such errors are “extremely rare,” these false positives did make an impact on the estimated number of same-sex couples. Nationally, the estimate dropped by just over 40 percent between 2007 and 2008 largely due to these false positives. The 2008 and 2009 ACS data, as well as the upcoming 2010 decennial Census data is thought to be far more accurate.

Gates called for caution in interpreting the reported estimates while adding that such reports are “extremely useful” for policy makers and activists alike who sometimes face assertions from lawmakers and other public officials that LGBT people are not part of their constituency. While still awaiting a specific question relating to sexual orientation or gender identity, the upcoming 2010 Census data are likely to be the best measures with which the community can counter such assertions.

SIDEBAR

Analysis: LGBTs number 9 million in U.S.

The Williams Institute, a think tank dedicated to the field of sexual orientation and gender identity-related law and public policy, released new research that estimates the size of the LGBT community in the United States at 9 million, according to a press release.

Drawing on information from four recent national and two state-level population-based surveys, the analyses suggest that there are more than 8 million adults in the United States who are lesbian, gay or bisexual, making up 3.5 percent of the adult population. There are also nearly 700,000 transgender individuals in the United States, bringing the total number of LGBT individuals to roughly 9 million.

Among other findings from the study:

—Among adults who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual, bisexuals comprise a slight majority (1.8 percent, compared to 1.7 percent who identify as lesbian or gay).

—An estimated 19 million Americans (8.2 percent) report that they have engaged in same-sex sexual behavior and nearly 25.6 million Americans (11 percent) acknowledge at least some same-sex sexual attraction.

For more information about the Williams Institute, visit <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute>. The study is available at <http://www2.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/pdf/How-many-people-are-LGBT-Final.pdf>.

Equality Illinois gets ‘Social’



The Equality Illinois Spring Women’s Social took place April 9 at Flourish Studios, presented by Olivia Cruises and CNA. The event included cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and various giveaways. All of the event’s proceeds benefited the Equality Illinois Education Project, a 501(c)(3) organization. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (<http://www.MysticImagesPhotography.com>); many more online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>

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Gay couple part of online wedding contest

BY ROSS FORMAN

Their three-year love story is rock solid and gaining worldwide fame, fortune and friends.

However, it almost never even happened.

Robbie Cronrod and Allen Artcliff met on Match.com when Cronrod was not out, now admitting he was afraid of being gay. In fact, he had been going to a therapist and a coming-out group at the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center at the time.

"I decided, if I was gay, I need to try to be in a relationship with another man," Cronrod said.

For years, Cronrod looked at profiles online, including Artcliff's, to imagine life with a boyfriend, but never did anything about it. Finally, he created a Match.com account, logged in, and came across Artcliff's profile, again.

Cronrod nervously clicked the "wink" button and the next day, ironically, Artcliff was logging in to cancel his account, but saw Cronrod's correspondence. Artcliff sent Cronrod a message saying, "Call me, call me, call me" because he didn't want to have to renew his account.

"It frightened me but, in retrospect, it was really cute," Cronrod said.

The two emailed a few times that day, and then Cronrod called Artcliff, and they met the next day.

It's since been love at first wink.

Cronrod, 34, is the vice president of a national apartment association, and is originally from Los Angeles—where the two now live. Artcliff, 38,

who hails from Birmingham, Mich., works for a Los Angeles-based restaurant investment firm.

They are now Internet sensations, where they have "Like"-d their way to stardom in the Crate & Barrel Ultimate Wedding Contest. They've gotten support from family, friends, complete strangers and, naturally, the entire LGBT community worldwide.

"Initially, I found the contest and thought, 'Oh, free wedding!' But within a few minutes, I realized this was much larger than a free wedding; it was an opportunity to campaign for marriage equality," Cronrod said. "What better way to change people's perceptions of the LGBT community's right to marry than to continually reinforce the normalcy of same-sex love through mainstream media? [The TV show] Modern Family does it every week with the characters Mitchell and Cameron. We love the show, but we wanted to take it one step further: reality.

"Entering the Crate & Barrel Ultimate Wedding Contest allows us to show a real same-sex couple in a real-life situation, displaying real love for one another. We entered because we're in love, just like any other couple that enters the contest."

Artcliff added, "Winning this contest would be an amazing platform to continue the fight for marriage equality. It would be the first time an LGBT couple will have won a nationwide wedding contest open to both heterosexual and same-sex couples. The media attention generated would be invaluable toward the fight for



Robbie Cronrod and Allen Artcliff. Images by Joseph Alexander Photography

the freedom to marry and provide a platform for Crate & Barrel to become an industry leader for their acceptance of the LGBT community. Winning this contest would further validate the fact that same-sex couples deserve equal rights while providing a broad media outlet to showcase a healthy relationship between two loving people."

The winner will be announced in late May or early June.

Judges consist of Crate & Barrel executives and wedding planner Yifat Oren, who will evaluate the top 100 entries based on: 1) the number of votes received; 2) the love story submitted; 3) the details provided for their ultimate wedding; 4) how the described dream home fits the Crate & Barrel image; and 5) the photos submitted.

The winning couple receives a wedding valued at \$100,000.

"Allen and I spent a great deal of time writing our entry since we knew it was limited to 500 characters per question and, once submitted, could not be edited," Cronrod said. "The entry is a true reflection of our love story, our ultimate wedding, and our dream home, and we hope the judges view it as the winning entry."

The couple said that, regardless of the contest's outcome, they will have two celebrations later this year: one in Boston and one in Los Angeles.

They plan to legally wed in Boston the first weekend of October to coincide with the three-year anniversary since Cronrod asked Artcliff to be his boyfriend.

Both said their honeymoon plans are still up in the air, although they are considering Puerto Rico, Italy, France and Spain.

"A few details [of our perfect wedding] would be ... we want a wedding outside with panoramic views of the Los Angeles skyline and a lounge atmosphere instead of the traditional weddings we are all used to," Cronrod said. "We want a killer make-your-own ice cream sundae bar with every topping you could imagine and a dessert bar with goodies from our childhood like cotton candy and licorice ropes. Plus, our newest idea is to get the NOH8 campaign to setup a photo booth so guests can get tattooed and duct taped to create our ultimate photo album.

"We'd also invite all the reporters and press that helped us win to cover the wedding. While we can't invite every person that voted for us, we think it's important to share the event with everyone we can and to continue to reinforce and provide imagery of marriage equality."

Both have been blitzing mainstream and gay media for support, plus major LGBT-related organizations—and they've gotten it. The Trevor Project, for instance, has Like-d the Los Angeles duo, as well as GLAAD, Freedom To Marry, Marriage Equality USA and WhiteKnot.org, among others.

"Robbie's parents threw us an engagement party last November," Artcliff said. "During the party, we were asked to go to another private room because a surprise was waiting for us—and we had no clue what to expect. We entered a banquet room and found an elderly heterosexual couple and a videographer waiting for us. We had no idea who they were, but it turned out that they were there celebrating their 50th

wedding anniversary. The couple had heard we were celebrating our engagement and wanted to share their secrets of how they stayed together for 50 years."

The tips from the elderly couple were:

—Don't sweat the small stuff. Whatever the problem may be, you'll work it out.

—Never go to bed angry. Resolve whatever issues you have now because letting it fester just makes it worse.

—Humor. Be sure to have fun and not take life so seriously all the time.

"The response has been amazing, incredible, heart-warming," Cronrod said. "I was telling Allen the other day that I wish I realized how supportive the LGBT community and its allies were when I was younger because I would have probably come out earlier. Media of all sorts, from radio shows to magazines are interviewing us for our story, and to spread the love about marriage equality and encourage their readers/viewers/listeners to vote."

The support for Cronrod and Artcliff isn't just online, surprisingly.

One day, for instance, they returned home to find a box from Crate & Barrel with items from their registry inside. The box was from a woman in Texas—whom neither knew. She was just sending her congratulations on their engagement.

"The support has been overwhelming, in a good way," Artcliff said. "We are both working hard at our jobs and then trying to breakaway mid-day to post on Facebook and Tweet. Then we spend all night online responding to emails and trying to make new contacts to have our story heard. Robbie puts in so many hours I sometimes joke that I go to bed without him and wake up without him; it's like he never came to bed."

There are about 7,000 couples entered to date and, among the top 100 vote-getters, there is one other gay couple.

"Keeping marriage equality at the forefront of everyone's minds via different means of media is what this is all about," Cronrod said. "View our supporters and do business with those that support the cause."

To help Cronrod and Artcliff in their contest, go to: <http://www.loveatfirstwink.com/vote>. The website will redirect you to the Crate & Barrel website to vote for the couple. The deadline is April 30.

Find out more about the couple online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.



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As the majority owner and general manager for the Chicago Force, Linda Bache thinks, talks, walks and dissects football non-stop. It's her never-ending profession, and her passion.

"I'd love it more if I was still playing," Bache said. "The payoff for all the hard work is getting to play and go live."

But injuries, with a helping hand from Father Time, have pushed Bache to the sidelines.

So, Bache is watching, cheering and even videotaping from the sidelines at every Force game.

Her Force field is a 24/7 job. Her car, for instance, is a mobile storage locker filled with helmets, cleats, balls, uniforms and more. When Windy City Times met with Bache for this story, her day included a trip to the AthletiCo rehabilitation facility in Andersonville, where she checked in on an injured player. She then drove to the bank to deposit team-related funds, and then went to her chiropractor—needed from injuries she enduring while playing.



Watching the Force since retiring after the 2008 season has been "excruciating," she said. "Sure, it's gotten easier, but I still miss it."

Bache last wore the Force uniform in the team's championship game loss in 2008.

"Winning that game would have been the perfect storybook ending, but it didn't happen and, yes, the heartache is still there," she said.

So she lives through the current crop of Force players.

"I like game days and watching the players develop. I really enjoy seeing them blossom."

In fact, the whole team has grown immensely since the 2003 season, a time when players often had to shine their car lights on their practice field.

"Back then, we'd do anything to play," Bache said. "I never imagined we'd get to this point where we are today with the Chicago Force and women's football as a whole. Yes, we've come a long way, and the (on-field) product has really gotten better."

"I want to see women's football continue to grow and expand, and I want to see women's football on television. I think that's the next step for this sport. That will make it all worthwhile."



Linda Bache with Yvette Holt, whom she is dating.



the stats

Name
Linda Bache

Age
48

Neighborhood
Rogers Park

Profession
Majority owner and general manager of the Chicago Force, played safety for the team's first six seasons

Hobbies
Sports, reading, crossword puzzles, traveling particularly internationally, and real estate

Relationship status
Dating Yvette Holt for almost eight years

Pets
A dog, Blaze, a 13-year-old Italian greyhound

Sporting blood
Played softball at Michigan State University. Played volleyball, basketball and softball in high school



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Doing the right thing for 2012

BY KERRY ELEVELD, EQUALITY MATTERS

President Barack Obama has just announced his 2012 bid for re-election and the inevitable push for LGBT support—donor, voter, and activist—has begun. To be sure, many LGBT Americans would much rather see Barack Obama still gracing the Oval Office come January of 2013 than a Republican. And so, many of us are faced with a familiar dilemma: Should we sublimate our intrinsic desire to continue advocating for full equality to the urgency of reelecting a man who has presided over some of the greatest advances in the history of the LGBT movement?

My answer: No.

This is not an either/or proposition in my opinion, nor should we feel compelled to surrender our basic humanity to the whims of the election cycle. That type of thinking is a relic of days past when politicians held firmly to the notion that addressing LGBT concerns would undoubtedly be a drag on their electability. What we have witnessed over the past couple years is just the opposite. The repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell” scored huge points with Obama’s target voters—independent, moderate, and progressive alike—and his declaration that the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional reestablished his ability to show bold leadership.

Here’s our new reality: The right thing to do is also the popular thing to do.

However, there is much more work to be done and it would be an absolute mistake for LGBT advocates to sit back and relax after the momentum generated by the DADT win and the push toward DOMA’s dissolution. The country is at a tipping point as evidenced by multiple polls indicating voters are evenly divided if not leaning toward support for same-sex marriage—a decent barometer for our overall acceptance since marriage equality has also been one of our most contentious issues.

Laying out constructive and achievable goals for the administration over the course of the next year could very well help materialize meaningful advances for all members of the queer community. The good news is LGBT advocacy groups and Obama himself generally agree on the means by which we can achieve these gains.

When the president outlined his priorities for the LGBT community in our interview last December, he acknowledged that legislative wins seemed unlikely over the next couple years but he also repeatedly emphasized his ability to use his executive power to make administrative changes within the federal government.

“[L]et me just say there are still a lot of things we can do administratively even if we don’t pass things legislatively,” he said. “So my ability to make sure that the federal government is an employer that treats gays and lesbians fairly, that’s something I can do, and sets a model for folks across the board.”

At the outset of the Obama administration, both the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign provided the Obama transition team with a lengthy list of recommendations—mostly for actions by individual agency level—that would vastly improve the lives of LGBT Americans and could be accomplished entirely at the discretion of the president via executive action.

“For the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, the election of a fair-minded president provides vast opportunities to advance equality in material ways on an accelerated timetable,” read the opening sentence of HRC’s Blueprint for Positive Change, which was provided to incoming administration officials in December of 2008.

The documents were thorough and exhaustive, with HRC’s running around 25 pages and NGLTF’s coming in at over 200 pages and, while some of the initiatives outlined in these policy papers have been accomplished, the vast majority of them remain either untouched or only partially addressed. In fact, after laying out approximate-

ly 80 initiatives in its New Beginnings Initiative, NGLTF lists only nine accomplishments on its success tracker page, which was set up to follow how many administrative actions have been taken by the administration.

The truth is, it’s difficult to present a one-for-one comparison of how many “asks” either organization made and how many were actually achieved because most of the actions the administration has taken don’t directly correspond to what was asked of them. I also believe that getting caught up in an accounting of “wins” is a distraction. Overall, it’s fair to say that more could clearly be done and the broader point is that leaving pro-equality changes up to the individual Cabinet secretaries of each federal agency is not a good way to achieve government-wide advances.

Instead, we should concentrate our efforts on five broader initiatives that would incorporate many of the recommendations originally presented by NGLTF and HRC, but in a more comprehensive way. Of the suggestions made by NGLTF, for instance, over half of them took a piecemeal approach to providing nondiscrimination protections at the agency level as well as making those agencies more inclusive in areas such as data collection, definitions, and research.

Rather than assembling a patchwork of progress agency by agency, Obama should issue executive orders or amend existing ones that set a government-wide precedent for equality in the following ways:

- 1) Directing the federal government to include LGBT Americans in all federal level data collection efforts.
- 2) Mandating that all federal contractors must have policies providing nondiscrimination protections for their employees on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- 3) Prohibiting federal funds from being used to discriminate against LGBT Americans.
- 4) Prohibiting discrimination against military service members on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- 5) Adding gender identity protections to President Clinton’s executive order 13087, which protected civilian federal workers from bias based on their sexual orientation.

Parsing the prescription

While some of these executive actions may seem a little wonky, let me make a few quick observations.

Not having substantive data on LGBT Americans serves as a constant handicap for any advocate attempting to provide federal services to the queer community in all sectors ranging from health care to housing to education. Just last week, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a comprehensive report on health disparities in which they noted: “Because demographic data provide the foundation for understanding any population’s status and needs, federally funded surveys should proactively collect data on sexual orientation and gender identity, just as they routinely gather information on race and ethnicity.”

John Podesta, president and CEO of the influential Center for American Progress, deemed the compilation of numbers so important that he called collecting LGBT data in federal surveys “essential” within his executive order recommendations for the White House following the November 2010 elections.

If you doubt the efficacy of data collection, just look at “don’t ask, don’t tell.” One of the factors that set it apart from other pieces of LGBT equality legislation was the fact that discharges were tracked every year by the Pentagon, giving repeal advocates the power of tangible and widely reported numbers to reference during the debate.

Similar to data collection, requiring all governmental contractors to have LGBT discrimination protections would have sweeping effects far beyond the federal government. While federal employees comprise about 1.4 percent of

the nation’s workers according to the Partnership for Public Service, federal contractors employ approximately 22 percent of the American workforce according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Colorado Congressman Jared Polis recently endorsed the idea of an executive order requiring federal contractors to have LGBT job bias protections, according to the Washington Blade. The president has strongly supported the principle of fair employment practices and the ad-



Kerry Eleveld.

ministration’s transition website even pledged that Obama would pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Since that piece of legislation is sure to languish for the next two years in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, the president should promptly embrace the opportunity to do everything in his power to supply those protections through the executive branch.

The same is true for codifying gender identity protections via executive order. Though transgender workers have been written into the Equal Employment Opportunity guidelines of the Office of Personnel Management (the human resources department for the federal government), an executive order would carry far more substantive and symbolic weight.

Finally, prohibiting the government from using federal funds to discriminate against LGBT taxpayers might seem unnecessary at first blush, but the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships—created during the Bush administration and continued by Obama—has funding tentacles that stretch across America, sometimes touching rabidly homophobic organizations through grants that often go undetected.

While some reporting has already uncovered discriminatory abuses of federal funding, this is an area still ripe for inquiry. But for starters, Andy Kopsa of the Washington Independent documented the Iowa Family Policy Center, which publicly opposes same-sex marriage in the Hawkeye state, receiving more than \$3 million in federal funding for its Marriage Matters program from 2004 through 2009—a portion of which will continue to be dispersed through 2011.

Kopsa also reported that Project SOS, a Jacksonville-based outfit that teaches abstinence-only programming in public schools, received \$454,000 in federal funding in September 2010. The curriculum taught by Project SOS has been called into question by multiple education organizations for relaying misinformation about HIV and AIDS.

With an executive order, Obama could put a definitive end to this questionable conflation of church and state by following through on his campaign promise to end discriminatory practices in federal funding, especially where faith-based organizations are concerned.

“If you get a federal grant, you can’t use that

grant money to proselytize to the people you help and you can’t discriminate against them—or against the people you hire—on the basis of their religion,” Obama said during a 2008 speech in Zanesville, Ohio. “Federal dollars that go directly to churches, temples and mosques can only be used on secular programs.”

One glaring omission among the initiatives I have presented here is anything having to do with HIV/AIDS. This is an area that has become highly specialized and I believe there are people far more qualified than I to weigh in on overall funding levels as well as how that money should be allocated and to what effect.

A higher standard

Obama has amassed a lot of goodwill with progressive voters and LGBT constituents alike through his accomplishments for equality during the first half of his administration, but this is no time for equality advocates to relax into complacency. I am reminded that immediately following the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, civil rights leaders went straight back to the streets, demanding that they be recognized as full citizens in every walk of American life.

In my opinion, LGBT advocates must be more vigilant and discerning than ever now. After the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released its report recommending more data collection on the LGBT population, for instance, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius issued a statement lauding the content as an “important step in identifying research gaps and opportunities.” Data collection would arguably have the greatest impact of any innovation that could presently be made at HHS, but the department’s press release gave no concrete commitments about how HHS would take action on the new intelligence. Sebelius said only, “We look forward to continuing our work to address these needs and reduce LGBT health disparities.”

Some advocates will surely say I’m being nit-picky, that I’m simply looking for ways to poke at the administration. But I am not looking to diminish the administration’s sizeable accomplishments to date. Rather I would like to hold them and us—as advocates—to a higher standard.

We did not achieve “don’t ask, don’t tell” repeal by being satisfied with White House Easter Egg roll invitations and passing mentions in a handful of speeches. Now is the time for the president to employ his considerable executive powers to effect a government-wide culture change that will trickle down to every corner of America. Let’s not squander this opportunity to squeeze as much goodness out of this administration as possible, which in turn will help Obama secure four more years in office.

Kerry Eleveld is a senior writer at EqualityMatters.org, a new website dedicated to the campaign for full LGBT equality. Eleveld previously served as Washington correspondent for The Advocate for the first two years of the Obama administration.

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AIDS @30

A **WINDY CITY
TIMES**
SPECIAL PROJECT

A special series in partnership with
the AIDS Foundation of Chicago



Lambda Legal won a record \$600,000 on behalf of gymnast Matthew Cusick over his dismissal from Cirque du Soleil for being HIV positive. Cusick is pictured here as a featured performer at the Gay Games VII Opening Ceremony in Chicago in 2006. Photo by Steve Becker

AIDS and the law: Positive history

Three decades later, the mistreatment of people with HIV continues, challenging Lambda Legal and other advocates to find new strategies for dealing with some frustratingly familiar problems.

BY SALLY CHEW, LAMBDA LEGAL

It was a story that seemed right out of the 1980s: When Dr. Robert Franke was evicted in 2009 from a Little Rock, Ark., assisted-living facility just for having HIV, it felt like the old days—before the HIV civil-rights battles, before the public health campaigns, before all the medical breakthroughs. Thirty years into the epidemic, how could the most basic information about the virus's transmission have eluded a retirement community promising “round-the-clock care”? How was it possible that people were still being kicked into the street for their HIV status?

Indeed, Lambda Legal's representation of Dr. Franke, in a lawsuit that settled out of court last year, resonated all the way back to Lambda Legal's involvement in the very first HIV lawsuit, in 1983—*People v. West 12 Tenants Corp.*—in which we represented a New York City doctor whose coop board tried to evict him because he was treating people with HIV.

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...

The truth is that gaining ground in the battle against HIV stigma and misinformation has been shockingly slow: In a 2009 Kaiser Family Foundation survey, one out of three U.S. respondents was under the misconception that HIV could be transmitted through a drinking glass, toilet seat or swimming pool. And there is no doubt that irrational fear of HIV like this fuels the kind of HIV discrimination that continues to require Lambda Legal's intervention in court.

Despite these persistent misconceptions, impact litigation against HIV discrimination nonetheless is producing better outcomes and continuing to set important precedents, especially under the Americans with Disabilities Act and various other laws protecting against discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and the provision of public assistance. Recent successes have made it possible for people with HIV to have access to organ transplants, for instance, and to parent their children without unwarranted court interference. And in 2009, advocates celebrated the lifting of a 22-year-old ban against people with HIV traveling or immigrating to the U.S., after years of urging Congress and four successive presidents to drop the discriminatory and medically unfounded ban.

PRIVACY MATTERS

Because revealing an HIV diagnosis to the wrong person can have serious consequences, laws in most states now recognize the importance of protecting the privacy of HIV test results. (And, under federal law, no one's medical information is supposed to be shared without permission.) Yet violations of confidentiality are the second most common issue (after discrimination) addressed by cases on Lambda Legal's HIV docket.

For instance, in *Cooper v. FAA* in 2007, a pilot's HIV status was shared between government agencies in violation of the federal Privacy Act, devastating the plaintiff personally. And in a separate incident in 2010, personal information belonging to 5,000 Medi-Cal recipients living with HIV was released by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). It's not clear yet what the individual damage may have been from the DHCS's actions, but there is no



Wisconsin's Michelle Nolan is featured on the cover of the Lambda Legal special edition on AIDS, for her fight against HIV bias.

doubting the seriousness of that violation—especially on such a large scale. Lambda Legal has continued to demand an explanation.

