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WINDY CITY TIMES

THE VOICE OF CHICAGO'S GAY, LESBIAN,
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JULY 20, 2011
VOL 26, NO. 41



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SERIES
CONTINUES**
PAGE 8

Active military march in San Diego Pride Parade

BY REX WOCKNER

Some 300 active-duty troops (the majority of the contingent) and veterans marched in San Diego's LGBT Pride parade July 16.

As far as can be determined, it was a U.S. first.

It was a symbolic goodbye to Don't Ask, Don't Tell, which, while not quite dead-dead, is apparently dead enough.

The military gay ban has been struck down by a federal court and the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has refused to reinstate it—at least as far as active-duty

troops are concerned—while the federal government plods through implementing Congress' repeal of the policy.

Raucous cheering greeted the military contingent for

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**TIM MILLER
SPOTLIGHTED
IN AIDS @ 30**
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**THUNDER FROM
DOWN UNDER
DANCERS TALK**
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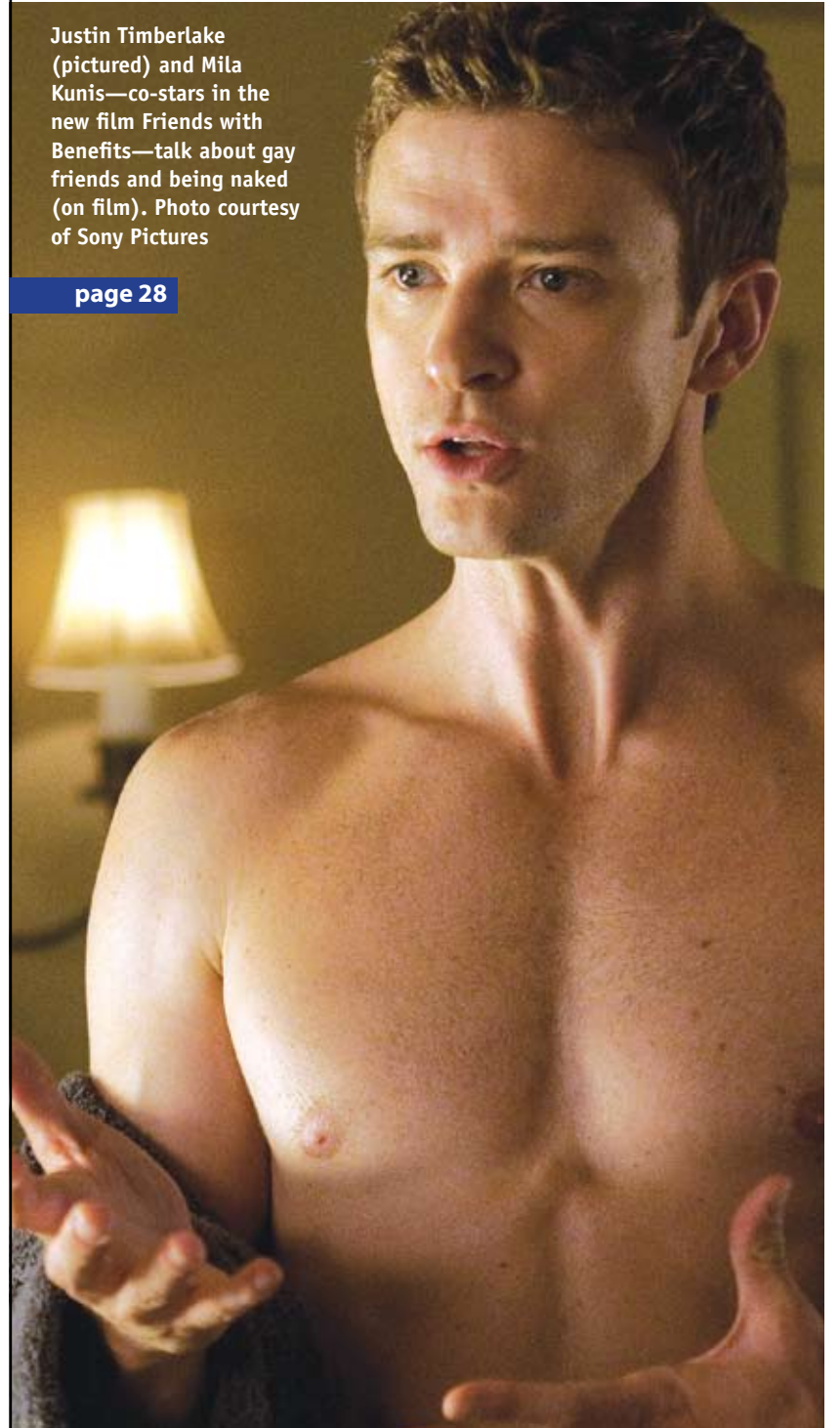


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CARLTON
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Let's be 'Friends'

Justin Timberlake (pictured) and Mila Kunis—co-stars in the new film Friends with Benefits—talk about gay friends and being naked (on film). Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures

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Hello, Dolly

Country icon and gay fave Dolly Parton talks about her fans and her new record.
PR image

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Photo of John Barrowman from Starz; photo of baby Victoria provided by her father, Javier; Tim Miller AIDS photo courtesy of Miller; photo of Thunder from Down Under performers by Andrew Davis; Vanessa Carlton photo by Matthew Wilson

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PITCHFORK IN THE ROAD

More than 75,000 came out to hear acts such as Deerhunter (left). See pics online

Photo by Brenda Schumacher



Read about the Chicago Cabaret Project's latest series.

Photo by Jerry Nunn



Read an interview with the stars of the indie film Who's Afraid of Vagina Wolf?

Photo of Tammy Lynn Michaels from Anna Margarita Albelo

'SWEET' DREAMS

Life is 'Sweet' for business owner Shannon Wentworth. Find out why.

THE WRITE STUFF

Read columns by Mark Corece and Cleo Manago on, respectively, Boystown and cultural factors surrounding HIV.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

This week's entertainment round-up includes items on Jane Fonda, Bette Midler and Lance Bass.

DALAI NEWS



See photos from the Dalai Lama's visit to Chicago this past Sunday.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

Owl City, Britney after-party at The Call, Black Pride and more!

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The many surprises of **Deb Pearce**

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Senate confirms first out gay man to district court

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The U.S. Senate, on July 18, approved the confirmation of openly gay attorney J. Paul Oetken to serve as a U.S. district court judge.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., called Oetken a "superbly" qualified candidate and noted his nomination was historic in that he is the first openly gay man to be nominated a federal district court judge.

The vote was 80 to 13, with seven senators not voting.

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, ranking minority leader of the Senate Judiciary Committee, made clear from the beginning of his remarks on the floor that the Senate would "move forward" with another nomination to the federal court and that he would vote for Oetken.

Obama nominated Oetken to become one of 44 judges serving on the U.S. District Court for



Sen. Charles Grassley.

Southern District of New York, the federal district court that encompasses Manhattan. With his confirmation, he becomes the second openly gay judge in that federal district—along with Deborah Batts. He becomes the third openly gay federal judge in the country—along with Emily Hewitt of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. Batts and Hewitt were both appointed by President Clinton.

Oetken is not President Obama's first openly gay nominee to the federal bench. In April of last year, Obama nominated Edward DuMont to a position on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal District. If approved, DuMont would be the first openly gay appointee to a federal appeals court. However, DuMont's nomination—along with that of many others—has been tied up by Republican opposition in the U.S. Senate.

However, in his remarks on the Senate floor July 18, Grassley denied that Republicans are attempting to block Obama's nominees to the federal court. He noted that the Committee has advanced the nominations of 62 of 86 nominees. But he did not mention that just last week, Grassley himself voted to advance the nomination of openly lesbian attorney Alison Nathan, saying it would give the full Senate another opportunity to scrutinize her qualifications. Republican colleague, Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., submitted a statement saying he would oppose Nathan's nomination.

Oetken was rated as qualified by a unanimous vote of the American Bar Association committee that provides to the Senate its recommendations concerning judicial nominees. Nathan received a "qualified" rating from a majority of the ABA committee, but an "unqualified" rating from a minority.

When Oetken went before the Judiciary Committee in March, he received no questions from Republican senators and no questions about anything gay-related. Grassley did submit a question to Oetken in writing, asking him about a brief he wrote for the National Gay and Lesbian Bar Association. The brief, submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court, supported the overturning of laws prohibiting same-sex sexual relations. The case was *Lawrence v. Texas* and, in 2003, a majority of the Supreme Court did overturn such laws. Oetken's brief argued that the courts should use the strictest form of scrutiny when examining laws that treat gay people differently.

"Do you personally believe that government classifications based on sexual orientation deserve a heightened level of scrutiny?" asked Grassley.

Oetken responded that he had "not expressed a personal view on this subject" and that the "arguments in the amicus brief that I co-authored in *Lawrence v. Texas* were arguments made on behalf of clients."

"Although I believed that there was a good faith basis in Supreme Court precedent for making those arguments [in the brief], they do not necessarily reflect how I would approach these issues as a district judge," wrote Oetken.

"The Supreme Court in *Lawrence v. Texas* did not decide that case under the Equal Protection Clause but rather under the Due Process Clause," continued Oetken, "and it therefore did not decide the issues addressed in my amicus brief in that case."

Oetken, 46, was born in Kentucky and grew up in Iowa. He graduated from the University of Iowa and Yale Law School. He served as associate counsel to the president in the Clinton White House and served as an attorney-advisor with the Clinton Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel. He currently works as senior vice president and associate general counsel for Cablevisions Systems Corporation. Oetken served as a clerk for former Justice Harry Blackmun, one of the U.S. Supreme Court's more liberal justices.

Retired U.S. District Court Chief Judge Vaughn Walker recently revealed that he has been in a relationship with a man for the past 10 years. He retired from the bench in February of this year after serving 22 years and presiding over one of the most highly publicized gay-related trials in history, over California's same-sex marriage ban. Walker did not publicly confirm his sexual orientation until after he retired, in response to a



J. Paul Oetken. Photo from Facebook

question from reporters.

Among the Republican senators voting for Oetken were Scott Brown of Massachusetts; Mark Kirk of Illinois; John Cornyn of Texas; Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson of Georgia; Rob Portman of Ohio; and Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe of Maine.

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ONLINE AT
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NATIONAL NEWS

—Tenn. gov.: (left):
Stopping anti-gay bias
hurts the economy

—Northampton,
Mass., passes
pro-trans resolution

—Gay couple gets
deportation reprieve



GLAD files motion in DOMA challenge

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) filed a motion for summary judgment <http://www.glad.org/doma/documents> in *Pedersen v. Office of Personnel Management*, its 2nd Circuit challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), according to a press release.

GLAD contends that the equal-protection claims of the plaintiffs, six married couples and one widower from three states (Vermont, New Hampshire and Connecticut), require heightened scrutiny from the court. The brief shows how DOMA fails heightened scrutiny, or even a rational basis review.

Congress has to respond to GLAD's motion by Aug. 15.

MILITARY from cover

the length of the parade route through the gay Hillcrest neighborhood.

Following a July 14 front-page story in the San Diego Union-Tribune, the crowd of 155,000 seemed aware that it was seeing history in the making.

The troops and veterans marched in groups broken down by military branch. The Navy

and Marines groupings were much larger than the others, given that San Diego is home to Navy and Marine bases.

The contingent was organized by Sean Sala, who left the Navy in June after six years.

This reporter uploaded video footage at tinyurl.com/wockner-sd. (The Associated Press estimated the size of the military contingent at 200, while Reuters said 250. The San Diego Union-Tribune said "more than 350.")



Military march at the San Diego Pride Parade. Photo by Rex Wockner

9th Circuit: DADT in place but no investigations or discharges

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals granted an emergency order July 15 temporarily reinstating its original stay of an order that had prohibited the government from enforcing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT). However, the three-judge panel, led by Chief Judge Alex Kozinski, prohibited the government from "investigating, penalizing, or discharging anyone from the military pursuant to the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy" and indicated it would rule later this month on whether to extend the stay.

The temporary reinstatement of the stay continues the extraordinary state of flux in the status of the federal law banning openly gay people from the military.

Last September, a federal district court judge ruled DADT to be unconstitutional and ordered the government to stop enforcement of the law immediately and worldwide. The 9th Circuit granted a stay of that order on Nov. 1. Congress, in December, passed a law providing for DADT to be repealed—but only after an indefinite period of training; written certification by the president, the secretary of defense, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and a 60-day delay. Then, July 6, in a move that Lambda Legal Defense characterized as "stunning," the 9th Circuit issued an order lifting its stay. The Pentagon said it would comply, but then, on July 11, the 9th Circuit gave the government 10 days to "show cause" why the court should not dismiss as moot an appeal seeking to defend DADT.

U.S. Assistant Attorney General Tony West filed the Department of Justice's (DoJ's) response July 14 (and a slightly amended version July 15), asking for an emergency order to reinstate the original stay "and permit the orderly process for repealing [DADT] to resume." In doing so, the DoJ essentially reiterated the 9th

Circuit's own reasoning in granting the original stay. The DoJ said "an abrupt, court-ordered end to [DADT] would undermine carefully crafted efforts of the political branches to bring about an orderly transition in policy."

However, the DoJ also provided new information that appears to have made a difference to the 9th Circuit panel. It submitted a statement from Major General Steven A. Hummer, chief of staff of the repeal implementation team of the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. The statement, among other things, said the military expects certification "will be presented for decision" to the secretary of defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of staff "in late July or early August."

"In the meantime," said the amended request, "a new, more rigorous process was put in place for evaluating discharges under [DADT]." And it noted that, since the DADT repeal measure was passed, "one Service member has been discharged under [DADT] and that individual requested an expedited discharge."

The DoJ also responded July 14 to the 9th Circuit's July 11 order that it "show cause" why the court should not dismiss as moot the government's appeal in Log Cabin Republicans v. U.S.

The government argued that the 9th Circuit should not find the appeal moot "because a live controversy remains regarding the constitutionality of the statute as it now exists."

"But even that controversy will become moot once repeal of [DADT] becomes effective 60 days following the President's certification" said the DoJ, adding, "once this case becomes moot, under the Court's established practice it would vacate the district court's judgment and global injunction, and remand with instructions for the district court to dismiss the complaint."

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Polygamists, citing famous gay case, sue for their rights

BY REX WOCKNER

The polygamist family portrayed in the reality TV show Sister Wives is suing Utah and using the famous U.S. Supreme Court case that erased the United States' remaining sodomy laws to bolster the case.

Kody Brown and his four wives (only one of whom he is legally married to) hope to invalidate a Utah law that prevents residents from having more than one "purport[ed]" spouse. The same law also bans married people from shacking up with a non-spouse.

It says: "A person is guilty of bigamy when, knowing he has a husband or wife or knowing the other person has a husband or wife, the person purports to marry another person or cohabits with another person."

According to the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah, "The law, therefore, applies not just to individuals who have obtained multiple marriage licenses, but also to those who are legally married to only one person, while also engaging in other marriage-like relationships that are not recognized by the state."

The lawsuit does not seek legalization of polygamous marriage, but only to erase the law that prohibits Utahans from referring to more than one person as their spouse.

The suit is built, in part, on the 2003 Supreme Court decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*, which struck down several states' bans on gay sex. In that ruling, the Supreme Court declared that it was unconstitutional for governments to intrude on consenting adults' "intimate conduct."

Kody argues that the Utah ban on multiple spiritual wives violates numerous parts of the U.S. Constitution in areas that include equal protection, due process, free speech, freedom of association, and free exercise of religion.

Brown and his family are currently under criminal investigation by the state of Utah. They have moved to Nevada as a result.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

Correction

In the July 13 issue of Windy City Times, Jeanne White-Ginder's name was spelled incorrectly in an article about her son, Ryan White.

Windy City Times regrets the error.



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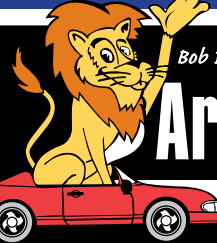


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GOP field splits on anti-gay marriage pledge

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

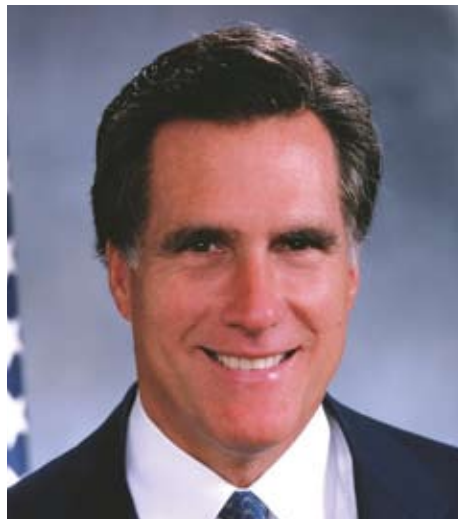
The campaign of Republican presidential front-runner Mitt Romney and four other GOP presidential candidates said this week they would not sign the bizarre pledge that at least two other GOP competitors did sign—a pledge that promises the candidate will vigorously oppose even “court-imposed recognition” of same-sex marriage.

The refusal of Romney and the other candidates does not signal a change in their opposition to same-sex marriage but do appear to suggest the GOP field may be re-evaluating how far it is willing to go to appease the party's far right wing.

The pledge, called “The Marriage Vow,” is being circulated by a Christian-oriented political advocacy group—the Family Leader—that organized the successful recall of three Iowa Supreme Court justices because they ruled in favor of marriage equality.

The two-page pledge, which includes two additional pages of footnotes, calls on candidates for state and federal offices to “vow” that they will not receive any campaign support “from any of us without first affirming this Marriage Vow,” that they will “uphold and advance the natural Institution of Marriage,” and remain faithful to their own spouses.

Among the 14 specific positions called for in the Marriage Vow is an “Earnest, bona fide legal advocacy for the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) at the federal and state levels.” The 1996 federal law bans federal recognition of same-sex marriages and asserts that individual states can ignore marriage licenses issued by other states



Mitt Romney.

to same-sex couples. The Marriage Vow also requires candidates to give a “steadfast embrace” to a proposed amendment to the federal constitution to ban same-sex marriages nationally.

In an apparent reference to the repeal of “Don't Ask, Don't Tell,” the vow has a candidate promise support for “safeguards” for military personnel from “intrusively intimate commingling among attracteds (restrooms, showers, barracks, tents, etc.).” Also, one footnote contends there is no “empirical proof” that same-sex “inclinations are genetically determined, irresistible and akin to innate traits like race, gender and eye color...”

The vow does not limit itself to gay-related issues. It also calls for candidates to say “robust childbearing and reproduction is beneficial to U.S. demographic, economic, strategic and

actuarial health and security,” to support the “downsizing” of government, and to support the protection of women from “sexual slavery, seduction into promiscuity, and all forms of pornography and prostitution, infanticide, abortion and other types of coercion or stolen innocence.”

A spokesperson for the Romney campaign told the Wall Street Journal, in an article published July 13, that Romney “felt this pledge contained references and provisions that were undignified and inappropriate for a presidential campaign.”

Jimmy LaSalvia, head of GOProud, a national conservative gay group, said Romney “should be praised for those comments, and for keeping his campaign focused on the issues that the American people care about the most—jobs and the economy.”

R. Clarke Cooper, head of the national GOP group Log Cabin Republicans, said the pledge is “outside the scope of mainstream views.”

“Republican presidential candidates seriously seeking to win the general election are wise to avoid such an extreme position,” said Cooper. “Divisive and sometimes off the wall rhetoric on social issues will obscure a solid conservative fiscal message. Americans will not vote for somebody who has demonized their family, friends, neighbors and colleagues.”

Other Republican presidential candidates who have, thus far, balked at signing the pledge are former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson and former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, Jr.

Johnson issued a statement calling the vow “offensive to the principles of liberty and freedom on which this country was founded.” His website includes a video urging that it is un-American to discriminate against others “for the way they were born” or to use the federal government to “override the decisions of the states.”

Pawlenty posted a statement July 13 on his campaign's website, saying that, if elected president, “I would vigorously oppose any effort to redefine marriage as anything other than between one man and one woman.” But while he said he “deeply respects” the Family Leader commitment regarding marriage, he would “prefer to choose my own words” concerning marriage and would “respectfully decline” to sign the pledge.

Gingrich, in an appearance before the Family Leader July 11, reportedly said he would offer some edits to “sharpen” the pledge. The Des Moines Register said Gingrich said he wanted to review the document and was “working out some details.”

The only two Republicans to have signed the pledge—Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota and former Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania—came under heavy scrutiny for having done so.

Bachmann and Santorum both had to address criticism for signing the Marriage Vow because the pledge originally included a sentence implying that African-American children were better off during slavery times than they are now, under the administration of the first African-American president. According to the Huffington Post, the pledge originally included this sentence: “Slavery had a disastrous impact on African-American families, yet sadly a child born into slavery in 1860 was more likely to be raised by his mother and father in a two-parent household than was an African-American baby born after the election of the USA's first African-American President.”

Huffington Post noted that the sentence has since been removed, and Bachmann told Fox News on July 12 that the sentence “was not on a document that I signed.”

“I just want to make it absolutely clear,” Bachmann told Fox News. “I abhor slavery. Slavery was a terrible part of our nation's history. It's good that we no longer have slavery. And under no circumstances would any child be better off growing up under slavery than that isn't what I signed. That isn't what I believe. What I signed was a statement that affirmed marriage as an important part of our nation. And I agree with

that.”

The Human Rights Campaign issued a statement July 12 calling Bachmann's signing of the pledge “a dangerous level of extremism.”

Bachmann, Santorum and four other Republican presidential hopefuls have also signed the “Pro-Life Citizen's Pledge,” promising that their nominees to the federal courts will be committed to “not legislating from the bench,” that their executive branch appointees (such as Cabinet positions) will be “pro-life,” and that they will “advance pro-life legislation to permanently end all taxpayer funding of abortion.” The other four candidates include Gingrich and Pawlenty as well as Reps. Ron Paul of Texas and Thaddeus McCotter of Michigan.

All but McCotter, who just recently announced his candidacy for the nomination, spoke before the Family Leader's “Presidential Lecture Series,” as did candidate Herman Cain. Romney did not.

The head of the Family Leader organization, Bob Vander Plaats, was the organizer of the successful campaign last year to oust three Iowa Supreme Court justices who were part of the unanimous decision that the state constitution requires that same-sex couples be treated the same as heterosexual couples in the issuance of marriage licenses.

Meanwhile, the Human Rights Campaign posted its own petition for GOP candidates July 12, asking HRC supporters to sign a statement urging GOP presidential candidates to speak out publicly against therapy that alleges to change gays into straights.

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Study: Meds highly effective against HIV infection

In a result that may change approaches to HIV prevention in Africa, an international study has shown that individuals at high risk for HIV infection who took a daily tablet containing an HIV medication—either the antiretroviral medication tenofovir (TDF) or tenofovir in combination with emtricitabine (FTC/TDF)—experienced significantly fewer HIV infections than those who received a placebo pill, according to a press release from the University of Washington International Clinical Research Center.

According to the researchers involved in the study, these findings are clear evidence that this new HIV prevention strategy—called pre-exposure prophylaxis (or PrEP)—substantially reduces HIV-infection risk.

The study involves 4,758 HIV serodiscordant couples (in which one partner has HIV and the other does not) from nine research sites in Kenya and Uganda. “This study is the largest study to date looking at the effectiveness of PrEP,” said Dr. Connie Celum, a University of Washington professor of global health and medicine and the principal investigator of the study, known as the Partners PrEP Study.

Through May 31, 2011, a total of 78 HIV infections occurred in the study: 18 among those assigned TDF, 13 among those assigned to FTC/TDF and 47 among those assigned placebo.

“This is an extremely exciting finding for the field of HIV prevention. Now, more than ever, the priority for HIV prevention research must be on how to deliver successful prevention strategies, like PrEP, to populations in greatest need,” said Dr. Jared Baeten, co-chair of the study and a University of Washington associate professor of global health and medicine.



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An international journey to family through surrogacy

Part two of our series on creating alternative families

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

"I've always had international clients, but the number of patients we see from international sources increases every year," explained Dr. Brian Kaplan, M.D., from Fertility Centers of Illinois (FCI).

Kaplan has been working in the field of assisted reproductive technology for more than 20 years as a physician and has seen the field progress tremendously. Not only has the technology grown, but Kaplan said he has seen significant growth in the number of same-sex international couples turning to in vitro fertilization (IVF) to start their family.

Kaplan said that while other countries certainly have the means to do IVF procedures many of them have legislation in place that prohibits or severely restricts individuals and couples from taking advantage of it as an option. One of the most restrictive, are laws that state that a surrogate or an egg donor cannot be monetarily compensated.

"In many European countries you cannot pay an egg donor," said Kaplan. "That's difficult, because not many women would do that. In this country we have egg donor agencies who recruit egg donors for our patients and the donor gets paid to do this, as does the surrogate."

To reach out to international patients FCI actively markets IVF as do the egg donor and surrogate recruiting agencies. Kaplan says that between the marketing efforts of organizations and word-of-mouth from couples who have had successful experiences many would-be parents do find out about the option of coming to cities in the United States for an egg donor and a surrogate.

FCI is the second largest practice in the United States, serving approximately 3,000 cases per year, and Illinois has some of the most helpful legislation for those interested in utilizing IVF procedures. Friendly laws and a well-established practice group and affiliated lab, aParent IVF,

make Chicago a leading option for international couples as well as national couples seeking to start a family.

Windy City Times spoke through email with three same-sex male couples from Spain who all turned to FCI and aParent IVF to build their families through surrogacy.

Ricardo and Ivan's story

Ricardo, 36, and Ivan, 34, have been together since December 1998 and say that from the beginning of their relationship they were both open about their desire to eventually marry and start a family.

"We love children and we have always enjoyed playing with our nieces and some friends' children," said Ricardo.

In 2006, Ricardo, who has his doctorate in chemistry and works at a research center, and Ivan, who has a master's degree and works in interior design, married in Spain and soon after began discussing how they would build their family. They were both excited about the prospect of parenthood, but also a bit daunted by obstacles they had to face as a same-sex couple.

"We met another family from our city that created their family through surrogacy and they explained everything," said Ricardo. "We then decided to start our surrogacy journey."

"We contacted different agencies in the U.S., based in Illinois, Wisconsin and California. In addition, we were in contact with different international couples that had a baby through surrogacy with different agencies. In the end, we decided to work with Family Source Consultants from Illinois because among all the agencies we met this was a very close, human and nice relationship."

