

CLORIS LEACHMAN
TALKS
WITH WCT

PAGE 32



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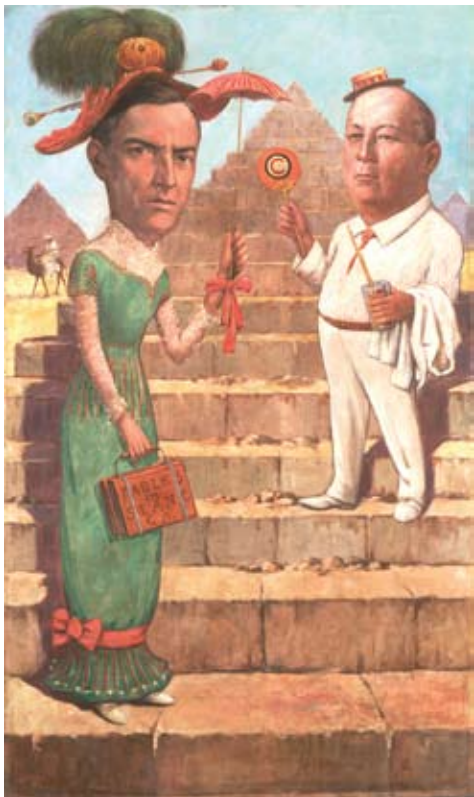
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Out In Chicago

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This revealing new exhibition at the Chicago History Museum represents the culmination of three years of research and development by museum curator Jill Austin and guest curator Jennifer Brier. Image courtesy of the Chicago History Museum.

'Human' nature

Singer Linda Eder wows the crowd at Center on Halsted's Human First Gala, May 14 at The Harris Theater at Millennium Park. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald, www.MysticImagesPhotography.com

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Senior moment

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On May 13, Ald. Tom Tunney (44th Ward) discussed plans to convert the old 23rd District police station into housing for the LGBT elders. Photo by Steven Chaitman



PRESENTS

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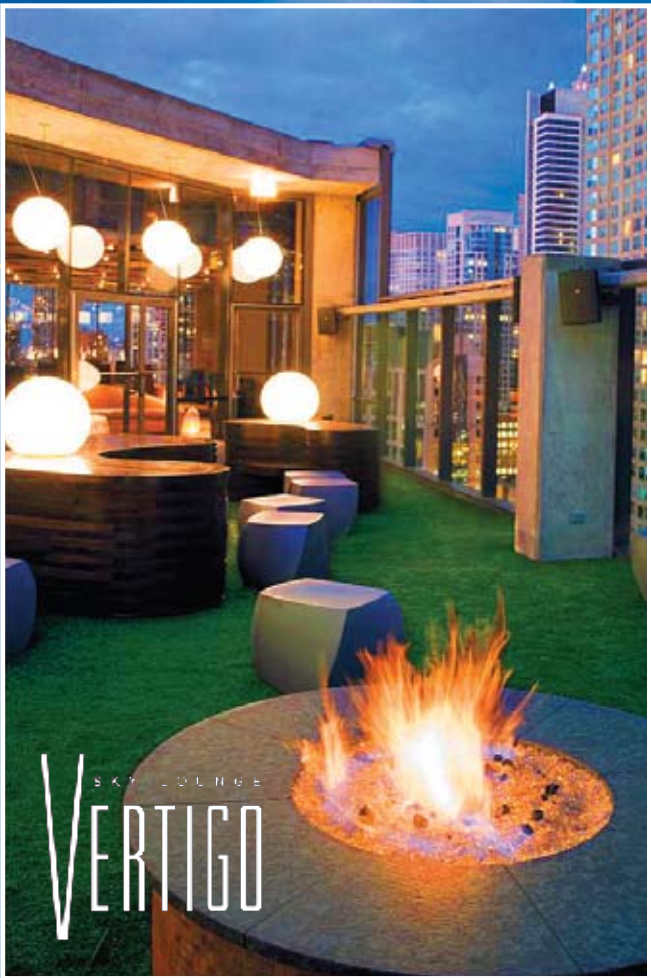
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this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Cloris Leachman image by Pat Johnson; Rahm Emanuel pic by Kat Fitzgerald, www.MysticImagesPhotography.com; Mona Noriega pic by Hal Baim; Matt Alber PR pic; Kelli Carpenter photo courtesy of Carpenter



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CLAW AND ORDER

Bent Nights looks at concerts by Of Montreal (left), Bitch and Candy Golde.

Photo by Vern Hester



Read a recent interview with singer Linda Perry, who now heads Deep Dark Robot.

PR photo



Read about WCT's visit to the Land of Enchantment, New Mexico.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

SPICE GIRLS

See photos from Charo's recent performance in Palos Hills as well as from Chelsea Handler's book-signing.

THE GOLDIE STANDARD

Don't forget to read WCT's entire interview with author Goldie Goldbloom online.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

This week's entertainment round-up includes items on Angelina Jolie, Mary Tyler Moore and the movie Milk.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

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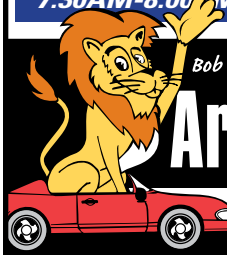
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House committee OKs three DADT/DOMA amendments

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The full U.S. House Armed Services Committee approved three amendments May 11 that seek to delay implementation of repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) and to reiterate Congress's support for the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

The votes were largely along partisan lines and are unlikely to be sustained in the Democratic-controlled Senate, even if they are approved by the Republican-dominated House.

However, the question is whether they might survive a Senate-House conference committee, when compromises have to be hammered out between two increasingly contentious parties.

None of the proposed amendments sought to undo what Congress did last December when it passed legislation to repeal the military's ban on openly gay people, but each provided yet another forum for debate over repeal.

The committee debated for more than 40 minutes an amendment over whether to require that each of the Chiefs of the four combat branches of the military provide written certification to Congress before repeal can be implemented. The amendment passed 33 to 27.

It then debated for less than 20 minutes an amendment to reiterate that the DOMA applies to the military. The amendment passed 39 to 22.

And it debated for 13 minutes an amendment to reiterate that decisions concerning use of military facilities and personnel for conducting same-sex wedding ceremonies are governed by DOMA. That amendment passed 38 to 23.

Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), called the amendments "an assault on our nation's senior military leaders and rank-and-file service members, who are marching toward open military service successfully."

"These adopted amendments to delay and derail repeal are a partisan political attempt to interject the same-sex marriage debate and other unrelated social issues into the [budget authorization legislation] where they have no place," said Sarvis.

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said the amendments were intended "to slow down open service and perpetuate scare tactics about the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'"

Three different Republican members of the House Armed Services Committee proposed the amendments during the full House Armed Ser-



Defense secretary Robert Gates.

vices Committee consideration of the annual bill authorizing how the Department of Defense can spend its funding. The overall bill is known as the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2012 (or bill Number H.R. 1540). Fiscal Year 2012 begins Oct. 1.

Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., first introduced his measure, called the "Restore Military Readiness Act," as a standalone bill, in January. It has 25 co-sponsors. It seeks to require that certification of military readiness to implement repeal of the ban on gays in the military be done by the Chiefs of the four branches of the military, in addition to the certifications already required from the president, the Secretary of Defense, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Hunter, in debate, claimed that "60 to 70 percent" of Navy Seals oppose repeal of DADT. The Seals have been the subject of enormous public attention and praise recently, after successfully capturing and killing terrorist leader Osama Bin Laden.

Rep. Susan Davis, D-Calif., the ranking Demo-

crat on the subcommittee that received Hunter's original measure, reminded the full committee that the four service branch chiefs testified at Congressional hearings that they believe their views are heard and respected by Defense Secretary Robert Gates and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen.

Rep. Hank Johnson, D-Ga., lamented that the House continues to debate DADT repeal.

"Having openly gay people serve in our military is not apocalypse," said Johnson, "it's a sign of progress." He also reminded committee members that when President Truman moved to integrate the military, there were some who opposed it.

"I think it's a similar situation here with Don't Ask, Don't Tell," said Johnson.

Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio, read a letter from a gay veteran from World War II, supporting repeal of DADT.

Currently, President Obama, Gates and Mullen are expected to certify the military as ready to implement repeal of DADT this summer. The repeal would then take effect 60 days later. Given how difficult it has been for the Senate and House to agree on budget matters in recent months, it seems possible that the 60-day waiting period will expire and DADT will be repealed long before a Senate-House conference committee will have a chance to tackle the issues.

The second amendment came from Rep. Vicky Hartzler, R-Mo. It seeks to emphasize that DOMA still applies to DOD regulations and policies. Hartzler said the amendment would address situations such as the recent conflict over whether Navy chaplains could preside over same-sex marriages and allow such ceremonies to take place on military bases.

Rep. Randy Forbes, R-Va., and others claimed the amendment was necessary because the Obama administration was "not enforcing" DOMA, so it is necessary to reiterate Congress's support for the law. No one spoke to correct that claim. The Obama administration made clear it would continue enforcing DOMA until such time as the courts may find it unconstitutional. But it did say it would no longer defend DOMA as passing all constitutional levels of scrutiny in all federal courts.

The third amendment, from Rep. Todd Akin, R-Mo., would prevent the use of military facilities or personnel for marriage ceremonies between same-sex couples. Akin's amendment, like that of Hartzler, was in reaction to an April 13 memo from the Navy's chief of chaplains recommending military facilities be available for

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NATIONAL NEWS



—Kerry (left) unveils measure to curb LGBT homelessness

—GLSEN praises anti-bullying bill

—AIDS Walk New York raises \$6.2 million

use at same-sex marriage ceremonies in states where marriage licenses are available to same-sex couples. The chief also recommended military chaplains be allowed to participate in such ceremonies, if their religious beliefs allow them to.

However, on May 10, the Navy chaplain chief, Mark Tidd, "suspended" his earlier recommendations, saying they needed to undergo "additional legal and policy review and interdepartmental coordination."

ABC News reported that a group of 63 Republicans had sent a letter to the secretary of the navy, expressing objections to Tidd's initial recommendations.

"Make no mistake," said Sarvis, "these votes should be a wake-up call to supporters of open service that our work is not done. Our commitment to timely certification and repeal must be redoubled as we move to the House floor to defend the progress we have made to ensure that LGB patriots can defend and serve the country they love with honesty and integrity."

Rep. Steven Palazzo, R-Miss., was reportedly ready to introduce an amendment to delay implementation of DADT repeal in order to develop and issue new regulations concerning how to handle service members who have religious or moral objections to openly gay people in the military. He did not do so.

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Report spotlights transgender bias

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) sponsored a Capitol Hill briefing May 16 on key findings from the the organizations' groundbreaking new report, "Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey," according to a press release. The briefing was held on behalf of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus.

The study is the largest ever done on the prevalence of discrimination against transgender people. NGLTF and NCTE staff shared some of the findings of the report, including:

—Respondents reported high rates of harassment and discrimination while in grades K-12: harassment (78 percent), physical assault (35 percent) and sexual assault (12 percent); 51 percent of those who were verbally harassed, physically or sexually assaulted, or were expelled because they were transgender or gender non-conforming, reported having attempted suicide.

—Regarding direct housing discrimination, 19 percent reported having been refused a home or apartment and 11 percent reported being evicted because of their gender identity/expression.

—Concerning employment, survey respondents experienced unemployment at twice the rate of the general population at the time of the survey, with rates for people of color up to four times the national unemployment rate.

—Regarding harassment, mistreatment or discrimination, 90 percent of those surveyed reported experiencing harassment, mistreatment or discrimination on the job or took actions like hiding who they are to avoid it.

Speakers at the briefing were Mara Keisling, NCTE executive director; Stacey Long, federal legislative director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Lisa Mottet, Transgender Civil Rights Project director at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Jack Harrison, policy analyst, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; and Owen Smith, a Maryland resident who experienced housing and employment discrimination on the basis of his gender identity.

NGLTF and Center on Halsted will hold a reception and presentation of "Injustice at Every Turn," the first national survey of the transgender community.

The event will take place Wed., May 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m., with a pre-reception with food and drinks at 6 p.m. RSVP at www.thetaskforce.org/chicago.

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DoD, Witt settle over DADT case

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The ACLU of Washington state announced May 10 that Air Force Reserve nurse Margaret Witt has reached a final settlement with the Department of Defense (DoD) in her highly publicized litigation to avoid discharge under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT).

According to an ACLU press release, the DoD has agreed to allow Witt to retire with full benefits and the Department of Justice (DoJ) will drop its appeal of a federal district court ruling in her favor.

Last September, Judge Ronald Leighton of the U.S. District Court for Western Washington ruled that Witt's sexual orientation did not negatively impact her unit's morale or unit cohesion and that her discharge under Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) violated her Fifth Amendment right to due process.

"I am proud to have played a role in bringing about the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" said Witt, in a statement released by the ACLU. "I am so pleased that the tens of thousands of lesbians and gays who have served their country honorably will be able to serve openly."

The *Witt v. U.S.* case has been a high-profile one and the subject of debate on the floor of the Senate and in the confirmation hearing of the U.S. Supreme Court's newest member, Elena Kagan. It was just one of several cases that applied pressure to Congress to repeal DADT before a federal court ordered it to do so immediately.

After several failed attempts, Congress did pass legislation to repeal DADT and President Obama signed it last December. DoD officials said earlier this year they expect to satisfy a necessary certification requirement—certifying that repeal can take place without affecting military readiness—about midsummer this year.

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), which has been working to pass repeal, congratulated Witt and the ACLU on their "stunning victory."

"Today's events underscore once again the unjust nature of this discriminatory chapter in American history," said Aubrey Sarvis, SLDN's executive director, in a statement. "Her case established a new rule of law in the Ninth Circuit, and her voice and story were pivotal in building support for the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' This is not just a victory for Major Witt—it's a victory for justice and for service members everywhere."

Witt, 46, joined the Air Force in 1987 and moved quickly up the ranks, becoming a major in 1999, working with a unit that provided airborne intensive care units for wounded military personnel. She received a number of commendations and even appeared on a recruitment poster. She was discharged in 2006 for having acknowledged she had a relationship with a woman in Tacoma, Wash., where Witt was based. In the initial round of her lawsuit, she won—at the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals level—the right to a trial on the merits of her individual discharge under DADT.

During Witt's trial, DoJ attorneys put on witnesses to discuss Witt's relationship with a married civilian woman and argued that it was not just Witt's sexual orientation but also her adulterous behavior to blame for her discharge. The government also noted that Witt had told at

least two colleagues she was gay, thus putting them in an awkward position of either keeping silent to protect her or informing superior officers of Witt's violation of DADT.

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Navy changes mind about gay marriage

The U.S. Navy has revoked its guideline allowing chaplains to conduct same-sex marriages in some states after Republican lawmakers and social conservatives expressed outrage, according to the New York Post.

After the official repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," U.S. Navy chaplains were going to be able to perform weddings for same-sex couples in states where marriage equality has been legalized. However, opponents of same-sex military marriages said the move would violate a law banning federal recognition of gay marriage.

Servicemembers United, the nation's largest organization of gay and lesbian troops and veterans, issued a statement about the revocation.

"At a time when the economy still needs attention, Osama Bin Laden was just killed, and revolution and conflict continue to rage across a fragile Middle East, having policy makers spend valuable and limited time on whether a few gay couples may or may not use a Navy facility for a private ceremony at some point in the future is just plain silly," said Alexander Nicholson, executive director of Servicemembers United and a former Army interrogator who was discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

"The Navy was certainly within its right to establish this policy, and the services should not be subjected to distracting pressure



Alexander Nicholson.

from reactionaries simply because they seek to treat all personnel equally and fairly," he added.

Palm Center Director Aaron Belkin also issued a statement saying, in part, "Opponents of equal rights for LGBT people scored a temporary victory yesterday when they successfully pressured the Navy to suspend plans to allow chaplains to perform marriages for same-sex couples, when allowed by state law, in military chapels.

"Gay and lesbian tax dollars sustain the salaries of military chaplains and the upkeep of military chapels, but the politics of the moment overwhelmed the Navy's assessment of its own best interests."

According to its website, the center "is a research institute committed to sponsoring state-of-the-art scholarship to enhance the quality of public dialogue about critical and controversial issues of the day" concerning the issues of gender, sexuality and the military.

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Study looks at bullying's mental-health consequences

BY DANA RUDOLPH
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

A popular anti-bullying campaign has been telling bullied teens "it gets better"—but the effects of past bullying often linger, according to new research.

The study, released May 16 in the May 2011 issue of the peer-reviewed Journal of School Health, reports that anti-LGBT bullying at school "is strongly linked" to negative mental health for its victims. Among those risks are an increased frequency of suicide attempts and increased risk for engaging in behaviors that can lead to infection with STDs and HIV. The increased risks exist not only while the victim is in adolescence, but also in young adulthood.

It should come as no surprise that there is a link between the bullying of LGBT students and negative mental health consequences. Several suicides of LGBT teens in the past year, motivated at least in part by relentless bullying because they are or were perceived to be LGBT, have made headlines and prompted an outpouring of support for LGBT youth from individuals, corporations, and politicians. Syndicated columnist Dan Savage created the "It Gets Better Project" last September to provide youth with videos of LGBT adults and allies who reassure them that life does get better and encourage them to seek help from an adult.

However, until now, there have been no formal studies of the long-term effects of such bullying

on LGBT people in the United States.

The new research, by Dr. Stephen T. Russell, distinguished professor at the University of Arizona, and Dr. Caitlin Ryan, director of the Family Acceptance Project at San Francisco State University, found that youth victimized in school because of their LGBT identity reported much greater problems with health and social adjustment in young adulthood than those experiencing low or moderate levels of school victimization.

Ryan said the research provides important empirical evidence about the relationship between bullying and its impact and that this evidence will "help us do something about it."

Ryan and Russell surveyed 245 LGBT young adults (white and non-white Latino/a) ages 21 to 25. They asked them about their experiences during adolescence with bullying and harassment based on their known or perceived LGBT identity.

The researchers asked each participant to indicate the number of times he or she had experienced each of 10 different actions—such as being hit by a fellow student—because the other person knew or assumed him/her to be LGBT.

The responses to each item were assigned scores as follows: 0=never, 1=once or twice, 2=a few times, 3=many times. The researchers categorized those having total scores between 0 and 2 as having "low" levels of victimization; those between 3 and 10 as having "moderate" levels, and those between 10 and 28 as having "high" levels.



Caitlin Ryan. Photo from Dana Rudolph

Thirty-seven percent of students (91 participants) had "low" levels of being bullied; 31 percent (75 participants) had "moderate" levels, and 32 percent (79 participants) had "high" levels.

Participants who reported high frequencies of victimization during adolescence were, compared to those with low frequencies:

- 2.6 times more likely to report clinical levels of depression as young adults;
- 5.6 times more likely to report having attempted suicide at least once;
- 5.6 times more likely to have had a suicide attempt that required medical attention;
- more than twice as likely to report having had an STD diagnosis; and
- more than twice as likely to report having put themselves at risk for HIV infection in the last six months.

Explaining the latter phenomenon, Ryan said, "When you have a reason to value your own life, you're going to be much more likely to engage in safer sex."

Females reported less LGBT victimization in general than males and transgender young adults (both male-to-female and female-to-male) and had lower levels of depression in young adulthood. But those females who did experience higher levels of victimization reported levels of depression comparable to males.

Ryan said that the results will help show school administrators and others that bullying is not just "part of being an adolescent."

"Now we can show that these effects with high levels of victimization are very serious," she explained. And if victimization is linked "with serious health problems, such as suicide attempts that required medical care, sexual health risks, and risks for HIV," she said, schools have "an issue in terms of liability."

Ryan and Russell conclude that reducing the victimization of LGBT youth "should be an educational and public health priority." The relationship between bullying and HIV risk, they wrote, "is especially important for school health programs that are funded by HIV funding streams."

Now that they have shown anti-LGBT bullying to have effects later in life, efforts to prevent such bullying can also "play an important role in helping mitigate the well-documented adult health disparities that exist for LGBT adults in the United States."

Reducing health disparities between LGBT people and the general population is one of the stated goals of Healthy People 2020, a decennial document created by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to set national goals for health.

There are currently several bills in Congress that would address anti-LGBT bullying, including the Safe Schools Improvement Act and the Student Nondiscrimination Act. Ryan said that this legislation is "absolutely essential" to address the "patchwork of approaches" to anti-LGBT bullying across the states. But that legislation alone isn't enough, said Ryan.

"Schools are embedded in neighborhoods and

in communities," she said, and advocates for LGBT youth "need to do community engagement ... and to reach out to families and do public education."

The authors note several limitations of their study. The first is that it relied on LGBT young adults' memories of experiences during their teenage years. The researchers tried to minimize errors in recollection by asking about very specific actions, e.g., "During my middle or high school years, while at school, I had mean rumors or lies spread about me."

Also, the study recruited LGBT young adults from a wide range of sites in California, but did not use a sample fully representative of the population. The research covered only LGBT Latino and non-Latino White young adults. These are the two largest ethnic groups in California—but the authors hope that future research will include "greater ethnic diversity to assess potential differences related to ethnicity."

Still, Ryan said, their results are "an important first step."

While the results have implications for school administrators and policy makers, Ryan said they also have implications for families.

"Once parents understand the stakes for their children," said Ryan, "they're much more motivated to get involved, to advocate for their kids."

Previous research Ryan has done has found that acceptance of LGBT youth by parents and caregivers can help protect them against depression, substance abuse, and suicide attempts in early adulthood. Conversely, LGBT young adults whose families rejected them were more than three times as likely to have suicidal thoughts and to report suicide attempts.

Ryan said she shared those results with the staff of U.S. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who on May 12 introduced the Reconnecting Youth to Prevent Homelessness Act to reduce youth homelessness and establish programs specifically for LGBT teens.

Those programs would include ones aimed at reducing rejecting behaviors and increasing supporting behaviors and understanding among families to improve the chances of LGBT youth remaining at home.

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CNN anchor comes out

CNN anchor Don Lemon has come out of the closet. Lemon, 45, makes the admission about his sexuality in his new book, *Transparent*, although he reportedly never made a secret of his orientation.

Lemon, who resides in Atlanta, worked for the Chicago news station WMAQ-5 in 2003, and joined CNN in 2006.

He told the New York Times, "I'm scared. I'm talking about something that people might shun me for, ostracize me for." Other national news anchors who have come out include Rachel Maddow and Thomas Roberts, both of MSNBC.

Transparent is slated to be released next month. Among the other topics Lemon discusses in the book are colorism, racism and the childhood sexual abuse he said he experienced.



Don
Lemon.

HANDS OFF HIV Prevention

By Michael Weinstein, *President, AIDS Healthcare Foundation*



The sexual health of gay men belongs to us. Not to drug companies, who want us to take expensive medication instead of taking precautions, so that they can make another billion dollars. It does not belong to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which is under orders to do HIV prevention, "without promoting homosexuality." It does not belong to the academics.

If we are going to protect our community's health, it is going to have to come from us.

The drug company Gilead wants us to take a \$10,000-per-year pill (Truvada) to prevent HIV, even though their study showed it was only 44% effective under optimal circumstances. The CDC wants us to believe that collecting a group of men in a room for a few sessions of "sharing" is going to have a permanent benefit. Academics write endless papers that have nothing to do with the real world.

Gay men have unsafe sex for a variety of reasons. They love a man and think that having unprotected sex is the best way of showing it. They are too drunk or stoned. There is no condom around. Or, they don't think that their life is important enough to protect.

In the '80s and '90s, safer sex was almost universal. We were so freaked out by watching our friends get sick and die we wouldn't take the chance of getting infected.

So, where are we today? About half of all new infections in the U.S., some 28,000, come from men who have sex with men. More than half of those come from men who are unaware they are infected. So, with half a million men who know they are HIV-positive, only about 12,000 actual new infections happen each year from a man infecting another man. That is too many, but it indicates that most gay men are taking precautions most of the time.

We need a grassroots movement led by young gay men. We need an individual commitment to protect ourselves and our partners. We need to get as close to the heat of the moment—when people are actually making these decisions—as we can get.

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Emanuel sworn in as Chicago mayor

BY JOSEPH ERBENTRAUT

With his \$14-million campaign and the suspenseful, drawn-out residency hearings and associated lawsuits now behind him, Chicago mayor-elect Rahm Emanuel was formally inaugurated as the city's new leader before an audience of onlookers, composed of many school children, at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park late in the morning May 16.

Just after he was sworn in by Judge Timothy Evans, chief judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Emanuel commenced his inaugural address, a 23-minute speech that tipped a hat to outgoing Mayor Richard Daley and outlined several of the new mayor's priorities upon taking office. Emanuel spoke at length of the reform he envisions for the city's school system, clearly a top priority he noted he is "impatient" to implement, in addition to his hopes to address public safety and "put the city of Chicago's financial health in order."

"It's not just a matter of doing more with less," Emanuel said. "We must look at every aspect of city government and ask the basic questions: Do we need it? Is it worth it? Can we afford it? Is there a better deal?"

"While we are not the first government to face these tough questions, it is my fervent hope that we become the first to solve them. The old

ways no longer work. It is time for a new era of responsibility and reform," he continued.

Emanuel concluded his speech by emphasizing his hopes for diverse factions of the city to work together and "share in sacrifice" in solving the many challenges lying before it.

"If everyone will give a little, no one will have to give too much," he said.

Joining Emanuel on stage for the event were many political luminaries, including Vice President Joe Biden and wife Jill; now-former Mayor Daley and wife Maggie; former Mayor Jane Byrne; Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn; the state's representatives in Congress; and the full city council, whose members were formally sworn in during the ceremony. Newly elected City Clerk Susana Mendoza and City Treasurer Stephanie Neely were also sworn in.

Delivering the ceremony's invocation was Chicago Archbishop Cardinal Francis George, who has been a vocal opponent of marriage equality in recent years. Chicago-born Rabbi Jack Moline, who leads the Agudas Achim Congregation in Alexandria, Va., and is an outspoken proponent of pro-LGBT measures, delivered the benediction.

Acclaimed Steppenwolf actor Amy Morton emceed the ceremony while the Chicago Children's Choir entertained with several songs, including a take on the anthemic K'naan song "Wavin' Flag" as a postlude.



Rahm Emanuel being sworn in by Judge Tim Evans. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald, www.MysticImagesPhotography.com. More photos available online at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com>



Mayor Daley.



Mona Noriega (left), who Emanuel selected to head the Commission on Human Relations, and her partner Evette Cardona



Jill and Joe Biden



Secretary of State Jesse White.



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Rev. Jesse Jackson.



Cardinal Francis George.

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Presbyterians open door to gay clergy

BY CHUCK COLBERT

After a three decades of debate, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has opened the door to openly gay persons in same-sex relationships for ordination as ministers, elders and deacons.

With its change in ordination policy, the 2.1 million-member denomination joins a growing number of mainline Protestant churches that have voted to accept lesbian and gay clergy. They are the United Church of Christ and the Episcopal and Evangelical Lutheran churches.

"The principal message the change sends is that the Presbyterian Church is a place where gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people will be honored, welcomed, and seen as the beloved people of God they are," said Michael Adey, executive director of More Light Presbyterians, a church advocacy organization.

"This is also an important step to create moral equality in the Presbyterian Church," he added.

The ordination change, Adey explained, builds upon the removal in 2008 of the "homosexuality is sin" policy.

Outside the church in civil society, he said, "The statement for moral equality has implications for [same-sex] marriage, [gay] adoptions, fair immigration policies, and workplace equality."

A local pastor says he, too, is encouraged by the new ordination rules.

"I see [it] as a way the church can move forward with integrity," said the Rev Michael Kirby, the openly gay pastor at Chicago's Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, a small welcoming and affirming More Light congregation, located a short distance from Midway International Airport.