EXTRA PUNISHMENT

And finally, there are the HIV-related cases that bring the threads of Lambda Legal's work together, revealing that despite the many strides we have made, public policy in many parts of the United States continues to be rampantly antigay. One such example was *State of Kansas v. Limon*, an ACLU case decided by the Kansas Supreme Court in 2005, in which Lambda Legal wrote a brief that argued against giving a young man a greater sentence for having sex with an underage male than he would have received if the partner had been female. The state tried to rely on a public health “rationale” tying gay people's identities to HIV. That assertion had no medical basis whatsoever, and the court agreed that the longer sentence was unlawful.

DETECTABLE PREJUDICE

Among Lambda Legal's current concerns in the HIV realm are the lines sometimes drawn between those with an undetectable HIV viral load and those with a detectable one. That was the problem in *Rose v. Cahee et al.*, which involved Melody Rose, a Wisconsin woman with a detectable viral load who was denied gall bladder surgery by a doctor who said he was worried the virus might be transmitted to him or his staff.

When this case was filed, Lambda Legal's HIV Project Director Scott Schoettes pointed out that such concerns had been addressed conclusively decades back: “Long ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention established that using universal precautions—which are required in all sorts of medical situations, including surgeries—makes it extremely unlikely for the virus to be transmitted in this setting.” And that statement is true regardless of the patient's HIV viral load. Rose's case was resolved out of court.

Another growing concern is the mistreatment of older Americans with HIV in long-term care, like the eviction of Dr. Franke in Arkansas. As more people with HIV survive into their senior

Turn to page 17

THE FIRST CASE

People v. West 12 Tenants Corp.
New York, 1983

Lambda Legal brought the nation's first challenge to HIV discrimination in the early 1980s, when HIV doctor Joseph Sonnabend was evicted from his office in New York City's West Village by the coop board in his building. Sonnabend was among few doctors at that point who were willing to treat people with the mysterious new illness that was by then already beginning to kill a tragically high number of gay men and others.

Lambda Legal and the New York State's Attorney General alleged that the coop board was violating New York Human Rights Law and Civil Rights Law by discriminating against both Sonnabend and his patients on the basis of HIV disability.

A New York court issued a preliminary injunction in 1983 barring the eviction. The coop board appealed, but the parties eventually reached a settlement and the building allowed Dr. Sonnabend to carry on treating people with HIV—which he did for many years.

JUMPING WITHOUT A NET

Matter of Matthew Cusick and Cirque du Soleil Nevada, 2004

Lambda Legal brought the nation's first challenge to HIV discrimination in the early 1980s, when HIV doctor Joseph Sonnabend was evicted from his office in New York City's West Village by the coop board in his building. Sonnabend was among few doctors at that point who were willing to treat people with the mysterious new illness that was by then already beginning to kill a tragically high number of gay men and others.

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Dr. Koop speaks out about AIDS epidemic

The nation's war against AIDS began 30 years ago a report that five gay men in Los Angeles were dying from *Pneumocystis Carinii* pneumonia, a disease so rare that a handful of cases in a single year is like an epidemic. Now, former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop—the official who witnessed these early deaths and charted the nation's policies on HIV/AIDS—is making public his personal account of what took place in the early days of AIDS, naming names and providing the behind-the-scenes details of one of the most significant public health battles in the country's history.

rum for Collaborative HIV Research, which also hosts the biannual HIV summits. "We will only be successful in overcoming today's challenges in fighting HIV/AIDS by heeding Dr. Koop's frank message that we not forget that the epidemic is still here and is growing insidiously."

Providing lessons learned from the past, Dr. Koop's paper chronicles the developments and controversies that marked the early AIDS crisis from 1981 to 1989, which he refers to as two "phases of America and AIDS." Starting with the "the first phase of America and AIDS"—from 1981 until the release of the Surgeon General's

physician at the time, discusses the stress Dr. Koop was under and the impact on his physical health. "After being nominated by President Reagan to be the thirteenth Surgeon General of the United States, he [Dr. Koop] endured months of controversy and Senate hearings. This resulted in great personal distress: his [Dr. Koop's] blood pressure rose, he could not sleep, he was feeling terrible and could not figure out what was wrong with him. He was the greatest surgeon in the world at the time but this was not a surgical problem."

But even as Dr. Koop endured this long and stressful confirmation process, he realized that no one in public health or medicine had ever seen a syndrome like the AIDS virus before. He recounts: "I realized that if there ever were a disease made for the Surgeon General, it was AIDS."

After being kept on the sidelines for five years, Dr. Koop writes candidly about how he learned in 1985 that he would be asked to write the landmark Surgeon General's Report on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. President Reagan made a unique visit to HHS after his longtime friend Rock Hudson died of the disease and during a speech to the HHS employees, the president announced he would ask the Surgeon General to prepare a special report on AIDS.

"That was it," Dr. Koop states. "There was never any formal request from the White House. It's a good thing I was there [at the HHS meeting] ... and paying attention!"

Once Dr. Koop was tasked with writing the AIDS report, he confronted another political challenge—the clearance process for reviewing public documents. "I assumed that the report was to be in simple language for the average citizen, that it was to allay the panic that was spreading among people who were in danger of getting AIDS, and to warn those engaged in high-risk behavior what the inevitable outcome would be if they encountered the virus of AIDS. But I knew that the government clearance process could ruin any report I would write."

Dr. Koop's strategy was to go to the newly appointed HHS Secretary, Otis Bowen, whom Dr. Koop describes as a "true public servant," and ask for the authority to write the report himself. He says of this encounter: "Otis Bowen gave me the green light I needed. I selected two commissioned officers [in the Public Health Service] to help me. Their names were not revealed then or since."

Now authorized to write the report himself, Dr. Koop recounts how his work "amounted to walking a tightrope" because he felt it necessary to consult with all national groups concerned about AIDS while also distancing himself from these organizations so the report would be viewed as independent and objective. However, Dr. Koop credits the information he received from these meetings as eye opening. One such example he cites was a study commissioned by the National Hemophilia Foundation, which showed that AIDS could not be spread by nonsexual casual contact.

"This—and a number of other studies—meant that AIDS was not transmitted by casual contact. Therefore, most Americans were not at risk if they did not engage in high-risk behavior with sex and/or drugs," explains Dr. Koop. "This also meant that persons with AIDS should not suffer discrimination, that the strident calls to quaran-



Dr. Koop said while he worked for President Reagan as U.S. Surgeon General, the real problem was the lack of support from the White House, "At least a dozen times I pled with my critics in the White House to set up a meeting between the president and me so he could hear my concerns about America and the AIDS epidemic."

tine them or even deny them housing, insurance, employment or public schooling were wrong."

Dr. Koop recounts spending long hours in his house on the NIH campus writing the report at a stand-up desk in the basement. After reworking the document multiple times, Dr. Koop showed the sixteenth draft to Dr. Fauci, then director of AIDS research at NIH, as well as to the wives of several commissioned officers of the Public Health Service. But the real challenge for Dr. Koop was not drafting the report; it was getting final approval for the report from top Reagan administration officials. This entailed presenting the report at two meetings of the president's cabinet—the first with the Domestic Policy Council and the other involving the entire cabinet and the president.

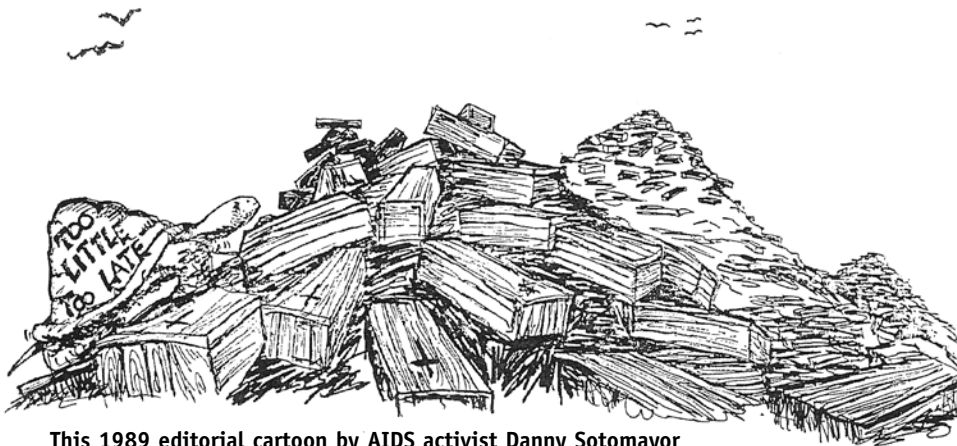
Recounting how he navigated these meetings, Dr. Koop writes, "In each meeting, I had to skate fast on thin ice to get by political appointees who placed conservative ideology above saving lives. Knowing the way the Domestic Policy Council worked, I could see them nit picking the report to pieces and soon we'd have a health report written by political advisors, if we ended up with any report at all."

According to Dr. Koop's paper, the Surgeon General recognized what he was up against and decided to take a "psychological gamble." Knowing that members of the Domestic Policy Council "did not like to spend money," he printed 1,000 copies of the report on expensive glossy paper with the Public Health Service seal embossed in shiny silver—even though he really intended to print the report as a brochure on inexpensive stock. "I figured that if the Domestic Policy Council were handed a pamphlet shrieking expensive paper and printing, they might be disinclined to make changes because of the cost of reprinting," he writes.

Dr. Koop then recounts how he handed out numbered copies of the report to the members of the Domestic Policy Council with the proviso that to keep the report from leaking to the press, he intended to collect all copies at the end of the meeting. Describing how this gamble paid off, Dr. Koop writes how he reviewed the report page-by-page, but in a rather superficial manner. "There was little discussion. There was not even a peep about the cost of the brochure!"

©1989
Sotomayor

AMERICA RESPONDS TO AIDS



This 1989 editorial cartoon by AIDS activist Danny Sotomayor was among many that confronted the lack of response by the government to the AIDS crisis. Courtesy of Lori Cannon

Published in the March 31 issue of *The Annals of the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research*, Dr. Koop's paper—*The Early Days of AIDS, As I Remember Them*—is based on what the former Surgeon General described as his "last major address" on HIV/AIDS, which was presented in Washington Nov. 18, 2010 before 350 HIV researchers, healthcare providers, policymakers and advocates attending the 2010 National Summit on HIV Diagnosis, Prevention and Access to Care. With a foreword from Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Dr. Koop's personal account chronicles the very real challenges facing the public health community at the beginning of the AIDS crisis and presents a candid assessment of how a small number of cases mushroomed into the AIDS epidemic of the late 1980s.

The *Annals of the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research* is a peer-reviewed journal published by the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research that disseminates consensus reports and proceedings, recommendations and opinions addressing current topics in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care. Dr. Koop's paper is available online at hivforumannals.org/index.php/annals/article/view/86/pdf_5

"This is a story that has begged to be told," said Veronica Miller, Ph.D., director of the Fo-

rum for Collaborative HIV Research, which also hosts the biannual HIV summits. "We will only be successful in overcoming today's challenges in fighting HIV/AIDS by heeding Dr. Koop's frank message that we not forget that the epidemic is still here and is growing insidiously."

These same fears, Dr. Koop surmises, played a large role in the "intra-department politics" at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the decision to exclude him from the Reagan Administration's discussions, deliberations and public statements about AIDS for a five-year period (until 1986). As Dr. Koop described his isolation at the time, "I had to be content to learn about AIDS on my own, from the newspapers, internal documents of the Public Health Service, reports from CDC such as *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports*, and discussions with colleagues. ... I knew we were in big trouble. And there was nothing I could do about it."

In his foreword, Dr. Fauci, who was a young physician at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 1981 and became Dr. Koop's personal

AIDS @ 18

BY TREVOR MAURO

My knowledge of AIDS is limited to my own personal experience. I don't claim to be an expert and have never seen a friend die of the disease. Until I moved to Chicago, I didn't even know anyone who had it. I hadn't run across HIV, STDs, or anything else that might lay me out. I wasn't born during the onset of "gay man's cancer," I was born in 1992.

The first time I heard the word AIDS was in a required health class my freshman year in high school. I was so bored I had counted the dots on each ceiling tile when AIDS rolled in one ear and right out of the other. I didn't shrug it off, it fell to the floor on its own.

I hadn't come out quite yet, and the gray-haired Martha Stewart look-a-like lecturing me couldn't care less if I were informed on one of the world's biggest epidemics because she knew that none of us were sexually active, and as long as she really stressed the use of condoms nothing could go wrong in our little suburban town outside Seattle, Wash. So in the year 2006, AIDS didn't seem like much of a threat to me.

I think that my experience is echoed in one way or another by people of my age throughout the country. In the coming months, as I interview students on college campuses across Chicago for this special Windy City Times AIDS @ 30 series, we'll get a better idea of how my generation understands AIDS.

When I met my first love, Justin, as a high school senior, he was a year younger than I was and we had both already lost our virginity to older college boys. I hadn't used a condom—I would have done anything to win the approval of a boy. Any boy really, because I was out and damn ready to see what the world had to offer. But after having bled the first time I had sex I was terrified of sex altogether, and it had nothing to do with AIDS. So Justin and I dated for three whole months before we ever had sex. We didn't need sex, we were two teenagers who had found that someone that was just like our self and that was a bigger reward. We shared our struggles, and bonded over our losses. But as homecoming approached, we felt the moment—or the night—may be coming our way. That was when we turned to our parents with the big question, "Can I get tested?"

We had talked about it and decided that

we should get tested together for STDs and HIV/AIDS because it was the right thing to do, and that trust made our relationship stronger. Getting tested became the keystone in our relationship, and let me tell you why.

When you're young, you have a lot of psychological issues about your own image, your presence in your community, among other things. When you're also an LGBTQ youth trying to figure out why someone wouldn't look at you in the locker room, that pressure builds up. Some kids are exposed to "gay" and know that's who they are when they feel it. Some kids just have "normal" hormones and don't know that "gay" is what someone will one day call them. It was all I had ever known, although I had sex with a girl when I was 16 because she seemed to be really turned on by me and if she rubbed it, well, it got hard.

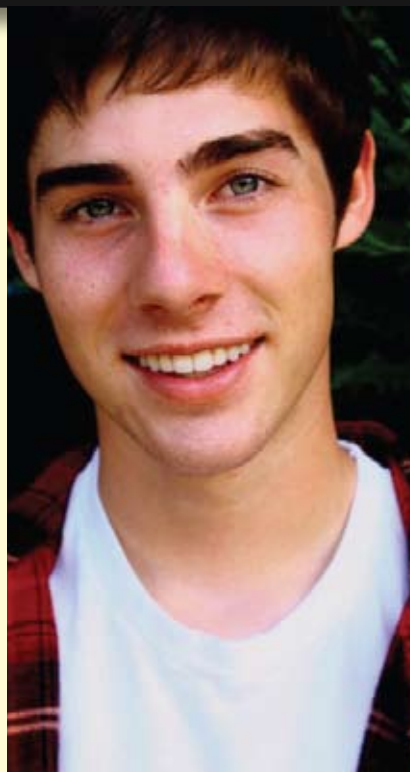
But when the opportunity to have a relationship with another man arose in the midst of my complicated teenage life I couldn't imagine a more perfect thing happening to me. The tests that Justin and I got together all came back negative. We were poor teenagers, plus, we were in love (or so we thought) and sex felt a whole lot better without the rubber. In general, there was less fuss. And most importantly, we both knew we could do this as long as we wanted as long as we stayed one 100% committed to each other.

So the HIV test that was supposed to be a mature step forward for the two of us became the keystone of our relationship for reasons that no doctor would ever recommend. We relied on our sex to keep us together, because we would rather have uninhibited sex than sleep around with other guys. And it almost worked.

The hardest part of growing up as a gay teen is the lack of communication. No one teaches gay history, even when (in a school where 98% of the population was white) we celebrated Black History Month. Statistically, there were more gays in my high school than African-Americans. But I wasn't upset at the time because I didn't know otherwise.

It's the same thing with our knowledge of AIDS. Straight people have AIDS too, but it was only mentioned once in my entire upbringing. I wonder to this day, if I had been born with a stamp on my forehead that read "GAY," would my parents have taught me any differently? Would they have skipped the birds and the bees for something more pertinent like a discussion on AIDS?

I mean, the way Justin and I went at it you would have thought we were trying to



Trevor Mauro.

get pregnant, but birth control was a pointless conversation between my parents and me. In one episode of Glee this season, Kurt asks his father to "read up" on gay sex because he would "like to be able to talk to his dad the way Finn does." This is something I've thought of often since getting to college, and it says something very important about the education I received as a young person on the subject. It's also significant to hear those words uttered on FOX, a network that typically leans to the right.

To my knowledge, the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) I ran my senior year in high school now has more than 70 members. That's much more statistically accurate. Because of our GSA, Justin and I were allowed to attend dances and march around holding hands throughout my senior year. But we never thought of AIDS, HIV, or other sexually transmitted diseases as a topic for a GSA meeting. GSA is supposed to be fun, right?

Looking back, I wish we would have. I have since contacted my old GSA and asked them to have a meeting focused on safe sex. Someone needs to point these issues out to kids, help steer them in the right direction and provide the education critical to the health and safety of LGBTQ youth.

I also realized that I didn't have an older figurehead in my life growing up gay but I am sort of that guy to all the kids back in my hometown now, partly because I left for

a "big city" a thousand miles away, but more so because I always treated everyone with respect and never laughed at a question. No one sat me down and told me that I had to use a condom, in case Justin broke our trust.

The day came when my high school relationship ended. It has been any number of months, depending on your individual description of the word "end." In the name of queens everywhere we had a true love-hate display of emotions that everyone from our friends to strangers in the park got to take part in. Our breakup lasted months, but neither of us broke our physical bond to each other until just before my graduation. It hurt like hell, and even his icy cold glare from across the crowd at my reception couldn't numb my pain.

Eventually, I moved here to Chicago after spending the summer away from home to avoid Justin. I began my new life alone, and he spent the rest of 2010 licking his wounds as he realized what he had just given up. I'm not talking about me; I'm talking about the priceless freedom of monogamy.

In gay culture, as I've seen in Chicago, monogamy isn't something associated with people my age. Perhaps that's why we have a reputation for not taking AIDS seriously. Perhaps it's the lack of education we received as homosexuals growing up in a heteronormal society. Perhaps it has to do with never coming face to face with an epidemic that was tucked under the rug before I was even born. I've grown up with the misconception that if someone is monogamous than the rest of their sex life doesn't matter.

Now, I always wear protection because I don't have the security of a virgin boyfriend and I don't know or trust most of the guys I sleep with. Everyone's knowledge of AIDS is a collection personal experience from their own life and the classroom. It's why my college LGBTQ organization hosts sex workshops and why I encourage kids and older mentors to forge connections. This article will certainly raise concerns, but I hope my own experience—one of borderline danger—will help educators and leaders in our community make informed decisions about what to do next.

Trevor Mauro, a freelance writer, is an architecture major at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. You can read his blog "On the Mark" for Chicago.GoPride.com, or hear him Fridays at 8 p.m. hosting The Monster Mash on WIIT 88.9FM. He was born and raised in Bellingham, Wash.

Report discusses aging HIV epidemic

For the first time, a large coalition of aging organizations included recommendations that would better serve older adults with HIV. The New York-based Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) commended the move.

"As Congress prepares to reauthorize the Older Americans Act this year, we urge them to consider the Leadership Council on Aging Organizations (LCAO) recommendations that prioritize the needs of older adults living with and at risk for HIV," said Nathan Schaefer, director of public policy at GMHC. "As we continue to age with the HIV epidemic and expect that half of people living with HIV will be over 50 by 2017, it is

critical that we consider how all programs and policies that affect older Americans can better respond to the HIV epidemic."

Included in the recommendations is a call for the definition of older adults with "greatest social need" to be inclusive of HIV-positive older adults.

The LCAO is a coalition of 65 national leading aging organizations. The Older Americans Act is a critical piece of legislation that funds Area Agencies on Aging across the country. Their recommendations will inform how Congress will reauthorize this vital legislation in 2011.

See www.lcao.org.

AFC and Windy City Times Want Your Stories for AIDS @ 30

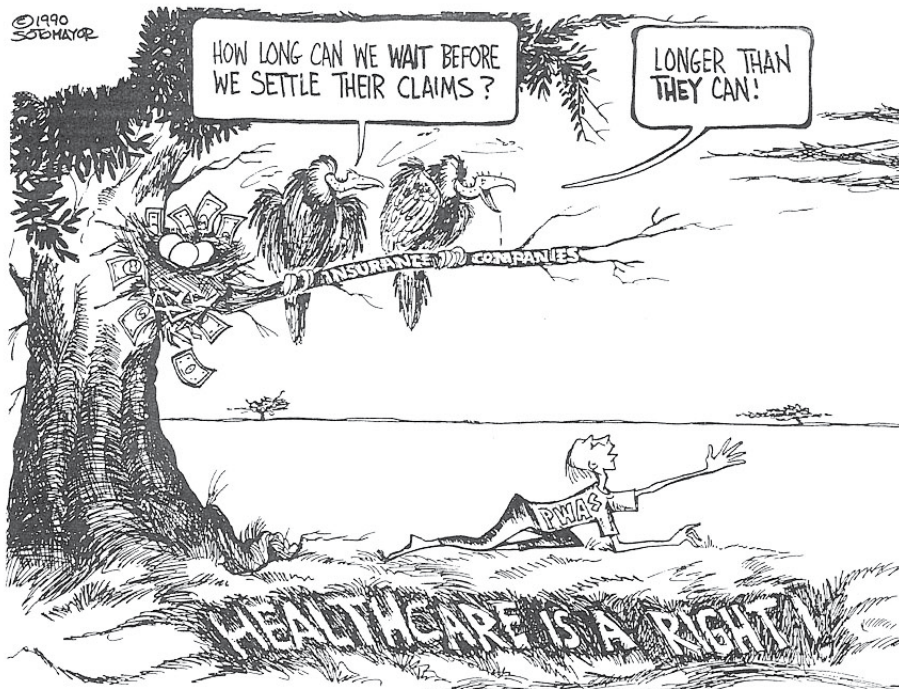
Were you around during the era of GRID and ACT UP? Did you lose friends or family? Then the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) and the Windy City Times want to hear your account of that time. We are teaming up to produce a nine-month series called AIDS @ 30 to recognize the 30th year of AIDS in America, remember the early days of the epidemic, honor those we lost, and celebrate long-term survivors.

AIDS @ 30 will draw from more than two decades of photographs and articles from the Windy City Times and other Chicago publications, but we need your stories to give this project real life. The weekly features will run in the Windy City Times from April through December, tracing the epidemic's history from the early 1980's. The series will feature profiles of local advocates, organizations, those lost to AIDS, and uncover personal stories of family members, friends and people who have lived with AIDS for 20 years or more.

Is there a particular person, organization or story you think needs to be highlighted in AIDS @ 30? If so, please contribute your story ideas!

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AIDSAT30>





Danny Sotomayor editorial cartoon from 1990. Courtesy Lori Cannon

KOOP from page 15

I knew it had not been absorbed in depth by anyone present."

Once the report had been cleared for publication, Dr. Koop's next battle came when he released the AIDS report on October 22, 1986 at a Washington press conference and mentioned the words "sex education." Here, he describes how "the political meddlers in the White House tried to bottle up the report" by suggesting that he "update" the report, which Dr. Koop inferred to mean leaving out the word "condom."