It took two months for the agency to match them with an egg donor and a surrogate. With their surrogate selected, they began working with FCI and Dr. Kaplan.

Ricardo and Ivan met their surrogate in 2008, and said that they slowly built a strong relationship with her. It took time because of limited



Ricardo and Ivan with their son. Photo courtesy of Ricardo

communication options, having to rely on email and phone calls. But soon enough they felt a strong connection. Ricardo shared, "We are very proud of having met her because she is an amazing, strong and responsible woman."

In 2009, one week prior to the birth of their son, they flew to Chicago for the delivery. "She allowed us to enter the delivery room and we were so excited in helping during the delivery and supporting her and her husband. It was amazing, that moment when we saw our baby for the first time after the last push. We don't have words to explain, you have to feel it ... no words."

"I was able to cut the umbilical cord and take him for a while. We both started crying. I embraced my husband, saying 'we got it.'"

Ten days after their son was born the couple met with their Chicago attorneys, who they had worked with throughout the entire process, and signed the documents necessary to designate them both as their child's parents.

Ricardo and Ivan's son is now 2 years old. The couple has attempted to have a second baby, using the same surrogate, but thus far have not been successful.

"Last year, FCI transferred frozen embryos to our surrogate and she got pregnant, unfortunately she had a miscarriage. It was very hard because we were very excited, but we do hope we will be able to try again soon."

To other couples considering surrogacy, Ricardo shares that it is important to be committed as a couple because the effort is great. He also says that financially it is a challenge. Ricardo and Ivan took out a loan to cover all the expenses of the procedure.

"We are a normal family and we are going to pay the loan for many years, but it is worth it. It is the best."

Javier and Antonio

Javier, 35, remembers the day that he and his husband Antonio, 39, decided to start their family. "It was a winter day. While we were having dinner, I listened to my neighbor's baby laughing and his parents were laughing with him. In that moment I told Antonio 'I wish to have children.' Antonio looked at me and said, 'from my point of view that is perfect. Let's go ahead.'"

Javier, an emergency physician, and Antonio, then a store manager, were married in 2009, after many years of living together. After making the decision to have a child they first considered adoption, but said that for a married international couple adoption is nearly impossible as well as being a very long process. Instead, they happened to find out about another same-sex

male couple that had just had a baby through surrogacy using an organization in Chicago. Since surrogacy wasn't possible in Spain, they hadn't thought of it as an option.

"Finally we didn't have any obstacles based on our sexuality," said Javier. "We contacted Family Source Consultants, and from our first time they knew we were a same-sex couple. They treated us in the same way as if we were a heterosexual couple."

Javier said that the process seemed to take forever, especially once they had been matched with a surrogate. He said what made it bearable was the regular communication.

"It seemed as if months were years, but thanks to our surrogate, the waiting was better than expected. She wrote us an email every Sunday, telling us how the week passed, changes in her body, doctor appointments."

He added that Family Source Consultants were also readily available to answer any questions or concerns that came up.

"They helped us with everything we needed: looking for a hotel, borrowing a stroller and, of course, they paid attention to all our process during the nine months."

Javier and Antonio welcomed their baby daughter, Victoria, in 2010 at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital. Javier's mother was also present for her granddaughter's birth. They said that the hospital staff was very supportive and made them all feel very special.

"When Victoria was born we started to cry and we could not stop. We were so nervous and excited that we could not take a lot of pictures. I cut the umbilical cord. It was incredible."

"Still, we can't believe how lucky we are. We feel really happy with our new life, and are looking forward to trying another cycle for a sibling for Victoria."

Javier and Antonio grew up with three siblings apiece and both knew that later in their lives they would want to have a big family. "We have always imagined having a house full of children. Life has no sense for us without them."

The couple has remained close with their surrogate. "When we arrived in Chicago, some days before the delivery, we met her and her family to have dinner. Once our daughter was born we met them to have lunch twice, before leaving the states. Still, we keep in contact with them. We have invited them to visit us in Spain. She is a very important person in our lives so we would like to keep contact forever."

Javier encourages other couples to consider surrogacy if they wish to start a family. "Don't be afraid. The first time surrogacy can seem long and a hard process, but in Spain all the people

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who have had children through surrogacy say the same 'we do not know anybody who has not had success in the end.'

S. and A.

S., 33, and A., 43, are currently awaiting the birth of twins after experiencing two unsuccessful IVF cycles. They say that they are excited and nervous, and that they prefer to be cautious until they have their babies with them.

"We were not sure if we would ever be gifted with a baby and all of a sudden we are expecting two," said S. "We experienced a mix of joy and gratitude that is hard to explain. Our surrogate told us the other day that the babies have just started to make some movements and we felt ourselves closer to them."

An attorney and an IT consultant, S. and A. say that they originally thought that adoption was their only option. They had even started adoption proceedings before coming across a few articles on surrogacy options.

"We definitely knew this was a perfect match for us. Although every couple has its own preferences, we felt that having children that are genetically ours may ease things back home. Adoption for gay couples is not easy at all and many countries forbid them."

While they await the arrival of their twins, they are in contact with their surrogate on a weekly basis through Skype and email. They are eagerly waiting to find out the sex of their babies and then will start accumulating baby clothes and preparing their nursery. The couple plans to be in Chicago for the birth of their children and are very excited.

"We have been together for eight years and got married in Spain two years ago," said S. "Throughout this wonderful journey we shared a common dream from day one, to create a family of our own."

They chose Family Source Consultants after researching agencies and determining through conversations with other couples that the agency would provide the type of commitment to them that they would need throughout the entire process.



Javier and Antonio's daughter, Victoria. Photo courtesy of Javier

"We found it very useful to talk with former clients that already have children of their own.

"We are members of gay parenting networks in Spain and worldwide and we received extremely good reports about our agency and the fertility clinic we worked with. Therefore, we decided to choose the exact same professionals that other people with happy ending stories chose."

The couple also has ties to Chicago since one of the men lived in the city for six years and had already established a network of friends and support.

They have several tips to share from their own experience. "Make sure she and her family are comfortable delivering a kid for another couple. It is important to make sure she is healthy, has a stable life and that she has delivered other babies by surrogacy before."

They also say understanding the full financial picture is important, including all of the legal and medical costs associated with the pregnancy.

"Becoming parents has always been a goal in life and we thought that just for being gays this possibility was simply not possible. Now, with surrogacy, you have a chance to achieve your dream and you should not give up if that is what you want."



Javier and Antonio with their baby daughter, Victoria. Photo courtesy of Javier.

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New ballot battle coming to Calif.

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

There is another anti-gay ballot measure brewing in California—this one, for 2012, seeks to repeal a recently passed state law that requires social studies curricula in California public schools to include information about the contributions of LGBT people.

Paulo Sibaja, communications director for a conservative family advocacy group in California, submitted a letter to the California Attorney General, Kamala Harris, on July 15. The letter



Kate Kendell. Photo by Erica Demarest

asks the attorney general to prepare a title and summary for a referendum to repeal Senate Bill 48.

Senate Bill 48, signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown July 14, is the Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act. It remedies a deficiency in previously existing law that required that public school curricula in the social sciences acknowledge the contributions of various specific minorities, such as African Americans, American Indians and Asian Americans.

The FAIR Education Act adds LGBT people as a specific minority and prohibits instruction or any school activity "that promotes a discriminatory bias on the basis of sexual orientation.

Openly gay State Sen. Mark Leno introduced the measure, and it was approved by the State Senate on a 23 to 14 vote in April and approved by the Assembly on a 49 to 25 vote July 6.

Under California law, opponents of a law have 90 days from the enactment of a bill to request a title and summary of a referendum from the state Attorney General, circulate petitions, and gather 504,760 valid signatures.

SaveCalifornia.com, a web-based organization opposed to the law sent out an "Urgent Alert," suggesting parents remove their children from public schools. The website warns that the law "means children as young as kindergarten in California K-12 government schools will be forced to admire 'gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans' as their personal role models." The group suggests parents put their children into church schools or school them at home.

In his letter to the attorney general, Sibaja identifies himself only as the "Proponent" of the ballot measure and includes no mention of his affiliation with the Capital Resource Institute, a nonprofit group that advocates conservative positions on family issues. A profile of Sibaja on

a California Republican website, redcounty.com, indicates he has worked as a substitute teacher in San Bernardino County, volunteered for Republican presidential candidates Mike Huckabee,

Gov. Brown signs Calif. LGBT teaching bill

BY REX WOCKNER

In a U.S. first, Gov. Jerry Brown on July 14 signed into law a bill that requires California public schools to teach about LGBT people's contributions to the economic, political and social development of California and the U.S.

The new law also prohibits classroom instruction and school-sponsored activities that promote a discriminatory bias on the basis of sexual orientation, and requires that newly acquired social-sciences textbooks and other social-sciences instructional material used in California adhere to the bill's requirements.

Sponsored by Sen. Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, the measure cleared the Assembly July 5 in a 49-25 vote. It passed the Senate 23-14 on April 14.

"This is a watershed moment for the movement, as it will help to break the spell that they have over us: that we are bad for children and youth," said Roland Palencia, executive director of Equality California. "Instead, this will point to the real culprit: harassment, discrimination, prejudice and invisibility. ... (T)he contributions of diverse LGBT community will no longer be erased from history."

"Today, we've written the latest chapter in the LGBT civil rights movement—one that will now be presented fairly and accurately in California schools," said Carolyn Laub, executive director of Gay-Straight Alliance Network. "Gov. Brown has realized the hopes of youth who have been fighting for safe and inclusive schools, where all students learn about our history and gain respect for each other's differences as a result."

"Today we are making history in California by ensuring that our textbooks and instructional materials no longer exclude the contributions of LGBT Americans," said Leno.

As the bill sat on Brown's desk for several days, California LGBTs launched multiple campaigns to counteract a deluge of calls to the governor's office in opposition to the bill, which had been targeted for defeat by a number of activist groups that routinely oppose the gay-rights movement.

Urgent action alerts were emailed to hundreds of thousands of LGBT-supportive Californians by Equality California, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the Human Rights

and John McCain, and is a member of various conservative Republican groups.

LGBT groups fought hard for passage of the FAIR Education Act.

Kate Kendell, head of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, called the bill "historic" and said it "reverses decades of censorship and discrimination against LGBT people in public school classrooms."

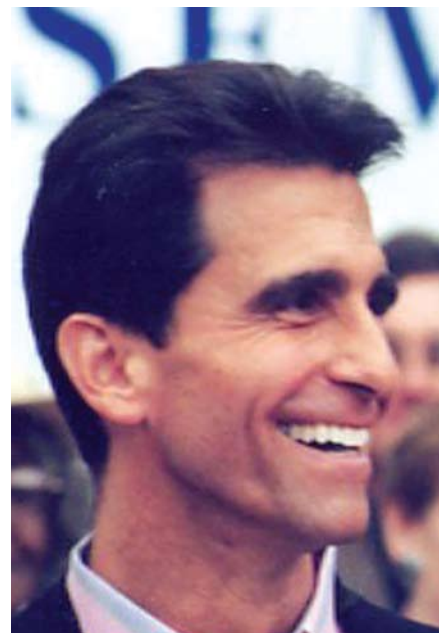
Equality California Executive Director Roland Palencia called passage of the bill "a monumental victory for the LGBT civil rights movement,"

Campaign, and the San Diego LGBT Community Center. And alerts were about to go out from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Courage Campaign and the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center.

In addition, national LGBT blogs, such as Towleroad and AMERICAblog, prominently and repeatedly encouraged calls to Brown's office.

Brown had declined to say in advance of the signing if he supported the bill, though he is considered to be reliably LGBT-supportive. At the point he signed the bill, calls to his office against it still outnumbered those in favor of it, though the gap was narrowing.

"(T)his historic bill ... reverses decades of censorship and discrimination against LGBT people in public school classrooms," said Kate



Calif. Sen. Mark Leno

Kendell, NCLR's executive director. "Finally, all California students will learn about the contributions and accomplishments of LGBT people throughout history and into the present. LGBT students will be able to live openly and with pride, knowing that their state and their schools embrace them and recognize their worth."

"The governor's and Legislature's foresight will be repaid many times over when the next generation of California youth enter the world as healthier, more confident and better-educated adults," she said. "This is the begin-



Gary Arnold. Photo from Arnold

saying it would usher in a "more welcoming learning environment" for LGBT youth.

Equality California has been sponsoring town-hall meetings around the state to discuss the merits of putting its own initiative on the ballot in 2012 —one to repeal the current state constitution's ban on same-sex marriage. That language was added through Proposition 8 in November 2008.

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ning of a new era of full inclusion and support for LGBT youth and their families in public schools, and I am proud that California is once again leading the way."

NCLR's legal director, Shannon Minter, called Brown's signature "a major turning point for our movement."

"California is the first state to mandate inclusion of accurate information about LGBT people and history in public classrooms," Minter said. "This will change the future for LGBT youth and their families in ways that are just as important and far-reaching as marriage equality."

Local groups laud LGBT curriculum win in Calif.

BY KATE SOSIN

Illinois LGBT and disability rights advocates are praising a new California law requiring that LGBT and disability histories be included in school curriculums. That is because the law could impact curriculums all over the country, including Illinois.

Calif. Gov. Jerry Brown signed the FAIR (Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful) Education Act in law July 14, which adds LGBT people and people with disabilities to a list of underrepresented identity groups that must be covered in school instructional materials.

The act requires that students learn about important LGBT historical contributions and milestones, such as the uprising at Stonewall.

Shannon Sullivan, the executive director at the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, an organization that advocates for LGBT students, said the act might impact what Illinois students learn as well.

"This could really change the textbook industry," said Sullivan.

According to Sullivan, major textbook companies tend to target their materials toward larger states, namely Texas and California. Sullivan thinks that because textbook makers will want to continue marketing to California schools, their newest editions will include LGBT and disability rights histories.

Those editions could be out as soon as next year, Sullivan said.

"In general, hopefully it sends a message to school leadership," Sullivan said. "It's an important part of everyone's history."

Gary Arnold—public relations coordinator at Access Living, a Chicago-based disability-rights organization—said the act could also change the way that people think about disability rights nationally.

"Historically, issues of people with disabilities have not been looked at by the general population as civil rights issues," Arnold said. Documenting those struggles in history books could change the perception that disability rights are strictly medical.

Arnold said that a similar bill has not been tried in Illinois yet, but that the win in California might inspire one.

Sullivan, too, thinks that success will be contagious. "It does set a legislative precedent," she said. "Then it becomes more sellable in other states."

LOCAL NEWS

Bar foundation awards grants to 23 nonprofits

Twenty-three Chicago nonprofit agencies are among 30 law-related nonprofit organizations statewide that received grants from the Illinois Bar Foundation (IBF), the charitable arm of the Illinois State Bar Association. Among the Chicago organizations receiving grants are the following:

Chicago Loop:

- CARPLS Legal Aid, \$10,000
- Center for Disability and Elder Law, \$7,500
- Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, \$5,000
- Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers, \$15,000
- Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, \$10,000
- DePaul University College of Law Asylum & Immigration Law Clinic, \$7,500
- Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, \$15,000
- Equip for Equality, \$15,000
- Family Defense Center, \$5,000
- Illinois Legal Aid Online, \$20,000
- Lawyers Committee for Better Housing, \$15,000
- Legal Aid Bureau of Metropolitan Family Services, \$11,800
- Life Span, \$10,000
- Midwest Center on Law and the Deaf, \$3,000

River North:

- Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago, \$10,000
- Public Interest Law Initiative, \$20,000

River West:

- Cabrin Green Legal Aid, \$10,000

Lawndale:

- Lawndale Christian Legal Center, \$10,000

Gold Coast:

- Loyola University Chicago School of Law, \$10,000

Uptown:

- Apna Ghar, \$5,000

New Eastside:

- Illinois Equal Justice Foundation, \$5,000

Wrigleyville:

- Center on Halsted, \$7,500

Medical District:

- The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who are Blind or Visually Impaired, \$7,500

See <http://www.illinoisbarfoundation.org> for more on IBF.

Amigas Latinas offering scholarships

The local group Amigas Latinas—whose mission is to empower Latina lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning women—is

offering scholarships. (The organization is also willing to support a gay-straight alliance at a school with a high Latino population.)

Among the criteria are Illinois residency; proof of college enrollment; and demonstrated advocacy work for the LGBTQQ community. Applicants should submit essays (500 words or fewer) stating why they deserve a scholarship.

The deadline is late July; scholarship awardees will be notified prior to Amigas Latinas' gala on Aug. 6, and checks will be presented there. Email AliciaTVega@yahoo.com for more information.

Salute to LGBT veterans July 26

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations will host the City of Chicago's ninth annual Salute to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Veterans, 12-1 p.m. Tuesday, July 26, at Richard J. Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington Street.

This is the nation's only municipally sponsored Salute to LGBT Veterans, and it is meant to pay tribute to their honorable service.

Veterans John Graziani, Veronica Hernandez, Marquell Smith and Willa J. Taylor will be featured speakers, and Chicago vocalist Alexandra St. James will perform the national anthem. The program will include a presentation of colors, a mayoral proclamation and a wreath-laying ceremony.

The salute is a presentation of the CCHR Advisory Council on Veterans' Affairs and the CCHR Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues in partnership with the Chicago chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights.

Beyondmedia Education announces new leadership

Beyondmedia Education has announced that Mary Jo Schnell will be the new executive director and that Salome Chasnoff, documentary filmmaker and the organization's founder, will be artistic director.

Board co-chair Meg Leary said in a statement: "Mary Jo brings vast professional experience that builds upon and strengthens Beyondmedia's reach as a nationally recognized media justice organization. I am confident that Mary Jo will help ensure that Beyondmedia continues to impact the field and remains a leading voice on behalf of youth, women and marginalized communities. The board welcomes her to the team."

Beyondmedia is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that collaborates with underserved and underrepresented women, youth and communities to tell their stories and organize for social justice through media arts. See <http://www.beyondmedia.org>.



Mary Jo Schnell (left) and Salome Chasnoff of Beyondmedia. Photo by Lauren La Rose

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As tensions in Lakeview increase, community groups step up efforts

BY KATE SOSIN

With a fourth stabbing in recent weeks to hit Lakeview on July 16, the neighborhood continues to grapple with a perceived rise in crime and the anxieties of young people who feel blamed for it.

While energy around the crime issues seemed to wane in comparison to the previous two weeks, much attention was centered on yet another stabbing.

A 24-year-old man told police that he was walking near the Belmont el station in the early hours on July 16 when two men attacked him from behind.

The incident occurred at 938 W. Belmont at approximately 3:30 a.m., said Laura Kubiak from the police department's news affairs office. The victim, whose name has not been released, suffered a stab wound to the back and was taken to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. He was treated and has been released.

Police charged two men in connection with the stabbing. Demetrious Moore, 26, of the 7500 block of N. Sealy, faces felony charges of aggravated battery and drug possession. Israel D. Johnson, 23, of the 7200 block of S. Rhodes, stands charged a misdemeanor battery count.

Ald. Tom Tunney of the 44th Ward praised police in a statement later that day.

"I was out at the scene at 3:45am and have been in contact with 19th District Commander John Kenny," Tunney said in the statement. "Thank you to our officers for their quick and professional action. Late-night patrols have been stepped up in our neighborhood and we will continue to work together to find additional resources for the [midnight to 6 a.m.] shifts."

On "Take Back Boystown," the Facebook page that started Lakeview's most recent discussion on crime, members appealed to their neighbors to keep up the momentum, to continue to pressure police and city officials to crack down on crime. But with the group's two initial events (a positive loitering walk and a July 6 CAPS meeting) now past, local stakeholders seemed to struggle with the next steps.

Several LGBT community organizations expressed concern over recent crimes, but also expressed fears that queer youth are being targeted by residents.

Many "Take Back Boystown" members aimed



Alicia Ozier. Photo by Andrew Davis

to clarify that they are not advocating for racial profiling in Lakeview, and comments on that page appeared considerably less controversial than in recent weeks, with few blaming youth of color outright for neighborhood crimes.

LGBT organizations stepped forward and offered their resources for mediating those discussions. Both Taskforce Prevention and Community Services, a West Side HIV-service organization, and Center on Halsted announced initiatives to deal both with crime and with LGBT youth issues.

Center on Halsted has taken heat in recent weeks from residents who claim that the organization attracts youth who loiter and commit crimes to the neighborhood. Modesto "Tico"

Valle, CEO of the Center, had said the Center was helping the situation, not making it worse. Making good on that promise, Valle announced a new taskforce "to build a safer and more welcoming community" as well as new self-defense and conflict mediation classes for the community.

"These are challenging times for our community," said Valle in the July 15 announcement. "Now is the time to work together again so we can build a safer and more welcoming environment for all people."

Sitraka Andriamanantenasa, the Center's new community relations director, also spent much of the week meeting with community members about their concerns and hopes for the Center.

Taskforce Prevention and Community Services announced its own taskforce for addressing similar issues.

"I know that many of the youth in question are from the west and south side of the city and live in communities with cultural norms that don't support young gay men and women," said

Alicia Ozier, of Taskforce Prevention and Community Services in a recent statement. "While I make no excuses for their behavior, I believe that we must work together before anyone else is hurt."

Finally, the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance stated its intent to work on issues in Lakeview that affect youth. The Alliance had planned to convene its own taskforce but said it will first wait to see if they are able to partner with groups already working on the issues.

The Taskforce Prevention and Community Services Taskforce will meet Wed., July 20, at 7 p.m. at the 23rd District police station, 850 W. Addison. Those interested in attending should RSVP to Alicia Ozier, aliciozier@hotmail.com.

The next CAPS meeting for beats 2332 and 2333 will be held Thursday, July 21, at 7 p.m. at Comfort Inn, 601 W. Diversey.

Those who are interested in working with the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance can email youth-committee@illinoisafeschools.org.

Lakeview safety seminar offers tips to concerned residents

BY KATE SOSIN

A July 12 CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meeting that was expected to draw hundreds in Lakeview attracted so few people that police relocated it back to its original meeting space at the 23rd Dist. police community room.

Slightly more than 30 people attended the CAPS safety seminar, an instructional two hours on street smarts facilitated by police. The meeting was to be held Inter-American Magnet School to accommodate the crowds expected in the wake of a July 3 stabbing that was videotaped.

Despite a low turnout, most in attendance seemed to find the session with Sgt. Alex Silva, a veteran officer, time well spent.

Silva offered up a check list of common sense precautions that Chicagoans can take to protect themselves from crime and violence.

"Safety is something that a lot of people don't think about until something happens," he said.

According to Silva, awareness and avoidance are key. He cautioned against using cell phones and earbuds in the street or on public transportation, as doing so both distracts the user and calls attention to expensive electronics.

He also emphasized the importance of intuition about potentially dangerous situations.

People, he said, "don't want to give in to what they think is paranoia." However, that paranoia can be useful, he said. Those who recognize situations that make them uneasy and avoid them are far less likely to be made targets.

Silva said that many people are reluctant to react to their intuitions for fear of offending others, but that safety is more important than manners. However, he added, it is important to separate personal discomfort with actual illegal activity and threats before call-

ing police.

"It's not about what are they dressed like, what do they look like, but what do they do," he said.

One man asked a question on many minds as of late: Is it illegal to loiter in a large group late at night?

No, said Silva. While groups are not allowed to block pedestrians, "anyone has a right to stand on any part of the sidewalk."

If a group is doing something illegal, however, residents can always call police by dialing 911. If police are needed on scene, even for a non-emergency, residents should dial 911, not 311 said Silva.

Silva recommended that residents carry flashlights or pepper spray when traveling alone in dark places. He also advocated for the use of pepper spray over crime whistles, which he said are no more effective than yelling. He suggested testing pepper spray outdoors to get a feel for how it works. He also recommended carrying house keys on a lanyard, which can be swung at an oncoming attacker.

Whatever the reason, he said, "just don't stop." Stopping to offer the time or money or allowing people to slow you down, can have consequences as such simple requests can be bait. No matter what, he said, keep moving and appear confident. Stay alert and look around often.

Even when faced with a gun, Silva recommends running away immediately because, he said, it is hard to hit a moving target and many people do not use real guns in muggings.

Not all tactics will work in every situation. In the case of the videotaped July 3 stabbing in which one man was attacked by a large group, Silva said preparedness may only get one so far.

"When you have a group attacking you, I mean this advice is good, but I don't know," he said.

For more information on CAPS and upcoming safety seminars, go to <https://portal.chicagopolice.org/portal/page/portal/ClearPath/Get%20Involved>.

VALEO

AT CHICAGO LAKESHORE HOSPITAL

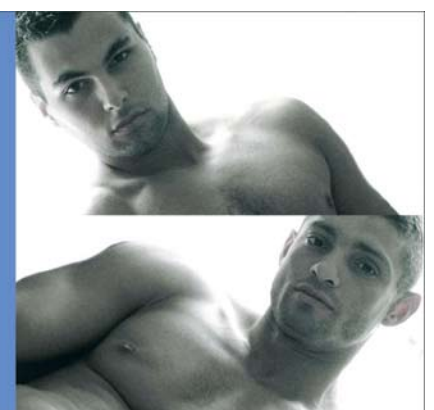
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TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY ROSS FORMAN



Wedding planner
Frank Andonoplas



Frank Andonoplas applied for his dream job at the bank he worked at in 1996, but didn't get the promotion. He's still, even years later, bitter, but elated with the way things turned out.

Andonoplas left the bank and moved into the wedding industry, which he had dabbled in part-time helping friends. After all, "weddings are my passion," he said, "and I never feel like I'm at work; I love what I'm doing."

He helps others on their special days with every detail—from the "Save the Date" card to the good-night gift, and literally everything in between.

Frank—as he is known a la Oprah, Cher and others who simply go by one name—has orchestrated weddings that are truly out-of-this-world. In 2010, for instance, he produced a wedding at a sports arena in Troy, Mich., for a gold medal-winning figure skater—and he converted the ice rink into a wedding area.

Then there was the wedding at the Drake Hotel that included a meandering path. There was also the one Andonoplas made it appear as though it were snowing since the night's theme was Winter Wonderland.

He's coordinated weddings for as many as 962 people and even the wedding of former Chicago Bulls player Randy Brown.

Andonoplas also has endured a death during a wedding. There was also the time a bride accidentally flushed her veil down the toilet minutes before the ceremony was to start.