The ordination ban, he said, was "an obstacle for growth and full participation in the fullness of society here in Chicago, making the church a place that is as open and welcoming to gays and lesbians as the city is."

As Kirby explained, "[The ban] has been a stone around our neck because it made us look as if we were backward."

For sure, LGBT Presbyterians who seek to serve their church welcomed the change, speaking in highly personal terms.

Kirby, for example, was ordained in 2003 and is single, said he studied in seminary with a several people who were openly gay. And yet, "because they were in relationships, they have not been able to be ordained to this day, and I was," he said. "That just isn't fair."

For Lisa Larges, a San Francisco lesbian, the change in ordination policy may well make a dream to serve come true.

"I've been seeking ordination for minister of word and sacrament for 25 years," she said. "I hope sometime in the next year ahead that my journey will end, and I can be ordained in the church I love."

Both the San Francisco and Twin Cities (Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.) presbyteries approved Larges, but her ordination was blocked through judicial actions, and the case is still in judicial review.

"With the change in our constitution, it remains to be seen what the highest court in the church will do," she said.

Largess, who also serves as the minister coordinator of That All May Serve Freely, another church advocacy group, estimates that between 50 to 75 LGBT persons are either in seminary or are graduates who "long" to be Presbyterian ministers.

Consequently, More Light's executive director Adey sees an important and immediate next step—a national grassroots educational campaign to help local churches understand the ramifications of the change and to ensure that it is implemented fairly.

"We want every Presbyterian church to be open to calling a qualified LGBT minister and to have the gift of having LGBT elders and deacons serving in the local church," he said.

The historic change in Presbyterian policy, which takes full effect in July, came about on May 10, when the Twin Cities presbytery, a regional governing district, approved an amendment to the church's constitution. The vote to ratify was 205 to 56, with three abstentions.

Last summer, the General Assembly, the denomination's highest governing body, approved an amendment deleting language in the denomination's Book of Order that in effect barred the ordination of non-celibate gay candidates by requiring them "to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and woman or chastity in singleness."

New language now requires that "standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life" and that "the governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability."

However, before change is official church policy, a majority of the 173 regional presbyteries must approve any amendment.

The vote by the Twin Cities presbytery pushed the ordination measure over the top.

Currently, the denominational tally stands at 88 presbyteries voting for the amendment and 62 against it, with 24 presbyteries yet to decide.

The Chicago presbytery, with 43,000 members, approved the amendment earlier this year.

The change in the church's constitution, however, does not mean that presbyteries must or-

dain gay candidates. It only gives leeway to do so.

And not all among the faithful are happy with the decision to open ordained ministry to non-celibate gay persons.

Presbyterian News Service reported about 100 congregations out of 11,000 have already left the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), with more expected to join them soon.

Good Shepherd's pastor, Rev. Kirby, said he understands the unhappiness and expects to spend time "responding faithfully, graciously, and collegially to our fellow Presbyterians who are pained by this change, inviting them to remain in conversation and communion with us even in our disagreement."

At the same time, Kirby sees two urgent pastoral needs. "We must be a loving, welcoming counter to the message of rejection and shame that comes from some religious circles and that too often leads LGBT youth into depression, self-hatred and self-harm," he said.

Another need, Kirby said, is providing care and counseling to same-sex couples. "We should provide pastoral freedom to ministers and congregations in areas where same-sex marriage is legal so that they can companion and celebrate with the gay and lesbian couples in their midst who are committing their lives to one another," he said.

"Requiring our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters to build their families outside of the support and embrace of the Christian community runs counter to our theology and our pastoral calling," Kirby explained.

At last summer's General Assembly, delegates declined to reformulate the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s understanding of marriage to include same-sex couples. But the denomination's conversation on the topic—and push for marriage equality—is expected to continue.

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Noriega appointed commissioner of human relations

BY TRACY BAIM

Mona Noriega has been appointed by Mayor-elect Rahm Emanuel as commissioner of the Chicago Department on Human Relations (CHR). A long-time lesbian activist, Noriega is former head of the Midwest office of Lambda Legal, and a key early leader of Amigas Latinas.

CHR oversees the city's work on diversity and human relations, including through eight advisory councils such as the Advisory Council on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues. Bill Greaves is the director the LGBT council, and as of now he appears to be keeping the post under the new mayoral administration.

"I'm delighted to welcome Mona Noriega as our new commissioner and look forward to work-

ing with her," Greaves said.

The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA) applauded Emanuel's appointment of Noriega.

"Mona is a perfect pick for this role," said TCRA Executive Director Anthony Martinez. "Mona has a long history of working for what is right and bringing the issues of minority communities to the forefront. You only have to look at her past work to see that Mona has a proven record of fighting for fairness, especially for those who need it the most."

David Ernesto Munar, president and COO of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, also applauded the selection: "Mona's depth of community experience and commitment to social justice make her an excellent choice for Chicago's Commissioner of Human Relations. She's a proven leader and



Mona Noriega at the January press conference of LGBTs for Rahm Emanuel during the mayor's race. Photo by Tracy Baim

dear friend and I'm thrilled for her and the people of Chicago."

"The appointment of Mona is excellent," said longtime activist Rick Garcia. "She has such a stellar reputation and she will be great for the City of Chicago. I was a strong supporter of her when she wanted to serve in the City Council because of her impeccable credentials and her strong commitment to fairness for all. This is a perfect position for her and she will do our com-

munity and the whole city proud."

In 2010, Noriega sought appointment by Mayor Richard Daley to the 1st Ward aldermanic seat vacated by Manny Flores. Daley did not select her.

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

"I have a history of bringing people together," Noriega said when she was seeking the aldermanic appointment. "When different types of people come together, they create a better vision than any one person can do. That may sound idealistic, but it's how things happen."

Born and raised in Chicago, Noriega's father was Mexican and her mother Irish. She raised two children and is partners with another longtime community activist, Evette Cardona. Both women are in Chicago's Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

Noriega's experience includes:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Noriega has a bachelor's degree from Northeastern Illinois University and an MBA from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Kim Hunt, executive director of Affinity Community Services, said her organization "is thrilled to congratulate Mona Noriega on her appointment as Commissioner of Human Relations. Mona's multiple perspectives as a community organizer, queer woman of color, single parent, and academic will serve her well in her new position. We also commend Mayor-elect Emanuel on such a fine choice."

"Mayor Emanuel made an outstanding selection that is a boost to LGBT morale," said Jacob Meister, president of TCRA's board of directors. "His selection proves that the mayor-elect has set the bar high, and that he's listening to our mission that advocates for coalitions of every neighborhood, race and ethnicity."

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Gays part of Emanuel's staff

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Mona Noriega is not the only member from Chicago's LGBT community on the new mayor's senior staff. Others include:

—**David Spielfogel, chief of policy and strategic planning:** Spielfogel currently serves as director of the Chicago 2011 Transition Project after directing policy and research for Chicago for Rahm mayoral campaign. Previously, Spielfogel served as policy director for the Senate bid of Alexi Giannoulias; as chief of staff at the MacArthur Foundation, where he worked on special projects that cut across the foundation's domestic and international programs; and in the Clinton White House as the special assistant for policy to the president's senior adviser on energy



Dr. Bechara Choucair.

and environmental issues. Spielfogel earned his M.S. in International Development Management from the London School of Economics, and his B.S. from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources.

—**Mike Simmons, policy director:** Simmons has spent the last two years as policy director for Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer, developing and coordinating policy initiatives around health care, foreclosure, budget, and the courts. Previously, Simmons served on the legislative staff of Senator Richard Durbin in Washington, D.C. where he focused on economic and banking issues. Simmons sits on the board of Equality Illinois and the Brennemann Elementary School Local School Council in Uptown. Simmons holds a degree in Political Science from Amherst College.

—**John Pfeiffer, first deputy commissioner:** Pfeiffer is currently the executive director and CEO of Inspiration Corporation, a nonprofit that operates the Inspiration Cafe and helps more than 3,000 homeless and low-income Chicagoans achieve greater self-sufficiency and stability each year. He previously served as director of operations for New York City's Department of Homeless Services and as a consultant at KPMG, where he focused on the management of nonprofit and public institutions. Pfeiffer earned his B.A. from Northwestern University and his M.P.A. in non-profit and public management from Columbia University.

Pfeiffer told Windy City Times, "I am deeply honored to have been invited to join the Mayor-elect's administration and excited about the opportunity we have to move Chicago forward."

My own experience of marginalization as a gay man has shaped my perspective on social policy and guided my public-service career. I want to expand access to opportunity for all Chicagoans, especially the most vulnerable and isolated."

—**Dr. Bechara Choucair, commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health:** Choucair will continue serving as commissioner under Emanuel. From 2001-05, Choucair served as medical director of Crusader Community Health in Rockford, Illinois. From 2005-09, he was executive director of Heartland International Health Center. He has served as vice chair of community medicine at the Feinberg School of Medicine's (Northwestern University) Department of Family & Community Medicine.

In an email to Windy City Times, Choucair wrote, "I'm grateful to Mayor-elect Emmanuel for giving me the opportunity to bring to fruition some of the innovative work I began last year at the Chicago Department of Public Health. In the next 100 days we will release a citywide public-health agenda that will provide a framework to make Chicago a healthier place for all. It's exciting to be a part of this new dynamic era of government for Chicago."

—**Kevin Hauswirth, social media director:** Hauswirth, a former Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree, served as the director of advertising and promotions at Roosevelt University where he oversaw social media strategies, integrated marketing and mobile communications. Previously, he led social and traditional media efforts for Fortune 500 brands at O'Malley Hansen Communications and was a regular contributor to The Advocate magazine. He serves on the board of Equality Illinois and has held board position at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Hauswirth earned his B.A. from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

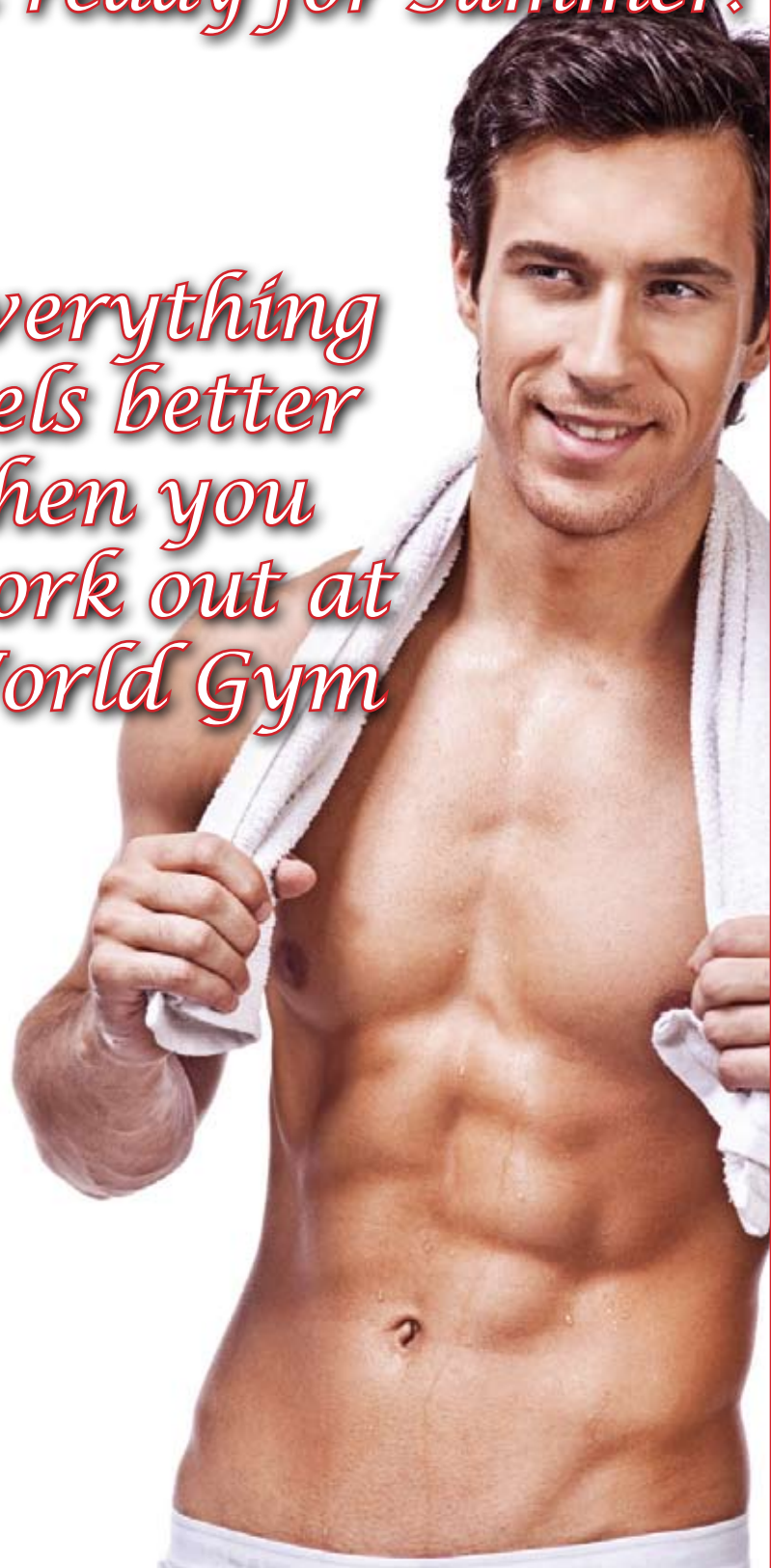
Hauswirth told Windy City Times, "I'm proud to serve a mayor who strongly believes in technology as a means to empower Chicago voices. I hope to implement social media tools to ensure that the Mayor's office is part of the conversation and encourages everyone can be part of the solution. Chicago is a city where citizens from every community can turn online organizing into offline action, and I plan to take that passion to the next level."



Kevin Hauswirth. Photo courtesy of Hauswirth

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Bill attempts to amend state's civil-unions law

BY CHUCK COLBERT

In yet another attempt to exempt religiously affiliated child welfare agencies from providing adoption and foster-care services to gay couples, state Rep. Dwight Kay, R-Edwardsville, has introduced a bill that would amend the Illinois civil-unions law.

Kay filed the measure, House Bill 3774, on May 11, with the same language as a previous but unsuccessful Senate amendment.

The new bill states: "A child welfare agency that is religiously based or owned by, operated by, or affiliated with a bona fide religious organization may opt out of fulfilling a request for services, including an adoption or foster family home application, including any licensure and placement, which would constitute a violation of the organization's sincerely held religious doctrines or beliefs."

The House version also stipulates that if an agency declines an application, it must refer prospective parents to the Department of Children and Family Services for regional licensed child welfare agencies.

Reached by phone, Kay told Windy City Times he filed the bill with only one purpose in mind. "The Catholic diocese in our area and the Catholic Children's Home would like to keep their doors open and continue to serve the state of Illinois in a useful capacity," he explained.

Kay said that officials from Catholic Charities and the Catholic Children's Home asked him to file the legislation.

Located in Alton, the Catholic Children's Home is sponsored and supported by the Springfield



State Rep. Dwight Kay.

agency can discriminate against one group of citizens," said state Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago. "That is unacceptable."

Kay said he understands that argument. Still, "I guess you could also make the argument that we are discriminating against the Church," he said.

Carolyn Matheson, director of advancement for Catholic Charities of the Peoria diocese, agreed. "Hypocritically, the same people who say we're discriminatory are discriminating against us for remaining true to Catholic moral teaching," she told the National Catholic Register.

Not so, said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois, the state's largest gay-rights group. "The Church does not have to do anything that violates its beliefs," he said. "It's that [Church officials] just cannot ask the state to fund their religious activities if they are not willing to comply with the best-interest-of-the-child standard. If they are not willing to comply, then the public should not fund them. It's clear and simple. They cannot have it both ways."

Meanwhile, the spring session of the legislature is likely to adjourn by the end of this month. With time running out, Kay acknowledged his bill has a slim chance.

"I don't see it getting to a committee hearing until next year, when it would have to be refilled, unless it's picked up and moved out of committee for a vote in the fall," he said.

Time fast approaches, too, for the historic civil-unions law, which takes effect on June 1 and extends equivocal spousal benefits available at the state level to registered same-sex partners.

If Catholic or other religiously affiliated social service and child-welfare agencies refuse to offer adoptive or foster-care services to gay couples in civil unions, the organizations may be open to lawsuits or be denied state funding.

Already, "Illinois officials are investigating whether religious agencies that receive public money to license foster care and adoptive parents are breaking anti-discrimination laws if they turn away potential parents who are openly gay," the Chicago Tribune reported.

Moreover, "If they are found in violation, Lutheran Child and Family Services, Catholic Charities in five regions outside Chicago, and the Evangelical Child and Family Agency will have to license openly gay foster parents or lose millions of state dollars, potentially disrupting thousands of foster children in their care," according to the Tribune.

The Illinois Human Rights Act, in fact, prohibits discrimination in public accommodations on the basis of any number of enumerated and protected categories, including sexual orientation, marital status and religion.

"If Catholic Charities and Lutheran (Missouri Synod) Child Family Services want to discriminate against gay people, fine," said gay-rights

activist Rick Garcia, a practicing Catholic. "If they feel so strongly about this, let them give up the millions in state money."

The Chicago Sun-Times reported that Catholic Charities has more than 3,000 children in their foster and adoption services, representing 20 percent of all Illinois adoption and foster-care services, and that the state pays Catholic Charities \$30 million annually for its services.

Five Catholic Charities branches associated with Illinois dioceses are responsible for about 20 percent of the state's foster-care case adoptions, according to the Catholic Register.

However, in 2007 Catholic Charities in the Chicago archdiocese halted such services because of prohibitively expensive liability insurance.

Question lingers about nonprofits and property taxes

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

In a recent appearance at the Goodman Theater to discuss the arts, Mayor Rahm Emanuel was asked about whether he would force nonprofits to pay property taxes. Emmanuel responded by saying that nobody is in a sacrifice-free zone including nonprofits.

When contacted for clarification, Emmanuel's office provided a statement he gave to



Kim Hunt. Photo by Hal Baim

another reporter last Thursday when he was pressed to explain his position in more detail.

"As you know, I said in the campaign, I'm not raising taxes. The philosophical point is that reform and change comes to everybody. Nobody, not the Mayor's office, not city council, not institutions, is in a reform or change free zone," Emmanuel said. "I did not also want to do what typical public servants, and I'm not disparaging other public servants, do which is say to people what they want to hear. I thought I had to tell, which is what I've done in the campaign, the hard truths of what we face as a city. ... That doesn't put a buffer up when it comes to reform and change. I wasn't saying you were going to get property taxes."

"But you heard me: I want to make a bigger point here about my basic philosophical approach. This is, a) nobody is in a reform or change free or sacrifice free zone. ... b) I did not want to do what others have done which is just tell you what you want to hear for the sake of being in front of you, which is there will be difficult things to do for one city with one purpose. Everybody gives a little; nobody has to give too much."

The leaders of a number of LGBT nonprofits in the city were contacted to weigh in on this latest development. "We are already trying to do more with less," said the Rev. Stan Sloan, CEO of Chicago House, adding, "With

For some time, the Catholic Conference of Illinois—the official lobbying arm of the Catholic Church—has been pushing for a religious exemption, saying that Catholic agencies would be forced out of providing foster-care and adoption services if they are not able to opt out.

"It's an issue of conscience," said Robert Gilligan, the organization's executive director, according to the Associated Press.

Attempts to reach Gilligan were unsuccessful.

For its part, the Civil Rights Agenda, a state-wide advocacy organization, issued a statement. "We have been expecting this legislation to be filed in the House and we have a strategy in place," said Lowell Jaffe, the group's political director.

the economy the way it is adding on property tax costs along with the state and local level cuts that have already occurred it will hinder our ability to serve an ever increasing number of people that need our services."

Kim Hunt, executive director of Affinity Community Services, said, "Nonprofits are keenly aware of the difficult choices that have to be made in times of financial crisis. Like many organizations, Affinity Community Services has had to scale back on its programming, defer trainings and other resources for staff, and ask for more support from our constituents during the last few years."

"While it is understandable that Mayor-elect Emanuel will want to leave no stone unturned in the quest to bring the city's budget back in balance, the reality is that imposing property taxes on all nonprofits, without exception, can make it very difficult for smaller organizations to survive and/or build the capacity to have greater impact on the communities they serve. Nationally, over 80 percent of nonprofits have budgets of under a million dollars. Few of them actually own property. These aren't universities or megachurches. These are organizations like Affinity. As organizations like us look to relocate, we need every leverage point we can find to ensure that we get the best space possible to do our best work with current capacity and have room to grow."



Hal Sparks.

PFLAG National award ceremony June 2

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) National will hold its first local event, "PFLAG National Celebrates the Heartland," Thursday, June 2, at the Hotel Palomar, 505 N. State.

The organization will honor state Rep. Greg Harris; Affinity Community Services Executive Director Kim Hunt; and Jose Rios, Chicago Police Department's LGBT liaison for the 23rd District. Actor/comedian Hal Sparks (Queer As Folk) will host.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with the awards presentation beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50-\$75 each. To learn more about the event, visit <http://www.pflag.org/chicago> or contact Jay Day at 202-467-8180 or jday@pflag.org.



State Rep. Greg Harris. Photo from Windy City Times archives

diocese. The home "serves to promote and care for the needs, education and welfare of dependent, neglected or otherwise needy children and youths who need structured care away from their own homes," according to the agency's web site. The home provides services "without regard to poverty, riches, race, religion, or national origin of the youths."

Kay viewed the bill's religious exemption as "a reasonable accommodation," he said, adding his intent is "in no way to discriminate, but to keep the doors of the Catholic Children Home open. If this is the only way to that, I am willing to do what it takes."

However an openly gay lawmaker who sponsored the civil unions law said once again that Catholic leaders and legislative allies are looking for a way around state law to discriminate against gay and lesbian people.

"Whether it starts in the House or whether it starts in the Senate, this seems to be an attempt to carve out a niche where a state-funded

Des Plaines council OKs funds for controversial campground

BY TRACY BAIM

The City Council of Northwest suburban Des Plaines approved pass-through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds from the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program for the Historic Methodist Campground on May 2—a campground that only recently settled a years-old lawsuit alleging anti-gay discrimination at the facility.

Gay activist John Paquet, a resident of Des Plaines, asked the council to defer the measure while the campground's policies were investigated. A councilmember asked the city's lawyer if this lawsuit was true, and the lawyer said he did not know. Then someone asked a campground representative in the audience to address the issue.

James Lane, president of the campground's board of trustees, actually admitted to everything Paquet said, but he said the campground has changed its ways and now has an anti-discrimination statement. There was no further

discussion and the council voted unanimously to back the \$402,000 federal grant. One councilmember wanted to make it clear that these were not local funds going to the campground, which calls for the 14 homeowners covered by the grant to provide a match of about \$134,000.

Lane said he would send Windy City Times the campground's nondiscrimination statement, but as of press time it was not received.

Mayor Martin Moylan, asked about the controversy before the meeting, said he was not aware of it, but that "all discrimination" is bad. He reiterated that sentiment during the council vote, but clearly the council did not want to further investigate the claim.

The problems associated with the Methodist Campground started more than a decade ago. William, Nannette, Will and Amelia Graham received a "Friend of the Community" award from the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2003 "for efforts against racism and homophobia within their United Methodist denomination, including their pursuit of a sexual-orientation discrimination claim" against the Methodist Campground.

The Grahams, who no longer live at the campground, first had trouble in the mid 1990s when they tried to bring inner-city youth to the facility and experienced racism by their neighbors. "In the wake of that incident, the Chicago area's United Methodist bishop came to preach against racism at the campground, but thereafter the Grahams felt shunned by other cottagers," the Hall of Fame website states. "In 1998, a gay male couple and their son rented a cottage at the campground and encountered hostility. Those events set off a chain of responses that have included a long ... legal battle over whether the Grahams have the right to continue occupying a cottage at all."

"The gay men's applications to rent and then to purchase a cottage were refused in 1999. The Grahams supported them, to the point of producing and hanging signs of welcome in their own cottage windows, inviting the men to be guests in the Grahams' cottage, and informing campground officials that the men would be their guests."

The campground's association said the Grahams were in violation of the rules and tried to terminate their ownership rights. The Grahams were locked out of their cottage even though members and officials of the United Methodist Church itself opposed that action, the Hall of Fame stated.

Also in 1999, the gay couple (Russell and Bob Carroll) and the Grahams filed complaints with the Cook County Commission on Human Rights alleging unlawful discrimination and retaliation by the campground operators. The Cook County Human Rights Commission ruled against the property, but the case was appealed to the Circuit Court of Cook County. The Grahams eventually settled out of court for less than their goal. According to both Bill Graham and James Lane, the settlement happened just about two years ago—a decade after it began.

Graham said he did not know the campground was up for FEMA funding, or his family may have come to the council meeting. Reached by phone the day after the vote, Graham said he was not allowed not to discuss the settlement, but it was settled in his family's favor. Asked about the campground, and Lane, now saying they are open to gays, Graham was not convinced.

"Never during our negotiations with them or in speaking with the campground or board did I have anybody apologize or say what they did was wrong," Graham said. "I think it sounds rather self-serving to me." Graham said his family has not lived at the campground for several years.

After the council vote, Lane told Windy City Times that "this campground is inclusive," though he is not aware of any gay homeowners at this time. He also said the campground's rift with the Methodist church was even stronger, because they had refused access to the bishop at the time. He said they now have a good relationship with the Northern Illinois Conference of the Methodist Church. "The disagreement [with the Grahams] went on way too long. We are Methodists and we must all be at one table," Lane said.



James Lane of the Historic Methodist Campground, after the vote in his group's favor. Photo by Tracy Baim



HISTORY IN DRAG

1918: A sailor from the Great Lakes Naval Station dons a dress and heels, possibly to entertain fellow sailors.

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Transgender woman files suit against Aurora employer

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Meggan Sommerville—a transgender employee who has worked for a Hobby Lobby store in Aurora for 13 years—has filed two charges of discrimination alleging Hobby Lobby discriminated against her when it denied her use of the women's restroom and then wrote her up for using the women's restroom.

Sommerville began to transition from male to female in July 2010. That same month, Sommerville legally changed her name from Mark Thomas Sommerville and additionally had her Illinois driver's license gender marker changed from male to female.

According to Sommerville, she has been forced to use the men's restroom—a situation she finds “distressing,” according to a statement. If forced to use the men's restroom, Sommerville said that she waits until there are no men using the facility. On Feb. 23, 2011, Sommerville utilized the women's restroom because she said she could not wait for the men's room to be vacant. In addition, she said that she has even modified her workplace intake of fluids to minimize being forced to use the men's restroom; additionally, she said that she waits for her lunch break to walk to a nearby business to use its women's restroom.

According to its website, Hobby Lobby sells “arts and crafts supplies, fabrics, baskets, silk flowers, needlework, picture framing, party supplies, furniture and related items.” The company, based in Oklahoma City, Okla., has 475 stores in 40 states. In addition, the corporation has a web page devoted exclusively to ministry projects (http://www.hobbylobby.com/our_company/ministry.cfm); except for the Distribution Center on certain days during the winter holiday season, all locations are closed on Sunday, out of respect for the Christian beliefs of its founder, David Green.

On its statement of purpose page, the company says that it aims “to effectively serve our owners, employees and customers the Board of Directors is committed to, [among other things], honoring the Lord in all we do by operating the company in a manner consistent with Biblical principles.” (In an email to Windy City Times, Hobby Lobby said, “We are looking into this legal matter and will respond at an appropriate time.”)