Dr. Koop refused this request but was still surprised by the reaction of political leaders on both sides of the aisle. "Suddenly, I found myself praised by my former liberal adversaries and condemned by my former conservative allies. Everybody, or at least those who didn't know me, said that I had changed," he writes.

But the real problem at the time, reports Dr. Koop, was the lack of support from the White House. As he states with great candor, "At least a dozen times I pled with my critics in the White House to set up a meeting between the President and me so he could hear my concerns about America and the AIDS epidemic."

Dr. Koop also speaks with great candor about the attempts by some members of Congress to require mandatory testing for AIDS, which in 1987, threatened the civil rights of those infected with the virus. Amid this controversy, Dr. Koop recounts a cabinet meeting where Reagan had to decide between the advice offered by Dr. Koop and other health officials to offer testing on a voluntary and confidential basis or to require mandatory, widespread testing advocated by some members of the White House staff.

"At the Cabinet meeting, I was sitting in the second row, and unobtrusively, I pushed my chair back so I was slightly behind the two people seated on either side of me. That way, no one could see my face except the president," writes Dr. Koop. "Whenever the president had a question that I wanted to answer, or whenever a cabinet member made a statement I wanted to reinforce or rebut, I raised my right index finger beside my nose and almost imperceptively nodded toward the president. He acknowledged me on each occasion without anyone knowing I had really asked to speak" As described by Dr. Koop, President Reagan asked to hear from Dr. Koop on eight occasions and then agreed that testing would remain voluntary and confidential.

Dr. Koop calls his time in confronting the AIDS epidemic from 1986 to 1989 as the "second

phase of America and AIDS," when "Americans sorted through the issues of testing, discrimination and civil rights, and in general, rejected bad laws and approved good ones, assuring people who did not practice high-risk behavior that they were protected from the disease, and also, in general protecting the civil rights of those who contracted AIDS."

Now, the former Surgeon General has set his sights on the "third phase of America and AIDS" and a time when a formerly fatal disease has become a chronic condition and people with HIV can live a near normal life span. Despite the tremendous progress over the last 30 years, Dr. Koop states that the dual challenges of stigma and complacency remain significant obstacles to getting more people with HIV tested and linked into care. Accordingly, Dr. Koop is calling on today's public health leaders to be aggressive in confronting these challenges, which he states are as dangerous today as the irrational fear in the first days of the AIDS epidemic.

On a very personal note, however, Dr. Koop also admits wryly that given how much progress has been made in combating HIV/AIDS in this country over the past 30 years, "being burned in effigy doesn't hurt a bit."

This article is from a press release issued by The Forum for Collaborative HIV Research Now, part of the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health and based in Washington, D.C. The Forum was founded in 1997 as the outgrowth of the Keystone Center's report "The Keystone National Policy Dialogue on Establishment of Studies to Optimize Medical Management of HIV Infection," which called for an ongoing collaboration among stakeholders to address emerging issues in HIV/AIDS and set the research strategy. Representing government, industry, patient advocates, healthcare providers, foundations and academia, the Forum is a public/private partnership that is guided by an executive committee that sets the research agenda. The Forum organizes roundtables and issues reports on a range of global HIV/AIDS issues, including treatment-related toxicities, immune-based therapies, health services research, co-infections, prevention, and the transference of research results into care. Forum recommendations have changed the ways that clinical trials are conducted, accelerated the delivery of new classes of drugs, heightened awareness of TB/HIV co-infection, and helped to spur national momentum toward universal testing for HIV. See www.hivforum.org.

LAW from page 14

years, these cases are cropping up more and more—further fueled in many instances by the homophobia and transphobia that is too common in these already isolating settings.

WRONGFUL PROSECUTION

In recent years, Lambda Legal has also observed an uptick in the number of prosecutions and sentence enhancements based on HIV status. One particularly shocking case known as *People v. Allen* involved an altercation between Michigan neighbors in which prosecutors tacked on a bioterrorism charge because the fight involved biting and the accused allegedly had HIV. The case was thrown out after Lambda Legal and others presented commonly available scientific



Lorenzo Taylor fought against the U.S. Foreign Service because of their bias against him due to HIV. Photo by Bob Roehr

evidence that it would be almost impossible for saliva to transmit the HIV virus. Lambda Legal also objected to the absurdly HIV-phobic application of a terrorism law to a fight between neighbors.

Criminalizing behavior that would otherwise be completely legal—or enhancing a person's sentence for illegal conduct—simply because the person has tested positive for HIV, runs afoul of basic human rights and has no place in sound public health policy. Unfortunately, this type of discrimination is as old as Lambda Legal's fight on behalf of HIV-positive people—and as stubborn, it seems, as the virus itself. Like our colleagues in the medical field, however, who do not intend to stop fighting HIV until it is eradicated, we at Lambda Legal are fully committed to completely eliminating the stigma and discrimination that too often prevent people with HIV from leading full and fulfilling lives.

This article and its sidebars are from the Lambda Legal 2011 Winter edition of Impact Magazine. See more details at www.lambda-legal.org/publications/impact/impact_2011_winter.html

SENIOR MOMENT

Franke v. Parkstone Arkansas, 2010

Dr. Robert Franke, a 70-year-old retired professor and minister, relocated from Michigan to Little Rock, Ark., in 2009 to live closer to his daughter, Sara Bowling. After an application process that included detailed medical information, Franke moved into an assisted-living facility called Fox Ridge—but was evicted the next day when staff noticed his HIV status in his paperwork.

With the help of Lambda Legal, Franke and Bowling sued Fox Ridge. Although the case never went to trial, settling out of court in September 2010, it has raised awareness about this growing problem. In fact, Franke and his daughter were recognized for their contribution to the fight against HIV discrimination at a White House meeting in October 2010.

Bowling says the case has already had an impact in the Little Rock area. "Recently, I received an email from a friend who works at a living facility in town," she reports. "She told me that the staff was being educated and trained about HIV and that our case was described to the staff. I can't tell you how happy this news has made my father and me."

DIPLOMATIC DISPUTE

Taylor v. Rice Washington, D.C., 2008

This five-year-long HIV discrimination case against the U.S. State Department finally came to an end when the department agreed to drop its policy of banning all HIV-positive applicants from serving overseas as Foreign Service Officers.

Lorenzo Taylor was barred from joining the Foreign Service because he had HIV. Lambda Legal represented Taylor by filing suit in federal court, alleging that the policy violated the Rehabilitation Act, which prohibits the federal government from discriminating against people with disabilities.

On a motion for summary judgment, the federal district court sided with the State Department's contention that an HIV-positive Foreign Service Officer (FSO) would have health needs—lab work and visits with HIV specialists, for instance—that the department would not be able to provide in every country across the globe. Lambda Legal appealed the district court's decision, and the U.S. Court of Appeals agreed with Lambda Legal that Taylor's claims had merit. Two weeks before trial on remand, the blanket ban against FSO applicants with HIV was lifted.

VIEWPOINTS

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"Windy City Media Group generated enormous interest among their readers in this year's LGBT Consumer Index Survey. Out of approximately 100 print and online media partners who participated in the survey, Windy City was the best performing regional media in the U.S. Only survey partners with a nationwide footprint were able to generate a greater number of responses." —David Marshall, Research Director, Community Marketing, Inc.

 Community Marketing, Inc.

REV. IRENE
MONROEMalcolm X was
'gay for pay'

Before any of us in the LGBTQ community laud Malcolm X as our new gay icon or castigate him for being a Black heterosexual nationalist on the "down low," we might need to closely examine the recent revelation that for a period in his life Malcolm X engaged in same-sex relationships.

Also, before any of us in the African-American community flatly dismiss these assertions as part and parcel of a racist conspiratorial propaganda machine that is out to discredit our brother Malcolm, we need, at least, to hear these nagging claims.

This time, said claims come from one of our own: Manning Marable, a renowned and respected African-American historian and social critic from Columbia University.

Sadly, Marable died April 1, just days before the release of his magnum opus, an exhaustive and new 594-page biography entitled *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*. The book was released April 4, which also marks the anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, assassination in 1968.

His assertions in the book—derived from meticulously combed through 6,000 pages of FBI files obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, records from the Central Intelligence Agency, State Department and New York district attorney's office, as well as his interviews with members of Malcolm X's inner circle and security team—leaves the reader in shock and awe.

What comes as no shock for those of us who

always thought Malcolm X's assassination, as with King's, had everything to do with J. Edgar Hoover's FBI, we are correct. Marable emphatically states that both the FBI and New York Police Department had advance knowledge of Malcolm X's assassination plot, and did nothing to abort it.

However, what will come as a shock is Marable's assertions that the Malcolm X the world has come to know through Alex Haley's 1965 New York Times best-seller, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, and Spike Lee's 1992 film, *Malcolm X* (based largely on Haley's book) is fictive. Also, the spin we have, in part, is due to Malcolm himself.

In creating an autobiographical narrative that would have his book fly off of bookshelves as well as elevate his status to a national, if not world, stage, Malcolm X intentionally fabricated, exaggerated, glossed over and omitted vital facts about his life. One such fact was his same-sex relationship with a white businessman.

The claim, no doubt, will become a hotly contested topic in sectors of the African-American community. With an iconography of racist images of Black masculinity ranging from back in the day as Sambos, Uncle Toms, coons, bucks and, now, gangsta hip-hoppers, Malcolm represented the negation of them. As a pop-culture hero to young Black males of this generation and as the quintessential representation of Black manhood of both America's Black civil-rights and Black Power eras, having Malcolm X depicted as gay will be a hard, if not impossible, sell to the African American community.

Here's why:

At Malcolm X's funeral, held at the Faith Temple Church Of God Feb. 27, 1965, renowned African-American actor and civil-rights activist Ossie Davis, delivered the eulogy stating the following:

"Harlem has come to bid farewell to one of its brightest hopes. ... Malcolm was our manhood—our living, Black manhood! This was his

- Ordered the Department of Justice to stop defending the Defense of Marriage Act;
- The repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell;"
- Directed the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure hospital visitation and decision-making rights for LGBT individuals;
- Funded studies on LGBT endangered youth;
- Barred discrimination based on gender identity in federal employment;
- Funding on LGBT seniors;
- Reversing the U.S. position, supported LGBT issues at the United Nations and signed the U.N. Declaration on Gay Rights;
- Lifted the ban on HIV-positive travelers to the United States;
- Established foreign policy that will not accept antigay bigotry; and
- Supports the effort to pass ENDA in Congress

This is only the short list, but it is very impressive. For those of you who might say he didn't live up to my expectations, I'd say maybe not, but no elected official ever does. What we can expect is a new direction. His accomplishments far outweigh any disappointments. As we often hear, no one is perfect, but this president is the best on LGBT issues in history, and it is my honor and privilege to say I proudly support him for re-election, and hope you'll join me in that effort.

Philadelphia Gay News Publisher Mark Segal is the nation's most-award-winning commentator in LGBT media. He can be reached at mark@epgn.com.

MARK
SEGALGavin Newsom,
Elizabeth Birch
(and me)

Last week, President Obama officially announced (to no one's surprise) that he was a candidate for re-election. The following day, I was on a conference call to kick off the LGBT part of the campaign.

First up to voice his support for the president was California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, former mayor of San Francisco. Next was the former president of Human Rights Campaign, Elizabeth Birch.

Since they have already vocalized their support, I guess it's my turn—or is it?

In 2008, it took a lot of time for then-Sen. Obama to convince me that he was real in his support of our issues. As you might recall, we had a few bumps in that road and many in our community chastised me for not getting onboard sooner.

However, Obama did win me over and, in some ways, those of us who were late to get onboard are very proud we went with him, and are even prouder of his record. That record, simply put, is the best record on LGBT issues of all presidential administrations combined.

Here's the short list:

- Appointed the largest number of LGBT people to major administration posts;

meaning to his people...And we will know him then for what he was and is. A prince. Our own Black shining prince who didn't hesitate to die because he loved us so."

For a gangsta hip-hop generation Malcolm Little, before his conversation to the Nation of Islam and name change, represents a lauded hypermasculinity. Moreover, their male-dominated musical genre is aesthetically built on the most misogynistic and homophobic strains of Black nationalism and Afrocentricism.

However, this claim by Marable is not new. Reports of Malcolm X's queerness was first revealed in Bruce Perry's biography, *Malcolm: The Life of a Man Who Changed Black America* in 1991.

According to Perry, Malcolm's same-sex dalliances date back to childhood where he enjoyed being masturbated or fellated. In his 20s, Perry informs us, Malcolm had a sustained sexual relationship with a transvestite named Willie Mae, and also he had sex with gay men for money, boasting he serviced "queers."

I am not a heterosexist apologist, but if we, as LGBTQs, use this era of Malcolm's life to claim him as gay, we misunderstand the art and survival of street-hustling culture.

Similarly, if we, as African Americans, use this era of Malcolm's life to dismiss that he engaged in same-sex relationships, many will miss the opportunity to purge ourselves of homophobic attitudes.

When Malcolm came to Boston to live with his older half-sister, Ella Little Collins, in Roxbury, he was 16, having dropped out of school at 15. With no job skills and looking for the most expedient route to acquire money, Malcolm peddled cocaine, broke into homes of Boston's well-to-do, gambled big at poker games and unabashedly serviced gay men for pay.

While it can be argued that Malcolm's same-sex encounters were not solely financially motivated, let us also not dismiss that the only evidence we do have is the context in which he was.

Letters:

Coming to one's census

Dear Editor:

Every 10 years following the national census, Illinois is required to redraw its congressional and legislative boundaries to reflect population changes. The task before the legislature is a serious endeavor, as the mapmaking process will help determine representation in the General Assembly for the next 10 years. It is important for all Illinois residents and communities to have a chance to give their input and be heard.

This year's redistricting process strives to be more open than ever before. To foster an inclusive process, the Illinois House of Representatives has created a Special Committee on Redistricting that will conduct at least 15 public hearings, held in communities across the state, to hear directly from residents on how legislative boundaries should be drawn.

On Saturday, April 16, we will be hosting a public hearing of this committee at The Cicero Town Hall, located at 4949 W. Cermak, Cicero. Civic groups, community organizations, elected officials, minority groups, organizations serving seniors and the disabled, and many others will be invited to participate in this hearing to offer input and suggestions. For more information, please contact 217-782-4040.

Sincerely,

State Reps. Daniel Burke (23rd District),
 Lisa Hernandez (24th District) and Michael
 Zalewski (21st District)

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Eric Y. Exit

HORSEPLAY

Charín Alvarez brings panache to the theatrical production *El Nogalar*. Read the review on page 24.

MOVIES

Say 'Uncle.'
Page 27.

PR photo



MUSIC

Ariel maneuver.
Page 31.

PR photo



CELEBRATIONS

Shiller instinct.
Page 35.

Photo by Bruce Barnes



Dancin' Feats

BY ALICIA WILSON

This month features events that mix a bit of the old in with the new. Established dance companies, both local and national, are performing in Chicago this month, bringing along early works, premieres and the fresh voices of upcoming choreographers. Here are some performances to check out that blend the known with the up and coming, bringing you a fresh perspective on some long time favorites in the dance world.

Trisha Brown celebrates the 40th anniversary of her company this season, and brings her post-modern works to the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) stage this month. Brown came into the public view as a choreographer as a part of the Judson Dance Theater movement in the 1960s. A leader in abstract choreography, she continuously pushes the limits of what is accepted as movement, and defines her own rules in making dances. Also a visual artist in her own right, the stage sets for this upcoming performance are designed by Brown and reflect her continuous explorations in a range of art forms.

This performance at the MCA provides a rare opportunity to experience some of Brown's early works alongside her newest piece, which is choreographed to a baroque opera. This is the Chicago premiere of *Les Yeux et l'âme* (2011), which features the music of 18th-century French composer Jean-Philippe Rameau's opera, *Pygmalion*. The opera, based on a myth as told in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, is a story of love and magic retold here through the human architecture of Brown's movement. The program will also include the works *Foray Forêt* (1990), featuring costume and lighting design by Robert Rauschenberg; *Watermotor* (1978); and *Opal Loop* (1980).

Trisha Brown Dance Company will be presented at the MCA, 220 E. Chicago, 7:30 p.m. April 15-16, and 3 p.m. April 17; tickets are \$22, \$18 for

members or \$10 for students. For tickets or more information visit <http://www.mcachicago.org/> performances or call 312.397.4010.

In addition to the theater performances, Trisha Brown Company will also perform a rare event on the MCA's main floor, presenting signature sight specific works from the company's repertoire. This hour-long performance includes the works *Accumulation* (1971), set to the Grateful Dead's "Uncle John's Band;" *Sticks* (1973); and *Spanish Dance* (1973), set to Gordon Lightfoot's "Early Mornin' Rain" performed by Bob Dylan. This Early Works performance will take place Saturday April 16, 3-4 p.m., and is free with museum admission or a performance ticket.

Mordine & Company Dance Theater will be presenting NEXT 2011, featuring new works from Shirley Mordine, RE|Dance and the Mordine & Company 2011 emerging artist Alitra Cartman. Presented at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts for two evenings, the performances will include a discussion with the artists following the Friday night presentation, and a reception sponsored by Dance/USA after the Saturday showing.

Speaking to the intent behind this show and her new work, Mordine comments, "In light of current global circumstances of uprising and revolt, the need and desire to have a voice—and the fear of anonymity—is proving yet again to be a powerful instinct. By making our voices heard, sharing our stories and finding the commonalities, we reach new realizations about ourselves, each other and the universe we share. Dance is a very potent vehicle for revealing these connections."

Mordine's new work, entitled *LifeSpeak*, is a dance about life stories that illuminate the individual past and our collective history. She translates the personal anecdotes of the dancers into movement frames that are filled with meaningful gestures, nuance and individuality.



Joffrey Ballet's "Night" with Anastacia Holden and Dylan Gutierrez. Photo by Herbert Migdoll

The stories reveal a sense of transformation, as the stories are composed, de-composed and re-composed again based on the times, the teller and the audience. *LifeSpeak* is a work on the whole company, created in collaboration with the dancers, and features live original music by Shawn Decker.

Also by Mordine is the piece entitled *Illuminations* (2009). The work, while non-narrative, is inspired by the classic tale of Icarus and the lively imagery of soaring, falling and risk-taking. Going off of this evocative imagery, the work explores time as experienced through the body's play with gravity, speed, intention and chance. This piece, also a full company work, is set to a remix of music by Steve Reich and an original score by Shawn Decker, with visual designs by projection artist John Boesche.

RE|Dance will present a work entitled *The Mysterious Disappearance of the Second Youngest Sister*, choreographed by Michael Estanich and performed by himself, Vurusic Riner and Lauren Bisio. This collaborative work goes into the construction of the artistic mind, and uses images of sight, blindness and travel to communicate the sensitive terrain of human frailty. Both delicate and frenetic, the trio explores the intertwined relationship of three characters caught within one young female writer's reality and creative imagination. It uses the relationship between author and characters as a metaphor for psychological unraveling and the desire to connect.

Mordine & Company Dance Theater will present NEXT 2011 at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts, 1016 N. Dearborn, 8 p.m. April 29-30; tickets are \$20 presale, \$22 at the door and \$15 student/seniors. For tickets or more information visit <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/158905> or call 1-800-838-3006.

The Joffrey Ballet concludes its season with *Rising Stars*, a mixed repertory program featuring two world premieres by Edwaard Liang and Yuri Possokhov, plus a company premiere by Julia Adam. These choreographers showcase abstract ballets that blend technique in new ways, and pave the road for the future of new ballet works. Speaking to the *Rising Stars* program Artistic Director Ashley C. Wheeler commented, "The Joffrey Ballet is pleased to present two world premieres and one Joffrey premier during our spring program. These diverse new works offers wonderful insights into today's choreographers working across a broad range of influences. At heart, the Joffrey is a classical company with its sight towards the horizon. This spring, we introduce choreographer Yuri Possokhov to the Joffrey audience and we welcome back Julia Adam and Edwaard Liang."

The Joffrey Ballet presents *Rising Stars* at The Auditorium Theater, 50 E. Congress, various times May 4-15; tickets (\$25-\$145) or more information are available at <http://www.joffrey.org/risingstars>.

More than 5.3 million KALETRA prescriptions have been filled in the US*

If you have HIV, ask your doctor if KALETRA could be right for you

- KALETRA may help lower viral load and raise T-cell (CD₄) count
 - Some patients may develop signs and symptoms of serious infections they already have after starting anti-HIV medicines
- KALETRA is used with other anti-HIV-1 medicines to increase the chance of treatment response in people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1) infection
- KALETRA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS and does not stop you from passing HIV-1 to others. You may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV-1

Please see KALETRA Use and Important Safety Information on the next page.

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KALETRA Use and Important Safety Information¹

Use

KALETRA® (lopinavir/ritonavir) is a prescription anti-HIV-1 medicine called a protease inhibitor that contains lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is used with other anti-HIV-1 medicines to increase the chance of treatment response in people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1) infection. It is not known if KALETRA is safe and effective in children under 14 days old.

KALETRA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS and does not stop you from passing HIV-1 to others. You may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV-1.

Important Safety Information

Do not take KALETRA if you are allergic to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including lopinavir or ritonavir. Skin rashes, some of them severe, can occur in people who take KALETRA. Tell your doctor if you had a rash when you took another medicine for HIV or if you notice any skin rash when you take KALETRA.

Drug Interactions:

The list of drug interactions below is not complete. You must tell your doctor about all medicines you are taking or planning to take, including those without a prescription, vitamins, and herbal products.

Serious problems or death can happen if you take these medicines with KALETRA: ergot-containing medicines, including ergotamine (Cafergot® and others), dihydroergotamine (D.H.E. 45® and others), ergonovine (Ergotrate®), and methylergonovine (Methergine®); triazolam (Halcion®); midazolam oral syrup; pimozide (Orap®); lovastatin (Mevacor®); simvastatin (Zocor®); rifampin (Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®); sildenafil (Revatio®) only when used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension; alfuzosin (Uroxatral®); or products containing St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*).

The following medicines may need changes if you take KALETRA: birth control pills that contain estrogen ("the pill"), birth control (contraceptive) patches, nilotinib (Tasigna®) and dasatinib (Sprycel®), atorvastatin (Lipitor®), rosuvastatin (Crestor®), efavirenz (Atripla® and Sustiva®), nevirapine (Viramune®), amprenavir (Agenerase®), fosamprenavir (Lexiva®), nelfinavir (Viracept®), phenytoin (Dilantin®), carbamazepine (Tegretol®), phenobarbital, sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®, Adcirca®), vardenafil (Levitra®), rifabutin (Mycobutin®), inhaled fluticasone (Flonase®), salmeterol (Serevent®) and salmeterol in combination with fluticasone propionate (Advair®), colchicine (Colcrys®), bosentan (Tracleer®), fentanyl (Duragesic®, Lonsys™, Fentora®) and methadone.

KALETRA should not be taken once daily if you take carbamazepine (Tegretol® and Epitol®), phenobarbital (Luminal®), or phenytoin (Dilantin®).

There is an increased risk of certain problems when you take medicines used for the treatment of erectile problems such as sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®), or vardenafil (Levitra®) with KALETRA, because the interaction with these medicines may result in an increase in their side effects, such as low blood pressure (dizziness or fainting), vision changes, and/or erections lasting more than 4 hours. Tell your doctor right away if you experience any of these side effects.