Once, a maiden of honor forgot the rings—so they had to use the two rings that Andonoplas wears during the ceremony.

He accepts only one wedding gig per weekend to give full support and dedication to the no doubt nervous bride and groom.

"I establish relationships with my clients and ultimately most turn into wonderful friendships," he said.

Andonoplas is one of 59 master bridal consultants in the world, and was the first male to achieve the title, presented by the Association of Bridal Consultants.

"For me, the best part of the job is the call or email the day after the wedding, when the couple tells me that everything was beautiful, better than they expected and that they couldn't have done it without me," he said.

Andonoplas, who is hoping to expand his business with more civil union ceremonies in Illinois, has appeared on every mainstream media outlet locally and even has appeared on 20/20 and The Early Show.

He won the 2010 Gala Award from Special Events Magazine for best wedding (budget of more than \$1,000 per guest), a trophy that now sits front and center of the 16 awards he has won in the wedding industry over the years.

Reach Frank at his website,
<http://www.frankeventdesign.com>.



the stats

Name
Frank Andonoplas

Age
48

Relationship status
Dating Shawn Wojahn for 22 years

Hobbies
Theatre, going to Las Vegas and baking

Neighborhood
Garfield Ridge

High school
John F. Kennedy HS, Class of 1981

College
DePaul University, Class of 1985

It's a fact
He never becomes Facebook friends with clients until after their wedding.

Pets
A bichon fries named Fenwick Abercrombie Gaylord (FAG)



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Report sheds light on violence and transgender individuals

BY ERICA DEMAREST

Transgender people and racial minorities were twice as likely in 2010 to experience hate-related violence and discrimination than their non-transgender white peers, according to a new report by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP).

The coalition, which connects local and regional anti-violence projects across the United States, released a report this month titled "Hate Violence against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected (LGBTQH) Communities in the U.S. in 2010."



Ejeris Dixon. Photo from Dixon

The report—which collected data from 15 states and 850 hate-crime survivors—found that reports of hate violence increased by 13 percent from 2009 to 2010, while anti-LGBTQH murders were up by 23 percent, jumping from 22 to 27 reported murders last year.

While the higher numbers could possibly be attributed to an increase in hate crime reporting (as opposed to an increase in actual hate crimes), some very clear patterns emerged in the data. Perhaps most striking is the breakdown of victim demographics: LGBTQH people of color made up 70 percent of hate-crime murder victims, while transgender women accounted for 44 percent.

"These murders clearly reveal the continuing and devastating impact of pervasive transphobia and racism in the United States," said Lisa Gilmore, director of education and victim advocacy at the Center on Halsted. "Transgender women and people of color are disproportionately targeted for the most severe forms of hate-motivated violence, [which are] most frequently perpetrated by white, non-transgender men."

Gilmore, who contributed to the report, spoke July 12 at a press conference sponsored by the NCAVP. Others who spoke included Ejeris Dixon of the New York City Anti-Violence Project; Maria Carolina Morales from the Community United Against Violence (CUAV) group in San Francisco; Sandhya Luther of the Colorado Anti-Violence Program in Denver, Colorado; and Jake Finney

from the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center.

"Transgender survivors—the majority of whom are people of color—experienced higher rates of serious injuries, yet were among those least likely to receive medical attention," Finney said. He cited a lack of trans-friendly healthcare providers, the high cost of health insurance and indifference from police as major deterrents to reporting hate crimes.

More than half of the 850 hate-crime survivors interviewed for the 2010 NCAVP report did not report their incidents to the police. In addition, 61 percent of survivors cited indifferent, abusive or deterrent police attitudes.

"Police are typically not trained to identify whether crimes are bias-related," Finney said. He referenced a highly publicized 2010 case in which a transgender student at Cal State Long Beach was attacked in a campus bathroom. Assaultants carved the word "it" into the student's chest, but police failed to identify the incident as a hate crime until local activists involved the FBI.

"LGBTQH survivors... are often re-traumatized by medical personnel and law enforcement, and have recorded both verbal and physical abuse," Morales said. "That creates a climate [where] they're less likely to access medical or legal support in the wake of violence."

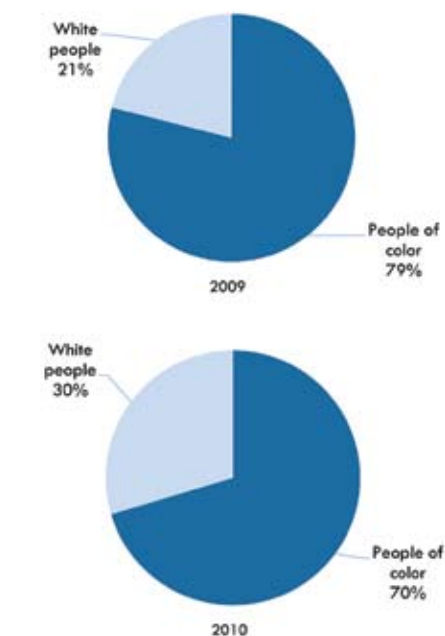
Complicating matters further are hate-crime statutes. Several states, including Indiana, simply don't have such statutes, making it impossible to report or track hate-related violence in large parts of the country. The South is particularly underrepresented. The NCAVP report was only able to pull data from 17 organizations across 15 states.

According to the report, 76 percent of people who committed hate crimes in 2010 were non-transgender men, and 53 percent of all reported violence occurred in private residences or on the street.

Dixon said there were typically more hate crimes during Pride month and election years. "One thing that we've seen over several elections is the way that LGBT issues are used as a wedge issue to polarize or even encourage people who have anti-LGBTQ sentiments to get out to the polls," she said.

Dixon stressed the importance of public officials, whether politicians or celebrities, speaking out against such behavior. "[We need to] show people that anti-LGBT bias is not tolerated and not okay, and it is actually linked to anti-LGBT violence," she said. "There is a connection between a systematic approval of homophobia and transphobia that is at the root of us increasing safety and decreasing violence against LGBT communities."

Racial/Ethnic Identity of Murder Victims, 2009 - 2010



Gay Decatur man killed just weeks after civil union

BY KATE SOSIN

Joseph C. Mason-Wells, a 30 year-old man who celebrated his civil union on June 3, was fatally shot just over a month later as he sat watching television with his husband.

Mason-Wells and his husband, Jeff Mason-Wells, had returned from their night jobs to their home at 2225 E. Wood and were watching television in the early hours of July 9. At 4:19 a.m., a stray bullet came through their living room window and struck Joseph in the head.

Police said the bullet traveled approximately a city block from the 2200 block of North Maine, which faces the Mason-Wells backyard.

Police arrested Mattisha Houston and her husband, Quincy Houston, after neighbors directed police toward their home.

The couple told police that Mattisha Houston had asked her husband to show her how to fire the gun, and the two went outside to shoot at a tree in the backyard.

Detective Sgt. Cody Moore said it was unclear if the Houstons knew the shot had penetrated a neighbor's window.

"It's not believed that you could have seen a person inside of the window," said Moore, suggesting that the fatal shot was not intentionally fired at either Mason-Wells partner.

The Houstons both face charges of involuntary manslaughter, aggravated discharge of a firearm and reckless discharge of a firearm. Quincy Houston has been released on bond, while Mattisha Houston remains in custody.

According to an obituary in the Decatur Herald and Review, Mason-Wells enjoyed music, travel and video games. He met Jeff Mason-Wells in December 2005. The couple was one of the first in Decatur to obtain a civil-union license.

GLAAD backs off AT&T support

BY REX WOCKNER

Following an extended controversy that led to the resignation of its president, Jarrett Barrios, and eight board members, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation sent a new letter to the Federal Communications Commission July 13 expressly withdrawing its previous support for positions favored by one of its donors, AT&T.

In the new letter, GLAAD repudiated a letter it had sent to the FCC endorsing the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile. The group also made crystal clear that it supports the concept of Net neutrality, despite having sent contradictory letters to the FCC on that matter previously.

The FCC has proposed Net neutrality rules to prevent Internet service providers from blocking, slowing or speeding up certain traffic as it moves through an ISP's pipes. If the rules were implemented, AT&T could not, for example, interfere with the traffic of a competitor, such as Skype, or accept money to speed up delivery of someone else's content. All content would be delivered to end users "neutrally," as is now the case.

"A rigorous review process considered GLAAD's unique mission and concluded that while AT&T has a strong record of support for the LGBT community, the explanation used to support this particular merger was not sufficiently consistent with GLAAD's work to advocate for positive and culture-changing LGBT stories and images in the media," said acting President Mike Thompson.

In affirming GLAAD's support for Net neutrality, Thompson wrote to the FCC: "Net neutral-

ity is one of the principles most responsible for the Internet's emergence as the dominant platform for free expression. A nondiscriminatory and neutral Internet has allowed new digital media initiatives and the blogosphere itself to flourish online. Net neutrality has cultivated the plethora of online resources available to otherwise isolated LGBT Americans seeking help with coming out, coping with and countering discrimination, suicide and HIV/AIDS prevention resources, community building and political organizing tools, and general self-expression. [sic] GLAAD's own work has been effective thanks in large part to net neutrality."

GLAAD's latest move could serve to finally put the damaging AT&T/FCC incidents behind it, and allow the organization to move forward with battling anti-gay defamation in the media and pushing for accurate and inclusive coverage and portrayals of LGBT people.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

State won't immediately end foster care to two religious agencies

The state will not immediately terminate foster care funding to Catholic Social Services of Southern Illinois or the Evangelical Child and Family Agency, despite concerns that both agencies discriminate against couples in civil unions, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Moreover, the two agencies are not protected by a court order that protects three other Catholic Charities agencies.

Windy City Times reported in its July 13 issue that the state of Illinois decided not to renew its foster care and adoption contracts with Catholic Charities. In a letter sent recently to Catholic Charities in the dioceses of Peoria, Joliet, Springfield and Belleville, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) said that the state could not accept its signed contracts for the 2012 fiscal year because "your agency has made it clear that it does not intend to comply with the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act."

A Sangamon County Circuit Court judge ruled July 12 that the Illinois attorney general and DCFS could not immediately cut foster-care contracts with Catholic Charities in the dioceses of Springfield, Peoria and Joliet. The dioceses had sued to prevent the state from enforcing new anti-discrimination policies that make way for civil unions.

The Evangelical Child and Family Agency is based in Wheaton. According to a description of the organization it provides on the Internet, it "offers compassion and Christ-centered services to children, families, and individuals."

Funding will continue until the case is resolved; the next court date is Aug. 15.

'Civil Unions and Beyond' reception, panel July 28

The event "Illinois Civil Unions and Beyond: Marriage Equality and the LGBTQ Latin@ Community" will take place Thursday, July 28, at the Institute of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, 3015 W. Division.

A reception with appetizers will take place 6-7 p.m.; a panel and entertainment will take place 7-9 p.m.

Vida/SIDA and Lambda Legal are sponsoring the event. Email RicardoJ@prcc-chgo.org or EricH@prcc-chgo.org for more information.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM

A photograph of a man's bare torso. On his chest, there is a tattoo that reads: "Please start HIV treatment. My T-cells are at 432." The man's face is partially visible at the top, with a red overlay covering his eyes and nose.

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My T-cells are at 432.

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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†, along with other factors. 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.



Coyote beautiful

Margo St. James: prostitute, politician, and warrior

BY SARAH TOCE

Hookers Ball hero Margo St. James founded COYOTE (Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics) in 1973 following the first WHO (Whores, Housewives and Others) meeting in 1972. The word "Others" referred to lesbians—a term not widely spoken or accepted at the time of the group's inception.

As a self-professed tireless advocate for the prostitution community, St. James has seen it all ... and then some. Her life experiences have run parallel to that of the D.C. Madam prior to her untimely death—an event that St. James shares is "not as it seemed."

The sex-positive feminist served as a confidant to Harvey Milk before his assassination in 1978 and has a few choice words for Dianne Feinstein and the police at the scene of the crime at San Francisco's City Hall—more than 30 years later. Windy City Times spoke with Margo St. James recently for the AIDS @ 30 series.

Margo St. James: In the early 1980s when the guys [were] in the baths in New York (and probably Chicago and the rest of the country), they were dying [and didn't always know it]. At that time, there was an idea to try KY with extra ingredients to see if it was going to make any difference [on the disease] spreading. And so we, the World Whore's Congress, helped. Luckily none of us got anything. Then, when we found out what was going on, immediately, whores were the scapegoats.

And so we [as a collective] started to do something internationally. I went to Europe in '83 and my colleague then was a professor of social psychology, an American, living there and teaching in the Dutch system. We went to see the doctors, and, at that time, Holland was dragging its feet and saying [that they were not getting involved]. They turned to us and said blatantly, "What are you all worried about? It's a gay disease." And we said, "You're wrong." So it took about a year, and the Dutch did the right thing right away and made a brochure that went to every household in the country.

Windy City Times: Regardless of if they were gay or not.

MSJ: Everyone and then they put in the safeguards [condoms and such]. We did the same thing in San Francisco and then we started going (in '88) to Whores, Housewives and Others (WHO) in Geneva, Africa, Asia, India, and other places.

By that time, we had started, in '85, the WHO was held in Amsterdam and, in '86, it was in Brussels at the European Parliament and we addressed all the issues: health, safety, decriminalization, et cetera. We had about 30 countries involved by that time. So, by the late '80s, the different groups in New Zealand, Australia, and India ended up having 30 clinics run by hookers.

WCT: Wow.

MSJ: And Christian, Hindu and Buddhist women were all working together—unlike their male counterparts.

Then along came Bush—"Dubya"—and he had a guy in charge of the U.S. AIDS fund, which

made a pledge that all the clinics had to sign that they wanted to see the end of prostitution. None of the hookers that ran the clinics would sign. They said, "No, we want this discrimination to stop. These bad laws make us victims from every direction, silence women and scare straight women into not sticking up for us."

Now, there are a lot of sex workers who are brilliant—they're writing a lot, we have an international committee that's really great. But out of those 30 clinics, now there are only three, and the women are scattered. That's in India.

Gail Pheterson wrote *Vindication of the Rights of Whores* released by Seal Press in '89. And that was done from the '85-'86, mostly '86, transcripts from the International Whores Convention. She worked on that for a couple of years in France, where we were ... Gail and I had bought a house in France at the time. Then she finished the book and didn't like living around where there weren't any libraries. Now she's teaching in the French system, and lives in Paris. She also sold her place in Amsterdam. But it was really wonderful [to live there at the time] because the Dutch are so organized. You have an idea and immediately they want to form a committee.

The Brits, when they found out that our meeting in '86 at the European Parliament was a meeting of whores and feminists, went crazy and tried to get it dumped, but failed—mostly because of a woman parliamentarian from Holland. They had thought it was just going to be people like them talking about whoring. Under Bush, the funding really took a nosedive because you had to sign the pledge in order to get the money. So that was a real stumbling block. And the ironic part of it is the guy's name who doled out the money was Tobias. And people always live up to their names: "To Buy Ass." He was on the D.C. Madam's "trick list," which she gave to ABC, and they never did anything with it. Fifteen thousand names of all these guys in the government ... mostly in D.C.

WCT: I remember hearing about that.

MSJ: And then the D.C. Madam committed suicide. But some of the women still think she was murdered. Because a couple of days before, she had said, "I'm being followed." And then her mother finds her hung in the woodshed out back, at her home in Florida.

The D.C. Madam had a similar history to mine. Where I, in '62, was arrested for hooking—which I wasn't. I was a cocktail waitress, and a lot of friends came over to my house after work, and there was a lot of pot-smoking and sex and, you know, whatever. And this is about the time that single women were finally allowed to have inter-uterine devices or buy birth control pills. I worked for a bondsman, took a college equivalency test, went straight to law school, and won my appeal a few years later.

In the meantime, my dad decided I wasn't applying myself enough, although the dean of the law school told him I was doing fine, and he stopped paying the tuition, so I just turned tricks, you know. Everybody thought I was turning tricks, so I just said, "Okay." And a lot of guys would come up to my North Beach pad dur-



Margo St. James at Copper Mountain Lookout.

ing the day from the Financial District.

WCT: And that helped pay for the law school ...

MSJ: It wasn't a lot of money—it was only like \$100 or \$200 per semester then. And my rent was a \$125, and I had a roommate or two. And the customers paid 20 bucks. Now it's more like two or three hundred—unless you get a trick like [Eliot] Spitzer, who paid four grand for all night. Or L.A. and New York, they get more.

WCT: Yeah, I bet—different markets.

MSJ: But now it's [a different game] with the Internet, you know, and with Craigslist. Craigslist has given the clinic now \$250,000—we've never had a grant that big! It was in cash. "Do anything you want with it," they said. It was because they felt the heat.

WCT: Is there another clinic being built in the U.S. right now?

MSJ: We've really got a great clinic going up now in San Francisco. This is the 12th year and we're in partnership with Public Health.

WCT: You moved to France in '86. Can you tell us why?

MSJ: I moved to France in '86 so that we could deal with the Mediterranean countries—Spain, Portugal, Italy—who weren't really doing the right thing like the northern countries as far as AIDS prevention. Spain was really good, and they picked it up right away.

The women that I've known from the sex-workers groups in all of those countries—they're still there. And in '05 we had another convention in Brussels. The head of the Human Rights Commission (HRC) is Italian, and so we got right in, and things are beginning to shape up. But Sweden has taken the other road, and decided to criminalize just the customers, which is ridiculous. And it does nothing. It's a way of dividing women. Then you get people like Michele Bachmann and Sarah Palin who are against abortion rights and gay marriage. ... All of these phony issues. In countries [where abortions and gay marriages are] legal, the divorce rate's around 20%. In countries that are illegal, it's over 50%. That goes for this country, for sure.

WCT: In your opinion, how do you think President Obama is faring?

MSJ: You know, I think Obama's ready to go for the pot stuff. Now the pot, NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws), they've really done a lot. They have a Hempfest in Seattle every year. Keith Stroup is president of NORML and he and I worked together on Citizens for Justice with Harvey Milk in '74 in San

Francisco. That's when I had COYOTE (Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics), and we had the Chinese gangs represented, and everything. And when I came back from living in Europe in '95, there was a task force in San Francisco, and we called for decriminalization, too.

WCT: You ran for public office in San Francisco ...

MSJ: In '96, I ran for supervisor and I actually won a seat—the extra seat, after somebody on the Board won one in Sacramento. And Willie [Brown] didn't want to appoint me to this seat. Any other Democrat would have been put right in there. A lot of people wrote letters. ... And so I filed to run again, and then I had a friend tell Willie, the mayor, that I was going to run for assessor.

Now back in the early '60s, Willie and I were on the board of the Henry George School of Economics. Which, he knew if I got the assessor job, things were going to turn upside down. Because the bottom line of the George School of Economics was "tax land, not capital, and labor." Now, [Henry George] died in 1897, and his original book is hard to read, because it's full of God-this and God-that. But I thought he had a good idea. And Teddy Roosevelt had liked that. But anyway ...

The brothels in New Orleans closed in 1908 so that the sailors wouldn't get venereal disease (VD). As if they didn't have a boatload of condoms. The same man who pushed that initiative outlawed marijuana in '37, the year I was born, because he wanted the ships to stop using hemp and go for nylon, because he was in league with DuPont. Basically, I mean, I'm giving you a thumbnail sketch, but the same damn man outlawed those two prohibitions [and they] are still around. And people just ignore it.

WCT: How did COYOTE start?

MSJ: When I started COYOTE, I was living next door to a lesbian poet from Canada, her name was Elsa Gidlow, she died in '86, a number of years ago, but she was wonderful. And she kept shoving feminist stuff under my door. I lived next door to her in Muir Woods, in Marin. Then in '72, the guy I lived with was the best friend of Alan Watts, and so Alan let us use his ferryboat, where he lived, down in Sausalito, to have the first WHO because "lesbian" wasn't said out loud yet. And so we did that, and even one housewife traded places with a callgirl for a day. So that's how COYOTE began.

Then the next year I took COYOTE to San Francisco and started doing ... I had connections

with University of California (UC) and stuff like that. There was a law school there, but they've [since] closed it down because it was too liberal.

WCT: Right.

MSJ: Yeah, right. Those things happen. Anyway, we got it rolling. Then I started producing the Hookers Balls in '74. Glide Church let us have our first Whores Convention there in '73, and again in '74. And then in '75, we had it at the Hyatt Regency. Jane Fonda came, Jennifer James from Seattle who had done a lot of National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) research on prostitution came as well. I'd seen her on TV and said, "I've gotta find this person," and so I went hitch-hiking around the mountain, I mean, hiking around the mountain, and I bumped into a couple at the top of Watcombe Pass and they knew Jennifer and they gave me her phone number.

WCT: Wow. Isn't that weird?

MSJ: Yes. And so we got together and we started COYOTE groups all over the country. And the one in Seattle was called ASP: Association of Seattle Prostitutes. And then there was San Francisco, L.A., San Diego, Fort Lauderdale, Kansas City ...

WCT: Kansas City?

MSJ: Yeah. Chicago, New York, Boston—PUMA is still around, and so is New York, PONY. There are a lot of working callgirls out there now, but they don't use the press like I did. Because ... why? And we have this international committee where all this research by different people is coming in. But we don't allow it to be published or quoted unless it has specific permission.

WCT: Right.

MSJ: And they've just been doing a yeoman's job of giving back at the Swedes who are ... they always were reactionary. And the Swedish women that came to the Hookers Convention in '85 and '86 and again in '05, they went in disguise. Even though they're not criminalized anymore. ... If you've read Stieg Larsson's books, you know what I mean. And even some people think he was bumped off after the trilogy came out. I love those books. And especially that Lis had Asperger's Syndrome. Because I have a friend who has that and it's difficult. They're stubborn. They get a grudge going and it lasts years, you know.

WCT: How did you eventually decide to plant your roots in Washington State?

MSJ: Well, I was from Washington originally. I was born there. But what happened is, in '92, my old friend Paul Avery, who wrote *Voices of Guns* and was a journalist for 40 years—he wrote various papers, but mostly the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Examiner*—came to France and proposed. And a couple of my friends from San Francisco were there, and they said, "Margo, it's a deal. I mean, a health plan, you know. ... " And Paul was saying, "Well, you know" He'd turn blue if he had to walk a block, he had COPD, little skinny lungs, you know, from sitting at a desk all his life. But he was a ferret as far as getting news, and he was a crime reporter, so he knew everything. And I'd met him in like '61 or '62, when he was still married, and he had a couple of daughters. And then he started a news service in Vietnam, so he was over there, with his kids going to Catholic school over there, French school, I mean. And then he came back, and went back to work for the papers in San Francisco, and got a divorce. I had moved out of the city after '79, I was living in Marin, and had a housekeeping service, Margo's Miracle Maids. Of course everyone thought I was ... you know, it was a front ...

WCT: But it wasn't.

MSJ: But it wasn't. Yeah. So, he ends up living in Sausalito with another photographer and another guy who worked at the *Chronicle* and

I became their housekeeper. That was early '70s like '71 or '72.

I had a lot of encouragement. I was trying to get a job in Washington in '71 or '72 and I'd written letters to the state senators to tell them that I was organizing callgirls around the country—and had about 500. That was a big fig. Anyway, they gave me the job as a fire lookout on Copper Mountain. I would have been the first woman hired in North Cascade Park. Then Paul comes out to the house in the woods where I'm living, with an old reporter, and he says that he wants to do a story about COYOTE. The Associated Press (AP) picked it up and it went everywhere around the world.

The Whole Earth Catalog had given me a \$5,000 grant to get the whole thing started. So, I had a fleabag hotel room in San Francisco on the waterfront. This is before the earthquake and the thing [bridge] came down.

So anyway, Paul and I were best friends and we were private eye partners. When I won my case in court, I quit law school and kept hooking for a while. Then I came back to the city after retirement, and got a state license for private eye. At that time, I was one of three women in the whole state. Most of the people that had P.I. licenses were bad cops that had gotten fired. But I found that the prohibitions really corrupted police terribly, and it gave them an informal network of informants that they didn't want to let go of for any reason.

One chief from San Jose did a survey of cops, and like 85% are for legalization [of marijuana]. Now, we want decrim. ...

Now, Harvey [Milk] was part of the Citizens for Justice that we started in '74, and he exhibited some signs of wanting to run for office, and I said, "With a name like Milk?" I'm a farm girl. I'm a dairyman's daughter. I mean, this is ridiculous I thought, but I said, "Go ahead, I'll support you."

WCT: Small world.

MSJ: But he was running against Terence Hallinan and I said, "I don't know if you'll beat Terence." His dad was a famous lawyer who I served summons for back in the day. That was the office of some really great lawyers, and they're the ones that said, "You can take a state exam, a college equivalency test—you don't have to go to school to get into law school. Then you can come to Lincoln Law School." Now the D.C. Madam did almost the same thing. She fought back when she'd been busted. I'm really sorry I never got to meet her personally.

WCT: Do you recall where you were when Harvey was assassinated?

MSJ: Where was I then? Oh, I was ... somewhere. I was always out of town when these bad things happened. Oh, I was in Hawaii, running a marathon. And I had friends in Maui, so I was staying on Maui and jogging around the pineapple fields, so I go in and meet a cab driver that's a pal. We all had dinner and stuff. The next day he calls and says, "Turn on the TV." I turn on the TV and here's the cops carrying the bodies [Mayor Moscone and Milk] out of City Hall, smirking. I get back to San Francisco and that was when [Dan] White was brought up on prelim and stuff like that. I'd go down to City Hall and see the truth about what was going on. Paul Krassner was living in San Francisco by then, I think, and he wrote a column called *The Realist* for years. He was one of the only columnists that wrote the truth. ... And they let Dan White's wife, who was a witness, stay in the courtroom the whole time. The cops were wearing t-shirts that were printed downstairs from where I lived in North Beach that said, "Free Dan White" under their uniforms. But then he gets convicted of, what? It wasn't murder.

And it should have been a federal case. And I tried, we—Harvey Milk's lawyer and I—tried

to get the state, but the state attorney general was a former San Francisco D.A., and he was not a good guy. Then we tried to go through the White House and the Feds but we could never tell who we were really talking to and if they were going to be with us or not. So I went to see the D.A. and I said, "You can't have 'What's His Name' do the case, he's an old drunk, and White has a young lawyer who burns the midnight oil. Dianne Feinstein even stuck up for Dan White. I mean, I couldn't believe that. And so, of course, she gets the mayor job because she was the president of the Board.