Sommerville told Windy City Times that when she initially informed co-workers and employers of plans to transition, the reaction was “mixed.” She added that “some people were supportive. ... People have been pretty good about working with me and not being hostile.” When asked who



Meggan Sommerville.

informed her that she would have to use the men's room, Sommerville said that “management was the conduit to how I was informed. This decision was made at a corporate office.”

Sommerville added she's “the first transgender person they've had to deal with, so we're all in very unfamiliar territory.”

Asked if she was aware of the company's conservative atmosphere, Sommerville responded, “Considering I grew up in a conservative Baptist background in Wheaton, I myself have very strong Christian beliefs. To me, I knew I would run into—and I don't want to vilify Hobby Lobby, because it's a good company—issues where people would see this as a spiritual issue instead of a medical one. There's been a lack of understanding. ... I was hoping for a little bit more cooperation.”

“Transgender employees in Illinois are protected against discrimination in the terms and conditions of employment,” said Sommerville's attorney, Betty Tsamis, in a statement. “We believe having access to an appropriate restroom facility is a term and condition of employment. Denying someone such access because of their gender identity violates the Illinois Human Rights Act. Since the restrooms are available to the general public, we believe Hobby Lobby's actions violate the public accommodations protections of the IHRA,” Tsamis also said.

The case is pending before the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR). The next step in the process is that the charges will be served upon the employer and the employer will have an opportunity to respond. From there, the parties are free to resolve the matter. If resolution fails, the IDHR will conduct a full investigation and move the charges through its appropriate channels which could result in a hearing before the commission or a civil court action.

Sommerville told Windy City Times that she would like to “be able to use the women's restroom without being written up, and [in the long term] would like some sensitivity training. It's never been about money.

“It's about common sense and fairness. If the governing body of the state of Illinois and the secretary of state's office sees me as female, and that's what's on my driver's license, I don't understand why a company can see me any other way.”



Betty Tsamis.

ACLU suing IDPH over criteria for trans individuals

BY KATE SOSIN

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is suing the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for requiring transgender people to prove they have undergone a series of sex-reassignment surgeries before they can change the gender marker on their birth certificates.

The ACLU released a statement May 10, claiming that the State Registrar of Vital Records had failed to uphold a promise it made two years ago to amend outdated policies that blocked most transgender men and many transgender women from updating their birth certificates.

“Illinois is the only state that requires genital surgery,” said John Knight, who directs the ACLU's LGBT and AIDS Project. Knight said that other states that allow transgender people to amend their birth certificates typically require a doctor's letter stating that a person



John Knight. Photo by Jay Geneske

has changed their sex in some way, even if they haven't undergone genital surgery.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of two transgender men and one transgender woman, Lauren Grey.

Grey told Windy City Times that she has been working on changing her documents to say female since 2006 and has successfully changed her name and driver's license, although updating documents has cost her more than \$1,000 in both application and legal fees. She said she has been trying to change her birth certificate for more than a year and was recently rejected because she had not completed all the surgeries required.

“The fact that a piece of paper can say you aren't who you are is kind of insulting,” Grey said. “I'm not treated as a male in any other way.”

IDPH declined to comment on the lawsuit.

Whether the state registrar of vital records currently has a written policy is unclear, said Knight. Knight said that until 2005, most transgender people had been able to change their birth certificates without undergoing surgeries.

Knight represented three transgender individuals who sued IDPH for birth certificate amendments in 2009. IDPH settled that suit by granting the plaintiffs birth certificates, throwing out a policy that refused to recognize transgender surgeries performed by phy-

sicians licensed outside of the country, and promising to update birth certificate policies to make it easier for transgender people to update their paperwork.

The ACLU said that IDPH failed to make good on that promise.

IDPH released a new proposed policy in January, but that proposal was met with immediate opposition by transgender community leaders. It also mandated a laundry list of surgeries, especially for transgender men who rarely undergo genital surgery, which is both costly and still considered experimental by many.

Dr. Randi Ettner, a clinical and forensic psychologist who sometimes consults for ACLU, said that policy “places people at risk.”

“It creates this notion that there is only one way to be human being,” Ettner said. “The birth certificate is a fundamental identity document... and for people who are working towards an identity and hoping to live in alignment with that identity, it doesn't reflect the truth about them.”

Not all in the transgender community support the ACLU lawsuit, however. Following the ACLU announcement, Illinois Gender Advocates (IGA) released a statement of non-support for the lawsuit.

IGA had been working with IDPH on amending the proposed policy.

“We are dismayed that the ACLU has chosen to independently interject itself into the process, in such a confrontational and non-productive manner,” the IGA statement read.

Candice Hart, the president of IGA, told Windy City Times that she thought IGA was just two to three months from coming to an agreement on the policy. She said that IDPH had been receptive and was working towards a better policy.

However, Knight said his clients cannot wait any longer. “We've been telling the department for two years that its arbitrary surgery rules clash with the medical standard of care for transgender people and make it impossible for most transgender people to correct the gender on their birth certificates,” he said in the press release. “We took them at their word when they said they would make an appropriate change, but all we've seen is more delay. It's time that they did something to fix that.”

May 19 confab to focus on trans community

The Service Providers Council's Transgender Conference, “Transactions,” will be held Thursday, May 19, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the University Center, 525 S. State.

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago Service Providers' Council (SPC) Prevention & Care committees and the ad-hoc host committee are organizing the event.

Featured speakers are Joanne Hermann, author of Transgender Explained For Those Who Are Not; Jamison Green, Ph.D., an international leader in transgender, health, policy, law and education from the University of California, San Francisco; and Amanda Simpson, a political and transgender trailblazer.

See <http://www.aidschicago.org/transactions> to register.

City, Ald. Tunney announce housing plans for station

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

Ald. Tom Tunney (44th Ward) and the City of Chicago unveiled plans May 13 to turn the historic former 23rd District Town Hall police station at 3600 N. Halsted into affordable community housing for seniors with a specific focus on providing a secure place for LGBT seniors to “age with dignity.”

The city’s Department of Housing and Economic Development will work with Heartland Housing, Inc. and Center on Halsted to develop the site, which will include up to 90 rental units and also provide new retail space, all while preserving the historic location. In terms of LGBT senior housing, Tunney said the facility will be the first of its kind in the Midwest.

“I personally want to thank Mayor Daley for this opportunity to create a unique welcoming and safe environment for all our neighborhood seniors,” Tunney said. “LGBT seniors will have the option to stay in the community they have lived in and worked so hard to improve. The ability to stay in their own neighborhood will help keep our seniors vibrant, engaged and healthy.”

Daley, largely considered one of the country’s most gay-friendly mayors, was not present for the announcement. The deal was said to be a final favor for the LGBT community before he leaves office Monday after serving as mayor for 22 years. The project, however, has been in the works for a number of years, according to Tunney.

Heartland Housing, a non-profit developer and frequent partner of the city, was the only developer to respond to the city’s request for proposals last July. Executive Director Michael Goldberg said that an estimated 40,000 LGBT seniors live in the city and the population stands as one of the most invisible groups in the community.

“Chicago needs a safe, high-quality diverse and integrated affordable housing option where LGBT seniors and heterosexual seniors together can age with dignity, are free to be themselves and can expect acceptance and camaraderie,” he said.

Heartland Housing will work closely with Center on Halsted, which is located adjacent to the development site. The center will provide resident and community-based services through the new space as well as expand its existing SAGE (Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual

and Transgender Elderly) program.

Center on Halsted Executive Director Modesto “Tico” Valle said the plans signify the continued expansion of the center’s vision of being a model for the rest of the United States.

“Today we once again have the opportunity not only to create something that will impact Chicago, but will impact this country, to be the leader of LGBT housing in this country,” he said.

A timetable for the project has yet to be determined. Bill Eager, chief deputy of the Department of Housing and Economic Development, said the next step in the process will be determining funding at the local, state and federal level as well as through private support and lenders.

Tunney and the city presented a rough early proposal of the new facility’s design. Gensler, the architecture and design firm that put together the Center on Halsted a few years ago, created the preliminary drawings.

“The general concept is we historically preserve the police station and then we add a building that complements the Center,” said Jay Longo, principal for Gensler who also worked on the Center on Halsted. “The concept of the Center was this idea of diversity and having a pattern of materials and textures that represents the fabric of the neighborhood. The façade of the building and the materials create a tapestry of different things that create one unified development.”

Longo said the official application that outlines the financial package for the project is due to the city in June. The final package could take as long as a year to be in place, he said, but as soon as the first wave of funding has been secured, his team will begin to work more closely on the project.

The housing units will include studios, one-bedroom units and, possibly, two-bedroom units. Longo said the universal design of the housing floors will allow Heartland Housing and the Center on Halsted to adapt the space once construction begins to best meet the needs of the community and the housing applicants.

The housing will be open to all seniors, but there will be an age minimum and an income ceiling. Further details regarding applicant screening have yet to be determined.

PASSAGES

David Fourer

David Fourer, 55, passed away in his home in Chicago in the company of his brothers and close friends, after battling cancer courageously—and often successfully—for many years.

Fourer was the loving son of Herbert and Priscilla (nee Silver) Fourer of Palos Verdes, Calif.; dear brother of Robert (Sandra) of Evanston, Beth (Rachel) of Paso Robles, Calif., and Gary (Margaret) of San Louis Obispo, Calif.; and dedicated housemate to Michael O’Reilly aka Penny, Matthew Gleeman Long and I li Hsiao.

Fourer was born in Philadelphia March 28, 1955, and grew up in New Jersey. He graduated from the University of California at Davis, majoring in biology. Fourer was happy whether he was working, exploring the outdoors, or visiting with his friends. His lifelong love of plants and studies of botany, biology and entomology were transformed into an “urban landscaping” business creating gardens in challenging spaces while gently teaching their owners how to maintain and expand them.

As a resident of the Rogers Park neighborhood for the past 10 years, Fourer also repaired and maintained houses and relationships with his skills as a handyman and his willingness to reach out to people. His knowledge, curiosity and appreciation of nature are preserved in his amazing photography, a sampling of which can be seen at www.flickr.com/photos/dfourer.

Fourer was active in numerous

clubs, especially the Rogers Park Garden Group/METRA Garden, the Fairy Gardeners’ Guild and the Northtown Garden Society. He also supported PRIDE Up North, the Chicago Herpetological Society, the Chicago Botanical Gardens, Chicago Area Sea Kayakers Association and the Radical Fairies.

A memorial celebration of Fourer’s life will be held Sunday, June 5, 2-5 p.m., in the garden he created at his home. A pot luck luncheon will be shared. People may also help to continue Fourer’s work to plant more trees and flowers in Rogers Park with a contribution to the David Fourer Memorial Fund, c/o Harris Bank, 5711 N. Clark, Chicago, Ill., 60660. For further information on these activities, contact islandgypsy01@hotmail.com.



David Fourer.

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The old 23rd District police station that will be converted. Photo by Steven Chaitman

BREAKING NEWS

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Center's 'First'-class gala



The Center on Halsted (The Center) held its annual fundraiser, Human First, May 14. In a departure from the traditional gala format of an elegant dinner with dancing afterwards all held at an upscale hotel, the Center instead chose to host an evening of comedy and music to a sold-out crowd of 1,500 at the Harris Theater for Music & Dance.

The Human First performance and gala benefited the many programs run at The Center. These include the Anti-Violence Project; Legal and Referral Services; Mental Health Services; and SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) to name but a few.

Each year the Center recognizes individuals and organizations that have significantly contributed to the humanization of LGBT people and promoted diversity while combating homophobia. This is done with two award categories: the Human First Award for individuals and the Community Spirit Award for organizations.

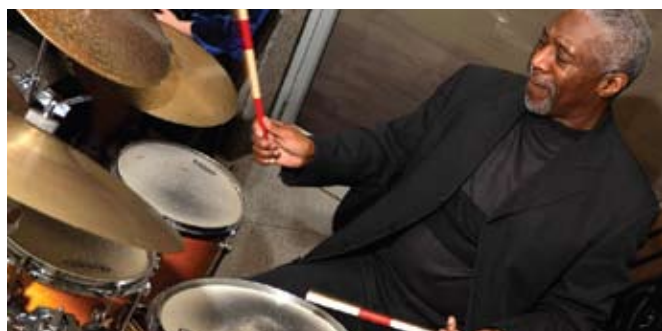
The 2011 Human First Award was issued jointly to Abby O'Neil and her husband, Carroll Joynes, as well as David Halverson. While, the 2011 Community Spirit Award was shared by the Chicago History Museum and Exelon. The awardees were treated to an enthusiastic standing ovation and cheers from friends and family in the crowd.

David Halverson, an awardee and activist with the Center back when it was named Horizons, said, "All LGBT persons will continue to come out and as part of that go through a process of self-discovery and the Center will be there to play a role in that process."

However, before the crowd was brought to its feet, Wanda Sykes had them rolling in the aisles. Jojo Austien, an ambassador for the SAGE department who volunteers 62 hours per month at the Center, said, "The whole show was excellent. She was hilarious." When pushed to choose a favorite part Austien said, "When her wife took her to a hotel for a night as a surprise and packed her overnight things for her." Part of the punch line was, "I'm 47 years old, I need to pack two extra pairs of panties (not one) ... What if I sneeze?"

Linda Eder rounded out the evening and wowed the crowd with her amazing voice and diverse repertoire. She sang originals as well as cover tunes of jazz, pop, country and Broadway songs that kept the crowd engaged through her final note.

Text by Mel Ferrand; photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com), with many more at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>



a GAY in the LIFE

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN



Greeting card maker
Jay Blumenfeld



Name

Jay Blumenfeld

Cubs or White Sox?:

Neither—not a sports fan

Hobbies

Collecting lowbrow paintings

Pet

Small dog named Apple Pie

Favorite Chicago restaurant

Café 28 on Irving Park Road in Ravenswood

Little-known skill

"I'm a professional photographer, but don't take many pictures these days."

Daily ritual

"Love reading/posting [on] Facebook"

Jay on Mark

"Mark is a great guy! I'm very lucky to have him in my life."

Mark on Jay

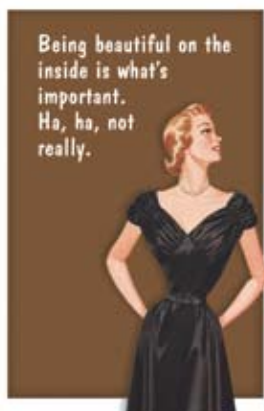
"Jay is a caring, wonderful person."

Jay Blumenfeld credits his grandmother for his wacky humor.

Blumenfeld has been the president/CEO for Smart Alex, Inc.—where traditional paper greeting cards are always fun, wild, wacky, at times weird, and maybe even a bit raunchy—since 1980.

"I will keep going as long as people still buy our wacky, edgy humor greeting cards," he said. "I love humor; I must have inherited it from my Grandma Ruth. She always made me laugh with her simple one-liners."

Blumenfeld lives in North Center and works at his office along Irving Park Road, not far from the lake.



"When an idea pops up [for a new card], we come up with the line and find a picture that will work with the concept," Blumenfeld said. "Next, we design the card and test it out with friends. If the concept is well received, we publish it."

To date, they've made tens of thousands of cards, yet Grandma Ruth has survived time. "A card with my Grandma Ruth as a model with a funny caption, 'What did one saggy boob say to the other?' in front and 'We'd better perk up or people will think we're nuts!' inside," is the company's all-time best seller.

Blumenfeld said the recession, more than the Internet, has impacted the traditional paper greeting card business.

"It was interesting, in the beginning of the Internet age, I don't think e-greeting cards replaced paper cards. Instead, they were a

great annex to paper cards," he said. "We've had our share of woe with the recession with stores closing and not paying their invoices."

Blumenfeld is deaf and has been in a 22-year relationship with Mark Taylor, who is hearing and who has been the senior art director for Smart Alex since 1993.

Being deaf has not impacted his card world. "One is only handicapped if one allows it," he said.

Blumenfeld and Taylor met in 1988, when Taylor was working part-time at Sherwyn Health Food. He asked Blumenfeld out and their first date was a week later. "After that, we knew immediately we were right for each other," Blumenfeld said. "The secret to our long longevity is that I can't hear him bitching, so it's perfect."

With a smile, Blumenfeld added: "We communicate all the time and that's the key to good relationship."



What did one saggy boob say to the other?



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Chicago History Museum set to open 'Out in Chicago'

BY JOSEPH ERBENTRAUT

From the start of the Chicago History Museum's popular 'Out at CHM' LGBT history-centric series—which happened eight years ago—museum curator Jill Austin and guest curator Jennifer Brier knew the series would one day form the basis of an exhibition. With the unveiling of "Out in Chicago" this Saturday, May 21, that goal has become a reality.

Weaving the history of Chicago's LGBT communities into the broader patchwork of the last 150-plus years of the city's development, "Out in Chicago" is the result of more than three years of research and development by Austin and Brier. Divided into four distinct sections, the exhibition is arranged thematically rather than chronologically, progressing from "the individual unit to the family unit to communal units to the political unit," according to Brier.

The first section is kicked off by a unique historical document, printed in 1856: A handwritten ordinance outlawing crossdressing in the city which represented a true gem of a find to Brier.

"It's an incredible thing that city officials at the time were as concerned with regulating crossdressing as they were with where you bathed or tied up your horses," she told Windy City Times.

In addition to providing insight into how gender-variant individuals lived in the mid-19th century, the ordinance, which reportedly ignited

quite a bit of backlash, sets the stage for the city's ongoing reputation as a cultural crossroads where LGBT people access their visibility at least partially through their dress.

"Over the course of Chicago's history, the city has been a place where people have been able to take on, both temporarily and permanently through clothing, different ways of expressing themselves that do not necessarily accrue to their biological sex," Brier added.

The second section brings the focus to LGBT people forming families through the years and features a dozen videos depicting the stories of many present-day Chicagoans. Their stories, Brier noted, challenge the notion of gay Chicago as a community geographically limited to Andersonville and Boystown.

Also included in the section is an item Austin noted as a particular item: A letter Noble Peace Prize winner and Hull House founder Jane Addams penned to her nephew, asking him to burn some "personal and intimate" letters written to her longtime companion and romantic friend, Mary Rozet Smith.

"Jane's sexuality and relationships have always been protected by different people in the city and it's something we felt was very important to address within that idea of making homes and families and the way you could be and love at that time," Austin said.

The third section sheds light on the origins of the city's queer communities' creation of social and communal spaces, most notably the history of bar culture and entertainment spaces

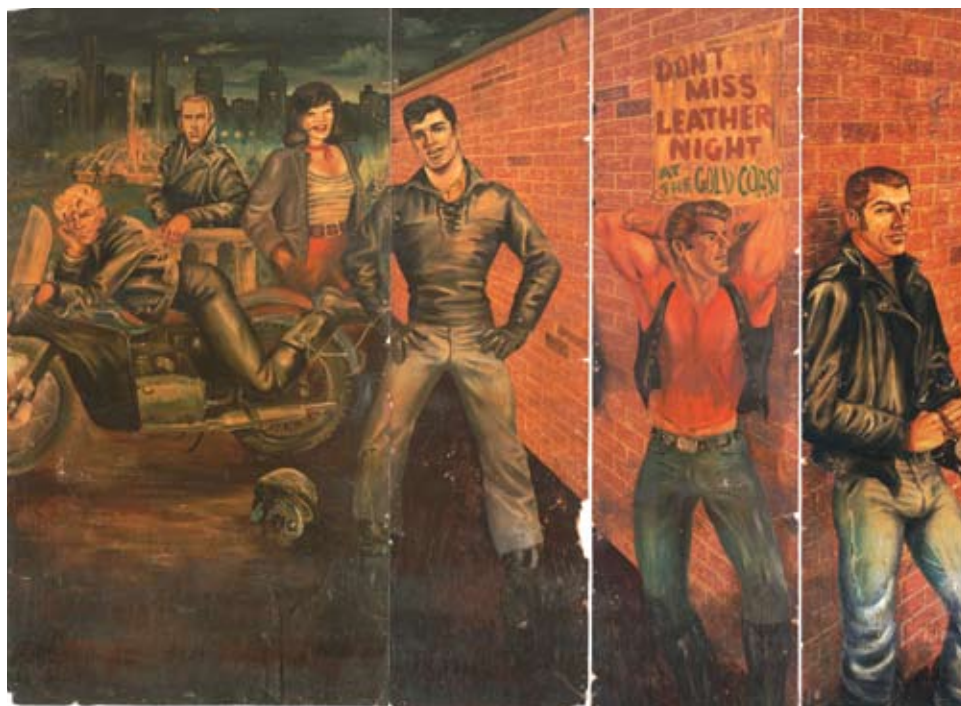


Exhibit item. Image courtesy of the Chicago History Museum.

and the impact law enforcement sometimes made on those spaces. The story travels from Gertrude "Ma" Rainey's raucous blues gatherings in Bronzeville in the 1920s to the development of the Levee red-light district (near the intersection of Cermak Road and Michigan Avenue) and the controversial 1985 police raid of Carol's Speakeasy, then a Near North Side bar.

The exhibition then concludes with a section focused on the emergence of openly LGBT people participating in the political realm and, an artifact Austin said was among her favorites, a motorcycle on display from the city's Dykes on Bikes contingent which provides "a powerful note on which to end."

The section also predominately features the story of Chicago Gay History Project creator Gregory Sprague who Brier noted collected "some of the most amazing oral histories I've listened to" before he succumbed to AIDS in 1987.

Both Austin and Brier admitted it was a dif-

ficult task to whittle the exhibition's content down and that there was at least another exhibit's worth of artifacts and stories that could have just as easily been a part of the upcoming show.

"We recognize that there are stories that still need to be told," Brier said, "and we hope to inspire people to do that."

The exhibition, which will be on display through March 25, 2012, is considered to be the first mainstream urban history museum's specific take on LGBT histories and will also form the basis of a forthcoming book of essays edited by Austin and Brier. The exhibition will be unveiled during a special preview party, featuring cocktails, a performance by FurrLesque and music by DJ Charlie, on Friday, May 20, at the museum, 1601 N. Clark.

For more information on the exhibition, visit <http://www.chicagohistory.org/outinchicago>.

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'Out of the Office' LGBTQ Pride Month event June 7

Real-estate firm Baird & Warner has announced that its annual Pride Month networking event, "OUT of the Office," will be held Tuesday, June 7, at Vertigo Sky Lounge, 2 W. Erie, 6-8:30 p.m. The event is open to LGBTQ professionals and their friendly co-workers, business vendors, friends and family.

The annual event, in its sixth year, is Baird & Warner's alternative to the Pride Parade. It also serves as a fundraiser for Chicago-based organizations through a suggested donation of \$10 at the door. This year's beneficiary is Vital Bridges, a Lake View organization that helps people impacted by HIV and AIDS. Past beneficiaries of the mixer have included the La Casa Norte, Gay Games, Chicago House, AIDSCare Chicago and Chicago 2016.

This year's networking event will enjoy libations courtesy of sponsors Fifth Third Bank and Grey Goose and annual support of its media sponsors ChicagoPride.com, NBC-5 Chicago and Windy City Media Group.

"We are so happy to be involved this year," says P. Scott Navarro of Fifth Third Bank. "The bank's LGBT employee affinity group is so excited about attending and being a part of this special evening."

Jim Schiefelbein, vice president and chief marketing officer at Baird & Warner, said the event helps LGBTQ professionals network personally and politically: "It is important for our community, the gay and lesbian community, to gather and show our strength in numbers as well as show our support for those businesses that support us."

Springfield Pride seeks volunteers

Springfield PRIDE and the Phoenix Center—the Springfield, Ill., source for HIV programs and services—are seeking sponsors, vendors and volunteers for the city's first annual Gay Pride Festival on Harvey Milk Day, Sunday, May 22.

The free festival will begin at noon with a Pooch Parade on Capital Avenue between 5th and 6th streets and will continue until 6 p.m. with a variety of entertainment, dancing, vendors, food and drink for all ages, including a children's area. Scandals Nightclub will host the Pre-PRIDE Party Saturday, May 21, and Club Station House will host the After-PRIDE Party at 6 p.m. May 22. Visit <http://www.springfield-pride.org>.



Meeting about Boy Scouts and anti-gay bias May 22

There will be an exploratory meeting about the Boy Scouts of America and what organizers say is its history of anti-gay discrimination Sunday, May 22, at Second Unitarian Church, 656 W. Barry, at 12 p.m.

For more information, contact Rev. Rudra Dundzila at rdundzila@uuma.org.

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HIV treatment is now recommended for everyone with a T-cell count of 500 or less and should be considered when T-cells are higher than 500, according to the DHHS* and the IAS-USA†. Starting treatment early may help protect your immune system and vital organs. Today's medicines may have fewer, more manageable side effects. They may help you live a longer, healthier life. Receive helpful information about living with HIV that you should know. Call toll free 1-888-497-9639, or visit TREATHIVNOW.COM.

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A WINDY CITY
TIMES

SPECIAL PROJECT

A special series in partnership with the
AIDS Foundation of Chicago

Dr. Anthony Fauci: Point Man

Since the beginning, Dr. Anthony Fauci has been at the forefront of the AIDS epidemic. He looks back now on how things have changed.

INTERVIEW BY JEFF BERRY

The following is reprinted with permission from Positively Aware.

Any 30-year retrospective on the history of HIV and AIDS would be incomplete without the voice of Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIH) since 1984.

With an annual budget of nearly \$5 billion, Dr. Fauci oversees research on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), influenza, tuberculosis, malaria, bioterrorism, transplantation, and immune-related illnesses. He is also a key advisor on global AIDS issues to the White House and the Department of Health and Human Services, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2008.

In his first interview with Positively Aware, Dr. Fauci talks about some of the many accomplishments we've made as well as the challenges we continue to face, while he also gives us a personal glimpse into his own life, and the things that are most important to him.

JB: As someone who's been a leader in the fight against HIV and AIDS since the beginning, what do you see as some of the most significant achievements we've made in the past 30 years?

AF: Well, there's a whole line of them—obviously the first major achievement was, a couple years into the epidemic, to identify the virus relatively rapidly. It was quite a mystery for a couple of years there, and that [identification] led to the development of a diagnostic test, which had a major impact on understanding the scope of the epidemic and practical considerations such as protecting the blood supply. I think that was the first gigantic leap forward which then led to virtually every other major advance over the last 30 years.

Certainly, understanding the pathogenesis of the disease and understanding the molecular virology as a basic science tool was critical in everything else that followed, but if you were to ask me, say, 'you have 30 seconds to tell me the most profound advance that's occurred over the last 30 years,' I think, unquestionably, we have to say that was in the area of treatment.