KALETRA oral solution contains propylene glycol and a large amount of alcohol.

- KALETRA oral solution **should not** be given to babies younger than 14 days of age unless your doctor thinks it is right for your baby. **Babies taking KALETRA oral solution may have side effects.** Call your doctor right away if your baby appears too sleepy or their breathing has changed.
- Talk with your doctor if you take or plan to take metronidazole (Flagyl®) or disulfiram (Antabuse®). You can have severe nausea and vomiting if you take these medicines with KALETRA.

KALETRA can cause serious side effects:

KALETRA may not be right for you. Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions.

Changes in your heart rhythm and the electrical activity of your heart can occur when taking KALETRA. These changes can lead to serious heart problems. Your risk for these problems may be higher if you already have a history of abnormal heart rhythm or other types of heart disease, or if you take other medicines that can affect your heart rhythm while you take KALETRA. Tell your doctor right away if you experience dizziness, lightheadedness, fainting, and/or a sensation of abnormal heartbeats.

Liver problems, including death, can happen in people who take KALETRA. Blood tests in people who take KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as hepatitis B or C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. People should tell their doctor right away if they have any of the following signs and symptoms: loss of appetite, yellowing of skin or eyes (jaundice), dark-colored urine, pale-colored stools, itchy skin, and/or stomach area (abdominal) pain.

Inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis), which may be serious and cause death, has occurred in some people who take KALETRA. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, and/or abdominal pain, as these may be signs of pancreatitis.

Immune reconstitution syndrome may occur after starting anti-HIV medicines, including KALETRA. This happens when you develop signs

and symptoms of serious infections you already have, which may require additional treatment.

Large increases in certain fat (triglycerides and cholesterol) levels in the blood have occurred in some people receiving KALETRA. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or strokes due to these increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.

New or more serious diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in some people who take protease inhibitors, including KALETRA. Tell your doctor if you notice an increase in thirst or urinate often while taking KALETRA.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some people who take anti-HIV therapy. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Increased bleeding has occurred in some people with hemophilia who take protease inhibitors, including KALETRA.

If you are taking birth control pills or using patches to prevent pregnancy, you should use an extra form or a different type of birth control, since birth control pills or patches may not work as well while you take KALETRA. Talk to your doctor about how to prevent pregnancy while taking KALETRA.

It is not known if KALETRA will harm your unborn baby. If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor.

If you take KALETRA during pregnancy, you should talk with your doctor about how you can take part in an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry. The purpose of the pregnancy registry is to follow the health of you and your baby.

Do not breast-feed while taking KALETRA. There is a chance HIV can be passed to your baby through breast milk and your baby may have serious side effects from KALETRA.

Common side effects of KALETRA include diarrhea, nausea, stomach area (abdominal) pain, feeling weak, vomiting, headache, or upset stomach. These are not all of the possible side effects of KALETRA.

The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time.

This is the most important information to know about KALETRA. For more information, talk with your doctor.

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 (1-800-332-1088).

If you cannot afford your medication, contact: www.pparx.org or call the toll-free number (1-888-4PPA-NOW) or (1-888-477-2669) for assistance.

For additional information about KALETRA, call 1-866-KALETRA (1-866-525-3872) or visit KALETRA.com.

Please see Brief Summary of Prescribing Information on the following pages.

Reference: 1. KALETRA [package insert]. North Chicago, IL: Abbott Laboratories.

*Since September 2000. IMS Health, NPA™, September 2000–September 2010.

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KALETRA®
(lopinavir/ritonavir)

KALETRA® (kuh-LEE-tra) (lopinavir/ritonavir) Tablets

KALETRA® (kuh-LEE-tra) (lopinavir/ritonavir) Oral Solution

CONSUMER BRIEF SUMMARY
CONSULT PACKAGE INSERT FOR FULL
PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

Patient Information

Read the Medication Guide that comes with KALETRA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment. You and your doctor should talk about your treatment with KALETRA before you start taking it and at regular check-ups. You should stay under your doctor's care when taking KALETRA.

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

KALETRA may cause serious side effects, including:

• Interactions with other medicines. It is important to **know the medicines that should not be taken with KALETRA.**

Read the section "What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?"

• Changes in your heart rhythm and the electrical activity of your heart. These changes may be seen on an EKG (electrocardiogram) and can lead to serious heart problems. Your risk for these problems may be higher if you:

- already have a history of abnormal heart rhythm or other types of heart disease.
- take other medicines that can affect your heart rhythm while you take KALETRA.

Tell your doctor right away if you have any of these symptoms while taking KALETRA:

- dizziness
- lightheadedness
- fainting
- sensation of abnormal heartbeats

See the section below "What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?" for more information about serious side effects.

What is KALETRA?

KALETRA is a prescription anti-HIV medicine that contains two medicines: lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is called a protease inhibitor that is used with other anti-HIV-1 medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1) infection. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

It is not known if KALETRA is safe and effective in children under 14 days old.

Who should not take KALETRA?

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please see "Can I take other medicines with KALETRA?" and consult with your doctor about all other medicines you take.
- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir and lopinavir.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

KALETRA may not be right for you. Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- have any heart problems, including if you have a condition called Congenital Long QT Syndrome.
- have liver problems, including Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C.
- have diabetes.
- have hemophilia. People who take KALETRA may have increased bleeding.
- have low potassium in your blood.

- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if KALETRA will harm your unborn baby. Birth control pills or patches may not work as well while you take KALETRA. To prevent pregnancy while taking KALETRA, women who take birth control pills or use estrogen patch for birth control should either use a different type of birth control or an extra form of birth control. Talk to your doctor about how to prevent pregnancy while taking KALETRA.

- take KALETRA during pregnancy, talk with your doctor about how you can take part in an antiretroviral pregnancy registry. The purpose of the pregnancy registry is to follow the health of you and your baby.

- are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV-1. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby while taking KALETRA, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. If your baby does not already have HIV-1, there is a chance that HIV-1 can be passed to your baby through your breast milk.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Many medicines interact with KALETRA. Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your doctor or pharmacist. Your doctor can tell you if it is safe to take KALETRA with other medicines. Your doctor may need to change the dose of other medicines while you take KALETRA.

Medicines you should not take with KALETRA.

Serious problems or death can happen if you take these medicines with KALETRA:

- ergot containing medicines, including:
 - ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot, Ergomar, Ergostat, Medihaler Ergotamine, Wigraine, Wigrettes)
 - dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Embolex, Migranal®)
 - ergonovine, ergonovine and methylergonovine (Ergotrate, Methergine), ergotamine and methylergonovine
 - Ergotrate Maleate, methylergonovine maleate (Methergine)
- triazolam (Halcion®), midazolam hydrochloride oral syrup
- pimozone (Orap®)
- the cholesterol lowering medicines lovastatin (Mevacor®) or simvastatin (Zocor®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®) only when used for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension. (See "Medicines that may need changes" and "What are the possible side effects of Kaletra?" for information about the use of sildenafil for erectile problems.)
- alfuzosin (Uroxatral®)

Medicines that you should not take with KALETRA since they may make KALETRA not work as well:

- the herbal supplement St. John's Wort (hypericum perforatum)
- rifampin (Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®)

Medicines that may need changes:

- birth control pills that contain estrogen ("the pill") or the birth control (contraceptive) patches
- certain anticancer medicines, such as nilotinib (Tasigna®) and dasatinib (Sprycel®)

- certain cholesterol lowering medicines, such as atorvastatin (Lipitor®) or rosuvastatin (Crestor®)
- certain other antiretroviral medicines, such as efavirenz (Atripla® and Sustiva®), nevirapine (Viramune®), amprenavir (Agenerase®) and nelfinavir (Viracept®)
- anti-seizure medicines, such as phenytoin (Dilantin®) carbamazepine, (Tegretol®), phenobarbital
- medicines for erectile problems, such as sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®), or vardenafil (Levitra®)
- medicines for tuberculosis (TB), such as rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
- inhaled steroid medicines, such as fluticasone propionate (Flonase®)
- inhaled medicines such as salmeterol (Serevent®) or salmeterol in combination with fluticasone propionate (Advair®). Your doctor may need to change to a different medicine
- medicines for gout, such as colchicine (Colcrys®)
- medicines to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), such as bosentan (Tracleer®) or tadalafil (Adcirca®)
- pain medicines, such as fentanyl (Duragesic®, Ionsys™, Fentora®) and methadone

If you are not sure if you are taking a medicine above, ask your doctor.

How should I take KALETRA?

- Take KALETRA every day exactly as prescribed by your doctor.
- It is very important to set up a dosing schedule and follow it every day.
- Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- Swallow KALETRA tablets whole. Do not chew, break, or crush KALETRA tablets.
- KALETRA tablets can be taken with or without food.
- If you are taking both Videx® (didanosine) and KALETRA:
 - didanosine can be taken at the same time as KALETRA tablets, without food.
 - take didanosine either one hour before or two hours after taking KALETRA oral solution.
- Do not miss a dose of KALETRA. This could make the virus harder to treat. If you forget to take KALETRA, take the missed dose right away. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Instead, follow your regular dosing schedule by taking your next dose at its regular time. Do not take more than one dose of KALETRA at one time.
- If you take more than the prescribed dose of KALETRA, call your local poison control center or emergency room right away.
- Take KALETRA oral solution with food to help it work better.
- If KALETRA is being used for your child, tell your doctor if your child's weight changes.
- KALETRA **should not** be given one time each day in children. When giving KALETRA to your child, give KALETRA exactly as prescribed.
- KALETRA oral solution contains propylene glycol and a large amount of alcohol. KALETRA oral solution **should not** be given to

babies younger than 14 days of age unless your doctor thinks it is right for your baby.

- If a young child drinks more than the recommended dose, it could make them sick. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room right away.
- Talk with your doctor if you take or plan to take metronidazole or disulfiram. You can have severe nausea and vomiting if you take these medicines with KALETRA.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of KALETRA. The amount of HIV-1 virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may become resistant to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- KALETRA can be taken with acid reducing agents used for heartburn or reflux such as omeprazole (Prilosec®) and ranitidine (Zantac®) with no dose adjustment.
- KALETRA should not be administered once daily in combination with carbamazepine (Tegretol® and Epitol®), phenobarbital (Luminal®), or phenytoin (Dilantin®).

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection. KALETRA does not stop you from passing HIV infection to others. Do not share needles, other injection equipment or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

KALETRA can cause serious side effects.

- See **“What is the most important information I should know about KALETRA?”**
- **Liver problems.** Liver problems, including death, can happen in people who take KALETRA. Blood tests in people who take KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these signs and symptoms of liver problems:
 - loss of appetite
 - yellow skin and whites of eyes (jaundice)
 - dark-colored urine
 - pale colored stools, itchy skin
 - stomach area (abdominal) pain.
- **Inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis).** Some people who take KALETRA get inflammation of the pancreas which may be serious and cause death. You have a higher chance of getting pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain while taking KALETRA. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- **Increases in certain fat (triglycerides and cholesterol) levels in your blood.** Large increases of triglycerides and cholesterol can be seen in blood test results of some people who take KALETRA. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- **Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia).** Some people who take protease inhibitors including KALETRA get new or more serious diabetes, or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you notice an increase in thirst or urinate often while taking KALETRA.
- **Changes in body fat.** Changes in body fat in some people who take antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include 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.

- **Increased bleeding for hemophiliacs.** Some people with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors including KALETRA.
- **Increased risk of certain problems when you take medicines used for the treatment of erectile problems such as sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®), or vardenafil (Levitra®) with KALETRA:**
 - **low blood pressure.** If you get dizzy or faint, you need to lie down. Tell your doctor if you feel dizzy, or have fainting spells.
 - **vision changes.** Tell your doctor right away if you have vision changes.
 - **penis erection lasting more than 4 hours.** If you are a male and have an erection that lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.
- **Allergic reactions.** Skin rashes, some of them severe, can occur in people who take KALETRA. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a rash when you took another medicine for your HIV infection or if you notice any skin rash when you take KALETRA.
- **Babies taking KALETRA oral solution may have side effects.** KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol and propylene glycol. Call your doctor right away if your baby appears too sleepy or their breathing has changed.

Common side effects of KALETRA include:

- diarrhea
- nausea
- stomach area (abdominal) pain
- feeling weak
- vomiting
- headache
- upset stomach

These are not all of the possible side effects of KALETRA. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist. Tell your doctor about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store KALETRA?

KALETRA tablets:

- Store KALETRA tablets at room temperature, between 59°F to 86°F (15°C to 30°C).
 - Do not keep KALETRA tablets out of the container it comes in for longer than 2 weeks, especially in areas where there is a lot of humidity. Keep the container closed tightly.
- KALETRA oral solution:**
- Store KALETRA oral solution in a refrigerator, between 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C). KALETRA oral solution that is kept refrigerated may be used until the expiration date printed on the label.
 - KALETRA oral solution that is stored at room temperature (less than 77°F or 25°C) should be used within 2 months.
 - Keep KALETRA away from high heat.

Throw away any medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need.

Keep KALETRA and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about KALETRA

KALETRA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV-1 infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and Mycobacterium avium complex (MAC) infections.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use KALETRA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give KALETRA to other people, even if they have the same condition you have. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about KALETRA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for information about KALETRA that is written for health professionals. For more information about KALETRA call 1-800-633-9110 or go to www.KALETRA.com.

What are the ingredients in KALETRA?

Active ingredient: lopinavir and ritonavir

Inactive ingredients:

KALETRA 200 mg lopinavir and 50 mg ritonavir tablets: copovidone, sorbitan monolaurate, colloidal silicon dioxide, and sodium stearyl fumarate. The film coating contains: hypromellose, titanium dioxide, polyethylene glycol 400, hydroxypropyl cellulose, talc, colloidal silicon dioxide, polyethylene glycol 3350, yellow ferric oxide 172, and polysorbate 80.

KALETRA 100 mg lopinavir and 25 mg ritonavir tablets: copovidone, sorbitan monolaurate, colloidal silicon dioxide, and sodium stearyl fumarate. The film coating contains: polyvinyl alcohol, titanium dioxide, talc, polyethylene glycol 3350, and yellow ferric oxide E172.

KALETRA oral solution: acesulfame potassium, alcohol, artificial cotton candy flavor, citric acid, glycerin, high fructose corn syrup, Magnasweet-110 flavor, menthol, natural and artificial vanilla flavor, peppermint oil, polyoxyl 40 hydrogenated castor oil, povidone, propylene glycol, saccharin sodium, sodium chloride, sodium citrate, and water.

KALETRA oral solution contains 42.4% alcohol (v/v). “See How should I take KALETRA?”.

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KALETRA Tablets, 200 mg lopinavir/50 mg ritonavir

Manufactured by Abbott Pharmaceuticals PR Ltd., Barceloneta, PR 00617

for Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago, IL 60064, U.S.A.

KALETRA Tablets, 100 mg lopinavir/25 mg ritonavir and KALETRA Oral Solution

Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago, IL 60064, U.S.A.

Ref: 03-A465-R10

Revised: February, 2011

036-553815 **MASTER**

039-563703





Martin (Nick Sandys) comforts son Billy (Will Allan) in a moment of turmoil while family friend Ross (Michael Joseph Mitchell) looks on *The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?* Photo by Johnny Knight

THEATER REVIEW

The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?

Playwright: Edward Albee
At: Remy Bumppo Theatre at The Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln
Tickets: 773-404-7336;
<http://www.remybumppo.com>; \$30-\$45
Runs through: May 8

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Martin and Stevie's idyllic marriage goes down the drain in minutes when their friend, Ross, reveals that Martin has betrayed his wife with a goat. Playwright Edward Albee's theme is not bestiality but what becomes of marriage, family and friendship when something happens "that's outside the rules, and we don't know how to behave," as Stevie says. Albee tests his premise with the most outrageous cheat he can imagine, something beyond everyday infidelity. Martin never apologizes for his ecstatic attraction to the goat he's named Sylvia, but repeatedly tells his wife, teenage son and Ross that they cannot understand a relationship as inexplicable as it was unexpected.

CRITICS' PICKS

Circle Mirror Transformation, Victory Gardens Theater, through April 17. Five people in an adult drama class. There are many scenes, none important. The plot won't engage you but go with the flow: By the end of Annie Baker's play you'll know everything about everyone. JA

Sense & Sensibility, Northlight Theatre in Skokie, through April 17. Two sisters struggle over whether to marry for the money or the thrills, but eventually choose wisely in Jon Jory's brisk adaptation of Jane Austen's prototypical romance. MSB

The 13th of Paris, Livewire Theatre at Greenhouse Theater, through April 17. Where did under-30 playwright Mat Smart acquire the maturity to write this all-ages comedy about romance in all its wise, enduring, bittersweet wonder and mystery? MSB

The Warriors, The New Colony at The Second Stage Theatre, through April 17. Though it could stand to be expanded, Evan Linder writes an honest and touching drama based upon company member Mary Hollis Inboden's attempt to reconnect with her fellow school shooting survivors. It's insightful to see how people live on and find different ways of coping following a horrific event. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

However, Albee is too wise a playwright to make things one-sided against Martin: he amplifies the situation by making Martin and Stevie a couple who have been—up to this point—obsessively in love and never-cheating in 22 years. It's Stevie's obsession with Martin that triggers her volcanic reaction to his affair, especially when he says that he loves both her and Sylvia. Putting Stevie and Sylvia on an equal footing (make your own two feet vs. four jokes) is not so much a negation of Stevie's womanhood as of her personhood, her humanity, and Stevie's reaction is primal.

The overall premise is comic, but Albee's tone grows increasingly earnest over 105-minute running time because he doesn't want it to be only a joke. The teenaged son, dealing with his own peccadilloes as well as adolescent angst, is crucial late in the play to the tonal shift and to retaining audience sympathy for Martin. The play is far more thesis-driven than character driven (there's remarkably little exposition about anyone), so the burden of making it work falls upon the director and actors.

Happily, in his last chore as Remy Bumppo artistic director, James Bohnen grabs the brass ring. Nick Sandys and Annabel Armour—veterans and stalwarts of Remy Bumppo—are ideal as Martin and Stevie, each allowed his/her literal primal scream as well as moments big and small, subtle and not, comic and solemn. Veteran Michael Joseph Mitchell is a lively foil as best-friend Ross, the play's least developed character. The fresh face is Will Allan as the gay son. We've seen him before, but this is a breakthrough appearance for him, and he makes Billy a wise, funny, confused, defensive and tender young man.

Remy Bumppo has moved to the downstairs theater at The Greenhouse for this production, which allows scenic designer Tim Morrison to create a more intimate and more realistic set than in the troupe's usual upstairs space. His warm-toned modern living room is suitably luxe, and filled with tasteful art and collectibles which prove to be as fragile as Martin and Stevie's marriage.

'Entertainment Weekly' through April 21

A Good Idea (In Theory) is presenting Entertainment Weekly, which focuses on the crazy of daily life mixed with obsession of pop culture.

Entertainment Weekly is a two-man sketch show featuring Andrew Kraft and Thom Gaughan. The show will run Thursdays through April 21 at 10:30 p.m. at Second City's Donny Skybox, 1608 N. Wells, Pipers Alley, on the fourth floor.

Tickets are \$6-\$12; call 312-337-3992 or visit <http://www.secondcity.com>.

THEATER REVIEW

El Nogalar

Playwright: Tanya Saracho
At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn
Phone: 312-443-3800; \$10-\$42
Runs through: April 24

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

What does the word "foreclosure" call to mind? Nowadays, it's bragging of how cheaply you bought a recently vacated house. During the Great Depression, it was a ragged and forlorn family bidding farewell to an empty shack. In *The Cherry Orchard*, quaintly dressed gentlefolk amuse themselves with philosophy and peccadilloes far removed from the messy business in progress.

The imminent property transfer under scrutiny in Tanya Saracho's contemporary adaptation of Chekhov's *fin-de-siècle* classic contains elements of all these images: on the one hand, the frivolous matriarch, secure in her privilege, flirts with the tradesmen and bosses the lone remaining domestic servant. On the other, her youngest daughter, at one point, asks timidly, "Will we be homeless?" What chiefly distinguishes the crisis facing the women of the Galvan clan, however, is that this is the border region of Mexico in 2011, where evictions are frequently conducted

at gunpoint, when not following the untimely death of the incumbents.

So our dramatic tension is not safely rooted in obscure issues of 19th-century Russian serfdom, but whether the son of the estate's former handyman can use his influence with the criminal drug cartels to keep his former employers from being displaced (or murdered). There is also a third alternative: that he take possession of the house himself, offering shelter—or not—to its previous residents. Capitalism sure gets more complicated when those enforcing it are unrestrained by legal niceties, doesn't it?

That said, where should our sympathies lie? If we pity the rich their misfortune—as when la Señora frantically gathers up trinkets, like a refugee preparing for flight, from the dollhouse-sized mansion at the center of Brian Sidney Bembridge's pastoral scenic design—are we being humane or simply reaffirming the reverence traditionally harbored by the humble toward their betters? If we cringe in horror at an ambitious housemaid's courtship of the ambivalent new landlord, are we being disloyal to our democratic principles? A seasoned cast—led by Charin Alvarez and Carlo Lorenzo Garcia, under the direction of Cecile D. Keenan—brings home all these provocative contradictions in their depiction of a changing world order as immediate as today's headlines.

DOUBLE REVIEW

Twinkie and the Beast

Playwright: Tony Lewis
At: MidTangent Productions at Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted
Tickets: <http://www.tix.com>; \$10
Runs through: April 29

Soul One

Playwright: Travis Hughes
At: Clock Productions at National Pastime Theater, 4139 N. Broadway
Phone: 773-327-7077; \$15
Runs through: April 30

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Here's a look at two new musical comedies: MidTangent Productions' *Twinkie and the Beast* and Clock Productions' *Soul One*.

Like author Tony Lewis' two previous drag queen-filled musical spoofs centered around Snow White, *Twinkie and the Beast* takes aim at the Chicago queer scene through a fairytale filter and an overlay of outrageous costumes.

I would have liked more spoof songs derived from Disney's 1991 animated feature *Beauty and the Beast* (one fun lyric change from the song Belle becomes "slutty town, filled with slutty people"), but the crowd whooped it up when more Top-40 fare by the likes of Lady Gaga and Katy Perry appeared in the mix.

MidTangent is to be commended this time around by featuring more live singing instead of lip-synching. (It's too bad it was almost all for naught on opening night since the sound system was having so many problems.)

Loren Agron is cute enough as "Swell," the virginal hero holding out for true love (despite being an extreme porn connoisseur). *The Beast* is a cursed drag queen (Omigod House, in Grumpy Hangover mode again) who lives in a Roscoe Street house that is filled with odd objects who used to be human.

If the leading couple are ho-hum with their characterizations, it's the supporting cast who have the most humorous moments. Aaron Michael Elm is funnily fey as the enchanted Poof, while Andrew Kain Miller gets plenty of laughs as the high pizza-boy-turned-Doobie.

Although not as clever as Lewis' first foray into the genre with *Snow White and the Sev-*

en Drag Queens, *Twinkie and the Beast* still provides plenty of over-21 laughs as a great fun-time vehicle to kick off a night of barhopping.