WCT: Interesting.

MSJ: And she and I have never been really close. Because even in '72, she had been on a task force on prostitution, and she wrote a minority opinion for decrim. But when I came

charge of who's the chief. But he had done wonderful things, because women sued to be on the police force in '78, they won a case. It was one of the last major cities to not have women.

And so ... the cops were very macho. They liked having their own games. And so when Charlie came in as an out-of-town chief, he moved everybody around. He also appointed a Women's Advisory, to give some support to the new women cops ...

So it was... it was all these little struggles going on behind the scenes. And then Feinstein decided to go be a senator, which is fine with me. Except Barbara Boxer is my favorite.

WCT: Yeah?

MSJ: And good-time pal!

WCT: Do you attend all of the Hookers Balls?



Margo St. James photographed in 1995 by Jim Marshall during her 1996 campaign for elected office in San Francisco.

along and doing this and that, she didn't want to be seen with me. At the Hookers Ball I produced in '77 at the Civic Auditorium, I went as her, with a bow and a suit, and my mother went as me, with a wig, and mom comes up to me and says, "People are telling me all kinds of things." She loved it, being in theater all her life. And then ... what's his name, the football player that [allegedly] murdered his wife ...

WCT: Oh, OJ?

MSJ: OJ. Yeah. He was from San Francisco. He was there with his 17-year-old soon-to-be bride and her mother. We were all at a VIP party on one of the floors up above the main. The chief came, Charlie Cain, was there and suddenly we see these young guys run down the hall. They were going to bust up the thing. And one of my other cop informants had told me, "Be careful, because they're going to try to start trouble." So that's why the chief came, I think, because at first he said in public he wasn't going to show up this time.

And so anyway ... we head for the phone, the Chief and I—this is before cell phones—and I told him, I said, "Ask for Garcia, he's the only one that's going to be truthful." And he looks at me and says, "Yeah, uh-huh. I ain't gonna let this fly." And then a friend of mine gets a picture of us, me and Super Whore on either side of him, and he's holding a bottle of champagne. And of course the paper prints it. And Feinstein was going to fire him right away, but she waited six months. But she couldn't fire him, it had to be the Commission, the Police Commission is in

MSJ: I have not been able to travel as much as I would like to lately, but usually I get my way paid. The hookers pay my way to the conferences. It's great. I ended up going back to France in '05. I was over there for three weeks. And they paid me back for my plane fare in Euros, so I didn't suffer, and I spent a week or so down in the south where I lived and saw everybody, then came back up to Paris.

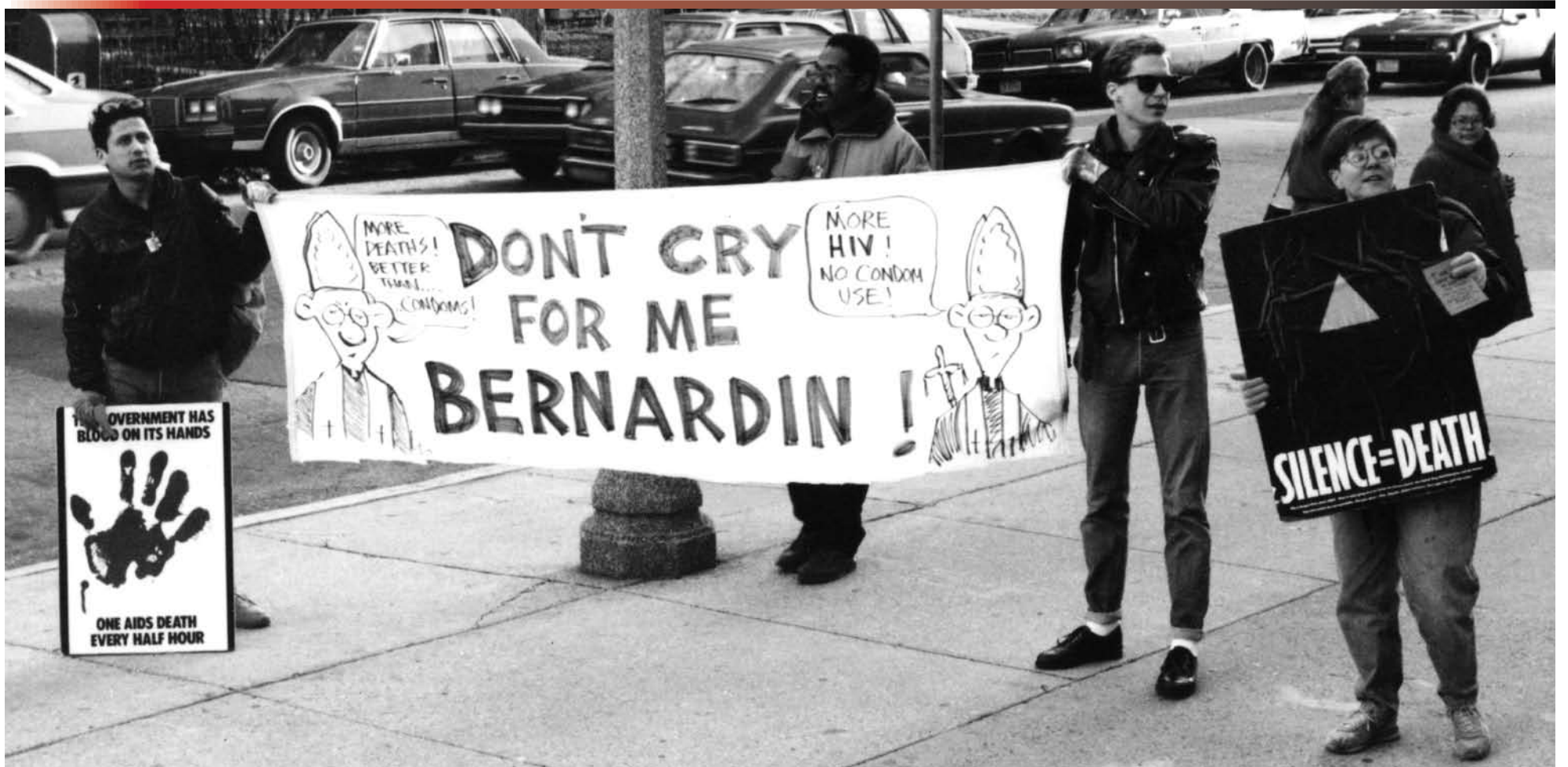
WCT: Talk to me about abortion.

MSJ: I did abortions in the '60s.

WCT: You performed them?

MSJ: I did. I had a male nurse friend who taught me how. I even did one on myself and almost died. Infection, you know. But everybody else came out okay. Can I say that out loud now? You think the Feds would start coming after me? Yeah. I did them in my nun's habit. Dick Gregory got me a nun's habit in '68. I did a lot of photos in it—sitting with the girls who were topless was just happening then. I've got [the photos] stacked in places now, not exactly easy to get. I have an intern coming in tonight from Minneapolis who's going to hang around and help me with my memoirs.

St. James ran for office on the Republican Party ticket for President of the United States in 1980 and, in 1998, founded the St. James Infirmary in San Francisco to help provide healthcare to the sex-worker community. She is currently working on her memoirs at her home in Bellingham, Wash.



Danny Sotomayor, Darrell Gordon, Tim Miller and Carol Hayes at an ACT UP protest against Joseph Cardinal Bernardi, outside St. Sebastian's on April 6, 1989. Photo by Rex Wockner

Former Chicagoan Tim Miller looks back at ACT UP years

BY PATRICK DUVALL

"I still think that they should still be striving for [a cure], or at least a vaccine," said former Chicago AIDS activist, Tim Miller.

It has been almost 20 years since he left activism, and nearly as long since he left Chicago, but when listening to the passion in his voice, it is as if little time has passed. Miller's view of the early years of the AIDS epidemic is shared by many who experienced that difficult time: "So much loss of life in such a short period of time was difficult to live with," Miller said, "it still is."

When asked whether the LGBT community could handle something on the level of the AIDS crisis today, Miller said: "Again, it's going to be a small fraction of the community that's doing all the work. Always. I don't care straight or gay. ... If you care about the polar bears, there's going to be a small group of people working on the polar bear issue. You know, everybody else will be happy to buy a t-shirt about the polar bears, but the very few people are going to be willing to do the work to protect the polar bears."

Miller now lives in San Francisco, dividing his time between the hotel workers union and enjoying the city. But from 1987 to 1993, Tim Miller was a member of ACT UP/Chicago, a close-knit group of activists described in their membership packets as being "united in anger and committed to direct action to end the AIDS crisis."

Originally in Chicago the group was called C-FAR, or Chicago for AIDS Rights, but in late 1988, the changed to ACT UP, or AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, based on the New York chapter founded by Larry Kramer.

In August of 1987, Tim Miller was invited to his first C-FAR meeting. At the time he was much

like any other young gay man living in Boytown. He spent his nights exploring the punk scene and making his rounds at the bars with a small group of friends, and worked full time at a trucking company during the day. Miller kept up with news stories on the epidemic.

A childhood friend of his had recently become HIV-positive, and, as many during that time experienced, the issue suddenly became much more tangible. He had no experience in activism when he joined the organization, but quickly found his role.

"Luckily we had some seasoned activists with-in C-FAR," Miller said, "but most of us had done nothing. We were really just sort of kids, you know, going out with our friends on Fridays and Saturdays and enjoying life." Many of the people he met would become closer than family, and many would lose their lives to the disease.

The formation of C-FAR was a reaction to a very dark time for people with AIDS. The medical community had been aware of the disease for six years, and the government issued little response. In the 1986 election, Californians voted on a proposition that would effectively quarantine people with AIDS, the majority of whom were gay and bisexual men. The measure was voted down by a large margin, but the threat still carried weight.

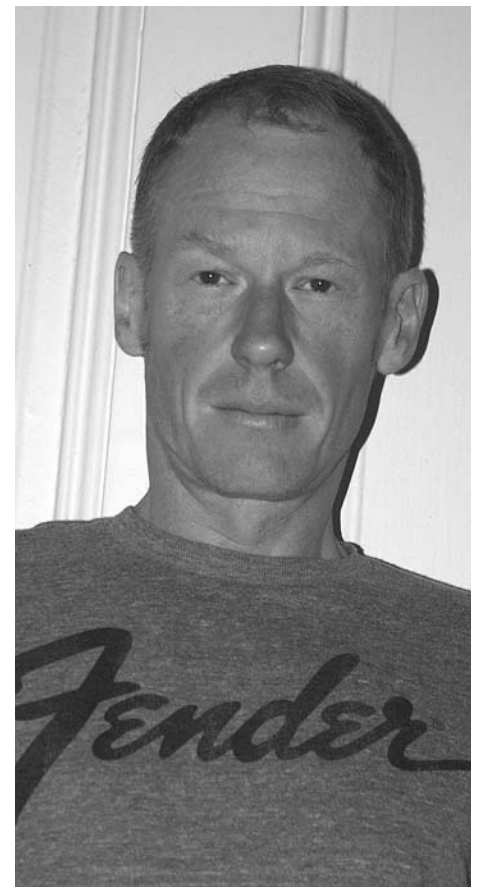
The U.S. Supreme Court also upheld the sodomy laws in 1986 with the Bowers vs. Hardwick decision. This was the second time in 10 years such a decision had been made during a period marked by the most successful national movement for LGBT equality in American history. A report from February of 1988 gave the number of infected Americans at 50,265; 1,343 of these were in Chicago.

ACT UP/Chicago brought people together to

fight back. "This [was] the option that [was] available to us. This [was] the option that the City of Chicago, that the State of Illinois, that the federal government left us because of their inaction," Miller said. "We were a pretty difficult bunch to deal with. ... We were just inconsolable. We knew what we wanted, and we wanted it now, and we weren't going to wait, you know?"

One of Miller's first demonstrations was at the Chicago headquarters of a pharmaceutical company called Lyphomed, the main manufacturer of pentamidine. The medication stopped the formation of pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, one of the deadliest opportunistic infections afflicting people with AIDS at the time. The cost of the required monthly dose was \$100 in the United States. After some investigation, members of ACT UP found that Lyphomed was selling the drug for \$30 in Canada, and decided that something had to be done. For the demonstration they purchased as much of the drug as possible in Canada, called all of the media outlets, and sold the pentamidine in front of Lyphomed headquarters. A week later the company reduced the price to \$60 a dose.

Miller's first experience with civil disobedience on the doorstep of the people responsible for the problem he was trying to fix while police and news cameras looked on was unlike anything he had prepared for. When he was approached for a quote by a prominent local news anchor, Miller froze and pointed the man to more experienced members of the group. "At that time I was incredibly nervous, and at the same time it was exhilarating," Miller said. "We were being proactive; we were doing something ... that was hopefully going to help people on a daily basis. I had never done anything like this."



Tim Miller today. Courtesy of Tim Miller.

Eventually Miller went on to be the head of the New Members Committee, and even appeared as a spokesman for the group on radio and television programs.

He came out to his godparents by appearing on the MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour. For several years he served as the group's treasurer, selling ACT UP/Chicago merchandise to LGBT-friendly stores all over the country. A few times, to raise extra funds, Miller organized large drag parties based out of someone's home.

He also worked as a demonstration monitor. "We usually had, you know, an arm band or something to let the police know that we were

monitors, and we would be writing down names of people as they were arrested. Or people would scream at us, so we would know their name," he said.

Miller would then hand the list over to ACT UP/Chicago's team of lesbian attorneys, who usually secured the activists' release within hours. Miller himself was arrested nearly three-dozen times in six cities for various acts of civil disobedience.

The 20 or so core members of ACT UP/Chicago formed a very close camaraderie. After working long hours organizing the next big demonstration, they would head out to the bars of Boystown wearing their ACT UP t-shirts, leather jackets, and combat boots. Roscoe's, Sidetrack, and The Manhole were regular hangouts for the group. Even when they weren't working, the activists were known for their militancy. For fun they once conducted a campaign in their spare time to stop all the bars in Boystown from playing Donna Summer songs, due to her negative comments about AIDS in the early '80s. Despite many friendly discussions over drinks, some of the bar owners continued to play Summer's music.

Then, as Miller described, "A couple times, we went in with whistles, and when Donna Summer came on, we'd all just lay down on the dance floor, blew the whistles, and the whole thing stopped."

"Silence = Death" was a motto used by ACT UP/Chicago on press releases and printed on stickers they plastered all over the city. During Miller's tenure with the group, ACT UP/Chicago joined with other ACT UP chapters to hold demonstrations at the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control that succeeded in speeding up clinical trials of AIDS drugs.

In October of 1989, the group held an action in downtown Chicago featuring a "Freedom Bed" where a pair of demonstrators playfully acted out the use of safer-sex kits. Other members of the group dressed as government officials would then break in on the activists in bed and try to cover up the sex kits.

Soon after, the group organized a torchlight march on then-Gov. James Thompson's North Side Chicago mansion in wake of proposed legislation for people with AIDS. ACT UP/Chicago members also interrupted speeches by both Dan Quayle and President George H.W. Bush and held a series of protests and social marketing cam-



Danny Sotomayor (front) and Tim Miller (back left) at an ACT UP protest. At right are Shelly Schneider-Bello and Chris Hill. Photo by Rex Wockner

aigns against the Chicago Transit Authority for censoring AIDS awareness posters.

Reports showed that in 1989 AIDS cases in Chicago had grown to 1,729 and increased to 2,617 in 1990.

In April of 1990, Miller helped organize a national ACT UP protest at the Daley Center and the Cook County Building that drew more than 1,500 people. The demonstration was in reaction to a lack of Chicago funding for the disease and to highlight the policy of not admitting women to the AIDS ward of the county hospital.

Activists in medical scrubs and masks threw bloody money at passersby. During rush hour on a Monday morning, a contingent of women

stopped traffic by lying on mattresses in the middle of the street. At the height of the event, Tim Miller, Daniel Sotomayor, Billy McMillan, Frank Sieple, and Paul Adams infiltrated the Cook County building, snuck onto a balcony, nailed the windows shut, and hung a banner that read, "WE DEMAND EQUAL HEALTHCARE NOW!" Once the police broke through the windows, they roughly drug Miller out of the building by his feet and arrested him. He had a cracked rib and was covered in bruises, but the next day the AIDS ward began accepting female patients.

The period was a difficult, but rewarding one for Miller. "We pretty much lived ACT UP for a good four years, you know? We were going to

meetings several times a week. We were putting in 20-25 hours a week doing ACT UP stuff. It was very consuming," he said.

Years later, when discussing the changes his life had taken with his mother, she asked, "You were such a quiet child. What happened?"

"Life happened," Miller responded. "My friends started getting sick. My best friend from third grade was already HIV-positive at that time, and, you know, maybe part of me was doing it for him." It was the death of this friend in 1993, after the deaths of many others he had met through ACT UP/Chicago, that finally ended Miller's time in AIDS activism.

He watched his friends waste away slowly and then far too quickly. These people perished, men and women he drank with at bars, screamed chants and pumped fists with at demonstrations, and sat with in hospitals.

Miller's story is mirrored by many people living in the community at the time. "People were dying. Lots of people were dying," he said.

In October of 1993, Miller left Chicago behind and moved to San Francisco. For 10 years he worked with homeless youth, passing out safer-sex kits, toiletries, and information on housing. When he moved, his mother asked him not to join the ACT UP in the new city, but Miller assured her that his time as an activist was definitively over.

Today he believes it is the next generation's responsibility to fight for the rights of the community. In his words, "small groups of people can do amazing things." When he began as an activist, he was far from politically minded. "I didn't know about the ACLU. I didn't know about animal rights, I didn't know about abortion rights. I didn't know about any of those things. But you learn, and people can learn, and they can get involved, and they can make a difference," he said.

Tim Miller and his fellow members of ACT UP/Chicago had very little funding and faced an incredibly hostile environment and widespread death on a scale not seen before in Chicago's LGBT community, but they pressed on and stood up for the rights of friends and family and strangers who were dying while mainstream culture did its best to shun them.

When asked how they accomplished so much with so little, Miller said: "We had our fists, our voices, and our feet, and we used them all."



ACT UP/Chicago 1990 protest at the Cook County/City Hall Building (on the County side). Paul Adams, Tim Miller (arms raised), Danny Sotomayor, and hidden by the flags, Bill McMillan and Frank Seipel. Photo by Rex Wockner



ACT UP/Chicago protest at City Hall. Tim Miller is third from left. The three people at right are Bill McMillan, Jeanne Kracher and Ferd Egan. Photo by Rex Wockner

VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY TIMES

VOL. 26 No. 41, July 20, 2011

The combined forces of Windy City Times, founded Sept. 1985, and Outlines newspaper, founded May 1987.

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 SENIOR WRITERS Bob Roehr, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, David Byrne, Tony Peregrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair, Kate Sosin
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Community Marketing, Inc.



KIM FLOWERS

Alternative conception

A lot of media focus has been given to alternative forms of having children, yet there are two options that have not received much attention—sperm donation by a man who is well-known to the couple and surrogate motherhood.

Other than adoption, these are the best options for a gay couple; infertile straight couples may consider these choices as well. My son was conceived through donor sperm. I know who the donor is and one day my son will know, too. Like most mothers, I would never want to cause my child unnecessary pain or confusion about anything, including the subject of his origins.

When my wife and I started planning our family, several social, economic and even political factors influenced our decision. We both felt adoption would be wonderful, but it costs thousands of dollars. Also, in our state of Indiana we cannot co-adopt the same child. We made the surprising discovery that it's legal for one of us to adopt a child the other gives birth to, with fewer fees, even though it's not legal for us to wed. We felt that this would be the best option for our family. We have a trustworthy donor who currently wishes to remain anonymous to all but a few people. He wants the focus of others to be on my wife and me, and wants the baby considered "ours" not "his."

As an adoptee, I know what it's like to have questions about a biological parent. My biological father signed away his rights and I was adopted by my stepfather. Even though I wanted no contact with my biological father, I still wanted information about where I came from, which I found as an adult. I think everyone deserves that, including my own child. He won't have to question if he could be at risk for an unknown disease or wonder if there are other relatives out there whom he has no knowledge of. For those who cannot afford high adoption costs, cannot both adopt the same child, or who need sperm for whatever reason, this is a fantastic option.

Some couples, both traditional and non-traditional, face different problems with concep-

tion. Kerri Donovan was a surrogate mother 13 years ago. The couple she helped had healthy eggs and sperm, but the wife was born without a uterus. Throughout the course of two years and only one in vitro attempt, Kerri became pregnant with twin girls, now teenagers. She regarded the whole process, including when the twins were given to their biological parents, as a positive experience, and said: "I had a super support group and the mother and I took every step together." The twins refer to her as Aunt Kerri and know the story of their birth. Kerri has a husband and two children of her own and said this experience helped them all, and that they also gained an extended family.

Kerri's advice to any couple thinking of finding a surrogate was to deeply investigate the chosen woman and her family life. All parties involved will be subjected to medical and psychological exams. The surrogate and the biological mother will both take hormone shots to sync menstrual cycles, followed by several sonograms and more tests. The procedure itself then takes four days—one for harvesting eggs, one for collection sperm, a day for fertilization and implantation on day four.

For the woman who is thinking of becoming a surrogate, Kerri advised: "Be sure that you are very comfortable with where you are in your life. I know what I believed to be right and wrong and I knew that I was very happy with my life at the time. I also knew that I did not want more children." She also said that a surrogate should make sure she is doing it for "all the right reasons," not for any monetary benefits she may receive. For a male couple, the woman will probably not only be offering the use of her uterus, but her eggs, which will be even more cause for consideration.

When it comes to choosing your own sperm donor, there are no required exams. All parties involved must trust one another. It's a good idea for the donor and the prospective mother to be checked for fertility or health problems. Other than that, you only need the privacy of your own home, a cup, and a syringe. Ovulations test kits are available at many supermarkets and pharmacies, and I can attest that they are extremely accurate. Knowing the exact dates of ovulation will help take most of the guesswork out of the process, and will save time and unnecessary sperm injections.

Some couples may consider going to a sperm bank or may wish to keep the identity of their donor a secret. There are many people who believe that anonymous sperm donation should be abolished in the United States, as it already is

in many European countries. An organization called The Donor Sibling Registry, run by Wendy Kramer, helps donor offspring contact their other relatives. Kramer said: "It's always the rights of the parents, the donor, the clinic. Why is it that the rights of the donor-conceived people aren't even considered in the equation?"

An article by David Crary entitled "Sperm-Donor Kids Seek More Rights, Respect" goes into more detail about this organization, and also explores the lives not just of those conceived through anonymous donation, but also the lives of sperm donors who have been tracked down by their children years later.

If a couple is thinking of using a sperm bank or already has, the main thing to consider is that honesty is best. Just like any other important information you give your child, tell them what they need to know based on the questions they ask, their age, and maturity level. If you're thinking of donating sperm anonymously and are uncomfortable with the possibility that one day you may have a child or children who try to find you, donate plasma instead. A trusted friend of the couple or a relative of the person who is not getting pregnant would be a much better option for everyone involved.

If anyone wishes to donate sperm or become a surrogate mother, a legal contract is recommended. For a donor, the contract will state that even if his identity is to be revealed, he will never sue nor be sued for custody or child support. For the surrogate mother, the contract usually involves a monetary agreement. Typically the couple who wants a child will pay for all of the surrogate's medical bills and perhaps an extra sum besides. There will also be clauses as to what should happen if more embryos than expected implant or if the surrogate's life is perceived to be in danger throughout the pregnancy.

Planning a pregnancy using alternative methods isn't simple. But I believe that no matter what the controversy surrounding different options for having a child may be—adoption, sperm donation or surrogate—critics should know that every single one of these children are wanted, planned, and loved. Perhaps Kerri said it best of her own involvement:

"For me, it turned into one of the best times of my life. I helped someone's dream come true."

Kim Flowers is a freelance writer from Fishers, Ind. To learn more about Kerri Donovan's experience as a surrogate mother, you can read "The Impossible Dream" by R.B. Smith, Woman's World magazine, Sept. 9, 1997.

LETTERS

A call to youth

Dear friends, supporters and allies

In the wake of well-publicized violence in Lakeview, the launch of the group Take Back Boystown, and the vitriolic CAPS meeting that garnered the attention of every major local media outlet, it is time for the community to push past the two-sided rhetoric of shouted insults and boos to uncover the complex, sensitive and difficult threads at work in both the violence itself and the reactions to it.

At the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance (the Alliance), a youth organizing group committed to ensuring Illinois schools fully address sexual orientation and gender identity, we are committed to participating in a process that seeks to surface the issues of ageism, racism, classism and transphobia inherent in the violence and community reactions.

We propose a format where individuals and organizations that are committed to community dialogue on these issues come together with middle and high school-aged youth and young

adult voices being central. This process must include youth, young adults, Lakeview residents and community-based organizations, queer organizations of color, youth-led organizations, LGBT community centers and businesses, and transgender and gender-variant focused organizations. The Alliance has worked with schools and communities throughout the state in prioritizing youth voices through a process of addressing very complex situations involving violence and oppression and know we can move forward together.

In order to begin this process, the Alliance youth committee is committed to participating in a real conversation with other youth of color and allies to ensure youth voices are heard and are leading the efforts to move past vitriol into solutions that put forward the lived realities of young people oppressed by a combination of factors including race, sexual orientation, class, age, immigration status and gender identity.

At present, the youth committee's strategies for reaching the above-mentioned goals include:

1) Creating an advertising campaign in the Chicago LGBT press and Boystown community,

2) Creating intentional "safe spaces" within Boystown, and gathering youth, young adults and adults together for a dialogue within these spaces,

3) Putting together peace circles to bring people together from all sides of the argument to engage in a respectful dialogue where power is shared,

4) Attending a CAPS meeting as one large group to join in the discussion.

At the Alliance, we seek to engage other groups in and outside of the LGBT community who want to push past the name-calling and shouting and move to a space where we can hold each other and our community centers accountable to meeting and exceeding the needs of those often seen as the most vulnerable. For us, it is a struggle to seek and retain our humanity in the face of inhumanity through violence, racism, greed, and oppression. To join the Alliance youth committee in this dialogue, please contact us directly at youthcommittee@illinoisafeschools.org.