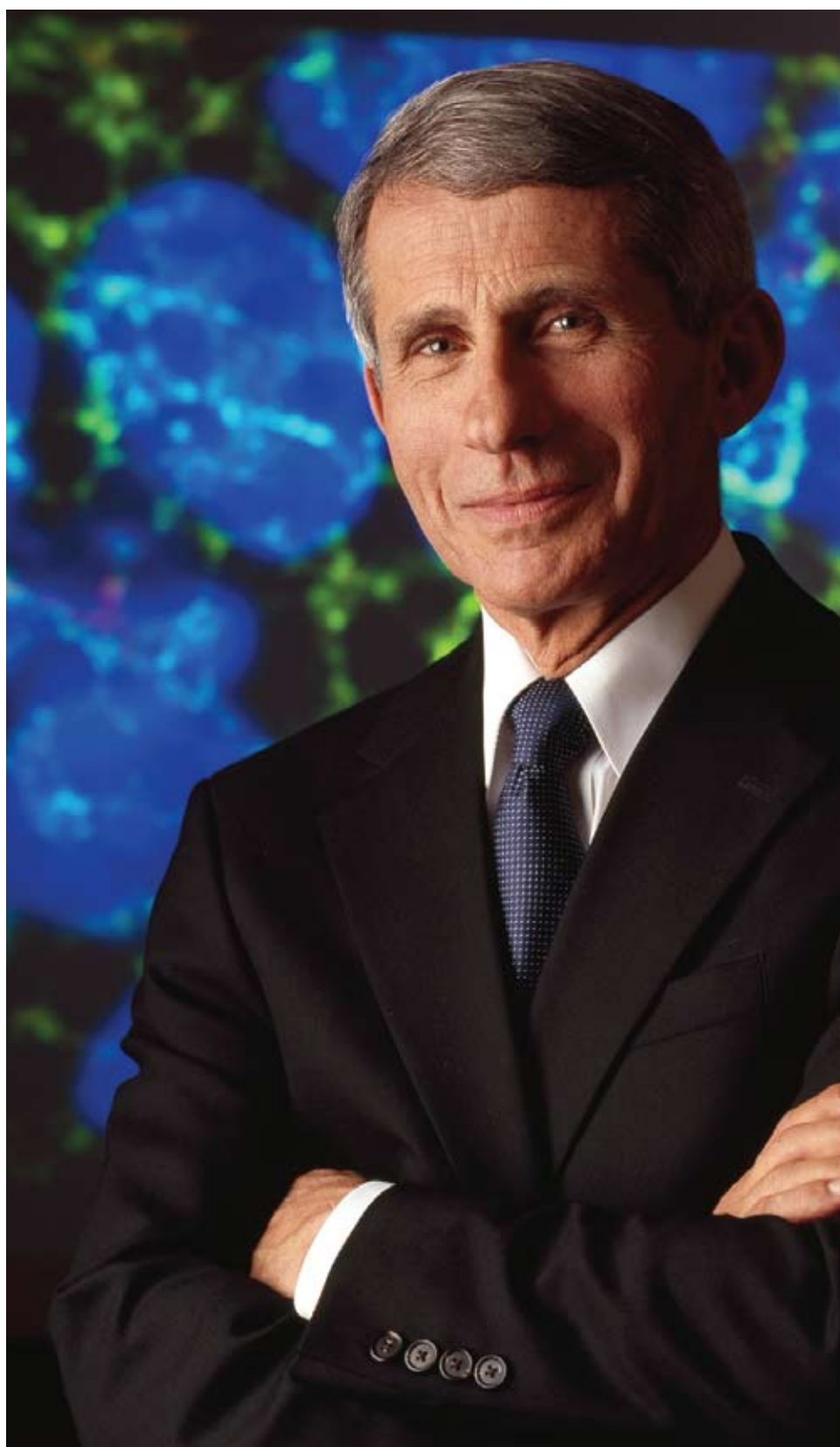
As you said, very correctly and appropriately, I've been involved as a clinician of basic science, a clinical researcher, and a science administrator in HIV literally from the first day that we recognized that this was a syndrome back in the summer of 1981 and when I first started seeing patients with HIV who would come into my ward. I refer to it when I write and speak as the dark years of my medical career where virtually everyone who came into the hospital would either die very soon or would go on for a relatively brief period of time in great pain,

discomfort, and illness, and die. In fact, the median survival of people during the early '80s, before we had any drug to treat the virus itself, was 27 weeks or so, so it was just a matter of a few months because they didn't present to you until they were far advanced in their disease. Whereas, currently, given the spectacular, breathtaking, stunning—whatever superlative you want to use—advances in the development of an armamentarium of drugs, they have totally transformed the lives of HIV-infected individuals.

Now, if a young person comes into my clinic—the same clinic or the same hospital ward I saw patients in 30 years ago—who's recently infected and I put them on an appropriate regimen of a combination of drugs that we have available to us today, you can do a mathematical modeling and project that, if that person takes the medications, they would live an additional 55 years. So when you stack that up against the major accomplishments in the translation of basic clinical and biomedical research to something that is extraordinarily critical for patient health, I think the development of the armamentarium of HIV drugs must rank up there among the very, very top, so that's the one thing that stands out.

That's not to diminish many of the other important findings—I think if you look at what's gone on over the last couple of years, particularly the last year and a half, there has been the realization that prevention will not be unidimensional with HIV, unlike with some other infections, that there will have to be a combination of prevention modalities that used together, two, three, or four at a time, will ultimately get us out of this difficult situation we're in with the explosive nature of the AIDS pandemic. Just in the last year, the success that has been demonstrated with circumcision; the modest but, nonetheless, very encouraging success with a vaccine for the first time in over two and a half decades; the very encouraging work on topical microbicides that came from Southern Africa; and most recently, the work on pre-exposure prophylaxis—I think all those things in the realm of combinations of preventions are also major advances and accomplishments. Not to mention all the other fundamental, basic science things that we've learned, but when you're dealing with a disease with a global impact such as HIV, the three major things you look at are diagnosis, prevention, and treatment.

As I told you, the first advance in diagnosis was way, way back in the first years, back in 1985 when the blood test was developed, the treatments began to trickle in, starting in the mid-'80s with AZT in 1986 and '87, up to and including the mid- to late '90s and into the 21st century with new drugs that began to transform the lives of people with HIV. And now we're in the era of rapid advances in prevention. So those are the three major things you think about



Dr. Anthony Fauci. Courtesy of Fauci

when you're dealing with a pandemic. Two of them we've done very well with and right now, if you were to ask me for the last 30 years what's the major challenge, it is certainly in the arena of prevention, but also, the possibility, which is not going to be easy, of actually curing people with HIV, of really getting to the point where you can discontinue therapy in people without the virus bouncing back. That's going to be a particularly daunting challenge; not impossible, but daunting, but I think preventing infection will be much more practical than anything else.

JB: What do you see as some of the major pitfalls or stumbling blocks we've encountered along the way?

AF: I think one is a scientific one and many are implementation ones. I think the scientific thing is being unable, in a timely fashion the way we would have hoped, to be able to develop a safe and effective vaccine. I think that's because HIV is such a unique virus in that the body's immune response to HIV is not adequate or capable of ultimately suppressing or controlling the virus. If you look at all the historical maimers and killers among viral diseases—smallpox, measles, polio, hepatitis, and others—even though they cause a degree of morbidity and mortality, at the end of the day, the body is quite successful in ultimately suppressing and eradicating the virus and then giving the person who'd been

infected lifelong immunity against re-infection. It's because of that that we've been able to develop successful vaccines against these viruses, because the body has already proven to us the concept that it's capable of developing an adequate immune response. We don't have such luck with HIV because, thus far, it's clear that the body has a real tough time in making an adequate immune response. So we have to do better than natural infection. We have to figure out a way to induce in the body a protective response with a vaccine that the actual infection itself is not capable of doing and that's a very, very daunting and challenging task. That's probably the prevalent, predominant, overriding scientific challenge that we face today.

With regard to implementation challenges, I think they're very, very clear. You still have 2.7 million people infected each year; we have 1.8 to 2 million deaths per year; and we still have not been able to get adequate treatments to any more than 30 or 40% of the people who need them worldwide, which means that 70% of the people who could benefit from therapy don't have it for a variety of reasons—access, resources, healthcare systems, etc. The other thing is that even though there are very effective prevention modalities, only a relatively small percentage of people who could benefit from availability of these prevention modalities

actually have access to them. So I look upon it as two different types of challenges; one is the scientific challenge, as I mentioned, which is fundamentally around the vaccine; and the other is implementation challenges.

JB: You've been a major supporter of the involvement of the community in research, drug development, and helping to identify and establish priorities. Can you tell us why you feel community involvement is so important? Is there an issue that you feel needs more community involvement?

AF: I think we need to continue. You're absolutely correct—back in the mid- to late '80s, I got very involved in changing the paradigm of how we look at HIV research and implementation of programs because I was very impressed with the fact that this was such a unique, unusual situation early on when we had no treatments, that the people who were actually impacted by this virus really had good insight into what we in the scientific community and in the regulatory community could do to hasten the process of getting effective intervention to them. Clinical trials aren't very good or beneficial if the people you're doing the clinical trials on are not enthusiastic about getting involved and feel that they're too stringent or not properly designed. The same thing holds true with policies that you need to implement. I'm a strong believer in that and I still think that we need to continue to involve the community and right now, we're see-

ing a lot of that with the international community. The fact that we have therapies available in South Africa now is due, in large part, to the activist communities in South Africa demanding that the government abandon their totally unjustifiable and antiquated approach to HIV, which was really responsible for the deaths of a lot of people. The community was the one that triggered the outrage about that, so there's still a big role for the community in pushing programs forward that are not getting the proper attention.

JB: Much of the HIV/AIDS advocacy movement was born in a time when activists were protesting by chaining themselves to the chairs of policy makers and staging die-ins. What issues do you think will motivate the advocates of the next generation and how will their actions be different?

AF: I think that what's going to motivate them is to call attention to the fact that, even in times of stringent resources and constraints on resources, the global society has an obligation to treat people who are infected with HIV globally—most of the difficulty goes on in the developing world, but even in the United States, when you have programs, for example, that cut the availability of drugs through our ADAPs [AIDS Drug Assistance Programs], I think the activists are going to be the ones who have to call attention to the fact that for, relatively speaking, what's not a lot of money, you're talk-

ing about the real capability of saving lives. Activists are very good at bringing that to the attention of the authorities.

JB: What would you say to a healthcare provider or researcher just entering or thinking of entering the field of HIV/AIDS or infectious disease?

AF: Well, infectious disease is certainly a general area you could say this about, but more specifically, about HIV—if you want to have an impact, a real important impact, a field like HIV where so much can be done and so much still needs to be done, I couldn't think of a better area to get involved in than infectious diseases in general, and specifically with HIV, because for the amount of effort you put in, the amount of benefit that you can accrue to people is extraordinary.

JB: What are some of the areas of research and study that you are the most excited about?

AF: I think I said that one is the cure; the other one is the combination of prevention, including the development of a safe and effective vaccine. I don't think we're going to get a vaccine that's 95% protective the way some of our really effective vaccines are, like polio and measles and others, but I do think that a moderately effective vaccine in combination with other prevention modalities is going to go a really long way towards turning around this epidemic. So that's what I'm really very excited about—new preven-

tion modalities as well as trying, hopefully, to get a cure.

JB: Are there other areas that you feel we need to focus on in the years ahead that have been unfunded, underfunded, or not viewed as a priority in the past?

AF: I think we pretty much hit on the priorities. Obviously you always need new drugs in the pipeline, particularly if you're thinking in terms of a cure. You need to get drugs that have mechanisms of action that actually get virus that's not expressed but that's hiding in the reservoirs, so that's a big challenge—and we're continuing to emphasize this whole issue of a cure.

JB: I'm sure you're aware that recently there've been proposed budget cuts targeting research and science, so how would we prioritize what gets funded?

AF: Well, prioritization is always difficult, particularly when you have many worthy projects to be done. You just have to sit down and figure out, given the resources we have, what's the best bang for the buck? That's a difficult process—you have to go project by project and agenda by agenda.

JB: Do you view this as your life's work, and if so, did you make a conscious choice that it would be?

AF: Yes, in fact I was really quite successful as a basic immunology/infectious disease researcher from 1972 to 1981, and when the first cases

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The year of living dangerously

BY JEFF BERRY

The following is Jeff Berry's editor's note in the Positively Aware special AIDS @ 30 edition, now available.

Thirty years ago, in 1981, I moved to Chicago from Grand Rapids, Mich., to deejay at Dugan's Bistro, the largest gay nightclub of its day, the "Studio 54 of the Midwest." I was on my own for the first time in my life, in a bustling major city with a thriving gay nightlife, around the same time that the first few cases of what would later become known as AIDS were being reported in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

It was a different time, but I have to admit that I took to my newfound freedom with a reckless abandon, and threw caution to the wind. It wasn't long afterwards that I remember coming down with a flu-like illness that lasted for several weeks, one that I just couldn't seem to shake. It was also during this time that I now believe I seroconverted; however, I would remain symptom free, and it wasn't until I took my first HIV test eight years later that I learned I was positive.

That same year, in 1981, a few months before I relocated to Chicago, Marc Antoni Castillo, who is pictured on the cover of this issue of Positively Aware, was born with HIV. Like me, he also resided in Chicago. Like me, he and his mother Marta Santiago didn't learn until years later that they were both HIV-positive. And, like me, they are both still here. Our stories are so very different, and yet, they are the same.

I have never met Marc or Marta, but I am so very honored that they have chosen to be part of this issue of Positively Aware and share their stories with us. There are so many stories out there that, tragically, ended much too soon, or even worse, will never be heard. And there are many more still waiting to be told.



Jeff Berry.

For this issue I had the distinct privilege of speaking with Dr. Anthony Fauci, someone who has been around since the very beginning of HIV and AIDS. Dr. Fauci has made such a tremendous impact on the course of the epidemic both in the U.S. and globally, and is someone who, as you'll read, is committed, passionate, and articulate, while at the same time being very approachable and down to earth.

Also in this issue you will read the stories of Drs. David Blatt and David Moore, HIV-treating physicians who left their own unique and indelible mark on the lives of many individuals, as well as the entire Chicago community, and who both recently retired from medical practice, but continue to touch people's lives.

And then there are the countless researchers, doctors, nurses, case managers, care providers, community workers, activists, family members, friends, acquaintances, volunteers, and yes, even members of industry—many of whom have left their own legacies and have contributed in one way or another. A few of these individuals and their stories you will read in this issue, but again, most of them you will never hear about, and they will go unrecognized and unheralded.

But you will benefit from them.

You will benefit when you take your meds in the morning, the ones that keep you alive and healthy, or when you need help getting housing or financial assistance, or when you need a shoulder to cry on. You will be aware of them when you pick up a magazine that offers support and information for people with HIV, a magazine that was started by Chris Clason, a man who lived honorably, fought valiantly, and ultimately succumbed long ago to the very disease that we have subsequently learned to survive and even thrive with.

This issue of Positively Aware pays tribute to those individuals whose stories have become woven into the fabric of our lives, our very beings. We will never be separate from them, and they will not have lived or died in vain. It is our charge to pick up and go on with our lives, because in doing so, we honor them and their existence, their contributions, their achievements.

While there may have been times in our lives when we lived dangerously, we now choose to live responsibly, with a purpose, and a determination to carry on the work of those who came before us. Remember and honor someone you

have loved and lost by making this the year of living safely, responsibly, carefully, compliantly—whichever word fits you best. Make it yours. Make it meaningful. Make it real.

This is your story, your life, and your year. You are creating it, and you are writing it, so make it a story that you will be proud to share with those who, 30 years from now, just may happen to pick up a magazine, and might even become inspired by your own, unique story.

Positively Aware is an internationally known and respected magazine devoted to HIV treatment and health, published bi-monthly by Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) in Chicago. Founded in 1987, TPAN is Chicago's oldest peer-led AIDS service organization and specializes in treatment information, support services, and prevention. To order copies of the magazine, call (773) 989-9400 or e-mail distribution@tpan.com. For more information about TPAN and Positively Aware magazine visit www.tpan.com and www.positivelyaware.com.



The cover of the AIDS @ 30 Positively Aware issue.

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of HIV/AIDS started to trickle in, I made a conscious decision that I felt this was going to be a huge, huge global pandemic and I actually wrote about that in 1981 and '82—that we were being somewhat naïve to think that this was going to stay constrained to a relatively restricted population of people. I turned around the direction of my career at that point and left an area that I was very successful in to start working on HIV, and I've been doing that literally for the last 30 years. And I think I'm going to keep doing that until we get to the point where I can feel comfortable that we really have turned around the pandemic. The answer to your question, the short answer, is yes, this is my life's work.

JB: It's easy to imagine that your work consumes much of your time. So may I ask what you do for fun?

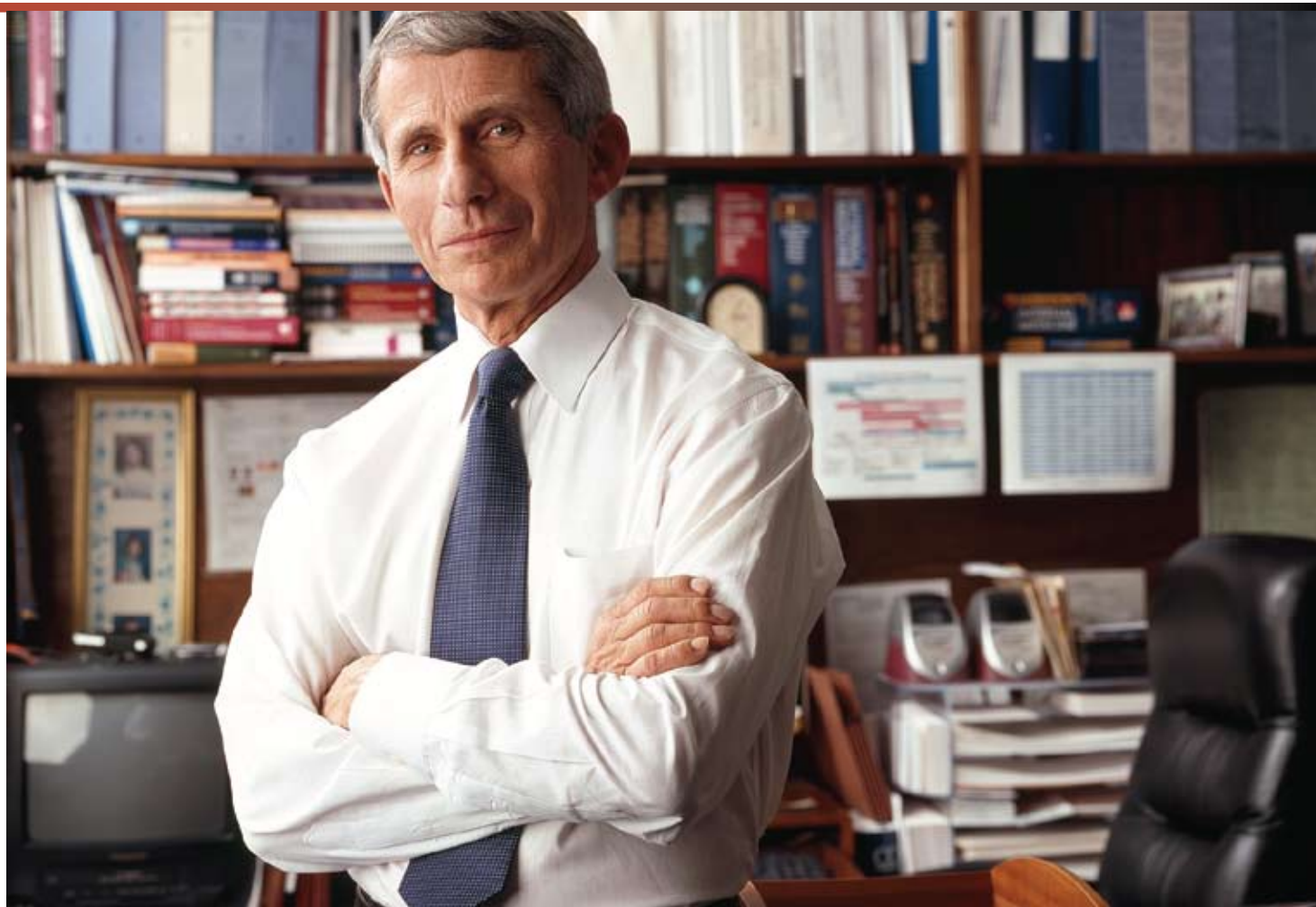
AF: [Laughs.] Good question! My family asks me that too! I'm really a classic case of a workaholic. My fun is modest things—I run every day, I get a lot of pleasure out of running; whatever time I have, which isn't a lot, I spend with my family. I have three grown children now in college, and I like [doing] outdoor things, but I don't get a chance to do them very much.

JB: Are any of your children going into research or medicine?

AF: No. I think because of me and my position and my notoriety, they tend to shy away from that the way some children do. They don't like to essentially follow the footsteps of the parent, but they're interested in public service, for sure, deeply interested in public service. Whether that is going to be in medicine or not, I think time will tell, because they're still relatively young. I hope they do—I think it would be a good field for them.

JB: What would you most like to be remembered for?

AF: Ahhh, I think probably something that has indirectly to do with the science of HIV. It was my involvement in designing and being a principle architect of what ultimately turned out to be the President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief [PEPFAR]. President [George W.] Bush sent me to



Dr. Anthony Fauci. Courtesy of Fauci

Africa in 2002 to figure out if there was any way that we could have an impact on the epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. I spent about eight months of my life designing, fine-tuning, modeling, and finally coming up with a proposal for the PEPFAR program. It was to my great gratification that all that time I put in going back and forth to Africa, trying to model something that would be accepted and the fact that he did pledge and ultimately put more than \$15 billion in that, if I were to pick out the one thing in my career, even though it wasn't something that I did at the bench or with a patient,

it was developing a program that the President was very enthusiastic about. I would consider that right up there in the top things I've done.

JB: Are you still seeing patients?

AF: Yes, I am! In fact, I made rounds on AIDS patients this morning at 9:30, actually. I see patients twice a week, every week, year round.

JB: How is it different now? Is it fulfilling whereas before, it was a dark time?

AF: Well, it was fulfilling before even though it was dark. It's a little different now, because you see patients come in and you put them on therapy and they turn around within a few weeks

from being close to death to being able to walk out of the hospital. I never forget the days and the years when I was in there day and night and they were dying no matter what I did for them. It's interesting—some of the residents making rounds with us are 28, 29 years old. They weren't even born when the first cases of HIV were around, so they don't have a clue how bad it was back then, so it's kind of an interesting experience to make rounds with them having seen both sides of that coin.



ACT UP fights back

An ACT UP "die-in" AIDS protest circa 1990 in downtown Chicago. Photo by Lisa Howe-Ebright

Seniors with AIDS increasing in number

BY KATE SOSIN

When AIDS service providers talk about condom campaigns and safer sex, most people assume they're not talking to Chicago seniors. But if experts have it right, they need to start.

HIV infection rates among Illinois seniors are climbing, advocates say. But unlike other at-risk groups, seniors present unique challenges in battling the disease, not the least of which is a stigma around sex and older adults that often silences that trend in both the media and in doctors' offices.

"Folks often times overlook the fact that older adults are still having sex," said Hope Barrett, senior director of public programs at the Center on Halsted. "Sexuality is a lifetime thing. You don't stop being sexual at 30."

According to 2009 Illinois Department of Public Health records, more than 10,000 people over age 50 are living with HIV/AIDS in Illinois. That's not just because the generation hit hardest by AIDS is aging; 15% of that figure is new infections, reported between just 2005-2009.

That trend increasingly concerns Chicago AIDS service providers and is the subject a new film produced by Center on Halsted, *Aging POZitively*. The documentary, which premieres May 23 at Center on Halsted, follows three people who contracted HIV after age 50.

"It was incredibly challenging to find folks who would come forward to be a part of the film," said Barrett, noting that most seniors shied away from sharing their HIV statuses. The film also explores the rising rate of infections among older adults as well as the challenges facing HIV-positive seniors.

Those challenges are myriad, said Dr. Magda Houlberg, a geriatrician who specializes in HIV care at Howard Brown Health Center. Many seniors don't find out they are positive until much later than young people because HIV symptoms can easily be mistaken for signs of aging, like fatigue, depression, and a host of age-related

illnesses. Further, other medications can complicate anti-HIV regimens. Those issues also make older adults undesirable to HIV researchers because they can cloud study results.

"Most research in terms of drug treatment for HIV is for people under 50," Dr. Houlberg said. "So most information we have is just from what we're seeing [among patients]."

Houlberg also believes that HIV rates among older adults might be higher than statistics suggest because few physicians encourage them to get HIV tests.

"The medical community is so uncomfortable with sexuality in general, but with older adults they're especially uncomfortable," Houlberg said. "Some older adults do get offended when you broach the subject. It's almost like you're accusing someone of having risk behavior."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that physicians talk about HIV with patients under age 65, but the advent of performance-enhancing drugs like Viagra and the fact that people are living longer has meant that more people are having sex later in life.

Some of those people were already married or partnered adults when the AIDS epidemic broke out and may have aged without seeing themselves as susceptible to the disease. Many who are widows or recent divorcees are negotiating safer-sex for the first time, said Hope Barrett.

However, people who lived through the onset of AIDS may also be at heightened risk. Modesto Tico Valle, CEO at Center on Halsted, said that some elders who are HIV-positive "assume everyone is HIV-positive," and therefore fail to communicate their statuses to sexual partners.

Both causes raise questions for local service providers about how to reach elders. Targeted efforts tend to focus on youth and gay men, making it harder for elders to see themselves in HIV prevention messages.

HIV is often passed between generations, however. Valle said that youth and elders who

are sexually involved sometimes struggle to negotiate safe sex because partners don't know how to communicate about safe sex in the same ways.

Rising infection rates among Illinois seniors follow a national trend. CDC statistics suggest that HIV rates among people over 50 have been on the rise for more than a decade. AIDS diagnoses in that group tripled between 2001-2005, from 1% of seniors infected to 3%.

Daniel Montoya, deputy executive director of the National Minority AIDS Council, said that until seniors are screened regularly for HIV, service providers won't have the data to prioritize prevention among that age category.

Finally, national AIDS organizations have been hard-hit by recession funding cuts, and many are struggling simply to maintain programs that already exist. A campaign directed at prevention among seniors might be a far-fetched idea.

Overwhelmingly, Chicago service providers seem to agree that unless the stigmatization around elders and sex is confronted, the trend will continue. But in Chicago, Juan Calderon, executive director of Humboldt Park-based Vida/SIDA, wants to take that analysis a step further. He is seeking greater commitment from Illinois officials to funding HIV prevention beyond just North Side organizations. He said his organization is ready to fight HIV among seniors, but that Vida/SIDA and other West and South Side groups will need more money.

"I think [seniors and HIV] is a citywide problem," he said. "We do work with seniors, but we have the challenges of not enough funding. ... The Department of Public Health needs to strengthen its approach, and Vida/SIDA will be ready when they do."

The documentary, *"Aging POZitively,"* premieres at Center on Halsted May 23 at 6:30 p.m. The event is free and will include a brief reception. More information is available at www.centeronhalsted.org.



Vida/Sida's Juan Calderon (right) with Roberto Sanabria.

Test Positive Aware Network, *Positively Aware* magazine and Center on Halsted are co-sponsoring a community event on "Promising Advances in HIV Cure and Healthy Aging Research" on Tuesday, May 31 from 6:30-8 pm. The free event, featuring popular lecturer, author and HIV advocate Nelson Vergel, will take place at the Center's Hoover-Leppen Theatre at 3656 N. Halsted.

Since learning he was HIV-positive in 1986, Nelson Vergel has become a leading advocate for sports nutrition and HIV wellness. He is author of the book *Testosterone: A Man's Guide*, and is co-author of *Built to Survive*. Nelson is the founder of the non-profit organizations *Body Positive Wellness Clinic* and *Program for Wellness Restoration*. He's also the nutrition and exercise forum expert for *TheBody.com* and moderator for *PozHealth*, one of the largest HIV health discussion listserves in the U.S.

The event is free but seating is limited. To RSVP call 773-989-9400 or e-mail tpan@tpan.com.



NMAC's Daniel Montoya. Courtesy NMAC

VIEWPOINTS

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LEV
RAPHAELA new future
for LGBT books

Books have strange histories. There's the outward story of publication and reviews. And then there's hidden history most people don't know about: what was going on in the author's life, what the author left out, what the author put in for devious reasons of their own, and much more. Sometimes a book can even have a twist in its history that's public and private. That's what happened with my first gay novel *Winter Eyes*.

Published in 1992, it was subtitled "a novel about secrets" and silence reigned throughout the family it describes. The Borowskis are Holocaust survivors and the only way they could find to cope with the nightmares they endured was to wipe away the past—or try to. Immigrating to America, they pretended to be Catholic Poles, and raised their son Stefan in a strange environment of fear and repression.