Clock Productions bills the world premiere of Travis Hughes' *Soul One* as a musical, but someone should tell them that two songs do not a musical make.

Soul One disappoints as a plodding episodic slog that comes across as blatant rip-off of not only Mel Brooks' 1981 film spoof *History of the World: Part I*, but also Al Brooks' 1991 reincarnation film, *Defending Your Life*.

Soul One starts off well with a great Behind the Music-style video introducing temperamental rock star Jack Straw. However, it all goes downhill when Straw visits a quirky therapist who helps him regress to past lives as a way to find answers to his myriad of problems.

Hughes offers few reasons to care about his characters throughout their various incarnations, nor is his comic writing zany enough to maintain interest through the historical-era pile-up. The large acting ensemble does what they can to bring out the humor, but they're thwarted at every turn by the poorly structured writing. *Soul One* is definitely one to skip.



Twinkie and the Beast. Photo by Anthony Meade



The Hot L Baltimore. Photo by Michael Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW

The Hot L Baltimore

Playwright: Lanford Wilson

At: Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted

Phone: 312-335-1650; \$20-\$50

Runs through: May 29

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

"Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home" runs the Stephen Foster song, and therein lies the paradox intrinsic to every urban renewal project. One person's "run-down" is another's "lived-in". An object of "faded grandeur" in one estimation may translate to "moldy old eyesore" elsewhere. And when a property is slated for "improvement", this pronouncement too often pertains to its inhabitants as well.

The Hot-L Baltimore—its neon "e" burned out, never to be repaired—is such a property. Once a luxury inn for travelers on the busy East-Coast railways, Memorial Day weekend in 1973 finds it scheduled for demolition—a crisis greeted by the assorted retirees, prostitutes, petty criminals and vagabonds who comprise its current residents with a mix of dismay and resignation. Ironically, the tenant most distressed is the youngest—a 19-year-old call girl enamored of transience, but eager to share what wisdom she can with strangers willing to swap a few moments of intimacy.

The late Lanford Wilson envisioned his play in choral terms, identifying characters by their vocal ranges in addition to physical appearance. This complies perfectly with the ensemble-based aesthetic that is Steppenwolf Theatre and director Tina Landau's stock-in-trade. The resulting stage picture swarms with activity, little pockets of dramatic action transpiring side-by-side on James Schuette's two-story replica of a spacious lobby whose sweeping staircase leads to upstairs rooms also on full view. The dialogue, too, swirls in counterpoint as giddily polyphonic as a Handel oratorio, overlapping as only possible in live theater, to paint a portrait of a community about to be replaced by the insular anonymity that defined "progress" four decades ago.

Wilson's purpose wasn't a dirge for the down-trodden, however, but a hymn to the quintessentially American optimism that spurs its citizens on expeditions filled with hope and fraught with risk—a farm (in an alkaline desert), a private room (in a brothel), a quest (for an apocryphal ancestor). "Nobody's got the conviction to act on their passions," laments the waif who refuses ownership of even a name, but our final image of the Baltimore hotel is of a seen-it-all tart, an abandoned teenage boy and a soon-to-be-jobless desk clerk dancing defiantly to the radio's music. "The bulldozers are barking at the door! They're gonna tear up the dance floor in a minute!" roars the intrepid April, "Turn it up! The important thing is to *move!*" It is in 2011, as well.

Glee's Morrison at Goodman gala

Glee star Matthew Morrison will headline the Goodman Theatre's May 21 gala to celebrate "One Enchanted Decade" at 170 N. Dearborn, according to a press release.

The black-tie event will begin with a cocktail reception followed by Morrison's performance in the 856-seat Albert Theatre.

The festivities continue as guests shuttle to The Fairmont Hotel, 200 N. Columbus, for an elegant dinner and dancing to the tunes of the Al Sofia Orchestra. All proceeds benefit the Goodman's Educational and Community Engagement programs.

Tables are available at the \$25,000, \$15,000 and \$10,000 levels; individual tickets start at \$500. For tickets and information about the gala, call 312-443-3811, ext. 586.



SPOTLIGHT



The Music Theatre Company may be a young performing arts organization, but it certainly shows its ambition by producing the beloved Stephen Sondheim and George Furth Broadway flop musical **Merrily We Roll Along**. This intimate staging features some talented Equity actors in a told-backwards tale of a famous composer and his two best friends. Merrily We Roll Along continues 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays until May 1 at the Karger Center, 1850 Green Bay, Highland Park. Tickets are \$30; call 847-570-4900 or visit <http://www.themusictheatrecompany.org>. Photo of (from left) Jarrod Zimmerman, Jessie Mueller and Alan Schmuckler in Merrily We Roll Along by Brandon Dahlquist



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Here's 'A Twist': Route 66 Theatre returns to open the Mercury Theatre



Stef Tovar and Alex Hugh Brown in *A Twist of Water*. Photo by Brandon Dahlquist

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Route 66 Theatre Company artistic director and actor Stef Tovar knew that Caitlin Montanye Parish's drama *A Twist of Water* was special. But he had no idea how wildly successful her drama would become during its limited run earlier this season at Theater Wit.

First developed via About Face Theatre's xyz Festival, *A Twist of Water* is Chicago-set drama about a recently widowed gay father and his adopted teenage African-American daughter. A rupture develops between the two when she decides to seek her birth mother while he is still in the process of grieving.

The Route 66 Theatre world-premiere production opened to rave reviews, importantly pleasing Chicago Tribune theater critic Chris Jones, who wrote that *A Twist of Water* "reaches with more passion, wisdom and lyricism towards civic definition than any Chicago work I've seen." Jones also used his review to pressure Mayor-elect Rahm Emanuel to see the celebratory Chicago-centric show.

So when word got out that Emanuel attended the show a couple of days later (as just a regular audience member instead of a political photo opportunity), the ensuing publicity helped *A Twist of Water* to become a topic of conversation around town and a hard-to-get ticket. *A Twist of Water* was extended due to demand, but even then there were audiences who still had to be turned away at performances.

However, now *A Twist of Water* is set to make a return engagement, reopening the recently renovated Mercury Theatre under the new management of executive director L. Walter Stearns (who is leaving his current post as Porchlight Music Theatre's artistic director at the end of this season).

"It was important to open very quickly after the Theater Wit run with all the momentum behind it," said Stearns, who is also in the midst of directing *The King and I*, Porchlight Music Theatre's first-ever production of a Rodgers and Hammerstein musical.

Stearns fell in love with *A Twist of Water* when he saw it late in the run. The fact that Stearns was able to see for himself how many people Route 66 had to turn away at the performance he attended gave him the confidence that *A Twist of Water* would be the perfect show to reopen the Mercury.

For Stearns, *A Twist of Water* features "a new Chicago voice, and I like the idea that the Mercury Theatre can be a home to tell our local stories."

Stearns was also happy to see how inclusive *A Twist of Water* was for the LGBT community, since it touches upon the hot-button issues of domestic partner benefits and adoption issues.

"It's been a tidal wave and we've just been trying to catch up," said Tovar, who not only produced the original run of *A Twist of Water* for Route 66, but also appeared in the play as the grief-stricken father, Noah.

Tovar was surprised at the unexpected success and overwhelming popularity of *A Twist of Water*, and he's very happy that audiences will have an extended window of opportunity to see it again.

"This play is very much the creators' love letter to the city that embraced them," Tovar said. "We knew the script itself would be special, but we never expected the kind of success we had with this world premiere."

Route 66 Theatre Company's *A Twist of Water* reopens in previews at the Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport, beginning April 14, with a press opening May 1. Performances continue at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays, 4 and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 4 p.m. Sundays tentatively through June 5. Preview tickets are \$38.50 and \$38.50 to \$44.50 for the regular run. Visit <http://www.mercury-theaterchicago.com> or call 773-325-1700 for more information.



A Twist of Water. Photo by Brandon Dahlquist



NUNN ON ONE:
THEATER

Dixie Longate: 'Party' animal

BY JERRY NUNN

Dixie Longate is hosting a Tupperware party and you are invited. This 2008 Drama Desk Award nominated show is full of southern charm. Read on as Longate pops her top in an exclusive interview.

Windy City Times: Howdy, Dixie! Where are you originally from?

Dixie Longate: I grew up in Mobile, Ala. I was in prison and one of the conditions of my parole was to that I had to leave the state. I stayed in California for a while and that is where I started doing Tupperware parties. It blew up after that, who knew?

WCT: Now you put on a whole show about it. Is their audience participation?

DL: Everyone gets a nametag. Then we do a raffle and do a few games. I do call some people to help me throughout the show. I want people to get up, play and get their hands dirty. It's a party!

WCT: How long is the show?

DL: It is about 100 minutes straight through, no intermission. When I am on a roll then I don't stop.

WCT: Do you have a favorite piece of Tupperware recently?

DL: The can opener is amazing. It is like Jesus came and sat in my hand. We also have these bowls that collapse down and pop up to stick things in that I like too. I love the Jell-O shot caddy.

WCT: That would be good for Gay Pride.

DL: Pride? Hell, that's good for church! Sunday morning if you want to get through that sermon, then have a shot first.

WCT: You are appearing on Halsted Street [although it's in Lincoln Park instead of Boystown]. I am sure you will have gay people in the audience.

DL: You are with that homosectional newspaper aren't you? Well, they have been very good to me. Those gays travel in packs and smell so good. I hope they come to visit me at the party.

WCT: Are you trying to bring this all to a younger generation? Because some people don't know what Tupperware is.

DL: It blows my mind that people of a certain age think Tupperware is the stuff that you get in the grocery store. They don't get that it is an actual brand name. That it is sold through parties. That their moms may have made money in the past throwing these parties. I am here to make sure people know.

Tupperware started at the end of World War II, when women didn't seem to have a purpose and couldn't find a job. All of a sudden, Tupperware came along. They could make three or four dollars throwing a Tupperware party, back then that was a huge amount of money. That is a little element of the show that I can talk about. There is a huge history to it for women. For me it is a love letter. It is very nice let people look at the legacy. For kids today I want to introduce it to

them.

WCT: What do you think of Ziploc?

DL: If you are going to be a whore and buy Ziploc cause you think it's cheaper, well, it only works one time then you have to buy it again. If you keep throwing it away then it is not actually less expensive. It's convenient because it's right there but it's disposable. Not only is it killing all the babies because they are putting it in a landfill but you are throwing money down the toilet.

WCT: So Tupperware parties are the places to be these days?

DL: Yes, you are going to have a good time because it is a party. Then you are going to buy stuff and keep it forever. Your grandma and your mama still have Tupperware, don't they?

WCT: Yes, they do.

DL: It's because it lasts forever. Then you have ladies that take their Sharpie and write their



Dixie Longate of Dixie's Tupperware Party. PR photo

name on it, "Don't you take my Jell-O bowl, you damn whore!" So people don't realize that they think they are paying for it in the long run with Ziploc.

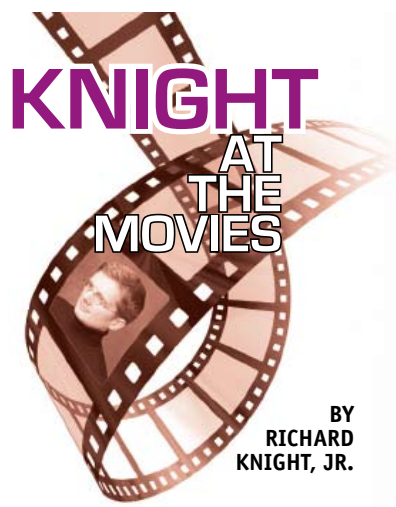
WCT: Well, it is made of thick plastic.

DL: I know it's good. I like something that is nice and thick and not flimsy. This stuff in the grocery store is designed to be thrown away. You have a lifetime warranty with Tupperware so if anything happens to it, I will replace it for free. If your grandma has a favorite piece and it busted 60 years later, I will replace with whatever she needs.

WCT: Wow!

DL: Yes! Try doing that with your Ziploc crap!

The Southern belle will be staying at the Royal George Theatre Cabaret, 1641 N. Halsted, through May 15. For more information about how you can attend the party log onto <http://www.dixiestupperwareparty.com> or <http://www.theroyalgeorgetheater.com>.



BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

Uncle Boonmee...; Potiche; film notes

Two of queerdom's most interesting foreign film writer-directors—France's Francois Ozon and Thailand's Apichatpong Weerasethakul—are at last seeing their latest movies open in Chicago this week. Cinema aesthetes will surely rejoice at Weerasethakul's **Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives**—winner of the prestigious Palm d'Or at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival (where he also won the directing prize). **Potiche**, the Ozon movie—a sunny women's lib comedy set in 1977 that stars Catherine Deneuve—acts as the perfect mental palate cleanser to Weerasethakul's mystical, visual poem.

Deep in the jungles of Thailand, Uncle Boonmee is dying of kidney failure. His sister-in-law and nephew arrive to tend to him and help him oversee his beekeeping enterprise. During their first evening, as the trio sit outdoors listening to the crickets chirp, Uncle Boonmee's late wife suddenly appears at the table—followed by the son they thought lost in the jungle years ago. However, the son of his own choice has morphed into a ghost monkey—a Bigfoot-type creature with glowing red eyes who calmly reveals the circumstances surrounding his disappearance as the others listen with rapt attention. Soon, the dead wife and the ghost monkey are flipping through Uncle Boonmee's photo albums and are reminiscing with their family with no one, except Uncle Boonmee's medical aide, Jai, an immigrant from Laos, even slightly surprised by the appearance of these spectral visitors.

By the time the audience arrives at this scene, we aren't either. For in the languorous, dreamy and slightly ominous world that Weerasethakul sets up, this startling scene makes perfect sense. As director Terrence Malick (*Badlands*, *The Thin Red Line*) slows down time to a sultry crawl so, too, does Weerasethakul. The two share an almost unique ability to take the ordinary in nature—trees, fields of grass, blowing breezes, chirping insects, grazing animals—and imbue them with mystery and awe, creating a powerful spell over audiences as they do so.

Using a cast of amateurs Weerasethakul relies on the natural ability of his non-actors to emphasize the otherworldliness of his elliptical, barely-there plot lines. This simple yet dazzlingly complex movie moves at a crawl but if the mood catches you at the outset it will hold tight to the final frame, and both the mundane and the fantastic take on equal power.

There are a lot of visual and storytelling metaphors at work here (the film can be broken down into multiple segments, each with different visual styles)—most of them tied to mourning of some kind. Clearly, Weerasethakul's movie won't be for everyone (and it must have been really tough to finance—I counted more than 10 producers from nearly as many countries). Yet the result is a sublime cinematic experience for those eager to be challenged by a movie outside the traditional boundaries.

Closer to the traditional—of the light-as-a-feather French farces it parodies, that is—is writer-director Francois Ozon's comedy *Potiche* (the French word for “trophy wife”). Ozon's reliable star, French film legend Catherine Deneuve, gamely plays Suzanne, the put-upon bourgeois wife of a cruel husband who runs the umbrella factory that was actually started by her father. In a red track suit or blue patterned apron, singing along to a naughty, jaunty song on the radio as she putters about her lemon yellow kitchen, Suzanne is the essence of the empty-headed but happy housewife familiar to audiences in 1977, the year the action is set.

However, revolutions—small and big ones—are afoot as the husband suffers a medical setback and Suzanne is by default, placed in charge of the factory. In his stead, she institutes a series of reforms that, plot wise, are mighty close to another 1970s-era comedy—*Nine to Five*—but this being French farce, of course, there are many more political complications and amours to be tossed into Ozon's lovely *pot au feu* before the characters (which include a comely gay son) find their true places at the table of life.

Potiche is much lighter in tone—closer to Ozon's delightful pastiche *8 Women*—than to his more famous mystery dramas such as *Under the Stand*, *Time to Leave* and *Swimming Pool*,



Catherine
Deneuve
in *Potiche*.

and doesn't leave much of an impression beyond the opening sequence with its pop-art colors and Deneuve's momentary daffiness (a characteristic one has rarely seen this French diva display). It doesn't have much depth, isn't uproariously funny and doesn't leave one feeling much for its characters or situations; however, dedicated Francophiles will find a lot to their liking here (including several backhanded homages to Jacques Demy) and won't give a “zut” about any of these potential “*découverts*.”

Film notes:

—Arias with a Twist: the Docufantasy is the

2010 documentary from filmmaker Bobby Sheehan that chronicles the 2008 collaboration of drag-master supreme Joey Arias and the intensely creative puppeteer Basil Twist that resulted in Arias' critically hailed one-man show. The film is getting its Chicago premiere on Thursday, April 14, at 9 p.m. at Berlin, 954 W. Belmont, as part of the Third Annual Chicago International Movies & Music Festival (April 14-17). www.cimmfest.org

—The Onion's Joe Pickett and Nick Pruhler (from *Late Night with David Letterman*) return to Chicago to host the fifth edition of the **Found Footage Festival**, which “showcases VHS oddities from the world's garage sales, thrift stores warehouses and dumpsters.” This year's line-up promises the usual assortment of future YouTube sensations including a compilation of exercise videos featuring Cher and the American Gladiators; a series of “how to” videos on ventriloquism; and a lot more campy flotsam and jetsam. Friday, April 15, at 10 p.m. at the Music Box, 3733 N. Southport; www.musicboxtheatre.com

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

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BOOK REVIEW

Gay Rights and Moral Panic

by Fred Fejes
\$28; Palgrave
Macmillan; 280 pages
REVIEW BY SALLY PARSONS

Gay Rights and Moral Panic: The Origins of America's Debate on Homosexuality covers the socio-political debate and referendum that swept across the U.S. in 1977-78 to determine whether lesbians and gay men were citizens deserving equal protection under the law.

What does Fred Fejes, the author, mean by "moral panic?" Fejes cites the definition of sociologists Erich Goode and Nachman Ben-Yehuda—"situations of high generalized social anxiety where a condition, behavior, person, or group emerged and became the focal point of the anxiety." (Examples of moral-panic views discussed in the book include "Passage of these laws will endanger our youth and spread immorality" and "Homosexuals are not normal people.")

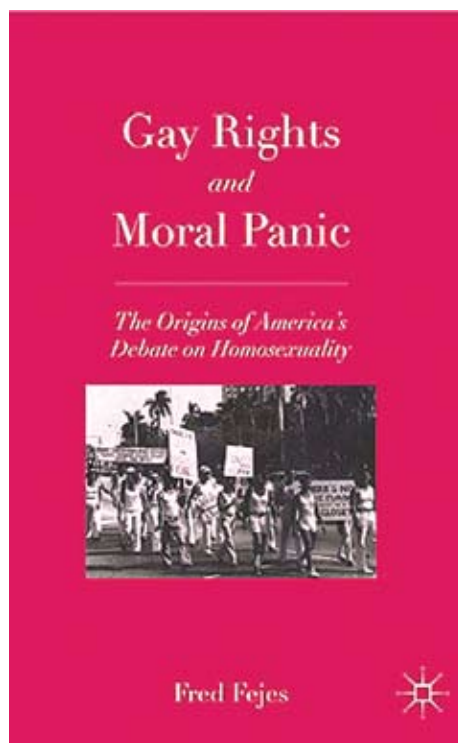
As quaint as some of these positions may seem today (although they're still out there), they galvanized the public in the '70s. Even the Muppets were dragged into the debate, chronicles Fejes, when Johnny Carson stated the puppets would submit to a sex test at Anita Bryant's insistence.

Today, as the country wrestles with debates



Fred Fejes. Facebook photo

on gay marriage and civil unions, it is perhaps helpful to look back on the '70s. Then there was no national debate of that specific issue. Heated discussion, demonstrations, and legal actions



centered instead on the fundamental question of recognizing lesbians and gays as equal citizens.

It all began in Miami in 1977. Many of us born in the '60s or earlier were shocked to discover wholesome, perky Anita Bryant—singing spokeswoman for Florida's citrus industry—was vehemently anti-gay. Once Dade County passed its gay-rights law, Bryant became a formidable adversary and lightning rod around which the debate over gay rights coalesced. Speaking out as a conservative Southern Baptist, she urged folks to repeal the ordinance. (Check out the Anita Bryant videos on YouTube.) The Chicago gay community, as in many other cities, organized fundraisers. Chicago's "Orange Ball" drew 4,000 and raised over \$10,000 in support of the Miami counter campaign to this conservative outreach. When Bryant appeared at a Chicago concert at Medinah Temple, 3,000 protesters shouted, "Go back home, Anita," and tied up downtown traffic.

Fejes devotes three chapters to what happened in Miami. The first lays in the background dynamics: a population explosion with retirees from the North, Cuban émigrés and Blacks—

which sets up social tensions. Severe economic dislocation is also a factor. Fejes introduces the key players—Robert Brake, a local conservative activist; Anita Bryant, the sunshine queen; and Bob Kunst, a radical gay activist. In the second Miami chapter, Fejes describes the build-up of the campaign around the controversial referendum. He ends the Miami phase (although he comes back to it later in the book) with details on the vote.

Fejes then moves on to cover gay-rights referenda in St. Paul, Minn.; Wichita, Kan.; and Eugene, Ore., all of which were defeated. Then he moves on to California and Proposition 6, where the statewide referendum to ban gays and lesbians from working in public schools was defeated. (This victory was the subject of the 2008 biopic Milk, starring Sean Penn.) Initiative 13, a similar anti-gay rights measure in Seattle, was also defeated.

Even with these wins, Fejes points out they were "defensive victories." There was no national liberal leader championing gay rights and no new plausible view of homosexuality put forth to help the country understand the more visible gay community.

In Fejes' view, the campaigns to oppose gay rights in 1977-78 did spark the beginning of a national politically self-conscious lesbian and gay community. By contrast, these events also brought a growing self-awareness to the conservative activists who saw the gay-rights movement as a "... threat to the moral and spiritual health of the nation."

The book also includes a chapter on the role the media played in shaping the debate, and a final chapter in which Fejes concludes that the question of how and where homosexual rights are to be exercised in this country has yet to be answered.

Gay Rights and Moral Panic is a reissue of a 2008 scholarly monograph that received critical acclaim in academic journals. Fred Fejes is a professor of media studies at Florida Atlantic University. Fejes' course on AIDS in American Society, the basis of a CNN special report in 1989, was the first college class in the country that dealt with the AIDS epidemic.

Fejes spent five years researching and writing this comprehensive book. His research took him to archives (including Chicago's own Gerber/Hart), collections, and interviews all around the country and Canada.

It is a dense tome, yet readable, and well-notated. If you like to understand the roots of gay American causes, you'll enjoy exploring this book.

'Becoming Chaz' to premiere on OWN May 10

The world television premiere of the documentary Becoming Chaz, the story of Chaz Bono's transformation from a woman to a man, will launch the OWN Documentary Film Club on Tuesday, May 10 (7 p.m. CT), on OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network.

Becoming Chaz is the story of Bono's emotional and physical gender transitions. Born Chastity, the only child of the legendary musical team Sonny and Cher, Bono grew up feeling uncomfortable in the spotlight, struggling to live inside a body that he knew wasn't truly his. Deciding there was no choice but to undergo sex reassignment surgery, Bono and his girlfriend decided to document his transformation so that others can learn from his experience.