In solidarity,
 The Illinois Safe Schools Alliance
 youth committee, board,
 staff and volunteers

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo
by
Michael
Brosilow

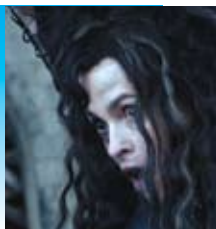
OZ AND ENDS

From left: Chris Carter, Adrianna Parson and Felicia P. Fields star in *The Wiz*. See the review on page 24.

MOVIES

A 'Harry' situation.
Page 27.

Photo from Warner Bros. Pictures



PERFORMANCE

Saucy Aussies.
Page 30.

Photo by Andrew Davis



SPORTS

Yes, he Kane.
Page 42.

Photo of Patrick Kane
by Ross Forman



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Nathan Lane and Brian Dennehy 'Cometh'

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

It's already safe to assume that the hottest ticket of the upcoming theater season is going to be the Goodman Theatre's revival of *The Iceman Cometh* directed by Robert Falls and starring two-time Tony Award-winners Nathan Lane and Brian Dennehy.

The Goodman officially announced July 15 that Eugene O'Neill's lengthy 1946 Broadway drama will round out its 2011-12 season with a run from April 22 to June 10, 2012.

This is not the first time that Falls and Dennehy have tackled O'Neill's drama about a New York saloon-full of dreamers and drunks who get stirred up by the arrival of a charismatic salesman named Theodore "Hickey" Hickman. Falls and Dennehy first worked together on the show in 1990 at the old Goodman Theatre near the Art Institute of Chicago. Only this time around Dennehy is taking up the supporting role of one-time syndicalist-anarchist Larry Slade, while Lane will take on the iconic role of Hickey.

Lane, of course, is most famous in theater circles for starring in big Broadway musicals (*The Producers*, *Guys and Dolls* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*) and Broadway comedies (*November*, *The Odd Couple*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*). The out actor also made a name for himself off-Broadway starring in Terrence McNally dramas like *The Lisbon Traviata*, *Lips Together*, *Teeth Apart* and *Love! Valour! Compassion!*

While Lane might not be the first person in most people's mind for such a weighty dramatic role as Hickey (other famed actors in the role include Jason Robards and Kevin Spacey), he's

such a skilled actor that he's bound to offer up an interpretation that will make the role his own (and after a year of carrying the critically panned musical *The Addams Family*, Lane certainly deserves the chance to get his teeth into some serious drama).

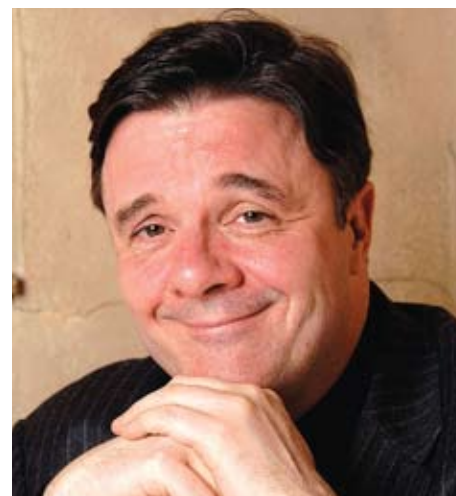
So far tickets to *The Iceman Cometh* are only available as part of five- or eight-play Goodman Theatre season subscriptions. Call 312-443-3800 or visit <http://www.goodmantheatre.org> for more information.

Celebrating 'Solo' in Rogers Park

The Fillet of Solo Festival is back in its 15th annual edition, returning again to the thriving Rogers Park theater scene in thanks to Lifeline Theatre artistic director Dorothy Milne and former Live Bait Theater artistic director Sharon Evans.

On tap this year's solo performance and storytelling festival are pieces by 13 Chicagoans, a trio of New Yorkers and a former Chicagoan now based in Los Angeles. Some notable shows include Jenny Allen's cancer piece *I Got Sick Then I Got Better* (since it features direction from Tony Award-winner James Lapine and Darren Katz), and Victory Gardens Playwrights Ensemble member Jeffrey Sweet's *You Only Shoot the Ones You Love* (since it is slated to appear at the upcoming 2011 New York International Fringe Festival). And of interest to LGBT audiences is Second City alum Jimmy Doyle's *Must Be Nice*, which details the out actor's less than happy exile in Los Angeles.

Fillet of Solo performances run in repertory at 7 and 8:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and at 3 p.m. Sundays from July 21 through



Nathan Lane. Photo courtesy of Goodman Theatre

Aug. 7 at these locations: Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood, and the Heartland Studio Theatre, 7016 N. Glenwood. Tickets are \$10 per performance or \$30 for a festival pass.

The final festival performance is James Braly's *Life in a Marital Institution* (produced by Meredith Vieira Productions), which plays 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 7, at the Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse. Tickets to this performance are \$20 (festival pass does not apply).

For more information, visit <http://www.lifelinetheatre.com> or call 773-761-4477.

Missing 'Mommies'

The Royal George Theatre is without a major tenant now that the Chicago opening of *The Mommies—A Musical Blog* has been postponed indefinitely. The musical revue making light of the joys and jarring aspects of motherhood was to have opened at the Royal George at end of July, but writer/producer Jeanie Linders opted to halt the production.

Linders is also the writer and producer of *Menopause The Musical*, and she has been distracted by lengthy production rights litigation

with GFour Productions of South Florida. The company is challenging the termination of its rights to present and produce *Menopause The Musical*.

"There is a process to a successful launch of any new show. The *Mommies—A Musical Blog* is a fabulous, fun new production about today's moms that deserves one hundred percent commitment from all members of my company. The litigation has not allowed that," Linders said in a statement. "The entire TOC/MOC staff is looking forward to giving our 'Mommies' the attention that is deserved once the dispute with G4 is concluded."

Since no new opening date has been set, *Mommies* ticket holders should look into the refund policies of their point of purchase.

Commemorating Guy Adkins

Porchlight Music Theatre recently awarded the first-ever Guy Adkins Award for Excellence in the Advancement of Music Theatre in Chicago to the company's former artistic director, L. Walter Sterns, at its recent soiree *Journey On-A Brunch Benefit for Porchlight Music Theatre* held on Sunday, July 17.

The award is named for the late out Chicago actor Guy Adkins, a native of Lansing, Mich., who excelled in the Chicago theater scene starting the 1990s with major musical theater roles for such companies as *Drury Lane Theatre* in Oak Brook and the *Marriott Theatre* in Lincolnshire. Adkins passed away from colon cancer at the age of 41 in May 2010.

"Guy loved theatre, and he loved music. He had a profound respect and admiration for any individual who strived to achieve their very best to create great art, and to share it passionately, proudly and wholeheartedly with an audience," said Sean Alan Krill, Adkins' longtime partner. "I can't think of a better way to honor his indubitable spirit than to encourage Chicago music theatre artists to continue to strive for excellence in their field, and to commend them for the advancement of this great art form."



There

618 Doctors & Advocates Agree

Thank you to the 618 individuals who have signed letters to the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and to drug maker Gilead Sciences' CEO John Martin asking for a halt to FDA approval for expanded use of the company's AIDS treatment drug Truvada as an HIV prevention pill – also known as pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP.

Truvada is not ready for widespread use as an HIV prevention pill because:

- In the largest study, Truvada was only 44% effective at preventing HIV.
- There is a lack of “real world” data.
- There could be an increased risk to men who falsely believe they are protected from HIV and stop using condoms.

Join the chorus: Ask Gilead Sciences to stop pursuit of FDA approval for Truvada as PrEP until further study is completed.

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Krapp's Last Tape. Photo by Johnny Knight

THEATER REVIEW

Krapp's Last Tape

Playwright: Samuel Beckett

At: The Ensemble Project at Signal Ensemble Theatre, 1802 W. Berenice

Phone: 773-347-1350; donations

Runs through: Aug. 7

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

We meet our “wearish” hero in his den as he prepares to revisit a chapter in the audiotaped journal he has kept since his youth—first searching voluminous written indices to locate just the correct reel in the correct storage box, then having a drink and a snack, followed by a clean-up (casually throwing the banana peels on the floor). As Krapp totters arthritically between the distant corners of the Signal Ensemble playhouse’s catacomb-like interior, we huddle silently in the darkness until, after 30 minutes—nearly half the play’s allotted time—he finally speaks, thrilling to the sound of his own voice.

If remembering is doomed to become this much trouble, it’s no wonder that elderly people so often prefer to forget. Krapp’s tragedy is not

the trouble he must undergo to retrieve his past, however, but the cruel light it shines on the bleakness of his present life. Again and again, he relives his account of an idyllic boating excursion, thirty years earlier, accompanied by the girl friend with whom he would break up that same day, wondering in retrospect if his decision was wise and musing on the petty details he once thought sufficiently important to warrant recording (including abstruse words he must now fetch a dictionary to decipher).

The challenge to authors of monologue plays is to give their lone protagonists a reason to vocalize. Face it, people don’t usually talk much when they’re alone, and while oldsters are often stereotyped as self-absorbed dotards, that doesn’t mean we must attend to their rambling apostrophes. Despite Samuel Beckett’s resorting to the—well, mechanical device of having Krapp address his former self as preserved by cumbersome reel-to-reel technology, without empathy in abundance, the sensory strain produced by his chiaroscuro soliloquy can quickly turn soporific.

Ah, but Signal Ensemble is the company renowned for breathing fresh immediacy into the most ossified of classics (notably, *Waiting for Godot*). For this inaugural production in the Ensemble Project series, director Aaron Snook restricts the physical space—only 15 audience members are admitted for each performance—to invoke an intimate connection that renders the smallest twitch of an eyebrow at once palpable and significant. It helps, too, that Vincent L. Loneragan, playing the curmudgeonly Krapp, is a charismatic host whose Beethoven hair and unwavering gaze engage us with hypnotic charm.

CRITICS’ PICKS

Chinglish, Goodman Theatre, through July 31. David Henry Hwang’s comedy about an American trying to business in China is not only a linguistic laugh riot, but it’s also Broadway-bound. See it here first while you still can. SCM

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche, The New Colony at DANK Haus, through July 30. It’s the comic and quirky performances that elevate this sketch-turned-full-length-play into a fun romp as a group of 1950s quiche-loving “widows” must deal with the horrors of the atomic age. SCM

The Homosexuals, About Face Theatre at the Biograph, through July 24. It’s a long way from Stonewall to Boystown, but Philip Dawkins rejects both cheap comedy and cheap melodrama for this chronicle of a young man learning how to be gay. MSB

Yellow Face, Silk Road Theatre Project, through July 31. David Henry Hwang’s ethnographic twist on the old tale of *The Emperor’s New Clothes* makes for savage satire and insightful arguments ultimately championing the all-American tradition of self-reinvention. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

‘Homosexuals’ playwright profiled in Esquire

Philip Dawkins—the playwright behind *The Homosexuals*, which is having its world-premiere run by About Face Theatre at Victory Gardens—is one of approximately 40 men from around the country profiled in the June/July issue of *Esquire* magazine.

Five years ago, the magazine profiled 51 men (one from each state and Washington, D.C.) who were all 25; the publication tracked down most of them to see how their lives have changed.

In 2006, Dawkins—a former Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree who is now a vegetarian and kung-fu enthusiast—said that he wanted “to be the Martin Luther King of the gay revolution.” In the latest issue of the magazine, he said, “This is my time. I’ve never felt more comfortable being a man.”

The Jeff-recommended *The Homosexuals* runs through July 24.

THEATER REVIEW

The Wiz

Score: Charlie Smalls;

Book: William F. Brown

At: Theatre at the Center,

1040 Ridge, Munster, Ind.

Phone: 219-836-3255; \$36-\$40

Runs through: Aug. 7

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Ever since L. Frank Baum’s children’s novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* debuted in 1900, generations of authors, filmmakers and composers have put their own spin on the tale of a Kansas girl who gets whisked away via tornado to a magical land.

Before the blockbuster musical *Wicked* debuted in 2003, Broadway’s biggest hit Oz musical was the *The Wiz* from 1975. Composer/lyricist Charlie Small and playwright William F. Brown’s confidently took the “Great American Fairytale” of Oz and refashioned it as an African-American extravaganza.

True, *The Wiz* would never fully replace memories of the iconic 1939 MGM film *The Wizard of Oz* (Brown’s script also heavily relies on audience familiarity with the film to get across its storytelling). But Small and Brown proudly offered up a welcoming and mainstream alternative Oz version filled with catchy tunes like “Ease on Down the Road” and “Home,” making *The Wiz* a lasting representative of the 1970s burgeoning “Black-splottation” entertainment movement.

Theatre at the Center’s current revival of *The Wiz* is undoubtedly not as lavish or glamorous as the Broadway original, what with its synthesized reduced orchestrations and Bill Bartelt’s industrial set that favors ghetto grit over big city sparkle. Yet Theatre at the Center still offers up a very strong production that probably gives a better sense of what made *The Wiz* so special on stage when compared to the weird 1978 film adaptation.

Director/choreographer Stacey Flaster has cast the show with plenty of actors who are vocal powerhouses (many of whom get applause mid-song). Flaster also doesn’t let the show’s energy flag except in one crucial scene: the production number “No Bad News” where cowering peons just flail around Felicia P. Fields’ strutting *Wicked Witch* Evillene. The number oddly fizzles out, despite the enjoyable sass of Fields.



The Wiz. Photos by Michael Brosilow

Adrianna Parson’s super-fit Dorothy may look like she can defend herself, but she does get across her character’s vulnerability and determination quite well.

Parson’s Yellow Brick Road escorts are also well polished. Darius Colquin’s limber Scarecrow, Jesse Dean Stanford’s solid Tinman and especially James Earl Jones II’s powerfully voiced Lion all are adept at delivering the comic jive talk timing and being able to soar with their singing.

Also great in *The Wiz* is Dwelvan David as the hepcat title character (a commanding vision in costume designer Brenda Winstead’s ghetto-fabulous fur coat and lighting designer Tim Fandre’s eerie green lighting). Also injecting plenty of humor in *The Wiz* is Alexis J. Rodgers’ not-always-successful-with-magic good witch Addaperle.

While certain aspects of *The Wiz*’s may come off as dated, the show remains a fantastic fantasy that is representative of the era that spawned it. However, most importantly, *The Wiz* is still plenty of artful fun.





The Crowd You're In With. Photo by Anthony Aicardi

THEATER REVIEW

The Crowd You're In With

Playwright: Rebecca Gilman

At: 16th Street Theater,
6420 16th Street, Berwyn

Tickets: 708-795-6704;

<http://www.16thstreettheater.org>; \$18

Runs through: Aug. 13

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Thirtysomething Melinda and Jasper have been shooting for pregnancy for six months as best buds Windsong and Dan are near-term with their first child, a daughter. Melinda believes a baby will bring personal and marital fulfillment but Jasper isn't so sure. At a disastrous July Fourth barbecue, the very pregnant Windsong and Dan are pitted against sixty-ish Tom and Karen, who made a conscious decision not to have children. The older couple are Melinda and Jasper's liberal and smart upstairs neighbors and landlords. Hey, it's Lucy and Ricky and Ethel and Fred. Not! Tom and Karen make witty intellectual hash of Windsong and Dan and slacker buddy Dwight (Dan and Jasper's garage bandmate), while Jasper emerges as the torn and conflicted central figure, momentarily convinced by Melinda's desire to make another Jasper.

However, author Rebecca Gilman has bigger fish to fry than parenthood alone. She's out to dissect societal expectations (of marriage and family), inculcated patterns of behavior and the very nature of marital devotion. Is having a child the completion of ideal love? Or does it destroy ideal love? Can a child bridge the gaps in a marriage that may be less than ideal? Gilman does not attempt to answer these probably-unanswerable questions, but she certainly knows how to set the ducks in a row.

Her play very much is a thesis play, a work of ideas rather than of story or character. At 75 minutes, there's very little time for the characters to stake out much territory beyond their position statements. This could be deadly in the hands of a less-witty author, but Gilman is skilled in the use of comedy and pointed social satire. "Of course you're scared (of parenthood)," acerbic Karen says to Windsong. "The world's probably going to end within your baby's lifetime."

Working in a very intimate space, director Anish Jethmalani downplays speechmaking in favor of an easy and loose naturalism in a script which could pass as a well-written, deeper-than-most teleplay. There are a few inert moments when all seven actors crowd the stage, but they probably are unavoidable given the small dimensions, nicely rendered by scenic designer Roger Wikes as the neat-as-a-pin backyard of a Chicago-style brick two-flat.

The acting ensemble is ingratiating and convincing in drawing Gilman's oh-so-familiar types. I recognized a bit too much of myself in Tom (Steve Ratcliff) and Karen (Joan Kohn), the older couple leftover from the activist 1960's and 1970's, and more happily noted how Gilman

captures the self-centered attitudes of the Me Generation of the younger couples, nicely played by Sorin Brouwers (Jasper), Michelle Courvais (Melinda), Brad Harbaugh (Dan) and Skyler Schrempp (Windsong). Andy Slade completes the cast as amiable, nearly-invisible band buddy Dwight.

SPOTLIGHT



It makes sense for Chicago Shakespeare Theater to target the scads of tourist families mobbing Navy Pier each summer with a family-friendly show. So on tap for the season is **The Adventures of Pinocchio**, a world-premiere musical based upon Carlo Collodi's classic book about a wooden puppet who longs to become a real boy. The high-pedigree collaborative team includes composer/lyricist Neil Bartram and playwright Brian Hill (the team behind the gay-friendly Broadway musical *The Story of My Life*), plus Jeff Award-winning director Rachel Rockwell. The *Adventures of Pinocchio* continues in the Courtyard Theater space of Chicago Shakespeare Theater at Navy Pier, 800 E. Grand. Performances vary, but are mostly 11 a.m. Wednesdays through Sundays and 2 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. Tickets are \$18-\$25; call 312-595-5600 or visit <http://www.chicagoshakes.com>. Photo by Peter Bosy

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NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

The great Dane: Agostinis of 'Beauty and the Beast'



BY JERRY NUNN

Dane Agostinis brings a new Beast to town for Broadway in Chicago's leg of the national Beauty and the Beast tour. He brings a musical background to add to the play from Carousel to Oklahoma! Windy City Times sat down at the table for lunch and to be his guest.

Windy City Times: Hello, Dane. So you are one of the new cast members to the show?

DA: Yes, Emily Behny, who plays Belle and Logan Denninghoff, who plays Gaston, all came in at the same time. We rehearsed in New York for a week then went to L.A. Our opening was insane because Tom Cruise and the family were there. They came backstage and were very complimentary. Tom said something that I will never forget. He had never seen the movie or the show. He said, "You will always be the Beast in my mind."

WCT: Wow!

DA: A lot of people have not seen the show but to hear him say that was so cool. We did the last three performances in L.A.

WCT: And now you are touring around. Is this your first time in Chicago?

DA: No, I came here on a chorus trip in 11th grade in 2001. We did the Sears Tower and sang national anthem at the Chicago White Sox game. This is my first time by myself.

WCT: Where does your name come from?

DA: It's Italian. It sounds Greek because the "s" at the end. My family is from northern Italy. I don't speak a lick of Italian. I can maybe count to ten!

WCT: You are from New York?

DA: I live in New York. I am from Tampa, Fla., originally.

WCT: You went to school in Florida?

DA: I went in Tampa then NYU for college.

WCT: You studied musical theatre there?

DA: Yes, I studied at the Tisch School of the Arts. I studied at CAP21, which is the musical theatre conservatory. It is now a professional company but people still take classes there.

WCT: So after school you auditioned for things?

DA: I auditioned for things. I did The Great American Trailer Park tour for about ten months. My first professional job was as a replacement in Debbie Does Dallas the Musical in Tahoe.

WCT: What kind of a show is that?

DA: It is a crazy show! One of the most fun roles I have ever done. I played Rick the quarterback. I replaced Adam Lambert. So we lived together for a week and learned the show from him. This was before he became the Adam Lambert on American Idol.

WCT: What did he look like at the time?

DA: He had blonde hair and freckles. He was kind of a vampire because our show was at 10 o'clock at night at Harrah's Casino so he would come in late and sleep all day.

WCT: What led you to Beauty and the Beast?

DA: I auditioned last October for Sam Scalomoni, the associate director. He handles all of the casting. I sang one of my favorite songs from Chess called "Where I Want to Be." It was perfect for the Beast, kind of angsty. I didn't get a call back until January of the next year. I was freaking out because I didn't know that Justin, who played the part before was leaving. I got a call a few days later asking me to play the Beast.

WCT: Do you like the Disney cartoon version?

DA: I do but I just watched it the other day and they have a newer version that really messes with my eyes. I miss the old regular animation.

WCT: How long does it take you to get ready in becoming the Beast?

DA: It started off an hour and a half before the show. Sitting in the makeup chair it takes me 45 minutes. Now I do it myself because I like to have my own space to do my warm up and listen to my music.

WCT: What music do you listen to backstage?

DA: I have always liked showtunes. I do a few warm-ups then sing through songs of shows. I like to sing Side Show because of the baritone part, also, Songs For a New World and Damn Yankees.

WCT: Your solo "If I Can't Love Her" is a tough song to do, isn't it?

DA: It is very hard to do. I have fallen flat a



Dane Agostinis.

few times.

WCT: Well, there is more to being the Beast than just that song.

DA: That is what Sam the director told me. I am an actor before I am a singer. I love that because I want to do straight plays, TV and film too. You can be an amazing singer and not be

able to act. That is the worst thing to watch. Sure, you sound pretty but that is why they need to be a recording artist.

WCT: How is Belle to work with?

DA: She is great. Emily and I got to work together a bit before in a stage reading about Eleanor Roosevelt then started the show soon after. We are constantly getting praise for our chemistry onstage. It is so easy with her because she is open and we just bounce back off each other.

WCT: How is your take on the Beast different?

DA: I like to be funny. I like the scary stuff in the beginning. He does the worst thing ever by taking a father from his daughter and then he gets to be sweet and dopy. I have such a blast playing him. I get sick of a role sometimes but with him I am finding new things about him all the time.

WCT: Where are you going after this?

DA: We have a seven-week break. We are getting the costumes and set revamped. After that we open in Cincinnati for two weeks. That's where I will be for my birthday. The show is doing well and will go back to venues that it sold out to extend the stay of the production.

Catch the great Dane here at Ford/Oriental Center, 24 W. Randolph, through Aug. 7. For tickets visit <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com> or call 800-775-2000.

THEATER REVIEW

Laer's Last Prayer

Playwright: Stephen F. Murray

At: Edgewater Presbyterian Church, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr

Phone: 800-838-3006; \$15-\$20

Runs through: July 24

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

At first glance, the stage looks like the prop shop for a Beckett festival: here we see the suitcases from Waiting For Godot, there is the desk from Krapp's Last Tape, and smack-dab at center is the wheelchair from Endgame, complete with sheet-shrouded elderly invalid seated therein and young valet in attendance.

Imagine our surprise, then, when the characters proceed to speak in a polyglot pastiche drawn from classical literature—chiefly Shakespeare—plunging us into a vertigo engendered by our simultaneous attempts to translate the lofty language into contemporary discourse, identify its disparate sources, and discern a subtext within the dialogue in progress. Our focus is further fragmented by the personae's propensity for clownish antics arising from objects plucked forth from the trunks and valises with which they are equipped—beanbags, batons, bulb-horns, tin-can telephones, a life-size skull.

Just when we think that we've fallen prey

to a pack of English Lit undergraduates on a post-finals spree—Did I mention the doctor donning a commedia-style mask and enticing his patient to re-enact a variation on the Edgar-as-madman business from King Lear?—a blackout signals the start of a new scene, this one featuring a cheerful Ophelia armed with a cuddly stuffed lamb. She gives her name as Jill and when we discover the valet's name to be "Jack," suddenly we comprehend that they are a brother and sister keeping vigil by the bedside of their still-living, but no longer mentally active, sire—an experience nowadays increasingly shared by many people in our society.

Even before a note in the playbill (its cover decorated with a portrait of Samuel Beckett) affirms its academic origins, however, the text forged from Stephen F. Murray's "class project" bears all the hallmarks of lengthy ruminations and extensive study—qualities contributing to a meticulously-crafted lyricism better appreciated at leisure than in the immediacy of live performance. That said, there is no denying the industry and conviction of the actors who declaim this flowery speech—Nick Lake, Elliott Fredland, Brian Hurst and especially Jamie Bragg as the disheveled damsel seated on what she, after reciting the rhyme about "Little Miss Muffet," concludes must be a "tuffet." When Murray's grandiloquence threatens to overwhelm us, her sunny smile provides a welcome rest before we once more set out to brave the raging tempest of arcane oratory.



Laer's Last Prayer. Photo by Carl Morrison

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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2

"I open at the close" reads the inscription on the magical, golden object that the young man with the lightning-shaped scar on his forehead draws from his coat pocket. The precious article had been left to the young man, an orphan since birth, in the will of his elderly mentor—the recently murdered, gay headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Dumbledore.

The golden talisman, in the hand of our young hero—itsself a neat metaphor for the millions of audience members enthralled by Harry Potter



Daniel Radcliffe in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part Two*. Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

mania for a decade—finally opens to reveal one last secret at the conclusion of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2* (hereinafter HP8).

It's been a long 10 years waiting for that little golden orb to open—a delicious 10 years in which we fans of fantasy films have reveled in the intricate, dark pleasures of all eight of the Warner Bros. film adaptations of the J.K. Rowling best-sellers (each scripted by Steve Kloves—a gargantuan task). There has never been a film series to compare with the Harry Potter saga and, not surprisingly, the box-office figures for this final installment have been off the charts, setting new records and surely pleasing studio accountants who are assured of bragging rights for at least the next little while. Laudatory as the financials are, though, it's the creative fulfillment of Rowling's vision that is the most impressive accomplishment of the franchise.

Not having read the dictionary-sized novels, I have come to each new Harry Potter movie with fresh, delighted expectations. That's how high the bar was set for me with the first installment, 2001's *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Credit that movie's director, Chris Columbus, and his crack design team for getting the look and feel of the magical locations just right; Kloves

for penning a script that winnowed down (by all reports) Rowling's digressive tween tome while being faithful to it; John Williams for another magical, memorable film score (his "Hedwig's Theme" has presided over each of the subsequent movies as surely as Harry's owl familiar); and Rowling herself for insisting on an all-British cast that has populated the movies with a dream ensemble. Then there's the young trio at the center of the films—Daniel Radcliffe as Harry, Rupert Grint as Ron and Emma Watson as Hermione—who have held their own against these acting titans while giving audiences the pleasure of becoming pseudo-parents and watching "their children" grow and mature with each outing.