I wrote *Winter Eyes* because back in college, I was profoundly inspired by a scene in Virginia Woolf's first novel, *The Voyage Out*. Someone asks a would-be writer kind of books she wants

to write and she says, "I want to write a novel about Silence ... about the things for people don't say." A great agenda for me as a gay man who hasn't come out of the closet, no?

While the book was in progress, I was on tour for my collection of gay and Jewish short stories, *Dancing on Tisha B'Av*, and I kept meeting people who told me that in various ways they had discovered they were Jewish after years of their parents hiding this from them. That experience seemed to confirm my choice of theme for the novel.

When there's a family secret, we can feel its presence even if we don't know what it is and young Stefan in *Winter Eyes* of course eventually discovers what his parents have been hiding from him.

But then he's been hiding something himself. From an early age, he's been attracted to other boys without knowing what it means or how to even give words to what he's feeling. Over the course of the novel, he explores his sexuality and that path leaves him in unexpected directions. He not only opens up to men, but to one woman. I recall some gay book sellers told me they had customers who were offended by this turn in the novel. Crossing boundaries from gay to straight, however fleetingly, is still a topic that stirs people up—look at the hostility some glib reviewers have directed to *The Kids Are All Right*.

The novel had a strange publication. I had written various versions, one of which included a prologue set during WWII, but lost that one during a move and didn't have it backed up, so when the novel went to press it wasn't exactly

the book I'd wanted people to read. Years later, I came across the prologue at the back of a cupboard where it shouldn't have been, and so when the book was translated into German, the prologue was included.

Now, with the advent of ebooks, American readers can read the book the way it was supposed to be read. And with something more: a very hot cover. The original cover was way too dreamy-looking, but because the ebook publication was completely under my control, I chose everything.

This is the revolution in publishing that's shaking the foundations in New York. Authors have discovered that they have more power than they realized. We can put our books up on Kindle and Nook or any other platform and avoid middlemen. Gay and lesbian books that have languished or been forgotten can find a whole new audience and that's a gift to all of us dedicated to glbt literature no matter what the genre.

One of my daughters-in-law asked me "How do you know if a book is any good since anyone can write a book and upload it now?" I told her it's the same way as always: you open it up and read. You'll know soon enough, especially when you can download a sample chapter so easily.

The decline of gay and lesbian bookstores has been a blow to people looking for community, but the rise of ebooks is making make LGBT books even more accessible than they were before, and more affordable, too. That's good for all of us and our allies, too.

Lev Raphael is the author of *Winter Eyes: A Novel About Secrets*, newly available on Kindle & Nook.

REV. IRENE
MONROE

All about Chaz

The long-awaited film *Becoming Chaz*, a documentary about Chaz Bono's female-to-male (FTM) gender reassignment aired last week on OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network. It captures not only the arduous trek of coming out as transgender, and it captures the universal experience we all face of coming out as true selves.

As the only child of the world renown pop duo Sonny and Cher, many of us remember Chaz as their cherub-faced daughter, Chastity, blowing kisses to the audience of her parents' top-rated variety television show, *Sonny & Cher*.

In 1995 Chaz was outed as a lesbian. However, this time Chaz is in control, and on his on volition announcing he's now legally a man.

Unfortunately, our trans males and females who have the courage to come out, sadly and too often, receive more criticism, sarcasm and ridicule about which they say they are than praise.

For example, in New York Times' reporter Cintra Wilson article "The Reluctant Transgender Role Model," she attempts to comprehend the enormity of Bono's courage, and perhaps applaud his perseverance to undergo surgery. As a cisgendered person (one whose gender matches his or her biological sex) Wilson's remark is, nonetheless, at best, insensitive and, at worst, insulting.

"[Y]ou come away with a palpable understanding of how unendurably he must be suffering in his body to want to have his own sex characteristics amputated," Wilson wrote.

Also, with the heterosexist assumption that the reason any child who is LGBT might have something to do with inept parenting, Wilson asked these naggingly insulting questions in her article:

"Could it be possible that the fact that Chaz

is now a man is somehow Cher's fault? Did the toxic culture of celebrity damage Chastity/Chaz's gender identity? Did Cher's almost drag-queen like hyper-female persona somehow devour Chastity's emerging femininity? Could Chaz's transition have been motivated by gender-bent Oedipal revenge? Is he reclaiming the childhood attention his superstar mother always diverted? It is remotely possible that he needed to make the transition because his mom is Cher?"

"I don't think the way I grew up had any effect on this issue," Bono told Wilson. "There's a gender in your brain and a gender in your body. For 99 percent of people, those things are in alignment. For transgender people, they're mismatched. That's all it is. It's not complicated, it's not a neurosis. It's a mix-up. It's a birth defect, like a cleft palate."

To no one's surprise, social critic and self-described dissident feminist Camille Paglia, in a 54-second video by "Xtraonline" that went viral, had to volunteer her scurrilous viewpoint on Chaz's choice to transition as bodily mutilation. Paglia, also cisgendered, says that Chaz's unhappy and confusing childhood had nothing to do with him wanting a sex change, but she never states what Chaz's unhappy and confusing childhood was about. Instead, Paglia voices her worries. Paglia's biggest worry is that such an outrageous act of changing ones gender would gravely influence children who feel born in the wrong body—an adolescent phase she disdainfully states she once experienced but overcame.

And when we see in the documentary Cher—gay icon nonpareil—not celebratory about Chaz's transition as her close friends and girlfriend, Jenny, are, it's unnerving. However, Cher, in my opinion, comes across more as a frightened parent than as an insensitive transphobic. Worried about the toil it will take—physically and mentally—on Chaz to endure ongoing male hormone shots for the rest of her life Cher, still using the female pronoun, states, "I'm afraid she's not going to be healthy. I'm afraid it's too much for her."

Watching the documentary you hear Cher pinning about what she perceives as the lost of her daughter forever when she stated she should have saved the familiar sound of Chaz's voice on an answering machine, before he began male

hormone therapy.

However, Cher understands Chaz's courageous act to transition. "If I woke up tomorrow in the body of a man, I couldn't get to the surgeon fast enough," she states in the documentary.

While you root Chaz's graphic and "no holds barred" coming-out process Chaz doesn't walk away from the documentary without disturbingly turning a few heads in what many would agree are both sexist and misogynist remarks.

"Jenny and I had to relearn how to be together," Chaz states in the film. "I never really understood women before, to be honest, but I had a tolerance for women that I don't have now... There is something in testosterone that makes talking and gossiping really grating. I've stopped talking as much. I've noticed that Jen can talk endlessly ... I just kind of zone out. I just don't care!" Chaz laughs.

Unthinkingly, Chaz buys into the fallacious notions of "biology is destiny," meaning we are slaves to our genes, and in his case hormones; he, also, is buying into the gender binary of male and female, which would categorically be dismissive of trans males and females.

"I've learned that the differences between men and women are so biological. I think if people realized that, it would be easier. I would be a great relationship counselor. I know the difference that hormones really make."

Chaz isn't realizing that espousing biological essentialist rhetoric he's categorizing people by a few fixed characteristics and not allowing for change or variation within God's human tapes.

I have to realize as a cisgendered lesbian, this is not my experience and this is not my story.

Rather, I am reminded that the documentary *Becoming Chaz* is all about Chaz.

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

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Community Marketing, Inc.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Photo
by Eduardo
Patino

LEAPS AND BOUNDS

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returns to Chicago. Read more below.

MOVIES

The lens room.
Page 33.Still from the movie
Bill Cunningham New York

MUSIC

'Pop' and go.
Page 30.

PR photo of The Juliettes



SPORTS

That's row business.
Page 46.Photo of the Chicago Rowing Union
by Ross Forman

Dancin' Feats

BY ALICIA WILSON

What better way to enter into sunshine in Chicago than the arrival of new choreographers, old favorites coming to town and new combinations of movement? The beginning of the summer dance season promises to be a great start to an exciting time of Chicago engagements. Look for the summer dance preview later this month, but for now check out these enticing presentations of dance in the city.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returns to Chicago at the Auditorium Theatre this month. An annual event on the Auditorium Theatres calendar, this year's presentation of Alvin Ailey is especially thrilling. Brett Batterson, executive director of the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, explained, "If there ever was a year to see Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, this is it. The Company is at an exciting time in its history.

"First, we gratefully salute the incredible legacy of Artistic Director Judith Jamison during her final season; secondly, we offer a look towards the future with several works by Robert Battle who will, in July 2011, become the third Artistic Director of the Company and lead it into exciting new directions. In addition, we are thrilled to celebrate the 50th anniversary of 'Revelations,' certainly one of the greatest dance pieces of the 20th century and one of the most celebrated by an American choreographer."

Revelations is an iconic work of movement, music and costuming that has become synonymous with the Ailey Company. Celebrating 50 years of this dance, Revelations will be performed at every engagement this season. A tribute to the African-American heritage, the work uses African-American spirituals, exploring the places of deepest grief and the joys in the soul. For the first time in Chicago, and in honor of the

50th anniversary of this work, the piece will be introduced with a short film, directed by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Judy Kinberg, which includes historic performance footage and interviews with Alvin Ailey and Judith Jamison.

Also on the program are multiple Chicago premieres, including two works *The Hunt* (2001), and *In/Side* (2008), by upcoming Artistic Director Robert Battle. Another Chicago first, *Anointed*, (2010) pays homage to Ailey's present, past and future, loosely charting first Ailey, then Jamison and Battle's soon to be journey with the company. Choreographed by former Ailey company member Christopher L. Huggins with music by Moby and Sean Clement, this work marks Huggins' first contribution to the Ailey repertory. Judith Jameson's *Forgotten Time* (1989), *The Evolution of a Secured Feminine* (2007) from Camille A. Brown, and Alvin Ailey's three part ballet *Three Black Kings* (1976), round out the six Chicago premieres in this engagement.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will be presented by The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress, with various times and programs May 18-22. Tickets (\$30-\$87), and more information are available by calling 800-982-2787 or visiting <http://www.ticketmaster.com/auditorium>.

The Llanarth Group, in association with the Columbia College Theater department, will present a work informed by Japanese theatre of quietude and string theory, entitled "Told by the Wind." This collaborative, cross platform performance is described as intimate and meditative, a poignant duet for two figures who never physically meet. Stripped of the traditional elements associated with theatre, the stories are evoked and told by embodied silences, splintered interactions, and slowed down motion. Told by the Wind is the co-creation of The Llanarth Group, an award-winning team of Wales-based theater



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Rachel McLaren. Photo by Nan Melville

and performance artists, including director/performer Phillip Zarrilli, choreographer Jo Shaplan and playwright Katie O'Reilly.

The Llanarth Group will perform at The Dance Center of Columbia College, 1306 S. Michigan, 8 p.m., on Friday-Saturday, May 20-21. Tickets (\$20) and more information are available by calling 312-369-8330 or visiting <http://www.colum.edu/dancecenter>.

Celebrating 15 years as a company, **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet** brings three Chicago premieres to the Harris Theater this month. Considered a leader in upcoming American contemporary ballet, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet strives to be committed to presenting groundbreaking work by world-renowned choreographers.

Under the direction of Jean-Philippe Malaty

and former Joffrey Ballet principal dancer Tom Mossbrucker, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet will present an eclectic evening of contemporary ballet. *Red Sweet*, is the company's signature piece set to music by Vivaldi and Biber, choreographed by celebrated Finnish choreographer Jorma Elo. *Stamping Ground*, a rarely seen work by choreographer Jiri Kylian, features music by Carlos Chavez. Rounding out the program is the work *Where We Left Off*, choreographed by Nicolo Fonte with music by Philip Glass.

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet will perform at The Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph, 7:30 p.m., on Tuesday, May 24. Tickets (\$32-\$72), and more information are available by calling 312-334-7777 or visiting <http://www.harristheaterchicago.org>.

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- 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 (Colcryl®), bosentan (Tracleer®), fentanyl (Duragesic®, Lonsys™, Fentora®) and methadone.

KALETRA should not be taken once daily if you take carbamazepine (Tegretol® and Eptol®), 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.

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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?		
<p>KALETRA may cause serious side effects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interactions with other medicines. It is important to <u>know the medicines that should not be taken with KALETRA</u>. 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. 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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. <p>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.</p> <p>Medicines you should not take with KALETRA.</p> <p>Serious problems or death can happen if you take these medicines with KALETRA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ergot containing medicines, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 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• pimozide (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®) <p>Medicines that you should not take with KALETRA since they may make KALETRA not work as well:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the herbal supplement St. John's Wort (hypericum perforatum)• rifampin (Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®) <p>Medicines that may need changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• birth control pills that contain estrogen ("the pill") or the birth control (contraceptive) patches• certain anticancer medicines, such as nilotinib (Tasigna®) and dasatinib (Sprycel®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <p>If you are not sure if you are taking a medicine above, ask your doctor.</p>
What is KALETRA?		
<p>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). <u>It is not known if KALETRA is safe and effective in children under 14 days old.</u></p>		
Who should not take KALETRA?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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?		
<p>KALETRA may not be right for you. Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, including if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.		

<p>babies younger than 14 days of age unless your doctor thinks it is right for your baby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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®). <p>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.</p>	<p>face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 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. <p>Common side effects of KALETRA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• diarrhea• nausea• stomach area (abdominal) pain• feeling weak• vomiting• headache• upset stomach <p>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.</p> <p>Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?</p> <p>KALETRA can cause serious side effects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 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	<p>How should I store KALETRA?</p> <p>KALETRA tablets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <p>KALETRA oral solution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <p>Throw away any medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need.</p> <p>Keep KALETRA and all medicines out of the reach of children.</p> <p>General information about KALETRA</p> <p><u>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 <i>Mycobacterium avium</i> complex (MAC) infections.</u></p>	<p>What are the ingredients in KALETRA?</p> <p>Active ingredient: lopinavir and ritonavir</p> <p>Inactive ingredients:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>KALETRA oral solution contains 42.4% alcohol (v/v). “See How should I take KALETRA?”.</p> <p>2011, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED</p> <p>* The brands listed are trademarks of their respective owners and are not trademarks of Abbott Laboratories. The makers of these brands are not affiliated with and do not endorse Abbott Laboratories or its products.</p> <p>KALETRA Tablets, 200 mg lopinavir/50 mg ritonavir</p> <p>Manufactured by Abbott Pharmaceuticals PR Ltd., Barceloneta, PR 00617</p> <p>for Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago, IL 60064, U.S.A.</p> <p>KALETRA Tablets, 100 mg lopinavir/25 mg ritonavir and KALETRA Oral Solution</p> <p>Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago, IL 60064, U.S.A.</p> <p>Ref: 03-A465-R10</p> <p>Revised: February, 2011</p> <p>036-553815 MASTER</p> <p>039-563703</p> <p></p>



Watership Down. Photo by Suzanne Plunkett

THEATER REVIEW

Watership Down

Playwright: adapted by John Hildreth
from the novel by Richard Adams
At: Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood
Phone: 773-761-4477; \$32-\$35
Runs through: June 19

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Watership Down chronicles the search by a band of refugees for a home, following the wanton destruction of their village. The quest is not an easy one—the seekers are few in number, and the unknown realms fraught with danger and suspicion, but gradually they find friends helping them to establish a settlement which must then be defended against hostile marauders. Oh, and by the way—our intrepid explorers are rabbits.

And why not? Folktales dating back centuries in cultures throughout the world readily attest to the enduring popularity of animal characters unencumbered by muddy complexities of human behavior and to the level of emotional involve-

ment produced by the subsequent circumvention of adult inhibitions (don't we still cry when Bambi's mother dies?). Rabbits are such *vulnerable* creatures, too, their sole defense against predators being their swiftness and cunning. To be sure, one of our pilgrims is gifted with second sight to warn his comrades of impending disaster. A wounded seagull joining the expedition provides surveillance for his caretakers following his convalescence. The female rabbits who consent to migrate with the strangers likewise share in the escape from the oppressive police-state Efrafa warren.

If Lord of the Rings was the Arthurian legends transposed to an English fairyland, Watership Down is the Yorkshire Aeneid, populated, not by cuddly Flopsy-Mopsies, but heroic totems of classical stature. Fortunately, Lifeline Theatre has pondered actor-to-animal transitions before, notably in its multiple award-winning Island of Dr. Moreau in 2006. Several months of preparation have enabled them to compile a visual vocabulary based in lapine physiognomy without resorting to superficial clichés. No twitching noses or pronounced overbites, in other words, but violent confrontations based in foot-and-body martial warfare (rabbits having no hands for grasping swords).

The cast assembled by director Katie McLean Hainsworth for this intricately-conceived world premiere production, adapted from the Richard Adams novel by John Hildreth, has trained extensively for their roles, deftly manipulating Joanna Iwanicka's ethnoprimitive masks and Aly Renee Amidei's tribal-identified costumes to forge distinct personalities keeping us always cognizant of each individual's goals and temperament. The ensemble interaction is impeccable, but look for Christopher M. Walsh's mohawked Bigwig and Jesse Manson's feisty feathered Kehaar to occupy the spotlight in audiences' memories. Highest honors, however, go to stage manager Erica Foster, who tracks the many elements comprising our dramatic universe with a precision as agile as—well, rabbits on the run.

CRITICS' PICKS

The King and I, Porchlight Music Theatre at Stage 773, through June 5. Porchlight Music Theatre's first Rodgers and Hammerstein musical turns out to be an intimate and fine farewell from departing artistic director L. Walter Stearns. SCM

The Madness of George III, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, through June 12. This gorgeously costumed drama entertains with modern relevance as it shows the political machinations that play out when Britain's King George III descends into a state of "madness." SCM

Performing Tonight: Liza Minnelli's Daughter, The Neo-Futurists, through June 4. The life, career and other odd trivia surrounding Liza Minnelli gets obsessively and amusingly recounted and recreated by performer/author Mary Fons, all the while she asserts that she should be the famed gay icon's daughter. SCM

Soul Samurai, InFusion Theatre Company at Theater Wit, through June 5. Not another chop-socky spoof, but an adrenaline-pumping multi-media roller-coaster ride through a post-apocalyptic Freudian universe as dark as your favorite graphic novel. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge
 and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

Roadkill Confidential

Playwright: Sheila Callaghan
At: Dog & Pony Theatre Company
at Building Stage, 412 N. Carpenter
Tickets: 312-491-1369;
<http://www.dogandponychicago.org>; \$20
Runs through: June 4

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

The rabbits are nasty in Knickerbocker country. Due to a rare bacterium borne by bunnies in the Hudson River Valley, it's death to humans merely to touch one. When shock artist Trevor Pratt starts collecting roadkill rabbits for her next big thing, the Feds want to know if she's a bio-terrorist. They send in a one-eyed FBI guy who harbors his own never-explained mysteries and steps over the line in pursuit of evidence.

Dog & Pony has rolled out a marvelous physical production for this contemplation on—what?—violence or violent images or terrorism or big-brotherism or radical art or fame or marital infidelity (both Trevor and her husband cheat). A true *object d'art*, the show incorporates a sculptural set (Judy Radovsky and Anders Jacobson), video imagery (Ben Kolak), a sound scape (Stephen Ptacek) and puppets with glowing eyes (Dan Kerr-Hobert, Lizi Breit and Bernie McGovern). The audience is sculptural, too, lounging on cushions arranged on risers.

All of this makes Roadkill Confidential a striking and sometimes beautiful 90 minutes to observe, but the point of it becomes increasingly

fuzzy as playwright Sheila Callaghan tries to weave together too many threads. The marital infidelity of Trevor and hubby William produces bunny victims but has no point in itself. The presence of William's 14-year-old son from his first marriage has no impact on the story. The secrets of FBI Man (as he's called) are never revealed, although he's the dominant character as both narrator and participant in the story. The inevitable meeting between FBI Man and Trevor has no pay-off in terms of character resolution, serving only to set up the unveiling of Trevor's latest masterpiece, an homage to The Little Shop of Horrors.

Callaghan is a witty enough playwright to make her characters often interesting in themselves, but not consistently with regard to each other. Her dialogue and situations are colorful, amusing and spicy. This is not a stupid play, but a collage—in the literal sense of physical production and written text—that never completely comes together. To the degree that the production is successful, and it does have chops, it's a triumph of style over substance.

Director Devon de Mayo has guided his actors into sharply etched and bold characterizations, just a touch cartoonish in a good way. Heather Townsend channels Desperate Housewives as the next door neighbor, Andrew Goetten as the bounces off the walls as the teen, Dan Smith is appealingly shabby as Trevor's academic husband. In the lead roles, Lucy Carapetyan is an edgy and cagey Trevor and Sorin Brouwers is perfectly buttoned-up and overwrought as FBI Man.

Oddly, the fictional bunny disease has symptoms precisely like Lyme Disease, which is real and rampant in the Hudson Valley.

THEATER REVIEW

Freedom, NY

Playwright: Jennifer Barclay
At: Teatro Vista at Theatre Wit, 1229 W. Belmont
Phone: 773-975-8150; \$25
Runs through: June 12

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

As quaint as it may seem to urban audiences, there are American towns too small to pay the salaries of federal judges. One such village is the upstate New York municipality of Freedom, whose sole magistrate is Justice Mayflower, her given name echoing her status as a state-licensed J.P. and her surname affirming her patriotic lineage—traits conferring on her the responsibility for maintaining order within a population shaken by recent tragedy. To be sure, a year has passed since the school shooting that left two girls dead and another still missing, but when a stranger seemingly enamored of death joins the community, unspoken terrors suddenly resurface. Oh, by the way: newcomer Gabriel is Mexican and Ms. Mayflower is African-American.

What—you thought that racial/ethnic tensions were restricted to Whites and Everybody Else? By its acknowledgment of xenophobia as a universal phenomenon, author Jennifer Barclay's premise breaks dramatic ground usually left undisturbed—much as Freedom's citizens suppress discussion of their trauma, only to fall prey to irrational fantasies when confronted, literally, by skeletons, not shut away in closets, but paraded in effigy alongside flowers and candles heralding the ritual internment of a disturbingly-small coffin to celebrate the Día de los Muertos.

In an age when public perceptions are shaped more by images from popular fiction than actual experience, we might forgive Gabriel's neighbors their suspicions. OUR ignorance is only temporary, however. Under inquiry by Justice's rebellious granddaughter, Gabriel acquaints us with a culture whose close relationship with departed relatives might well



Freedom, NY.

manifest itself in conversation conducted as if they were still alive. For Justice, herself beset by doubts over her part in alienating the adolescent Portia's estranged mother, the comfort offered to the lonely child by these exotic rites becomes increasingly threatening, even as our matriarch struggles against the hysteria enveloping her peers.

This is a lot of story to pack into a mere 70 minutes, but director Joe Minoso and the muscular ensemble of Cheryl Lynn Bruce, Desmin Borges and Paige Collins reject propagandistic caricatures to deliver cliché-free interpretations of complex personalities. And if the metaphors sometime crowd as thickly as memento mori on a calavera-bedecked shrine, the symbolism of the Mayflower home's carefully-tended garden is prevented from becoming labored by Regina Garcia's scenic array of autumn blooms so vivid, you want to pick them.



Mark L. Montgomery and Jenny Bacon in Stage Kiss. Photo by Liz Lauren

THEATER REVIEW

Stage Kiss

Playwright: Sarah Ruhl

At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn

Phone: 312-443-3800; \$25-\$78

Runs through: June 5

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

How do actors navigate between fantasy and reality when it comes to fleshing out their own love lives? Do they get corrupted by all the flowery text they embody and spout onstage, or are they better at channelling timeless artistic insights into their own romantic private lives?

These are just a few questions posited by former Chicago-area playwright Sarah Ruhl in her world premiere romantic comedy Stage Kiss, now puckering up to audiences at the Goodman Theatre.

However, my question for Ruhl is whether she intends Stage Kiss to be an all-out backstage farce, or a thoughtful comedy exploring larger perceptions of identity and emotional states of people in and around the theater community. As it stands, Stage Kiss sloppily gives lip service to

both approaches.

The ensuing stylistic jumble has its entertaining farcical moments, but the serious side of things do not feel at all remarkable when Ruhl's handling of profound questions on love and relationships comes off as only a mild flirtation.

Stage Kiss focuses on an married actress (a comically expert and physical performance from Jenny Bacon) who is torn whether or not to rekindle a relationship with a former flame (an appropriately swaggering and dashing Mark L. Montgomery) who is coincidentally cast opposite her in a regional revival of a flop 1930s drawing room comedy. And when the lovers make that ill-advised carnal leap, they have to deal with the ensuing fallout from their loved ones.

Part of the problem with Stage Kiss is that Ruhl offers up generalized characters who are presumptuously meant to represent some sort of universal truth (why else would Ruhl pretentiously name the leading lady "She" and the leading man as "He"?). The supporting characters are even less-defined, ranging from the long-suffering and wealthy character of "Husband" (one of two roles for a solid Scott Jaeck), to the impudent and bitter daughter Angela (a very good Goodman debut for Sarah Tolan-

Mee, though I wonder why this persona lucked out with a real name instead of the utilitarian "Daughter").

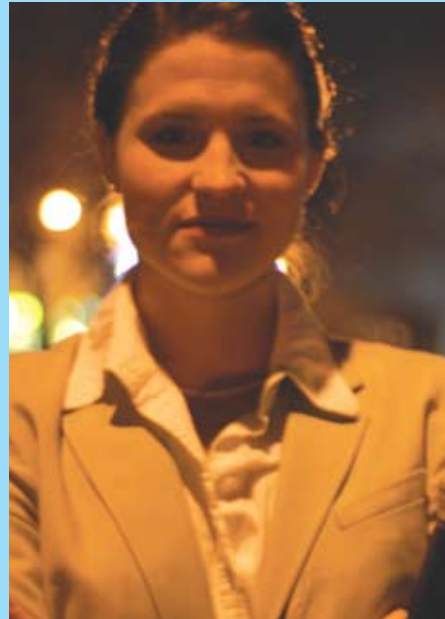
With such generic characterizations, it becomes much easier to laugh at these people than really empathize with their confused struggles. Our involvement is further diminished since Ruhl passingly emphasizes the professional stakes of her theater artists (particularly the laughable wishy-washy "Director" of Ross Lehman, who appears strangely unaffected by his devastatingly bad reviews).

No doubt Ruhl and director Jessica Thebus draw upon plenty of first-hand experience to poke fun of theater folk and their many quirky practices (embodied very well in the sturdy sup-

porting work of Jeffrey Carlson and Erica Elam in multiple roles). And there's no denying the lovely production values of Stage Kiss, led by Todd Rosenthal's clever and lavish sets of wobbly stage scenery and grotty apartments and Linda Roethke's eminently appropriate costumes of rehearsal gear and 1930s period glamour for the wealthy swells.

However, the fact that the backstage farcical bits of Stage Kiss garner a bigger audience response than the more serious moments only show up the disappointing unevenness of the entire enterprise. Stage Kiss certainly works as light entertainment, but it ultimately doesn't live up to its larger ambitions.

SPOTLIGHT



Leave it to Pulitzer Prize-finalist Will Eno, author of the divisively acclaimed Thom Pain (based on nothing), to create **Tragedy: A Tragedy**, about an apocalyptic comedy about a news team reporting on the fact that the sun won't rise. Red Tape Theatre continues with its Chicago premiere of Tragedy: A Tragedy now through June 4 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 621 W. Belmont. Performances are 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays with 3 p.m. matinees Sundays. Tickets are \$25; \$15 for students. Visit <http://www.redtapetheatre.org>. Photo of Paige Sawin and Paul Miller in Red Tape Theatre's Tragedy: A Tragedy by James Palmer

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NUNN ON ONE:TELEVISION

Cloris Leachman on 'Raising Hope,' the 'Facts' reunion and pageants

BY JERRY NUNN

Like a fine wine, Cloris Leachman seems to get better with age. She has won eight Primetime Emmy awards and one of her first movies *The Last Picture Show* snagged her an Academy Award in 1971. She followed that with several successful Mel Brooks' movies and no one can forget her longest running role, in the Mary Tyler Moore show. She hopes to continue her success currently with Fox's *Raising Hope*. She spoke about the show along with how she took the bad with the Facts of Life recently.