Immediately following the film, OWN Documentary Film Club collaborator Rosie O'Donnell will host a one-hour primetime special event, during which she will talk with Chaz; his girlfriend, Jennifer Elia; the filmmakers and other transgender people and their families about this life-changing experience.

Adam Lambert CD/DVD set out

Space Monkey Studios has announced the release of out gay singer Adam Lambert's brand new Glam Nation Live CD/DVD (19 Recordings / RCA Records).

Shot in Indianapolis, Ind., at Clowes Hall on Aug. 31, 2010, the CD/DVD features 12 tracks plus a bonus cut; among the songs are "Ring of Fire," "If I Had You" and his Grammy-nominated track, "Whataya Want From Me."

Adam Lambert's debut album, For Your Entertainment, (19 Entertainment/RCA Records) has sold more than 1 million copies worldwide since debuting at number three on the Billboard Top 200 chart in November 2009.

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MUSIC

Sugarland's Jennifer Nettles on girl crushes, Adam Lambert

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

As the lovable lady half of supergroup Sugarland, Jennifer Nettles is country's answer to the contemporary diva—she can belt like the best of 'em. And though she has one hell of a voice, as does bandmate Kristian Bush, she doesn't just use it to sing the arena rock-inspired songs from their fourth and latest album, *The Incredible Machine*. She uses it to speak to the duo's gay fans—even though so few country artists do.

In this rare sit-down with the singer, a powerhouse since "Stay" stormed the charts and nabbed a Grammy in 2009, Nettles talks coming out in country music, how she still loves her lesbians even if one of them—a former Sugarland band member—sued her, and why Adam Lambert turns her on.

Windy City Times: With all of its arena rock and pop influences, *The Incredible Machine* is a departure from your country roots. Does Sugarland still consider itself a country act?

Jennifer Nettles: You know, I'm so grateful that country music found us first. I love all kinds of music, and clearly not only can you tell from *The Incredible Machine* but even from songs on past albums or our cover choices. I just love to sing all kinds of music. That being said, I consider myself country if you like country, and if you don't like country but you like what we do—awesome! I love that, too. I think it's really what speaks to the human spirit.

As an artist, it always feels a little bit squishy to try to answer that question—because you never want to be pinned in one way or another, while at the same time I feel very proud to be called country. Obviously I'm so grateful that they play us on country radio and that country fans love it, and I'm grateful that pop fans love it as well. So what do I call it? I call it good.

WCT: Considering your cover choices, from Beyoncé's "Irreplaceable" to "Love Shack" and even "Stayin' Alive," I'm starting to think that maybe Jennifer Nettles has the musical taste of a gay man.

JN: [Laughs] Yes, absolutely! What's not to love about that? And you would definitely think that if you saw our current show, because we've been closing with "Like a Prayer" by Madonna.

WCT: See, it's so true. I called it here first.

JN: I will totally credit you with it. If people ask me, "What are your musical tastes?" from now on I will say that of a gay man. [Laughs]

WCT: Around the time the album was released, there was a higher reporting of suicides among gay youth—and the song "Stand Up" from *The Incredible Machine* felt particularly relevant. What was on your mind when you wrote it?

JN: There wasn't one specific event that inspired it. It's really a song about finding one's own voice wherever you feel unseen or wherever it is you feel you need to be empowered. Just as you're saying it resonated with you regarding the bullying and gay teen suicides, if the song can be a place of healing and a place of inspiration—man, I mean, that's why we do what we do as artists. So there wasn't one specific event that inspired that song as much as it is, I guess I should say both fortunately and unfortunately, a message that people need to hear and have needed to hear throughout the ages.

WCT: Do you get much feedback from gay people who are inspired by your music?

JN: People sometimes will reach out with their personal stories. I did Nate Berkus' television show a number of months ago when we were about to release *The Incredible Machine*, and in the audience was a woman who was a huge fan. She spoke to how our music really helped to empower her when she was coming out.

So I do get stories like that at times. Some-

times people share them out and openly and say "this was my specific experience as a gay person"; sometimes people just say, "Hey, you helped me through a hard time," and they don't go into specifics. But we've had coming out stories, and I feel honored to be able to help someone through that part of their life, for sure. All one really wants is to be seen as who we are, and to be able to be a part of that and be associated with someone who is coming into themselves—regardless of it being coming out, or figuring out what you want to do in your life—that's a beautiful time and a beautiful thing.

WCT: There's always a risk too, though, when someone comes out. I read that after country artist Chely Wright came out, she lost a considerable chunk of her fan base because she's living openly as a lesbian now. Do you think a country artist coming out really has a big affect on their fan base?

JN: I don't know. People would tend to, I'm sure, stereotype quote-unquote country fans as being either more conservative or less tolerant or more close-minded. I don't know when I look out at my audience. I am sure there are people who may be intolerant that are in the audience, but when I look out there, I see such a wide demographic that it's hard for me to speak specifically. And I definitely can't speak for all country artists—nor could I speak to all country fans as to whether there would be an affect. One would think stereotypically that there would be. I would like to think not. But at the end of the day, the reality is in many ways, as a culture in this country, we still have far to go as far as people understanding, being educated and being comfortable with different lifestyles, whatever that may be.

WCT: Many country stars have actually addressed gay issues in the press, including Martina McBride, Rascal Flatts and Dolly Parton. And yet we still don't have a major country artist who's out. Why do you think that is?

JN: I don't know why that is. Let's discuss here for a moment, because clearly there are gay country fans. I can't even speak as to why. Why do you think? Maybe we might come up with something here.

WCT: My guess is that they're putting their career on the line; it's scary for a country artist to come out in such a conservative arena, as you said.

JN: But isn't it scary for any artist to come out? Even in mainstream pop it is. I mean, thank god—and I've said this before—for Adam Lambert. Thank god for eyeliner. I have needed a sexy man to wear eyeliner since The Cure. Since Robert Smith no one has really been able to do it for me in that way.

WCT: We need a country artist who'd wear eyeliner.

JN: Right! But then, well, when you look at that we don't even allow—come on. We will allow eyeliner on the girls, that's for sure, but as far as image maybe it's not conducive to—I don't know why. But someone needs to.

WCT: Let's talk about the legal battles that you had with ex-member Kristen Hall, who sued you last year for profits she said she was owed. Did it leave a bad taste in your mouth for lesbians?

JN: [Laughs] Ba-dum-ch! Well, obviously, I'm not allowed to speak about the legal battles, but I love lesbians. Come on, let's be honest. It doesn't matter. Whatever. How hypocritical of me would that be to say I had a bad experience with this one individual or a good experience with this other individual and it totally makes me think that everyone is like that? Oh, please. It doesn't. But I love the way you asked the question.



Jennifer Nettles. PR photo

WCT: Who's your girl crush?

JN: There are so many wonderful women out there. As far as actresses go, I love Meryl Streep.

WCT: You really are a gay man.

JN: Maybe this will continue the whole idea that I'm actually a gay man: I have this thing for British women. I love Judi Dench. I love Helen Mirren. I love these women, and I definitely do have big girl crushes on them. I'm trying to think as far as musicians go. I mean, what's not to love about Beyoncé?

WCT: I read that you want to be on *Glee*.

JN: I would love to be on *Glee*, thus furthering the myth that I'm a gay man. [Laughs]

WCT: I was thinking they could work you in as Kurt's mom in flashbacks. What do you think of being the dead mother of a gay son?

JN: I would love it! Anyway they could work me in—I would be the janitor sweeping the hallway of the school and cleaning out lockers, I don't care.

WCT: Do you have any interest in acting?

JN: I do! And I actually love it. Theater is definitely something that, through the course of my childhood and even in college, I enjoyed participating in. I would love to do theater, or as far as movies or television goes, if the right thing came along I would definitely entertain it. Right now everything has been so focused on my music career, and obviously music is my first love, so I've been focused there. But if the right thing came along, absolutely! I mean obviously I love doing it; I have a lot of fun in the videos. I would definitely be open to that.

WCT: So just when I thought you couldn't get any more adorable, you dance around in your pajamas in Sara Bareilles' "Uncharted" video. How did that come about?

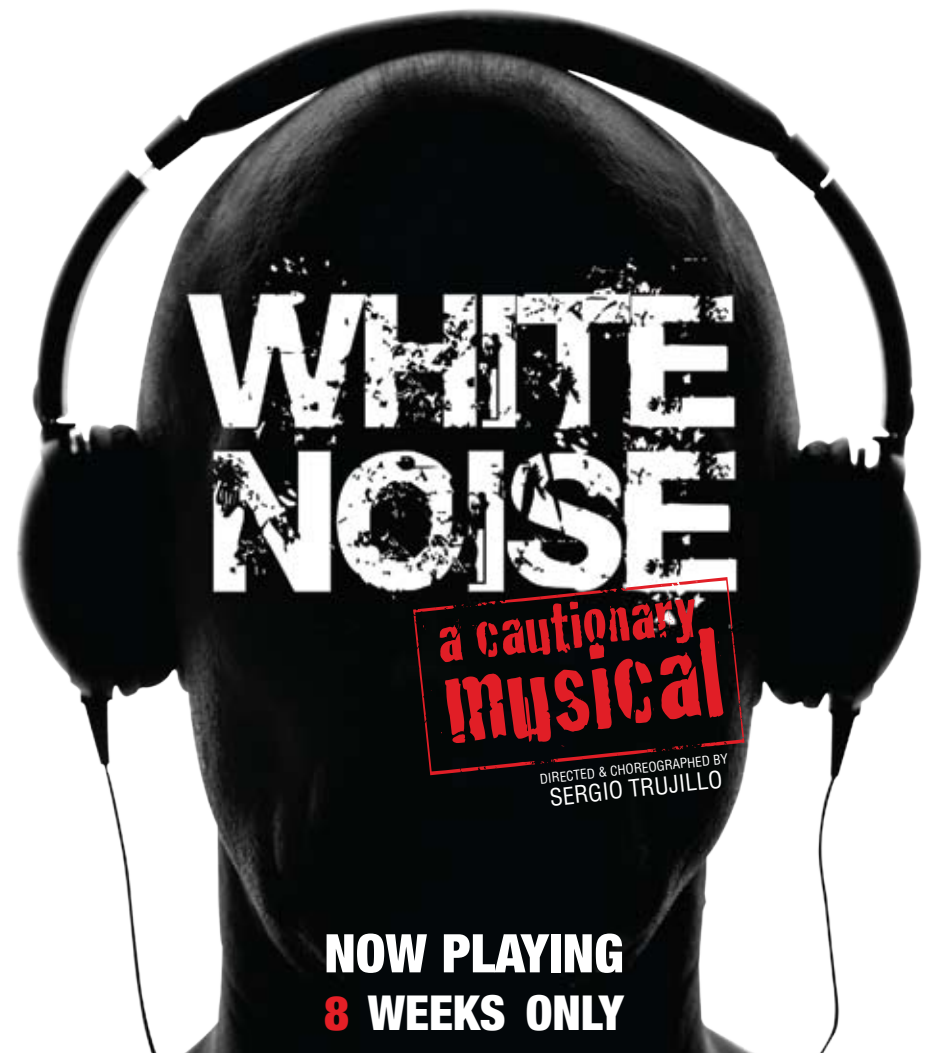
JN: Sara just reached out and said, "Hey, I'm doing this video and asking all my friends to be a part of it. Would you consider doing it?" I was like, "Sure, just tell me when you need it." She wrote: "I need it tomorrow!" And I was like, OK, I'm just going to do something casual. So when I got up that morning, I said, "Hey, I'm going to do that in my pajamas—that's casual enough." And that's what I did. It was fun!

WCT: In the spirit of *The Incredible Machine*, what are some of your favorite incredible machines?

JN: Ooh, I hate to say it, and I'm a bit of a "Luddite," but I would say that if I did not have my BlackBerry it would be a challenging time. It keeps me connected. Unfortunately—maybe people will gasp—I don't get into a lot of toys and games, like the apps. I wish I loved them, because I feel like there's a club out there that I'm not a part of. [Laughs]

I also think, as I'm sitting in my dressing room right now looking around, for me as a singer, a humidifier is a pretty friggin' incredible machine. And I just got a new place and I actually have a dishwasher, and that's an incredible machine. I didn't have one for years. I took it out to put a wine refrigerator in—because I have my priorities!

LISTEN UP, CHICAGO!



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NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Kristine W: Dance diva shows different moves

BY JERRY NUNN

Kristine W took over the dance club charts like few others in her time. Many people may not realize that she has released seven albums, coming behind Madonna and Beyonce for most club play in the past decade. She holds the world record for the most consecutive number one hits on Billboard's Club chart. Recently W shifted to a new style with a double jazz album entitled *Straight Up With a Twist*. Bringing her act to town for two events it was time to chat a bit Nunn on One.

Windy City Times: Hi, Miss W.

Kristine W: I thought I would call you a bit early, I am picking my daughter up from school soon.

WCT: You are so domestic. How do you do it?

KW: I don't know how I do it. I am still trying to figure that out. I pull it all off somehow.

WCT: Where do you live?

KW: I live in Las Vegas but I am originally from the northwest. I lived a couple of hours east of Seattle. I am from a farming community. That is why I am so normal!

WCT: It is all how you are raised, right?

KW: That's right. You are raised in a farming community then you stay real normal. They don't let you get weird.

WCT: I recently visited Vegas and learned you got your start performing there.

KW: I put myself through school doing that. I performed in different bands then started my own. That morphed into a show. Pretty soon we were performing six nights a week and had done more shows than Elvis.

WCT: What is the connection from that to your dance career?

KW: I had always loved house music and dance music since I was a kid. I was originally doing cover songs when I performed at the casinos. I did my own house mixes and everything. I would take a pop song and make it more dance. I eventually hired dancers and the show was like a live music video. We would do a Duran Duran medley but do a house version of it. We added energy and would sound more modern. Or we would take Janet Jackson's "Let's Wait a While" and make it a four on the floor. People that were gambling loved the energy of the music. It got so popular it was called Kristine W Comes to the Music. The room was so small that they built a showroom called The Nightclub at the Las Vegas Hilton to move it into. In 1996 people from Europe came over and were watching the show. The UK record company people loved my original music and they liked my song from the movie *Indecent Proposal*. Everything snowballed and the next thing I knew I was traveling back and forth creating music.

WCT: And now look at you with 15 number-one hits!

KW: It just happened and basically came from being a working musician. I supported myself performing live all the time and still do. The records are fun but I never make money off of them. But they help with getting me booked at shows around the world. I am very thankful and glad that I am a hard worker. I have had the tenacity to pull it off.

WCT: It has kept you grounded and good to your fans. I met you years ago at the Virgin



Kristine W.

Megastore in Chicago and you were so nice to talk to in person.

KW: Oh, yeah! That would have been the *Stronger* album. There are so many artists that don't get how the fans are. They will be with you long after the hit records come and go. You have to connect with them. You have to make music about them not make music about you. You can get a couple of hits about being a drunken mess and getting your ass kicked by a guy but that gets uninteresting after a while. People want to



be uplifted and need it. I try to hone in on the fans and listen to what they say after the shows. They give me so much creative fuel.

WCT: Now you have the jazz album.

KW: Yes, and that was fan driven too. That was started right after *Clubland*, which was pretty jazzy. There were jazz overtones with "Feel What You Want." There was scatting and everything in that album. I started getting e-mails from the fans. "When are you going to do a jazz album?" I knew it would be expensive and take a long time because I was going to have to finance it myself. No one is going to believe a dance artist is going to do a killer jazz album until it is done and they hear it. We started it in 2006 and started with it Carlos Santana's guys. We played with all the big boys such as people that toured with Marc Anthony. One of them even did shows with Tito Puente in his last years.

WCT: So there is a Latin influence? I heard some bossa nova.

KW: Yes, bossa nova, samba. I have all Latin players. It has a sexy Latin vibe to it. That was what I wanted to do, something that was different. I wanted it to be played at dinner parties, pool parties, and people could saunter around and be fabulous with a martini and enjoy each other's company. It was a way for me to be a part of the mix.

WCT: Do you play saxophone on it?

KW: Yes, I do.

WCT: It impressive to hear you play the saxophone live. I don't know if you are doing that at Roscoe's or not.

KW: I think I will bring my horn to Roscoe's. We will bust it out. That will be fun.

WCT: Yay! You have remixes from *Straight Up With a Twist*, too?

KW: Yes.

WCT: A greatest hits is up and coming also?

KW: We are working on that one. *Fade* is the seventh single and coming out right now. That one just went out to the Billboard reporters. It is going to enter at number 45 from what I was told. It is really doing well. It's a song for the fans "You won't fade away from me."

WCT: Would you ever do a musical?

KW: I would love to do Broadway. I think I auditioned for a Broadway show at one time. I can't remember which one it was. The producers were really uptight and I thought this is not the right one for me.

WCT: Maybe they could do one about you.

KW: That would be killer! I have always wanted to do a musical called *Land of the Living*.

WCT: How tall are you?

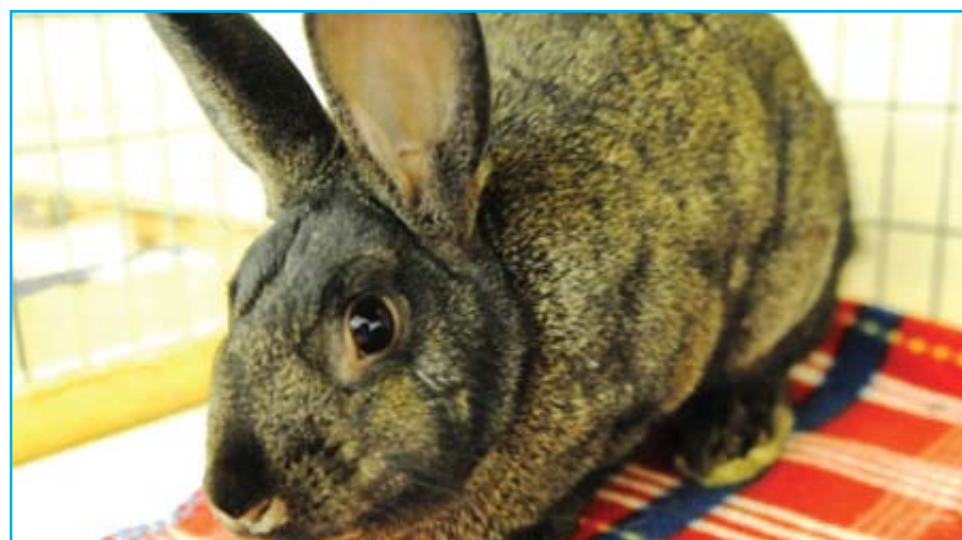
KW: Six foot. That's why people thought I was a drag queen for so long!

WCT: Is your favorite color red? You are doing an appearance at a Red Dress Party...

KW: Actually no, but that's all right. I will wear red, honey!

For more of Kristine W's work check out <http://www.kristinew.com>.

Look for her in town at Roscoe's Tavern & Café, 3356 N. Halsted, on Friday, April 15, at 10 p.m. She is also appearing at the Red Dress Party benefiting HIV/AIDS research Saturday, April 16, at 525 W. Monroe, with her performance at 10:30 p.m. Log onto to <http://www.roscoes.com> and <http://chicagoaddressparty.org> for tickets and details.



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Ariel Aparicio. PR photo

MUSIC

Ariel Aparicio: Like a rock (star)

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Although he was raised listening to salsa and funk, out gay Cuban-American singer Ariel Aparicio is a dyed-in-the-wool rocker. On his most recent CD, *Aerials*, Aparicio employs driving grooves that percolate with a variety of musical genres—especially rock. The CD includes “Sorry,” an older fan favorite about Aparicio coming to terms with his own sexuality.

In a recent interview with *Windy City Times*, Aparicio talked about New York City, his album and his family (which includes husband Andrew Jerro, their son and dogs).

Windy City Times: Let’s start with your background. You were born in Cuba and raised in Miami. Just so our readers know, how did you end up a New York City boy?

Ariel Aparicio: The truth is I was dying to get out of Miami. I felt trapped.

WCT: I don’t understand that.

AA: [Laughs] It’ll take pages and pages of explanation for that.

So I came to New York to study at NYU. It was the only school I had applied to at that point because my mission was to come to New York ... oh, no—not true! I had also applied to an art school in Chicago back then. If NYU hadn’t taken me, I would’ve been in Chicago. I visited Chicago a few years ago, and I would love to live there. But after I got here, I had no intention of leaving.

WCT: So what is it exactly about New York City that’s so attractive?

AA: It was many things. Music has always been my passion since I was a kid, and the kind of music I was listening to wasn’t [popular] in Mi-

ami. Miami has such a Latin culture, with dance music, and my loves were New Wave, rock ‘n roll and punk rock. So I would see videos and magazines about New York, with the spiky hair and lots of chains, and it was where I wanted to be.

WCT: You’re also a husband and father. How has being those two things changed your approach to music—or has it changed it at all?

AA: Yes, it changed it in many ways. First and foremost, it’s scheduling. [Laughs] But I really see my art through my son’s eyes. He’s very aware that I’m a musician and he’s very aware that I have to rehearsal. When I get home, he asks, “How was rehearsal, *papi*?” He knows all my songs, and sings them from beginning to end. That’s a whole new inspiration for me.

WCT: Speaking of fathers, 2004 was a very pivotal year for you. You celebrated your 10th anniversary with Andrew but your father passed away. How much did your father know about your private life?

AA: It was never spoken but I truly felt in my heart that he knew. I left home when I was 17 and never once in my trips back to Florida or over the phone did my father ever ask “Do you have a girlfriend?” For my niece’s sweet 16, I took Andrew; we all sat at the same table. My father was right next to my husband and they talked all night long, but they never talked about anything [private].

My father was a Cuban man with old traditions. I know he knew but he never spoke about it. I wish I had spoken with him about it, just to get over that hump. I think he would’ve come around—and I really wish he was around to meet our son.

WCT: So how did you introduce Andrew to your father?

AA: “This is my friend.” [Laughs] But we were also business partners, having owned several restaurants. My father knew that, and he knew that we lived together.

Everyone in my family—my mother and ev-

eryone else—knows Andrew is my husband. If my father had been around now, he definitely would’ve known.

WCT: OK, let’s talk more about music. Where did the title *Aerials* come from?

AA: That was my producer’s idea. While we were recording and in the middle of everything, he and his family were taking a drive and he saw all of these antennas that you see out in the field; they’re called “aerials.” He thought that would be the perfect name for the record—and I thought it was really clever.

WCT: How would you describe this CD?

AA: It’s the culmination of the music I’ve listened to all my life, and I’ve been trying to get to this place. It combines all the elements of the genres I listen to: rock ‘n roll and dance music. During the ‘80s, there was the whole punk-music thing that was happening. I wanted to bring all that together. I call it a dance record that’s totally, totally, totally worked over by guitar.

Read the entire interview with Ariel Aparicio online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com> and find out his thoughts on rock music and his dream duet partner.



Ariel Aparicio. PR photo

WINDY CITY TIMES 12th Annual THIRTY under 30

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Individuals, organizations, co-workers, etc. can nominate a person by e-mailing Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com or faxing 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.

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 St.

The deadline to nominate individuals is Friday, April 22.

Photo of 2010's 30 Under 30 honorees by Hal Bealm.