Director David Yates, who has helmed the final quartet of movies, assuredly oversees the cycle to its finish. The battle between the good wizards (Harry & company) vs. the baddies (Voldemort & his minions) occupy the bulk of the picture (which resumes, like the Flash Gordon serials of old, with the last scene of the previous installment—in this case, showing a triumphant, malevolent Ralph Fiennes, as Lord Voldemort, clutching the elder wand).

The emotional journey of Harry, Ron and Hermione, as well as several of the other characters, plays out as the battle races toward its conclusion. There will be painful reassessments, the resolution of budding romances, and, mostly, a maturity as the trio has together learned how to deal with the impact of death on their lives. There's really no point in reiterating the intricacies of the plot beyond that simple summary

(and if you haven't been around for the previous seven movies are you really all that interested anyway?). Both seasoned viewers and the curious will find lots of familiar fantasy blockbuster set pieces here—battle scenes, chase sequences, cliffhangers, etc.

One of the particular pleasures in this final film for the millions of faithful fans is seeing the old locations and minor cast members return (alongside the leads)—it's like a pleasurable family or high school reunion. We get to go back into Gringotts, the mysterious goblin bank; spend more time—just about all in fact—back at Hogwarts itself (although the wear and tear from the final battle on the school is fearsome); and, best, get screen time with old favorites like Maggie Smith, Julie Walters, Matthew Lewis and Alan Rickman. There are even glimpses of Emma Thompson, out actor Miriam Margolyes and others (although I didn't catch sight of either Imelda Staunton or Zoe Wanamaker).

As this decade of Harry Potter cinematic experiences wraps, I find myself in a bit of a nostalgic funk and yearning for more. Rowling understood this dual reaction and provided her readers with a coda that takes place 19 years after the conclusion of the battle—something



Helena Bonham Carter in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part Two*. Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

HP8 replicates. It is with this epilogue that I must report my one real twinge of regret when it comes to this last movie and the series itself.

As we watch Harry & Co. putting their own kids on the train for Hogwarts, it was nice to see how everyone had paired up so neatly and produced such darling little sprites. However, as my eyes scanned the platform and the magical train, taking in the emotional goodbyes, I realized with a start that something was missing. Where were the gay characters? You mean not even that blond cretin Draco Malfoy—who screamed gay through the entire series—turned out not to be a poofa? Really?! All this fuzzy, feel-good wizardry and wonderment and fine talk about heroes and courage and not one gay character other than the dead Dumbledore (whose proclivities were not announced during the movies but in interviews Rowling gave after

the fact)? Not one? Nineteen years later and not one? What gives?

So, as I have done hundreds of times when watching movies that I love (and a lot that I don't) I mentally rewrote what I was seeing on the screen at the conclusion of HP8. I imagined queer characters that weren't immediately apparent mixing right in with their heterosexual doppelgangers. In my mind, then, that little golden orb with its inscription, "I open at the close" wasn't the last of the secrets left to be uncovered in the realm of Harry Potter's world and I eagerly await further revelations. They will be magical and fantastic and breathtaking—and gay as a goose. I guarantee you.

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

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Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis: Our friends ... with benefits

Timberlake and Kunis talk being allies, getting naked and breaking gay stereotypes
BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

When Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis stroll into a hotel suite in Santa Monica, Calif., it's clear why they're in a movie about having emotionless, just-for-fun sex—they're both ridiculously hot. He's all dapper in a blue button-up; she's model-esque in hugging blue jeans.

As the stars of *Friends With Benefits*, director Will Gluck's funny follow up to the gay-famous *Easy A*, the dreamboat duo plays an emotionally impaired twosome living in New York who realize they have something in common: They both love getting frisky, but neither want the strings. The rom-com's not just an excuse to see both of their butts; it's a modern take on the notorious hook-up scene—with lots of gayness going for it, including Woody Harrelson as Timberlake's gay manly-man sidekick.

Just before lunch one recent morning, Timberlake and Kunis sat down to talk about the gay

MK: [Gets up from the table for a drink]

JT: [To Mila, sarcastically] That's cool. I'll take care of it.

MK: I'm right here, I'm right here! I just went to grab water.

JT: Wow, I really have abandonment issues with you. That's a stupid joke. Don't make that serious. But we wanted to use these scenes to break a little ground. There's a lot in it that just feels more like how we see our generation.

WCT: Did you feel like you had a kindred quality between you two?

MK: We have the same sense of humor, is what we realized early on. The chemistry had a lot to do with the writing and the quick banter, and when we got comfortable with the characters it was easy to put that across onscreen. We became friends because we had two, three months of rehearsal and writing and rewriting, and you don't always get that—so you hope that somehow that translates onscreen. If you have a great time doing a film, you hope the audience has a great time watching it. But as far as feeling like kindred spirits, I think we had a lot of things in common.



Justin Timberlake. Photo from *Friends with Benefits* courtesy of Sony Pictures

in relationships, but all facets of life—feeling like you want to gain your independence, so sometimes there's a misunderstanding of feeling like you have to break away from your parents to do that. The more I realized how much I was like my parents, the more I was able to gain my own independence.

WCT: You have a very funny dynamic with Woody Harrelson's character in the movie. Do either of you have gay friends like him in your own lives?

JT: I'm glad that you brought that up. That was very important to Will (Gluck) and myself when we were diagramming that relationship, because I do have a lot of male friends—straight and gay—and nobody gets treated differently. Your friends are your friends. We had a lot of discussions about that and said, "What a great opportunity to break ridiculous stereotypes about a gay male and show a great, honest relationship between a straight man and a gay man that's just a friendship between two men." I really hope that it feels empowering to the males in the gay community, because it's real life for me.

And to have somebody like Woody, who's such an affable, goofily charming person in real life, play that type of character is a real huge benefit for the movie. I was very excited to know that he was going to play that character because we really wanted to, like I said before, break stereotypes and comment on modern life. You take some chances when you do that, but I really hope that it feels empowering in a way, because I was very proud to have that in the movie.

[Looking at Mila] She agrees.

WCT: You have lots of gay friends, too?

MK: Yes, yes. I do! [Laughs] I've had an assortment of young gay gentlemen in my life since I was, like, 10 years old.

JT: I think it's an important time to say that people are people, and this was a good opportunity to do that. Again, Woody's character is self-effacing about his own sexual preference and he finds humor in it and I find humor in it, and we actually use our differences to become related to each other—and that's important. So again, I'm just really proud of that aspect of the movie.

When you first meet Woody in his first scene his dialogue is jaw-dropping, but as you get to know his character in the movie you realize that that's his actual character's sense of humor in general. It doesn't have anything to do with his sexual preference; it has to do with his sense of humor. So I hope that really comes across.

WCT: You hear a lot about how younger generations are more interested in the hook-up culture than dating and relationships. What kinds of stories were you told from people before you shot the movie?

MK: I was interviewed by a reporter when I was doing press for *Black Swan* and she told me

that her current husband started as friends with benefits, so it wasn't up until then that I actually started paying attention to the idea of it. But I feel like this concept's been around forever. It's just that people are more willing to talk about it now. It's not as taboo as it was. I think that our generation is a little more forthcoming, a little more honest, and I think females are embracing their sexuality more so now than they were 30, 40, 50 years ago.

WCT: What about men?

MK: Men have always embraced their sexuality! [Laughs] I don't think men have ever had a problem embracing their sexuality.

JT: I disagree with that. Seriously. I think that men have always been uncomfortably external about their sexuality.

WCT: What are your favorite romantic comedies?

MK: Other than *When Harry Met Sally*, it's a bit of a cheesy answer but it's honest: *Pretty Woman*—one of my favorite movies in general.

JT: I think it's great, because it's the movie that your character loves in this movie. [Laughs] I don't think you should feel bad about that. It's a great movie; it makes you laugh.

MK: I can put that movie on mute and tell you word-for-word each piece of that. I love that movie. It truly makes me happy.

JT: I got in trouble for saying *Terms of Endearment*. [Pointing to Mila] She was like, "That's not a romantic comedy!" But it made me laugh!

I will say *When Harry Met Sally* is a great one, and what I love about that movie is what I love about what we aspired to do with this movie, which was stop and look around at our generation and say what's funny and ridiculous about it. And for me, that empowers people who will go see this movie that want to be spoken to in a smart way about love and sex and relationships and connections between people.

Emmy nods out

The Emmy nominations have come out for 2011, and they certainly are gay-inclusive.

For example, in the Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series category, the very gay-friendly show *Modern Family* has Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Ed O'Neill, Ty Burrell and Eric Stonestreet all nominated; they're pitted against *Glee*'s Chris Colfer, who plays out student Kurt. Also, lesbian actress Jane Lynch—who is hosting the show—was nominated for her role as Sue Sylvester in *Glee*.

MonstersAndCritics.com reported that the Chaz Bono documentary *Becoming Chaz*—shown on OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network—received three Emmy nods: Outstanding Nonfiction Special; Outstanding Directing for Nonfiction Programming; and Outstanding Picture Editing for Nonfiction Programming. The show documented Bono's transition from female to male.

On another note, the Lead Actress in a Comedy Series category bears watching, as Tina Fey (*30 Rock*), Edie Falco (*Nurse Jackie*) and Laura Linney (*The Big C*) are among the nominees. Drama series nods went to *The Good Wife*, *Mad Men* and *Dexter*, among others.

Reality-competition nominees include *So You Think You Can Dance*, *The Amazing Race* (which just had its first lesbian winner this past season), *Project Runway*, *American Idol*, *Dancing with the Stars* and *Top Chef*.

CBS News reported that the HBO miniseries *Mildred Pierce*, helmed by openly gay director Todd Haynes, garnered the most nominations of any program, snaring 21. *Mad Men* received 19 nods and *Modern Family* got 17 nominations.

The Primetime Emmys will be televised Sunday, Sept. 18.



Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis in *Friends with Benefits*. Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures

people in their own lives, breaking stereotypes and the awkwardness of shooting sex scenes.

Windy City Times: Are you as comfortable with your bodies as you seem to be in the movie?

Mila Kunis: I like to run around naked on the streets all the time! [Laughs] No, I'm pretty self-conscious in general. It doesn't help that I'm a female.

Justin Timberlake: [Deadpans] I'm extremely comfortable with Mila's body.

WCT: Mila, how does fake sex with Justin Timberlake compare to fake sex with Natalie Portman, your co-star in *Black Swan*?

MK: Well, the only thing I can say is that one was funny and one was scary.

WCT: Justin was the scary one?

JT: I was more intrusive. You do the math.

WCT: Justin, are those intimate scenes almost like choreographing a dance number?

JT: It's physical humor, so it has a level of theatrics to it.

MK: Thank you, thank you. No, no—I agree. That's the honest answer. It's very choreographed and very specific.

JT: It's definitely less awkward when you're required to make them awkward. You know, when you're required—

JT: We actually do have a lot in common. We bonded over a lowbrow sense of humor that we share, but also, we kind of grew up in the business, so we kind of share that. And we're both pretty normal people when we're not working. I just think, like she said, we had an unusual amount of time to rehearse, so we were able to discuss the scenes when we work-shopped them and find what we thought was like-minded from a male perspective and a female perspective.

WCT: You're a fan of *Harry Potter* in the movie—which, in the film, is said to be a gay thing. Are you a fan of the franchise?

JT: I'm sorry, that's like a thing about wizards? Harry ... Potter? I'm aware of it. *Harry Potter*'s pretty amazing. We're all fans.

WCT: Do you both think that a lot of young people are reluctant to get into relationships because they don't want to repeat their parents' mistakes?

JT: I think that happens with every person, and not just with relationships. You go through a certain point in your life where you feel like you've taken all the cards you've been dealt and made a great situation out of them, and then things that are in your DNA that you have no control over, you have to kind of accept.

But I think that you go through life—not just

NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION

Out actor John Barrowman: Back in the 'Torchwood' saddle

BY JERRY NUNN

Actor John Barrowman is proving that he will never die with a new segment to his series *Torchwood: Miracle Day* on the Starz channel.

Torchwood is a British television show that spun off originally from another show *Doctor Who*. Moving to different television stations every year on the BBC before now arriving in the United States, the show follows a group of alien hunters led by Captain Jack Harkness played by Barrowman. *Miracle Day* begins with the entire population on Earth unable to perish and the events that happen thereafter.

Barrowman is from Scotland but was raised in Illinois before studying music and theatre in San Diego. He has appeared in musical films such as *De-Lovely* and *The Producers* before landing the pivotal role as Jack.

Windy City Times: Hi, John. What time is it where you are calling in from?

John Barrowman: It's just after 8:30 p.m. It doesn't get dark here until about 10 o'clock. I am looking out past my back garden, across the swimming pool. I live right by the beach, looking into the south coast of England.

WCT: Rough life! Do you live with your partner there?

JB: Yes, I do. If I describe it to the equivalent in the States, then we have a house in the city and this is our house in the country. Scott and I usually spend the weekends here. We have our house in central London. Unfortunately, he had to go back to London to work and I stayed here because I have the day off.

WCT: I watched the first three episodes of *Miracle Day*. I was not familiar with the series so I am new to the show.

JB: This is really great to see your perspective of it because the one thing that I think really worked well was the fact that someone who is coming new into it was getting a little bit of back story, history through the characters and finding out who this *Torchwood* organization is but not having to watch all of the series to pick all of that up. Did it work?

WCT: Yes, I followed along very well. The series has had such a big following over the years.

JB: It has been a huge surprise to us but also it has been really gratifying. The show itself many years back was written for a spin-off for the character of Captain Jack from *Doctor Who*. *Torchwood* is an anagram of "Doctor Who." We have a science-fiction history behind us. Over the years we have evolved. *Torchwood* was on a very small digital channel then we proved ourselves and got great ratings there. We moved to a bigger channel BBC Two. Our series slightly changed again and then moved to BBC One, which is the big channel over here.

It seems like the natural progression is the fan base that we have built, the last series *Children of Earth* internationally has just grown and grown. It made perfect sense for us to become part of Starz in a collaborative effort and move over to the States. We filmed it both in the U.S. and the U.K. It is becoming more international like our audiences. As we say over here, we are chuffed!

WCT: I was wondering where it was filmed because it is hard to tell.

JB: Well, we filmed as you can see from the first episode it was done at a beach and a cottage. This was filmed in South Wales, in fact about 15 miles up the coast from where I live, called Rhossili Beach. We filmed here for two and half weeks, Eve stayed a little longer because she had interior shots for other episodes that are coming up. We did it all in one block. We filmed everything else in the United States, either on location or on the Warner Brothers lot. That was a total trip because I would ride my bike around

the lot. I have done *Desperate Housewives* over at Universal and different things but this was my show. I was so proud and pleased to be able to have that. It was a really nice feeling and overwhelming.

WCT: Eve Myles really stands out in the show, and just visited Chicago. When are you coming?

JB: I would love to come there but I am filming another TV show at the moment. My television show in the U.K. that I am not only in but I produce it. I am hard at work. I would love to be there. I guarantee you that I will come at some point because it is my old stomping grounds.

WCT: You lived in Illinois for a while.

JB: I lived in Aurora, then Joliet, Ill. I went to school up in Chicago for a period of time at DePaul University.

WCT: How is it with the old cast and new cast working together?

JB: I know you guys want horror stories but I have to be honest with you—we actually all hit it off. I think the new people that were coming in, Mekhi Phifer, Bill Pullman and Alexa Havins, had done their research and saw what the show was prior so they knew who Eve and I were. It was like welcoming new people into the fold.

Eve and I look at ourselves as being the mama and the papa of the ship. I might be tooting our own horn here but if you asked anyone we are really easy to get along with. We are not difficult and have our feet firmly on the ground. We have tasted a little success and we learn to deal with it. It hasn't changed who we are. We treat everyone like we are a big family. It was great to welcome new people into the cast, to have new energy there. It adds something special to it.

WCT: A fan wanted me to ask if Ianto [a male co-worker and lover of Barrowman's character] would be returning to the show.

JB: Ianto is mentioned but he won't be coming back into the series. Ianto was Jack's last love interest. They had a really good relationship. He died in the last series.

WCT: Many people still come back from the dead in this series.

JB: That is true, but I think we have moved on. Russell T. Davies explains it better, he says we couldn't have transplanted the show in the States and brought the entire company with it. People had to die!

WCT: In the third episode you get to have a little safe-sex message.

JB: Hey hey hey! I got to have a little bit of ass and some safe sex. Of course, it was a good safe sex message and so it should be. Ironically over here in the U.K. from last year to this year the HIV spread rate has doubled. I believe there is a generation of young people who think they can't get it and many people think you can't die from it anymore. That is not the right way to be thinking. We were glad to put that safe sex message in there. People can't die in the series but a lifetime of regret just gets longer.

WCT: It ties back into the show because people think they can live forever.

JB: Absolutely. That is part of the message. You have to be cautious and careful. On the day of the scene I woke up with Scott, we have a condominium in West Hollywood, I was quite chirpy and told him I was off to have sex with a 24-year-old!

WCT: [Laughs] He was okay with it?

JB: Of course he was. He wanted to come in and watch. It thought it was a little much because Dylan, who plays the character, would not want Scott leering over the wall of the set watching us have sex. That might not work for him. The poor boy was straight.

WCT: Do the writers of the show have a fascination with death?

JB: It is not a fascination about death because if we were going to do a show about that



John Barrowman in *Torchwood: Miracle Day*. Photo courtesy of Starz

then we would have annihilated the planet. They turned it around and it is a show about life.

If you think about it, we are living longer in our lives. They are saying that people who are born this year could live until they are 120. There are problems that arrive and it is how we as a society, if we woke up one day immortal, are able to cope with it. Would you be selfish and live only for yourself? How would the government react? We have big problems with health care in the United States right now. That is mimicked in our series. In the show if you are

injured you still feel pain. The thing I love about our writers is they always approach subject matters that other shows are afraid to touch. Who would put a pedophile as a main character?

WCT: Good point.

JB: Not only that but at first people don't like him. I guarantee you by episode ten you are going to like him. You are going to be really torn with yourself for liking this man.

WCT: Bill Pullman [who's on the series this season] is such a good actor.

JB: He is brilliant. I think it's in episode three when I climb into his dressing room. I had to pinch myself and say that was with Bill Pullman.

WCT: Well, you have a huge background yourself from a self-titled CD, and to two memoirs. You have done a lot yourself, mister.

JB: Thank you. I have a bit of a varied career. I don't live by my head. I live by my heart. That is how I live with my career also. I only do things because I truly want to do them. I want to have a good time doing it. There are times I have been paid a lot of money for a job and I haven't enjoyed it and the other way around. I don't do things on the finance aspect of it. So my career has everything on it from musicals to books, children's television and concert tours.

On the show *Tonight's the Night*, I am currently co-producing with BBC and also the host of it traveling around the U.K. We make people's dreams come true on it. It is all performance- and entertainment-based. It maybe one of the most gratifying things I can do. I was able to give back to other people because in a way I am saying thank you for the success of *Torchwood* and everything they have given me. I wouldn't be standing here looking out at the beach if it wasn't for the people that watch the program.

Captain Jack is back and this time on the Starz Channel. Check listings and times at <http://www.starz.com>. For more on John visit <http://www.johnbarrowman.com>.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Chicago feeling the 'Thunder from Down Under'

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The things we do for research.

I bore witness to the power of thunder—as in the all-male Australian revue “Thunder from Down Under.” Hundreds of women were screaming as the five main dancers and emcee Benny Hardy gyrated and stripped—with three of the awestruck patrons even participating in a very intriguing contest.

However, despite the troupe being primarily advertised as a party for women, the dancers contend that they are more than happy to entertain men and are very gay-inclusive. A conversation with Hardy and dancer Adam Hughes revealed their thoughts on everything from the

BH: I like “performer” or “entertainer.” It’s semantics, really. “Stripper” doesn’t bother me. If you get [worked] up about it, they say, “Hey, Easy...” Essentially, you’re a performer because you’re using all facets of entertainment: You’re dancing, performing, relating to the audience and you have costumes. It’s theater.

A stripper, to me, is someone who’s just dancing around a lounge room—which is fine, you know.

WCT: The word “stripper” has a different connotation—in this country, anyway—than “entertainer.”

BH: It’s really cabaret ... without the Liza. But I’ll give her a run for her money. [Laughs]

WCT: And sometimes you have legit actors



Adam Hughes (left) and Benny Hardy of Thunder from Down Under. Photo by Andrew Davis

gay community to the inevitability of retirement.

Windy City Times: So how large is the troupe?

Adam Hughes: We have a permanent show based in Las Vegas and there are 10 guys in that. Then, we have this show, where there are six guys, so there are 16 altogether. But we always have guys who train up.

Benny Hardy: By the way, you definitely have to be Australian—but it’s funny, because you’re selling that you’re Australian, but they think that it’s contrived, along with our sexuality.

WCT: Your manager told me that me you’re all straight. Why do you think some people assume that you’re gay?

BH: Well, we do dance around in thongs, and that’s not something straight guys wear; I personally don’t wear them.

WCT: In Europe, I imagine you don’t get this question.

BH: When we tour Australia, Asia and Europe, we never get that question. But in America, a lot of our tours go through the Midwest and the Bible Belt. In Chicago and Vegas, people tend to be more open-minded. In 20 years, we haven’t had one gay guy in our show, actually—although we’re fine with them being in it.

In Vegas, we sometimes have groups of gay guys who come see our show. In fact, we have a disclaimer: “Gentlemen are welcome.” In fact, we have this contest and in San Francisco there was this guy who competed—and we never get guys in it. He had such a great attitude, and the crowd loved it!

AH: However, in Australia, I’ve got mates who can’t think of anything worse than dancing to girls and having them up in their face. It’s probably the worst job to do if you’re gay. If you’re straight, it’s a great job.

BH: Any job with any expression of art usually gets that sort of question.

WCT: What term do you prefer: “dancer,” “stripper,” “ecdyasiast” or something else?

BH: Oooh ... I like [ecdyasiast]. I hadn’t heard that term before.

AH: I like “entertainer.” If we want to be funny, we say we’re “clothing-removal engineers.”

who strip down for films.

AH: There was [Jason Segel] in *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*...

BH: ...and there was Kevin Bacon in *Hollow Man*.

WCT: Interestingly, I was thinking of women when I was talking about nudity, such as Halle Berry in *Swordfish*.

AH: Yes, that’s true.

BH: Then there’s Charlize Theron, in just about every movie she’s in.

AH: With us, you may get some butt cheek, but that’s about it. There is a lot of skin: chest, arms—but no dangling bits.

WCT: How wild does the show get? What is the policy regarding touching?

AH: They can slap us on the butt, but they don’t go too far. But as long as they have fun—and, by the way, there are no photos allowed during our show but they can take a picture with the guys on the stage after the show. They can lie down across the guys’ laps and post it on Facebook. It keeps our show free-flowing and non-tipping; tipping looks a bit seedy.

The most common response from girls after the show is “It’s not what I expected. I had this preconceived idea of what it might be. It’s just a very fun night.

It’s not just “Look at my body.” We have dance routines dressed as firemen or warriors, for example—and Benny entertains the crowd throughout the evening.

WCT: Maybe you could come out as congressmen.

AH: [Laughs] Yeah—actually, a suit would be a good routine. We’ve done something similar in Vegas, and we have a routine as gangsters as a tribute to Chicago. We’re fully clothed, and we slowly take it off; it’s a striptease, not a “strip, please.” We always leave them wanting more. If we just took our clothes off at the start of the show, it’d be like, “What else is there?” Then there’s the meet-and-greet—and that’s when the audience realizes that Benny isn’t the only Australian.

WCT: How’d you get started?

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NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Vanessa Carlton: On the 'Run'

BY JERRY NUNN

Vanessa Carlton walked "A Thousand Miles" into the public's hearts with her *Be Not Nobody* album selling 2 million copies worldwide. Her fourth album, *Rabbits on the Run*, drops at the end of the month as she drops into the Ravinia the same week.

Windy City Times: Hello, Vanessa. Where in the world are you right now?

Vanessa Carlton: I am in Santa Ana, Calif. I found a creek that I have just run along that is really quite lovely. At the same time I thought there might be some kind of scary homeless man that might drag me into the woods but I am enjoying it. It's weird.

WCT: Oh, no—be careful. Do you live in California now?

VC: No, I just flew in from New York. I am here doing a week of shows.

WCT: You have a new song called "Dear

past and she has given you some amazing compliments, referring to you as "one of the great ones."

VC: I am lucky to have her in my life—not just as an artistic totem, but to be able to call her a friend. She is a really good friend.

WCT: On the new album *Rabbits on the Run* you used a children's choir. Where did you find them?

VC: I found them through my cousin, actually. I was staying with my cousin in London still trying to figure out how I was going to do this record. She was in the choir. The choir director, Rachel Santesso, is insanely talented. She just did a project with Faris Badwan from *The Horrors* called "Cat's Eyes." I introduced them to Steve Osbourne, who produced their record and my record. She is a classically trained opera singer who started this choir called the Capitol Children's Choir. I was totally bewitched by the track record of the Langley School Choir from the



Vanessa Carlton. Photo by Matthew Wilson

California," where you are saying goodbye to California.

VC: Yes, every time I am at LAX or SFO it is just washing over me how much I love it. I come back here frequently. I landed in SFO last night and thought of my own song.

WCT: You have your song "San Francisco" too, so there's a big connection with California.

VC: Yes, that's right. I love it.

WCT: I saw you at the Park West in Chicago years ago.

VC: Oh, yeah; I remember that venue.

WCT: Your record, *Harmonium*, had just come out and you told stories with each of your songs.

VC: God, I must have been such a nerd. I am not quite as chatty as I used to be. I have a whole new approach now.

WCT: After seeing the new video for "Carousel" your outfit reminded me of Stevie Nicks a little.

VC: Well, part of it was a little ode to Stevie and a lot of it was channeling classic female songwriters from the '70s that I feel like their ecstatic comes in every now and then. But I love the video so much; it's so clean, beautiful and natural. I really worked closely with my friend Tracy Moulton who is an amazing costume designer. I wound up wearing a \$10 vintage kimono thing that we just turned into a dress for a stunning new design like that white amazing dress. It is about channeling something that is very natural and ethereal.

WCT: You have toured with Stevie in the

'70s.