Windy City Times: Hello, Cloris.

Cloris Leachman: Hi. Why are you calling me?

WCT: [Laughs] I wanted to talk to you about

your show *Raising Hope*.

CL: Oh, all right.

WCT: I spoke recently with Martha Plimpton and told her I was going to track you down.

CL: What did she say?

WCT: She said you are "fabulous and crazy." [Cloris laughs.] How is the Fox hit going?

CL: Well, we are not doing it right now until next August.

WCT: Is there something you have been asked to do that you wouldn't do?

CL: Not yet, but it's getting close. They had me sitting on the toilet with the grandfather washing the sink and saying that I better hurry up that, Virginia is coming in. I said, "It takes as long as it takes." [Both laugh.] The maddest I



Cloris Leachman. Photo by Karen Itagaki

have gotten is when they all play hide and go seek. Of course they are not, but I think they are and I am hiding in the living room under a great big lampshade. Nobody notices. Later I am behind the broom cupboard then I finally come out and say, "They don't know how to play it. I am going to bed!" Nobody knows I am playing it!

WCT: How was your recent Facts of Life reunion for the TV Land Awards?

CL: I can't tell you the truth because it is so disgusting. There was such a rude moment that I don't know what to do about it.

WCT: What happened?

CL: Charlotte Rae's nose was running and she said she was so nervous. I was standing right next to her. She's about two feet shorter than I am and not even five feet tall right now. Anyway, I looked down and I saw this one drop of clear mucous hanging from her nose. So I reached over and wiped it off. Her face was terrible and she hissed, "Don't be pushy!" I wanted to say, "Fuck you, you bitch!" I mean, what the hell?

WCT: That's weird.

CL: I wouldn't put my finger on anyone else's nose, would you?

WCT: No!

CL: I hardly would call that being pushy and what the fuck? She was the one saying, "Oh my God! Somebody do something, hurry!" No one had a Kleenex and you are not going to use your costume, so then what?

WCT: I talked to Geri Jewell recently and she was a sweetheart.

CL: She was in the first year or two of Facts of Life, right?

WCT: Yes, she wasn't on your season.

CL: She is very darling. I liked her that night.

WCT: You are a big animal lover, correct?

CL: Hell, yes! I am a vegetarian. I was born and raised in Des Moines. I've always been proud to be a Midwesterner. In Iowa they are trying to pass a bill to make it illegal to photograph farm animal without getting permission from the farmer. I want better treatment of animals not the criminalization of those trying to expose illegal cruelty.

WCT: You have a history with Chicago, I noticed. You went to Northwestern.

CL: Yes I did.

WCT: You were Miss Chicago in 1946?

CL: Yes, someone entered my picture for Miss WGN. I found a telegram waiting for me when I got home late one night saying that I had to appear the next day at 7:30 in my bathing suit and evening gown. I needed to bring talent, it said. I wasn't going to go down there. I am not a beauty contender! I was laughing my ass off.

This guy called me and said he had entered my picture and would take me there. Him and the housemother, where I was renting an attic for seven dollars a week while I was working in Chicago that summer, talked me into going. I finally said, "What do you want me to do?" I had already sang, danced and done a reading.

They said, "Take your hair down." I took one pin out and my hair beautifully fell around my shoulders, I hadn't even washed it or anything. They said, "Congratulations, you are Miss WGN." Everyone was taking pictures and all excited and then asked me what would do if I were Miss Chicago. This was a Tuesday and they wanted me to try out for Miss Chicago on that Friday.

WCT: That was so fast.

CL: Oh my God! So I took a piano lesson, bought a new bathing suit and I went to the audition. They showed us how to walk the figure eight and went to dinner. I stayed behind and walked it about 150 times by myself. That night they couldn't decide about the final three of us. They had us each say something. The first one was completely tongue tied, the second one lisped and then it was my turn. I am not even from Chicago first of all, I should have been a state because everyone else was but me. I was city. They already had a Miss Illinois and a Miss Iowa, because I am from Iowa. However, my grandmother always said, "You get in there and bring home the bacon!" Next thing I know they are congratulating me for being Miss Chicago!

WCT: So that's how you got to be Miss Chicago...

CL: Then they sent me on to a Miss America contest. By that time I called my mother and told her to get there. It was getting kind of serious. They paraded me around Soldier Stadium sitting on the back of a convertible in the cold night with my bathing suit on.

WCT: Oh, no!

CL: We got on a plane and flew to Atlantic City. Mom and I just trembled and laughed most of the time.

WCT: We want you back in Chicago. You better come visit.

CL: Well, someone has to invite me.

WCT: You are always invited.

CL: I don't go anywhere unless they feed me.

WCT: We need to throw a party for you, then.

CL: That is how to do it, exactly. You figure it out and I will be there.

WCT: What would you want to drink at the party?

CL: If it is in the morning then it's a Bloody Mary with half the ice, half the spice and half the liquor. At night, it's a margarita with no sweet and sour, fresh lemons and just a splash of—not Grand Marnier—what do people put a splash of?

WCT: Cointreau.

CL: Cointreau, yes!

WCT: I love a good margarita. You have a new movie with Tara Reid called *The Fields*.

CL: I hope it's coming out soon but I don't know if they quite made a deal yet.

WCT: Is it a scary movie?

CL: It is a little scary, yeah. It's a psychological thriller, supposedly.

WCT: I will have to look for that.

CL: I loved my part in it.

WCT: You have a book entitled *Cloris: My Autobiography*.

CL: I didn't write one word of it. I just lived it. My former husband wrote it. I didn't read it until it was already published.

WCT: Did you ever think you would ever have such a long career?

CL: Yes, I did always.

WCT: Would you ever retire and stop working?

CL: No, they are going to have to take a lead pipe and beat me over the head with it to get me to stop.

Cloris Leachman just celebrated her 83rd birthday and has a new music album that can be found soon on <http://www.cloris.com>. Follow her on Fox at <http://www.fox.com/raisinghope>. In addition, Leachman will appear Saturday, Sept. 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dorothy Menker Theater at Moraine Valley Community College, 9000 W. College Parkway; tickets go on sale in mid-August at <http://www.morainevalley.edu>.

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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

Bill Cunningham New York

In the past few years we've seen a sudden spate of documentaries focused on the fashion world, from fascinating profiles of the mostly gay designers (Valentino, Lagerfeld, Armani and the upcoming one on Yves St. Laurent) to those who chronicle the business (most notably, Anna Wintour and her Vogue staff in The September Issue). To this latter category we can now add **Bill Cunningham New York**. Cunningham, whose photographs illustrate not one but two columns

with such a passion for fashion dream of? For those sharing Cunningham's appreciation of the artistic, the fashion forward, the truly outre, the film is an eye-popping delight while the list of dazzling fashion eccentrics that populate Cunningham's beat, many of them appearing on camera singing his praises, are nearly enough to cast a modern-day Fellini film.

Cunningham's obsession with these ultrasophisticates isn't hard to understand. Although he professes over and over that all he cares about is their eye-popping outfits, a common shared artistic sensibility is quickly discerned in those who delight him. (Cunningham must have loved Little Edie Beale of Grey Gardens fame.) This predilection for the artist's life becomes fixed, as we slowly learn a bit about Cunningham's life when he isn't working. (Most telling, he doesn't give a whit about money.) Deeply ensconced in a tiny artist's garret in Carnegie Hall, hemmed in by filing cabinets containing negatives of all his photos and thousands of art books, Cunningham introduces us to his lively fellow artists. The grande dame, Editta Sherman, a onetime Warhol muse and a legendary celebrity photographer, presides over her artists' atelier with a vitality that, at 96, is clearly still driven by an artistic sensibility.

After we meet Editta and some of Cunningham's other neighbors, we spend time involved in their campaign to prevent management from kicking them out of their rent-controlled apartments after decades of residence—this is also a movie about a way of life and traditions that are quickly disappearing. However, Cunningham's

to gain some deeper understanding of this man, whose work is his life. A code of honor and discipline quietly emerges and it's no surprise to learn of Cunningham's working-class Catholic background, which we intuit must have been very rigid. A stint in the Army in the early '50s was followed by work as a hat designer that, in turn, led to a career documenting fashion for a variety of publications. For his dedication and absolute fealty (and true discretion), Cunningham could not be held in higher regard by the list of celebrated names whose legendary careers in the fashion business he has chronicled. (He is awarded the French Legion of Honor during the film's emotional high point.)

Clearly, though, there have been huge personal sacrifices. Not one of his famous subjects or many of those identified as close friends seems to know much beyond his sunny exterior. When asked point-blank toward the end of the film if he's ever had so much as a romance, he calmly replies that there wasn't time or any real inclination. But next, in response to a direct question about whether he is gay or not, he nearly breaks down and then muses with a touch of irony that his family obviously thought so. He leaves it at that and quickly steers the conversation in another direction. Suddenly, Cunningham's earlier comment about attending weekly Mass—"To repent"—takes on an underlying, unspoken sadness. Have we just watched the profile of a man who so reveled his gay sexuality that he subsumed it in service to a life in pursuit of his art? Or is there something, somewhere inbetween?

Ultimately, as Cunningham tacitly asserts, the answer doesn't matter. For a true artist, it's the output that is the most important and if certain viewers glean a gay sensibility at work, so be it.

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



Bill Cunningham New York. Photo courtesy of First Thought Films/Zeitgeist Films

in the New York Times, is as fashion-obsessed as his fellow fashionistas. However, Cunningham's obsession goes much further than his more renowned and infamous compatriots. As director Richard Press' exuberant, telling film nimbly reveals, here is a fashion purist who cares nothing for the trappings of the glittery world he inhabits. For Cunningham, it really is all about the clothes.

Darting around his native habitat—the stone jungle of Manhattan—on foot or on bicycle number 29 (the previous 28 having been stolen) and barely heeding the ever present traffic around him, the spry octogenarian is always at work, busily photographing the denizens of New York City and spotting fashion trends long before his media competitors. At 80, Cunningham has been documenting fashion in his beloved city since the mid-'60s. "The best fashion show is definitely on the street," he comments before whipping out his camera, spotting another outrageous outfit. The cameraperson is put to the test trying to keep up with Cunningham when he spots another potential wildly fabulous ensemble. And what better canvas could someone

passion for fashion and approaching deadlines loom and soon the energetic photographer is racing back out to the streets. We then follow him as he works on his second New York Times column, "Evening Hours," in which the city's rich and socially prominent fete each other at a series of lavish benefits and balls. Friends suspect that Cunningham's ease with the super-rich (as he is seen documenting Brooke Astor's 100th birthday and is described as having been part of her inner circle) has something to do with a suspected background in wealth himself. However, viewers later learn just the opposite and, although we see the charming Cunningham joking easily with the wealthy and famous, his intent is clearly about getting an interesting picture. We eventually learn that he has never so much as accepted a glass of water from his hosts—afraid to tempt fate or sully his impeccable reputation.

Slowly—as Cunningham works with an art director at the Times on his two columns, and then travels to Paris to record the fashion shows as a professional spectator and honored guest (rather than as a media journalist)—we begin

Out lesbian wins TV's 'Amazing Race'

The Amazing Race: Unfinished Business concluded May 8 with sisters Jennifer and LaKisha Hoffman winning the million dollars. It turns out that LaKisha is the first out lesbian to win on the show.

The 18th edition of the show featured 11 teams of veteran contestants who had never won the grand prize. The race began at in Palm Springs, Calif., and included stops in Australia, India and even Liechtenstein, among others.

In an interview with AfterEllen.com, LaKisha Hoffman talked about the various challenges she and her sister faced as well as her own relationship status: "I am single. Both of us are, I'll have to admit, but I am technically single."

She is not the first gay person to win The Amazing Race, as then-couple Chip Arndt and Reichen Lehmkuhl won several seasons back.

'Public Speaking' DVD looks at Fran Lebowitz

HBO Documentary Films' Public Speaking—directed by Academy Award winner Martin Scorsese (The Departed) and produced by Emmy® and Peabody-winning documentary producer/Vanity Fair editor Graydon Carter—takes a look at legendary New York wit and best-selling writer Fran Lebowitz.

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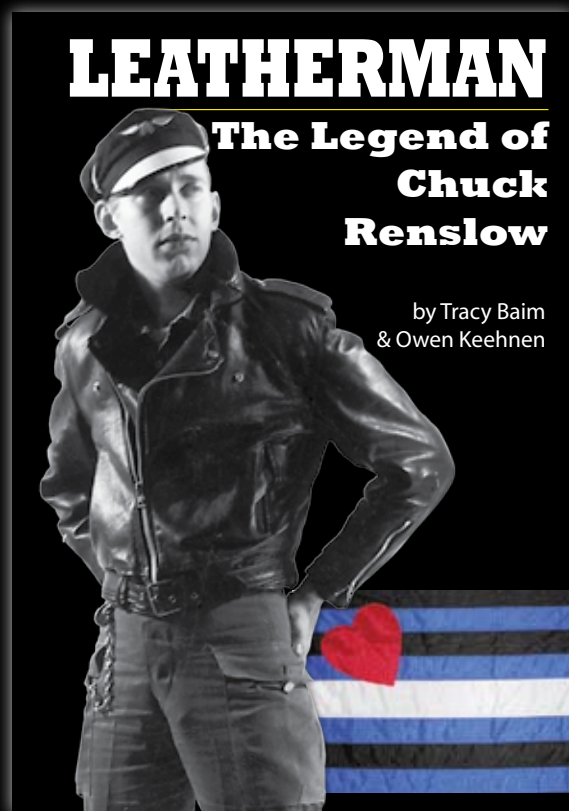
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'Queering the Faith' series tackles LGBTs and religion

BY ERICA DEMAREST

The Faith Project's two-month-long film series "Queering the Faith" culminated May 11 with a townhall-style discussion at the Adler School of Psychology. A four-person panel that included Jewish, Muslim and Catholic speakers explored the intersection of religion and sexuality while addressing the topic "From Dialogue to Action."

"I think some of our last and most bitter battles are going to be on the frontlines of religion," said Parvez Sharma, who directed A Jihad for Love and identifies as a gay Muslim man. "I think we see that happening already in pretty much every sphere of the world. And I think,

gay people. "I think we'd all be better off not saying 'God wants' or 'God doesn't want,'" Halstead said. "Spare me God. Talk about yourself. And that's a priest saying that."

He went on to address the fallibility of the Catholic Church, noting that men—not God—drafted both the Bible and church doctrine. "I just think you [have to] say that certain things are just theological errors. Very well intended people for very good reasons in history have said things that are just simply wrong," Halstead said. "The Bible's not God. God is God. The notion that a human being understands the divine will—I think it's incredibly presumptuous to think that." The church's fallibility offers



"Queering the Faith" panelist Parvez Sharma. Photo by Erica Demarest

more than most generations, ironically, it is you guys in the 21st century who will have to deal with the ramifications of a rise in all kinds of extremisms."

The panel, which was co-hosted by LGBT Change and the Queer Intercollegiate Alliance, also featured DePaul Hillel Program Director Nick Liebman, One Chicago One Faith organizer Kayla Higgins and DePaul Religious Studies Chair Fr. James Halstead.

Panelists opened the evening with personal anecdotes; they talked candidly about their families, upbringings and respective struggles with religion. Each person stressed that education, honest discourse and mutual understanding would be the keys to combatting the anti-LGBT sentiment that's become ingrained in many religious organizations.

"The biggest obstacle to breaking through these kinds of barriers is that ... we put up our own walls," Liebman said. "We refuse to see the other as equally as human as we are. For me, that's a failure of faith on both sides." Liebman said that LGBT people who want nothing to do with religious communities can be just as guilty of creating barriers as religious people who want nothing to do with queer communities.

"I think God created humanity in God's image," he said. "To take a swath of humanity and put them in a category you're not willing to deal with, is to say that someone can do that to you, is to say that we are not equal."

For his part, Halstead stressed total honesty. He says one of the things that annoys him most when discussing faith and sexuality is hearing the argument that God doesn't like or support

hope for change, Halstead said, but it'll take time and patience.

When a member of the audience asked Sharma how he negotiated his Muslim faith and his identity as a gay man, he shrugged and said simply, "I don't." Sharma said acceptance wasn't likely to come from religious institutions, but rather from the people who belong to them.

"Even though I'm pessimistic about trying to find a theological [Quran-based] solution to the problem of homosexuality," Sharma said, "I'm also very optimistic that young people ... will perhaps be able to get rid of a lot of the baggage that comes with religious dogma and be able to come up with very different ways of understanding sexuality."

Liebman agreed, adding that one of the biggest problems with homosexuality in Judaism is that traditional Jewish life requires gender roles. "There isn't a language and tradition for gay people," he said. "Today our opportunity is to be a new paradigm, to go and actively be a part of these communities... And if, in fact, there are communities that just will not have gay people in them, the good news is there are plenty of communities that will. And it's our obligation to build those communities strong."

Mark Hannan, a member of the audience who works for a theological education nonprofit, lauded the forum's interfaith nature. "Coming from a Christian perspective," he said, "[it was great] to be able to see that there are similarities and possibilities for collaboration between different faiths that you typically don't see sitting at the same table anywhere, let alone organizing about LGBT issues."

ALAN CUMMING

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NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Matt Alber: Gay singer lives to inspire



BY JERRY NUNN

Matt Alber is one of the few openly gay singer-songwriters out there. His video for "End of the World" may have one of the most romantic endings our community has seen on YouTube. He returns to his roots in Chicago for an important date Wed., May 25.

Windy City Times: Hello, Matt. I can't stop watching your video for "End of the World." Tell me about your background.

Matt Alber: I am glad you like it. I grew up in the Midwest, in St. Louis. I was born in Wichita, Kan. I was always a choir geek. I started singing in choirs when I was a little kid. I went to school for classical music after high school. I was always on the fence between classical and pop music. I loved singing Handel arias and then Billy Joel. I did both on my senior recital.

I continued that practice onto my adulthood. I moved to California after college to join a group called Chanticleer and toured for five years with that professional group. They have 12 members and they are a full-time classical group. I got to sing in a choir for a living, which I didn't think was possible. We made a bunch of records for Warner Brothers. Two of them won Grammys when I was with the group.

WCT: That must have been an experience.

MA: It was. Then I decided to start writing solo songs. I left Chanticleer and maxed out all of my credit cards; bought a computer and some recording equipment; and hired a tutor. It was time to start writing my own music. That was in 2003. I released my first record on Tommy Boy in 2008. They helped me make that video that you saw. Nowadays I don't work with a label anymore and I am working on my own. That video spurred enough interest for people to come and see me sing. I started touring about a year and a half ago. I very much made the transition into full time touring so that is all I do now. I give solo concerts and write songs. It is basically a freaking dream come true.

WCT: What a journey!

MA: Yes. It is cool because there are a lot of people writing music now. Before an artist had to have a record deal or someone had to discover you, now with computers and software everybody can make records in their bedroom now. I think that is really exciting. Part of what I do is encourage people to be creative in general. Hopefully, when people come to a concert they get inspired.

WCT: You seem very positive about the music business.

MA: You caught me at a good time! [Laughs] I am really happy. I just moved to Seattle. I live on a tiny little island just off of Seattle called Vashon. I moved there with my boyfriend and two pups. I have a beautiful place to write music.

WCT: You will have to leave Paradise Island to go on tour.

MA: I love coming to Chicago! I can't wait to get back there. It is the only place that I

gave a concert that was sold-out. When I sang at Jackhammer two years ago, 250 guys showed up that I didn't know and gave me the glimpse that I could do this as a living. I am always very excited to come back there and sing.

WCT: I am sorry I missed it. That bar is right by my house and would have been very convenient for me.

MA: You better make it out to Schubas.

WCT: I will be there. Are you a fan of Rufus Wainwright?

MA: Oh, yeah. I love Rufus!

WCT: Your sound is similar to him in some ways.

MA: Some people say that. I am totally flattered. He is a great songwriter. I just started working with a new booking agent and I am convincing them that it is possible, like Rufus, to be a gay singer/songwriter, be out onstage and be successful in the music industry. They booked a bunch of shows around the country. This show in Chicago is a to prove to them that a gay artist can sell at a mainstream venue.

WCT: The pressure is on!

MA: Yes, it is so get the word out.

WCT: Hopefully, it is not the "End of the World" for you! What is the meaning behind that song?

MA: For me it is like The Star Spangled Banner. The end of the song is a question. Being in love can feel like a roller-coaster sometimes and you are always wondering, "If this is really going to last or am I capable?" All those questions are going through your mind. The last line leaves it open-ended: "If there is nothing left then why



Matt Alber.

are you holding on to me like it's the end of the world?" Hopefully, when people walk away from the song they will have hope that love can happen.

WCT: People can go to <http://www.mattalber.com> and find out more about you.

MA: Yes, my whole album streams from there. I hang out on Facebook a lot and love to talk to people that are coming to the shows. I like the feedback to songs people want to hear. I hear stories like I brought my boyfriend and proposed to him at your show.

WCT: Now we can have civil unions here in Illinois so that could happen at Schubas.

MA: For this special show I was contacted by a singer called Nick Howard. He's from the UK and is a super-cute straight guy. He's going to open for me at Schubas at 7 p.m. We are both excited for this particular show because there is an organization in Chicago called UCAN [Uhlisch Children's Advantage Network]. They provide services and programs for LGBT homeless youth. I am teaming up with them for this show and portion of the proceeds will benefit UCAN. They serve about 12,000 families in Illinois a year and are making a big difference in the lives of LGBT youth who are trying to get off the streets.

Run out and get your tickets for Schubas, 3159 N. Southport, on May 25. For more information about UCAN, log onto to <http://www.ucanchicago.org>.

MUSIC

Bob Mould and Richard Morel on the event Blowoff

BY JERRY NUNN

Blowoff is a DJ event that has gone to the bears. Hosting the turntables are Bob Mould and Richard Morel with a variety of tunes to spin for the masses. Blowoff also stands for this dynamic duo that have recorded together for years.

Mould has been a college music icon for decades in the '80s with Husker Du and the 90s with Sugar. A solo artist in his own right this singer, guitarist and songwriter continues to rock it out.

Talking about songwriters, Morel has been remixing and producing for artists such as Mariah Carey to Tina Turner throughout the ages.

Windy City Times: Hey, guys! I have interviewed you before.

Richard Morel: It's like *déjà vu* all over again.

Bob Mould: How are things?

WCT: Crazy as ever. For people who haven't been to a Blowoff event can you explain it?

RM: We started doing it eight years ago in the basement of the 9:30 Club in Washington, D.C.

BM: This was back when we were living in D.C. We didn't know what we were doing, it was just a monthly music event.

RM: It started off as a group of guys getting together where me and Bob would trade off DJing, playing all sorts of music from indie rock to house music.

BM: I think we focused on house music but there is indie rock, low fi but mostly different types of house music. It is a dance night first and foremost.

RM: Nick Lopada does live video mixing. As far as club events go it is very friendly and inviting. It is easy to go there, hang out and have a good time. Me and Bob trade off music sets so if you don't like something then the other one will be taking over soon enough! [Laughs] It works for everybody that way.

BM: That is one thing we always trumpet when we talk about the event is that since write and produce we have a really firm concept of what makes good music for us.

WCT: Your music is rocking, Bob!

RM: We both play songs you will recognize hopefully but different people will recognize different songs. It does vary. I do a lot of remix work so I am always playing new remixes that I am working on, stuff my label is releasing so it is wrapped up in that as well.

WCT: The following has grown. The crowd was bigger the later that is gets.

RM: It starts a little later in Chicago and it goes a little later. That is kind of the nature of club events. We are all getting older so it gets harder!

BM: We picked up a following from the bear community, guys in their 30s or 40s make up the core of our audience, although lately we see a lot of younger guys coming to the event.

WCT: It is a good weekend to be here.

BM: [Laughs] Yes, it is! I will be getting into town that afternoon. I will be playing Sasquatch! Music Festival on Friday night.

WCT: Did you ever think you would be in the music business all this time?

BM: It has been over 30 years and yeah I actually did. I was a real student of the business. I was lucky to have some good teachers in the beginning. I learned the good lessons about the business. It is crazy but that is what I got to work with...

WCT: You have a memoir coming out

about all of this, too.

BM: Yes, my autobiography and it is called "See a Little Light." It comes out on June 15. It is written in conjunction with Michael Azerrad. He is a pretty well known music author. He wrote book called "Our Band Could Be Your Life" that was a definitive book on definitive underground rock in the 80s. He also wrote a Nirvana book called "Come As You Are" so he really kept me on track. We worked on it for about two and half years.

WCT: Richard, you did Amanda Lear's EP I'm Coming Up last year, I heard.

RM: My label put it out. I did a ton of remix and production work last year as well. I scored my twentieth Billboard club play number one with a Yoko Ono record that I did.

WCT: I talked to her about her album last year.

RM: I am working on my sixth single with her. It was her fifth number one and my 20th for her record, called "Move On." It went to number one two months ago.

WCT: Congrats.

RM: That was exciting.

WCT: What are you doing next, Rich?

RM: My label Outsider is releasing the new Vanessa Daou single, which is called "Heart of Wax." That comes out in four weeks.

WCT: Bob, you are on the new Foo Fighters album Wasting Light, correct?

BM: Yeah, that was real nice. Dave Grohl and I have been hovering around each other



for decades. It was this time last year that we actually sat down and talked for the first time. I went down and recorded a track with him in his garage studio in L.A. We had a great time.

WCT: It is a very good album.

BM: It is a really good album. I was a huge fan of There is Nothing Left to Lose so this one feels like a return to that late 90s thing that they had going.

WCT: Do you still do anything the past groups that you have worked with?

BM: Husker Du was the first and when I walked away from it in January '88 I haven't really looked back, except what I put together for the book. Sugar in the '90s was a great experience. I never closed the door on that project but it was put to rest in 1995. I have worked with David Barbe the bassist player since and we are still good friends. You never know what can happen with that. Every time I put out a new solo record I put together a band and tour. The last record was two years ago and I played at the Metro. Blowoff is a return to the venue for me. We always have a great time at Metro. Between Memorial Day, IML and Bear Weekend there is no excuse to not have fun!

Blowoff begins Saturday, May 28, at the Metro, 3730 N. Clark, from 11 p.m. until the break of dawn. For tickets visit <http://metrochicago.com>.



Twenty years ago, it was a fierce honor to be called a diva. Just look at En Vogue's sophomore outing, Funky Divas; Annie Lennox's stunning solo bow; and Club 69's anthem featuring Kim Cooper. As seen on RuPaul's Drag Race, it can also be an insult. Leave it to **Chicago Gay Men's Chorus** to have its spring show appropriately be titled DIVAS!

Opening night is Friday, May 20, and there will be two shows on Saturday, May 21, also at Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport. The performance moves to Mayslake Peabody Estate, 1717 W. 31st, Oak Brook, for the final two concerts Sunday, May 22. For more information, visit <http://www.cgmc.org>.

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus is going to interpret material from a broad array of women. The genres will range from showtunes, jazz standards to pop hits. Some divas only need one name, such as Aretha, Cher, Mariah, Liza, Judy and, of course, Barbra. While this show is dedicated to the legendary ladies, let's not forget, not all divas are women. The outspoken Boy George has been known to draw all eyes to him. For another

example, look no further than the 1997 documentary Elton John: Tantrums & Tiaras.