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Bright times, 'Big Sex': Talking with Susie Bright



BY YASMIN NAIR

Susie Bright has had a storied life and career as a sex educator; editor of erotica; and commentator and promulgator of queer/feminist sexual politics. Her most recent memoir—*Big Sex, Little Death*—provides details about her early life and adolescence as a sexually forthright young woman who became a member of the International Socialists, labor organizer, poet, writer and, eventually, a founding editor of *On Our Backs*, the first female-run lesbian erotica magazine—a publication that drew the ire of lesbian and straight feminists alike for its frank depictions of female sexuality.

Windy City Times: Let's talk about the structure of the book. The first two-thirds seems more impressionistic than the last third. The last parts are more detailed and chronological concerned as they with, primarily, *On Our Backs*. Could you talk about that stylistic difference, and what says about your approach to the subject matter?

Susie Bright: Some of it was intuitive. I was intimidated at the beginning because it was the first long-form narrative that I've done that felt novelistic. I've done long-form political treatises, but not like this. If I could have written everything with poetry and impressionism from beginning to end, I probably would have liked that better as a writer. There were times when I felt this public pressure, like my readers would want me to say something about "X."

I'll give you an obvious example: So many people ask me how do you raise your daughter, how do you get involved with your sex life when you have kids. They wanted advice, in certain respects; the educator part of me came out and the poet had to go sit in the corner. If I was more clever and more experienced with this kind of writing, I would have loved to tell more stories, and I did but it was too long. It would have taken another 200 pages to really unpack that as beautifully as I might have had in my Proustian mind [laughs].

On the other hand, the little scenes I show from the International Socialists and the Red Tide [as examples], I would get very detailed [as in this moment when I'm in Detroit, and this crazy vet loses his mind] so you've got these snapshots. Whenever I could, I found a moment to give a feeling of this new social world that I became a part of and these women who became very important to me. Later on, I had to march the action along.

WCT: You write about your early experience with the International Socialists, and your clear disappointment with them. Would you

say you still identify as someone on the left, and is so, how?

These isms and labels are just fraught with misinterpretations but on a very general level, yes, I still consider myself a socialist. It means a great deal of my worldview is driven by class consciousness and about following the money and that capitalism puts profit above the survival of the species to a cruel and self-extinguishing degree. When I saw the young people taking to the streets in Tahrir Square, I knew exactly what they were going through. I knew they were staying up all night having sex and talking and singing and not letting their hopes burn and how they're not going to let the old people screw it up. And when the citizens and workers of Wisconsin said, "We're not going to take it any more, we're not going to bow and scrape and say thank you master," it was so good to see a response against that dominant paradigm.

WCT: You have this critique about the right wing clamping down on sexuality, sexual freedom and expression. Given that you've been very clear about the profit motive, is there an overt critique of capitalism [in your work]?

SB: I used to get into trouble with the International Socialists [laughs] if I didn't write at the end: "This is why capitalism is bad."

WCT: Yes, but is it worth us returning to that question of capitalism without using that cliched rhetoric? We don't seem to think about capitalism so much when we think about sex, or do we? Do we think about capitalism when we think about sex?

SB: As far as what activism and discussion is like now: I find it amazing that amongst my daughter's generation, you can now use the word "capitalism" and everybody knows what it means and it's not considered a sneaky, dirty, commie thing. When I was becoming familiar with Marxism, you could not say the word "capitalist" without people saying, "do you hate this country?" And the rest of the world was never like that. In the U.S., the red-baiting had made certain words off the table.

The sexual anxiety that the ruling class has promoted is this double-standard titillation that we see the media drowning in. Why is that? Because if a woman is nothing more than the producer of your heir, it's very important that you control her sexuality, it's very important that she doesn't fuck around. The more valuable the dynasty, the more valuable the heir—it's almost like a royal wedding.

The royal wedding is a mirror of the false consciousness about sexuality that we have these days. Unfortunately, because the mainstream Democratic Party feminists have been so paro-

chial in their focuses and threw so many women out of the movement, they haven't been able to face the big picture and look at the attacks they're sustaining. What's happened to planned parenthood in just the last few months would have been unbelievable a year ago. When you don't have a thriving women's movement that is united around sexual self-determination and sexual self-empowerment for women, if you don't have that point of view you can't defend your causes and your territory like you need to.

There are always people like me on the left who say, grow a pair of balls, defend this, defend the whole thing. Don't just sit there saying, "Well, it's so sad, every time there's an abortion, but we're just trying to help with family planning." Why don't more women say, "I want an abortion, and it's none of your business, and my uterus that has a whole life that goes on for years and years and it's none of your fucking business."

WCT: You write about your daughter [in the book]. Are there generational shifts? In your book, there's this delightful moment where you were accused of sleeping with a schoolmate's boyfriend, and you turned around and said what's your problem with that? That discovery of a sexual ethos that isn't so much about possession, about claiming "my boyfriend," ...

SB: [Laughs] When I was my daughter's age [Bright's daughter is 20], we would have been embarrassed [to say that].

WCT: Right. It seems like teens are being encouraged to become much more puritanical, and that notion of teenagers sleeping around because it was just fun seems to have been erased. Do you think there's a possibility of that returning?

SB: There's a real class divide on this, too. There was an article that recently appeared that said it turns out that recent college grads have had far less lesbian experience than women who haven't gone to college, and it defied defined this titillating notion that women go to college and have little lesbian flings. And I said that this survey doesn't surprise me, but it doesn't explain something else, which is that these recent colleges grads who didn't have same-sex experiences also didn't go to bed with boys either or, if they did, it was far less frequently.

They're a less experienced generation in sex, overall. It's this group that has been kept in a hothouse and supervised by their parents as if they were royal infants from day one, it's that group. The group that hasn't been supervised every minute, and had every hour of every day planned for them: those people who have been

making their way throughout their life without the Ivy Leagues have been more impulsive, impromptu, very experimental in their sex lives, not necessarily within the context of a bohemian movement but just because life presents itself with sexual opportunities. And there's nobody in your life saying, "No darling, you mustn't go to bed with anyone or you won't get your Ph.D. or you won't get into the best schools, or you won't have a future, you won't have a good job, you just have to postpone that." That is the the mantra of the frightened parent that says that if we don't keep them pure, we'll lose everything, our future will become insecure.

I don't think it's everyone who's so bloody celibate. I just think that the upper class sets the tone and controls the media. It's like watching one of those television shows when I was a kid. I would think to myself, "How come all the parents on this show are married? How come no one's divorced?" Of course, that's changed—you know what I mean—but it's a picture that isn't altogether real.

WCT: Where are queers in relation to sex? Given the state of the current gay movement, which is focused very much on gay marriage and on establishing the reasons why it deserves the same rights and proving to be capable of conjugal fidelity...

SB: [Laughs] Right, because that's so important—and proving themselves capable of adultery.

WCT: Right, yes, now that we can get married, we can also be adulterous—how delightful. You talk in your book about the gay daddies who actually helped keep the publication going and also kept the spirit of that sexual revolution going. Where do you think queers are today in relation to notions of sexual freedom and expression and sex in general, given all of this?

SB: It's a more conservative group, certainly. It's been a very awkward position because it was so much gay artists, intellectuals, left-wingers, revolutionaries of all stripes who birthed the gay movement. We've always thought we would be setting the tone and when the marriage issues came up and the military issue came up, we were like, well, "Yes, certainly, it is an issue of fairness and civil rights" but, honest to God, who wants to join the army anyway? I couldn't believe that was going to get traction on that and, boy, was I wrong.

I feel passionate—I cry when I see those army vets who've been thrown out after years of service. I was so proud of San Francisco's City Hall when we started doing marriage and let the rest of the world go to hell. It's true on the most basic rights of a citizen: If you're really legal—and you could say the same thing about sex work—if you're really legal you should have all the rights, you should have access to law and order just like anyone else. It is absolutely a valid issue. If that, however, is the scope of it...some of my friends who are fighting these battles, like in the ACLU or in gay-rights organizations: They have a hard enough job as it is, but there have got to be other dimensions to what we're all about besides being victimized by second-class citizenship. And that is because the very notion of being queer raises issues about a sexual spectrum and a gender variety and a sexual variety that interests us as an entire species.

People really aren't so black and white as we like to make out; we're not all gay or all straight. In some ways the gay movement has tried to shoehorn themselves into a nuclear family, straight-thinking square dichotomy. If you're going to be gay but you want to be square—here's what it looks like, it doesn't quite fit, but try to fit yourself into it anyway. It's like an ill-fitting pair of shoes, and it's an ill-fitting pair of shoes for everyone, including men and women who live with each other and have sex and get married.

People are just a lot more unexpected than we like to make out, and what they want out of life and how they regard their sexual philosophy, how they see themselves as masculine and femi-

nine and everything else outside of that: that territory is very real and the extent to which we ignore that and ignore critiques of Squaresville, we do so at our peril. I so wish that these laws would get passed, gay marriage and the gay military, if only because once it were done, there would be this fabulous moment where you'd say, now, now, can we talk about something else? Could we get out of the baby stages, because it's long overdue and this is absolutely wonderful and I've stayed up partying but now I want to move on?

WCT: You write about your entanglements, especially during the time of *On Our Backs*, with lesbian separatists and anti-porn feminists.

SB: I'd give my eyeteeth to meet lesbian separatists today. Now, it seems so romantic. ... I'd be happy to be in a lesbian separatist commune at any moment, it sounds fabulous to me, you got to be the whipping girl of the entire feminist movement [who said], "Oh, yeah, those man-haters, it serves them right." It was never like that, it was never the right-wing stereotype about man-hating. There was a lot of really awesome do-it-yourselfism, and independence and economic freedom and art and culture that came out of it, and not all of it was sexually puritanical. That was also a lie. It was a mixed bag. I'm still waiting to read the ultimate analysis of why it so spectacularly died out as a philosophy.

When I was in *On Our Backs*, it was so frustrating because we would do our magazine and we'd have women say, "Well, you shouldn't do this magazine because if a man sees it, we're ruined." And I said, "No, we're not going to hide. I don't care if they see it, I want you to see it. And I want you to be in it and I want you to write for it." And I said, "Do you see gay men hiding and worried that some straight woman is going to pick up their magazines? We need to be a lot braver about who we are and more confrontational." That was a difficult and weird sectarian moment. There is no real lesbian separatist movement now and I'm sorry for it. I miss the separatists. I like having more variety in our political life. I just hate the sameness and only having two alternatives.

WCT: Where do you think feminists are, especially the anti-porn feminists, in relation to sexual politics?

SB: There's a professional class of anti-porn campaigners, and it consists of evangelicals and certain feminist-background people who've made it their gig. And they lost a lot of points in the porn wars and so they've moved on to trafficking, and they've been rather successful at establishing this word and this meme which is filled with junk science and spurious claims. They've gotten to the point where anybody they disagree with for any reason is a trafficker. They have very conservative politics on migration and interna-

tionism, and they have no class consciousness about sex work as work, they have no empathy or compassion for the labor issues of sex work, and they don't listen to anybody. They make a nice little penny off the government tit of sexual control to the extent that they've joined arms with certain NGOs [non-governmental organizations] and certain law and order elements.

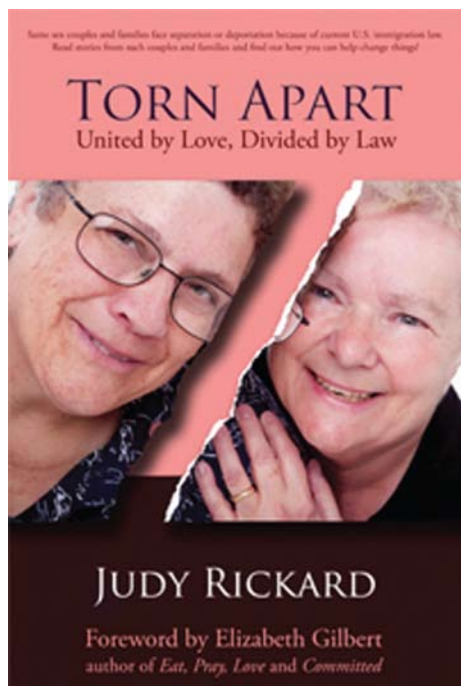
If you tell the attorney general that we're going to go after the traffickers, boy, you're going to make a lot of political hay out of it by saying, "They [the traffickers] are just a bunch of disgusting people anyway, they're worthless. And we'll find victims too, we'll find them all." Okay, a few million dollars later, they really don't have the claims, they don't have the data, but it doesn't matter because it's trafficking, quote unquote, neon letters, flash, flash, flash. I get very excited about the international sex worker organizations, who will not let these positions go unmentioned upon, who speak a little truth to the power.

When you talk about where they're at, it's funny because back in the old days, some of these anti-porn people posed as separatists. [laughs] It's hysterical—they are so in bed with the highly patriarchal government establishments to control women's lives, and with the patriarchy of the religious Christian right, it's just absurd. I mean, that's who their financial and influential allies are.



Susie Bright will be at Women and Children's First, 5233 N. Clark, on Friday, April 15, at 7:30 p.m.

Yasmin Nair can be reached at welshzen@yahoo.com. Her website is <http://www.yasminnair.net>.



BOOK REVIEW

Torn Apart: United by Love, Divided by Law

by Judy Rickard

\$20; Findhorn Press; 271 pages

REVIEW BY SALLY PARSONS

Torn Apart is the story of Judy and Karin, and 18 other gay and lesbian couples, and how U.S. immigration policy has disrupted their lives together. To set the stage, take two couples' plight: (from the foreword) Elizabeth's love for a Brazilian who traveled back and forth between South America and the States to be with her. U.S. Immigration authorities stepped in and deportation was imminent. The couple resolved their dilemma by obtaining a fiancé visa and getting married. By contrast, Judy Rickard and her love Karin are now living 6,000 miles apart (Judy in the States and Karin in her native Scotland) and don't know when they can be together again. U.S. Immigration has denied Karin a visa.

These two couples are binational. The difference is, Elizabeth (that's Elizabeth Gilbert of *Eat, Pray, Love* fame) and her love are a hetero couple while Judy and Karin are lesbians. Same-sex binational couples do not have the legal means to stay together in this country that hetero couples do. The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) legally

defines marriage as only between a man and a woman, so although same-sex marriage is legal in several states, federal law trumps state law.

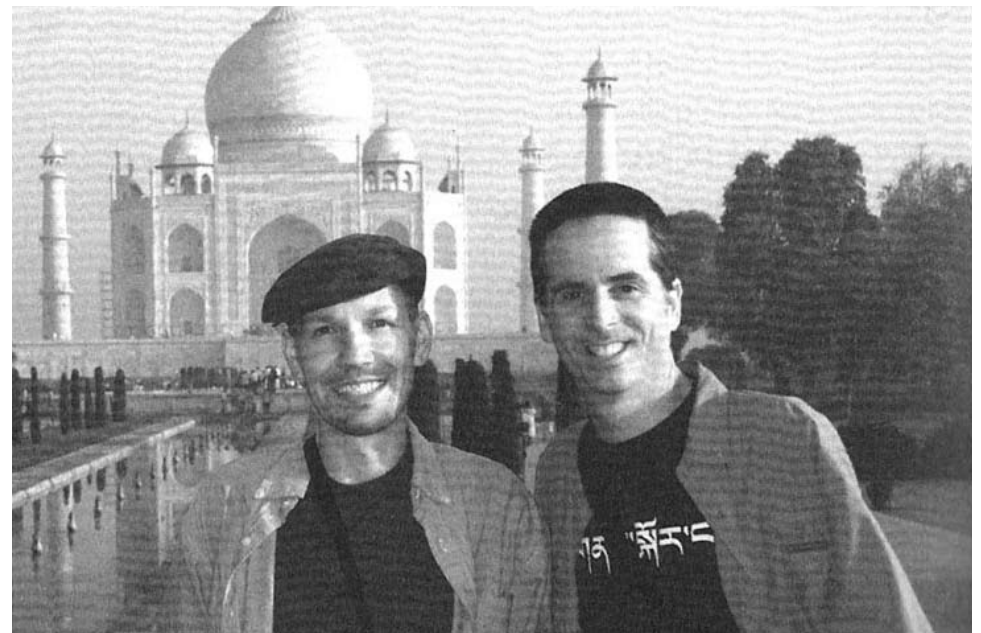
There are two ways to read this book. Many will be drawn in by the inspiring, often sad, even infuriating, tales of same-sex couples caught in the machinations of antiquated U.S. immigration policy. Some readers will stop there. Others, angered or stirred by these stories, will wish to take action to redress the plight of the families depicted in *Torn Apart*. These readers will find the back of the book useful—chockfull of ideas for how to help, resource groups and websites, articles, blogs, books, DVDs, Facebook pages, and more, as well as descriptions of legislative proposals and definitions. Either way, the book satisfies.

Often prominent on nightly TV news reports are the images of immigration agents breaking down doors to detain and deport illegal immigrants. Much of that kind of gut-wrenching drama occurred in Jay and Shirley's story. Shirley was dragged from their home in handcuffs by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents—Jay and their two teenage sons left behind in shock at what was happening to them. (Search "Shirley Tan" on YouTube to meet this family.)

As Shirley stated, "I have a partner who is a U.S. citizen, and two beautiful children who are also U.S. citizens, but not one of them can petition for me to remain in the United States with them." Shirley is still in the States due to a private bill from Senator Feinstein of California that permitted her to stay until the end of the 111th Congress. She could be deported at any time.

Thomas and Tony are contemporary nomads. Together since 1993, they spent six years in the States until forced to leave (Thomas tried the green card lottery 15 times with no luck). They then lived four years in Germany, Thomas's home country. Tony was not comfortable there so the couple hit the road. They have traveled together in 55 countries to date. But what they want is to be able to live in California with family and friends, an option not available to them at present. (At the time this review was written, Thomas and Tony were in Thailand. You can follow their adventures at contemporarynomad.com.)

Some 36,000 same-sex binational couples in this country have been adversely affected by our antiquated immigration laws. Half of these couples are raising children. The Uniting American Families Act would fix this dilemma but, so far, efforts to pass it into law have failed. Many



Thomas Arnold (left) and Tony Eitner (right) in India on their continuous travel. Photo from their private collection, used by permission.

organizations are actively pushing for its inclusion in the next immigration reform legislation. (For a recent account of what's going on with legislative reform, Google "dream and DOMA.")

For Judy Rickard to step forward with her story is a brave and risky act as it brings hers and Karin's situation into the spotlight. ICE can make it impossible for Karin to return to the States. Rickard states they are willing to take the risk

to help the cause. They will relocate if necessary to be together. It seems grossly unfair that they may need to take such a step.

If nothing else, read this book to inform yourself about this important issue. You will find it a compelling wake-up call. Royalties from the sale of *Torn Apart* will go to support the work of three non-profit action groups (Immigration Equality, Love Exiles, and Out4Immigration).

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Celebrations

Share your special moments with the community in Windy City Times' new announcement section!

Shiller receives Damski

Retiring 46th Ward Ald. Helen Shiller received the 14th annual Jon-Henri Damski Award for her civic contributions, dedication to the city and her nonstop fight for AIDS.

Guests were treated with a multimedia video presentation of moving moments in Chicago's LGBT history and the activists and community leaders behind those movements. Shiller's friend, guest speaker Bruce Barnes, delivered a touching speech that highlighted Shiller's relentless fight for the underdog—in particular, those affected with AIDS. Barnes ended his dedication by referring to Shiller as "a leader among politicians whose morals and skills should be modeled by every politician."

Shiller said that her work is merely a fight for the people. "People should have what we need and people should contribute what they have, so we can all have what we need," she said. Text by Terrence Chappell



From left: Kit Duffy, Ald. Helen Shiller, Lori Cannon and Charlotte Newfeld. Photo by Terrence Chappell

Chely Wright engaged

Out lesbian country singer Chely Wright has officially become engaged to her girlfriend, according to HollywoodNews.com. The "Single White Female" singer is now engaged to LGBT-rights activist Lauren Blitzer. They plan to marry in Connecticut Aug. 20.

The Academy of Country Music (ACM) named her Top New Female Vocalist in 1995, and her first Top 40 country hit came in 1997 with "Shut Up and Drive." Wright has released seven studio albums on various labels, and has charted more than 15 singles on the country charts. On May 4, 2010, Wright released her memoir about being a closeted lesbian, Like Me: Confessions of a Heartland Country Singer, and her first album of new songs since 2005, Lifted Off the Ground.



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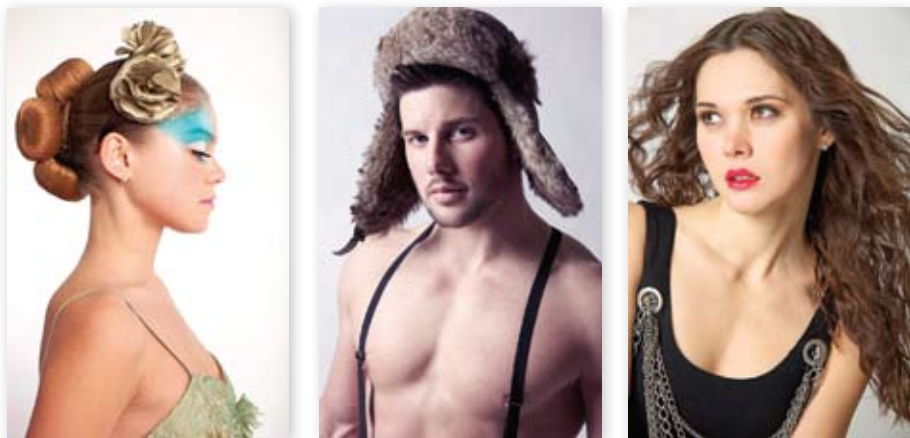
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BREAKING NEWS

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calendar

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WINDY CITY TIMES



Wed., April 13

Comedian Eddie Safarty's Mental Eddie Safarty's Mental: an evening of homo-neurotic comedy. Benefitting Lambda Legal. \$25 ticket (includes one drink ticket) available at the door or by calling 312-663-4413. Eddie will also be signing copies of his book Mental. 6 p.m., Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted, <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

Interactive All-Star Seder David Broza, Judy Gold & Chicago's own, Cantor Alberto Mizrahi, are among the performers, comedians, politicians and other big shots to participate in unique interactive Passover Seder dinner to benefit Greater Chicago Food Depository. Only 400 tickets are available, \$118 and \$500, with tables of eight available for \$1,800 and \$3,600. 7 p.m., Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington, <http://www.citywinery.com/seder>

Sex Positive Documentary Film Series (SEX+++) We're in the third year and have an amazing program lined up for the next two years. 2nd Tuesday of each month, check site for times. 7 p.m., Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, 800 S. Halsted, M/C 051, Chicago, <http://www.hullhousemuseum.org>

Chat & Chew Partners of transgender or gender queer folk meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month. A space for folks who are currently in a relationship with an individual who identifies as trans or gender-queer. lgbtgroups@howardbrown.org; 7 p.m., 773-388-1600 x 3319, The Wormhole Coffee, 1462 N Milwaukee, Chicago, <http://lccp.org/events.php?id=172>

You're The Star Karaoke with Honey West Every Wednesday with Honey West! Sing

EDDIE AS HE GOES Wed., April 13

Out comedian Eddie Sarfaty will perform at a benefit for Lambda Legal at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted.