I highly recommend you YouTube them if you have time. They do covers of David Bowie, Beatles, and Pink Floyd songs. There is something so cathartic about it when you hear those songs sung by a bunch of kids in a gymnasium. I knew that was a very important element to record that I wanted to make. We recorded it at Abbey Road.

WCT: That is iconic. You used the drummer for *My Morning Jacket* also for this record?

VC: Yep.

WCT: With switching music labels, you did this one yourself in many ways, correct?

VC: I self-funded this record. I hooked up with Razor & Tie right before it was mastered.

WCT: You came out as bisexual at Nashville's Gay Pride. What has the reaction been to that?

VC: I don't really know. I guess the one thing I would say about it is that I forgot that I was speaking not just to kids in front of me at the festival. I don't mind. It was just surprising.

WCT: It can be a very private thing that you put out there. Then you sang "Who's to Say," which is one of my favorite songs.

VC: I will play that song when I come out there for sure.

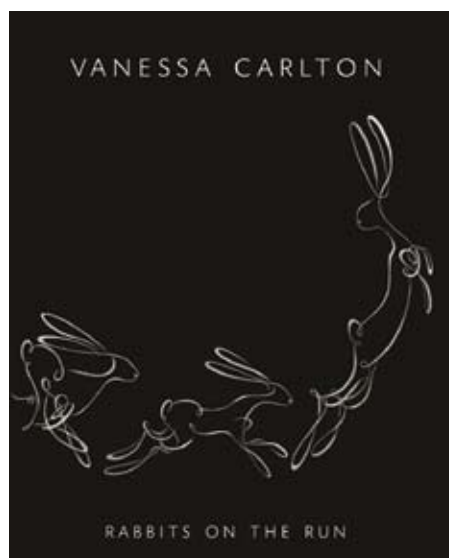
WCT: Have you been to the Ravinia before?

VC: I haven't.

WCT: People bring picnic items, wine and cheese...

VC: I love that. That is the way to enjoy music.

WCT: So you will play "A Thousand Miles"



and all of the past songs?

VC: It is a mixture. The *Rabbits on the Run* record is not like any other record I have done before because the approach was so different and so simple. If I could have gone back and made a record in 1972 this is how I would do it. It has made me reapproach all of my old material in a much more organic fashion as well. If I do an older song I reinvent it. It actually feels more honest.

WCT: You were probably able to have more creative control on this album than the others.

VC: This was the most collaborative record. The team of artists that I got to work with is unbelievable to me after such a pop past in a way—not that it's dirty, but it didn't really touch me. These songs that I was writing really connected to Steve and Patrick. Working in that setting at Real World Studios was like working in another time and space. I have never been so immersed in making something so honest and so aware of the aesthetic and protecting it, also evolving it at the same time. It feels different. Maybe it's turning 30, I don't know.

I hate to say this because I don't want to undermine my other work. I still connect with my songs from the past but in terms of production and how to bring it to life on a tape, this feels like my first record. It feels like it is all encompassing of what I really mean. I feel like I can go to other places from here.

Vanessa opens for Five For Fighting at Ravinia Pavilion, 200 Ravinia Road, Highland Park, on Friday, July 22. Come rain or shine, check out <http://www.ravinia.org> for tickets and information. For more on Vanessa, visit <http://www.vanessacarlton.com>.

THUNDER from page 30

AH: I was a high school teacher in Sydney...

BH: [Smiles] That's the best.

AH: I taught kids rowing and rugby. I moonlighted as a personal trainer. While I was training, I was asked to join the show—and I got to tour the world. When I was in my mid-20s, it seemed like a good idea at the time.

BH: I was in nightclubs and working as a personal trainer. Another guy was an engineer; that was the best one.

AH: A lot of guys come from trades: electricians, plumbers, brickies [bricklayers]. They've always enjoyed working out. The general reasons you get picked are because of your body and attitude; once the [audience members] see you have an ego, it takes away the gloss. We're not about that; we're a bunch of "boys from next door" that you can take to meet your mom. [Hughes and Hardy laugh.]

WCT: That brings up a question, though: How difficult is it to maintain relationships?

BH: I haven't had a girlfriend for a long, long time but it would be hard to maintain a relationship. You do meet a lot of girls, right? But I imagine once it's all said and one, it's still hard. Eventually we'll be in Vegas and we can have a girlfriend and a house and a car and a pet. [This tour] is a great chance to live a different lifestyle, and it makes you appreciate it when you have a static life. It's sometimes about the grass being greener on the other side.

WCT: So what's your workout regimen like?

AH: We try to work out five to six times a week, mostly weights. We also do cardio; we have to maintain a good body the whole year

round. It's in our contract; if we get too overweight—if you don't have visible abs—you get a warning. Singers have to have voice; we have to have abs.

BH: No kegs allowed. I like good food, so I sometimes have to train hard. There's no motivation like taking your shirt off in front of a crowd.

WCT: What are the best and worst aspects of this job?

AH: The worst is the constant travel—sleeping in a different bed every night; driving sometimes up to eight hours when you're going somewhere remote, like North Dakota. Also, you can't maintain a relationship. The best is that we get to stay in really nice cities like Chicago for the summer, in an apartment overlooking Lake Michigan.

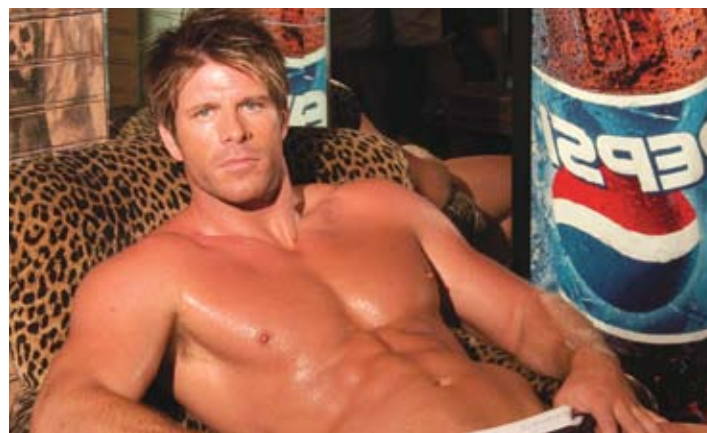
BH: I get bored easily, so I need many types of stimuli. Here, you get to meet heaps of different people. But I don't get to have hobbies because I'm constantly traveling. With food, you're at the mercy of [take-out]; also, you have to limit the amounts of shoes and jackets you carry around on tour—that's a big one for me.

WCT: It's sounds like an exciting, entertaining career—but it's not a long-term one.

AH: You can do it to your late 30s. I know you're saying, "Yeah, you look about 28." [Laughs]

BH: People ask, "What are you going to do when you're older?" I say, "If you have a good opportunity to save your money, then it'll take care of itself." I don't know what I'll do later on—just do what makes you happy.

The show runs Fridays and Saturdays through Oct. 22 (with a three-week break in late August and early September). Visit <http://www.ThunderInChicago.com>.



Thunder from Down Under's Adam Hughes. PR photo

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The screenshot shows the Qpon Chicago website interface. At the top, it says 'Qpon CHICAGO' with navigation links for 'Today's Deals', 'Recent Deals', 'Contact', 'My Account', and 'Log Out'. The main section is titled 'TODAY'S DEALS' with a '\$8' value and a 'BUY NOW' button. The featured deal is for 'Bananas Foster Cafe' with a value of \$16, a 54% discount, and a savings of \$8. The deal description includes details about the cafe's location and the quality of its food and service. A 'MAP IT' section shows a map of the cafe's location. The website also features a sidebar with navigation links like 'Sign Up', 'How It Works', 'FAQs', and 'Suggest A Business'. There are also sections for 'Business' and 'Community'.

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NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Dolly Parton: Icon on touring, gay fans and Kristin Chenoweth

BY JERRY NUNN

Dolly Parton the “Queen of Country Music” is reigning on our gay parade with a new album and new tour. She has tied a longevity record with Reba McEntire in having country number-one singles in four consecutive decades.

Parton’s movie career has been a hoot to watch over the years, from *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* to *Steel Magnolias* to *Nine to Five* to her new movie, *Joyful Noise*.

From her humble roots in Tennessee, our “Backwoods Barbie” has continued to be our doll. Sit a spell as she takes us behind the scenes beneath the makeup and glitter with this down home interview.

Windy City Times: Hello, Dolly! The last time I saw you was at the 9 to 5: The Musical debut in Chicago.

DP: Oh, my! That was on the road tour. Well, good to talk to you again.

WCT: We made it Dolly Parton Day in the city.

DP: That’s right—you did. That was a really fun time. I even took off from the movie I was doing in Atlanta because it was a real important thing for us to come to Chicago.

WCT: Well, thank you for coming.

DP: Well, thank you for having Dolly Day! [Both laugh.]

WCT: How was it working with Queen Latifah [in the new movie]?

DP: It was great. We had a ball. I never enjoyed anything more. We were there for three months: January, February and March. The movie comes out Jan. 12 next year. It is a Warner Brothers film called *Joyful Noise*. It is a music driven movie with gospel music. It is about a choir that competes around the country in the economy being bad with the unlikely friendship of these two women, which is Queen Latifah and myself. We had a wonderful time working with all of the people. I think it is very uplifting and you better go see it!

WCT: I will! You sing on the soundtrack, right?

DP: I wrote four of the songs plus I sang on bunches of the stuff on the soundtrack, yes.

WCT: Great. You just did a cartoon movie called *Gnomeo and Juliet*, too.

DP: Ha! Well, that was short and sweet. I actually didn’t do much. I called in a lawnmower race announcer voice. They had this little character in there. It was fun to do. I did that mostly because my little nieces and nephews and all the little kids I know. I thought, “Well, why not?”

WCT: Let’s talk about your new album, *Better Day*. The first track is so feisty. I really love it.

DP: Oh, “In the Mean Time?” That is one my favorite songs because it sums up what is going on in the world, my attitude about it. Everybody is so down in the dumps and waiting for the end of time instead of doing something about it, enjoying the time they got. This whole album I wanted to write stuff to uplift people and give a positive spin on this negativity.

WCT: Good for you. Is there a video you are making for the first single “Together You and I?”

DP: Yes. [The video is now out for viewing.] Trey Fanjoy, who is the Director of the Year here



Dolly Parton. PR photo

at CMT [Country Music Television] this year, she did a wonderful video that shows people from all over the world, love in all forms and fashions—more of a universal love. It is a beautiful video. The album just came out June 28. We got all sorts of good things going with our tour coming up on July 17; we start our *Better Day* World Tour, named after the album, of course. We have a lot of good positive stuff in that from doing different things for the fans.

WCT: What is your favorite thing about touring?

DP: People, the audience—I love that. Of course I love to travel because I am a gypsy. But I actually enjoy performing for the fans that love to see it. I have been around so many years, worked so many audiences, and had so many types of shows. Since the beginning for me it is kind of fun to watch how things have changed. I have fans from little bitty kids now watching *Hannah Montana* with Aunt Dolly to some of my older fans and the new ones that have discovered my music. It is a really fun trip for me as you can imagine.

WCT: Describe the tour bus for our readers.

DP: My tour bus is set up great. I have always had a bus. I have traveled on a tour bus since 1967. The bus I have now is an updated and modern version, where there is room—especially, when it has stopped, you can let the sides out and have a real home. I don’t stay in hotels so I just live on my bus. I’ve got everything from my kitchen to my televisions, DVDs and books. It’s a way to carry my wigs and my costumes. I am set up good for that.

WCT: Are you able to take off the wig and shop at Kroger without people recognizing you?

DP: Well, if I went to Kroger I wouldn’t take off my wig. I don’t go grocery-shopping too much but when I do it usually in the wee hours after midnight. If I am really wanting to cook certain things for a special occasion that I really need and I don’t trust anyone to find it I still will go

to the store. But I usually dress like myself and go in. I can’t be disguised because if I open my mouth you know it’s me! I sound as different as I look. There is no point in going and embarrassing myself by looking like hell.

WCT: That’s a good point. What is the craziest thing a fan has ever asked of you?

DP: There are all kinds of things that people ask me to do but I tell this story and it’s a true story but freaky. Years ago when I first started being a big star I had fans that were fanatical. It was when “Jolene” was a big hit. We came home one day and there was a baby in a box at our gate with a note in it. The note said, “My name is Jolene, my momma has left me here and she wants you to have me.” Of course, we all freaked out!

We immediately called Human Services and took care of the baby until they got there. We never did know or hear anything about it. I knew nothing else. What do you do in a situation like that? There are some loony people in this world!

WCT: That is true.

DP: Can you imagine yourself in that situation? It wasn’t like it was a kitten or a puppy dog. It was a baby named Jolene!

WCT: Well, maybe Jolene will be coming to your concert.

DP: I have often wondered that. I don’t think that person would ever even know about the way that went down. There was no way to track it and I didn’t want to. I couldn’t take the bay and I didn’t want to be involved. I wanted the police and the people involved to know we had nothing to do with it. We just made our statement but to answer your question that was the wildest thing.

WCT: You have a huge gay following, and they will always love you.

DP: Hey, a big shout-out to them! We have fun with my gay crowds and we always have them. In fact, we are going to California and be in L.A. for two days at the Hollywood Bowl, then in San Francisco. Already, so many of my gay fans have said they are going to be there and be on the front row. I love it. I have always loved my gay fans. They accept me and I accept them. We get along just fine. I am very proud and honored when they dress up like me or whatever they want to do!

WCT: You are going to Australia, too, on this tour.

DP: Yes, actually we start our world tour in July in Knoxville. In August we go to Europe, in October we do some more shows here then in November we go to Australia to finish out the year. We are looking forward to that whole deal.

WCT: I grew up in Hendersonville.

DP: You did? I go to Hendersonville all the

time! I have a lake house out in that area.

WCT: I went to church with Johnny Cash and Hendersonville Baptist Church.

DP: Okay, you son of a Baptist!

WCT: [Laughs] Are there new additions to Dollywood down there?

DP: You want to audition for Dollywood?

WCT: No, new things this year at Dollywood.

DP: I thought you wanted to audition. I can get you a job there. [Laughs] But, yeah, actually this year we added we added a new ride called the Barnstormer. It is pretty scary. We got several great rides that the kids love. We have excellent food and music. We have some of everything at that park. I am very proud of Dollywood. We have been in business for our 26th year now. Through that we have our Imagination Library with the Dolly Parton Foundation there where we give books away to children. We have been doing that for many years now. We have given out about 40 million books to children from the day they are born once a month until they start kindergarten. It is a nice, warm, wonderful feeling to be able to do something for the kids.

WCT: Is the Barnstormer like the planes they used to have at Opryland?

DP: It is based on the old planes that they used to fly around and drop down in the air circuses and all of that. It is based on that but not an airplane, really.

WCT: I have to check that out.

DP: Yeah, you do. Everybody says it’s scary so that brings a lot of business in. It has been our most popular so far.

WCT: Is there going to be a Broadway show or movie about your life?

DP: Yes, there is—both, hopefully. I have always wanted to write my life story as a musical for stage. I have been working on that for a few years. There is no set time. It is just when I am done and ready to start doing that. I would also like to do a movie that has music in it. The things I am writing for the stage would be a lot of original music with a few of the hits. I am working on that behind the scenes. I am not in a big hurry. I can’t do my life story when I haven’t lived it all yet.

WCT: I heard that Kristen Chenoweth would be your choice to play you.

DP: Kristen is the person I would love to play me onstage. Who knows who might do the movie version? We will see at the time.

Keep your fingers crossed and don’t forget—she will always love you. Parton’s *Better Day* arrives at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River, on Thursday, July 28. Check out <http://www.dollyparton.com> for information about it and her new music.

Chenoweth at Sidetrack

Kristin Chenoweth popped into Boystown video bar Sidetrack July 17 to introduce her new single, “I Want Somebody (Bitch About).” Although fans were disappointed to not hear her sing (she was preserving her vocal chords for appearance the following day), the venue was packed to catch a glimpse of the newly Emmy-nominated singer-actress that day. For more of the Broadway actress’ accomplishments, visit <http://www.kristin-chenoweth.com>. Photos and text by Jerry Nunn



BOOK REVIEW

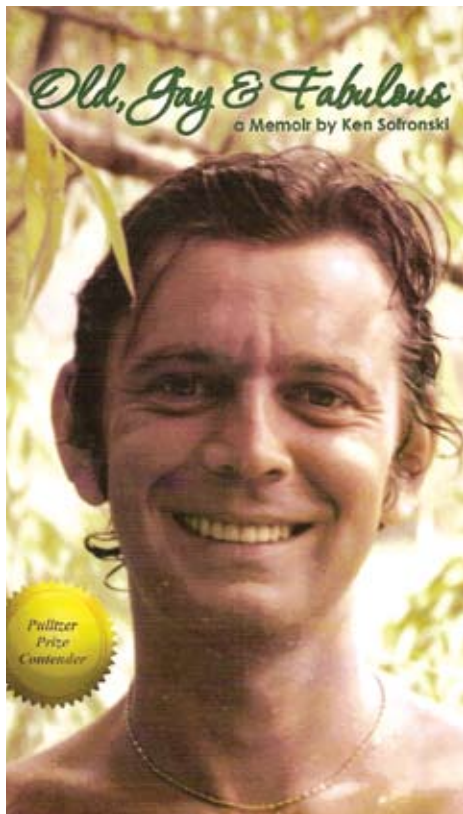
Old, Gay & Fabulous: A Memoir

by Ken Sofronski
\$12.99; self-published;
146 pages

REVIEW BY SALLY PARSONS

Ken Sofronski is an actor. He recounts fascinating details about his association with Harvey Keitel and the movie Mean Streets. He also built a successful career as a court reporter, capped by his work on the Roy Cohn disbarment case. If you are a movie or U.S. history buff, this may be enough to hook you. As his title reveals, Sofronski has been around awhile, so his life story touches on the American scene from the late '30s to the present.

Reading Sofronski's self-published memoir was like nibbling a few delicious hors d'oeuvres and anticipating the main course, then forced to



Cover of Ken Sofronski's *Old, Gay & Fabulous*.

leave before it arrives. This thin volume left me wanting more.

Sofronski could have expanded his story. As he notes, "There is so much I could say about Mean Streets that could probably fill a book but not for the usual reasons." What does he mean? He made a decision to withhold, but surely he knows when you decide to invite the reader into your life, and they become interested, they will want more. (Key in his name on YouTube for samples of his acting.)

Sofronski is honest about himself and, in particular, the ups and downs of being old and gay. Perhaps this is why I find his memoir touching. I am of his generation and can relate. He is optimistic and keeps on truckin'. I like that. On the last page, he says, "I don't know what I am in training for, but whatever it is and whenever it comes, I will be ready for it and if I do say so myself, I look fabulous." What more can you ask for?

We follow Sofronski's spartan childhood in a small town in Pennsylvania, his early-adult years in New York City, his short sojourn in L.A., and return to the Big Apple. He touches on his oppressive childhood long enough for us to applaud his escape to New York at 18. He enrolled in court reporting school in order to have a practical skill to fall back on. He began taking acting lessons and got a few roles on stage. Sofronski even managed to combine his stenographic and acting skills by portraying court reporters on TV soap operas.

I'm left wanting. I'd like to have known more about his connection to his lesbian mom and his mostly absent dad, who owned a bunch of tenement houses. How about some more details about his life in the theater, or even on TV soaps? And, more recently, the group of gay seniors he attended. Surely, there were other interesting court reporting anecdotes Sofronski could have supplied us as well.

Threads of sadness run through Sofronski's stock-taking, as when he observes there may not be someone over the rainbow to find and love him at the age of 73, or when he notes how the young pushed the old men away in the bathhouses—" ... all the more cruel because you knew one day you would be one of those old men."

The book suffers from a few quirks you can forgive, perhaps, because it's self-published (misspellings, a blurb when you open the book with no indication of who wrote it, and a medallion on the cover stating the memoir is a "Pulitzer Prize Contender").

Give this memoir a nod anyway. Sofronski is someone you might like to know.

Gay man promoted to COO of WWCI

Window to the World Communications, Inc. (WWCI)—parent company of WTTW-11 and 98.7WFMT, Chicago's classical radio station—announced that Greg Cameron, 53, formerly executive vice president and chief development officer, has been promoted to the post of chief operating officer (COO) for the organization.

In his new position, Cameron, who's openly gay, will continue to oversee development efforts for the organization, and as COO, will play a more prominent role in managing day-to-day operations for WTTW and WFMT, including supervision of internal and external communications and television and radio sales.

Prior to arriving at WTTW in 2008, Cameron served as the deputy director and chief development officer at the Museum of Contemporary Art for more than seven years.

Photographer seeks gay subjects for two books

Photographer Tom Atwood—whose first photography book, *Kings in Their Castles*, focused on gay men and their homes—is seeking LGBT individuals in any city who have unique living spaces. The subject will be profiled in his upcoming book, *Kings & Queens in Their Castles*.

Atwood is also putting together a third book, which will spotlight entertainment and media personalities at home—although they will not all necessarily be gay.

Interested persons should email Tom@TomAtwood.com.

To read a 2007 interview with Atwood about *Kings in Their Castles*, visit <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=13631>.

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BUSINESS

Suzanne Evans builds businesses one life at a time

BY ROSS FORMAN

Suzanne Evans is convinced it's time to start doing and stop dreaming. That's her philosophy, her passion, her profession—and certainly her message.

Evans, 37, who lives in Murrells Inlet, S.C., is the founder and owner of Suzanne Evans, LLC. She launched the business a little more than four years ago. Her partner of 16 years, Melonie Orr, is the company CEO.

"Nothing happens until you make it happen, so if you want more money you have to take action to change your life," said Evans, who describes herself as action expert. "I am a business and wealth coach for women. I lead live events, virtual coaching programs and high-end VIP coaching to [female] entrepreneurs.

"If you want to change the world, you have to start by changing your world. I think people still see coaches as woo-woo or as a luxury. Busi-



Suzanne Evans. Photo courtesy of Evans

ness is ever-changing and in a technology age, a business can't afford to be without a coach."

Evans stresses living life to your fullest, utmost potential—always.

"It is simple, having the time you want to do what you want when you want," Evans explained. "That is why I love being an entrepreneur and support other women to do the same."

Evans' clients mostly range in age from 35 to 55. She said the key to her successful career includes her ability to "make a fool of myself."

"Business is about risks ... I have done some pretty crazy stuff, but I was willing to do it," Evans said. "I know that the key to success in doing for the mission and not for the attention."

Evans said being gay certainly has impacted her life personally and professionally.

"I think [being gay] completely supported me in the work I do, which is help people overcome money and business obstacles to make more money and have a massive impact in the world," she said. "I think most people spend their lives hiding something or worried about a piece of their life. Being gay gave me a tremendous amount of empathy for people using their lives as a connection to their business. As I tell my clients, the best path you can take is to make your mess your message."

Evans, who graduated from Lees-McRae College and earned a master's degree from New York University, worked for the nation's largest union and has been a professional actress. She also was a nationally ranked water skier, a high school teacher and an assistant producer to five Broadway shows—all before the age of 30.

She now has a private coaching practice and is a published author of the book *Blueprint For Success*, which has a detailed plan of action that

readers can use to accomplish their goals and achieve success in their personal or professional lives.

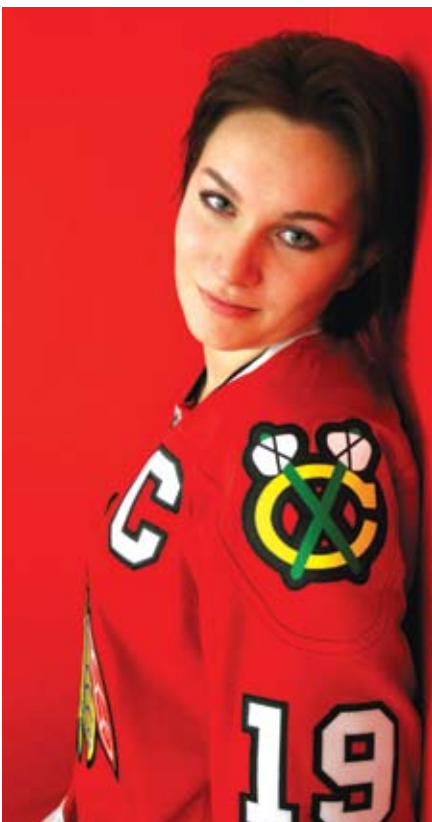
"All of the work I have done and the life experiences led me to this business," Evans said. "I couldn't have the experience, insight, or passion I have for impacting businesses had I not been through it all.

Australian starts Hockey Against Hate

BY ROSS FORMAN

Sasky Stewart is using her passion to battle bullying.

Stewart, 21, a bisexual living in Australia, is the founder and director for Hockey Against Hate, a web-based drive spawned from recent anti-gay marriage comments on Twitter, but also the support and anti-homophobic attitudes of the hockey fans around her.



Sasky Stewart. Photos courtesy of Stewart

"After seeing this outpouring, all I could think was that there had to be some way to use this moment, to use the attitudes we had and the support we were showing and harness it to collectively make some positive change in the hockey world," said Stewart, who lives in Melbourne. "That's what this is designed to be: a call to arms, a cause to get behind, to be used to change and make the hockey community on and off the ice not only less homophobic, but less racist and less sexist."

Stewart volunteers with the Australian Ice Hockey League and recently enrolled in a Master's degree program. The website (<http://www.hockeyagainsthate.com>) was launched May 15.

She has plenty of American allies in her fight, including a key Chicagoan.

"I was riding in the tram to work recently, thinking about [anti-gay marriage comments on Twitter] and it stuck with me all of this was in response to one man's hate for something

"Since I was little, I knew I would be speaking and teaching—I just wasn't certain it would look like this. [And in 10 years,] I will be doing what I am doing, but on a larger scale—I think we need an Entrepreneurial Church in this country. The small business owner will not only save the economy, but financially fuel global, social, and education movements. I want to be a part of that.

"My book is for anyone wanting to take action, but not doing it. Dreaming is key, but action is necessary. It's a get off your ass and get stuff done read."

So how can the LGBT community, particularly lesbians, benefit from Evans?

"Lesbians under-earn in this country. The more LGBT business owners we can produce, the more money we can infuse into LGBT issues. It takes money to get results and we need more of it," said Evans, who estimated that about 20 percent of her clients are LGBT.

Suzanne Evans' tips For success:

- Work harder than the next person.
- Do not complain.
- Do what makes a difference while you make money.
- Keep commitments.
- Make your mess your message.
- Don't wait for success to come to you.
- Don't try to fit in.