Disco siren **Donna Summer** is going to receive royal treatment as Ladies of the Canyon pay tribute to her on Wed., May 25, at Fitzgerald's, 6615 Roosevelt, Berwyn. Ladies of the Canyon showcases different local talents by paying homage to the great female singer-songwriters. Having previously recreated a flawless nights of Diana Ross and Madonna's music, Ladies of the Canyon surely can revisit Summer's catalog.

Best known for her feel-good dance classics like "MacArthur Park" and "Last Dance," Summer continues to issue gems like "Love Is a Healer," "I Got Your Love," a remake of Luther Vandross's "Power of Love" and "To Paris with Love." Her recent efforts still find success in the club charts, despite not being embraced by radio.

In the liner notes to David Bowie's Sound and Vision, when Brian Eno first heard Summer's 1977 stomper "I Feel Love," he said to Bowie, "I have heard the sound of the future."

Summer has been sampled and covered by many, including Madonna, Kylie Minogue, Selena, Sheena Easton, Beyonce and Laura Branigan. Andy Bell and kd lang redid the chart topper "No More Tears (Enough is Enough)" for The Coneheads soundtrack and Marc Almond collaborated with Bronski Beat on a medley featuring "I Feel Love" and "Love to Love You Baby."

Need more another night of covers? Chicago's beloved outfit **Tribitosaurus** is dedicating a night to "One Hit Wonders of the '80s" at Park West, 322 W. Armitage, on Friday, May 20. That



Donna Summer.

particular decade had so many memorable queer acts, which only impacted the charts once like Frankie Goes to Hollywood, Soft Cell, Baltimore, Jermaine Stewart and Paul Lekakis.

International Mr. Leather weekend is approaching and that means **Blowoff** will be spinning another lively party. The gay duo consisting of Bob Mould and Rich Morel will DJ at The Metro, 3730 N. Clark on Saturday, May 28. Attendees can expect a spirited mix of '80s, alternative, radio favorites and club hits. Be sure to check out Blowoff's website <http://www.blowoff.us> for photos, setlists and more information.

Mould has an autobiography, See a Little Light: The Trail of Rage and Melody, due out June 15 via Little, Brown and Company.

Benny Benassi has developed a signature

sound with computerized vocals and pounding beats that recall power tools set to music as heard on his crossover "Satisfaction." Even though he has remixed such luminaries as Goldfrapp, Moby, Madonna and Faithless, Benassi also has released the notable "Love's Gonna Save Us" and "Who's Your Daddy" under his own name. On Thursday, May 26, the Italian producer and remixer extraordinaire will be returning to The Mid, 306 N. Halsted, for a DJ set. The Mid is located where The Generator used to be.

When I reviewed **Lucinda Williams'** latest, Blessed, last month, she did not announce any Chicago-area dates on her tour. As luck would have it, the critically acclaimed singer-songwriter comes to Park West, 322 W. Armitage, on Saturday, May 21, and Sunday, May 22.

There is a new catchy song to raise funds for The Trevor Project and It Gets Better. It is a promising introduction to **The Juliettes** with the upbeat celebratory anthem "Hooray! You're Gay." The reassuring message is directed to troubled LGBTQ youth. Lead singer Julie Mains fires out, "Gay is never going to go away. You're absolutely fabulous and absolutely here to stay." "Hooray! You're Gay," the debut single from this Seattle-based female rock quartet, can be found on iTunes, tunecore and other digital outlets.

Once again, music comes to the aid of a good cause. Jennifer Harding painted "Sweet Sweet" in response to 2010 American Idol winner **Lee DeWyze's** song of the same name. The painting now is on a T-shirt, which is available for purchase at <http://www.artandmusicforhope.com>. Proceeds from sales will benefit Feeding America and The Greater Berks Food Bank.

DeWyze's "Sweet Sweet"—not to be confused with his post-Idol hit "Sweet Serendipity"—is taken from his album Slumberland, which is available via WuLi Records. With its Americana rock sound, "Sweet Sweet" captures the hopeful spirit of somebody looking for something better elsewhere. DeWyze is from Mount Prospect, Ill.

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BUSINESS

Kelli Carpenter makes life a vacation

BY SARAH TOCE

Kelli Carpenter has found her niche. With four kids, a new relationship and an ever-expanding itinerary full of R Family Vacations, Carpenter is right where she is meant to be.

Windy City Times spoke exclusively with the ex-Nickelodeon exec about her children with her ex, Rosie O'Donnell; their new life; and her land and sea adventures with the company she has poured her heart and soul into for all the world to enjoy.

Windy City Times: How did the idea to create R Family Vacations surface?

Kelli Carpenter: We've been in operations for almost eight years now. My business partner, Gregg Kaminsky, used to work for Atlantis Events—which does all of the gay male cruises—but he was getting tired of the whole partying thing and it was getting to be too much.

At the time, I was with Ro [Rosie O'Donnell] and we had our children and went to Provincetown, Mass., for Family Week. We really saw the magic of what it meant to have all of these families together in one place. It meant so much to the kids and to the parents to have that sense of community. A little while after that Gregg, who was still working with Atlantis, needed a comedian to perform on the Atlantis ship and Ro offered her services and felt what it was like to go on an all-gay cruise ship. With those two ideas in mind, all three of us came together and thought, "What if we created a company that offered these kinds of vacations for gay families?" That was initially how the idea came to fruition.

WCT: Family units come in many different packages. Tell us about some of the families you've witnessed via R Family Vacations.

KC: What's interesting is that the seed of an idea for gay families has really grown significantly into—how do you define your family? We've found that maybe there's, let's say, a lesbian couple that book and they bring their parents and then they bring their brothers and sisters and their spouses and their kids, so, we'll book a family of eight and we may only have two gay people in that family of eight. We've also found that we're the only company where men

and women can travel together. So, we have a lot of bookings of people without children.

WCT: That's right. You've just introduced a new brand called R Time.

KC: Our first R Time trip was tremendously successful—so successful, in fact, that we actually added a second trip in the fall. The new brand was basically built for people that wanted to travel without the kids and go on a grown-up vacation and for people who don't have kids but wanted to travel with a gay group. That way we can sort of expand our inventory of trips to be a little more exotic.

We're looking at a riverboat cruise in Europe next year for the R Time group—and just things that are a little less kid-friendly. It's been interesting where we started and where we've ended up. We get a lot of gay men that don't want to go on gay party-intensive cruises, but still want to go on a gay cruise to Club Med, for example. They want to go on a gay trip where they can have wonderful entertainment, a nice meal and can go out dancing without the intensity level of the partying. So, as far as the growth of the brand, that is where we are now.

We had really successful luck with Club Med last year when we went to Ixtapa, Mexico so we're doing our next Club Med trip this July in Port Saint Lucie, Florida. The International Gay Family Symposium group will be joining us there. We have people coming from all over the world to participate in it. We're really excited to host this ground-breaking event.

WCT: R Family Vacations will also be introducing group cruises as well. Can you tell us a little bit more about what that means?

KC: We're doing a lot of group cruises, which means that we'll have large groups aboard a ship that already has "regular" passengers on them. Part of the reason we've moved in this area is that we've had a lot of input from our passengers [for different itinerary options]. You know, when you do a full ship charter in the summer, you're limited as far as where you can go. It's either Alaska or the Caribbean. You know, you can't go to Europe or Hawaii, etc. We don't really have the amount of guests to fill those kinds of ships going to Europe or Hawaii because it's so expensive to fly there.



Kelli Carpenter (right) and guest. Photo courtesy of Carpenter

So, we started doing these groups and going to Europe and Hawaii and we're going to Greece in August. I have to say, I was a little hesitant, not knowing how people would look at us and everything. But because of the diversity of our group, we don't really look any different than anybody else. We had grandparents, men, women, people with kids and people without kids. Not one person even paid attention to us. At times, people would actually come up to us and ask what kind of group we were because we seemed to be having such a great time! It was more envy from the other groups than anything!

We did a group on the Norwegian Epic—the largest ship at sea right now—and we did our first R Time trip going to Mexico on that ship and it just attracted a whole different group of people and the vibe was different. It was really fun. Because it was so successful, we decided to do another trip in the fall—end of September—to do a changing of the leaves from New York up to Canada. It's booking really well, which means to me that there is a real need out there. I think that some people book Olivia and Atlantis, and they do a fantastic job, but it's not reflective of what my life is like. A lot of my best friends are gay men, I have two sons and I have a father. ... I want to mix in the integral parts of my life. I think a lot of people out there feel the same way and it's definitely a wonderful niche to be filling.

WCT: There was a documentary released about R Family Vacations some time ago titled All Aboard: Rosie's Family Cruise. How did the release of the film affect your company?

KC: I think that it's a misconception of our company that you need to have kids to travel with us. We had this beautiful documentary come out on HBO one of the very first years after we launched the company and it was about gay families. As wonderful as that was for us and for gay families in general, it sort of also pigeonholed us into people thinking they needed to have kids to travel with us. There's programming for kids, there's programming for families and there's programs for people who don't have children. There's a whole late-night world that happens that does not involve children as well. You can be as involved with the kids as you want—we also have pool areas that are adults-only as well. We always try to manage the people that don't have kids so that they feel like they can have a vacation without a bunch of screaming kids running around.

WCT: Is Rosie still involved with the company?

KC: Ro is no longer involved in the company, which was an interesting transition. The company started of very celebrity-based and now it's more community-based. I think that's sort of where it needed to land because it can't exist on one person alone. You know, it does have a great sense of love and community. I always say that I

feel like our trips represent what I wish the real world looked like. We have a pretty significant amount of straight guests. About 15-20 percent of our guests are straight friends and family or people that just enjoy traveling with us. We have a lot of straight couples that have adopted children that may be of another race and they just want to go on a vacation where they feel like their whole family can be accepted.

WCT: Do your kids join you on every cruise? Also, do you go on all of them yourself?

KC: I do go on all of them, and they are going with me on the Club Med trip this year. My last trip was the all-adults one and the next one is Club Med in the summer when they can all go with me. So, yes, they will always be with me in Club Med. The August one is Greece and that's just a little bit far and doesn't make as much sense, so they will be with Ro while I do that one.

They love the trips and look forward to going on them every year. I always think that if my kids need that sense of community, then there are a lot of other kids out there not in New York or Chicago that don't know another gay family and need that sense of community. It really is a wonderful experience for those kids.

WCT: Do you find that the kids stay connected with one another throughout the years?

KC: Yes, and we've seen these kids grow up now. They've been traveling with us for seven or eight years. It's been interesting to watch them graduate! They all stay in touch. It's a lot of fun.

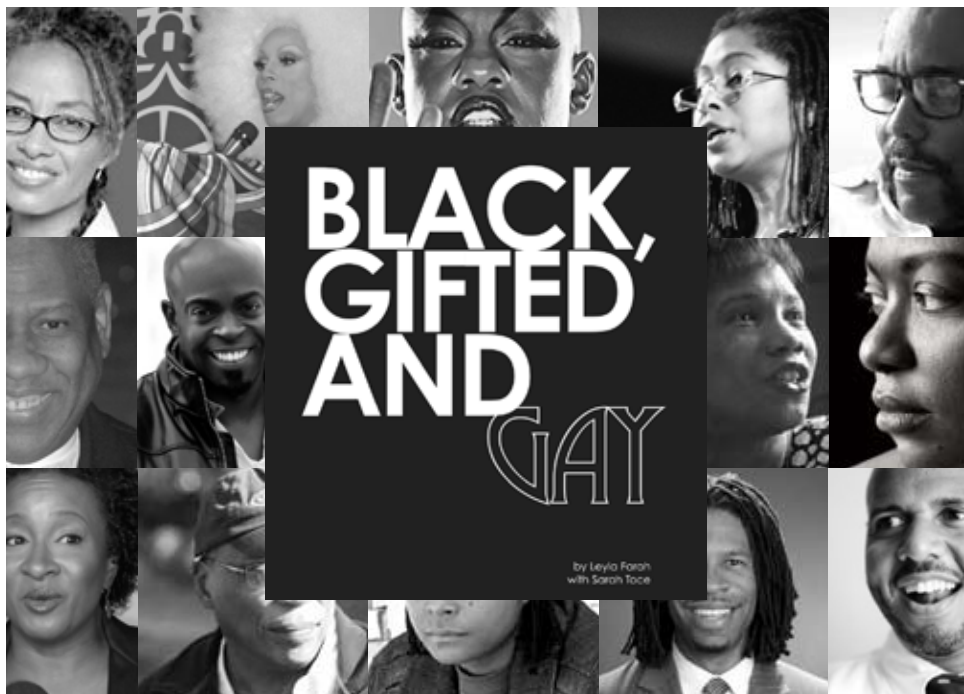
WCT: Outside of the planning of the cruises, what is your normal day like?

KC: Well, four kids require a little bit of extra time! I love to travel on my own, too, and I am a little bit of a travel buff on my own, too. I do love that. The other good news is that I recently just met somebody so I'm in a new relationship, which is fantastic. It takes a little bit of time to heal, but you do and you move forward. I am able to share my life with someone again and that's been wonderful. I would say that most of my day is spent with working in the morning and then the kids in the afternoon and their activities. I feel like a professional chauffeur, really! [Laughs] I can't wait for the older ones to get their licenses. I'll have a whole new worry then!

WCT: Then you'll make them wear helmets while they're driving!

KC: [Laughs] Exactly! I feel very fortunate while I'm working. As hard as I work on it, I get that plus much more back in return. I know that what we have created is really a magical experience for everybody. There is nothing like it out there.

Find out more about R Family Vacations here: <http://www.rfamilyvacations.com>. Been on a cruise with R Family and want to provide feedback? Check out this link: <https://app.icontact.com/icp/sub/survey/take>.



A new book profiling the lives and accomplishments of twenty of our community's living icons... who just happen to be black, gifted and gay.



BOOK REVIEW

The Almighty Black P Stone Nation: The Rise, Fall and Resurgence of an American Gang

by Natalie Y. Moore and Lance Williams
\$26.95; Lawrence Hill Books; 294 pages
REVIEW BY TRACY BAIM

Authors Natalie Moore and Lance Williams have documented an important chapter in Chicago's history in their new book, *The Almighty Black P Stone Nation*. While primarily about a South Side street gang operating over several decades in Chicago, this book does an excellent job of connecting the dots of poverty, FBI and police harassment, unemployment, drugs, violence, and even anti-terrorism efforts pre- and post-9/11.

This book is not a sugary presentation about repressed and oppressed African-American male youth, but rather it links their situation to the problems of the greater society. There are no simple causes of gang participation, and there are no simple solutions. This book just provides us with a great understanding of the inner workings of the Blackstone Rangers. This was a powerful group that ultimately encompassed 21 individual gangs into their Black Stone Nation.

Across multiple generations of disaffected youth, the Rangers were a legendary gang, sometimes with notions of helping their community, other times participating in territorial bloodbaths. Lyndon Johnson's White House and

Here is a short excerpt from the book, this section set in 1968: "[Dick Gregory] announced a plan to run for U.S. president as a write-in candidate. Gregory also said that he planned to organize massive protests leading up to and through the Democratic National Convention to be held that August in Chicago. Gregory, who lived in Chicago at the time, wanted to force the city to enact a stronger fair housing ordinance and take other steps to address civil-rights issues. Gregory's plan included recruiting the Vice Lords, the Blackstone Rangers, and the Disciples to participate in these protests.

"These kinds of announcements by black leaders, ones that encouraged alliances between gangs and Black Nationalists—not the escalating violence between the Stones and Disciples—scared the shit out of the feds.

"The year 1968 was pivotal in U.S. history

and for the Blackstone Rangers. Television news covered people protesting the Vietnam War and marching for civil rights and a wide range of radical groups vandalizing government and corporate buildings.

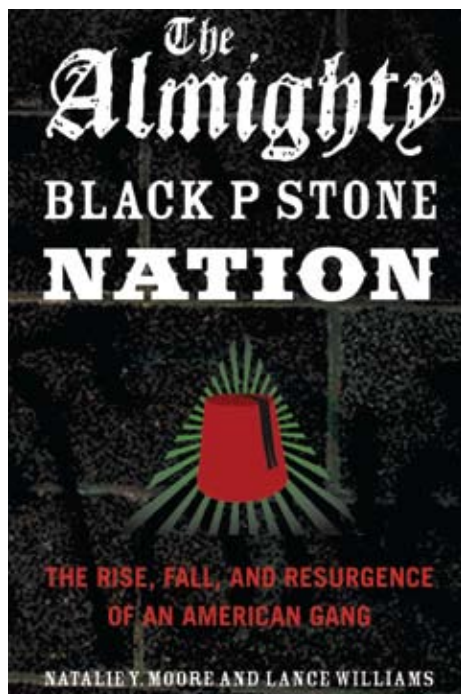
"And while it was never their intention, the Stones got caught up in 1968. To the Stones, their only enemies were the Disciples. To the government, the Stones were a perceived threat to local and national security. The Stones had a history of social activism and well-known associations with Black Nationalist leaders. These leaders recognized the Stones as potential allies, troops, and sometimes fodder. The Stones had already demonstrated their willingness to commit violence."

The authors (Moore is a reporter for Chicago Public Radio and Williams is an associate professor at Northeastern Illinois University and the son of a former Vice Lord gang member) do an excellent job of placing the gang and its leaders in the context of the larger society, thus providing an invaluable look at many important events, people and institutions in Chicago's history.

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

Reading at Barbara's

Barbara's Bookstore in University Village hosted a reading from several authors, all of featured works that centered on cultural themes. Authors included: Malinda Lo, author of *Huntress* (a hero's quest that focuses on lesbians); Claudia Guadalupe Martinez, author of her debut novel, *The Smell of Old Lady Perfume*; Nnedi Okorafor, author of *Akata*; and Cindy Pon, author of *Silver Phonenix*. Photo and text by Terrence Chappell



J. Edgar Hoover's FBI both feared their power, worried that they would disrupt the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, and cause even more trouble beyond that event. Meanwhile, the Black Panthers and Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan wanted to partner with them. The Chicago police tried to destroy them, threatened even by the good things the gang tried to do in their communities.

"In gangster lore, the Almighty Black P Stone Nation stands out among the most notorious street gangs," the author states. "Louis Farrakhan hired the Blackstone Rangers as his Angels of Death. Fifteen years before 9/11, the U.S. government accused the Stones of plotting domestic terrorist acts with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi. And currently, founding member Jeff Fort is serving a triple life sentence at the only U.S. federal supermax prison. Were the Stones criminals, brainwashed terrorists, victims of their circumstances, or champions of social change? Or were they all of these, their role perceived differently by different races and socio-economic groups?"



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BOOKS

Goldie Goldbloom on 'Paperbark Shoe,' sexuality and more

BY YASMIN NAIR

Goldie Goldbloom's debut novel manuscript, *The Paperbark Shoe*, won the 2008 AWP Prize in the Novel. The book was first published in 2010, as part of the prize, in a small print run with the title *Toad's Museum of Freaks and Wonders*.

It was recently picked up and reissued by Picador under its original name. The *Paperbark Shoe* is about Gin Boyle, a fantastically talented pianist whose life in the early 1920s and '30s is deeply affected by her albinism. Born in a time where her physical condition serves to marginalize even her immense talent, Gin finds herself married to a farmer named Toad and living in isolation in Northwest Australia during the Second World War. At that time, 18,000 Italian prisoners of war (POWs) were sent to Australia and set to work on isolated family farms.

Against this historical backdrop, *The Paperbark Shoe* is an account of Gin's growing relationship with Antonio, an Italian POW. Toad, a small, squat man already derided for his effete manner and love of corsets, is taken with another POW, John. Gin must confront both the surge of her own unexpected desires and the reality of her life as seen through the eyes of outsiders.

Goldbloom, 46, was born in Western Australia, and spent her younger years on the family farm where she had what she describes as a blissful childhood in a large, extended family. Later, she traveled to Europe before arriving in the U.S. in 1987 for her studies at Bais Rivkah Seminary in New York. Her non-fiction piece on religion and sexuality was published in the 2010 anthology, *Keep Your Wives Away from Them: Orthodox Women, Unorthodox Desires*. Goldbloom, a mother of eight who lives in Chicago's West Roger's Park neighborhood, is a Hasidic Jew who also strongly identifies as queer.

Windy City Times: You're both queer and Hasidic. Could you tell us what the community responses to your work have been like?

Goldie Goldbloom: The Hasidic community in general tends to shy away from secular education and secular readings. As a result, most people haven't read my books, don't go into bookshops. They know I'm a writer, but they have no real idea of the kind of things that I write. There are people within the community who've read my work and those people are ... are really supportive of me and they like my work.

[*This response transpired over email*] One of the challenges for me as a Hasidic Jew is that Orthodox Judaism is very unaccepting of queer Jews. My community doesn't really get all that much exposure to me as a writer, but I've had plenty of rough experiences with people in the community about being queer. I'm often asked how I can be both queer and Chassidic and I say, pointing to myself, "Like this." There has been a lot of recent discussion about queer Jews within Orthodoxy and I am cautiously optimistic that the world I live in will change for the better, but in the meantime, it can be surprisingly painful to inhabit both communities.

WCT: Could you expand on the painful experiences?

GG: In the Orthodox community, life for queer Jews is often full of rejection. There does seem to be a bit of a change in the air—it's a positive thing and I think it's because more people are coming out to their local rabbis. As a result [rabbis] are understanding a bit more, becoming more compassionate towards individuals—possibly the first time ever Rabbis are expressing curiosity about our lives. There's an upswing in interest in queer lives in the Orthodox community and room for change. That makes me optimistic.

WCT: What else have been the negative experiences?



Goldie Goldbloom.

GG: There are people who won't speak to me, who won't allow their children to come to my home and play with their kids. I'll have been sitting in a room with somebody who jumps up and starts screaming at me and tells me what a horrible person I am. It's definitely unpleasant. I think there are unpleasant people in every group—it does not mean that the religion condones that. But people act out their own issues.

I really hope that doesn't continue, but I think ... even in the City of Chicago, they just passed this law that people can have handguns...I imagine when the doors are open to that, things can happen that are unpleasant. I think that these people who are unpleasant to me or to my family feel they are justified because there's a sentiment that Orthodox Jews are not supportive. But my local Rabbi is extremely supportive and his wife has been lovely to me. I think there are individual people who are just unfortunately taking things to extremes.

One of my daughters [when she was 16 and in a Chicago Hasidic Jewish school] had some kind of class on current events. So she said, "I'd like to talk about gay marriage." And there was stunned silence from the teacher, who then said "We're not going to talk about it." So my daughter said, "I'd like to talk about it. Who else would like to talk about it? Raise your hands." All these students put up their hands, and she turned around and said, "We really do want to talk about it."

WCT: You were also part of a writing group for trans youth.

GG: Yes, I was working at the Center on Halsted last year as a mentor for trans and queer youth in Chicago, and it was my goal in that program to create a writer's group that gives youth skills so that they're able to compete with other writers and build their skills to the point where they're able to be part of the writing world. I think that's really important because there are so few trans voices out there and when I look through *The Best American Short Stories* [anthology] for twenty years, it's clear that there are no transgender writers, there are no stories about transgender people. It's time to up the ante here.

WCT: You're very particular about being identified as queer. What does "queer" mean to you?

GG: it's a broader definition than "lesbian" would be, as a woman-identified woman who's attracted to other women...that definitely does not define who I am. I think queer is a broader umbrella term that can encompass a lot of different places on the spectrum and one of those places would be me. [*Chuckles*]

WCT: To turn to the novel: I imagine you grew up hearing stories about Italian POWs.

GG: My grandparents had Italian POWs [living with them]. And my aunts and uncles and my

mom—they all grew up with these Italian POWs and used to tell me and my family these great stories about them.

WCT: So, obviously you had family folklore and personal accounts to draw from. But you also did a great deal of research into the issue and the men. Was there anything that particularly surprised you as did you that research?

GG: For my first investigation, I contacted the Australian National Archives and asked them for the records of these Italian POWs who'd stayed on my family's farm. [The records] arrived...until then, they'd been really abstract to me, but the records included photographs and all kinds of details about the men, and the farmers who'd had them on their farms had written notes about them. And I started to think about them as very real people who had whole lives, and [realized] I only had one tiny detail about them.

I thought I'd go to Italy and meet these men, and I found out that none of them were alive. That was very disappointing to me, but one of the men—they had all been in different places—had lived in this village Sant'Anna. I thought I'd find that. When I was browsing on the internet, [I found these] nibbles about something that had happened there [the village of Sant'Anna is the site of a brutal massacre by the Nazis on August 12, 1944; hundreds of residents, practically the entire village, were killed over the course of three hours]. There was very little information. I went on to this Italian website and tried my rusty schoolgirl Italian, struggling with a dictionary. And I thought, there's got to be more stuff I could find out, and I did find out more information about what had happened there. Because there wasn't much here in the U.S., I went to investigate. And I went back three times. And in the course of my investigation, I traveled up to the village and interviewed one of the survivors and walked around the village which doesn't look like a village, but like a lot of little houses piled up against the mountain.

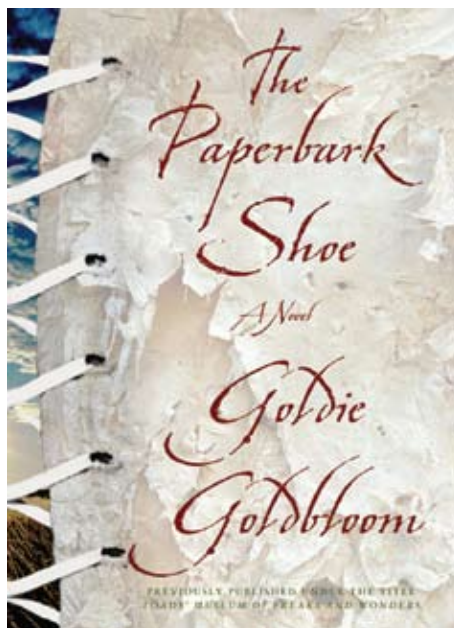
And I got to walk around. It hadn't really been cleaned up all that much. There was still a lot of broken, burnt tile on the ground, for example. And as I was walking, I found artifacts from people who had lived there, and that really made it very real to me.

WCT: It seems like a desolate place, with all these shards lying around, as you describe it [in the book].

GG: It's very sad there. Most Italian villages are facing the sun and are full of light. This one village is sort of in a fold in the mountain and it's completely shady all day. There's just one person living there regularly, and one or two living there seasonally.

WCT: What else about the research fascinated you?

GG: I wrote to one of my cousins and asked her if she had any farmer's diaries from 1943-1944 that detailed what the weather was like then, the day by day weather. And she said, "Of course I do," and photocopied from that section of her family's farm diaries and sent it to me. All the weather is exactly out of that. The flora and



fauna came from those diaries. That was what was there then.

WCT: It seems like there's a certain kind of sublimated eroticism in the book, especially in the relationships between Gin and Antonio and between Toad and John. And matters are particularly complicated because Gin is disgusted by Toad's sexuality but she's also practically an "adulteress." While most novels give us more overt details, the sex and sexuality is suggested here, and is more covert.

GG: I think part of it was that the issue was approaching it from Gin's sensibility. She's a woman who grew up in the '20s and '30s, and she's now out in this remote West Australian farm area. The topic of sex or romance were absolutely verboten; they were not discussed ever. As such every little hint of it would have been really alarming for her. It wouldn't have been, "I went off in this corner and did this thing," and even if it had been, it really wouldn't have been discussed. So I really wanted to bring that out in the way that she describes things and, also, I'm of the belief that there's something to be said for not revealing everything. To rely on the power of the imagination; your own imagination reveals much better details than I can ever provide. The things that turn you on might not necessarily be the things that I'm turned on by. Whereas if I leave it open for you to imagine into the story yourself a) the story's far more erotic and b) after the book, you're still thinking about it because it's in your mind. You're appropriating this thing.