Out, Louise! Take your place in the spotlight! There's not a bad seat in the house. 10 p.m., (773)281-3355, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted, <http://www.roscoes.com>

Thursday, April 14

Beyond Bullying, Marriage and the Military: Race, Radicalism and Queer Politics Cathy J. Cohen is the Deputy Provost for Graduate Education and the former Director of the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture at the University of Chicago. As an academic activist Dr. Cohen frequently writes and speaks about gender, sexuality, class, ethnicity, and their interrelatedness and connection to power. 4:30 p.m., Social Sciences Research, Room 122, 1126 E. 59th, <http://www.genderstudies.uchicago.edu>

From Anita Bryant to Prop 8 Yale historian George Chauncey, who testified last year at the Prop 8 trial and other gay rights cases, will discuss why history matters to the courts and share the arguments about marriage, anti-gay discrimination

and anti-gay demonization that were used in those cases. 5:30 p.m. cocktails, 6:30 p.m. program, \$12, \$10 members and students; 6:30 p.m., 312-642-4600, Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark, <http://www.chicagohistory.org>

A Twist of Water A tribute to beloved Chicago and its unique history, the Jeff Award-recommended play is a funny and touching story of fathers and daughters, and what it means to be a family. 7 p.m., 773-325-1700, Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport, <http://www.mercurytheater-chicago.com>

Panel Discussion-Human Trafficking: Strategies and Solutions One of the most challenging human rights issues in the world. 6:30 p.m., Jane Addams Hull House, 800 S. Halsted, <http://www.hull-housemuseum.org>

Friday, April 15

School of the Art Institute Spring Art Sale The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) Campus Life and Student Association proudly hosts the annual Spring Art Sale; 11am, (312) 629-6880, SAIC Maclean Center Ballroom 112 S. Michigan, <http://www.saic.edu>

Demanding Change: How Queer Youth Change the World—Panel Discussion Center on Halsted, in collaboration with Chicago Freedom School and Broadway Youth Center, bring queer youth together to share stories of organizing to make changes for the lives of youth and share tools to create safe spaces for all youth. 4 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Fundraiser for Beyondmedia & Chicago Books to Women in Prison A good time for a good cause. 7 p.m., Las Manos Gallery, 5220 N. Clark, <http://www.lasmanos-gallery.com>

Lesbian Singer-Songwriter Jamie Anderson 8 p.m., Two Way St. Coffeehouse, 1047 Curtiss, Downers Grove

Miss Foozie's Birthday Party for a CAUSE! Miss Foozie is having a Birthday Party for a CAUSE! Countless performers will honor the community icon and all tips will be donated to Paws Chicago. Come celebrate the great Miss Foozie! 8:30 p.m., Rehab Lounge, 3641 N. Halsted, <http://www.missfoozie.com>

CLLAW IX The Chicago League of Lady Arm Wrestlers returns! Our roman numerals are growing, and so are we. CLLAW IX (that's; 10 p.m., 312-264-0130, Joe's Bar on Weed St., <http://www.cllaw.org>

Saturday, April 16

Run Proud: Women's 5K Training Group Want to run a 5K, join the women's running group which will meet Saturday mornings, starting this April to improve your health, expand your social circle, increase your motivation, and get ready for the "Proud to Run 5K" on June 25. Free, but please RSVP to Lakshmi Nemani at lnemani@centeronhalsted.org, 9:30 a.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Gender Fusions 7: The Super Queer-O Spectacle Columbia's LGBTQ Office of Culture & Community presents Gender Fusions 7: The Super Queer-O Spectacle, the annual queer spectacle of mighty proportions—an electric mash-up of drag, burlesque, spoken word, song and dance celebrating the fierce spirit of the queer community. 6 p.m., 312-369-8594, Stage 2, 618 S. Michigan, Second Floor, <http://colum.edu/lgbtq>

River North Dance Chicago Frank Chaves, artistic director of River North Dance Chicago is creating a new work entitled "Simply Miles, Simply Us" set to original Miles Davis recordings. 8 p.m., 800-982-2787, Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E Congress, <http://www.auditoriumtheatre.org>

Amy Armstrong and Freddy Allen Live at Francesca's on Chestnut 8:30 p.m., Francesca's On Chestnut, 200 E Chestnut, <http://www.facebook.com/amyfreddy>

Chicago Red Dress Party Join Marcus Riley, Candace Jordan and ChicagoPride.com's own Miss Foozie for the first-ever Chicago Red Dress Party. Chicago Red Dress Party is dedicated to creating visibility and awareness for the HIV/AIDS movement. 8:30 p.m., 773-413-9695, 525 W. Monroe, <http://www.chicagoredressparty.org>

Sunday, April 17

Eating as a Community: Urban Village Church Most of us would accept a friend request from God, but would the relationship stay superficial? How can we have a more personal experience? During Lent, Urban Village Church will explore practices to help you meet up with God in powerful ways. This week, Eating as a Community: What communion means to us. 10:15am, Urban Village Church, Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan, <http://www.newchicagochurch.com>

Josh Aterovis reading Critically acclaimed gay mystery author and Lambda Literary Award finalist Josh Aterovis will promote his new book The Truth of Yesterday, reading from his books, answering questions and signing. 4 p.m., Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W Granville Ave, <http://www.gerberhart.org>

Monday, April 18

"Who Knows Her Better?" live game show taping Participate in the premiere episode taping of the new Tellofilms.com game show hosted by Elizabeth Keener from "The L Word" that asks the question: who knows a woman better— her husband or her gay best friend? To attend the taping, visit the event website to buy tickets. 6 p.m., Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark, Mary's Attic, <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/166794>

Queering the Faith Film Series, For the Bible Tells Me So A film about Christianity and homosexuality, part of LGBT Change's The Faith Project in association with the Queer Intercollegiate Alliance series exploring the intersection of the LGBTQ Community and Religion. Each film explores the theme in the context of a different religion. 6:30 p.m., Jane Addams Hull House, 800 S. Halsted, <http://www.lgbtchange.org>

United House: A Night of Unity in House Music Join Hydrate Nightclub, ChicagoPride.com, and host Cyon Flare for United House: A Night of Unity in House Music, featuring New Resident House DJ Semaj;



A SONG FOR YOU Friday, April 15

Lesbian singer-songwriter Jamie Anderson will perform at Two Way St. Coffeehouse in Downers Grove.

Photo from website

10 p.m., Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

Tuesday, April 19

Gov. Deval Patrick Governor of Massachusetts and a Chicago native discusses and signs his memoir, A Reason to Believe: Lessons from an Improbable Life. In January 2007, Deval Patrick became the first black governor of Massachusetts. 6 p.m., 312-747-4050, Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State, <http://www.chicagopubliclibrary.org>

Ricky Martin's Musica+Alma+Sexo World Tour, \$40.50 / \$60.50 / \$90.50 / \$126.50; 7 p.m., Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim, <http://www.ticketmaster.com>

Wed., April 20

A Conversation with Chicago's Mayor-Elect Rahm Emanuel Mayor-Elect Rahm Emanuel will talk with the Chicago Tribune Editorial Page Editor Bruce Dold and take audience questions in A Conversation with Chicago's Mayor-Elect at the James Simpson Theater; \$10 by phone or online include a post-event reception. 6 p.m., 312-222-3348, Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore, <http://www.tribnation.com/events>

Thursday, April 21

Creating Safer Spaces: LGBTQ 101 Overview of LGBTQ identities, and will ask that participants think through how they support LGBTQ-identified young people within their agencies and offer solutions for social service providers for LGBTQs. This training is free; however space is limited and priority is given to Youth Ready Chicago Community Council Members. Participants must RSVP to dklein@centeronhalsted.org. CEUs and CPDUs are available to those who are interested for \$10. 10 a.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Wonka Ball 2011: A Royal Wedding About Face Theatre presents Wonka Ball 2011 A Royal Wedding. Polish up your tiara, because a Royal Wedding is coming to town! 5:30 p.m., The School of the Art Institute Ballroom 112 S. Michigan Ave, <http://aboutface theatre.com/index.php>

Windy City Gay Idol Now in its 9th year, Idol searches for the best amateur LGBT singers in the Chicago area and is open to all amateur singers age 21 and above, regardless of sexual orientation. \$10 sign-up fee for singers, and a \$5 fee for audience members at all preliminary events, \$10 cover at the semi-finals and finals at Sidetrack, 9 p.m. sign up, 10 p.m. start. 9 p.m., Crew Bar & Grill, 4804 N Broadway



CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

Thursday, April 21

About Face Theatre's "Wonka Ball 2011: A Royal Wedding" will take place at the School of the Art Institute, 112 S. Michigan.

Photo from 2010 by Kat Fitzgerald

BILLY MASTERS

"The only reason you've gotten this far is because of your last name. You've faked it for 50 years. You're very old and you need to play your age and not 12. You're an old lady!"—NeNe Leakes confronts LaToya Jackson on *Celebrity Apprentice*.

You may not realize it but, lo, these 15 years of churning out this column week in and week out, I've been playing a little game. Solely to amuse myself, I've attempted to work certain words into the column; words that wouldn't normally be found in an article such as this. The word for this week is "schadenfreude". While I like to think I'm not a bad person, I do often find humor in other people's misfortunes—but



Reichen knows how to provide an eyeful.

I find even more humor at my own misfortunes! I recently mentioned that I had the harrowing task of taking new publicity photos. While I was struggling through a photo session, Kirstie Alley was being dropped like a ton of bricks on *Dancing with the Stars*. It was like Christmas came a bit early this year. The only thing that could have made it funnier was if Derek Hough had been her partner!! At the exact moment I learned of her fall, I was looking at my photos. Suddenly, nothing was very funny. There's nothing like looking at unretouched HD photos of yourself to realize how old you've gotten. It's not that I look bad for my age ... it's just that I often forget what that age actually is!

The next thing on my agenda was heading to Palm Springs for Jeffrey Sanker's White Party. My co-host on the white carpet was the hilarious Shawn Pelofsky. It was our first time working together and we had a blast. Our drag diva greeter was my darling Rhea Litre. She's about to embark on a national tour—you should definitely check her out. One of the hallmarks of a Sanker event is that many of the same people come together year after year—from the folks working the party to the attendees. This year was no exception and the feeling of celebration was in the air (somewhat nippy air, but even Jeffrey can't control the weather).

When I was given the list of luminaries I'd be interviewing on the white carpet, I spotted the name Reichen. As is probably common knowledge, Reichen and I have a checkered past. Without getting too personal, we're genuinely fond of each other, which is what led to being hurt by some things that went down. (That's a

really nice way of giving you virtually no details.) But being older and wiser, I was that perhaps it was time for a détente (yes, another word on my list). That was until the day I was leaving for Palm Springs. That morning I discovered that Reichen had been doing solo jerk-off webcam shows ... FOR FREE!!! What a dilemma. And how do I handle this? I'd have to ask him about it. After all, I am Billy Masters. But that's how I got myself in trouble in the first place!

On the white carpet, I saw Reichen approach with enormous trepidation. I introduced him as an old friend and as he leaned in for a suspicious embrace, I said, "You have nothing to worry about." I dismissed our past as just that—been there, done that, let's move on. Then I jumped right into this new story. Although he previously issued a statement about the photos, Reichen spoke for the first time on camera to *moi*. He said that he wasn't doing anything wrong, that lots of gay guys do it and it's actually the safest sex you can have. That Reichen—he's always thinking. I did add that he looks REALLY hot in the pics—which, of course, are on BillyMasters.com. After we finished on camera, I reminded him, "For years, porn studios have been begging you to do porn and you've always said no. And now here you are ... giving it away!" See? He's not a whore—a whore would cash in. He's just a horny guy with needs. FYI, those needs are no longer being fulfilled by Rodney.

Proving I not only can dish it out but can also take it, let's talk briefly about Michael Holtz. Holtz—Mr. Gay U.S., runner-up for Mr. Gay World and *Compete* magazine's 2010 Athlete of the Year—has used his swimming skills to raise oodles of money for some good causes. So, to recap, he's athletic, sweet and gorgeous. My co-host was fawning all over him, touching his taut torso, and saying, "Who looks like you?" Michael didn't miss a beat but pointed to me and said, "You did!". DID? In the past tense? I suppose it's kind of a compliment that in the not-so-distant past, I resembled Michael. But it's also a cautionary tale. Take a good look at your future, Mikey. Who's laughing now?

The other memorable person on the carpet was Charo—who never disappoints. She may have been booked to perform, but she really was this year's White Party Ambassador. She was all over the TV promoting the event, showed up to pose with people and raise money for the NoH8 campaign, and did whatever she could to make sure the partygoers had a great time. On the white carpet, she told me about her new single, "Sexy, Sexy," and she tried to show me the new dance, which ... well, let's just say I won't be on "Dancing with the Stars" anytime soon.

As you all know, former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is relaunching his film career. He wants to whip his body back into shape, and was particularly impressed with Gerard Butler's physique in *300*. He called the film's producer to find out who Butler's personal trainer for the flick was. The director laughed and explained it was all done with CGI. "What are you talking about?" he told the Governor. "That look cost me a lot of money." But money well spent! I might need that CGI guy's phone number, too!

When I've reunited with Reichen, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Another week, another airport: Time for my annual Easter journey back to Boston—with a side trip to NYC for some shows, of course. Be sure to keep up with all my comings and goings on www.BillyMasters.com, the site that never takes a vacation. If you have a question, feel free send an e-mail to Billly@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I hire that CGI artist to turn back the hands of time. Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Julia Rosenwinkel rolls on in derby

BY ROSS FORMAN

Julia Rosenwinkel was in her final quarter at DePaul University in 2004, working on an undergraduate degree in religious studies, when she did a burlesque show at the Double Door in Wicker Park.

As she stepped off stage, an old acquaintance handed her a flier about a roller-derby league forming in Chicago, and said that Rosenwinkel would be a perfect for it.

"To this day, I don't know why she thought that, but she was right," said Rosenwinkel, now a veteran with the Windy City Rollers (WCR)—and yet her first using her given name, not her adopted derby name, Lucy Furr, that she used for her first four years.

Rosenwinkel, 35, who lives in Roscoe Village and works as a bartender at Huettenbar in Lincoln Square, is in her seventh derby season. She is a jammer and captain for the Double Crossers.

"My approach as a [team] captain has always been to develop individual players both physically and mentally so they can be assets to the team goals," Rosenwinkel said. "I am bossy and I am in the middle of everything they are doing. If I'm not there training with them, I'll be calling the trainer who was and asking about their performance. I've seen a few wide eyes when they realize I know something they thought I didn't. This doesn't work well with every player; sometimes the skater feels she knows better than I do [about] how to train. But I can tell you, the skaters who follow my training program excel; I cannot say the same for the skaters that resist it.

"It's no secret I'm a better trainer than player, but my skating has improved a great deal since becoming captain again in 2010, and that is simply because I can't ask my players to do things I am not willing to do. If I have fear, they will have fear. If I take a break in training, they have no reason to work hard. Within about five months of training my way, my skaters become very independent, to the point where they no longer need me, and then they start to teach me a thing or two."

Rosenwinkel has been living in Chicago for 15 years. She was home-schooled growing up and a competitive horseback rider. She also was active in gymnastics—as well as religious studies.

"A little-known fact about me [is], I really tore it up on the junior Bible quizzing circuit for years in my youth. I think that's where I learned to love winning," she said.

Rosenwinkel is bisexual and is now dating chef Stephen Dunne. There also is a lesbian team captain in WCR among its eight home team captains and four travel team captains.

"Some of [the captains] I know very well, so I know who they like to kiss, and some captains I only know as captains/players/trainers; it's all work-mode and I have no idea where they live or what they do when they're not skating," Rosenwinkel said.

"I do know that sexual identity was a bigger issue in the first three years of derby than it is now. I remember one of our first WCR practices where awards were being given [out] and one was handed out to our 'token lesbian.' I think it was for perfect attendance, or something [like that]. I remember sharing a raised eyebrow with a friend and league mate at the time and discussing sexuality afterwards. We were both taken aback at the language because we both knew there was more than one lesbian on the track. And while we were sure no offense was meant, we both felt a little offended.

"Then, in the second season, there was controversy over me, as a captain, being involved

with one of my players. I don't think people saw this issue coming, but I also don't think the bulk of our skaters at the time had played many team sports. I had only dated women who had played team sports. I was also fairly cocky in my attitude because they were making additions to [the] by-laws that would prevent captains from dating their skaters and I resisted that language in principle and took it personally. I felt they were trying to say I wouldn't do my job as diligently [as I could] if I were involved with a teammate. I felt that if someone was going to do a poor job captaining because they were dating a skater, they would probably do a poor job regardless.

"By the third season, it felt like a free for all. We had more openly gay skaters, plenty of skaters were dating or hooking up with league mates and all the policy about who can date whom eventually wilted. I don't even know if the policy is even in [place] anymore; I stopped caring and I think skaters feel free to sleep with whomever they have feelings for now. Everything is about game now. If someone is dating someone, I don't even hear about it until they break up, if then. Everyone has their close friends and that's who knows about their romantic lives. Practice is for building hamstrings and sprint; derby is for building a better life, and God bless you if you find love there, too."

Rosenwinkel said the highlight of her 2010 derby season was winning game five, especially since her team, "had every reason to lose—we had lost our top two players for the game, and our team was already anchored on players who had spent the previous season on the bench."

But they won, cementing their spot in the 2010 championship, which was their team goal.

"Our top jammer, a longtime teammate and former captain, was at home with a concussion and all I could think was, 'Who will get her points?'" Rosenwinkel said. "We were both modest, but consistent in scoring points, roughly 30 to 35 per game. I made a decision on the line of the first jam that it was my responsibility, as her captain, to make good on all her hard work and get those points. I scored 63 points that game, doubling my average. Most importantly, it raised the bar on our personal expectations, now we understand we can decide to win, and that motivates us in practice."

Rosenwinkel's 2011 campaign started in January—and the WCR offers monthly matches at the UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine.

"This season began with the devastating loss of our teammate Hammer," who died in late 2010, Rosenwinkel said. "Abruptly, all our careful thoughts about the season and training went out the window because it's all you can do to lace your skates and help your teammates do the same. It is very hard to watch my players suffer. It is extremely difficult to know they are trying to focus, to not cry until after practice, to keep the team first for two hours at a time. Every player on our team lost someone they loved. Some were more bonded to Hammer than others, but you love your teammate, [so] it doesn't matter if she's been with you a day or five years. You never want your team to suffer this way, but it does unlock a different kind of passion, your bond is more purposeful, you learn a lot more about one another if you pay attention and you find new ways to make skating mean something."

Certainly, derby certainly means a lot to Rosenwinkel.

More Julia Rosenwinkel:

—**What attracted you to derby:** "The idea of getting my nose out of the books for a while."

—**Great expectations:** "My expectations were



Julia Rosenwinkel. Photo from Rosenwinkel

to be surprised. It's not like any of us grew up saying, 'I want to play flat-track roller derby' because it didn't exist. I see so many women revealing the same experience: 'Wow, I can't be-

lieve they made a sport just for me.'

"Girls and young women across the nation can now say, 'I want to play roller derby when I am older. I want to play a full-contact, high-impact, semi-pro sport that is remarkably competitive and nationally organized.' And they can do it in addition to fulfilling careers, having families and anything else they choose. This is big stuff."

—**Best thing about derby:** Teammates

—**Worst thing about derby:** "Losing sleep because you wake up in the middle of the night with an idea that is either so exciting or so disturbing [that] you can't shake it and get back to sleep."

—**Biggest surprise about derby:** "That I'm such a jock; I had no idea."

—**2011 derby goals:** "Build your body, improve your skating skills, play with passion and grit, no fear and remember [that] you're never alone on the track; you play as a team with your team, always."

"Since the loss of Hammer, I am more committed to helping skaters stay in the moment. It doesn't matter if that moment is a breakthrough on the track, an excellent move, or a mental or emotional breakdown, I don't care. I just want them to appreciate whatever they are working on and stay in the positive, even if it takes a little ugly first. That is one of the things I learned from Hammer that is so important to me now. I'll be damned if I don't learn from these skaters every day."

Chicago Force powers through opener



The Chicago Force women's pro tackle football team was in it to win it in its home opener against the Minnesota Machine April 9. The Force took an impressive 14-0 lead at the end of the first quarter and then just slammed it home for a 69-0 victory. The home-team stands were packed with fans, both long-time and new to the game.

Many Force players had standout performances, but particularly strong were quarterback Samantha Grisafe (No. 15) and running back Jessica Springer (No. 46), who powered past the Minnesota team for several long runs. Brandy Hatcher (No. 28) also had a great offensive game. The defense held Minnesota to a shut-out with sacks, interceptions and all-around strong play.

The Chicago Spirit Brigade were fabulous cheerleaders for the team.

The Force, which plays at Winnemac Stadium on Leavitt just south of Foster, takes on the Wisconsin Wolves April 16 in an away game. Their next home games are three in a row: April 30 vs. St. Louis Slam, May 7 vs. KC Tribe and May 14 vs. West Michigan Machine. See <http://www.chicagoforcefootball.com>.

The very top photo shows one of the Force's touchdowns, a run by Jessica Springer. The above photo shows quarterback Samantha Grisafe (seated), who even sang to start the season-opener. Text by Tracy Baim; photos by Hal Baim (See more photos online with this story at <http://www.windycitymedagroup.com>.)

9th Annual
WINDY CITY GAY IDOL

Eight contestants vied for the coveted top spots in the second round of this year's Windy City Gay Idol series. In addition to fierce competition, the rapt audience was treated to a special performance by judge Meghan "Big Red" Murphy and raffle prizes, such as the new CD from Swedish sensations The Sounds.

The two finalists, GLB and Teresa, will advance to the semi finals at Sidetrack on Sat., June 4. Photos by Kirk Williamson and Kirk Smid. See more photos at facebook.com/windycitygayidol.

See this week's Nightspots for photos of Windy City Gay Idol at The Glenwood.



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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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**9 sign up/10 start
\$5 cover/\$10 to sing**
**with your hostess
Sofia Saffire**

Plus, at Spin YOU can win

Arista Records presents

I Remember Me

the highly-anticipated sophomore album from

JENNIFER HUDSON

 featuring the hit single "Where You At"
Available Everywhere Now!

www.jenniferhudson.com

\$100

 to the singer with
the most votes!

 Top Two Finalists
advance to Semi-finals!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Crew 4804 N. Broadway
THU. APRIL 21 8 sign up/9 start

DS Tequila Co. 3352 N. Halsted
SUN. MAY 1 8 sign up/9 start

Jackhammer 6406 N. Clark
TUE. MAY 3 10 sign up/11 start

Scarlet 3320 N. Halsted
MON. MAY 9 8 sign up/9 start

T's 5025 N. Clark
SUN. MAY 15 7 sign up/8 start

Roscoe's 3356 N. Halsted
MON. MAY 23 8 sign up/9 start WILD CARD

Sidetrack 3349 N. Halsted
SAT. JUNE 4 2 door/3 start SEMIS

Sidetrack 3349 N. Halsted
SAT. JUNE 18 2 door/3 start FINALS

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