Such as Alexa Heinrich, a graphic designer in Chicago.

"Alexa has been designing hockey- and NHL-related merchandise and graphics for a while and I'd always been a big fan of her work that I had seen online," Stewart said. "When she put her hand up to be part of the team, I was ecstatic. In Alexa, we have someone who is not only incredibly talented, and has a great design aesthetic fitted towards the hockey fan, but someone who is incredibly passionate about contributing to the cause and changing our community for the better."

Stewart's core team for Hockey Against Hate also includes Brynna Owens (from Seattle), Hannah Feliciano (Spokane) and Sarah Connors (Boston).

"Hockey Against Hate is for anyone who believes that sports can be a vehicle for change, and that the sporting experience is one that should not be denied to anyone regardless of orientation, ethnic origin or gender," Stewart said. "There is nothing to be gained from sitting back, nothing gained from saying it is someone else's problem and everything to be gained from stepping forward and saying that this, this has to change."

Stewart said bullying is an Australian problem, too, not just in the United States.

"Australia is a very interesting place to address this issue as our laid-back and often blasé attitude to things can see it barely addressed or recognized as an existing problem," she said.

"I grew up a hockey player, and my love for the game has seen me travel all across North America following the puck, my puck friends and internships with professional teams. I was bullied [in] school and ended up changing schools because of it. In many ways I look back now and realize how much of my attitudes and social habits it may have influenced.

"Hockey Against Hate is for anyone who believes in this cause. Saying it's just for women would be sexist, [which is] something we're fighting against too."





'Chefs and the City' a sensory feast

It was sensory overload—as in feasts for the mouth, ears and eyes—as HIV/AIDS agency Vital Bridges Center on Chronic Care hosted its seventh annual Chefs and the City fundraising event July 15 at The Ritz-Carlton Chicago.

Guests enjoyed delicious bites prepared by 30 of Chicago's most sought-after chefs, including Ryan Pitts, Stephanie Izard, Dale Levitski and Ryan Poli. There was also be a summer fashion show presented by Maria Pinto, creative director at Mark Shale.

There was also a raffle, with tickets going for \$100 each (or three for \$250). Prizes included a trip for two to Los Cabos, Mexico with airfare; tickets to the Food & Wine Classic in Aspen, Colo.; and gift certificates to 15 restaurants featured at Chefs and the City 2011.

In previous years, the event had been held at venues such as The Peninsula. Asked why the site was moved, Vital Bridges CEO Debbie Hinde told Windy City Times, "The event outgrew The Peninsula; it was getting to the point where people couldn't move very easily. So we wanted an area that was a little bigger so people could feel comfortable. The Ritz is a wonderful, wonderful facility and they have been so great to work with. We're lucky."

Also, Vital Bridges merged with Heartland Alliance July 1. Vital Bridges kept its Edgewater office, but the agency became a division of Heartland Health Outreach and was renamed Vital Bridges Center on Chronic Care. Hinde said that the merger—which she emphasized was accomplished from a strategic instead of a financial standpoint—"is going well. Any change is difficult, right? But I think everyone is working really hard to make those changes almost invisible to the clients. I think it's going well."

Heartland Health Outreach Executive Director Karen Batia added, "Things are going swimmingly well. We are learning a great deal from one another. It's a great opportunity to merge two organizations that are doing wonderful work on behalf of the community."

DJ Sye Young provided the aural pleasures, spinning a dance mix that incorporated everything from Prince and Madonna tunes to the theme from the TV classic Sanford and Son.

Among the other highlights was the presentation of the Robert S. Mayo Extra Helping Award (named after a Vital Bridges board member and key leader who passed away in 2009) to 'Chefs' co-chair Joyce Dawson.

The event closed with a VIP after-party in the Pearson Room at the Ritz-Carlton.

Text by Andrew Davis and photos by Ed Negron; more images online at <http://www.WindyCityMedia-Group.com>



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Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County. File No. D11126771 on June 30, 2011, Under the Assumed Name of "Renew Bodywork" with the business located at 1818 Dempster St., Evanston, IL 60202. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) is: Sarah B. McLaughlin, 2509 W. Gunnison Street, #3W, Chicago, IL 60625. (7/27/11-3)

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**Randy Pubert interviews
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Plus, photos from

- **Encompass'** closing night
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and so much more in

nightspots

pick it up, take it home

Celebrations

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

The lullaby of Broadway Rocks!

Broadway Rocks!—part of Chicago's Grant Park Music Festival—took place July 13. Among the featured performers were guest conductor Randall Craig Fleischer, singer Christiane Noll and the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus. In addition, Rosie O'Donnell made a surprise appearance, apparently at the behest of some of the members of the chorus.

Photos by Norman Timonera



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Got something to celebrate? Send us information on your civil union, anniversary, adoption, marriage or any other joyous moment in life to appear in our new section,

Celebrations

Please send an email to andrew@windycitymediagroup.com and let Windy City Times join in your celebration.

calendar

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nightspots

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Wed., July 20

Dining on the Rooftop Join the Center on Halsted for a unique, intimate dining experience on the Richard M. Daley Rooftop Terrace. Tickets are \$25; 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m., 773-472-6469, Center on Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/cohrooftopdining.html>

19th District Safety Seminar "Keepin It Real" Safety tips for robberies on the street and how to protect homes from burglaries; presentations by former burglars on what they look for in homes to burglarize; presented by the Cook County State's Attorney and Chicago Police Department; refreshments provided by Lake View Citizen's Council; Lori.trier@cookcountyil.gov; 6:30 p.m., 773-334-4066, 19th District Chicago Police Department, Community Room, 2452 W. Belmont

House Infusion - Service Industry Day Hosted by Teri Yaki. Hosted appetizers and shot reception start at 8 p.m. \$5 at door. DJs Teri Bristol, Carla Starla and DuBCuB. 7 p.m., Cocktail Chicago, 3359 N. Halsted

Cub Cake Come out for the newest cub party to hit Chicago! Wet boxers contest starts at 11 with a \$100 prize for the winner. DJ Dee2 will be spinning all night with \$2 32-oz. pitchers of Miller Lite. Plus plenty of sweets for the cubby boys! 9 p.m., Charlie's, 3726 N Broadway, <http://www.charlieschicago.com>

Hydrag Revue Hydrag Revue brings you another amazing show featuring Tajma Hall, Aurora Sexton, DiDa Ritz, Naysya Lopez, and more. 10 p.m., Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

You're The Star Karaoke with Honey West Take your place in the spotlight as host-

IN LIKE FLINT Wed., July 27

Baton Show Lounge owner Jim Flint's 70th birthday celebration will take place at the Park West, 322 W. Armitage.

Photo by Samuel Worley

ess, Honey West entertains throughout! There's not a bad seat in the house. 10 p.m., 773-281-3355, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted, <http://www.roscoes.com>

Thursday, July 21

Women Like Me Support group for women who are in or coming out of a marriage or long term heterosexual relationships, meets the 3rd Thursday of each month; 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N Sheridan Rd, <http://www.lccp.org/events.php?id=157>

CD4-Chicago A monthly social event for the HIV-positive and HiV-friendly community presents our version of the Game Show, 7 p.m.-10 p.m., 773-655-0912, Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark, <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?id=227821337240016>

"The Homosexuals" About Face Theatre presents "The Homosexuals," a play by Philip Dawkins exploring friendship through the lens of sex. This comedic and heartbreaking work is for anyone who's ever fallen in love with a friend. Tickets

\$28. 8 p.m., Victory Gardens Theater, 2257 N. Lincoln, <http://aboutfacetheatre.com>; run ends July 24

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 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>

Friday, July 22

Thunder From Down Under Through Oct. 29 on Fridays and Saturdays; 7 p.m.-9 p.m., 312-361-3613, LaSalle Power Company 500 N. LaSalle, <http://www.thunderinchicago.com>

Milwaukee Avenue Arts Festival For one exciting weekend each summer, the artistically vibrant community of Chicago's Logan Square throws open its doors to present dozens of visual and performance artists to the public and storefronts along 1.2 miles of the Milwaukee Avenue commercial corridor transform into gallery spaces, showcasing art in a myriad of media and styles through July 23 and July 24 along Milwaukee Ave. between Kimball and Washtenaw. 4 p.m.-11 p.m., Logan Square

Wax Trax Showcase Featuring music and video from Chicago's legendary label. DJs Greg Haus and JenaMax. No cover before 11 p.m. Followed by Cosmix. 9 p.m., Berlin Nightclub, 954 W. Belmont, <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

Pop Goes the Gio at Club 3160 Pop Goes The Gio Show A Variety Dance Show Like No Other! All 6 Members will be covering the very best dance tunes spanning three decades from the 80's to today's current hits. 9:30 p.m., 3160, 3160 N. Clark Street, <http://www.popgoesthegio.com>

Predator: The Musical Roundhouse Productions is proud to present the second show of its inaugural season PREDATOR: THE MUSICAL! In many ways, this is exactly what you expect, the 1987 action flick starring the Governor, equipped with singing and dancing. What makes this show special will keep you coming back. 9:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m., New Rock Theater, 3931 N. Elston, <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/183065>

Superhero Party Get there by 9:30 p.m. to register for the superhero costume contest at 10. Over \$150 in cash and prizes awarded to the top three costumes, as well as tickets to see the Green Lantern and Transformers. Stick around after the contest and dance the night away to the sounds of resident DJ Greg Drescher. \$4 Jameson shots. No cover until midnight.

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

Saturday, July 23

Armitage Halsted Webster Sidewalk Sale Up to 70 percent at favorite shop local boutiques—involved to date: 1154 LILL Studio, All She Wrote, Art Effect, Barker & Meowsky, Bedside Manor LTD., Classic Kids Photography, Comfort Me, enBeadia, The Green Goddess Boutique, Laudi Vidni, LUSH, Title 9, Thread Lounge, Urba Baby, Underthings and more. Sweet Miss Giving's food truck will donate all proceeds from cupcakes and sweets to Chicago House. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Armitage Halsted Webster, <http://www.lincolnparkshopping.com>

Equality Illinois Celebrity Pie Toss Join Equality Illinois for their annual Celebrity Pie Toss. This is your chance to throw a pie in the eye of your favorite community celebrity! 2-5 p.m., Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted, <http://www.equalityillinois.org>

LCCP Saturday Morning Walking Group Meet, chat and walk, questions to ShenaW@howardbrown.org; 9 p.m.-9:45 p.m., 773-572-5118, Jackson Park, 6401 S. Stony Island Ave, Chicago, <http://www.lccp.org/events.php?id=139>

Disco Inferno Disco Inferno DJ Laura B spins classic disco hits as well as some new/unheard remixes. Get there at 10 p.m. for a retro costume contest hosted by Cyon Flare. More than \$200 in cash and prizes will be given to the top three costumes. No cover until midnight. 10 p.m., Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

Sunday, July 24

Urban Village Church Worship is about coming together as community to make space for God to move in us. It's a place to receive God's grace and love and to give of ourselves, as well. 10:15am-11:30am, Urban Village Church, Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan, <http://www.newchicagochurch.com>

Scott Palango's Rewind-Retro 40th Birthday BBQ Swatch, Nu Wave, Neon, Benetton & John Hughes. Ahhh, those were the days. Join Scooter in an attempt to recapture his youth. Eighties kitsch encouraged! Food served 'til 5 but the shenanigans continue thru the night. 2-5 p.m., Scot's, 1829 W. Montrose

2nd Annual Wheelie Bar Crawl: Dirty Roller Derby Start at Sofo at 3 with a costume and dirty derby name contest, followed by a stop at T's, then @mosphere and ending things off with a dancing, lip-dubbing queen on wheels contest at The Call. Prizes will be given at every stop we make. The theme this year is Dirty Roller Derby. So start thinking of your dirty little derby name and putting that outfit together. 3 p.m.-8 p.m., Sofo, 4923 N. Clark, <http://www.sofobarchicago.com>

Chinglish Out lesbian Leigh Silverman directs Chinglish; an Obie winner and frequent collaborator on new work, one of the youngest directors ever on Broadway. 7:30 p.m., Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn, <http://www.goodmantheatre.org>

Monday, July 25

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>

Live Band Karaoke with Amy Armstrong Every Monday night at 10PM in the Front Bar, hosted by the one and only Amy Armstrong; 10 p.m., 773-281-3355, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted, <http://www.roscoes.com>

Tuesday, July 26

City of Chicago's 9th annual Salute to LGBT Veterans The city, veterans, supporters gather to honor the military service of LGBT veterans through music and



CHINGLISH LESSON Ongoing

Chinglish is at the Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn.

Photo by Eric Y. Exit

presentations. 12-1 p.m., Daley Plaza, Chicago

Battle of the Bars: Drag Race Come out and support your favorite Chicago bar staff as they compete in a variety of crazy challenges. A champion will be crowned at the finale event Aug. 16. No cover charge for these events, but attendees will be eligible to win special giveaways. The Battle of the Bars proudly supports the 2011 Gay Softball World Series, which will be played in Chicago Aug. 29-Sept. 3. Visit <http://www.chicagoseries2011.com/> and select Upcoming Events Calendar under the events tab. 11 p.m., Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted, <http://www.chicagoseries2011.com>

Pre-Michfest Meetup Art reception with happy hour specials. 6 p.m., Evanston SPACE. 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, <http://www.evanstonospace.com>

Wed., July 27

Pros and Cons of Illinois Civil Unions By Robert W. Baird & Co.; lunch at noon, arrive early for a good seat; RSVP to Michael Collins at mcollins@rwbaird.com or by phone. 12 p.m.-1:30 p.m., 312-609-4967, Chicago Cut Steakhouse, 300 N. LaSalle, Chicago, <http://www.rwbaird.com>

DIFFA Chef's Table CS magazine and luxury kitchen design company Jenn-Air will team for an event that will benefit Design Industry Fighting; 6 p.m.-9 p.m., Penthouse, Reid Murdoch Building, 325 N. LaSalle, <http://www.diffachicago.org>

Jim Flint's 70th Birthday A night of entertainment and music in celebration of Jim Flint's 70th birthday. Featuring Paul Marinaro, Rose Collella, Antonio King and many more. In lieu of gifts or door charge, Mr. Flint asks you to make a donation to your alderman. 8 p.m., Park West Theater, 322 W. Armitage, <http://www.thebatonshowlounge.com>

Hydrag Revue: Happy Birthday Tajma Hall It's a very special Happy Birthday Tajma Hall show! Come join the cast of Hydrag Revue for the biggest party in Boystown! 10 p.m., Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

Thursday, July 28

Lawyers For Diversity Midsummer BBQ Laura Ricketts of Chicago Cubs Charities, keynote speaker; LAGBAC members attend free and guests may attend for \$25 at the door; Sidetrack rooftop deck; 6 p.m.-9 p.m., Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted; JGottschalk@lagbac.org

An Evening with About Face Youth Theater Benefit \$100; 7 p.m., Victory Gardens Richard Christiansen Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln



BARE NECESSITIES

Closing Sunday, July 24

About Face Theatre's 'The Homosexuals' is at Victory Gardens Theater, 2257 N. Lincoln.

Photo by Jonathan L. Green

BILLY MASTERS

"I put it on him. Someone had to show him, you know."—Alexander Skarsgård talks about helping co-star Joseph Manganiello put on his first "cock sock"—a piece of clothing to protect a male actor's modesty. It's always fun when you get others involved.

The steamy weather plaguing the country tells me it's tank-top season—although friends will swear that I called mid-January tank-top season. I was thrilled to see a new crop of ribbed tank tops at H&M. The problem is that sizes at this store are never consistent—it's some freaky metric conversion that I haven't quite grasped. This means I usually have to try everything on—except the store was about to close and I had to make a fast decision. I couldn't figure out if I needed the small or the medium. I decided on the medium with some trepidation, because nothing is worse than a loose ribbed tank top. I went to the cashier and mentioned that I just wasn't sure about the size—thinking it was obvious that I might be too petite for a medium. Apparently she didn't share my concern, as she off-handedly quipped, "Oh, don't worry—these stretch out quite a bit!" This is why we hate Sweden.

My buddy Andy Zeffer's book *Going Down in La-La Land* was made into a flick, which is currently playing the gay film festival circuit. While I haven't seen it yet, I can certainly attest to the physical charms of leading man Matthew Ludwinski—who plays an actor who gets involved in gay porn and escorting. Judging from the full-frontal nude photos of him, which you can also see on BillyMasters.com, I predict that he'll have a BIG career.

You'd think we'd be done with hot guys, but we're not. They're just getting more obscure. For instance, how many of you know Ryan Vieth? No one? What if I told you he's the son of Tamra

called a 'singer', but I've never heard of him. He's gorgeous."

Duncan James was a member of the British boyband "Blue"—and they were HUGE for about three years. After their breakup, several of the lads (including James) released solo albums. However, Duncan made the transition to musical theatre, appearing in the West End production of *Chicago*. This impressed people enough to cast him as the male lead in *Legally Blonde*—which I did see, and found him to be charismatic and, obviously, gorgeous.

As to his personal life, he is the father to a little girl who he had with a girlfriend back in 2005. However, since then, he's come out as bisexual: "I want to be out and say I've had relationships with men as well as women." Because that's what the British do. As to the photo Wade is talking about, I think I can identify it as yet another one of those semi-nude photos that men take in mirrors with their iPhones (again, "God Bless Apple"). In this pic, Duncan is nude, save for the skimpiest of undies that show off every inch of his delectable anatomy—and he certainly has nothing to be ashamed of. James says he sent the snap to a friend "who is quite fat ... so he could pretend he'd got really fit. It must have got into the wrong hands via Twitter." That's one excuse. To me, it looks more like a photo someone would post on Manhunt or any number of sites used to cruise for sex. But whatever the circumstances, I'm just glad I saw it—and you'll be glad to see it too, on BillyMasters.com.

Lastly, let's file this one under "Strange Bedfellows." Recently, openly gay Hollywood power players Dustin Lance Black and Gus Van Sant were spotted dining at Bottega Louie in LA. There's nothing strange about that—the two have been friends and colleagues long before collaborating on *Milk*. But, wait, there was a



Dustin Lance Black (left) and Gus Van Sant apparently love chicken, Billy says.

Barney. Ringing any bells? Me, neither. However, apparently Tamra is on *The Real Housewives of Orange County*—and, of course, we all remember my guest-starring role on the "Atlanta" edition. That said, I've never seen Ryan before. But once again, I have a hot stranger showing me his penis. In this case, he didn't send it to me directly. He's one of a growing number of men who like to take nude photos of themselves with their iPhone—and I say, "God Bless Apple"! First he took a shirtless photo in a mirror. Then he grabbed onto his penis for dear life and snagged a snap of it ... for reasons we don't completely understand. After all, it's been pretty much proven that women don't care for these types of photos. But I know you do, which is why you can find it on BillyMasters.com.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Wade in Houston, who asks: "Who is Duncan James? I saw a really hot pic of him online and he's

third seat at the table. Enter Taylor Lautner—so apparently chicken was on the menu. Certainly, this dinner could have been completely professional and innocent. It's also possible that at some point the question of posing nude came up and someone whipped out a camera. The possibilities are endless.

When I'm picturing Taylor sprawled out on a dessert cart (possibly flambé), it's definitely time to end yet another column. And with that, I'm off—out of the country for God knows how long. You can keep track of my travails on www.BillyMasters.com—the site that's always à la carte! If you've got a question that you'd like to share with the class, raise your hand and send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before H&M hires me as its new spokesmodel! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Dilbeck leaving Team To End AIDS



Mike Dilbeck. Photos courtesy of Dilbeck

BY ROSS FORMAN

Mike Dilbeck, the national director for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's Team To End AIDS (T2) endurance-training program, has resigned, effective Sept. 1, to work full-time for the RESPONSE ABILITY Project, which he founded.

"I am very proud of T2 and what it has accomplished, [including] the national reputation it has developed, in its first 18 months," Dilbeck said. "While I lead the T2 team towards these accomplishments, it is truly an acknowledgment to everyone at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and staff members for T2 that we have accomplished what we have. I am confident that T2 is set up to continue this success for many years to come as we provide critical fundraising dollars for those living with, and impacted by, HIV/AIDS."

Dilbeck, 47, a West Lakeview resident, was the T2 Program Director in 2010, leading its inaugural, award-winning year. As national director, Dilbeck oversaw the expansion of T2 into Los Angeles, Washington D.C., and Houston. He was responsible for actually launching T2 in D.C. and Houston.

"I am also very proud of my 'pet project'—the creation and launch of the exclusive T2 Facebook application," Dilbeck said.

Dilbeck founded the RESPONSE ABILITY Project three years ago.

"I am both the founder and a professional speaker for the RESPONSE ABILITY Project," Dilbeck said. "I am completely accountable for the message it sends, the results it accomplishes, and the programs it delivers for its audiences."

Dilbeck said his goals for the RESPONSE ABILITY Project include writing more, such as, a book, blog posts and articles. Plus, he will do more speaking, craft a keynote speech for Corporate America, and become a nationally-recognized media spokesperson on the subject of bystander behavior.

"The RESPONSE ABILITY Project is a national initiative to empower everyone to overcome bystander behavior—when you see something happening and know that it is wrong yet you do nothing [or] say nothing," he said.

Dilbeck's own neighborhood, Lakeview, has been inundated with crime of late, grabbing media spotlight and causing commotion among residents.

"There are clearly bystanders to these situations recently and so many other criminal and harmful activities," Dilbeck said. "The goal of the RESPONSE ABILITY Project is to impact these crimes and activity by more people stepping up and saying something or doing something—ei-

ther in the moment or later. The overall culture in our environment tells me that the message is so needed and critical."

The RESPONSE ABILITY Project is designed to "empower anyone and everyone to overcome bystander behavior in their life and truly make the difference they want to make—for their families, their work environments, their friends, for perfect strangers, and for themselves," Dilbeck said.

"The LGBT community is certainly impacted by bystander behavior as much as any other community. The LGBT community definitely experiences our fair share of discriminatory language and actions, bullying, hate crimes, etc., and these all usually involve others who see it, know about it, yet do nothing or say nothing."

Dilbeck will remain in Chicago.

"Thanks to Mike's hard work, AFC expanded and grew its endurance-training program and assisted partner agencies in D.C., Los Angeles and Houston to set up their own endurance-training fundraising events. He's a powerhouse motivator and his positive energy and smarts will be missed," said AFC president David Munar.

For information about T2, go to: <http://www.T2EA.com>.

For more information about Dilbeck or the RESPONSE ABILITY Project, go to <http://www.RAProject.org>.



Japan takes World Cup

BY ROSS FORMAN

Japan won the sixth Women's World Cup, defeating the United States 3-1 on penalty kicks after a 2-2 tie in extra time, ending a dramatic, emotionally filled game, played July 17 at Commerzbank Arena in Germany.

The United States failed in its attempt to become the first three-time world champion, while Japan became Asia's first Women's World Cup winner.

"It will be a final to remember," U.S. coach Pia Sundhage told the media after the game. "At the highest level, you have to take your chances, and we weren't sharp enough."

The United States was dominant in the first half, but unable to find the back of the net.

Alex Morgan gave the United States the lead in the 69th minute, after a long pass from Megan Rapinoe, but Japan answered in the 81st minute.

In extra time, victory was again within reach when the United States grabbed a 2-1 advantage in the 104th minute off a header by Abby Wambach. But Japan's most iconic player, Homare Sawa, playing in her fifth and last World Cup, somehow contrived to tie it three minutes before the end of extra time, directing the ball past goalie Hope Solo from an acute angle. It was Sawa's fifth goal of the tournament, making her the golden boot win-

ner as scoring champion.

Many from Chicago's LGBT community watched and cheered throughout the game. D.S. Tequila in Lakeview was one of the most popular viewing spots.

"Everyone is a winner in my book," said Samantha Hamilton. "I never saw so much excitement in the air today."

Jennifer Reid, a teacher, who watched the game at Crew, said the outcome was heart-breaking. "[There were] lots of unfinished chances for the U.S., but [it was] a Cinderella story for Japan."

Kelly Beeman, a comedian, watched the game near Wrigley Field. She said penalty kicks can go down to luck, "but missing three in a row was so disappointing." Still, Beeman said she is proud of how far the United States went in the tournament.

"I think they did a lot for women's soccer," she said.

Eve Compisi watched the final at Crew and simply said, "Japan capitalized on our mistakes. I wish I could say differently, but they deserved the win. We will be back though, don't you worry."

Michelle Rabinovich added: "Was disappointing to see how many shots the U.S. had on goal, and to drop it at the end is tough. My anxiety was so high, but the depth of the team will hopefully bring back a championship next time. Hopefully it lit [a] fire under [the team]."



Women watch the World Cup match at D.S. Tequila. Photo by Sam Hamilton

Blackhawks open eatery

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Chicago Blackhawks continued to expand their presence within the city and suburbs with a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 13 for the Blackhawks Restaurant in Terminal 2 (near Gate E-3) at O'Hare International Airport.

Blackhawks Restaurant is a joint effort between HMSHost and the Chicago Blackhawks. The restaurant pays homage to one of the most popular professional hockey teams and winner of four Stanley Cup championships, including the 2010 Cup.

"We are proud to partner with HMSHost and the Chicago Department of Aviation to open the Blackhawks Restaurant at O'Hare International Airport, one of the first of its kind in professional sports," Blackhawks president and CEO John McDonough said. "This unique establishment will give Blackhawks fans and hockey fans from all over the world a place to feel at home when traveling through Chicago."

The restaurant is filled with eye-catching, mostly autographed hockey memorabilia, including sticks, pucks, jerseys, pads and, naturally, replicas of the Stanley Cup.

The real Stanley Cup, and former Blackhawks player Brent Sopel, rode on the Chicago Gay

Hockey Association (CGHA) float in the 2010 Gay Pride Parade.

Blackhawks Restaurant features menu items from Chicago's Stanley's Kitchen & Tap, a full-service restaurant in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood. Stanley's has long been known as Chicago's premier destination for watching hockey and features traditional American homestyle cooking.

Others at the ribbon-cutting included Chicago Department of Aviation Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino and Elie W. Maalouf, president and CEO of HMSHost. In addition, several current Blackhawks players (such as Patrick Kane) as well as Hall of Famers Stan Mikita and Tony Esposito also attended.



The Chicago Blackhawks open an eatery at O'Hare. Photo by Ross Forman

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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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