WCT: I'd like to talk about the creative impulse, for lack of a better term, which runs as a theme throughout the novel. Gin is an extremely talented if unrecognized pianist. Toad, the rough and tumble farmer, creates a surprisingly beautiful work of art in an equally unexpected setting, Antonio is a master shoemaker, and even Mudsy [Gin's almost feral daughter] creates elaborate narratives even as she destroys things.

GG: I think that part of what I was doing was approaching the idea that there can be great beauty in great ugliness, in the same way that some people will say that pain can be erotic, that two seemingly dissimilar things can co-exist. That was a very important part of the novel to me, and a part where there's a lot of energy. So when you talk of the creative impulse, there's a lot of destructive impulse as well, a lot of entropy. In some ways, that has to be offset by the attempt of the characters to be creative to say, "No, we don't want our world to fall apart, we can take things which other people will discard and be creative with them."

An important part of the novel was the tension between the people who are involved with the head part of life, the knowledge, and the belief that if you have knowledge then you have power or are superior to others. And then the hands people, the people who work with their hands who also have knowledge, a different kind of knowledge. People [point to these as differences between] academic people and tradespeople. Who says one is superior to the other? Tradespeople have tremendous knowledge in their bodies. There are a several people, like Antonio and Toad, even John, who have these incredible skills. And yet Gin, who has this head knowledge, looks down on them, as if to say, "I have head knowledge, I have this power." Whereas they're far more powerful than she is.

Goldie Goldbloom will be speaking at the Book Cellar on May 18; her website is at <http://www.goldiegoldbloom.com>.

Goldbloom is working on creating a writing group for trans youth and will also be beginning a Ph.D in Creative Writing at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the fall. Yasmin Nair can be reached at welshzen@yahoo.com; her website is at <http://www.yasminnair.net>.

Read the entire interview—and find out Goldbloom's future plans—online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.

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UIC

Celebrations

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

Civil-union ceremony with 30 Illinois couples June 2

In celebration of the first day of civil-union ceremonies in Illinois, the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues will host 30 ceremonies at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 2, in Wrigley Square at Millennium Park, at Randolph and Michigan.

The 30 couples were chosen through Lambda Legal's Civil Union Tracker.

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events—in partnership with the Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture, Lambda Legal, Equality Illinois and the Alliance of Illinois Judges—is sponsoring the event. Gov. Pat Quinn will attend, and Cook County Clerk David Orr; the Hon. Timothy C. Evans, chief judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County; and members of the Alliance of Illinois Judges will officiate the civil-union ceremonies.

"Civil unions are long overdue in Illinois. They provide important protections for couples and their families," said Commissioner Dana V. Starks. "We are proud to celebrate this achievement."

"This event highlights a small sample of the many families across Illinois that are provided protections, rights, and responsibilities under Illinois's new law," said Jim Bennett, regional director for the Midwest Regional Office of Lambda Legal. "Today, we congratulate the thirty

couples and all those who wish to get a civil union, it's a great day for committed same-sex couples and their children."

"What a terrific way for the City of Chicago to ring in civil unions. Having dozens of couples celebrate their love and commitment literally surrounded by the entire city is such a powerful symbol for how far we have come as a society," said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois.

The Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Unions Act, first introduced by state Rep. Greg Harris in March 2007, and in the Illinois Senate by state Sen. David Koehler, passed by a 61-vote majority in the House and a 32-vote majority in the Senate. Its passage made Illinois the sixth state to allow civil unions, and includes provisions for hospital visitation and healthcare decision making.

All 30 couples participating June 2 will obtain a civil-union license from the Cook County Clerk's office June 1, the first day they can obtain such licenses at any County Clerk's office. By law, couples must wait until the day after they obtain their license to have their civil-union ceremonies performed.

For more information, call 312-744-7911.



Angelica Lopez and Claudia Mercado, one of the couples slated to participate in the June 2 event. Photo courtesy of Erik Roldan

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Celebrations

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Wed., May 18

Equality Illinois Civil Union Community Forum Join Equality Illinois for their Civil Union Community Forum. Contact EQIL at info@eqil.org or 773-477-7173 for more information; 6 p.m., United Church of Christ, Waukegan, <http://www.eqil.org>

Hope & Healing Support Group: LGBT Loss 6:30 p.m., 847-556-1777, Japanese American Service Committee, 4427 N. Clark, http://www.carecenter.org/news-events/events-calendar/view/197/date/2011-06-22

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater "Revelations" 50th anniversary of the Company's signature masterpiece by Alvin Ailey, celebrated with six Chicago premieres, a short film by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Judy Kinsberg will introduce all performances. Tickets \$30 by calling phone or online. 7:30 p.m., -800-982-2787, Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E Congress, <http://auditoriumtheatre.org/wb/>

Thursday, May 19

The (other) T-Party: Trans-Body Politics Join Alexandra Billings, Jamison Green, Lara Brooks, Feastoffun.com and LifeLube.org for this live podcast event! Must RSVP at www.LifeLube.org; 6 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.lifelube.org>

Aretha Franklin Tickets \$47.50 - \$125; 8 p.m., Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State, <http://www.thechicagotheatre.com>

Binary Binary: A Bisexual night for all. Whether you are single or coupled, bi, gay, straight or queer, out and proud or quietly supportive, looking for friends or

ROLL ON Saturday, May 21

The Windy City Rollers have their last home match at the UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald



out on the prowl or simply looking for a fun night out - Binary is for YOU! 9 p.m., Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://stereokillerproductions.webs.com>

Service Providers Council's Transgender Conference 9 a.m., 312-334-0963, University Center, 525 S. State

Friday, May 20

Engendering Change: First Annual Chicago Graduate Gender Conference Two days, open to graduate students in any field related to the study of gender/genders and will coincide with a performance art event that includes Holly Hughes, Rhodessa Jones, and Lenelle Moisse. All panels will be moderated by faculty from the Chicago area. Christine Wood, c-wood@northwestern.edu. 12 p.m., Northwestern University, <http://www.northwestern.edu>

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Presents: DIVAS! The women we love! The icons we adore! Barbra, Aretha, Madonna, Liza. The songs that make us weep, the hits that make us move. I Will Survive, Fever,

Lady Marmalade, Ain't No Mountain High Enough. Divas! is a fabulous ode to over forty female superstars and the music they made famous. Through May 22. 8 p.m., 773-296-0541, Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport, <http://www.cgmc.org>

Menace II Sobriety Every Friday "Menace II Sobriety" takes place at Ole Lounge 2812 N. Lincoln Avenue (right off Diversity) complimentary bar from 10 p.m.-11 p.m. featuring DJ Gemini Jones. RSVP lesbifriend-schi@gmail.com for free entry & open bar before 11 p.m.. 10 p.m., Ole Lounge 2812 N. Lincoln

HOUSE OF DIVAS Cee-Cee LaRouge and her HOUSE OF DIVAS take over the Parlour EVERY FRIDAY from 10-11 p.m. and these ladies are PROMPT! So when we say 10, we mean 10. 10 p.m., Parlour on Clark, 6341 N Clark, <http://parlouronclark.com>

Saturday, May 21

Glee's Morrison headlines Goodman Theatre's Gala Matthew Morrison takes a break from his Glee television classroom to headline Goodman Theatre's "One Enchanted Decade" black-tie gala event, cocktail reception and performance in the 856-seat Albert Theatre. Tables, \$25,000, \$15,000 and \$10,000; individual tickets start at \$500. 8 p.m., 312-443-3811 ext. 586, Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn, <http://www.goodmantheatre.org>

Out in Chicago exhibit The Out in Chicago exhibit is believed to be the first major LGBT history project undertaken by a mainstream museum in U.S. history. 12-4 p.m., 312-642-4600, Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark, <http://www.chicago-history.org>

Windy City Rollers wrap up regular home season Doors: 5 p.m., Bout: 6 p.m. \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door; 5 p.m., UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine, <http://www.windy-cityrollers.com>

Sappho's Salon: A Night of Lesbian Laughs Salon for lesbians and their friends features five local lesbian comics: Janet Kane, Meg O'Rourke Nana Rodriguez, Sissy Van Dyke, and Tamale; \$7-\$10 sliding cover charge includes food and wine. 7:30 p.m., 773-769-9299, Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark, <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Bowling With The Stars LGBT youth team up with LGBT STARS in the community that they select to have a fun night of competition and fundraising for the 2nd Annual Renae Ogletree LGBT Youth of Color Scholarship Program, information: Atukwe Moore, \$10 registration fee; 7:30 p.m., 773-677-1170, Diversey Rock-n-Bowl, 2211 W Diversey

Totally '80s Drag Show Join the girls of

The Call and Chicago Spirit Brigade for this show benefitting the Families' and Children's AIDS Network (FCAN). The cast includes Coco Sho-Nell, Rodasia Richards, Priscilla Darling and Members of the Chicago Spirit Brigade, hosted by Ashley Morgan. \$5 suggested donation at the door, all of which benefits FCAN. The Chicago Spirit Brigade adds an additional 25% to the money raised! 9:30 p.m., The Call, 1547 W Bryn Mawr, <http://www.cattle-callchicago.com>

SELF Magazine's 18th annual Workout in the Park \$20, proceeds benefit Cancer and Careers and Susan G. Komen for the Cure®; 11am, Butler Field, Grant Park, <http://www.selfworkoutinthepark.com>

Sunday, May 22

Springfield's first annual Gay Pride Festival on Harvey Milk Day Scandals Nightclub will host the Pre-Pride Party Saturday night May 21st and Club Station House will host the After-Pride Party at 6 p.m. Sunday. 12 p.m., 217-528-5253, Capital Ave., Springfield, <http://www.phoenix-centerspringfield.org>

Exploratory meeting on Boy Scouts of America policies Scouting for All, the organization working to change BSA discriminatory policies will host an exploratory meeting on The Boy Scouts of America discrimination against gay scouts, straight scouts with gay parents, transgender scouts, and scouts who object to the word "God," regardless of their religious beliefs. Rudra Dundzila, rdundzila@uuma.org. 12 p.m., Second Unitarian Church, 656 W. Barry

Urban Village Church Wicker Park Worship Services LGBT welcoming worship services at Urban Village Church are eclectic and experiential, practical and intelligent, relevant and, hopefully, inspiring. 5:30 p.m., 1502 N. Hoyne (at LeMoine), <http://www.newchicagochurch.com/>

Monday, May 23

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

Hollis Resnik is Margo Channing in "All About Eve" All-Star Benefit Reading The reading of Joseph L. Mankiewicz's iconic 1950 screenplay is directed by longtime Goodman Theatre associate producer Steve Scott. 7 p.m., Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse, <http://www.seasonofconcern.org>

Tuesday, May 24

Lighting Up the Night Awards Dinner & Auction The Night Ministry is hosting its annual Awards Dinner and Auction, chaired by Frank M. Clark, Chairman and CEO of ComEd. 2011 marks the agency's 35th Anniversary of serving homeless and at-risk youth and vulnerable adults on the streets of Chicago. 5:30 p.m., 773-506-6029, The Four Seasons Hotel, <http://www.thenightministry.org>

Join the Impact Chicago planning meeting Join the Impact Chicago's regular weekly planning meeting. Join the Impact Chicago is a politically independent organization of Chicago-based grassroots activists fighting for full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people in all matters governed by civil law in all 50 states. Through education, community organizing, and direct action. 7 p.m., 600 S. Michigan, Columbia College - basement, <http://jointheimpactchicago.com/>

Gay Men's Book Discussion Group 1127 W. Granville Ave. 7:30 p.m., 773-381-8030, The Gerber/Hart Library, <http://www.gerberhart.org>



LEATHER OR NOT Thursday, May 26

International Mr. Leather (IML) starts with a roast at Leather Archives & Museum, 6418 N. Greenview.

Pic by Ross Forman

Wed., May 25

Hope & Healing Support Group: LGBT Loss The death of a life partner, while always traumatic, can be particularly stressful for people who may lack societal or familial support because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Our LGBT loss group helps grieving individuals identify ways to cope with secrecy, shame or guilt—symptoms of grief that often are expressed in the LGBT community. 6:30 p.m., 847-556-1777, Japanese American Service Committee 4427 N. Clark, <http://http://www.carecenter.org/news-events/events-calendar/view/197/date/2011-06-22>

Injustice at Every Turn Center on Halsted, in partnership with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, is presenting the results of the very first national survey of the transgender community co-authored by the National Center for Transgender Equality; reception and presentation; RSVP online. 6:30 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, <http://www.thetaskforce.org/chicago>

Thursday, May 26

International Mr. Leather IML begins tonight with a roast of Tyler McCormick at Leather Archives & Museum, 6418 N. Greenview. IML runs through May 30; see <http://www.iml.com/visitorsguide/schedule.php>

Friday, May 27

International Mr. Leather 2011: Leather Market Through May 30; 12 p.m., Riverside Plaza, <http://www.leatherarchives.com.org>

Shirley Q Liquor LIVE at Hydrate For the 1st time at Hydrate in Chicago, the funny, hysterical, overly politically incorrect, queen of comedy...Shirley Q. Liquor! 7 p.m., Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com/home/>

Thursday, June 2

Civil Union Ceremonies for 30 couples in Millennium Park On the first day of civil union ceremonies in Illinois, the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on LGBT Issues will host 30 ceremonies. 10 a.m., Wrigley Square, Randolph and Michigan, Millennium Park, <http://www.cityofchicago.org>

Friday, June 3

Unite with Pride: a Community Celebration Join The Civil Rights Agenda as they begin Pride Month in Chicago at Unite with Pride: A Community Celebration. 5:30 p.m., Chicago History Museum, 1601 N Clark, http://www.jointcra.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=62&Itemid=75



LEAVE IT TO 'DIVAS'

Friday-Sunday, May 20-22

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus presents "DIVAS!" at the Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport, and at Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook. (Note: The estate shows are sold out.)

Photo courtesy of the chorus

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calendar : WindyCityMediaGroup.com
online ChicagoPride.com

BILLY MASTERS

"Don't worry about the words. I never worry about the words."—Christina Aguilera gives advice to singers on The Voice. I didn't know singing the "Star-Spangled Banner" was part of the competition.

By the time this column hits the street, no one may be around to read it because many people claim that the world will end May 21. Just to quiet skeptics, billboards around the country proclaim "The Bible Guarantees It." This campaign has been funded by a 90-minute weekday radio program, which begs the question: If God wanted to warn us about the end of the world, wouldn't this information be relayed via a more popular show? I'd be more inclined to believe a doomsday message delivered on Dancing with the Stars or American Idol, or even Oprah (who very well may be God). Frankly, the only person I trust with information about the Rapture is Anita Baker.

With the success of Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* on Broadway, there is once again talk of a film version. As we all know, Barbra Streisand bought the rights back in 1985 and worked for 10 years in vain to get the film made. Larry (often called "the angriest gay man in the world") has taken the current hit as another opportunity to bash Babs—and Streisand ain't having it. For the first time, she's defending herself against his attacks, placing the blame on the lack of a celluloid version squarely on Kramer's shoulders. She claims that Larry insisted on writing the screenplay himself and never agreed to any revision in order to make it more cinematic. She disputes his allegation that she beefed-up the role of Dr. Bookner because she wanted to play the part. In fact, she states she never wanted to be in the film. She only wanted to direct, but agreed to appear if it would lead to studio funding. (She wanted Julia Roberts for the role.) During her decade of work on the project, she never received a salary and states that she considered it a "labor of love." When all big-screen avenues were exhausted, she approached HBO, who offered Kramer \$250,000—"he would not let it go forward for anything less than \$1,000,000."

For his part, Kramer says he knew nothing of an HBO deal. He believes that Streisand focused on too many other projects and that his masterpiece languished under her guidance. "Shit or get off the can," he memorably said before the rights reverted to him. "She's a mighty force, and I certainly agree she has done a good deal for the gay world. She just wasn't going to make this movie right." It should be noted that in the 15 years that Kramer has had control of the property, he too has been unable to get the film made. Streisand ends her missive by revealing that recently Kramer again asked her to direct the film using his script. "Sadly, I turned his offer down and wished him well." We hear that a movie deal has been brokered by CAA agent (and former Mr. Carrie Fisher) Bryan Lourd, which will star Mark Ruffalo and be directed by Ryan Murphy. Babs may not be completely out of the picture—allegedly Murphy has approached Streisand to star in the film as the doctor.

Illinois Congressman Aaron Schock turns up on the June cover of Men's Health showing off those amazing abs we've come to know and love. He's often been referred to as a "29-year-old confirmed bachelor" but now he's being called the "ripped Republican." This got me to thinking—perhaps having a hot body is a right-wing thing. Last year we had Scott Brown and, now, Aaron. No one's putting Barney Frank on a cover shirtless! Schock claims he's not doing this for personal attention or narcissistic reasons (not that there's anything wrong with that). His goal is to promote healthy living through diet and exercise and he's teamed up with the magazine for

their "Fit For Life Summer Challenge." Of course, we all know how easy it is to look good at 29. Let's see how you look at 39, Aaron. For now, he certainly looks HOT! Evidence on BillyMasters.com.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Gerry in Baltimore: "Who is the hot guy in the new J.Lo. video? He looks awfully familiar, but I can't place him."

That would be fitness model and actor William Levy, known as the "Latin Brad Pitt." Sure, you might recognize him from numerous workout publications, or perhaps you caught him last month on *The Real Housewives of Miami*, when he was the cover model for *Venue* magazine. So, we did a little more research about him and learned that he was born in Havana in 1980, moved to Miami in 1994 and later relocated to L.A., where he studied acting.



William Levy shows why Jennifer Lopez wanted him in her latest video.

He got his big break doing novellas for Telemundo and Univision, and also acted in stage plays across Mexico and the United States. He and his wife of eight years, actress Elizabeth Gutierrez, have two kids and were named two of the "50 Most Beautiful People" by *People en Español*. The happy couple may have turned up to celebrate this honor two weeks ago, but since then they've announced their separation. This could have something to do with those persistent rumors of Levy's extramarital dalliances, which we need not go into here since they are of a heterosexual nature. Once I heard he was straight, I was ready to abandon further research. But then his penis dropped in my lap with a thud! You never know what'll pop up on BillyMasters.com.

When I can still be surprised by a penis (and such a big one at that), it's definitely time to end yet another column. You can keep up with all the latest dish (and racy pics) on www.BillyMasters.com. If you have a question for me, feel free to drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before the Republicans unveil their plan for reducing the deficit—by releasing a "Hot Men of the GOP" calendar! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.


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CRU's rowing season set to start

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Chicago Rowing Union (CRU) is optimistic that the 2011 season will be its best ever, particularly because the 2010 campaign was quite successful.

"There is a lot of excitement for the season to start, [among] returning rowers as well as those interested in learning the sport for the first time," said Bill Moudry, 36, who is the new CRU president. "Our strengths are in our core returning members. There are a number of people who have been with the team since its inception, when we were still a part of the Lincoln Park Boat Club. Building a standalone team was a huge accomplishment and the level of pride in the continued quality of the experience of its members shows that this is really a team that cares. Additionally, this year we have many new volunteers on the board, all with a lot of enthusiasm for rowing and for making this season a success for CRU."

"Our biggest weakness is our relatively small number of women. The team started as an all-men's squad, but, in year two, we began recruiting women. We are committed to increasing the contingent of women that row with CRU to build a thriving and successful women's team."

CRU is an all-inclusive rowing team for the LGBT community, and it also includes straight members.

CRU kicks off its 2011 season Sunday, June 5, in Washington, D.C.

"We strive to become more competitive in the events we enter and to increase our physical and mental stamina through hard work and team cohesion," Moudry said. "As an organization, we would like Chicago Rowing Union to be synonymous with masters rowing in Chicago, and to be known as a club that is competitive, fun and inclusive of anyone who wants to row regardless of age, experience, gender, race or sexual orientation."

Moudry, who works as a data analyst for the University of Chicago, is in his sixth season with CRU, his first as team president. CRU is in its sixth season after it was formed in 2006 to compete in the Gay Games, which were held in Chicago.

"Personally, I would love to get my 2,000-kilometer test time to be under 7 minutes, and to be part of a boat that wins a gold medal," Moudry



The Chicago Rowing Union (CRU). Photo by Ross Forman

said. "As president of the board, my goal is to serve the organization such that we see growth in membership and increased satisfaction with the rowing and team experience our members receive."

CRU will rock Chicago's lakefront July 9-10, in the annual Chicago Sprints, held at the Lincoln Park Lagoon. CRU has a new coach this year for the club program, Mark Carroll.

"Mark comes to our team with over 10 years of coaching experience and involvement in the rowing community," Moudry said. "He has a passion for the sport and for supporting masters rowing programs, such as CRU, in Chicago. We are looking forward to working with him this year."

The team's biggest losses from last season are on the coaching front as its novice and club program coaches, Jenn Gibbons and Ingrid Bard, respectively, are not returning.

"They continue to support and inspire us, and we wish them well in their current and future careers," Moudry said.

CRU's head coach in 2011 is Anthony Chacon, back for his fourth season. He will coach both the novice and competitive programs.

Justin Di Giamberdine returns as the Learn-to-Row instructor.

For more about CRU, go to: <http://www.chicagorowingunion.org>.

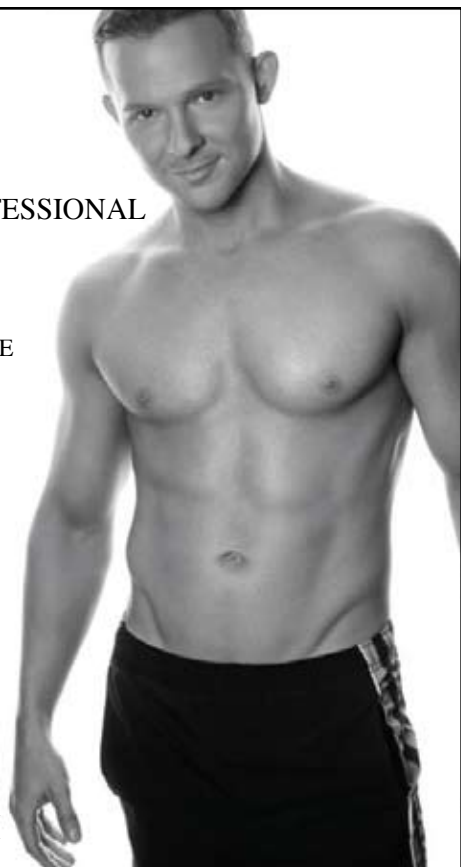
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'Bowling with the Stars' May 21

"Bowling With the Stars"—a night when local dignitaries fill the lanes with LGBTQ youth they are paired with from around Chicago—will take place Saturday, May 21, 6:30-8 p.m. at Diversey River Bowl, 2211 W. Diversey.

Proceeds will go towards the 3rd Annual Renae Ogletree LGBTQA Scholarship Fund. The day includes food, prizes, awards, giveaways, photo opportunities and bowling!

So far, the local stars include state Rep. Greg Harris, AIDS Foundation of Chicago's Keith Green, Anna Deshaw on E3 Radio, Lawrence Hall's Kevin Pleasant, Howard Brown Health Center's Lois Bates, Nicole Scarver of Windy City Black Pride, Greg Norels of Bayard Rustin Access Center, Otis Richardson of Lavenderpop Cards and Doug Brandt of Pie Hole Pizza Joint.

The event is open to the public. Spectators are encouraged. There is a suggested donation of \$10.

Contact Atukwe Moore at 773-677-1170 to make a general donation or to bowl.

NBA exec comes out

In what could be a watershed moment in sports, NBA executive Rick Welts has come out of the closet, according to the Sporting News.

Welts, who has been involved in sports for 40 years and is president of the Phoenix Suns, told the New York Times, "This is one of the last industries where the subject is off limits. Nobody's comfortable in engaging in a conversation."

NBA Commissioner David Stern told the

Times he hopes the revelation won't be too ground-shaking: "What I didn't say at the time was: I think there's a good chance the world will find this unremarkable."

According to USA Today, Welts lost a partner to AIDS in 1994. He also had a 14-year relationship end two years ago—in part because he wouldn't go public with his sexuality.

Welts also opened up recently to Suns player Steve Nash, who thought everyone already knew. "I just think it's a shame, for all the obvious reasons, that this is a leap that he has to take," Nash said to The Times. "He's doing anyone who's not ready for this a favor."

In addition, former Villanova University basketball player Will Sheridan has come out, according to ESPN. Sheridan, 26, is currently a performer and entrepreneur.

'Dash for Detection' 5K on June 4

It's all about battling an often-deadly disease that's diagnosed in more than 40,000 Americans each year at Chicago's inaugural "Pancreatic Cancer Research 5K—Dash for Detection," on Saturday, June 4, on downtown's lakefront.

Start time and location for the 5K competitive-timed run and a 5K walk are 10 a.m. at 600 E. Randolph. Proceeds benefit two leading research organizations: the Michael Rolfe Pancreatic Cancer Foundation (www.rolfe-foundation.org) and The Lustgarten Foundation (www.lustgarten.org).

Advance registration for adults for both the run and walk is \$35 in advance; \$40 on-site. To register and learn more, visit <http://www.chicagoevents.com> or call 773-868-3010.

Force rallies to win



It wasn't pretty, but it was a win nonetheless.

The Chicago Force endured temperatures in the 40s and blowing rain May 14, and had to come from behind for the first time this season to defeat the West Michigan Mayhem 15-6 at Winnemac Stadium on the campus of Amundsen High School.

The Force moves to 5-0, while the Mayhem drops to 2-2.

The Mayhem grabbed a 6-0 lead in the first quarter on a pair of field goals by Mary Beth McMillan.

The Force scored a safety by Angie Bandstra on the first play of the second quarter, then scored the game-winning touchdown at 14:16 of the second quarter when Leslie Johnson ran for a 59-yard touchdown.

Johnson finished with 70 yards rushing, while Brandy Hatcher had 66.

Chicago quarterback Sami Grisafe connected with Ashley Berggren on a 23-yard pass with 1:02 remaining in the first half and, after Carolyn Lee's extra-point kick, the Force led 15-6 at intermission.

Neither team scored in the second half as the rain affected both team's offensive game plans.

Chicago's Amber Burns led all players with 12 tackles, including four for a loss. Leslie Davis added eight tackles, with three for losses. Melissa Whymys grabbed the defensive MVP honors, presented by Spin Nightclub, thanks to her key first-quarter interception, which she returned for 41 yards.

Tricia Charbonneau was named the Spin Nightclub offensive MVP.

The Force hit the road May 21, playing at the St. Louis Slam in a rematch of its victory during week three. Then it's off to games at the Mayhem and the Indianapolis Crash. Playoff action starts in late June. Photos and text by Ross Forman



To the power of 3: It's triple trouble as RayRay, Micah and Casey all advanced May 16 at Scarlet, 3320 N. Halsted. Check them out at the semi-finals at Sidetrack on Sat., June 4.

Photos by Dave Ouano. See more photos at facebook.com/windycitygayidol.

Check out next week's Windy City Times for photos of Windy City Gay Idol at Roscoe's.

Miller is the presenting sponsor of Windy City Gay Idol.



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Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations. Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

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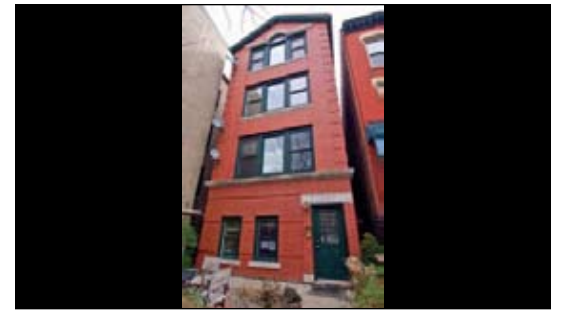


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